College credits boost grad prospects

High school classes at Owen D. Young are constantly evolving.

Students are still taking the core subjects of English, math and science, much the same as previous generations. While some of the content is updated, screens have replaced blackboards and computers are common, a student from 1979 or 1999 would probably not feel too out of place in a 2019 classroom in terms of content. Grammar is still grammar. Algebra is still algebra. The scientific method is still the scientific method.

But in some ways, a student’s course load looks a lot different than when their parents and grandparents were in school.

One of the major features of a typical 11th or 12th grade schedule at ODY today is the presence of college credit courses. ODY is currently offering eight College Now courses in collaboration with Herkimer College.

College courses at ODY are integrated into each student’s schedule.

“Scheduling these classes is just part of the master schedule building process,” Guidance Counselor Alicia Soper said. “We do our best to set up the courses in the schedule where the students who want or need the classes are able to take advantage of them.”

College Now has big benefits for ODY students.

“Students are able to earn college credit for course work they complete in the supportive environment of their home school district. Students quite often find they need fewer Gen Ed electives once they start college after high school because of the credits they earned in high school,” Soper said.

For many graduating seniors at ODY and their families, this means time and money saved. There is no cost for College Now courses this year for our students.

“The college courses that I have taken in high school have helped me greatly. As I entered college I had earned 46 credits. The College Now courses fulfilled all of my general education requirements, as well as, providing some of the required liberal art credits. I am very appreciative
Learning about college, careers a highlight of fall ’19

Guidance Office news

It was an active start to the school year for our high school students and the guidance office.

On Oct. 18, ODY 10th grade students visited Mohawk Valley Community College for Manufacturing Day. Each year, businesses and employers within the STEM and manufacturing fields are invited. Students can explore different fields and businesses at the expo. The event features interactive exhibits related to NYS products and technology; educational exhibits on STEM pathways; and Workforce Development exhibits which seek to connect job seekers with manufacturers.

Our students enjoyed their tour of campus, talking with representatives from a variety of Mohawk Valley manufacturing industries, and even a quick trip to the campus coffee shop. Former NBA player John Wallace was also there with

District Communication Procedure

Frequently, parents and other community members request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. The communications guideline chart below will serve as a helpful resource. By contacting the following people in prescribed order, questions will be answered more efficiently.

The district’s main number is (518) 858-0729. A staff directory may be found online at www.odyoungcsd.org.

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<th>Questions About</th>
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<th>4th Contact</th>
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<td>Mr. Fahey</td>
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<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Mr. Pike</td>
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<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<td>Board Policy</td>
<td>District Clerk-Miss Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Use</td>
<td>Mrs. Armstrong</td>
<td>Mr. Parker</td>
<td>Mr. Fahey</td>
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<td>Cafeteria Staff</td>
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<td>Health Office</td>
<td>Mrs. Giachetti</td>
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<td>Scheduling</td>
<td>Miss Jones</td>
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<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Classroom Teacher</td>
<td>Ms. Allegretti</td>
<td>Ms. Soper</td>
<td>Mr. Fahey</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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reps from Gehring-Tricot, a textile manufacturer that produces sports uniforms with local factories in St. Johnsville and Dolgeville.

ODY also had students attend the annual Herkimer County Youth Summit and 11th and 12th grade students attended the College Information Day/College Fair at SUNY Cobleskill.

Guidance Counselor Alicia Soper said these types of events are a great way to expose students to the careers of today and even the careers of tomorrow. It’s also a way to get them familiar with higher education in general, she said.

On Nov. 14, College for Every Student student mentors gathered to celebrate ODY’s School of Distinction award and view the banner and trophy received by the district.

Seniors are meanwhile busy with college applications and are reminded to start their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible.

**After-school help is available**

We want every student to succeed at ODY. After-school help is now available for grades 7 through 12 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students who are in need of academic assistance should contact Ms. Allegretti, Miss Bragas or Miss Millan.

**ODY Ski Club seeks participants**

Ski Club will run for six Saturdays starting Jan. 4. The bus to Royal Mountain will leave at 8:30 a.m. and return to ODY at 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact School Nurse Suzanne Giachetti. Participants are urged to sign up now through Jan. 3.

**Deck the halls with ODY**

The ODY school community will have three opportunities to celebrate the holiday season with us this December. At 5:30 p.m., Dec. 11, our kindergarten through grade 3 students will feature some familiar Christmas carols. The entertainment continues at 6 p.m., Dec. 17 when our grade 4 through grade 6 students perform with the Elementary Band and Chorus. The holiday concert series concludes at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 19 when our grade 7 through grade 12 students perform at the Jr./Sr. High School Band and Chorus Winter Concert.

**Senior Dinner returns**

An annual tradition at ODY that everyone at our school looks forward to is returning.

This year’s holiday dinner will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 in the school auditorium. The event will be handicapped accessible.

Please RSVP by Dec. 11 by calling (315) 858-0729, ext. 0.

For more information about our school, please visit:
www.odyoungcsd.org
www.facebook.com/odycsd
Twitter: @odyoungcsd
Or contact us at 858-0729
www.odyoungcsd.org
that I had the opportunity to take these courses, helping me begin my college career,” said LaLaina Hula, a 2019 ODY graduate.

But taking college courses in high school and earning credit for them has even more benefits, even for those students who may not go to college directly after finishing high school.

For those students who may choose the military as a career, college courses in high school give them an extra academic background they can draw from when they take the ASVAB test. The higher the score on the ASVAB test, the greater the available opportunities are when a student selects their job of choice in the military.

At ODY we are proud to focus on our academics, whether it’s learning to read and write; add and subtract; or more advanced levels of math and science that previous generations did not have the opportunity to study.