



## **The Orange High School PTA Welcomes the Class of 2024 and Their Families!!**

We know this year doesn't look like a typical school year but as we get ready to start in person learning we wanted to reach out to you to extend any support and provide you with information to help you and your child transition to high school. We know there will still be many wonderful opportunities for the students this year and during their time at Orange High School.

The OHS PTA provides a vital link between Orange High School and the families of our students. This packet contains some introductory information about Orange High School and the OHS PTA. We hope you find it helpful. We look forward to working together next year (and the years to follow!) and encourage your involvement, both through membership and volunteer support.

Please use the OHS PTA website <http://www.orangeschools.org/OHSPTA.aspx> to stay informed and updated!

**\*\*Please be sure to join the OHS PTA online at <http://www.orangeschools.org/PTAMEMBERSHIP.aspx>.** Membership funds are an important source of fundraising at the high school level and are used to support many important programs and projects at OHS. We can't do it without your support. Please contact our Membership coordinators, Andrea Rubin ([andreakrubin@gmail.com](mailto:andreakrubin@gmail.com)) or Amy Bilsky ([amy@party411.com](mailto:amy@party411.com)) with any questions.

**\*\*Volunteer opportunities** may look different this year but we are always looking for help! Please sign up online on the [OHS PTA website](http://www.orangeschools.org/OHSPTA.aspx) or email Liza Zucker at [zuckergroup@gmail.com](mailto:zuckergroup@gmail.com) to get involved. We always welcome new volunteers!!

The start of the new school year, and this new chapter in your freshman's life is such an exciting time! Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

**Stefanie Russo, OHS PTA President**, at [stefanierainsford@gmail.com](mailto:stefanierainsford@gmail.com) or

**Amy Bilsky, OHS 9th Grade Coordinator**, at [amy@party411.com](mailto:amy@party411.com)

### **Some valuable information for incoming families:**

#### **How to Stay Informed about High School Happenings**

**Contact the School:** If you have a general school question, you can call your child's counselor (last name A - L Amanda McDonald; last name M - Z Dominic Favazzo), or anyone in the offices (extension 2600). Their advisory teacher (WeConnect) can be found on their schedule.

**Monthly PTA/Principal Meetings:** All parents are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly updates with the OHS Principal, Dr. Paul Lucas, held the first Wednesday of each month. Check the district calendar for meeting times. Meetings are currently being held over video conference. Email Stefanie Russo before each meeting if you would like the link to the meeting. Attending these updates is a great way to keep apprised of what is happening at OHS. (OHS PTA Board and Committee meetings immediately follow the Principal's Updates.)

**OHS Student Handbook:** The [student handbook](#) covers a wide variety of OHS rules and guidelines

**Weekly Electronic Updates:** You will receive weekly electronic updates from the OHS Principal once you complete the Parent Portal page for your student. Please make sure that your email listed is current.

**Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Lucas:** This is an opportunity to get a few brief OHS updates and ask any questions you may have about school. Links to these video conferences are emailed from Dr. Lucas.

**OHS PTA Webpage:** Information about the OHS PTA, including contact information, volunteer forms, membership and fundraising information, etc., is available on the OHS PTA Webpage, accessible on the District website from the “For Parents” drop-down menu.

**The Lions’ Den:** The Lions’ Den is a newsletter from the OHS PTA. It is emailed quarterly to parents of OHS students and also is available on-line at the [district website](#). You are encouraged to submit articles about OHS students’ accomplishments and upcoming events.

**The Orange Outlook:** The [Orange Outlook](#) is the award-winning Orange High School student newspaper. It is distributed to students free of charge at school, but the copies rarely make it home. If you would like to have The Outlook mailed to your home next year for a small fee, contact The Orange Outlook at [orangeoutlook@gmail.com](mailto:orangeoutlook@gmail.com).

## **What Does the Orange High School PTA Do?**

With over 100 members, including dedicated Board and committee members, the OHS PTA strives to fulfill its mission of serving the students and staff of OHS every year. Our goal is to be a resource for district families, an advocate for all students, promoting education and the well-being of all in our school. There are many important activities that the OHS PTA is responsible for including:

- **OHS After Prom-** organized and managed by the OHS PTA in order to provide students a safe and fun place to go to continue celebrating on prom night
- **The Reflections Program-** along with the Elementary/Middle PTA sponsors display and judging of students’ various artwork
- OHS PTA manages the **indoor concession stand** for many of the high school athletic events in order to earn support primarily for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- Compilation and distribution of the district wide directory known as the **Lion’s Roar**. Due to the cancellation of back-to-school activities and distribution challenges, the Lion's Roar directory will be distributed digitally free of charge to all PTA members.
- Programming important to our students is developed and delivered by the PTA’s combined **Health and Safety** committee. It has included presentations on the opioid epidemic, internet safety, safe driving, self-defense classes and much more over the last couple years.
- **Senior Project-** PTA members work with the 12<sup>th</sup> grade staff to ensure the senior project program is successful and meaningful for the graduating students.
- **Orange Spiritwear-** Spirit Wear is always available at football games or online and available at <https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/ohio/pepperpike/orange-high-school>. Show your Orange pride and support the PTA!

In addition to these major initiatives that the PTA undertakes, we support the school by awarding classroom grants to individual or groups of teachers, providing a scholarship to a deserving senior and teacher educational scholarships to assist in upgrading teaching techniques and thus expanding their support of students. We provide over two dozen clubs with seed money to assist them in activities during the year.

We also provide hospitality at many events throughout the year: the staff Convocation Breakfast, New Family Orientation, Open House, Staff Appreciation Holiday Buffet, Exchange Student Programs, Teacher Appreciation Week, Senior Lunch, Graduation Reception and Rehearsal lunch and the Year-End Staff Breakfast.

In all the OHS PTA spends about \$40,000 each year to support our students and staff. Finally, more important than fundraising, is the participation of parents in supporting the school in various volunteer opportunities. Become part of our network and help us continue to make Orange High School a leader and a great place to learn.