

Dear Origins Families,

Welcome back from the mid-winter break. With spring hopefully right around the corner, we have a host of upcoming events and announcements. But first, I would like to highlight a few community building events that happened before the break. Leading up to the mid-winter recess we hosted our first Young Men's Group lunch (pictures below), had a Valentine's door design contest with Mr. Diamantis advisory winning the 9th grade competition and Ms. Castillo's advisory taking the 10th grade and grand prize, and sent our 10th grade advisories on a variety of trips from the Bodies exhibit to the 9/11 Memorial. These events were a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together and our upcoming spring events provide similar exciting possibilities. We will be hosting an honors luncheon to recognize academic excellence in 9th and 10th grade next Friday, March 6. Both 9th and 10th grade students have upcoming overnight trips, to Ramapo and Washington, DC, respectively. And, of course, our marking period ending Roundtables are fast approaching on March 16-18. Also, next week begins a new cell phone policy for the campus and Regents Prep for 10th grade students. A mailing will go home this week with the new cell phone policy and Regents prep letters for 10th graders. A summary of the cell phone policy is below. We invite you to join our PA this Thursday to discuss the new cell phone policy, discuss safe cell phone use, and receive more information concerning the school trips. And, as always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Mr. Banks

Classroom Feature: Mr. Diamantis

OHS mathemagicians are fully immersed in a unit on creating equations to represent real-world situations and solving them using multiple strategies. Pictured are Anderson Delinois (above), Karen Nieves, Briana Milus, and Rafael Chaca (below right) putting their work on the whiteboard to share their answers and, more importantly, their reasoning, with their classmates. Also pictured is Mr. Janosch (below left), fully consumed by a math logic puzzle during our teacher professional development during Regents week, where teachers revisited how interdisciplinary thinking skills of predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing are being integrated into the OHS curriculum. He was so into solving the problem!!

Lunch with the Young Men's Group

On Friday before February Break our Young Men's Group made the arctic trek (9 degrees!!) to Applebees for some food and camaraderie. Everyone had a great time and our young men showed us that they are also gentlemen. This successful trip was the first of many and we're already talking about basketball in the not so distant springtime.

New Cell Phone Policy for Frank J. Macchiarola Educational Complex

Effective March 2, students are permitted to bring the following electronic items to school: 1) cell phones; 2) laptops, tablets, iPads and other similar computing devices ("computing devices"); and 3) portable music and entertainment systems, such as iPods, MP3 players, PSP, and Nintendo DS.

A. The use of cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems at school is subject to the restrictions below:

1. Cell phones and portable music and entertainment systems must be collected by the school when students enter the school building and stored in a designated location until the end of the school day, according to the following procedures:
 - a. All students entering into Origins High School during normal school hours must check any and all cell phones and portable music and entertainment systems with an Origins High School staff member upon entry to the building.
 - b. Devices will be held in a safe, locked space throughout the school day.
 - c. Devices will be labeled, separated by grade, and held in alphabetical order in groups by last name (A-B, C-D, E-F, etc.).
 - d. Students are responsible for coming to school with devices already labeled with names. These labels must be at least semi-permanent (for example, masking tape) so devices are not confused during redistribution.
 - e. Students will not have access to devices during the school day.
 - f. At dismissal, students will meet with a designated member of school staff for device distribution.
 - g. Distribution will occur at different areas of the school, depending on grade.

Overnight School Trips

We're excited to offer two wonderful community-building trips for our students in the spring. You should have received information concerning the trips already. A brief synopsis follows for each trip and full details are posted on the website:

9th Grade: Ramapo for Children - Students will go for 2 days and 1 night to Rhinebeck-Upstate New York. Students will participate in various workshops and team building exercises to build relationships with their fellow classmates, gain confidence, and sharpen their problem solving skills.

Date: April 1st and 2nd

Travel Cost/Expenses: The trip to Ramapo will cost \$160.00 per person. **There is a reduced fee of \$140.00 if the payment is received in full by February 27th.**

10th Grade: Students will go for 2 days and 1 night to Washington D.C. and its surrounding areas. Students will participate in college tours and team building exercises to build relationships with their fellow peers. Students will also visit national monuments and view the White House.

Date: April 30- May 1

Travel Cost/Expenses: The trip to Washington D.C. will cost \$230.00 per person.

There is a reduced fee of \$210.00 if the payment is received in full by March 13th.

Celebrations!!!

At OHS we have a little tradition called Celebrations! It is a way to celebrate our scholars and staff for upholding our school mission and values. It happens each Friday during Morning Meeting.

Students and staff can receive a bracelet for the following categories:
Creativity, Curiosity, Reflection, Empathy and Determination

Evelyn Reydler - Empathy
Julien Bruce - Curiosity
Jennifer Lopez - Reflection
Kateryna Smerenchynska - Empathy
Allena Frazier - Reflection
Mr. Diamantis - Empathy
Ms. Steele - Empathy

Please check in each week to see who we celebrate next!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homework Help - English as a Second Language: Ms. Mignault (Rm. 272)	Homework Help ELA: Mr. Farrell (Rm. 221)	Homework Help Science: Ms. Sutjiawan & Ms. Steele (Rm. 227)	Homework Help Math: Mr. Diamantis & Mr. Min (Rm. 229)	
Step & Dance: Ms. Marrero (Dance Gym)	Art: Mr. Rizzo (Rm. 273) Current project: Origins Mural	Green Team & Garden Club: Ms. Branagan & Ms. Cavallo (Rm. 271)	Mock Trial: Mr. Janosch (Court Room)	
Strategic Gaming: Mr. Diamantis & Ms. Sutjiawan (Rm. 227)		Student Government: Ms. Castillo & Mr. Elliott (Rm. 280)	Poetry & Music: Mr. Banks (Rm. 273)	

This month at Origins

February 26th

PA Meeting @ 6 pm, featuring:

- a discussion of the new school cell phone policy
- cell phone safety tips from the 61st precinct
- discussion of overnight trips

March 5th

SLT Meeting @ 5:30 pm

March 16th - 18th

OHS Roundtables - Alternate schedule for students

March 18th

Trimester Ends

March 19th

PA Meeting @ 6pm

