



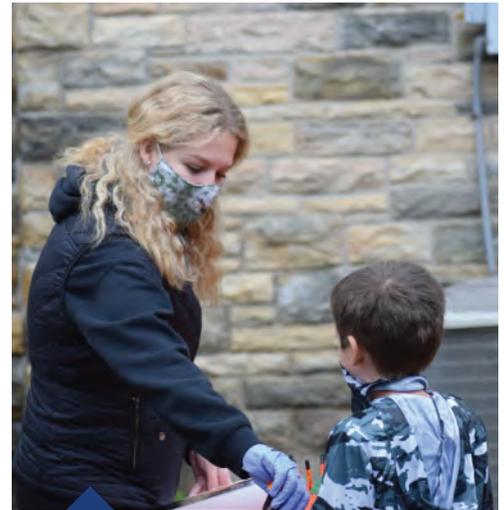
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Class of 2021 preps for the future

The Class of 2020 certainly had a challenging time last year. Their world completely changed in mid-March 2020. For most of them, the post-high school plans were already set. However, they dealt with the end of in-person schooling and a very different way to close out their time as Owen D. Young CSD students.



Members of ODY’s senior class helped hand out candy to students for our Halloween event. While we couldn’t have guests at the school as in other years, our students and staff stepped up.

The Class of 2021 knew before the senior year started it was going to be difficult. One of the big unknowns for them, was how college and career planning would be during the 2020-21 school year. One of the big focuses for seniors in their final year is preparation for what comes next. For some, it’s a 2-year college; for others, it’s a 4-year college. Some may attend trade schools or enter the workforce directly; while others may enlist in the military.

But how does that work when a pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives?

One of the biggest differences from this year to a normal year is that traditional college visits are not always possible.

“I always recommend students step foot on campus in some shape or form,” Guidance Counselor Alicia Soper said, noting that this helps them build a connection to the campus and potentially helps inform them on their best choice.

“A visit is important,” she said. “It’s

where they will spend the next 2 to 4 years of their lives.”

Even though some colleges are not doing in-person visits, many have opted for virtual tours and still others, including colleges that are often selected by ODY students, are open for tours.

“Some of our local colleges are offering in-person visits,” Soper said.

College visits aren’t just for seniors looking at which schools to apply to or to inform their final choice. They have

Superintendent’s Message

As we head into the holiday season and the winter weather that comes with it, we want to thank our ODY community for your patience. We know this hasn’t been easy for our teachers, our staff, our families, and most of all, our children. Getting past the first two months of school under our new hybrid model is an accomplishment, but it isn’t enough just to get by. We need to continue to deliver the best educational opportunities that we can through the remainder of the year and seek to improve as we go along.

Changing rules and guidelines from the state, as well as our own self-reflection, which includes listening to our students, families and staff, have prompted us to make changes along the way for how we operate. We will continue to adapt as we move forward the final seven months of the school year. We also



It may look a little different, but the principles of classroom learning remain the same. Teachers guide students along their own learning journey and continually find ways to connect with them. Class sizes are a little small, desks are farther apart and masks are required, but it is all designed to keep everyone safe.

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 (315) 858-0729. A staff directory may be found online at www.odyoungcsd.org.

Questions About	1st Contact	2nd Contact	3rd Contact	4th Contact
Academics	Classroom Teacher	Ms. Soper	Mr. Pike	Mr. Fahey
Athletics	Coach	Mr. Pike	Mr. Fahey	
Behavior	Teacher	Mr. Pike	Mr. Fahey	
Board Policy	District Clerk-Miss Jones	Mr. Fahey	Board of Education	
Building Use	Mrs. Armstrong	Mr. Seifreid	Mr. Fahey	
Food Services	Cafeteria Staff	Mr. Pfisterer	Mr. Seifreid	Mr. Fahey
Instruction	Classroom Teacher	Mrs. Tucker (K-5)/Mr. Pike (6-12)	Mr. Fahey	
Curriculum	Classroom Teacher	Mrs. Tucker (K-5)/Mr. Pike (6-12)	Mr. Fahey	
Health Office	Mrs. Giachetti	Mr. Fahey	School Doctor	
Scheduling	Miss Jones	Ms. Soper	Mr. Fahey	
Special Education	Classroom Teacher	Ms. Allegretti	Ms. Soper	Mr. Fahey
Transportation	Student's Bus Driver	Mr. Siefried	Mr. Fahey	

College, careers and more...

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also been a mainstay for younger grades at ODY through the College for Every Student program.

One of the hallmarks of CFES is field trips to area colleges in order to expose students to college life.

With CFES, we were able to get them on to college campuses in some way, but this aspect of CFES has been on hold due to COVID-19. Visits in recent years have included Hamilton College, Utica College and SUNY Cobleskill, among others.

For students who may not be considering a 2-year or 4-year college as an option after graduation, the pandemic has also required an adjustment. Soper said there may be an unintended benefit for students in BOCES career and tech programming. Normally, career and tech students attend half day sessions at BOCES. But with adjustments to scheduling due to the pandemic, ODY students are able to spend two full days with mostly hands-on learning. This is important because career and tech programming involves a bus trip and set-up and take-down periods that can eat into instructional time.

“Normally it’s a half day, they can get more immersed in the programming with a full day,” Soper said.

The change in scheduling for students, combined with the loss of many extracurricular activities and other opportunities due to the pandemic, has allowed some students to gain employment experience and training outside of the classroom through part-time jobs.

There are some other trends that began before the pandemic that are helping to define the Class of 2021. These include less reliance by colleges on standardized tests like SATs and ACTs; students having a greater awareness of financial aid issues; and using College



Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for the Class of 2021 to do many of the things they would normally do, they are finding ways to volunteer. Two of our seniors spent Election Day working at the polls in the town of Stark, above. While interscholastic athletics remain in question for the 2020-21 school year, the girls modified soccer team was able to play several games, below. They were the only athletic team ODY was able to field this fall and the girls went 2-1-1 for their season. Congratulations!

Now to earn college credits in high school, saving them time and money down the road.

“We had kids starting out at Herkimer and getting their associates degrees within a year due to College Now,” Soper said. “Local, two-year schools are popular with ODY students.”

Even with the pandemic, communication is key to helping the Class of 2021 be prepared for the future. One-to-one meetings and sharing information online has been important.

“I’ve tried to keep the communication going as we did when we shut down,” Soper said.

While the Class of 2021 and the rest of ODY’s students are still finding their way as we head toward the Thanksgiving break, Soper said the hybrid schedule for some high school students is giving them a sampling of what a college may look like, because it involves more



independent effort and classes that are not held in-person every day.

It’s a challenging environment for them, she added.

“So much of it is just very different,” Soper said.



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ODY plans Memorial Day picnic

This year the Student Council is changing our annual Christmas Luncheon to a Memorial Day Picnic. We know the yearly luncheon is much anticipated, however with current COVID-19 regulations, we cannot hold it this December.

Instead of canceling it altogether, we are pleased to announce it will be changed to a Memorial Day event. By holding it in the spring, we hope to be able to have it outside with a patriotic theme. Please feel free to reach out to our advisors by phone on extensions 1306 or 1600; or you can email them at jjones@odycsd.org or ctucker@odycsd.org with any questions. You can also let us know what you love best about the Luncheon so it can be incorporated into the picnic.

Our faculty and staff have done their best to make sure the classroom environment is engaging and fun. One way to do that is to celebrate the holidays and seasons in order to keep students excited.

Superintendent's Message

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have to be flexible and prepared as we know COVID cases are on the rise throughout the state and this is already impacting school districts.

The winter weather also brings with it the challenge of staying healthy. Cold and flu season is here and with the added risk of COVID, we want to make sure our students and families are being as safe as they can be. Please follow our health

screening protocols every morning.

One of the things that we've had to be is flexible. Unfortunately, we can't open up our school to the public as we traditionally do and won't be able to hold our annual senior holiday luncheon during the holiday season. Instead, we are looking at holding it around Memorial Day.

We are finding ways to adapt

our traditions for the 2020-21 school year and although these events and experiences may not look the same or may be delayed, we will do our best.

Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,

Brennan M. Fahey
 Superintendent of Schools