

Highlighter

Issue 3 January 2014

From the Principal's Desk

Dear ORHS Parents and Community Members,

As hard as it is to believe we are rapidly approaching the mid-point of the 2013-2014 school year. The week of January 21st to 24th are mid-terms marking the end of the first semester. As we reach this point in the year our attention turns to planning for next year. For students that means reviewing or revising their 4 year graduation plan and signing up for courses for next year.

This process will get started in early February when counselors meet with all of the students in the auditorium. At this meeting students will be given a copy of "The 2014-15 Program of Studies" along with instructions for how to register for courses via their PowerSchool account. Students will also hear about the wide range of course and program offerings at ORHS. It is important that all be aware of the range of courses, internships, independent studies, career technical center programs, on-line learning opportunities and college courses that are available to all ORHS students. Students will also be given the opportunity to attend the "ORHS Electives Fair" to learn more about our extensive electives program. There is truly something for every interest here at ORHS.

After this initial informational process course registration will take place in the 2 weeks prior to February vacation. All registration must be done on the student account on PowerSchool. In the month of March counselors will meet individually with all of the students to review their preliminary course selections. In March all students will be given an assigned time to meet with their counselor and it is important that they keep their appointment. If for some reason this is not possible please contact Sandy Osterloh in the Counseling Office to reschedule. The purpose of these meetings is to review the initial courses selected and discuss each student's graduation plan. ORHS has had a 100% graduation rate for each of the last 3 years and this process is designed to help keep that record going. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's counselor at any time you have questions in this process. There is also a great deal of information on the Counseling Office web page that can be accessed from the home page of the high school web site.

On another note the college application season for seniors is in high gear at ORHS. Most application deadlines are coming up in the next month or so. This is the point in the year when seniors really start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Second semester is a very exciting time to be at Oyster River High School as you really get the opportunity to watch all of the student's post-graduation plans take shape.

Finally, I have been hearing more and more from parents of seniors about when graduation will be. The final decision on the date for ORHS Graduation 2014 will not be made by the board until March after the winter snow season has past. That being said, as long as we don't have more than 5 snow-days graduation would likely be June 13, 2014.

Best regards,

Todd Allen

Curious What's New in the Counseling Office?

Visit our newly revised website at:

<https://sites.google.com/a/sau5.org/hsguidance/>

We have resources for college search and application, career exploration, course selection, and more!

Please contact our office with any questions at 868-2375, x. 6032

ORHS Counseling Department

Freedom Pen Project

Four Oyster River High School students from Mr. Troy's Industrial Tech. class have participated in The Freedom Pens Project. Devon Bowen, Gunner Tucker, Ashley Tewksbury and Pieter Zwart volunteered to turn pens for our military. This is a nationwide project that the Penn State Industries Woodworking Co. has put together. Students involved in wood working classes around the country participate by turning wood pens on the lathe. Penn State Industries supplies the pen kits and materials. Students then turn the wood blanks on the lathe, sand, polish and assemble the pens. The completed pens are then shipped overseas to our men and women serving in our military. This is a small gift to them in appreciation of their service to our country. For more information on this project go to www.freedompens.org

News from the Oyster River High School English Department

Hearts were light when Oyster River's 2013 Poet Laureate, Catherine Geiger, passed the literary honor and a silly hat to Azabeth Lapham, at the beginning of this year's Poetry Out Loud, school-wide poem-recital. Emcee'd by Oyster River High School's own clown prince, English teacher, Trevor Garman, the main event, the school-based qualifier for the eventual regional and New Hampshire state competitions of Poetry Out Loud, was held in the friendly confines of the brand new Durham Public Library, a bright, cheery and beautifully appointed new space on 49 Madbury Road. Last year's reigning New Hampshire state champion, senior Daniel Belshaw, squared off against an eager and articulate group of younger Oyster River performers, including: Daniel Sole-Barber, Sarah Corrow, Catherine Geiger, Fiona Grove, Azabeth Lapham, Marina Schwadron, Kristen Short, Gabriella Trombley, Megan Wu and Daiyao Zhang. After many passionate performances and a tremendously close contest, the top honor went to Marina Schwadron, 1st runner up was Fiona Grove and 2nd runner up was Daniel Sole Barker. At stake, beyond the proud possibility of sending our 3rd competitor to the national Poetry Out Loud competition in Washington, DC, a precedent set by Daniel Belshaw in 2013 and Arturo Jaras Watts in 2011, is scholarship money and a generous grant of poetry book money for the Oyster River High School Library.

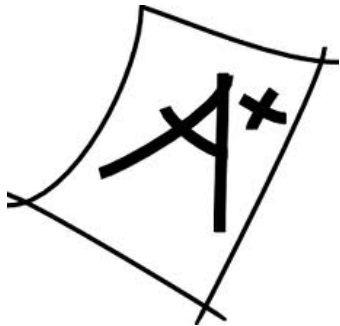
Many thanks to Durham Public Library's Lisa Kleinemann, who welcomed our group to the DPL's terrific, new space; judges, including Oyster River Middle School's Language Arts teachers, Linda Reif and Susie Renner, and DPL Children's Librarian, Candace Jost; as well as the many family members and friends of our competitors who swelled the DPL's performance hall and cheered on our contestants.



Poetry Out Loud at the new Durham Public Library.

News from the language department

National French and Spanish Exams



Every year World Language students have the opportunity to take the National French or Spanish Exam in the spring.

These exams allow students to take an optional standardized test and compete nationally in an extremely competitive foreign language contest.

Historically Oyster River students have been successful at both the state and national levels.

The cost of processing the exam is \$5.00. Checks (made out to ORHS) or cash need to be submitted to his or her world language teacher by January 24, 2014.

Celebrating the holidays

The members of the Spanish and French Clubs gathered together to celebrate the holiday season, enjoy music and have a gift swap. Funds gathered through our poinsettia sale were used to purchase gifts for those in need in our own community.

Thank you to all who purchased a plant, wreath or kissing ball. You helped us make the holidays a little brighter!



Midterm Survival Guide for Students and Parents

Just like we can't escape the cold, we can't escape midterm exam time. SO... we may as well embrace it! Bundle up your strategies for success with some of our best tips for how to prepare for the weeks ahead!

1. First and foremost, take good care of yourself. Eating well, staying hydrated, exercising, getting plenty of rest and accessing help when you need it will help you combat stress and anxiety and perform your best.
 2. Check Power School for any missing assignments and ask teachers if they can still be turned in.
 3. Attend office hours or schedule time to talk with your teacher about questions you have and how to best prepare for the class midterm exam.
 4. Organize your class binders by sorting notes, old tests, quizzes and handouts. Cumulative midterm exams will often cover the material from these older tests and quizzes.
 5. Ask your teachers for exam review sheets and/or study guides. Be sure to complete them before the exam.
 6. Feeling overwhelmed? As an adult or older sibling to help you strategize, organize and study. Sometimes another person can help you identify your priorities and get back on track.
 7. Start studying early. Spend some time each day reviewing for exams, especially the cumulative ones. Re-familiarize yourself with concepts from earlier in the year.
 8. Use an ACTIVE study strategy, such as: make notecards, rehearse with a partner, draw a diagram, re-write or type your notes, use mnemonics to recall information (PEMDAS, ROYGBIV), log onto quizlet.com and test yourself, or teach or explain the information to someone else out loud.
 9. Give yourself credit for doing your best. Your hard work is recognized and appreciated. Good luck!
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News from the OHRS Library

On December 20, the day before our holiday break, more than 200 students and teachers gathered in the library to celebrate Library Fest. The event celebrated all things library-related and students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities from literary charades, to an ORHS history scavenger hunt and a Harry Potter-themed photo booth. There were also opportunities to download library-recommended apps for learning and reading, vote for the Book of the Year, and contribute to "find your passion" map designed to guide students to resources in our new library layout.



Representatives from Durham, Lee, Madbury and Barrington Public Libraries, as well as UNH Dimond Library, were also on hand at the event. Each library had a table where they promoted their resources and services, sought input from student on how they could improve their libraries, and sign up for library cards. Students and staff of ORHS are eligible for library cards at all three district libraries and the UNH library, which allows them access to a variety of rich and diverse resources.

“I was invigorated by the students and really miss working with teens on a daily basis!” said Sharon Taylor, director of Lee Public Library. Since Lee is in the process of planning for a new library, Taylor focused on getting ideas from students of what they would want to see in a teen library space. At least 67 students stopped by her table and shared their creative ideas with her.



Durham Public Library estimated that they signed up more than 20 people up for new library cards and had the chance to talk to many students who already have cards. UNH library issued 45 new cards to students and 8 to staff. Other libraries did a brisk business in issuing new cards as well. The OverDrive downloadable eBook and audiobook service offered by the public libraries was one of the most popular topics of discussion at the tables, and many students left for the vacation knowing about a new way to access books anytime, anywhere.

The day would not have been possible without the support of several parent volunteers who helped create signage, organize materials and run the activities on the day of the event. Special thanks to Hana Bartos, Elliott Moore, Deb Ahlstrom, Ann Zwart and Liz Stone for the energy and contributions of all sorts they gave to the event. I’ve already asked them to mark their calendars for December 23, 2015 for the next edition of Library Fest.

