

October 2018



Message from the Superintendent



Now that the school year is in full swing, I would like to give an exceptionally big shout-out to all of our dedicated staff who went above and beyond their duties to make sure our students had a smooth start. This was especially true in areas where positions may not have been filled at the start of the school year. I want you to know that I recognize and appreciate the extra work you put in to fill those gaps, and I appreciate your patience with the hiring process. **You** are the reason our students and staff can be successful at OCM BOCES, no matter what challenges we face.

Flag at Rodax prompts letter

I received an anonymous letter recently from someone who noticed the poor condition of the American flag outside our buildings in the Rodax complex at the Thompson Road Campus. Not only that, but the flag has not been flying half-staff in times of mourning, as requested by New York State. The explanation is simple: OCM BOCES leases space at Rodax, so we do not own or control the flags. Still, I would like to

have these issues addressed. Shortly after I received the letter, I reached out to the owner of the Rodax complex to raise these concerns. I will keep you up-to-date on this matter and appreciate the person who brought it to my attention.

Thank a school board member!

So much is happening in October, not the least of which is the annual week set aside to honor the men and women who serve on public school boards across the state.



Please join me in celebrating School Board Recognition Week Oct. 22-26 and thanking the representatives of our 11-member OCM BOCES Board of Education. We appreciate everything they do for us and, more importantly, for our students.

[Please go to our web site to find our full list of board members.](#)

Until next time, enjoy these cooler days of fall and all the glorious fall colors that come with it.

Jody Manning, Ed.D.
District Superintendent, OCM BOCES



It's official: OCM BOCES is an economic champion

We are pleased to announce that Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES has been **nominated as a 2018 Economic Champion!** Every year, CenterState CEO recognizes the region's outstanding businesses



and organizations for fueling the local economy. To qualify, businesses must have:

- Hired new employees;
- Expanded, relocated or made capital investments due to growth;
- Received a local, statewide or national award; or
- Celebrated a significant milestone or anniversary

This year, OCM BOCES fits all those categories, including the celebration of our 70th anniversary. OCM BOCES and other nominees will be honored Oct. 30 during a luncheon at the OnCenter. Jeremy Garelick, founder and president of the film production company American High, will be the keynote speaker. Thank you to all of our OCM BOCES employees for making this recognition possible.

#OCM70

Cyberattacks disrupt network

As most of you know, the recent disruptions to our network have been caused by cyberattacks at the Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC). The CNYRIC has been working with vendors to find the best solution for identifying and eliminating these attacks before they can disrupt the network. The CNYRIC is also pursuing a long-term, large-scale solution to address these issues. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these recent interruptions of service. Please go to our web site for [additional information from District Superintendent Jody Manning](#).

Tragedy in DeWitt inspires compassion in Adult Education

Students in **Karen Stannard's** dental assisting class in Adult Education in Liverpool raised \$1,007 in less than a week for the mother of one of the



shooting victims in the Sept. 15 tragedy at the Chili's in DeWitt.

The class had a close connection: **Nancy Chappell**, the mother of Stephen Gudknecht, worked 15 years as the dental assisting instructor at OCM BOCES before passing the baton to Karen. The 23 students who are currently in Karen's class wanted to raise money for Nancy's three grandchildren, including two of Stephen's own.

What started as a small bake sale in the main lobby of OCM BOCES took off when students and parents of the students received donations of pizza, subs, bagels and gift baskets from Twin Trees, Subway, Bagelicious, Bruegger's, Dunkin Donuts and Lush cosmetics, respectively.

"I'm very pleased with the fact that we were able to help someone in the community," Karen said. She commended the students for showing "great teamwork and support for one another" to accomplish such a thoughtful fundraiser.

New mental health law spotlights work at OCM BOCES

A new state law that requires all school districts to incorporate mental health into their K-12 curriculum prompted [coverage recently from NewsChannel 9](#) and, shortly after, [a popular blog at scarymommy.com](#). The local news station interviewed **Kristen Purcell**, assistant coordinator in the Innovative Teaching & Learning department of Instructional Support Services. Purcell explained the importance of the new law (the first in the U.S.); its purpose in helping students recognize and address issues surrounding mental health; and how OCM BOCES has become a leader in helping local districts put quality mental health programs into practice. [Check out our ISS page on mental health & wellness.](#)



Looking back: One OCM BOCES employee reflects on three decades



Tina Gilligan has worked at OCM BOCES for 31 years, but her ties go back even further. As a teen-ager at Cicero North Syracuse High School, she took a one-year program called “word processing/machine operating” at a campus that no longer exists. It was called Lakeside, not far from the Jones Road exit off I-690. The machines were a little outdated. (Remember microfiche?) “You felt like an adult, like you were working already ... like you were getting away with something,” she recalled. Tina’s fast and accurate skills in shorthand and typing landed her a job right after graduation at Home Insurance. Two years later, in 1987, she started at BOCES. Her salary: \$12,000.

Tina, now a personnel aide, has a lot of experience at BOCES. She started in personnel, shifted into the role of the district superintendent’s secretary (until she started a family), then came back to personnel. Some of the biggest changes? Technology, of course. She thinks the pace and volume of work has increased exponentially as it progressed from “snail” mail to fax to email. She also marvels at the overall growth of BOCES, from several dozen tight-knit employees to 1,100+ today. “Going to BOCES changed my whole life,” she said of her teenage years. “It gave me the confidence, the maturity and the skills to get a job ... I thought I had a lot to offer.” In the photo, Tina poses near Xerox 6010 Memorywriter electric typewriter that mostly sits idle at the Main Campus. **#OCM70**

Construction students go behind-the-scenes at Parade of Homes



Students from **Michael Cavender’s** Career & Technical Education construction classes toured Parade of Homes houses in various stages of completion. After presentations by individual builders and sub-

contractors, students participated in a Q & A. Many inquired about how to best secure entry-level employment. One homebuilder, Andy Martin of Martin Custom Homes, himself a 1993 graduate of the OCM BOCES Construction Tech program, stressed 21st Century skills and suggested that students seeking their first construction position simply show up at a local home building site and ask to speak with the project leader. Martin said this instantly demonstrates initiative and an ability to get to the site. Students were invited to attend the formal showing of the homes once the Parade of Homes opens in October at Crown Point Summit Meadows.

Get the word out! Teaching assistants needed at OCM BOCES

Why become a teaching assistant? The reasons are many: authentic teaching experiences, convenient schedule, great benefits, professional development opportunities and so much more. If you know anyone who is interested, please tell them about our **OCM BOCES Job Fair from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 15 at our Cortlandville Campus**, 1710 NYS Route 13. Applicants should call 315-433-2638 to register. [Find the full job fair flyer here.](#)

Rachel's Challenge inspires returning students to 'leave a legacy' of compassion

The big kickoff of [Rachel's Challenge](#) during the first week of October called upon returning students to stay committed to their kindness pledges but to also take it one step further with these goals:

- Leave a Legacy of kindness
- Show Compassion
- Practice Pre-Acceptance



- Learn from your Mistakes
- Forgive Yourself and Others

A presenter from the national Rachel's Challenge program, which originated from the 1999 Columbine shootings, gave powerful and inspiring presentations to students of all ages in our OCM BOCES schools. New students experienced the introduction to Rachel's Challenge. Later, students started Friends of Rachel (FOR) clubs to begin working on yearlong projects.

Kids Deserve Us! Librarians convene at OnCenter

The annual Greater CNY School Library Systems Conference held Oct. 9 at OnCenter featured an impressive lineup of sessions that touched on just about every modern-day topic you can think of: 3D technology, social media, digital portfolios, mental health, the “lost art of conversation” in the digital age, makerspaces, media artwork and, of course, books. The conference was presented by our [OCM BOCES School Library System](#) in conjunction with Citi, Cayuga-Onondaga and TST BOCES. The event featured keynote speaker Adam Welcome, author of *“Kids Deserve It!”* and *“Run Like a Pirate!”*



Leadership group builds collegiality around new state art standards

About 70 educators who focus on arts and music converged on the Main Campus Oct. 9 to participate in a regional leadership meeting related to

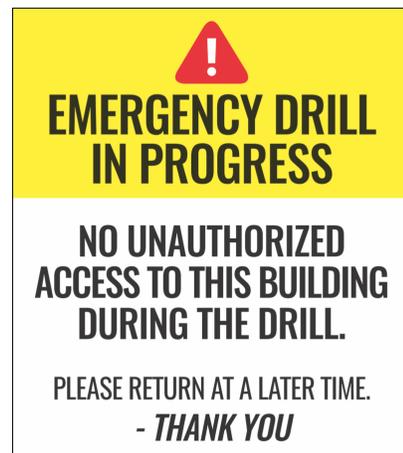


the new state arts standards. Innovative Teaching & Learning Coordinator **Jessica Whisher Hehl** said OCM BOCES is collaborating with CiTi BOCES to develop arts and music programs that are relevant to students and support equity and access for all students. On Tuesday, **William Jones**, regional Arts in Education coordinator at CiTi, and **Ted Love**, director of instruction in Homer, facilitated the group. Last year, the state adopted [new P-12 Learning Standards for the Arts](#) that are designed to “develop artistically literate citizens” who have “the knowledge, skills, and understanding to actively engage in the arts throughout their lives.” In the photo, teachers from Homer imagine the attributes of an artistically literate graduate.

Have you done this yet? Dont forget!

This is important! Don't forget to do your required online training for [Right-to-Know \(RTK\)/Bloodborne Pathogens \(BBP\)](#) and [Orientation Training for Emergency Response Procedures](#). Access to this presentation can be found by going to our OCM BOCES Health & Safety page. The deadlines are:

- Emergency Response Procedures - **No later than September 15, 2018**
- Right-to-Know (RTK)/Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) - **No later than December 15, 2018.**



Non-Discrimination Policy

The [OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy](#) has been updated and added to our web site.

Get social with OCM BOCES

Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter! Check us out on

YouTube! While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization now has a general Facebook page, Twitter account and YouTube channel that we can use to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news! **PLEASE like us** on [Facebook](#) and **follow us** on [Twitter](#) (@ocmboces). Check out our [YouTube Channel](#) as well, especially if you want to review the Opening Day video about our goals and targets. For all of our social media platforms, check out our **social media hub** at [ocmboces.org](#).

Need help? Dont forget about our Employee Assistance Program

Don't forget about our confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Go to [ocmboces.org/eap](#) for more.

If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed the first week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org.

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