



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the Okemos High School Community

IMPORTANT DATES

NHS INDUCTION/JR
RECOGNITION
APRIL 19

NO SCHOOL
APRIL 20-21

SEXTORTION PARENT
PRESENTATION
MAY 1 @ 6PM; OHS KIVA

PROM & POST PROM
MAY 13

SENIOR'S LAST
WEEK
MAY 15-18

IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)

[PARENT GROUP](#)

NEXT MEETING: MAY. 26, 2023

MORE GROUP INFO ON PAGE 6



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HELLO OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MR. DERM WENT ON HIS FIRST FIELD TRIP! VIDEO [HERE](#). THEY MADE T-SHIRTS! PARENTS OF SENIORS, AS PROMISED, HERE IS A "ONE STOP SHOPPING DOCUMENT" CLICK [HERE](#).

PLEASE DON'T BE OVERWHELMED BY THE SIZE OF THIS NEWSLETTER OR THE LINKS. MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION IS REPEATED IN DIFFERENT WAYS BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS IT: PROM/POST PROM, ALL SENIOR DATES, COMMENCEMENT...IT'S ALL HERE!

WE COMPLETED STATE TESTING TODAY. I WANT TO THANK MEGAN STADT, OUR COORDINATOR, AND ALL OF MY TEACHERS AND STAFF FOR DOING A REALLY GREAT JOB! OF COURSE, STUDENTS DID A FANTASTIC JOB, TOO!

CAN YOU BELIEVE WE ONLY HAVE A FEW NEWSLETTERS LEFT? ALL OF A SUDDEN THE YEAR SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED! WE HAVE SOME TIME LEFT, AND WE WILL MAKE THE BEST OF IT. MY GOAL WILL BE TO KEEP EVERYONE FOCUSED, BE SAFE, AND HAVE SOME FUN. AS ALWAYS, I AM REALLY PROUD OF MY STUDENTS, STAFF AND SCHOOL. THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, BUT WE HAVE A REALLY GREAT THING GOING HERE! -DR. KEMSLEY

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PROM INFORMATION

JUNIOR & SENIOR PROM + DINNER

A MIDNIGHT MASQUERADE

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL 2023



Cr: Art-Gold-Beauté

DATE

Saturday, May 13th, 2023

TIME

6:00 - 10:30 PM
You MUST arrive
between 5:45 - 6:15 PM

LOCATION

Eagle Eye Golf Club:
5500 Chandler Rd #3,
Bath Twp, MI 48808

TICKETS

Sold: April 14-28th
Cost: \$75 per person
Online QR Code:



ADDITIONAL INFO

- The price of tickets includes dinner this year
- Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM
- There are NO refunds for Prom AND Post Prom
- Please see your counselor for financial aid

POST PROM

- 11 PM - 2 AM. You MUST arrive between 10:30 PM - 12 AM
- OHS Gym
- \$25 per person
- Attendance to Prom is not required to attend Post Prom
- No re-entry



Designed by: Arianna Kim

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 or scan the QR code.



IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES

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

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 16th - Senior video submissions due to ohs2023seniors@gmail.com

April 20 - Senior Tribute ads due. Please visit yearbookokemos@weebly.com for information on how to order. Everything must be designed and completed by the 20th

April 20 - Commencement Audition Videos Due

April 26 - In-Person Commencement Speakers Auditions

Important Future Dates: ALL SENIOR DATES CLICK [HERE](#)

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; **ALL WORK DUE**

May 21 - Graduation at the Breslin Center

SENIOR VIDEO REMINDER

We are collecting photos and videos for the senior video that will be played at the end of the year to commemorate the class of 2023. Our goal is for EVERYONE to be included!

Please send in images of yourself (or group photos with anyone in our class) ranging from baby photos/elementary/middle school/high school/senior pictures to ohs2023seniors@gmail.com by SUNDAY APRIL 16th!

We want to thank everyone who has already sent in items, however, we need MANY more to make sure our video includes EVERYONE and also that it is a good representation of our whole class throughout the years. Even if you are not in a picture, but have an amazing picture that includes a lot of students from our class PLEASE send it in!

Why do we need everything this early? This takes a LONG time and lots of editing, and the video also needs to be approved by many people before the seniors watch it during the last week of school.

Thank you for your help!

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

NHS INFORMATION

As we wind down this school year, please note that the mandatory meeting that was scheduled for June 7th has been **MOVED to Monday, June 5th** to avoid conflicts with final exams. Please see the details below.

Reminders:

- **April 19th** - New Member Induction / Junior Recognition Ceremony - Mandatory Event - 6 pm, OHS Auditorium, Light Refreshments served after in Commons
- **June 5th** - 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

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) prior to the "Date to be Adopted."

PLANT & FLOWER SALE



FROM THE OFFICE OF DR. SLEE

April is Autism Acceptance Month. Here's a description of autism from the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#):

"Autism is a developmental disability that affects how we experience the world around us. Autistic people are an important part of the world. Autism is a normal part of life, and makes us who we are.

Autism has always existed. Autistic people are born autistic and we will be autistic our whole lives. Autism can be diagnosed by a doctor, but you can be autistic even if you don't have a formal diagnosis. Because of myths about autism, it can be harder for autistic adults, autistic girls, and autistic people of color to get a diagnosis. But anyone can be autistic, regardless of race, gender, or age...

...There is no one way to be autistic. Some autistic people can speak, and some autistic people need to communicate in other ways. Some autistic people also have intellectual disabilities, and some autistic people don't. Some autistic people need a lot of help in their day-to-day lives, and some autistic people only need a little help. All of these people are autistic, because there is no right or wrong way to be autistic. All of us experience autism differently, but we all contribute to the world in meaningful ways. We all deserve understanding and acceptance."

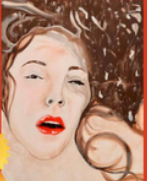
Below are sites listed that can provide resources and information to learn more about the neurodivergent community. These organizations work to ensure that the frameworks and information are designed and founded by autistic and neurodivergent people.

[Neuroclastic](#)
[Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network \(AWN\)](#)
[Autistic Foundation for Divergent Minds](#)
[The Autism Helper](#)

April is also Arab American Heritage Month. According to the [NYC Public Schools' web page](#) about this commemorative month, "today's Arab American community is made up of individuals with roots in 22 countries located in the Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. In addition to the many nationalities represented, Arab Americans are also diverse in faith – despite a common misconception, not all Arabs are Muslim, nor are all Muslims from the Middle East and North Africa, and over half of Arab Americans are estimated to be Christian – as well as race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability. Within their diverse community, Arab Americans are united by their primary language – Arabic – as well as by their shared history and culture."

MSUFCU ART COMPETITION WINNERS

TRISTAN BARABURIYE



MSUFCU HONORABLE MENTION JURIED AWARD WINNER

JASMINE CHOW



MSUFCU 3RD PLACE JURIED AWARD WINNER

SARAH CHELKO



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
9th grade award winner

JOANNA DENG



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
9th grade portfolio winner

EMMA ANDRECHECK



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
special award winner

LEAH ELLIOT



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
11th grade portfolio winner

TRISTAN BARABURIYE



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

ASHLEY CHANCE




ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

SARAH LEE



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

PRAMIKA BODEDDULA



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
special award winner

ISABEL HSU



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

JASMINE CHOW



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
12th grade award winner

ALEXIS-REMINGTON HART



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

NITYA TIKARIA



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

ABBY BURBA



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

BHAVYA TIKARIA



ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
participant

Pramika Bodeddula

12th Grade
Okemos High School
Okemos



SUPPORTING YOUNG CREATIVES

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.



OHS Parent Group Updates

- Parent Group needs a new 2023–2024 Executive Board! Positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in a position, please let us know as soon as possible. We will vote for new board members at our last meeting on May 26th.
- Prom and Post Prom are two separate events taking place on the same night for the Senior and Junior classes. Prom is a formal dance sanctioned and coordinated by the school. However, Post Prom is Parent Group's largest event. Post Prom is a casual, fun, and safe environment for students to continue the night's celebration.

Details for Post Prom:

- Post Prom tickets are \$25/per person. You must be a Junior or Senior at OHS to purchase tickets. *If the ticket price is a financial hardship, please have your student contact their school counselor.
- Attendance at Prom is not required to attend Post Prom and vice versa – separate events.
- Post Prom is a casual event that takes place right after Prom on May 13th, 11:00 pm – 2:00 am, at Okemos High School. Check-in starts at 10:30 pm and doors open at 11:00 pm. You must check in by midnight; no entry is allowed after that. A photo ID is required for all attendees.
- Post Prom, just like Prom, allows for non-OHS guests. However, non-OHS guests must have an approved guest form on file prior to the event (the same form used for Prom).
- Tickets will be available for purchase online only at the same time as Prom ticket sales, Friday, 4/14/23 – Friday, 4/28/23. This is a 2-week period.
- To purchase either or both Prom/Post Prom tickets, use this link <https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/hs/hs-prom/#/list> or go to the OHS website store under "PROM."
- You must purchase tickets online April 14–28, 2023 – no exceptions. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER 11:59 PM ON APRIL 28, 2023.** This is absolute so please plan accordingly.
- Tickets are non-transferable, and all sales are final.
- Once you leave Post Prom, there is no re-entry.

All the fun you can expect at Post Prom:

- 3 hours of large inflatables (obstacle course, defender, gaga ball, etc.), casino area (blackjack, poker, and roulette – no cash, just fun chips), 9-hole mini golf, ping pong, photo booth, games (giant Jenga, axe throwing, battle lights, etc.), snacks galore, and the Giveaway prize drawing. Attire: Super comfortable casual/athletic wear.
- This year's Post Prom is an extra special event. Our Seniors were Freshmen when schools shut down due to the pandemic, and our Juniors were the first to start their freshmen year online. It has been a high school experience like no other. Help us celebrate them! This sign-up is specifically for prize donations for the Giveaway drawing at Post Prom. There will be a separate sign-up for volunteers to work the event and for food donations. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949A8AC22A6FDC25-post>
- If you'd like to make a monetary donation to help fund Post Prom or any of our remaining events, you can write a check to OHS Parent Group and drop it off at our mailbox in the main office, or you can make an online donation through the school's payment system [HS Parent Group | Okemos Public Schools \(revtrak.net\)](https://www.revtrak.net) Use this link and donate through the school's online payment processing system. Any amount is appreciated and will go directly to supporting and recognizing students and staff.

You can email us at OHSParentGroupInfo@gmail.com or join us on Facebook "Okemos High School Parent Group."

Meetings take place at 9:00 am in the Counseling classroom at OHS on the following Fridays:
May 26, 2023

Thank you for your support!