



# Back-to-School Issue

# NEWS

A Publication of  
The Owego Apalachin School District



Owego Apalachin online: <http://OACSD.org>



## Please help OA update district's census records

Owego Apalachin School District is required to conduct a census to locate and identify all children who reside in our school district, including pre-school and school-aged students with a disability.

In an effort to update our records, the district mailed each resident that had been identified as having a student(s) in the OA district an informational sheet with their child's name, gender, date of birth, school/placement, grade, special needs (yes or no), etc., to help verify the accuracy of our records.

If you haven't yet done so, please help our efforts by returning the informational form in the stamped, self-addressed envelope that we had previously provided.

If you hadn't received a letter and informational form and you have a child that resides in our district, please call Laura Davis at 687-6217.

## September, October community meetings set with Dr. Willon

Dr. Mychael Willon, OA superintendent of schools, this school year will continue to host informal breakfast and lunch meetings with parents and residents of the district.

The first scheduled meeting is set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21 at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant in Apalachin.

The second meeting has been scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21 at the Owego Treadway Inn.

Meeting attendees are responsible for the purchase of their own meals.

## Got DATELINE OA?

Are you receiving E-mail entitled DATELINE OA? These notes, sent by Stephen P. Jensen, OA's public information coordinator, began arriving late last year in an attempt to keep parents and interested members of the community up-to-date on happenings that affect our schools.

If you'd like to receive these E-mail updates, write to Jensen at [jensens@oacsd.org](mailto:jensens@oacsd.org) and he'll be glad to add your address to his list.

**OA is Academics,  
Arts & Athletics**



## What's missing from this photo?

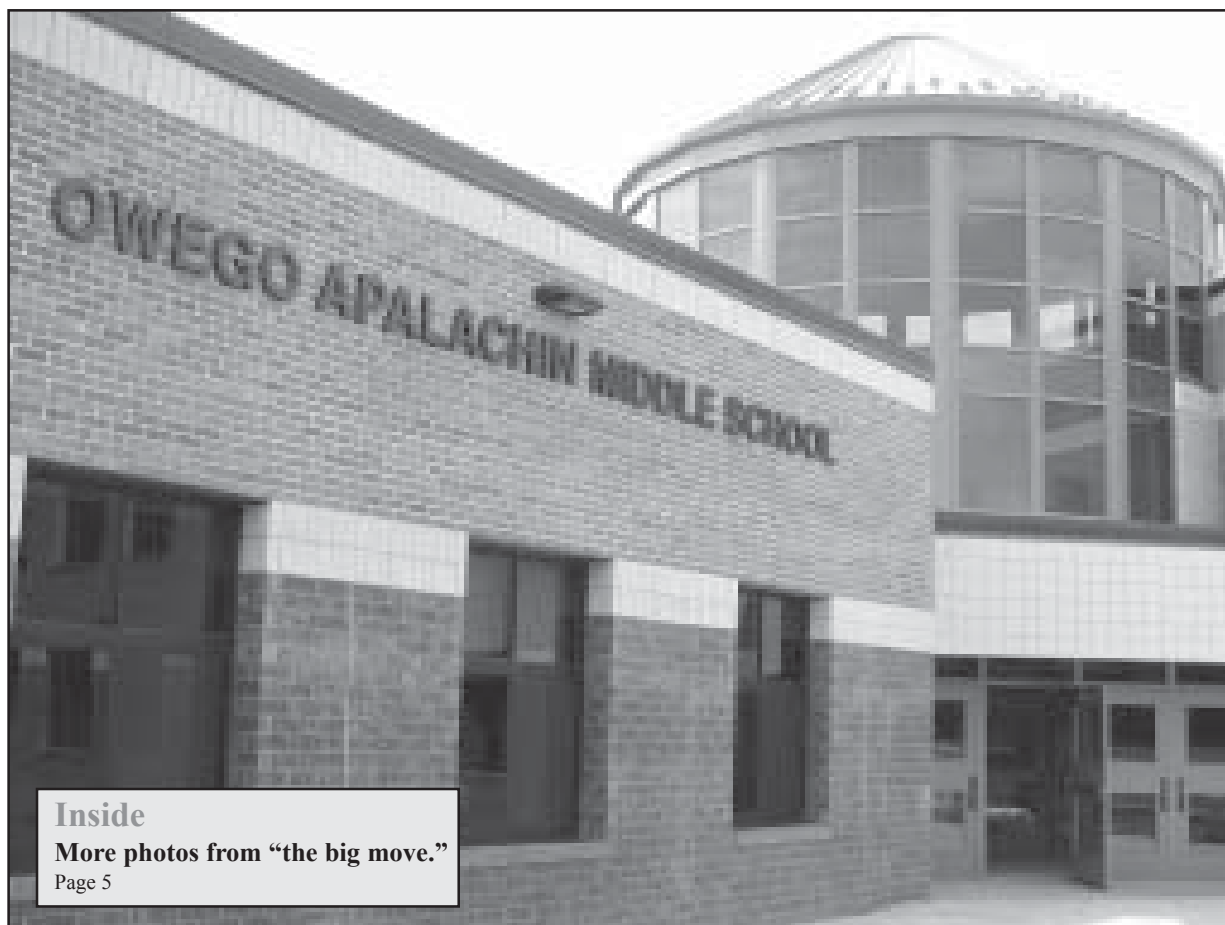
That's right. The photo shown at left is the road leading into Owego Free Academy. What's missing? Why, the pot holes, of course.

The paving job, which cost the district approximately \$90,000, began in mid-July and was completed in mid-August. The smooth surface travels toward the high school, wrapping all the way around the parking area and soccer pitch.

*For "before" and "during" construction photos, see Page 4.*

# We're in!

## New OAMS to meet first students Sept. 7



Inside  
More photos from "the big move."  
Page 5

## District's plan for the pool: OA takes over for community

Get ready to dive in.

The Owego Apalachin School District Board of Education, at its August 11, 2005, meeting, voted unanimously to adopt a plan that would allow for the district to assume responsibility for the operation of the community pool, located at Owego Free Academy. The pool had previously been operated by Tioga Opportunities.

"Since we first learned that Tioga Opportunities would be asking the district to assume responsibility for the community pool operation, we've been commit-

See Pool Page 9



## Superintendent's Message

### *Starting anew, our staff has the power of impact*

A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings. At any school there are new classes, new faces and friends, new teachers, courses and materials.

But this year at Owego Apalachin School District, we're fortunate enough to be welcoming online a brand new school as well. It's an event that doesn't happen often in a district, or community.

While the advent of the new world-class Owego Apalachin Middle School is an exciting one, newness alone cannot produce transformation. We must be willing to get caught up in

See Message Page 2

## How to reach OA



### Administration

36 Talcott St.  
Owego, N.Y. 13827  
(FAX 687-6313)

**Dr. Mychael C. Willon**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Phone: 687-6224  
E-mail: willonm@oacsd.org

**Bernard C. Dolan**  
Associate Superintendent  
Phone: 687-6223  
E-mail: dolanb@oacsd.org

**Thomas Comerford III**  
Dir. Pupil Personnel Services  
Phone: 687-6226  
E-mail: comerfordt@oacsd.org

**Deborah J. Pichette**  
Coordinator of Instruction  
Phone: 687-6227  
E-mail: pichetted@oacsd.org

**Stephen P. Jensen**  
Public Information Coordinator  
Phone: 687-7214  
E-mail: jensens@oacsd.org

**Apalachin Elementary**  
405 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Apalachin, N.Y. 13732  
(FAX 625-5811)

**Joseph DiCosimo**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6289  
E-mail: dicosimoj@oacsd.org

**OA Middle School**  
3 Sheldon Guile Boulevard  
Owego, N.Y. 13827  
(FAX 687-6259)

**Robert Devan**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6248  
E-mail: devanb@oacsd.org

**Sheila Bertoni**  
Dean of Students  
Phone: 687-6250  
E-mail: bertonis@oacsd.org

**Owego Elementary**  
1 Christa McAuliffe Lane  
Owego, N.Y. 13827  
(FAX 687-6268)

**George Thearle**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6261  
E-mail: thearleg@oacsd.org

**Owego Free Academy**  
1 Sheldon Guile Boulevard  
Owego, N.Y. 13827  
(FAX 687-6253)

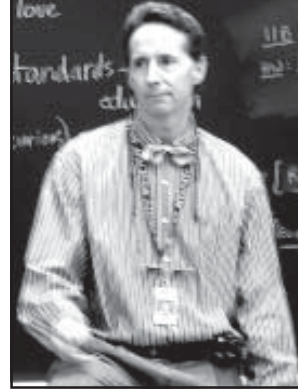
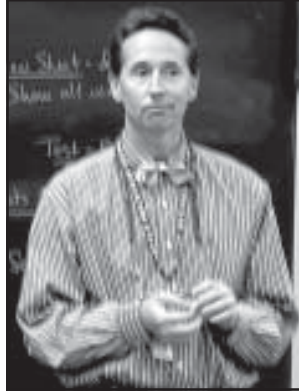
**Ronald Pierce**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6230  
E-mail: rpierce@oacsd.org

**Dean of Students**  
**Willard Davis**  
Phone: 687-6231  
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*“We can be very proud of what we achieve at Owego Apalachin – in our classrooms, in our offices, on our playing fields and on our stages – but our achievements are not due to complacency and satisfaction with the status quo.”*

- Dr. Mychael Willon  
OA Superintendent of Schools



In a class entitled “Establishing Rapport and Student Management,” taught by Dr. Mychael Willon, OA superintendent of schools, last spring, teachers in the district had a chance to share their experiences with working to reach students. Pictured are Dr. Willon (in three photos, top); Holly Quick, Sam Spooner and Kathy Vasilopoulos, left to right, in photo above; Jason Westervelt, Amy Perry-DeRito and Bil Fahrenbach, left to right, in photo at right.



Pictured above are: Tracy Bartlow (at left) and Renee Fox. At right are, left to right, Westervelt, Perry-DeRito and Fahrenbach.

the rebirth that is possible with each fall’s first days and weeks of the fresh school year.

Starting a new year gives us the opportunity to make new plans, design new strategies and implement new ideas. For our teachers, there is a special kind of joy and satisfaction in planning lessons and activities. Every staff member will be returning this year to the theme “I’ve Got The Power.” Each of us can and will make a positive difference in the lives of our district’s children.

For the students and parents, hope springs eternal with a new chapter to write in our personal histories.

Whether one’s responsibility is administrating, supervising, teaching, preparing lunches, maintaining a building, or managing an office, the staff at Owego Apalachin schools is always looking for a better way to address a situation, and every conversation along those lines is borne from one very simple tenet: How can we do the best job possible in educating and caring for the children of our communities during this new school year?

We can be very proud of what we achieve at Owego Apalachin – in our classrooms, in our offices, on our playing fields and on our stages – but our achievements are not due to complacency and satisfaction with the status quo.

Our program is what it is because a staff of dedicated, aspiring men and women have a common goal – to do what is best for students – and they’re always looking for the best ways to reach that end.

This year, from our perspective as educators at Owego Apalachin, from the perspective of the students, and with the strong support of parents and loved ones, we must all concentrate on the processes that spur continuing advancement, evaluating what we have, determining what we can do to improve, and identifying what we need to make those improvements.

With that thought as our backdrop, I wish each of you the best of luck as we enter the 2005-06 school year at Owego Apalachin. Let’s work together to make it this district’s best year yet.

*Siempre,*  
**Mychael**

Phone for Dr. Mychael C. Willon: 687-6224  
E-mail: willonm@oacsd.org



# In touch: OA parent leaders provide connection

How can parents (or anyone in the district) find out what's happening in our school district?

One way is to understand at what various levels certain decisions are made, and to know who is making them.

Allison Hall and Lisa Linehan are Owego Apalachin parents who have spent the past year keeping their fingers on the pulse of decision-making in the district. These two moms are the Owego Elementary (Hall) and Middle School/High School (Linehan) parent representatives to the OA Leadership Council.

The Leadership Council is a district-wide committee (comprised of administrators, teachers, BOE members, school staff, union reps and parents) which discusses and works on the BOE goals for the district.

"As parent reps, we go to the meetings, listen, participate, offer our perspectives and ask to hear back from par-

## Contact Points

- ♦ Write to Allison Hall at [lcrep.elem.ah@verizon.net](mailto:lcrep.elem.ah@verizon.net)
- ♦ Write to Lisa Linehan at [lisalinehan@stny.rr.com](mailto:lisalinehan@stny.rr.com)
- ♦ For more parent-group contact information, write to Stephen Jensen, OA public information coordinator, at [jensens@oacsd.org](mailto:jensens@oacsd.org).

ents about what they think and any questions they have about the issues, goals and action plans that are being implemented," said Linehan. "That can only be done if parents are able to access information."

"Parents are an integral part of the decision-making body of our school district," said Dr. Mychael Willon, Owego Apalachin superintendent of schools.

"By working together, we have the power to make each of our children successful."

A brief report regarding these meetings is given at OES, AES, OAMS and OFA parent group meetings, and the report will be available in the newsletters, office/lobby of each school, and on respective Web sites and E-mail groups.

"One of the four district goals is to achieve the highest level of employee cooperation, trust and empowerment," said Thomas Comerford III, OA's director of pupil personnel services.

"The district has had a long tradition of shared decision-making, which is evident through Leadership Council, building-level committees, Committee on Special Education, Pre-school Committee on Special Education, etc.

"However, the district is looking to further strengthen this goal by expanding the shared decision-making process

at the building and district level," Comerford added. "In addition, we're looking to establish a more structured, clearly defined hierarchy for communication and decision-making so it is clear who makes what decisions and how communication flows."

"No one loves to sit through a four-hour meeting," said Hall. "But the discussion and concern for children that is put into each and every decision makes me feel very confident that kids in the OA district are in excellent hands."

The group meets once a month throughout the school year and summer. If you would like to receive these reports via E-mail, please use the contact names below.

"We want input from parents. It makes a difference when we can address the issues on the table from the perspective of many parents than if it is just our own opinion."

## The Road to OFA Gets a Facelift



## District invests in work to rehabilitate entryway

While sections of the road to Owego Free Academy had received repair jobs over the years, Tony Clark, Owego Apalachin School District maintenance supervisor, said he believes this is the boulevard's first complete reconstruction.

According to Jerry Russell, retired OA assistant superintendent, "The last major repair by outside contractors was done approximately 10 to 12 years ago as part of a capital project at OFA."

Grinding was done from July 18 to 21, with paving work taking place August 11 and 12.

Suit-Kote, out of Cortland, performed the "in-place recycling" of the old road. Blacktop was supplied by C&C Ready Mix Corp., of Owego, and the actual paving work was done by Spencer Paving, of Spencer, according to Clark.

Pavlovich Pavement Markings, of Endicott, will apply the striping to the roadway. This work was slated to be performed in the weeks around school's opening day.

"Between the time that the old road was ground up and paved, the school district's maintenance department repaired several dry wells and assisted in getting the road ready for paving," Clark said. "The Town of Owego also assisted in this project, hauling blacktop."

Total cost of the project was approximately \$90,000, according to Clark.



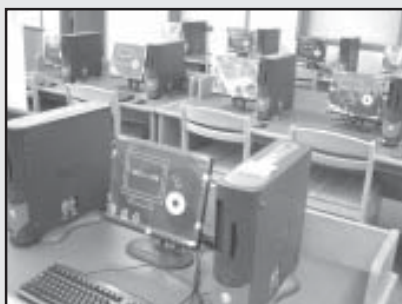
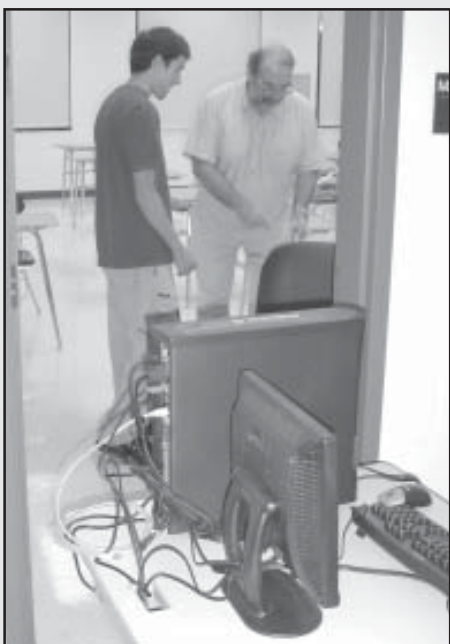
The photos here show various aspects of the work performed on Sheldon Guile Boulevard, as the roadway was given a complete makeover heading into the new school year.



## A Moving Scene



After a long wait, a flurry of activity arrived at the new middle school on the afternoon of August 23. Suddenly, classrooms looked close to being set for students. Computers were being wheeled into offices, the library and classrooms, soon to be configured and connected. And boxes that had waited on trucks were finally moved into their new home, just in time for the new school year ahead.



## 48-hour notification of pesticide applications

The New York State Education Law section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

OA is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification:

- ◆ A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application.
- ◆ Anti-microbial products.
- ◆ Non-volatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children.
- ◆ Non-volatile insecticidal baits in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children.
- ◆ Silica gels and other non-volatile ready-to-use

pastes, foams or gels inaccessible to children.

- ◆ Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate.
- ◆ The application of EPA-designated biopesticides.
- ◆ The application of EPA-designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25.
- ◆ The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good-faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please contact Tony Clark, OA's district pesticide representative, at: 687-3044 or by E-mail at [clarkt@oacsd.org](mailto:clarkt@oacsd.org).

## Information regarding 2005 school tax collection

It is recommended that taxes be paid by check or money order. After Oct. 31, 2005, all unpaid school taxes are returned to the Tioga County Treasurer's Office for relevy to the 2006 town and county taxes payable in January to the town collector.



By New York state law, school taxes cannot be paid between the final school tax collection date and January of 2006.

Several points of interest:  
◆ All property owners will receive a tax notice that includes a Taxpayer Bill of Rights and Star program information.

◆ If you have an escrow account, a copy of your tax bill will be sent to your mortgage institution.

◆ There will be no collection on legal holidays.

◆ Place of collection: Community Bank, N.A., located at the Tops Fairground Plaza, 50 W. Main St., Owego, N.Y. 13827, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday (Teller line – cash, or drop

box for check or money order)

◆ Payment by mail postmarked AFTER Oct. 1, 2005, will be subject to a 2 percent penalty.

◆ Payment postmarked after Oct. 31, 2005, will NOT be accepted.

◆ Taxes will also be collected on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at Apalachin Elementary School from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

◆ If making payment by mail: Make checks payable to Owego Apalachin Schools, c/o Amy Bidwell, 36 Talcott St., Owego N.Y. 13827. Telephone 687-6317.

◆ No-penalty period: Sept. 2 through Oct. 1, 2005.

◆ 2 percent penalty: Oct. 2 through Oct. 31, 2005.

## October 6 set for OA's "Disaster Preparedness Test"

The OA School District has scheduled its annual test of the "Early Dismissal Plan" for Thursday, October 6, 2005.

Pupils will be released 15 minutes earlier than their normally scheduled time in order to test the early dismissal re-

sponse of the district's "Emergency Management Plan," as required by Commissioner of Education Regulation 155.17.

Please make appropriate arrangements for the early arrival of your child as a result of this drill.

# What's available: Info on free & reduced meals

Children need healthy meals to learn. Owego Apalachin Central School District offers healthy meals every school day.

Breakfast costs 95 cents and lunch costs \$1.75 for children K-8, and \$1.80 for those in grades 9-12.

Children from households that meet federal income guidelines (outlined below) are eligible for free meals or reduced price meals. Reduced price meals cost each eligible student 25 cents for lunch and 25 cents for breakfast.

To apply for free or reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance or complete an application (one is available in this newsletter, or you may receive one by calling your child's school), sign it and return to the school lunch office at OFA, 1 Sheldon Guile Blvd, Owego, NY, 13827 by September 15.

Please refer to the guidelines contained here when completing the application. OA officials cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

*Some common questions:*

**1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Do not fill out more than one application for your household.

**2. Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines. Each foster child must be listed on a separate application, with Part 2 completed and include an adult signature.

**3. Can homeless, run-away and migrant children get free meals?** Please call Deborah Pichette to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they get free meals.

**4. Who can get reduced-price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown below.

**5. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you receive carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 687-6284 if you have any questions.

**6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

COMPLETE ONLY ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

FAMILY APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS/MILK

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete only one form per household, sign your name and return it to **Betsy Bacejli**. Call (607) 687-6284 if you need help. For additional names, list on a sheet of paper.

1. **CHILDREN IN SCHOOL:** (Complete a separate application for each foster child)

Children's Names (Last, First, MI)	Grade/Teacher	School

2. **FOSTER CHILD:** If the above named child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check this box.  List the child's personal use income. (Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.) Skip to Part 5.

3. **HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS OR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF):** Complete this section and sign the application in Part 5 OR submit a Direct Certification letter from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Complete a separate application for children with a different case number or no case number. Write your case number as provided on your benefit letter, not the number on your benefit card. Food Stamp Case #: \_\_\_\_\_ TANF/FDPIR Case #: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS & TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** If you did not give a food stamp or TANF case number, or submit a Direct Certification letter, complete this part and all of part 5.

Show how often each amount is received. See Examples.

List the names of everyone in your household	CURRENT INCOME/PAY PERIOD			
	Earnings From Work Before Deductions	Child Support, Alimony, Etc.	Pensions or Retirement	Other Income
	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often
1. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
2. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
3. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
4. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
5. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
6. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
7. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____

5. **SIGNATURE:** An adult household member MUST sign the application before it can be approved. I certify that all of the information is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given for the school to receive federal funds, that school officials may verify the information and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: If Part 4 is completed, the adult who signs the application must provide his/her Social Security number.

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY**

ANNUAL INCOME CONVERSION: (ONLY CONVERT WHEN MULTIPLE FREQUENCIES ARE REPORTED ON APPLICATIONS): WEEKLY X 52; EVERY 2 WEEKS X 26; TWICE A MONTH X 24; MONTHLY X 12

FOOD STAMP, TANF, FOSTER CHILD  
 INCOME HOUSEHOLD: Total Household Income/Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ Household Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Application APPROVED for:  Free Meals  Reduced Price Meals  Amelioration (DEFINED)  
 Temporary Free (excludes in 45 days)  Amelioration (DEFINED)

**This is a sample of the application form. If you'd like to apply for this program, please use clip and complete the larger form shown on the facing page, or contact your child's school for another form.**

Please fill out an application.

**7. Will the information I give be checked?** The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility. You will be notified, in writing, if you have been selected for Verification. School officials may ask you to send papers showing that your child should receive free or reduced price meals at the time you applied.

**8. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

**9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mr. Bernard Dolan, 36 Talcott Street, Owego, NY 13827 or phone 687-6215.

**10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduce price meals.

**11. Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

**12. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1,000 per month. If you normally get

overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

**How to Apply:** To get free or reduce price meals for your children you may submit a Direct Certification letter you received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, or carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office.

If you now receive food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or participate in the Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number and the signature of an adult household member.

All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers. If you do not list a food stamp, TANF and FDPIR number for all children for whom you applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from.

It must include the signature of an adult household member and the adult's social security number, or the word "none" if the adult does not have a social security number. An application this is not complete cannot be approved. Contact you local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF number or complete the income portion of the application.

**Reporting Changes:** The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.

**Income Exclusions:** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

**Non-discrimination Statement:** This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U. S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964(voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Meal Service to Children with Disabilities:** Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7 CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walk-

ing, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information.

**Confidentiality:** The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress.

Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal, State or local nutrition programs similar to National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CAN); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children (WIC); The Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

**Income chart:** This chart lists income levels according to household size and income levels received either yearly, monthly or weekly. If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on this chart, your children may be eligible to receive free or reduce price meals.

Household	Annual	Monthly	Twice Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$17,705	\$1,476	\$738	\$681	\$341
2	\$23,736	\$1,978	\$989	\$913	\$457
3	\$29,767	\$2,481	\$1,241	\$1,145	\$573
4	\$35,798	\$2,984	\$1,492	\$1,377	\$689
5	\$41,829	\$3,486	\$1,743	\$1,609	\$805
6	\$47,860	\$3,989	\$1,995	\$1,841	\$921
7	\$53,891	\$4,491	\$2,246	\$2,073	\$1,073
8	\$59,922	\$4,994	\$2,497	\$2,305	\$1,153
<b>For each additional family member, add ...</b>					
	\$6,031	\$503	\$252	\$232	\$116

# OA adds new middle school to "Choose Sensibly" snack plan

This year in the Owego Apalachin School District, the new middle school will be joining the "Choose Sensibly" snack offerings that were sold at the two elementary schools last school year. These new snack items will include the following nutritional guidelines:

**Snack items**

- ♦7 grams of fat, or less
- ♦2 grams of saturated fat, or less

- ♦360 mg. of sodium
  - ♦15 grams of sugar, or less
- Beverage items**
- ♦All low-fat milk, or low-fat flavored milk
  - ♦Juice with 25 percent of real juice, or more
  - ♦Water or flavored water without added sugar, artificial sweeteners or caffeine
  - ♦Beverage with less than 10 mg. of caffeine per serving

Also, the snack lines will include fresh fruit, yogurt and ice creams that meet the "Choose Sensibly" standards. We hope that this first step will help our students make wise choices when snacking. For a full list of products that meet the "Choose Sensibly" guidelines, go to the NYSSFSA Web site and click on the left-hand yellow "Choose Sensibly" bar.

**COMPLETE ONLY ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD**

F R D  
School Year 2005-2006  
Date Withdrew \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS/MILK**

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete only one form per household, sign your name and return it to Betsy Baccelli. Call (607) 687-6284 if you need help. For additional names, list on a sheet of paper.

**1. CHILDREN IN SCHOOL:** (Complete a separate application for each foster child.)

Children's Names (Last, First, MI)	Grade/Teacher	School

**2. FOSTER CHILD:** If the above named child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check this box.   
List the child's personal use income: \_\_\_\_\_ (Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.) Skip to Part 5.

**3. HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS OR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF):** Complete this section and sign the application in Part 5 **OR** submit a Direct Certification letter from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Complete a separate application for children with a different case number or no case number. Write your case number as provided on your benefit letter, **not the number on your benefit card.**  
Food Stamp Case #: \_\_\_\_\_ TANF/FDPIR Case #: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS & TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** If you did not give a food stamp or TANF case number, or submit a Direct Certification letter, complete this part and all of part 5.

Show how often each amount is received. See Examples →	CURRENT INCOME/PAY PERIOD			
	Earnings From Work Before deductions	Child Support, Alimony, Etc.	Payments from Pension or Retirement	Other Income
	Examples: \$100/weekly, \$100/bi-weekly, \$100/2x per month, \$100/monthly If pay period is not noted, the reviewing official will process the reported income amount as received WEEKLY.			
List the names of everyone in your household	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often
1. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
2. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
3. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
4. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
5. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
6. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
7. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____

**5. SIGNATURE:** An adult household member **MUST** sign the application before it can be approved. I certify that all of the information is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given for the school to receive federal funds; that school officials may verify the information and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:** If Part 4 is completed, the adult who signs the application must provide his/her Social Security number.

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY**

ANNUAL INCOME CONVERSION (ONLY CONVERT WHEN MULTIPLE FREQUENCIES ARE REPORTED ON APPLICATIONS):  
WEEKLY X 52; EVERY 2 WEEKS X 26; TWICE A MONTH X 24; MONTHLY X 12

- FOOD STAMP, TANF, FOSTER CHILD
  - INCOME HOUSEHOLD: Total Household Income/Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Household Size: \_\_\_\_\_
- Application APPROVED for:  Free Meals  Reduced Price Meals  
 Temporary Free (expires in 45 days) / /  Application DENIED

# Paying for student meals: Now credit cards an option

The Owego Apalachin School District this year will continue with a program that will make purchasing food services easier for parents and children.

Parents are now able to put money on student accounts using MasterCard and Visa.

Parents can follow links from the

district's Web site ([www.oacsd.org](http://www.oacsd.org)) to fill out the order form on a secure site.

As in the past, parents may also put money on a student's account by mailing a check or sending cash with students.

To charge food services by using either of those credit cards, go to the

district's site and click on "Cafeteria - Online Store" at the bottom of the home page.

From there, click on "OAFood Service" and follow directions from the page.

To pay by check, make them payable to "School Lunch Fund" and either

send them to school with your child, or mail that payment to: Owego Apalachin School District, Food Services Department, 100 Elm Street, Owego N.Y. 13827.

If you have any questions, call Betsey Bacelli or Nancy Ruiz at 687-6284.

## Owego Apalachin's **SEPTEMBER** Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<b>7</b> Chicken patty/roll OAMS salad Sub Garden salad/Italian Fruit/Milk variety	<b>8</b> Soft shell beef taco OAMS salad Sub, Corn Nacho cheese sauce Nacho chips Fruit/Milk variety	<b>9</b> French bread pizza OAMS salad Sub Broccoli Fruit/Milk variety
<b>12</b> Chicken poppers OAMS salad Sub Mashed potatoes Dinner rolls Fruit/Milk variety	<b>13</b> Fiestada OAMS salad Sub, Corn Fruit/Milk variety	<b>14</b> Build a burger/roll OAMS salad Sub French fries Fruit/Milk variety	<b>15</b> Pasta bar OAMS salad Sub Garden salad Italian bread Fruit/Milk variety	<b>16</b> Pizza wedge OAMS salad Sub Broccoli Pears Fruit/Milk variety
<b>19</b> Chicken slimmer parm OAMS salad Sub Green beans Fruit/Milk variety	<b>20</b> BBQ rib on roll OAMS salad Sub Pasta salad Baby whole carrots Fruit/Milk variety	<b>21</b> Stromboli OAMS salad Sub Peas Fruit/Milk variety	<b>22</b> Brunch lunch Pancakes/sausage/ ham/cheese English muffin OAMS salad Sub, Tater tots Orange juice Milk variety	<b>23</b> Pizza slice OAMS salad Sub Garden salad Fruit/Milk variety Peanut butter cookies
<b>26</b> Cheeseburger/bun OAMS salad Sub French fries Fruit/Milk variety	<b>27</b> Chicken nuggets OAMS salad Sub Mashed potatoes Dinner rolls Fruit/Milk variety	<b>28</b> Taco bar OAMS salad Sub Lettuce and tomato Salsa, Corn Fruit/Milk variety	<b>29</b> Rotini/meat sauce OAMS salad Sub Garden salad/veggie Italian bread Fruit/Milk variety	<b>30</b> Personal pizza/pepperoni OAMS salad Sub Green beans Fruit/Milk variety

### Lunch prices for 2005-06

High school: \$1.80

Middle school: \$1.75

Elementary schools: \$1.75

To pay by credit card, go to [www.OACSD.org](http://www.OACSD.org) and locate the "Cafeteria - Online Store" at the bottom of the home page.

## OFA teams with Jostens for easy yearbook orders Sept. 20

Understanding how busy life gets, especially after school's back in session, Owego Free Academy wants to make ordering your child's yearbook as easy as possible.

That's why OFA is partnering with Jostens, our yearbook printer, to provide a pay-from-home program.

Purchasing your yearbook from home is quick and convenient, and it eliminates the need for your child to bring money to school.

Here's how it works:

1. Your child completes an order form at school - this will take place on September 20.

2. Jostens will send a statement by mail outlining your child's order.

At that time you may make adjustments to all or part of your order.



### For The Scholars

Fran Tirinato, left, of Dollars for Scholars, was presented a check for \$1,005 by Gene Cvik of the OA Board of Education at the August 25 BOE meeting. OA garnered the check in large part thanks to Bernie Dolan, associate superintendent of schools, and Bill Riddleberger, board president, as the two represented OA in the recent Coughlin & Gerhart Golf for Scholars Tournament. Dolan and Riddleberger combined efforts with Cecil Wilcox and Joe Steflik to finish second in the 13-team tourney. Candor won the tournament, which saw a total of \$12,310 in scholarship funds offered to area schools. Riddleberger also had an especially notable day, as he won "Closest to the Pin" honors.

## Pool Continued from Page 1

ted to devising a plan that would allow for members of our community to utilize this world-class facility without an added cost to the school district," said Dr. Mychael Willon, OA superintendent of schools.

"As we embark on this new school year, we're thrilled to announce that, from the public's standpoint, very little will have changed at the pool."

One minor change will be in the hours the pool is open to the public. While nearly all community swim

times will remain the same, now the pool will be closed on Sundays.

It was previously open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The school's swimming program will require schedule changes for community swim times, periodically throughout the school year.

♦The rest of the schedule for community swim times will be as follows:

- ♦6 to 7:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- ♦11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

♦5 to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays

♦9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays

A lifeguard will be on duty during these hours, according to Gary Crossman, teaching assistant.

Membership fees will also remain the same, said Crossman. Annual membership fees are as follows:

- ♦Family: \$300
- ♦Individual: \$200
- ♦Senior citizen: \$175
- ♦For individual sessions, the prices will remain \$3 for adults and \$2 for

children.

In addition, said Crossman, all other programming will remain in place, including the aquatics program, swim lessons and water aerobics.

Details about these programs will be announced in the coming weeks.

The OA pool is expected to be operational by the start of school, as the final mechanical work was scheduled to have been completed this past week with the arrival of a new impeller.

"Our goal has been and

continues to be that we get our pool up and running as quickly as possible," said Crossman.

He added that he estimates that the community swim program will likely begin "between mid-September and October 1."

"That will allow us the time to have a full staff hired and in place," Crossman said. "By then, we expect to be running smoothly."

For information, you can call 687-6352 (once school starts), which is the poolside number.



Photos by Reathea Woodburn

## At The Festival

Members of the Owego Apalachin music program participated in the annual Strawberry Festival activities over the summer. Owego Elementary School's Reathea Woodburn captured these images from one of the day's events.

## District notification of parents' and students' rights

The Owego Apalachin School District wishes to notify you that all eligible parents and students have the following rights in relation to student records.

You have:

- ♦The right to inspect and review students' educational records.
- ♦The right of a student's parents or an eligible student to seek to correct parts of the student's education records which he or she believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights.

These rights include the right to a hearing to present evidence that the records should be changed if the district decides not to alter it according to the parent's or an eligible student's request.

♦The right to report or file a complaint with the Department of Education if the school district violates FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

♦The right to exercise a limited control over other people's access to students' educational records.

♦The right to seek and correct the student's educational records, in a hearing, if necessary.

♦The right to be informed about FERPA rights.

You have the following rights:

♦The school district shall limit the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records except (1) by prior written consent of the student's parents or an eligible student; (2) directory information; or, (3) under certain limited circumstances, as permitted by FERPA.

♦If either a student's parents or an eligible student desires to obtain copies of the policy pertaining to student records, notification should be presented to (the individual who would receive the application, as well as the person's address).

## OA district has procedures in place for filing grievances

The OA School District does not discriminate in employment or in education programs and activities which it operates, on the basis of sex, race or disability in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In any person believes that the school district or any of the district's staff has inadequately applied the principles or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) Article

504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or (4) Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, that person may bring forward a complaint which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the district's compliance officer.

The district compliance officer for the Anti-Harassment Policy (GBCB) and the Anti-Discrimination Policy (AC) is Bernie Dolan, Associate superintendent of schools. He can be reached by writing to him at 36 Talcott St., Owego, N.Y. 13827 or by calling him at 687-6223.

The policies referenced here are available for public inspection.

## Cameras in place on OA buses

The Owego Apalachin School District has six video cameras that are rotated to different buses on a random basis.

The district has a Board of Education policy and regulations to govern the use of the cameras and protect the rights of students.

The policy and regulations have been reviewed by the district's legal counsel for compliance with applicable state and federal laws related to student records.

The video cameras will be used on school buses transporting students to and from school or

extracurricular activities. The video recordings will be stored and secured to avoid tampering and the insure confidentiality.

The recordings will be stored for five days. After five days, most of the tapes will be erased and used again. Only in the event of a student incident will the tape(s) be kept on file until resolution of the situation.

If you have questions related to this issue, please contact either Tony Quaranta (supervisor of transportation) at 687-6300 or Bernie Dolan (associate superintendent of schools) at 687-6223.

# PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY CODE OF CONDUCT

## LEGAL NOTICE FROM Owego Apalachin Central School District

Recent changes to Education Law § 2801 requires school districts to develop a new comprehensive code of conduct. The Plain Language Summary Code of Conduct outlined herein condenses the 23 page document adopted by the Board of Education at its July 26th, 2001 meeting.

### STUDENT DRESS CODE

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style and color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall:

- 1) Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process;
- 2) Recognize that extremely brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, one-shoulder shirts, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see through garments are not appropriate;
- 3) Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing;
- 4) Pants, shorts, and skirts should fit at the waist.
- 5) Wear footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- 6) Not include the wearing of hats, bandanas, or kerchiefs in the school except for a medical or religious purpose;
- 7) Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability;
- 8) Not promote and or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
- 9) Jewelry and accessories which are a safety hazard to the wearer or others. (wallet chains, spiked rings, spiked bracelets, etc.)

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or

removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

### PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A) Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Public display of affection - kissing and inappropriate touching
5. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
6. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
7. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
8. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.

B) Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of

- teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.
3. Skipping detention.

C) Engage in conduct that is disruptive. An example of disruptive conduct includes but not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or cafeteria workers, secretaries, bus drivers, aides, hall monitors, security staff or other school personnel in charge of students.

D) Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include but not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so. (NYS Class D Felony)
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Threatening to use a weapon, displaying what appears to be a weapon or possession of a weapon\* on school property or any school function. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
5. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.

\* "Weapon" means a firearm as defined in Federal Law 18 USC §921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, paint ball gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switch-blade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death.

E) Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include but not limited to:

1. Lying to school personnel.
2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
5. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
6. Bullying.
7. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
8. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
9. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.

10. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
11. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
12. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."
13. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
14. Gambling.
15. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
16. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
17. Use of electronic devices (pagers, cell phones, CD players, hand held games, etc.) is prohibited unless approved by the principal or his/her designee.

F) Engage in misconduct while on the bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.

G) Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct includes but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism
2. Cheating
3. Copying
4. Altering records.
5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

### DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES

In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

- 1) The student's age.
- 2) The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense
- 3) The student's prior disciplinary record
- 4) The effectiveness of other forms of discipline
- 5) Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate
- 6) Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this code of conduct for disciplinary students with a disability or presumed to have a disability. A student identified, as having a disability shall not be disciplined for behavior related to his/her disability.

Continued on next page

**A. PENALTIES**

The range of penalties that may be imposed for the conduct set forth in the above are as follows:

1. Verbal warning - any member of the district staff.
2. Written warning - bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, aides, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent.
3. Written notification to parent - bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, aides, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent.
4. Notification of parent by phone - bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, aides, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent.
5. Counseling.
6. Reprimand.
7. Confiscation of items in violation of policy.
8. Suspension from athletic participation - coaches, principal, superintendent.
9. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities - activity director, principal, superintendent.
10. Suspension of other privileges - principal, superintendent.
11. Keeping after school.
12. Probation.
13. Detention - teacher, principal, superintendent.
14. Suspension from transportation - director of transportation, principal, superintendent.
15. Exclusion from a particular class.
16. In-School Suspension - teacher, principal, superintendent.
17. Involuntary transfer - principal, superintendent.
18. Out of School suspension - principal, superintendent.

**B. PROCEDURES**

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

**MINIMUM PERIODS OF SUSPENSION**

1. Any student other than a student with a disability, who brings a weapon to school will be subject to suspension from school for at least one calendar year unless otherwise determined by the superintendent.
2. Any student, other than a student with a disability, who commits violent acts other than bringing a weapon to school shall be subject to suspension from school for at least five days unless otherwise determined by the superintendent.
3. Any student other than a student with a disability, who is repeatedly substantially disruptive of the educational process or repeatedly substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom will be suspended from school for at least five days. For purposes of the code of conduct, "repeatedly substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from the classroom pursuant to Education Law 3214 (3)(a) and this code on multiple occasions.

**REFERRALS**

1. PINS Petitions may be filed on any student under the age of 18 who demonstrates he requires supervision by:
  - A. Being habitually truant and not attending school as required.
  - B. Engaging in an ongoing or continual course of conduct which makes the student ungovernable, or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of the school.
  - C. Knowingly and unlawfully possess marijuana in violation of the Penal Law.
2. The superintendent is required to refer the following students to the District Attorney for a juvenile delinquency proceeding before the Family Court:
  - A. Any student under the age 16 who brought a weapon to school; or
  - B. Any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status.

**VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

The building principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
2. All visitors to the school must report to the office of the principal or designated sign-in area upon arrival at the school. There they will be required to sign the visitor's register and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the principal's office or designated area before leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register.
4. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s), so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
5. Teachers are not expected to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
6. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his or her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
7. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this code of conduct.

**PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

**A. PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

- No person, either alone or with others, shall:
1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
  2. Intentionally damage or destroy school district property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
  3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.

4. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
5. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
6. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization to remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles.
9. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, tobacco, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function.
10. Possess or use weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the school district.
11. Loiter on or about school property.
12. Gamble on school property or at school functions.
13. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable school district officials performing their duties.

14. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code.
15. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or board policy while on school property or while at a school function.

**B. PENALTIES**

Persons who violate this code shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. **Visitors.** Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at the school function shall be withdrawn and they shall be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection. This may include exclusion from future conferences, athletic events, or other school activities.
2. **Students.** They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, in accordance with the due process requirements.
3. **Tenured faculty members.** They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Education Law #3020-a or any other legal rights they may have.
4. **Staff members** in the classified service of the civil service entitled to the protection of Civil Service Law #75. They shall be subject to immediate ejection and to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Civil Service Law #75 or any other legal rights that they may have.
5. **Staffing members other** than those described in subdivision 3 and 4. They shall be subject to warning, reprimand, suspension or dismissal as the facts may warrant in accordance with any legal rights they may have.

The Plain Language Summary Code of Conduct as outlined herein, represents a summary of the full version of the Board Adopted Code of Conduct.

To obtain a full version, you may contact your child's school or the Superintendent's Office at 687-6224.

## Important Dates On The Owego Apalachin Calendar

### SEPTEMBER 15

Board of Education meeting  
District Office – 7 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 16

Early Release Day, District Wide

### SEPTEMBER 21

Senior/Parent Planning  
Owego Free Academy – 6:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 24

OACSD/Foundation  
for Excellence Annual Yard Sales  
Owego Free Academy – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 26

Meet the Teacher night  
Owego Middle School – 6 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 26

Open House  
Owego Free Academy – 7 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 29

Board of Education meeting  
District Office – 7 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 30

Meet the Teacher Night  
Owego Elementary School – 6:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 1

Homecoming  
Owego Free Academy – 1:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 7

Schools Closed  
Superintendent's Conference Day

### OCTOBER 10

Schools Closed – Columbus Day

### OCTOBER 20

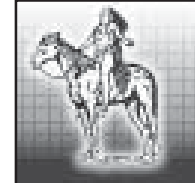
Board of Education meeting  
District Office – 7 .m.

### OCTOBER 21

OA Theater Dedication Concert  
Owego Middle School – 7:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 26

Early Release, District Wide



## Varsity Fall Sports Calendar, Includes Events Through October 15

### SEPTEMBER 3

♦Football vs. Corning E, 1:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 6

♦Girls Soccer vs. Norwich,  
4:30 p.m.  
♦Golf vs. JC, Catatunk, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey vs. NV, 4:15 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 7

♦Girls Tennis vs. SCC  
@ Rec Park, 4 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 8

♦Girls Soccer @ JC,  
Green Field, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Soccer @ Corning E  
Stadium, 7 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs.  
Whitney Point, Catatunk, 4 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming vs.  
Whitney Point, 5:30 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey vs.  
Tioga Center, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 9

♦Girls Tennis at JC, 4 p.m.  
♦Boys Soccer vs. M-E, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming  
vs. Norwich, 5:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 10

♦Football vs. JC, 1:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country  
@ Windsor (Invitational), 9 a.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country  
@ Windsor (Invitational), 9 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER 12

♦Girls Tennis @ Ithaca, 4 p.m.  
♦Boys Soccer  
vs. Whitney Point, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf  
vs. Ithaca, RT Jones CC, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey  
vs. Spencer Van-Etten, 4:15 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 13

♦Girls Soccer  
@ Whitney Point, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs. SV,  
Catatunk Golf Course,  
4 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country @ Norwich,  
Gibson Elementary, 4:30 p.m.

♦Girls Cross Country @ Norwich,  
Gibson Elementary, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 14

♦Girls Tennis @ M-E, 4 p.m.  
♦Boys Soccer @ CF, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming  
@ Windsor, 5:30 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey @ M-E, 4:15 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 15

♦Girls Soccer vs. CF, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs. CF,  
Genegatslet, 4 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 16

♦Girls Tennis vs. Norwich, 4 p.m.  
♦Boys Soccer @ Ithaca, 7 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs. SCC,  
Catatunk Golf Course, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey  
@ Windsor, 4:15 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 17

♦Girls Swimming Invitational  
@ OFA, TBA  
♦Football @ Elmira FA, 1:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country @ Elmira,  
Newton Battlefield, 9 a.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country @ Elmira,  
Newton Battlefield, 9 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER 19

♦Boys Soccer vs. SCC, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 20

♦Girls Soccer @ SCC,  
BC United, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs. CV,  
Genegantslet, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey vs.  
Whitney Point, 4:15 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country  
vs. M-E, Hickories Park, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country  
vs. M-E, Hickories Park, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 21

♦Girls Tennis vs. M-E, 4 p.m.  
♦Boys Soccer  
@ Windsor, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs.  
Windsor, Beldon Hill, 4 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 22

♦Girls Soccer

vs. Windsor, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 23

♦Girls Tennis vs. JC, 4 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming  
@ JC, 5:30 p.m.  
♦Football @ Oneonta, 7 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 24

♦Boys Soccer @ Goshen,  
CJ Hooker MS, 2 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming Invitational  
@ Elmira, TBA  
♦Field Hockey  
@ Tioga Center, 11 a.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country Invitational,  
Hickories Park, 9 a.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country Invitational,  
Hickories Park, 9 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER 26

♦Boys Soccer @ CV,  
N. Otsiningo Park, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey  
@ Spencer Van-Etten, 4:15 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 27

♦Girls Soccer vs. CV, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf @ Oneonta,  
Oneonta Country Club, 4 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country  
Double Duals vs. Oneonta,  
JC, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country  
Double Duals vs. Oneonta,  
JC, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 28

♦Boys Soccer vs. SV, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf STAC Champs,  
Ely Park, 9:30 a.m.  
♦Field Hockey  
@ Greene, 4:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 29

♦Girls Soccer @ SV, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf STAC Champs  
rain date, 9:30 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER 30

♦Girls Tennis @ Norwich, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey vs. M-E, 4:15 p.m.

### OCTOBER 1

♦Girls Swimming

Diving Invitational, OFA, TBA

♦Football vs. Dryden  
(Homecoming), 1:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country @ Unatego  
(Invitational), 9:45 a.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country @ Unatego  
(Invitational), 9:45 a.m.

### OCTOBER 3

♦Girls Tennis vs. Ithaca, 4 p.m.

### OCTOBER 5

♦Girls Soccer vs. M-E, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs. JC,  
Traditions in the Glen, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey  
vs. Windsor, 4:15 p.m.

### OCTOBER 7

♦Girls Soccer @ Norwich/Perry  
Browne School, 4:40 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming  
@ M-E, 5:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 8

♦Football vs. Norwich  
(Sr. Recognition), 1:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country  
vs. Conwicke-Stock,  
Arnold Park, 10 a.m.  
♦Girls Cross Country vs.  
Conwicke-Stock,  
Arnold Park, 10 a.m.

### OCTOBER 11

♦Boys Soccer @ JC,  
Green Field, 4:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Golf vs. M-E,  
Traditions in the Glen, 4 p.m.  
♦Field Hockey @  
Whitney Point, 4:15 p.m.

### OCTOBER 14

♦Boys Soccer vs. Oneonta  
(Sr. Recognition), 4:30 p.m.  
♦Girls Swimming vs. SV, 5:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 15

♦Girls Soccer  
@ Oneonta, Hall of Fame, 7 p.m.  
♦Football @ SV, 1:30 p.m.  
♦Boys Cross Country  
STAC Championships, TBA  
♦Girls Cross Country  
STAC Championships, TBA