

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Registration Welcome Message
July 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the start of the 2018-2019 school year at Oak Park High School. I am looking forward to a successful and exciting new year as our school continues to be recognized in all academic, athletic, and extra-curricular areas. This year we will continue to work on the goals outlined in our 2016 WASC action plan and these goals will be our focus for the remainder of the accreditation cycle. This Spring, the WASC visiting committee will conduct a revisit to check in on our progress. OPHS has deservedly earned an outstanding reputation as a school with strong parental involvement and where the students and staff demonstrate academic excellence and strong extra-curricular participation, and once again, I ask for your continued involvement and support to make it an outstanding year in every respect. Our Registration marks our official kick-off of school activities every August, so please read the following carefully to ensure it goes smoothly for you and your child.

Student Registration. Please read all of the registration documents posted online. In addition to all of the forms needed, you'll find that the Registration Checklist and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will help guide you and your student through the registration process and answer any questions you might have. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the option to **pay some of the registration amounts online** through the OPHS Webstore. To encourage this option this year we are eliminating the service convenience fee, so please take advantage of this offer and pay in advance for your items. This service will significantly reduce the time your student has to stand in line during registration. You'll find the link to the OPHS Webstore on the Student Store fees form, which also details the fees.

No Make Up Registration Day. Please note, there will be no separate make up day for registration. A parent or friend may register for a student who is unable to attend on his or her grade level registration day. If you cannot make those arrangements, then your student must arrive early (at 7:00 a.m.) on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 7, 2018 to turn in required forms and begin the registration process in the Pavilion.

The first day of school will be **Tuesday, August 7** and students are scheduled to attend periods 1-3-5. (See the bell schedule listed with the registration materials). This year all students will receive their schedules during registration including the teachers and room numbers. Period 1 will begin at 8:30 a.m. 0 period will not meet as a class until the following day. Also, we are distributing textbooks during registration. This is a real challenge but we believe that it will be an advantage to students and teachers for the students to have their books on the first day of school.

OPHS Website: Parents and students are encouraged to visit and use the OPHS website to access the most current information throughout the school year, where you'll find useful information pertaining to course selection, college planning, athletics, special events, parent involvement and community activities. Our Master Calendar features upcoming events and is updated weekly. In addition, many of our teachers use individual web pages to convey information about their classes to both parents and students. Please explore our website at www.oakparkusd.org/ophs.

OPHS Student Handbook: This year the Student Handbook is posted online with all of the OPHS registration materials. **Parents and students must review the handbook. In particular, the Co-Curricular Code and the Statement of Conduct and Discipline** portions at the back of this handbook **must be** printed, signed by both student and parent, and returned to OPHS with the other registration forms. Ninth grade students will each receive a Time Tracker at registration, which is a valuable time management tool to use

for assignment posting and as a reference throughout the year. Other grade levels may purchase a Time-Tracker at the student store.

Dress Code: OPHS Dress Code has been revised to be as gender neutral as possible and describes how students should dress to show that they respect their learning environment. There are established guidelines for what is appropriate and inappropriate attire at school in the Student Handbook. Students who violate the dress code may be subject to progressive discipline. I am asking for your support by impressing upon your children that we will be enforcing the dress code and to select their outfits accordingly and review the dress code before doing your back-to-school shopping in the next few weeks. It is posted in the Student Handbook.

Parent Involvement: As we work with an outstanding staff to help your sons and daughters achieve their educational potential, it is our goal to keep the strong parent and community support for Oak Park High School moving forward. School staff along with students and parents on School Site Council developed our new Parental Involvement Policy which outlines ways to stay informed and involved in a number of ways, not just monitoring your child's progress, but participating in school improvement efforts and serving on committees. School administrators will be visiting classrooms, meeting with staff, and attending PFA and School Site Council meetings. We also hope to meet many parents at our Back-to-School Night on **Thursday, September 6th** as well. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Parent Communication - weekly eNews email bulletin: As in the past, we will use our weekly OPHS eNews email bulletins to communicate important information to families throughout the school year. Both resources ensure that parents are not left out with regard to anything that is happening during the school year. Please sign up to receive the OPHS eNews email bulletins in the list of registration forms and you will be automatically included in the weekly eNews email.

Parking, Drop-off, and Pick-up: Last school year we had several accidents including injuries in our parking lots. Preventing accidents is possible with the patient and courteous driving of our students, staff, and parents, under the capable guidance of our campus supervisors. Please drive slowly on campus, observe the parking restrictions, and kindly obey our staff when they give direction. Please don't engage in arguments or disputes over why they are asking you to pull over or why you can't go a particular way. Just go with the flow and if you have an issue, please bring it to my attention and I'll address it.

School Security and Safety: In response to national and community concerns about school security and student safety, we have taken measures to enhance security in our schools, including surveillance cameras, additional campus supervisors, and fencing that improves our ability to control access and maintain security. We had concerns that the rear of the campus that led into the parkland was wide open and vulnerable and, at almost any time, someone could enter undetected from a number of directions and make their way across the fields to the upper level and emerge right in the middle of campus. We decided to limit the points of access to the ones we could realistically and personally supervise. The entire rear of the OPHS campus has now been fenced from the library to the lower field. All visitors to school now will be routed to the front of campus on Kanan Road where OPHS staff members supervise access. Please observe the posted signs and follow the instructions of staff when visiting campus.

Please join us in thanking PFA Registration Coordinator Andrea Shapiro who along with a team of parent volunteers, have worked all summer preparing the materials and processes for this year's OPHS student registration. We are registering a projected enrollment of over 1,550 students in a mere four days. This is a huge undertaking and we are very appreciative of their help!

Sincerely,

Kevin Buchanan
Principal, OPHS