

Onondaga Hill Middle School



Extra-Curricular Activities 2011-2012

Career Day

Mrs. Jennifer Pisegna & Mr. Michael Quinn - Organizers
jpisegna@westhillschools.org or mquinn@westhillschools.org

Career Day is an every other year event and serves as a reminder to students that they are preparing for an eventual career choice. Regular classes are suspended for the day as students attend a keynote address and a number of workshops they have selected.

Provided by community members, those workshops offer glimpses of possible careers and provide students with an idea of what constitutes the world of work. Careers represented at the last Career day included:

METEOROLOGIST
VETERINARIAN
ARTIST
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
POLICE OFFICER
CHIROPRACTOR
JOURNALIST/SYRACUSE NEWSPAPERS
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER/DEC
PEDIATRICIAN
BUSINESS OWNER/DUNKIN' DONUTS
BIG BAND MUSICIAN
DENTIST
FLORIST
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MAGICIAN/BUSINESS OWNER

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
LACROSSE COACH/SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
DJ/ "HOT 107.9"
X-RAY TECHNICIAN
ZOO KEEPER/BURNET PARK ZOO
EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALIST/BIRTH TO 3 YEARS OLD
ATTORNEY/BOND, SCHOENECK & KING
SOFTWARE DESIGNER/LOCKHEED MARTIN
MUSICIAN/HARP/PROFESSOR
ARMY RESERVIST
MARINE CORPS RECRUITER
PHYSICIAN/INTERNIST
THEFT INVESTIGATOR/PENN TRAFFIC
MEDICAL DOCTOR/FAMILY PRACTICE
NURSE PRACTITIONER
LAW ENFORCEMENT
FORENSICS/CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
DIETICIAN
FOOD CONSULTANTS/FOOD STYLISTS
FIREFIGHTER

Following the workshops, students participated in a myriad of grade level specific activities. Some of those included trivia games related to the world of work, budget planning and how that matches specific occupations, and looking at occupational profiles. This has always proven to be a thoughtful and growth filled day for students.

7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Band Trip to NYC

Discontinued in 2011

Class Trips

Mr. Douglas Hutson and Mr. Mark Bednarski - Building Administrators
dhutson@westhillschools.org or mbednarski@westhillschools.org

Every year, middle school students attend a daylong trip with their classmates. Last year grade 5 visited the Genesee Museum, grade 6

visited the Thousand Islands, grade 7 participates in day long activities at Camp Talooli and grade 8 spent the day at Darien Lakes theme park. These trips provide an important social opportunity for students and are a way of rewarding them for their hard work and good behavior throughout the year. Students do pay for their own trips but are able to defray all or part of the cost by participating in the wrapping paper sale. Funding for families experiencing financial difficulty is available. Details will be sent home well in advance of the trips.

Fitness Center

Mr. Karl Caputo, Mrs. Shannon Rogers and Mr. Jason Clavijo - Advisors
kcaputo@westhillschools.org or srogers@westhillschools.org or
jclavijo@westhillschools.org

The fitness center is available to students in grades 5-8 during IA throughout the school year. Fifth and sixth grade students will be permitted to use the fitness equipment on most Mondays and Wednesdays. Seventh and eighth grade students will be permitted to use the fitness equipment on most Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is requested that students notify their PE teacher in advance if they are planning to utilize the fitness center.

Future Educators of America

Mrs. Christina Gullotto Rogers - Advisor
cgullotto@westhillschools.org

Future Educators of America (FEA) is a chapter of the national professional fraternity of Phi Delta Kappa. It is a service-based organization whose purpose is to explore teaching as a career, coordinate and share information about teaching, and provide service to our school and community. FEA meets twice a month. Members help in classrooms, create displays, guide visitors at Open House, and develop service projects. In the spring, FEA will take a field trip to an area college of education.

Guidance Groups

Mrs. Michael Quinn - Grade 5 & 7 Counselor
mquinn@westhillschools.org

Mrs. Jen Pisegna - Grade 6 & 8 Counselor
jpisegna@westhillschools.org

Counselors establish groups of students as necessary or appropriate. Often these groups are established and meet regularly during lunch to provide friendship opportunities for students. Some groups include: Banana Splits, Surviving Middle School, True Colors, Study Skills, Taking Charge, It's a Girl Thing, The Real World for Boys and Friends. Interested parents or students should contact the appropriate counselor.

Harmonizers

Mrs. Kathy Tompkins - Director
ktompkins@westhillschools.org

Harmonizers is a select vocal group consisting of 7th and 8th graders. Students must audition to participate in this group, and must be active members of the 7th and 8th Grade Chorus. Auditions are held in June for the following school year.

Intramural Program

Mr. Jason Clavijo, Mrs. Shannon Rogers, and Mrs. Alison Sexton, Advisors
jclavijo@westhillschools.org or srogers@westhillschools.org or
asexton@westhillschools.org

The OHMS intramural program serves all middle school students who are in good academic standing. Students in grades 5 and 6 may participate on Mondays and Wednesdays and students in grades 7 and 8 may participate on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the school year. A new activity is offered each month. These activities include team handball, kickball,

dodgeball, volleyball, basketball, double bat mat ball, bowling, four square, table tennis, badminton and interactive video games. The intramural program also allows students the option of using the Fitness Center on their assigned intramural days.

Jazz Ensemble & Pep Band

Mr. Brendan Van Epps – Director Pep Band
bvanepps@westhillschools.org

Mrs. Elizabeth Buell – Director Jazz Ensemble
ebuell@westhillschools.org

The OHMS Jazz Ensemble and Pep Band include instrumentalists in six through eight grades. Pep Band performs popular music for school pep rallies held in October and February. Jazz Band plays a variety of swing, Latin, and rock standards for the winter and spring concerts, the Senior Citizens Concert in April and the Hank Bryant Jazz Festival in June. Both groups rehearse Wednesdays during IA and require an audition to participate.

Literary Magazine

Mrs. Lisa Sammon - Advisor
lsammon@westhillschools.org

The Literary Club provides an avenue for OHMS students who enjoy writing to create and publish original poetry and prose. The Literary Club also sponsors school wide activities that encourage student writing such as "A Poem in Your Pocket" week.

Literary Club is open to students in grades 5 through 8. It meets each month during I.A. Come learn from your peers, share your talent, and improve your writing skills in a relaxed and fun environment.

Math Team

Mrs. Bricco - Advisor
jbricco@westhillschools.org

The Onondaga Hill Middle School Math Team is open to all students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at the middle school. Math team members apply their mathematical, analytical, and problem solving knowledge and skills in a variety of timed problem solving situations.

In after school practice sessions, students attempt to answer questions and solve problems typically found in high school mathematics or higher. Solutions and processes are shared among students, and a multiplicity of approaches is presented. Students will generally learn subject matter that is 1-3 years beyond their grade level, in addition to having their own current year concepts reinforced. Team members "try out" for positions on various in-house and outside the school building competitions.

These competitions include three Onondaga County Mathematics Teachers' Association (OCMTA) Grades 7 & 8 County Math League meets that are held in November, January, and March. At those meets, five of our students compete against students from twenty other schools in the county on a series of timed questions.

A second competition is the annual New York Mathematics League 40 question, 30 minute contest held in February for grades 7 and 8, and in March for 6th grade. The Central New York chapter competition of MATHCOUNTS - a national coaching and competition program designed to stimulate 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students' interest and achievement in mathematics which is held in February provides a third competition. The final competition is the OCMTA 30 question, seventy-minute contest held annually in March at OHMS.

Musical

Mrs. Kathy Tompkins - Director
ktompkins@westhillschools.org

A musical is presented every other year in the early spring. The next musical is scheduled for the 2009-2010 school year. Any interested 7th

and 8th grader may audition. There are also opportunities for students to work on scenery or backstage crew.

National French Contest - Le *Grand Concours*

Ms. Kate Carruth – Advisor
ccarruth@westhillschools.org

A large number of OHMS French 7 and 8 students are invited to participate in this very challenging French competition. Students attend practice sessions during one designated Instructional Assistance Period each week from January through March.

After the competition is over, students receive their rankings in Central New York and nationally. In May, all attend a luncheon to honor all area participants grades 6 through 12, and to recognize participants who placed in the first 5 rankings with special prizes. It is a wonderful chance for OHMS students to meet other French students their age from other schools in Central New York.

There are many benefits of participation in the National French Contest. By attending weekly practice sessions, they learn more advanced French lessons and this particularly helps the French 8 students improve their French skills before they take their New York State Proficiency Examinations in May and June. Since this is a challenging competition, and there are only a certain number of seats available, students are invited to participate based on their academic average in French and their perceived ability to devote the time necessary to prepare for the examination outside of the regular class.

School Newspaper

Mrs. Melissa Prior & Ms. Kassie Appel
mprior@westhillschools.org or kappel@westhillschools.org

The Hilltop News, the OHMS student newspaper, is published four times a year. Staff is comprised of students in grades 5 - 8 who share their talents in a variety of ways. There are opportunities for writers,

illustrators, puzzles creators and salespeople. New members are always welcome!

Science Olympiad

Mr. Christopher Persons - Advisor
cpersons@westhillschools.org

The Science Olympiad team is a group of 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders who compete in a series of academic interscholastic events involving scientific, mathematics, and engineering principles. These "intletes" prepare for two or three months in events like Battery Buggy, Bridge Building, Experimental Design, Science of Fitness, and Write it/Do it. Students compete regionally against other CNY middle schools.

Service Learning Projects

Mr. Michael Quinn & Mrs. Jennifer Pisegna - Advisors
slafex@westhillschools.org
jpisegna@westhillschools.org

“You should know that the education of the heart is very important. This will distinguish you from others. Educating oneself is easy, but educating ourselves to help other human beings to help the community is much more difficult.” -Cesar E. Chavez

In this spirit, we are undertaking efforts as a school community to reach out to others. As part of our school’s service learning efforts, and to be mindful of the needs in our community, each grade level has opportunities to participate in a greater goal to help others. In the past, our fifth and sixth graders have participated in food drives, and our seventh graders have adopted families to give to during the holidays for the last few years. For the past four years, our eighth graders have participated in a project to help the hungry and homeless by volunteering to serve lunches at the Rescue Mission.

As a school, we have supported efforts for Ronald McDonald House, Chadwick House, Alterra Villas of Summerfield Village, Bellevue Manor,

University Hospital, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and other organizations. Each year we explore different projects that begin in the classroom with lessons about a variety of social issues, such as hunger and homelessness, elders, gardening and the environment. We unite as teams to contribute to the greater good of our communities through classroom learning and real experiences.

Our OHMS wall murals in the front of our building stand as a reminder that together we can make a difference in our school culture and neighboring communities. “A Life’s Journey of Respect and Responsibility” was created in 2003, and this representation speaks to our Character Education program. “Service Learning: Curriculum Links to Community Service” was finished in 2008, and this symbolizes our school’s commitment to continue learning while contributing to our community.

Spirit Club

Jen Pisegna - Advisor
jpisegna@westhillschools.org

Spirit Club is a club open to students in all grade levels whose purpose is to develop and implement activities that promote positive school spirit. Spirit Club is responsible for Red Ribbon Week, OHMS School Spirit Week, Pep Rallies, and various small projects like making OHMS Survival Kits for new students. They’ve made door decorations for teachers and continue to brainstorm other ways to make our school a fun and positive place!

Student Council

Mrs. Beth Doolittle and Ms. Michele Ramos-Burrows, Co-Advisors
bdoolittle@westhillschools.org or mburrows@westhillschools.org

Student council provides opportunities for elected officers in grades 7-8 plus homeroom representatives for grades 5-8. Any interested students are welcome to join. The meetings are held during IA period in the Library Media Center. Students plan activities to benefit school and community.

Student Council participates in fundraising and other community service

projects, including food drives for local food pantries, correspondence and care packages to soldiers serving overseas, and charities such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

OHMS Tech Club

Mr. Scott Crowell – Advisor
scrowell@westhillschools.org

The Tech Club is an after school activity open to all 7th and 8th grade students interested in hands on activities and problem solving. Included in the activities are 2 annual events, the Build'em & Bust'em Bridge Building Contest and the Team Rocket Challenge. Both contests are sponsored by the MOST, Syracuse University School of Engineering and Computer Science, Technology Alliance of CNY and Lockheed Martin. Students will compete against other schools in Onondaga county. In addition to the competitions, students can work on other activities such as Lego Mindstorm. Tech club is also responsible for maintaining the OHMS Pond that was built by the Tech Club in the fall of 2007.