# HOWL HIGHLIGHTS





## **Dear OESJ School Community,**

As we head into the holiday season it is important to recognize the positive attributes that define our students. This month I have been amazed at the strong character that has been on display in the classroom and the community from a majority of them.

We have witnessed selfless acts of support for other students and supporting our community by donating time at the food pantry and baking goods for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

As we move into December we look to continue to build a school community that has respect for each other as well as empathy. We have students that are working with other students to improve their grades and strategies in the classroom through peer-tutoring.

We are also at the 1/3 mark for the school year and are looking to support any student who needs help. We have a Beyond the Bell program that is every Tuesday and Thursday until 4 for students looking for additional support from a teacher.

### **Student Activities**

#### **Student Award Assembly**

One of our goals this year was to promote and acknowledge student accomplishments. In November we hosted our first quarterly Awards Assembly that recognized over a 100 students for high honor roll, perfect attendance, and character. Teachers selected students and wrote about the character traits that stood out this past quarter.

#### P-Tech visit for 8th Graders

Eighth-grade students had the opportunity to hear the presentation from the Gloversville P-Tech on the pathways programs that are offered for students looking to experience a non-traditional education where college and high school credit can be earned concurrently.

#### **10th Grade BOCES Visit**

The 10th grade class had the opportunity to participate in a Career and Tech Education presentation today with CTE principal Mike DMezza. The students were shown an overview of the different programs offered at CTE. On December 16th, the students will take a field trip to CTE to visit two of the programs they are most interested in.

#### Student Volunteers for the Food Pantry

Numerous sports teams, FFA, Honor Society, and Student Council supported our community by donating their time to the food pantry and also baked goods for the community Thanksgiving dinner at the Benefit Club!

## Area All-State Recognition 2024

Through years of hardwork and dedication, Julia Elwood and Dezeray Sharkey were chosen to represent OESJ for Area All State this year. They have been attending NYSSMA for several years, always striving to achieve high scores. They spent countless hours practicing and working through frustration to shine during their performances, developing perseverance and character along the way. We are so proud of their accomplishments!



On November 21st and 22nd, our building was open to parents and guardians for parent-teacher conferences. This was a great opportunity for staff and parents to discuss strategies to improve student performance and engagement in the classroom.



On November 5th our talented students and staff performed for the Fall Concert. It was a remarkable performance where our students demonstrated their amazing abilities in the band and chorus.



## Student Corner-Connor Sheppard (VP Student Council)

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we finish up the month of November, we're excited to bring up some fantastic happenings around our school community! It's been a busy and productive month, marked by numerous events and initiatives that truly showcase the spirit of our students and faculty.

#### **Student Council Strides Forward**

Our Student Council has been making significant strides in creating a positive environment at school. Recently, they organized an assembly to promote the student government. Their efforts to gather student feedback are commendable, and they are working hard to implement exciting new ideas. Keep an eye out for future announcements about fun activities and ways students can get involved!

#### **Halloween Assembly Highlights**

On Halloween, we held a spooktacular assembly that was a hauntingly good time! Students showcased their creativity and school spirit by parading in their Halloween costumes. The costume competition was a huge hit, with many participants bringing their A-game. From ghouls to superheroes, to presidents, to sharks, every costume added extra fun to the celebration. Thank you to all the students and staff who participated and made the day memorable!

#### Launch of Peer Tutoring Program

We're also thrilled to announce the start of our Peer Tutoring program! This initiative aims to provide additional support for students who may be struggling with certain subjects. If you or someone you know is having difficulties in class, we encourage you to sign up to receive help from fellow classmates. This is a great opportunity to strengthen your skills and foster supportive relationships within our school community. Don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers or the Student Council for more information!

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