

HOWL HIGHLIGHTS



Dear OESJ School Community,

As we reflect on the past two months, it's clear that we have had a great start to the school year. Our students are settling into their routines, and the energy in the classrooms is palpable.

We are excited to share that we are actively working on building relationships with local businesses to develop a work-based learning program. This initiative will provide our students with invaluable hands-on experiences, helping them to gain skills and insights into potential career paths.

Additionally, we are committed to fostering a culture of empathy through our character education program. We encourage all students to develop and exhibit empathy in their interactions, which will not only enhance their personal growth but also strengthen our school community.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create a positive and enriching environment for all our students!

Student Activities

October was an exciting month filled with activities that engaged our students and enriched their learning experiences.

Fall Fest with FFA

Our annual Fall Fest, organized by the FFA, was a tremendous success! Students enjoyed a day filled with fun activities, games, and opportunities to learn about agriculture and sustainability. The event fostered community spirit and allowed students to connect with nature and each other.

Career-Con for 8th Graders

Eighth-grade students had the unique opportunity to attend Career-Con, where they explored various career paths and future opportunities. This event provided valuable insights into different professions, helping students envision their futures and inspiring them to consider their post-high school options.

Halloween Celebrations

In the spirit of Halloween, we hosted a door decorating and costume contest that showcased our students' creativity. The festivities were vibrant and fun, culminating in an inspiring presentation by the Student Council, who shared their goals for the year and encouraged fellow students to get involved.

Breathe Works Presentation

Our middle school students and staff participated in a meaningful session led by Breathe Works, focusing on breathing techniques to manage stress. The workshop equipped students with practical tools to help them navigate the pressures of school and life.

Peer Tutoring



Our Student Council, has started a new Peer Tutoring Program that is designed to have students help their peers in their academic endeavors. Numerous students have signed up to be tutors as well as others to have assistance. Peer Tutoring will start as a program that will take place during 10th period and will move to after school as well. Any student looking to tutor or be tutored should sign up with someone from student council.



Educational Presentations

As October comes to a close, we reflect on two significant events that have made a lasting impact on our school community.

Vaping Awareness with Catholic Charities

To tackle the pressing issue of vaping among youth, Catholic Charities delivered an informative presentation on the dangers associated with this habit. Students were educated about the health risks and the implications of vaping, empowering them to make informed choices and encouraging a culture of wellness within our school.

Ball in the House Performance

We were thrilled to host Ball in the House, an incredible a cappella group that captivated our students with their performance. Their show not only highlighted the history of music but also addressed important social issues, such as racism. Through their engaging presentation, students were encouraged to embrace anti-racist values and understand the power of music as a tool for change.

As we wrap up October, we celebrate the diverse experiences that have contributed to our school community's growth and learning. We look forward to more engaging events and opportunities for our students in the months ahead!

Student Corner-Dezeray Sharkey

This year, I have seen a lot of positive and inclusive events happening around OESJ, both administration-organized and student-organized. One of these events was the field trip to the Summit in Vermont for a three-day youth leadership program with Sweethearts and Heroes and the Spartan race. We had the opportunity to meet and bond with students from other schools, and work closely with the Sweethearts and Heroes to learn valuable things to take home and grow over the next few years. There was also an assembly put on by the Reality Check organization, dedicated to putting a stop to the use of tobacco and nicotine products in youth. They gave students the opportunity to sign up to participate in getting rid of the abuse of these products in their community. We also had a dynamic performance put on by the a capella group Ball in the House. Their show dove into the history of racism in music and also taught about music in general, but overall held a powerful message of equality. Lastly, unrelated to trips and assemblies, the OESJ Student Council got the Peer Tutoring program up and running, and there have been a handful of applicants so far. We are eager to see where it will all go, and hope that this, among the other things, will continue to benefit our school in the long run

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make this school year truly remarkable!

Warm Regards,

Mr. Timothy Barnes

Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Jr/Sr High School Principal