



Superintendent Highlights July 2019

Dear Owego Apalachin School Community,

I hope that the first month of Summer has brought rest, relaxation and has allowed for some time with family and friends. Summertime around the district does not necessarily slow down! We have had a full campus every week since Graduation. Here are a few highlights from over the past couple of months...

Highest Graduation Rate at OFA:

We are proud to announce that the OFA Class of 2019 achieved a recording breaking 93.9% graduation rate. The highest since NYS has tracked high school graduation rates. Previously, the class of 2017 had the highest rate ever of 93.4%. We are extremely proud of our students, staff and entire school community. Our students are thriving and that is a tribute to the entire district working together to make this possible.

OFA School of Excellence for Athletics and Academics:

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has recognized Owego Free Academy as a School of Excellence in Academics and Athletics. We are extremely proud of this honor as it ranks us as one of the top high schools in the state. Our student athletes are excelling both on and off the field.

Administrative Restructure:

At the end of June, Ryan Hallenbeck resigned as the Principal of Apalachin Elementary School and accepted the Director of Athletics and Physical Education position in the Union Endicott School District. At the July 11th Board of Education meeting, Mr. Thomas Beatty was appointed as the interim Principal of Apalachin Elementary School. Mr. Beatty has been with the school district for 12 years. He served as Assistant Principal at OFA for 6 years, from 2007-2013, and Principal at the Middle School for the last 6 years. During that time, Mr. Beatty also served as Summer School Principal for Broome Tioga BOCES.

In an effort to continue to become more efficient, and work towards aligning our school district staffing and curriculum, the decision was made to restructure our administrative staff.

The district will be making a change in the administrative structure for grades 6-12. Mr. Georgia, who has been with the district for 10 years as the Principal of OFA, will now become the OAMS & OFA Principal. Additionally, the district will be hiring an Assistant Principal to work with Mr. Georgia, Mrs. Crawford and Mr. Schofield to support both students and staff in grades 6-12.

In the near future, you will be receiving a letter from your new Principal introducing themselves. They are both more than willing to discuss any questions you may have during this transition. As we finalize our Assistant Principal hiring this summer, parents with students in grades 6-12 will be informed of who to contact regarding any specific questions or concerns related to your child.

Summer Enrichment Camps:

We are thrilled to be able to offer six weeks of summer camps in the Owego Apalachin Central School District. We are offering a wide variety of courses for our students to experience this summer. Most importantly, our camps are free and each student receives free breakfast and lunch during the day. The camps have been well-attended this summer and the kids and teachers are all enjoying their time exploring new things! You can see our Summer Enrichment photos on our website, or by following #OASummerEnrichment on Twitter!

ProjectSTEAM21 Community Alliance:

We are proud to partner with our local stakeholders such as Tioga County Economic Development, Tioga County Boys and Girls Club, Tioga County Legislature, Local Businesses, Senator Akshar's office, Village of Owego, Tioga County Chamber of Commerce, and others, as we work together to grow our future workforce and provide education on STEAM and how it relates to our future. There are many misconceptions about STEAM; the main one being that it is a stand-alone 'subject area' in school or careers. In reality, the concept of STEAM is woven tightly in all subject areas and many, many careers that you may not typically relate to STEAM. The elements of STEAM -- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Agriculture and Mathematics are found in just about everything we do. The concept also concentrates heavily on learning basic collaborative skills, problem solving both as a team and individually, as well as hands-on learning in the classroom.

Career and Technical Training Center:

This coming school year the district is excited to host and offer two new programs for students at OFA. We will be offering Advanced Manufacturing and Building & Construction Systems. These programs will take place in our new state of the art Maintenance Building. This building will now be a shared space where students will take part in career and technical training to prepare them for their future. This movement is all part of the ProjectSTEAM21 Community Alliance. This community alliance initiative is working towards developing future employees right here in our own community.

Workforce Development Grant Initiative:

(Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council)

We are excited to partner with Tioga County Economic Development in the submittal of a significant grant seeking funds to increase workforce development. Below is an excerpt from the grant that was submitted.

The Owego Apalachin School District (OACSD) located in Tioga county is submitting this proposal to the Southern Tier Economic Development Council (STREDC) for consideration under the CFA Workforce Development Initiative Funding opportunity. This proposal will allow OACSD to expand upon the existing job linkage, training, and employment services that is currently offers to both high school and continuing adult education students.

The specific grant request is to assist with the purchase of advanced manufacturing equipment to outfit the schools Career and Technical Training Facility, and allow the OACSD to offer expanded coursework and collaborative education opportunities to our high school and continuing adult education students. OACSD will plan to offer the following career and technical education programming in the future.

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Machine and Manufacturing Technology
- Welding
- Engineering Technology
- Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance

American Music Abroad Summer Experience

Six Owego Free Academy juniors traveled to 5 countries with American Music Abroad (AMA). Our students visited France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland. Juniors JJ Bowgren, Larissa Fisher, Mariah Hogg, Rachel Raftis, Derek Sarge and Austin Snyder performed with the mixed chorus. JJ also played trumpet with the band. They were recommended by their music teachers and prepared the music on their own for a few months before departing. After a few rehearsals with the groups, they were off to perform! These musicians performed in beautiful churches, cathedrals, town squares, and theaters in every country. We are proud that these talented students were able to represent the Owego Apalachin Central School District over seas!

To stay up to date on what is happening around OA, download our free district app, available in your app store, follow us on social media, or as always, visit us on our website at www.oacsd.org.

Regards,

Corey A. Green