

BULLDOG



BULLETIN

Volume 1 Issue 3

January 2020



Oakridge Middle School

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A Message From the Principal

Dear Oakridge Middle School Families,

It is hard to believe we are half way through the school year! I hope that all of our Bulldogs have used the Winter Break to recharge.

As 2020 starts, one of the best ways that your student can continue going in the right direction is to work on organization. Ask yourself, how many times have you had to ask about a deadline? How many times have you forgotten an appointment? What about missing a practice or event? As students continue through school, pressures and commitments will only increase. Please take this opportunity to work with your student on using their planner and binder as management tools. Even if they have stayed on top of all of their assignments, events and projects, the planner is a wonderful way to not let anything slip by. Listing events, due dates and projects will help keep everyone on task and organized as well informed.

Another important tool is <https://portal.collierschools.com/live/?> . It allows for everyone to stay on top of your student's grades. Please take a moment weekly to review your student's status on those assignments and projects. It is also accessible on our district website under the PARENTS tab. Students will be continuing with the AVS documents that are sent home weekly. They are another valuable tool to keep our bulldogs on track academically.

Finally, **a new year means new supplies!** Please refresh and replace your student's binder with paper, pens, and pencils. I challenge all of us to make the second semester of the school year as successful as the first was. Please remember, we are here to assist all bulldogs to be successful. Here's to a great 3rd and 4th Quarter!!

Having students take ownership of these important steps of self-monitoring and replenishing of supplies (with a little guidance from school and home) will truly help turn our students into SPIKE (Successful – Positive – Innovative – Kind – Empowered)!! Thank you for your support with this.

Go Bulldogs!

M. Jackson
Principal OMS

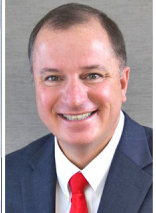
Literacy Tips for Parents of Middle School Students

1. Read! Read!! Read!!! One of the most important means to improve reading skills is to encourage your child to read. From the back of the cereal box to the newspaper and billboards along the road, encourage your child to read. Have your child read things to you and you read to him/her.
2. Visit places where reading is featured - for example, the library, museums, bookstores, etc. Make it an event where you can share some quality time together and both choose some good books to read.
3. Subscribe to magazines that will interest your child. Ask him/her to choose one or two titles and put the subscription in his/her name.
4. Talk to your child about what he/she is reading or learning and have him/her to summarize or paraphrase for you.
5. Take books along everywhere you go - the doctor's office, the store, on trips, between sports games/practices/activities. Instead of a video game, take a book. You can also download free books to your child's device through certain book applications.
6. Help your child to understand that there are different types of reading material and they must adapt their reading skills accordingly. Science, Social Studies, Math, and English each have their own vocabulary and structure, and students need to move from answering simple questions about content and plot to reading longer, more complex texts that require gathering and analyzing information.
7. Read the same books your child is reading so you can talk to him/her about the book. Instead of asking just factual questions, branch out and ask "how" and "why" questions that stimulate thinking.
8. Play games with your child that employ reading. Word-building and vocabulary-building games like Scrabble or Boggle are great for engaging students in worthwhile academic activities. Crossword and Word Search puzzles not only provide opportunities for learning new words, they offer spelling practice, too. Learn a new word a day with your child!
9. Work with your child on skimming and scanning as not every piece of reading needs to be a close read. Have your child scan a newspaper article to get the main idea. Read the piece ahead of time and tell your child to zero in on a particular point or issue. Have him/her look at sub headings, locate main ideas in specific paragraphs, identify critical vocabulary, etc.
10. Encourage writing! Whether its snail-mail or e-mail, suggest your child keep in touch with distant friends and/or relatives. Keeping a journal or chronicling a family vacation is not only a wonderful writing experience, it also provides reading practice.
11. Learn a few effective strategies for improving reading comprehension - There are stages of reading comprehension - Pre-reading, During reading, and After reading. Contact the school Reading Coach to learn more about these strategies and ways you can help your child to improve in reading.
12. Model reading! Your pre-teen will follow your reading habits (though he/she will never admit it to you!). Let your child see you reading - make comments and share interesting passages with him/her. Demonstrate the importance of education by being a role model for literacy!

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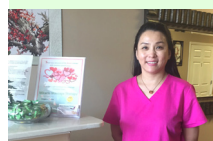
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Office of Attendance and Discipline

January marks the beginning of our second semester. Each year during the second semester, all schools experience an increase in absences and late arrivals and a gradual decline in academic performance. So prevalent is this trend, it has been referred to as the "Second Semester Slide". We are determined to improve this trend and you the parents can play a major role. Absences and tardiness are two of the reasons that grades decline. Please be vigilant in making sure your student attends school every day and arrives on time. Your attention to this issue will have a positive effect on your student, reinforcing the importance you place on attendance.

To assure continued academic success, re-establish your student's homework and study routine. Help him/her to reclaim the space and time meant for this important purpose. Determine if any supplies or devices are needed. Also, monitor your student's grades, attendance, and classwork by accessing Parent Portal and FOCUS. Learn what tutoring and support opportunities are available here at school to improve results. Again, your attention to your student's schoolwork will have a tremendous positive effect. When students are prepared for class each day, they will attend each day, arrive on time, and perform with confidence.

These efforts; staying informed about your student's progress, re-establishing a solid home-study routine, and making certain that your student attends every day and arrives on time will have an enormous positive result and help us all overcome "Second Semester Slide". Please be sure to call your child in when they are absent from school. We have a 24-hr message only absence line (239) 377-4831 where you can leave a detailed message as to why they are out.

Our students have done very well adjusting to their ID badges. They are also aware that failure to follow the badge rules carries consequences. If a student does not have their standard school-issued ID badge, they are to go to the attendance office to get a

temporary sticker for the day. If a student continues to come to school without their badge, there is the potential of disciplinary consequences. The consequences will grow if the student continues to receive temporary badge stickers. We know that this has been a change and appreciate the support from all our parents regarding this policy.

Now that the holidays have ended this generally results in students receiving some new items. We encourage students to keep their expensive items at home to avoid loss or theft. Students are reminded to be extremely careful with these items and any others they have received so they can continue to enjoy their gifts without worry.

Bulldog Enrichment Program

The Bulldog Enrichment Program offers enrichment activities and classes for students from 4-5pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students can participate in homework help, learn to play chess, engineer buildings with LEGO's, play basketball, and learn the benefits of Yoga, just to name a few. There are 3 Sessions each year. Each session is approximately 10 weeks long. The cost is \$30 per 10-week session. Bus transportation is available for students who are already eligible to ride the bus to and from school. Car riders must be picked up no later than 5:15pm. Session 2 began 11/19/19 and will continue until February 13, 20. Session 3 will begin Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Classes are subject to change each session. Therefore, any student who paid for the entire year is still required to complete a new registration form.

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Student Clubs, After School Programs & Athletics

These are a few of the programs offered in the past:

Academic World Quest	NJHS	Technology Club
Book Club	Robotics	Tutoring
Chess Club	Scholar Bowl	T.V. Crew
Cooking Club	Student Council	Yearbook
Debate Team	Technology Club	Cross Country
Entrepreneurial Club	Tutoring	Track & Field
Intra Mural Sports	T.V. Crew	Basketball
Kindness Club	Scholar Bowl	Volleyball
Math Counts	Spelling Bee	Soccer
Newspaper	Student Council	

Athletic Director:

Coach Bremseth - BremseCh@collierschools.com

After School Director:

Ms. Mapes - MapesAp@collierschools.com



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Bulldog Sports Update

By Coach Bremseth

Cross Country

Oakridge hosted over 350 athletes at the CCAC Cross Country Championships on October 12. Our Girls placed 2nd and Boys 3rd in the County. WILL MONTANYE IS THE CCAC 2019 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPION, winning the boys race with a time of 10:29, a full 32 seconds faster than his previous PR. Also receiving medals at the Championship were Sadie Scardino, Kylie Will, Hana Markovic, Aarnav Sheth and Carlos Marin. 90% of our athletes reached a PR (personal record) in this Championship race!

22 Bulldog Athletes traveled to Lakeland Florida for the **FLYRA State Cross Country Meet**. The boy's team placed 12th and the girls placed 15 in the state meet. Will Montanye once again did not disappoint, receiving a medal and finishing 10th in the Boys State Championship race!

Volleyball

It was an amazing season for Bulldog Volleyball! Both teams, boys and girls, made it to the Championship Game!

The girls lost their first game, won the 2nd and had a heartbreaking loss in the 3rd, but kept fighting to the end. Special congratulations and thanks go to Coach Gulliver and Coach Hernandez guiding the Bulldog girls to their many victories.

Our boys were phenomenal, winning both the 1st and 2nd game, dominating the entire tournament. They are The CCAC Middle School Champions for the 4th year in a row! Congratulations Bulldogs and special congratulations and thanks go to Coach Crowley and Coach Masters for coaching the Bulldog boys to their Victory!

Soccer and Basketball

Try-outs are over and the teams have been chosen. OMS had 71 Girls try out for Soccer, 42 Girls for Basketball, 67 Boys for Soccer and 102 Boys for Basketball for a total of 282 athletes! Thanks to our coaches for running the trainings for 3 weeks before having to make the difficult decision as to who made the teams. We are all looking forward to a successful Winter Sports Season!



Immunizations

All students entering 7th grade must have the following immunization on record with the school before classes begin on the 13th. Please contact Linda Campbell, in the office if you have any questions.

- DTaP Series (Note: If final dose was administered before 4 years of age, an additional dose is required.)
- 1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)
- Polio Series*
- Hepatitis B series
- 2 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- 2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox)

*Note: If final dose was administered **before** 4 years of age, an additional dose is required. A 4th dose is not required if the 3rd dose is administered at 4 years of age or older. If the 4th dose was administered **prior to** the 4th birthday, a 5th dose of polio **is** required.

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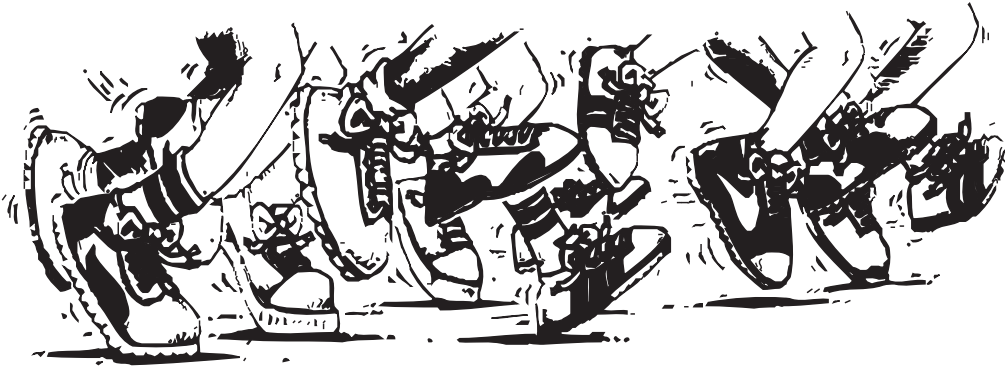
Sneaker Drive Fundraiser

Bulldog Athletics is doing a Sneaker Drive Fundraiser, all shoes are donated to those without shoes or recycled and our athletic program makes a few dollars! Also keeps old shoes out of the landfill.

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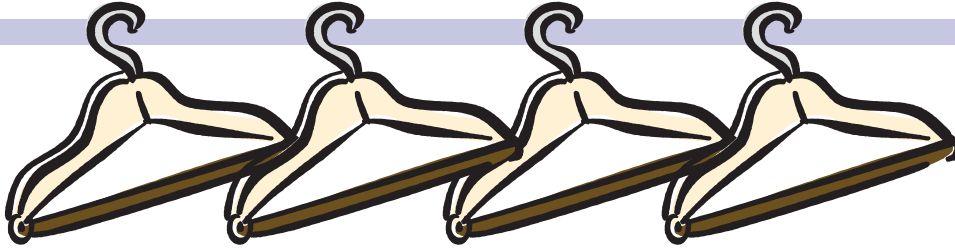
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Dress Code 2019-2020

Students and parents need to be aware of the importance of good grooming and its effect upon the learning environment. Good taste is knowing where and when to wear the appropriate clothing and accessories. Since the home provides the funds, guidance, and upkeep of the student's clothing worn in school, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that grooming reflects the modesty and good taste expected in school. In addition to the OMS Dress Code, all other aspects of the CCPS Code of Conduct for dress also apply. No ripped or torn clothing is allowed to be worn. Clarification page is also on the OMS website.

Student ID

- Student ID with grade appropriate lanyard must be worn at all times.

Tops

- Any solid color collared polo style shirt, long or short sleeved. Polo shirt may have a logo if smaller than 2" in size.
- Bottom of shirt 1-3" below waist.
- Any OMS shirt is acceptable on Spirit Days only.

Footwear

- Closed toed and closed heel shoes only. No heels, wheels or rollers.

Outerwear

- Solid colored outerwear only.
- Logo is acceptable if smaller than 2" in size.
- Polo shirts must be visible beneath the outerwear (collar showing). Option to wear OMS sanctioned logo.

Bottoms

- Solid color knee length shorts, skorts, skirts, or polo style dresses. Solid color pants or jeans (NO jeggings, yoga pants).
- No athletic shorts, sweat pants, or stretchy (lycra) material. All bottoms must sit at waist.

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