

Omak School District

Pioneer

School Newsletter

Press

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SUPERINTENDENT

MICHAEL PORTER

Successful HVAC Installation at the Omak School District

A year ago, the Omak School District evaluated our systems to identify the greatest needs within our facilities. Due to the age of our existing equipment, the availability and cost of replacement parts, coupled with our need to improve indoor air quality, the district had determined that upgrading our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems throughout all of our buildings would provide the greatest benefit to our students, staff, and community. Most of the HVAC equipment was almost 40 years old, which means they had nearly doubled their estimated useful life. We are fortunate to have an outstanding maintenance crew that kept the equipment running for this long.

The Omak School Board decided that we should begin this project sooner than later, knowing that supply chain issues could be a concern. In November of 2021, the School Board approved moving forward with the HVAC project during the summer of 2022, partnering with MacDonald-Miller. Starting in December 2021, teams of engineers were sent to measure, design and order all of the necessary parts so that they would be ready to begin as soon as school was out. As a matter-of-fact, MacDonald-Miller sent teams who immediately began working with a sense of urgency in the evenings even before school was out.

Anybody who has worked on a large-scale project (such as building a house), knows how unlikely it is to complete a project on time. MacDonald-Miller has been true to their word to complete this project during the summer so that school could begin as planned on August 31st. They provided weekly project updates and brought in multiple crews, sometimes working 7 days a week. Even with hiccups, such as having some of their materials stolen, MacDonald-Miller stayed within their completion time-line. From Facilities Director Tim Engh:

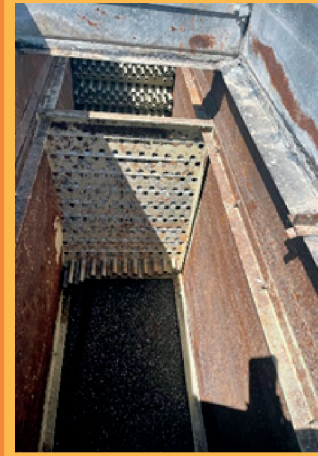
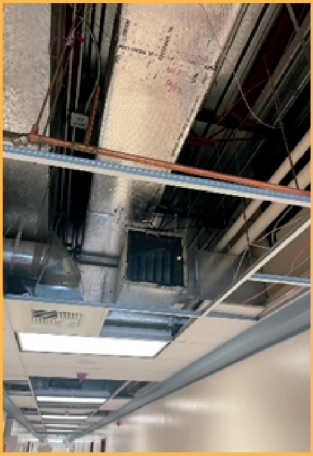
Our HVAC contractor, MacDonald-Miller, has been hard at work updating the HVAC systems at North, East, Middle School and the B-Wing of the High School. They have replaced 140 Heat Pumps, 4 Fluid Coolers, 1 Boiler, and 9 Hydronic Loop Pumps, not to mention other items such as adding two large steel beams in OMS to support the weight of the new tower. This has been a huge undertaking in such a short time span. We will certainly appreciate the benefits of the upgrades for many years once they are complete.

Continued on page 3



I am very pleased to share that MacDonald-Miller has completed the project on time and on budget. The Omak School District was able to utilize our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds without asking our community for any additional money. The new equipment has increased air flow capacity, allowing us to use higher rated filters that will capture more particulates and dispense cleaner air throughout our buildings, all while saving the Omak School District an estimated \$22,000 in annual energy costs.

Michael L. Porter



New Employees



FIRST ROW: Cary Tonasket-Middle School, Wyatt Utt-Picking-Middle School, Bryan Schneider-High School, May Riggan-High School, Wendy Griffiths-North Elementary, Layten Briggs-North Elementary, Dana McLean-East Elementary, Andrew Wolf-East Elementary, Angie Lay-North Elementary, **SECOND ROW:** Lisa Roylance-Outreach, Elizabeth Chambers-High School, Caryn Fletcher-High School, Kelsie McCloud-High School, Emilie McGaha-Middle School, Ann Milhorn-East Elementary, Tiandra Dodd-North Elementary, Laura (Allma) Plackos-East Elementary

We welcomed our new employees for the August 2022-23 school year with a welcoming new hire orientation. We are excited to have such a wonderful group of people join our district family.





2022-23 KICK-OFF

Good Words for Great Souls

The new school year started with great information and insight. Michael Porter, our superintendent, started us off with information on installing the new HVAC system in all our buildings. We are incredibly fortunate to have this new filtration system for our children that creates a healthy environment.

Michael also presented to the group the importance of building relationships with our children and their effects on their learning potential.

We had the privilege to have Sharon Lacey, a teacher for over 23 years, speak on creative teaching methods. She talked about overcoming the emotional barriers students have and how to create a safe, caring environment in which they may learn. She is a great comedian; we all had a great time learning new teaching techniques and how to build meaningful relationship with our students.



Sharon Lacey
Motivational Speaker and
Teacher for 23 years



District Employees
Attending the kick-off
at the PAC





Link Crew

At Omak High School, we start the freshman day with a Welcome Gauntlet. Here are Randy Smith and officer Penny Cook waiting for the first-year students! Link Crew has been a tradition for 15 years—what a fantastic way to welcome freshmen into high school.



The 2022 Omak FFA Rangeland CDE Team. From Left to right Coach Emily Hale, Teagan Stroshane, Josie Fletcher, Faith Jensen, Savannah Romine Reese Bowling, Mercedez Weeks, and Advisor, Elaine Lewis.

FFA Rangeland Team

On October 12th Omak FFA Range Team woke up extra early and took a trip to the State Ranglands CDE Competition at The Ellensburg Wildhorse Wind and Solar Facility. Teagan Stroshane took 3rd, Reece Bowling in 6th, Mercedez Weeks in 9th, Faith Jensen in 13th, and Josie Fletcher in 15th. Omak FFA will continue on to the Western Nationals, which was held in Richfield, Utah.

Congratulations To Our Grant Recipients!



Lori Pendergraft received a \$300 NCESD grant for an owl pellet dissection project!



Tiarha Agee received a \$300 NCESD grant for an archaeology dig activity!



Steve Duncan received a \$300 NCESD grant for the 5th grade pottery project!



Ann Milhorn received over \$1,900 from Donors and was chosen for art and science supplies.



Jack Hamilton as well! He received a \$200 grant from STCU!

CHILD FIND NOTICE

The Omak School District is required by Washington Administrative Code 392-172A-02040 to inform patrons of the special education services and programs available within the district. The State of Washington defines special needs as having concerns with developmental delays, vision, hearing, health, communication skills, academic performance, social-emotional status, general intelligence, motor abilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, transition services, or other disabilities. If your family is living in a temporary situation, you may contact the district where you are staying to attend a screening. People with children from birth to age 21, who have any of these conditions, are encouraged to contact the Omak School District's Director of Special Services at 509-826-0320 for more information.



NORTH SCHOOL

Family Night

North Omak Elementary hosted its Book Fair Family Night! It was a huge success and enjoyed by all! The activities were amazing! there was face painting, cake walk and iPad coding and math apps. Pizza from Westside was served for everyone to enjoy. The Family Night and Book Fair was organized by Emily Gurnard, Debbie Haven and Julie Martin.



North Garden

Last Spring, the kindergarten classes, with the help of Mrs. Sheeley and Mrs. Hack, planted pumpkins, marigolds, and some other pollinator-attracting plants in the North School garden purchased through grants from the Okanogan Conservation District. We were also able to add two more planters with grant money and soil donated to the Classroom In Bloom with the help of Amber Kaufman. Second graders created garden-themed art with the help of Kim Kogler from the OCD. This art will be featured on our interpretive panel and installed this Fall. First grade will harvest the mature pumpkins, compost them after classrooms have time to enjoy them, and add red wiggle worms to break down the pumpkins and improve our soil.





EAST ELEMENTARY

East students and staff are beyond excited about our new playground equipment! We have noticed a decrease in playground behavior issues because students are able to spread out more! What a joy it is to see smiles and laughter abound on this amazing new addition to our playground!



Native American Day

East Omak Elementary celebrated Native American Day with local story teller, Dayton Edmonds. Students were enthralled with his songs and stories that were told to him by his grandparents. We are grateful to Methow Arts Alliance for sponsoring this special presentation.

East Garden

Thanks to Dean Agee (PE Teacher) and Tiarha Agee (4th Grade Teacher), East's school garden continues to grow and expand! Students could sample cantaloupe, beans, and cherry tomatoes during September at lunch! East continues to collaborate with the Okanogan County Conservation District to enhance the school garden and provide training for staff to incorporate standards-based lessons using the garden as an outdoor classroom.

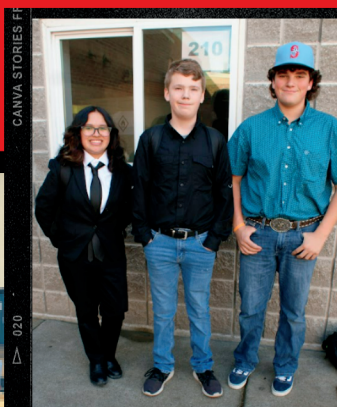


Family Night & Book Fair

East Omak Elementary hosted its first Book Fair Family Night in three years! It was a huge success and enjoyed by all! East's 5th-grade teachers coordinated activities, including a book walk, face painting, lei making, and a photo booth!

SPIRIT WEEK

The week kicked off with an exciting assembly outlining the activities for spirit week and fierce competition between grade levels. This year staff competed alongside each grade level. Dress-up days consisted of pajamas, specific colors for each grade, anything but a backpack, sharp-dressed, and Halloween costume day. After the week of dress up and competitions, the final results were; Eighth grade in 4th place, Seventh grade in 3rd place, sixth grade in 2nd place, and the winners were Staff in 1st place!





NATION HOMECOMING



Homecoming has traditionally been two significant events – the theme reveal the week before and the Homecoming assembly that occurred on Friday. One of the staff members mentioned that he graduated from Omak, and they used to have assemblies every day during Homecoming week. This was going to be a new process for the ASB to work through, but after some thought and some problem-solving, the ASB was game to give it a try. The next task was to determine what we would do during those assemblies. In talking with the ASB students, allowing the staff to participate as one of the classes was suggested, requiring them to participate in all of the activities (within reason). The ASB presented this challenge to the OHS Staff and was accepted!

The reveal for 2022 was We Have the Beat (Music genre). The seniors selected Rock, the Juniors selected Hip Hop, the Staff selected Country, the Sophomores selected Disco, and the Freshmen selected Pop.

There were dress-up days for each day of the week; the counts were managed by percentage and recorded at the daily assemblies. There was also a class competition and then a highlight of one of the fall sports. The assembly ended with the cheerleaders teaching a few cheers to the student body.

The highlight of the week was the Dance battle that took place in the Performing Arts Center. To everyone's surprise, the staff did a great job with their mash-up of country songs.

This year's Homecoming was outstanding, and the student body and staff really felt the climate and culture change. Thank you to the five class advisors for their extra hard work and the Associated Student Body for their Leadership. Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2023 – the Homecoming champions.





Football Team



Varsity Volleyball Team



Junior Varsity Volleyball Team



Cross Country Team



Girls' Soccer Team

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Omaha School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, sexual expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator: Brittney Richter, 509-826-8386, brichter@omahasd.org; and Section 504 Coordinator: John Holcomb, 509-826-8342, johnholcomb@omahasd.org, 619 W. Bartlett Ave, Omaha, WA 98841.

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BOOSTER CLUB

Collaborating with our community to achieve excellence and pride in Omaha Athletics.

The Omaha Booster Club supports Omaha High School athletic programs and athletes by providing equipment, monetary donations and scholarships that aren't provided by school district funds. Omaha Booster Club funds are generated by community donations, memberships and fundraising.

Support our student-athletes and show your "Pioneer Pride" through a business or personal membership/donation!

\$100 LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omaha Booster Club Window Decal • Business Ad & recognition in Sports Programs
\$250 LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omaha Booster Club Window Decal • Business Ad & recognition in Sports Programs • Business Announced at Home Games
\$500 LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omaha Booster Club Window Decal • Business Ad & recognition in Sports Programs • Business Announced at Home Games • Business Banner displayed in High School Gymnasium • Omaha Booster Club Sweatshirt



Become a member TODAY!

Help support our community's young athletes!
"Like" us on Facebook for all the latest information!

Please Send Donations to:
Omaha Booster Club
PO Box 3975
Omaha, WA 98841

Thank you for your support!

Community Collaboration



East Omak Elementary is grateful for the collaboration between Okanogan County PUD and North Central Educational Service District! James Webber from NCESD gave an interactive electrical safety presentation to all six 4th grade classes on October 25th and 26th. Okanogan County PUD funded the presentations and the classroom materials which align with the Next-Generation Science Standards.



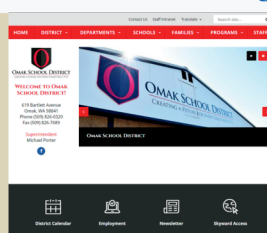
"Colville Confederated Tribes Tribal Head Start, Okanogan County Child Development Association, and the Omak School District Preschool teams; partnered to participate in Guided Language Acquisition and Design (GLAD) training the week of October 10th-14th. This training provides a classroom that infuses language into engaging learning experiences."

Monday Message



Join us each week as Michael Porter gives you a school district update every Monday morning on our website at www.omaksd.org.

www.omaksd.org



Stay Connected

Join our Facebook page or visit our Website to access Monday Message, Openline, and our board meeting minutes.

Okanogan County Radio

OPENLINE Dates:

December 16th

February 24th

April 28th

June 23rd

OMAK SCHOOL DISTRICT
619 W BARTLETT AVE
OMAK WA 98841

POSTAL CUSTOMER

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #241
Wenatchee, WA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darrel Diebel, Vice Chairman, (Position #1)
Pete Sirois, (Position # 2)
Jerry Day, (Position #3)
Dennis Carlton, Chairman, (Position #4-At Large)
Mandy Holz, (Position #5-At Large)

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

826-0320—619 W BARTLETT AVE
Michael Porter, Superintendent
Scott Haeberle, Executive Director of Finance
Brittney Richter, Executive Director of
Human Resources
John Holcomb, Special Education Director
Jill Timm, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

OMAK HIGH SCHOOL/HIGHLANDS HS

826-5150—20 S CEDAR ST
David Kirk, Principal
Geoff Pearson, Assistant Principal
Joe LaGrou, Athletic Director

OMAK MIDDLE SCHOOL

826-2320—14 S CEDAR ST
Ryan Christoph, Principal
Lance O'Dell, Assistant Principal

EAST ELEMENTARY

826-3003—715 OMAK AVE
Lee Ann Schrock, Principal
Kimberly DeHart, Assistant Principal

NORTH ELEMENTARY

826-2380—615 N OAK ST
Starlet Stone, Principal
Chris Miller, Assistant Principal

TRANSPORTATION

826-2240—621 JASMINE ST
Penny Statler, Transportation Supervisor

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAL

826-3243 - 543 6TH AVE W
Tim Engh, Facilities Director
Jerrod McNeil, Asst. Facilities Director

OMAK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Calendar of Events

November 2022

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	*4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

4 * Early Release - Records (P-12)
4 1st Quarter Ends (Gr. 6-12)
11 Veterans Day - No School
18 1st Trimester Ends (P-5)
21-22 ~P.T.S. Conferences
22 School Board Meeting (5:30)
23-24 Thanksgiving Break - No School
25 WA Native American Day -
No School

December 2022

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

13 Impact Aid Hearing (5:00)
13 School Board Meeting (5:30)
21-30 Winter Break - No School

January 2023

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	*27
30	31			

2-3 Winter Break - No School
16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -
No School
24 School Board Meeting (5:30)
27 2nd Quarter Ends (Grades 6-12)
27 * Early Release - Staff Dvlp (P-5)
27 * Early Release - Records (6-12)
30 All-Staff Midyear Meeting (2:30)

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

The district and school report card information are available online at http://www.omaksd.org/parents/annual_school_report_card. Directions are on the link.
NOTE: The information is available in hard copy upon request at your child's school office or email Jill Timm: jtimmm@omaksd.org.

