

# OREGON DAVIS<sup>TM</sup>

## *Schoolhouse*

Publication of Oregon-Davis School Corporation WINTER 2016

### 50 Years of Excellence



#### *What's Inside:*

Oregon Davis  
Welcomes New Superintendent

Jr.-Sr. High Students Hold First  
Veterans Day Program

Elementary Students Take on  
Indiana History Quilting Project

## Superintendent's Message

As the second semester of the 2015-16 school year commences, I am very honored to have been selected to serve as the Interim Superintendent of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation. Oregon-Davis is a district which cultivates excellence and innovation. O-D pupils are immersed in a host of instructional experiences designed to foster positive growth in our student body members. These experiences include academic, fine arts, extracurricular, and social activities that challenge our students and enhance the achievement of their full potential.



As a former teacher, coach, and building administrator, I realize the benefits that dynamic curricular and extra-curricular programs can provide, and it will be my goal to partner with the various members of the Oregon-Davis school community to ensure their continued implementation. Between the efforts of the School Board, our certified and non-certified staff members, and the surrounding community, Oregon-Davis School Corporation is a great place to learn. I am excited to be part of the O-D Bobcat family.

Sincerely,  
—Jim Dermody, Interim Superintendent



*We strive to prepare students for success in a changing world, and give them opportunities for a lifetime of learning.*

## Jr.-Sr. High School

### Students Donating Blankets to Kid's Closet Ministry

Students in Mrs. Radtke's resource period are making blankets to donate to Kid's Closet Ministry. KCM is an organization in Starke County that meets the needs of children without clothing, hygiene products, school supplies and the like. The students will make blankets to be delivered for the holidays. We appreciate theirs, Mrs. Radtke's, and the junior high students' desire to give back. This opportunity supports OD Jr./Sr. High's mission to increase community involvement.

### Students Sign National Letters of Intent

Congratulations to Lexi Minix, Taylor Kranenburg and Kyleigh Kubik on signing their National Letters of Intent on recently. Lexi will continue her basketball career at St. Joseph College, Taylor will attend St. Francis University, and Kayleigh will attend Grand Valley State University. Good luck to these ladies! They have made us all very proud!

### Students Nominated for SLYCE Program

Oregon-Davis School Corporation is proud to announce Alex Bope, Leena Tetzloff, Lance Campbell and John Clark are being nominated for the SLYCE (South Shore Leadership Youth for Community Engagement) Program.

In this program, students work with various community leaders to develop team building skills, learn about community issues and develop servant leadership skills. Hannah Clark is our current representative; her class is just coming to an end. For more information, please see the following link: <http://southshoreleadershipcenter.org/south-shore-leadership-youth-for-community-engagement-program/>.

OD wishes them the best and hopes one (or more!) are selected for the next class starting in January.

### Veterans Day Program

Two very caring teachers at OD Jr./Sr. High School thought it would be a great learning opportunity for students to honor local veterans with a Veterans Day Program. Ms. Caudill, Mr. Julian and their 10th graders worked hard to successfully organize their very successful Veterans Day program.

There was a wonderful turnout as 47 veterans attended. Mr. Carlin, Mr. Hogan, members of the FFA and members of the ninth grade class provided breakfast for the event. Everyone who attended shared positive feedback and the plan is to carry on with this tradition. OD Jr./Sr. High School would like to extend a warm thank you to all the veterans who have given so much for our freedoms.



*Quality education means not only putting students first, but giving them the best tools for their success.*



## Three Keys to Success

Oregon-Davis Jr/Sr High faculty and staff regularly emphasize three keys to succeeding throughout school: attendance, work ethic and extra participation. Students who show up on time, work hard and get involved will certainly get the most out of their middle school and high school years. This is not to say they will not face challenges. School should be challenging to adequately prepare students for life after graduation. Students who work on these three keys will find the strength within and the resources around them necessary to achieve in the face of obstacles. These keys not only help students to find academic success, but lifelong fulfillment.

## Elementary Schools

### OD Elementary Adds to Music Program

Music is such an important part of a child's education. OD Elementary has welcomed Joyce Anderson as the new music teacher and she is thrilled to be in this position! She has been in OD for 22 years, but this is her first year in music. Her goal for her students is for them to walk out of her classroom with a tune in their head and have a basic idea of how to read music.

This goal is being made possible first by learning to play boomwhackers (individual colorful plastic pipes representing the different notes in a musical scale). This is a new addition to the music room as of this year. Under Anderson's direction, second and third graders are able to play various songs. During this process, she speaks the note (boomwhacker) that needs to be played and provides the timing. At some point, students will be put into small groups and given a short piece of music that will reflect the colorful boomwhacker/notes and work on learning to play the song while reading the music on their own.

The music program was awarded a \$500 grant by Northern Indiana Community Foundation this past month for three musical keyboards for the classroom. Oregon-Davis School Corporation will match the amount of this grant, giving our music department \$1,000 to spend on the keyboards. Learning to play the keyboards will help reach the goal of teaching basic music skills to students. Instead of working in small groups, students will work individually on the keyboards.



*There is something to smile about at Oregon-Davis Elementary School!*

### Indiana History Quilting Project

April Max's students are making individual Indiana history quilts. Each student will design six blocks based on Indiana's history. They are researching the topics, writing a 5-paragraph paper on each topic, designing a quilt block with paper and colored pencil and creating four slides for a slide show about each block.

Max is making photo fabric and will run their blocks designs through a printer. Each block will have a fabric border added to it. Two local quilt guilds will be helping to put the blocks together and then the kids will tie their quilts. Each child will have a lap quilt or wall hanging to take home at the end of the year. In the spring, they will present their quilts with the slides at a quilt show which will be open to the public. Photos of the quilts will also be shared with the Indiana Historical Society.

This project was made possible through two grants that Max applied for. The first grant was from Donor's Choose and covered the cost of the ink. The second grant was from the Starke County Community Foundation. Fabric donations have also been received.

The most difficult part of grant writing is being able to share the project details in a limited amount of words. The grant applications limit the amount of words because the organizations have a limited amount of time to read the applications. Projecting costs, planning the project, and then conveying the project details to others are a lot of work! Max applied for four different grants to fund this project and was very fortunate to receive two grants.

### The Benefits of Reading Books

It is our goal that every student develops a passion for reading. We provide many opportunities on a daily basis for students to be exposed to a variety of texts. Every once and a while we are faced with the question, "Why do we have to read?" Here are a variety of ways to answer this question.

1. Reading exercises your brain.
2. Reading increases your ability to empathize with others.
3. Reading improves concentration and focus.
4. Reading helps develop creativity.
5. Reading is entertaining.
6. Reading provides knowledge and information.
7. Reading enriches language and vocabulary.
8. Reading reduces stress and puts you in a better mood.



*As a district, we have vowed to prepare students to reach high levels of academic success.*

## You're Invited!

The Oregon-Davis School Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, 5998 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN. You are invited to attend these meetings.

## Board of Education

Chris Lawrence .....President  
Kurt Hayes .....Vice President  
Shirley Budka .....Secretary  
Lee Nagai.....Member  
Andrea McIntosh .....Member

## Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, *Oregon-Davis Schoolhouse*, Oregon-Davis School Corporation, 5998 N. 750 E., Hamlet, IN 46532, or call (574) 867-2111.

## Contact Us

Jr.-Sr. High School .....(574) 867-4561  
Elementary .....(574) 867-2711  
Administration Office .....(574) 867-2111  
Fax .....(574) 867-8191

## Our Principals

Mr. Timothy Pletcher...Jr.-Sr. High School Principal  
Mr. William Bennett .....Elementary Principal

Check out our new Website



[odschools.org](http://odschools.org)



*Together, we can make the rest of the school year the best yet!*

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## District Calendar 2015-16

Feb. 15.....President's Day (no school, PMD)  
March 2-11 .....ISTEP Applied Skills  
March 8.....End of 3rd 9 Weeks Grading Period (45 days)  
March 25.....Good Friday (PMD)  
March 28-April 8.....Spring Vacation (no school)  
April 18 .....No School (PMD)  
April 27-May 15.....ISTEP Multiple Choice  
May 6.....No School-PMD  
May 26.....End of 4th 9 Weeks Grading Period (45 Days)  
May 27.....Last Student Day  
May 30.....Memorial Day (no school)  
May 31.....Teacher Record Day  
May 31-June 3.....PMDs  
June 3.....Graduation