

ORADELL: Eye on OPS

SPRING 2024



Superintendent's Message

Dear OPS Community,

As shared in our September newsletter, the Board of Education in collaboration with the administrative team set four district goals for the 2023-2024 school year. At a recent Board of Education Meeting, administration reported on progress made toward achieving these goals.



Parents and students work together to build rollercoasters.

The first goal reported on was the implementation of learning activities that foster creativity and result in increased levels of student engagement. Many of these activities have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) focus. Currently, fifth graders are working to design alternate farming methods, which will lead to a study of hydroponics in science class. Fourth graders have been busy creating advertising jingles in music class. This project weaves technology in as students digitally compose the music for their jingle. Sixth graders are working as inventors and entrepreneurs as they prepare prototypes and sales pitches for a new product they designed. This product often has an environmental component as students work to reduce the amount of waste in the world by making sandals out of water bottles, creating shoes with interchangeable soles or making reusable bamboo glue bottles filled with natural glue. Each of these experiences fosters creativity, engaging students

in the learning process while also improving collaboration, developing critical thinking, and honing communication skills.

The second goal reported on was efforts made to enhance the partnership between home and school through increased opportunities for family involvement in the learning process. One innovative strategy our sixth grade team is implementing is to have students write emails home to their parents about what they are learning and how they have recently demonstrated grit. The district is also working to increase the number of parent academies. This year numerous parent academies have been provided on topics such as the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights and the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment, which is one of the tools used by teachers to assess student reading.

While providing information is one way to partner with families, providing opportunities for our families to experience learning with their children also increases the home school partnership. In kindergarten this may be through experiencing a Foundations lesson to better understand how students are building their phonics skills. In first grade, it may be spending time in a math center with students during March Mathness. In second grade, students and their families worked through the design process as they built leprechaun traps. Numerous other grades held writing celebrations. Each of these events provides parents with an opportunity to "see" into the classroom to better understand the learning that their children experience at OPS.



First grade families participated in math centers on Fridays in March as part of March Mathness. Events like this allow families to have a glimpse into the classroom.

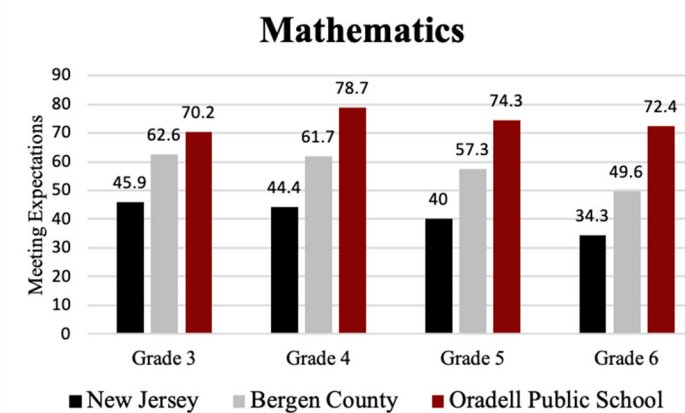
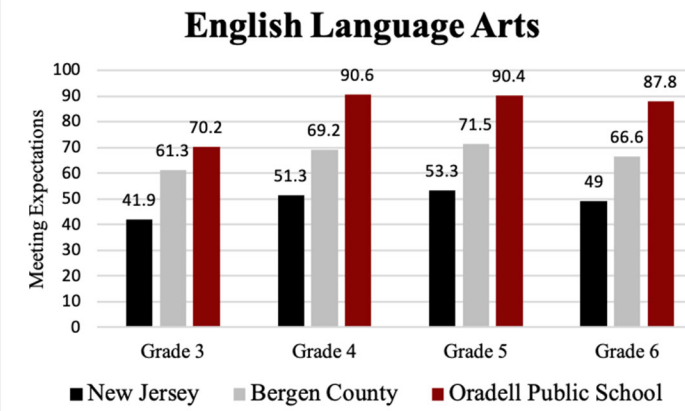
Upcoming Board of Education presentations will include updates on two additional district goals: meeting the needs of all learners via a differentiated approach to learning and developing a comprehensive technology plan. All meeting presentations are shared on the Board of Education page of the OPS website and all meetings can also be viewed on the Oradell Public School YouTube channel.

Megan N. Bozios
Superintendent

Did You Know...?

- ◆ Safety and security is always on our minds. Over the past several years, the district has had walkthroughs done by both county and state officials with a focus on how to best keep our building secure and our community safe. These walkthroughs have resulted in new purchases and new procedures. Sometimes these projects are large and visible such as the building of an enclosed lobby. Sometimes, these projects occur behind the scenes with the implementation of new cameras, improved door access controls, and state-of-the-art alert notification systems; and sometimes, these projects are small operational upgrades like improved wiring to enhance the public address system or the purchase of a new two-way radio system to ensure constant communication inside and outside the building.
- ◆ The Oradell PTA is both the oldest and largest parent teacher association in the state. However, what truly makes them special is their ongoing support of the children of OPS. They regularly organize author visits and after-school book club programming. This year, they also donated over \$20,000 to support grade level and department mini grants. These grant funds will bring in additional assemblies to complement the curriculum and purchase additional resources such as digital cameras to support a new media arts unit in the art room and robotics materials to support opportunities in our growing STEAM lab.
- ◆ While OPS has maintained an Instagram account for many years, several of our special area teachers are now using Instagram as a vehicle to showcase the learning in their classrooms. You can visit them at:
 - Art - @opsartroom230
 - PE - @opsphysicaleducation
 - Music - @ops_music_nj
 - STEAM Lab - @opssteamlab
- ◆ OPS's two Odyssey of the Mind teams placed first in their problems at the Skylands Regional Tournament in February. They will compete next at the state finals as they try to qualify for World Finals for the 12th consecutive year!

Spring 2023 NJ Student Learning Assessment



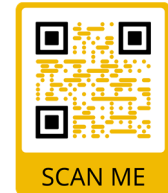
The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) is administered each spring to students beginning in third grade. The assessment measures whether students are meeting expectations outlined in the state's standards in language arts and mathematics. Students in fifth grade are also assessed in science. Students are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. Students who score a 4 are deemed to meet the standards, and students who score a 5 exceed the standards. The data in the graphs to the left represents the percentage of students across the state, across the county, and at Oradell Public School who scored a 4 or 5. Oradell Public School continues to demonstrate high levels of performance.

Each year, the district uses NJSLA performance along with additional internal assessment measures to set goals, develop professional development plans and inform future resource purchases. The district is proud of the growth it has made in language arts over the past several years as it continues to strive to implement a language arts curriculum that incorporates instruction in word recognition and language comprehension. Mathematics is a current area of continued focus. As a result, additional funds are being used to contract with an external math consultant to assist teachers in how to best differentiate math instruction to meet the needs of all learners. The district is also working to revise its math curriculum and purchase additional resources to support that curriculum. The new curriculum will be implemented in September 2024.

Test score information presented at BOE meetings is posted on the OPS website. The QR Codes below will take you to two different presentations from this fall.



This QR code will take you to the September presentation documenting subgroup performance and comparing each level of achievement to the NJ State averages. This presentation also includes science performance.



This QR code will take you to the December presentation, which shows how Oradell Public School compares to similar districts in the county. It also documents the work done over the past eight years to improve academic achievement.

PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Each step your children take on their educational journey will require a little more independence. As you prepare to send your children to kindergarten, some skills that will help them transition smoothly include:

- Knowing their legal first and last name.
- Being able to state their phone number and address.
- Putting on and taking off their own coat.
- Opening and closing lunchbox containers independently.
- Closing the car door when they get out in the drop-off lane.

And while these operational tasks will help children transition, the number one way to help them succeed as a learner is to read to them and talk to them. The development of verbal language skills is an important foundation for future academic success. Research states that students who read or are read to for 20 minutes a day will be exposed to 1.8 million words per year and are more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests. This is a daily routine you can begin building now. So, the number one way to help your children prepare for kindergarten is to get that library card and start reading!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 2024

5 Requirements
Students must be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2024

OPS Next Steps
Visit the Oradell Public School website at www.oradellschool.org

Click on New Student Registration on the left hand side of the page

For assistance, reach out to Mrs. Warnet (warnetm@oradellschool.org)



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