



# OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the Okemos High School Community

## IMPORTANT DATES

**STATE TESTING**  
APRIL 11-13  
**SEE LAST TWO PAGES!**  
**TORNADO DRILL**  
APRIL 5; 10 AM

**NHS SENIOR RECOGNITION**  
APRIL 12

**NHS INDUCTION**  
APRIL 19

**NO SCHOOL**  
APRIL 20-21

## IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

- [DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)
- [PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)
- [PARENT GROUP](#)
- [PARENT GROUP BYLAWS](#)
- NEXT MEETING: APR. 14, 2023**



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Okemos High School Community,

This is the time of year, as you know, when things get hectic. But, it's going to be ok! I promise. We hope you all had a good break and are refreshed (or maybe you need a vacation because of vacation?).

A lot of information here for sure. Please make certain you read "The Last Two Pages" where you will find super easy testing schedules by grade; senior slideshow information, and a really important, serious message from me.

I hope you are well. As ever, I am really proud of our kids and school! - Dr. Kemsley

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT TESTING INFO

**REMINDER:** The week of April 10, 2023, will be devoted to state testing. Below you will find the schedule for that week. Mrs. Stadt (MTSS Coordinator/Instructional Coach) will be sending out an email with further information, including details regarding transportation. Please be on the lookout for that email!

### Testing Days Overview

Tuesday 4/11		Wednesday 4/12		Thursday 4/13	
Grade	Test Name	Grade	Test Name	Grade	Test name
11th	M-Step	9th	PSAT 8/9	11th	WorkKeys
		10th	PSAT 10		
		11th	SAT with Essay		
All grades Hours 1, 2, 3 in PM		Seniors: FIELD TRIP		All grades Hours 4, 5, 6 in PM	

### Tuesday, April 11, 2023

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
7:45 - 10:45	M-Step Testing	11th grade
10:45 - 11:25	LUNCH	11th grade
11:30-12:26	1st Hour	All High School Students
12:33 - 1:30	2nd Hour	All High School Students
1:37 - 2:35	3rd Hour	All High School Students

### Wednesday, April 12, 2023

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
7:45 - 11:00	PSAT 9	9th Grade
7:45 - 11:30	PSAT 10	10th Grade
7:45 - 1:30	SAT with Essay	11th Grade
All Day	Senior Field Trip	12th Grade
11 - 12	Lunch	9th & 10th
12-2:30	Afternoon SEL Opportunities	9th & 10th

### Thursday, April 13, 2023

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
7:45 - 10:45	WorkKeys	11th grade
10:45 - 11:25	LUNCH	11th grade
11:30-12:26	4th Hour	All High School Students
12:33 - 1:30	5th Hour	All High School Students
1:37 - 2:35	6th Hour	All High School Students

## IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES

OHS Community Calendar that is on our website and also linked [here](#). We are looking forward to celebrating our amazing senior class! "One stop shopping" doc forthcoming!

- April 12, 6 pm - NHS Senior Recognition
- April 26 - TENTATIVE: Commencement Speakers Auditions
- May 13 - Senior Prom
- May 15 - Senior Skip Day
- May 16 - Senior Project Day
- May 16, 7 pm- Senior Award Night / Athletic Awards
- May 17- Senior Project Rain Day
- May 18 - Seniors' Last Day
- May 21 - Graduation at the Breslin Center

## OHS SPRING MUSICAL

OHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT presents

**The Wizard of Oz**

April 28-29 & May 5-6 @ 7:00 pm |

May 7 @ 2:00 pm

L. Frank Baum's classic novel comes to life in *The Wizard of Oz*. This faithful adaptation features all the most beloved songs and moments from the 1939 classic film, brought to life on the Okemos High School stage. Young Dorothy Gale is swept away by a tornado from her Kansas farm to the magical land of Oz. There, she encounters a host of whimsical characters: good witches, bad witches, animals that talk, scarecrows that walk, and things magical to behold. To find her way home, she must journey along the Yellow Brick Road to see the mysterious and all-powerful Wizard in Emerald City. Along the way, she makes new friends, but must also brave many dangers, including the Wicked Witch of the West, who will stop at nothing to get her hands on Dorothy's magical ruby slippers. To make it home safely, Dorothy must learn an important lesson: there's no place like home. This truly is a district-wide event as we've also included an ensemble made up of OHS, Chippewa, and Kinawa students. You're not going to want to miss this Okemos community event that is fun for the whole family. Purchase tickets at [okemostheatre.com](http://okemostheatre.com) or scan the QR code.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### CMS MONTESSORI ANNUAL PLANT AND FLOWER SALE

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
MAY 13, 14, 20, 21

10 A.M. - 3 P.M.



CMS GREENHOUSE

# A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Okemos Community,

What an absolutely fantastic gathering we had with Spaghetti Dinner 2023! Thank you one and all for your enthusiastic participation and for helping Okemos Music Patrons revive this cherished tradition and bring it back into the life of our community. This year, we raised over \$40,000 for Okemos K-12 music programs. On March 9th, Okemos High School was vibrant with youthful energy, filled with incredible music, all accompanied by a delicious spaghetti meal. We feel positively refreshed and strengthened as a community with our first in-person event in three years!

## **Bravo, Musicians!**

From Beethoven to the Backstreet Boys, Okemos music students rocked the house! Congratulations and thank you to the talented students and teachers for outstanding concerts and for entertaining us with a variety of beautiful classical, jazz and contemporary music throughout the evening. The lively performances showcased the excellent music programs throughout the district— Kinawa band, orchestra and choir groups took us “over the rainbow” in the auditorium, Chippewa and OHS jazz bands kept up the high energy in the cafeteria, and OHS chamber ensembles welcomed people with lovely classical strains in the hallways.

## **Thank You, Community Leaders!**

Our warm appreciation also goes to the esteemed school and community leaders who served as hosts, greeting and welcoming the thousands of attendees to Okemos High School. Special thanks to Superintendent John Hood and Principal Daniel Kemsley for supporting and guiding our endeavors. Also, a heartfelt thank you to the OPS food service, facilities and maintenance staff for their superior professional dedication and for working alongside us to make the event a success.

## **Thank You, Business Sponsors!**

We are also very grateful for the outpouring of support from our business community. Twenty five local businesses sponsored the event with their generous donations and made it possible for OMP to host a live spaghetti dinner and raise funds for our Okemos music programs. You can find the list of donors on our website. When you next patronize these businesses, please thank them for valuing and supporting arts education in our community.

## **Thank You, Volunteers!**

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to the hundreds of parent and student volunteers who make such a massive project possible—from the people who worked for months behind the scenes to plan and organize, to the hardy outdoor takeout team braving the weather, it takes a huge village to pull it all together! We served well over (3,000) spaghetti dinners in the dining room, takeout and drive-through. Selling tickets, decorating, publicizing and printing signs and programs, organizing volunteers, serving food, preparing and delivering takeout meals, cleaning up, donating tasty desserts, recycling— it’s a dynamic dance. You all pulled it together beautifully!

Thank you for pitching in with your positive energy and helping us rise to the challenge of serving meals to the tremendous turnout of attendees. Special thanks also to the folks who were in line when we had to replenish the pasta. As we let people know about the delay, we were so appreciative of your positive response, understanding and flexibility. We are already reviewing and learning from the event so we can make it even better in the future.

OMP is an entirely 100% volunteer run organization dedicated to supporting all K-12 music programs in the Okemos Public Schools. You can be assured that your ticket purchases and donations go directly to elementary, middle school and high school music teachers to bolster and improve music education opportunities.

Thank you for coming out, celebrating with us and supporting Okemos Music Patrons! We can’t wait to see you again next year!

Sincerely, Okemos Music Patrons Board

## **PHOTO CREDITS:**

**GEORGIA MCKAY, OHS PRESS**



# COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## NHS INFORMATION

On March 1st, NHS held its first annual Blood Drive since 2020. The Red Cross was able to collect 51 units of blood. One single donation can help save more than one life. NHS students also supplied a multitude of snacks and drinks for those who donated blood, so much so that they were able to hand out numerous snacks, treats, bottles of water, and more at Spartan Sunday on February 19th. The purpose of Spartan Sunday was to show community support in welcoming back MSU students to campus following the events of February 13th. The March 1st Blood Drive was rescheduled from February 17th, which was canceled because of a Snow Day.

### Reminders:

- **April 12th** - Senior Recognition Ceremony - Mandatory Event - Medals for Graduation Received - 6 pm, OHS Auditorium, Light Refreshments served after in Commons
- **April 19th** - New Member Induction / Junior Recognition Ceremony - Mandatory Event - 6 pm, OHS Auditorium, Light Refreshments served after in Commons
- **June 7th** - Mandatory Active Member Meeting in OHS Auditorium @7:15am - 36 hours due for those who have been active members all school year. Those inducted on April 19th must also attend.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO [NHS.OKEMOS@OKEMOSK12.NET](mailto:NHS.OKEMOS@OKEMOSK12.NET)

## BOARD POLICY INFORMATION

The Board of Education conducts ongoing reviews of existing and proposed new policies as they relate to current educational practice. It is the practice of the board to give all policies, new or changed, a first reading at a public meeting, with final action taken no sooner than one month from the date of first reading.

New or changed policies are posted to [this page](#) on the OPS website following first reading.

Comments or concerns may be emailed to the Board of Education ([board@okemosk12.net](mailto:board@okemosk12.net)) prior to the "Date to be Adopted."

## SCIENCE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



## FROM THE OFFICE OF DR. SLEE

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar (April 2-May 1) during which the Prophet Muhammad received the teachings of the Quran. During Ramadan, Muslims who celebrate the holiday work to grow spiritually and become closer to Allah. It's a time to focus on faith and perform acts of generosity. Many Muslims fast while it's light outside during Ramadan. When the sun sets, their families sit down for big meals, and they also eat a morning meal before the sun rises. The end of Ramadan is marked by Eid al-Fitr (May 2), the "Festival of Breaking the Fast." Eid al-Fitr is a time for prayers, family gatherings, gift giving, and acts of charity. To learn more about Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, check out these resources: [Why Ramadan is the most important month in Islamic culture](#) (National Geographic) and [All About the Holidays: Eid al-Fitr](#) (PBS - video, 2 minutes).

## OEF GOLF OUTING



## IMPORTANT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Scheduling for the 2023-2024 School Year will begin in late February. [Detailed information](#) is listed under the Counseling Tab of the OHS website under Academic Resources.

[Click here](#) to check out a list of available scholarships. Many of these scholarships are due by April 14, 2023 by 3:00 pm

# "THE LAST TWO PAGES"

## **SIMPLE, KEMSLEY-APPROVED TESTING (APR. 11, 12, AND 13) SCHEDULES:**

- WHAT DOES MY **9TH OR 10TH GRADER** DO DURING TESTING? CLICK [HERE](#).
- WHAT DOES MY **11TH GRADER** DO DURING TESTING? CLICK [HERE](#).
- WHAT DOES MY **12TH GRADER** DO DURING TESTING? CLICK [HERE](#).

## **SENIOR SLIDESHOW INFORMATION: CLICK [HERE](#).**

- FAMILIES, WE ARE WORKING ON A "ONE STOP SHOPPING" DOCUMENT FOR YOU AND THE SENIORS...HOLD TIGHT!

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## **A SERIOUS MESSAGE FROM DR. KEMSLEY**

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

IF YOU'RE A PARENT CHANCES ARE YOUR KID(S) HAVE A PHONE. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT **EVERY YEAR** I DEAL WITH A SITUATION REGARDING KIDS AND PHONES THAT INVOLVES THE POLICE. MANY TIMES THE PARENTS ARE **ABSOLUTELY, TRULY DUMBFOUNDED** AT THEIR OWN KID'S BEHAVIOR. I'M JUST LETTING YOU KNOW THAT THESE THINGS HAPPEN, AND WE HAVE TO REMEMBER, THEY ARE **KIDS**, RIGHT? THEIR **BRAINS ARE LITERALLY** STILL DEVELOPING!

ONE OF MY PRIMARY FUNCTIONS IS HELPING KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE. HAVE YOU HEARD THE WORD **SEXTORTION**? IT'S A REAL THING WITH REAL-LIFE CONSEQUENCES. BASICALLY, A BAD ACTOR WILL TELL A KID THEY ACCESSED THEIR PHONE'S DATA-- ALL THEIR MESSAGES, PICTURES, CONTACTS, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC. THEN, THEY'LL THREATEN TO SEND ANYTHING **EMBARRASSING** TO ALL OF YOUR KID'S CONTACTS UNLESS THEY ARE PAID **REAL MONEY**. WHETHER THE PERSON ACTUALLY HAS ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION OR IS BLUFFING, I'M NOT TOO SURE (I'M NOT THAT TECH SAVVY). THE POINT IS THE KIDS **BELIEVE** THEY DO.

**13 STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED SUICIDE DUE TO SEXTORTION, INCLUDING ONE IN MICHIGAN!** 7,000 CASES REPORTED HAVE UNCOVERED **3,000 VICTIMS**. AND THAT'S REPORTED CASES. I'M JUST TRYING TO IMPRESS UPON YOU TWO THINGS:

1. HS STUDENTS MAKE MISTAKES, **THEY'RE STILL KIDS!** SOME PARENTS THINK IT CAN'T HAPPEN BECAUSE THEY HAVE A "GOOD KID," THERE ARE **NO BAD KIDS**. MANY, MANY OF THE STUDENTS I HAVE HELPED WORK THROUGH THEIR POOR CHOICES ARE WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD 100% CONSIDER TO BE "GOOD KIDS." AGAIN, THERE ARE NO BAD KIDS, JUST MAKING A POINT.
2. PLEASE SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND OUR EVENT. AN **FBI** AGENT WILL BE HERE TO EDUCATE US, ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS, AND HELP US MAKE SENSE OF THIS **TERRIBLE** PHENOMENON.

THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD I WANT IS FOR ANY HARM TO COME TO ONE OF MY STUDENTS! **SEXTORTION IS A REAL THING, HAPPENING NOW**. IMAGINE THE **PANIC** A TEENAGE VICTIM MUST FEEL IF THEY BELIEVE THAT AN INAPPROPRIATE PICTURE OR MESSAGE WAS GOING TO BE SENT TO EVERYONE THEY KNEW?! IMAGINE IF WE HAD PHONES LIKE THESE WHEN WE WERE KIDS?! SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO BE OLD(ER) I HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 1ST. THIS IS **NO JOKE**.

PS. I'M NOT MAKING ANY ASSUMPTIONS OR TRYING TO IMPLY YOU ARE NOT DOING YOUR JOBS AS PARENTS. THIS IS **ONLY A REMINDER** TO PLEASE TELL YOUR STUDENTS, AGAIN, THAT HAVING INAPPROPRIATE PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF A KID (EVEN THEMSELF) ON A PHONE IS A FELONY. SENDING NUDE PHOTOS/VIDEOS IS ALSO A FELONY! MAYBE NOW IS A GOOD TIME FOR YOUR KID TO "**TRIPLE-CHECK**" THEIR PHONE JUST TO BE SURE ALL IS A-OK. **YOU'RE GOOD PARENTS, AND YOUR KIDS ARE GOOD KIDS!** SOMETIMES THINGS SLIDE OR WE GET COMPLACENT. IT'S HUMAN NATURE. NOW IS AS **GOOD A TIME AS ANY** TO CHECK UP ON THEM. AGAIN, PLEASE DON'T BE ANNOYED; TAKE THIS MESSAGE IN THE SPIRIT WHICH IT'S INTENDED, A **REMINDER**.- DR. KEMSLEY

# SEXTORTION!

## INVITATION

### WHO:

OHS PARENTS

### WHAT:

SEXTORTION INFO

### WHERE:

OHS AUDITORIUM

### WHEN:

MAY 1ST 6-7PM

### WHY:

WE ♥ STUDENTS

### HOW:

BEING PROACTIVE

# FBI

# CAUTION

### Who Are The Victims?

**71%** of cases involve only victims under the age of 18

**14%** of cases involve a mix of minor and adult victims

**12%** of cases involve only adult victims

Nearly all adult victims are female, but both minor girls and boys are victimized.

### Who Are The Perpetrators?

Every single prosecuted perpetrator is male. They include college students, a State Department employee, even fathers and step-fathers of their victims.

Sextortionists tend to be prolific repeat offenders. Among the cases we studied:

25 cases involved at least

**10** victims

13 cases involved at least

**20** victims

13 cases involved more than

**100** victims

STUDENTS ARE IN **DANGER**. THIS IS **REAL** AND HAPPENING *RIGHT NOW*. OVER THE PAST YEAR, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE RECEIVED OVER 7,000 REPORTS RELATED TO THE ONLINE SEXTORTION OF MINORS, RESULTING IN AT LEAST 3,000 VICTIMS, PRIMARILY BOYS. **MORE THAN A DOZEN SEXTORTION VICTIMS COMPLETED SUICIDE**, INCLUDING RIGHT HERE IN MICHIGAN: FBI PRESS RELEASE CLICK [HERE](#).

IF YOUR KID HAS A CELL PHONE, ATTEND THIS MEETING. WE WANT TO INFORM YOU FIRST; THE FBI WILL ALSO PRESENT TO OUR STUDENTS. WE ALL CARE ABOUT OUR STUDENTS, BUT WE KNOW SOMETIMES THEY MAKE MISTAKES. THE CONSEQUENCES CAN BE CATASTROPHIC. - DR. KEMSLEY

### FROM A REAL SEXTORTION INCIDENT:

I sent you an email from YOUR address? HOW? Yes, that means I had full access to your device—your pictures, messages, contacts, social media. I am happy to share your pictures and messages with EVERYONE. There is ONE way out: Send me 1000 (USD) to bitcoin wallet: 1C1FgyNsJGJZfuR2EPXxTraa. When I receive payment I delete your information. You have three days. I have received notification you have opened this email. The countdown has begun.