



Our mission is to develop children who are confident and creative learners. We provide a rigorous curriculum and a supportive school environment that promotes high achievement, encourages personal growth, and meets the unique needs of each child.

OLD ORCHARD JR. HIGH SCHOOL

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April 1, 2024

Dear Eighth Grade Families,

In eight short weeks we will celebrate your child's graduation from Old Orchard Junior High. This is an exciting time and we look forward to sharing in the culmination of your child's elementary education. This letter contains important information regarding the promotional exercises and the end of the year activities. Please hold onto this for future reference.

Special 8th Grade Activities

Included with this letter is information about two upcoming events: the 8th Grade Party sponsored by the PTA and the 8th Grade Picnic. Both events require that you sign and return the forms to your student's first period teacher or the Main Office if your student plans to participate.

Student Obligations

Students need to be free of financial obligations. Library fines, cafeteria fees, iPad and charger returned, lost and/or damaged book fees, unpaid equipment fees and district fees must be paid. It is our hope, by informing you at this time about the obligations, that all students will have the opportunity to meet their obligations.

8th Grade Ceremony Rehearsal – Thursday, May 30th

On Thursday, May 30th students should report to school at the regular time. Students must be in attendance as this is a regular school day, in order to participate in the ceremony. The entire 8th grade will be bussed to Niles West for ceremony rehearsal and bussed directly home at the end. All students whether or not they are regular bus riders, will be bussed home at the end of the practice. NO students will return to school. Students will arrive home for lunch at approximately 12:45 p.m. There will be NO SCHOOL for the 8th graders in the afternoon and no school following graduation.

Promotional Exercises – Thursday, May 30th at 7:00 p.m. at Niles West High School

The ceremony, held at Niles West High School at 5701 Oakton, Skokie, IL 60077, will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. **Students should arrive at 6:15 p.m. and meet the teachers in the cafeteria hallway where the rehearsal was held.** The auditorium doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for guests to be seated. If you have a guest who requires assistance in seating please contact Ms. Johnson by May 2nd so that the guest may be added to our priority seating list. At 6:15 p.m. only those pre-approved guests and one family attendant will be allowed to be seated by a faculty usher. In fairness to all there is no saving of seats. A guest given priority seating may not end up seated with the rest of the attendees.

Tickets

Each family will receive six (6) tickets and may *request* up to two (2) extra tickets. The enclosed Ticket Request Form should be returned to Ms. Johnson in the Main Office by Monday, April 22nd. All families must complete the form to receive tickets. All tickets will be sent home on Friday, May 24th. Tickets will not be replaced if lost.

Diplomas

Every effort has been made to ensure that diplomas contain no errors. In the event of error, please call the school office so that a new diploma can be issued.

Audience Expectations

The graduation ceremony is an important milestone in your child's development. We work hard to instruct your child in proper conduct and respect for the ceremony. We ask our guests to support the decorum of the ceremony. **Please leave signs, posters, and balloons at home and make sure that all cell phones are turned off.**

Pictures

As a courtesy to others, please do not use flash photography or leave your seat to take pictures at any time during the ceremony. A professional photographer, Inter-State Studios, has been hired to take photos as students receive their diplomas. Proofs will be available online for purchase. Enclosed you will find a flyer from Inter-State Studios.

Apparel

All graduates must wear the academic gown. Gown orders were taken in January. If you did not order a gown, please contact the office immediately. Gowns will be distributed on Friday, May 24th. Students should place the gown on a hanger to minimize wrinkles. Please remember nothing should be attached to the gown including flowers and ribbons.

Promotional exercises are important milestones in your life. It is important that student dress reflect the dignity and importance of the ceremony. We ask that students dress up for this occasion, whether that is a dress, a shirt and tie, slacks, dress shoes etc....

PTA Graduation Reception, Thursday, May 30th

The Old Orchard PTA will be hosting a reception immediately following the graduation ceremony, on Thursday, May 30th. The graduates and families are invited to attend this reception which will be held at Old Orchard Junior High School in the cafeteria.

You can view this letter and the enclosed forms on the Old Orchard Junior High website under News on the main page.

We look forward to celebrating your child's graduation from Old Orchard Junior High School and a successful beginning to high school. Please contact the school office if you have any questions about graduation.

Sincerely,

Greg Hanson
Principal

Enc: PTA 8th Grade Graduation Party Form
8th Grade Picnic Form
Ticket Order Form
Inter-State Studios Insert