

September 2019

BOCES BITS

To All OCM BOCES Staff:

Now that the new school year is off and running, I am truly grateful for all the time, energy and effort you put in over the summer and during these past few weeks to help us achieve a successful start. No matter what your role at OCM BOCES, it takes an enormous team effort to keep this



organization operating smoothly for our own employees as well as the students and staff in our 23 districts. Whether you work here all year long, part-time, or 10 or 11 months of the year, we can all appreciate the promise of a new school year, a new routine, and the fresh, changing colors of fall.

As many of you know, one of our Student Services themes for the 2019-20 school year focuses on wellness, a concept that applies to all of us at OCM BOCES. When our work or life is overwhelming, it is important for all of us to take care of ourselves so we can continue to do our jobs with care, energy and compassion. During our Opening Day kickoff for Student Services, a committee of educators shared 10, easy-to-do tips for maintaining wellness on a daily basis. These tips may sound obvious, but their effects on our well-being, both physically and emotionally, can have a profound impact toward improving and even lengthening our lives. I hope all of you will keep these tips in mind and do what you can to take care of yourself throughout the year:

1. Get enough sleep.
2. Get enough to eat.
3. Do some light exercise.
4. Vary the work you do.
5. Do something pleasurable.
6. Focus on what you did well.
7. Learn from your mistakes.
8. Share a private joke.

9. Meditate or relax.

10. Support a colleague.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a safe, healthy and successful school year. Thank you again for providing a smooth transition for our students and staff and for all you do to support OCM BOCES and the districts we serve.

Sincerely,



Colleen Viggiano
Deputy Superintendent, OCM BOCES

New vision plan offered at OCM BOCES

A new vision benefit is now available through Davis Vision to all benefit-eligible OCM BOCES employees. Employees who qualify can enroll in the plan for a Nov. 1, 2019 effective date. To learn more about this plan, visit davisvision.com/members and enter client code 9018. **If interested, the deadline to sign up is Sept. 13, 2019.**



For enrollment forms, visit the [Personnel website](#).

Search for a new OCM BOCES District Superintendent continues

Here is an update from Dr. Brian Hartwell, District Superintendent of Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, who is facilitating the process with our OCM BOCES Board of Education:

As you know, the OCM BOCES Board of Education is seeking a District Superintendent/CEO following the retirement in June of Dr. Jody Manning. The Commissioner of Education has appointed Dr. Brian K. Hartwell, District Superintendent of Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, to assist the OCM BOCES Board of Education as its search consultant. By law, a BOCES Board of Education has the responsibility to select a District Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education. To that end, a top priority of the OCM BOCES Board of Education is to hire a District Superintendent who will meet the emerging needs of the region, component districts, and the BOCES.

Dr. Hartwell has met with the Board of Education to outline their process and move the search forward. To date, the position is posted through September 13. A survey was also emailed (using Survey Monkey) to stakeholders. Preliminary interviews will be scheduled with Dr. Hartwell on a rolling basis. The Board of Education will meet again on September 25 to review applicants and select those who will move forward in the process.

As we move into the fall, stakeholder groups will be established and trained in preparation for final candidate interviews. Each stakeholder group, as well as the Board of Education, will interview finalists. The Board of Education will make the final decision on the candidate(s) to be interviewed by the Commissioner of Education. Although early, the process is on track.

We will be sure to provide regular updates as we move through the first semester.

Keep calm and listen to James Butler

Guest speaker James Butler kicked off the first week of school for about 550 OCM BOCES educators from the Student Services division, with a session about mindfulness. Butler's presentation focused on mindfulness practices to use inside and outside the classroom, tips for regaining your focus, and more. [Check out his website if you want to learn more.](#)



Setting goals and achieving results — video highlights from 2018-19

“Every year, we make a difference.” That was the theme of a new OCM BOCES video that highlights our Student Services goals and achievements from the 2018-19 school year. If you have not seen the video, grab some popcorn and head to YouTube to enjoy a celebration of our successes: [Goals & Results - 2019](#).

Training never stops in ISS

Our team of trainers in Instructional Support Services (ISS) worked hard over the summer to offer workshops and conferences on multiple topics for educators in our 23 component districts. Some of the most

hands-on work focused on the continued rollout of the state's Next Generation Science Standards.

The OCM BOCES Science Center has been busy preparing unit materials for the 1,656 classrooms that will be receiving Smithsonian Science units this year. STEM Coordinator Chris Leece and trainer Holly Baldwin have been providing professional development this summer for some of this year's newest titles including:

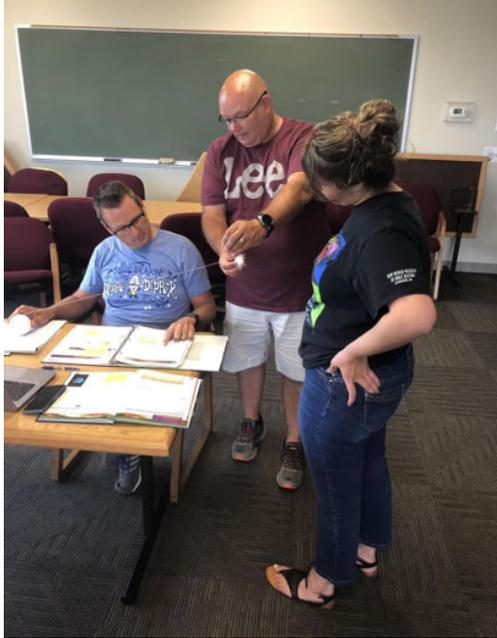
4th Grade: How Does Motion Energy Change in a Collision?



3rd Grade: How Do Weather and Climate Affect Our Lives?



6th Grade: Space Systems Exploration



5th Grade: How Can We Identify Materials Based on Their Needs?



See how students and teachers are meeting the New York State Science Standards with the Smithsonian Science Units by searching #OCMSscience on Twitter!

Nursing website puts OCM BOCES LPN program in state's Top 20

The OCM BOCES LPN program received a feather in its cap this summer when it was cited by the website nursingprocess.org as one of the top 20 LPN education programs in New York State. Ranking us at No. 10, the site says: "Armed with a noble mission to provide effective nursing education, Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES has carved a niche for itself in the field of healthcare. The academy has an experienced faculty that guides and supports students at every step."



New, colorful mural adds artistic flair to Innovation Tech

A large and eye-catching mural created by Innovation Tech Facilitator **Christine Alexander** greeted students for the first time this year as they entered the high school at our Thompson Road Campus. The welcoming mural describes the qualities of an ideal high school graduate and espouses the primary tenants of a New Tech School:



- Teaching that engages
- Culture that empowers
- Outcomes that matter
- Technology that enables

Best wishes to all of our New Tech students and staff in Syracuse and Cortland as they embark on another school year!

Welding student gives Helping Hounds a hand

Alivia Allen, a senior from Baldwinsville, is helping an organization she loves because of the welding skills she picked up in the OCM BOCES Career & Technical Education program at our Thompson Road Campus. Since last spring, Alivia has fixed three kennels at the Helping Hounds Dog Rescue on Kinne Road in DeWitt by welding doors and fixing wiring. Until Alivia volunteered, the organization had put the kennels out of commission and expected to hire a professional welder to get them fixed. Instead, Alivia did the work herself with a little guidance from her father, Randy. “It felt really good to help them out like that and save them hundreds of dollars to hire a welder,” said Alivia, who volunteers at the shelter with her mother, Maryellen. After her high school graduation, Alivia hopes to become a professional welder in Florida.



Don't forget security awareness training

In light of increased cyberattacks targeted at schools and other organizations across the country, all employees at OCM BOCES are required to undergo security awareness training by the end of September. As Deputy Superintendent **Colleen Viggiano** said, “As we begin this new academic year, all too many school districts across the country are spending this time working through the confusion and frustration of data breaches and ransomware attacks. It is an important time for all of us to learn more about these threats and how we can protect information about our own students, staff, and the school districts we serve.”



This fully interactive training, which was shared with all employees through an email, takes participants through four modules: Your Role, Common Threats, Social Engineering Red Flags and Danger Zone. You'll also learn from real-world scenarios showing you strategies and techniques hackers use to take control of an organization like ours. The training also covers the seven areas of an email that can contain red flags that alert you to a possible attack.

As the training demonstrates, “most of these dangers are the result of our own actions,” Viggiano said. “By learning more about those dangers, we can each contribute to the safety and well-being of BOCES and the people we serve.”

Spread the word! OCM BOCES is hiring

Teaching assistants: If you know of anyone who might be interested in a career as a teaching assistant in the Cortland County region, OCM BOCES is still looking to fill positions. Just point them to [the teaching assistant job posting](#) under the "Careers" tab at ocmboces.org. In this [TA recruitment video](#), a few of our own teaching assistants at OCM BOCES share the rewards and benefits of their careers at OCM BOCES.

Teachers: OCM BOCES also has openings for teaching positions in Cortland and Onondaga Counties. Applications accepted online only. Register and apply at www.olasjobs.org/central. For more information, visit our website at www.ocmboces.org. OCM BOCES is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Say goodbye to the 70th anniversary logo

Now that our OCM BOCES 70th anniversary is over, don't forget to remove our special anniversary logo from email



signatures, documents and other sources. Instead, please use our official OCM BOCES logo, which you can right-click and save here. In just a few short years, we'll be gearing up to celebrate our 75th “diamond” anniversary.

Check out the new Network Operations Center

Earlier this summer, work began to create a new Network Operations Center (NOC) at the Central New York Regional Information Center. The new space allows for the multiple technical support departments to work together in one space, while enhancing communication and collaboration. Check out the updated NOC in the photos below.



Congratulations, Adult Education graduates!



OCM BOCES proudly celebrated the accomplishments of hundreds of Adult Education students at two graduation ceremonies this summer. Ceremonies held at North Syracuse Junior High School and the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College in July and August brought together the friends and families of LPN, Career Training, and Literacy graduates. For photos from the graduations, visit our OCM BOCES Adult Education Facebook page. www.facebook.com/ocmboces.ae/

Each year, hundreds of people come to OCM BOCES for education, training or retraining through our adult programs. To learn more about OCM BOCES Adult Education programs, visit our website at ocmboces.org/adulted.

Golf tournament helps students

Our annual Jack Gallaher Scholarship Golf Tournament was a huge success! Thank you to all the sponsors and teams who participated in our tournament Aug. 14 at Sunset Ridge Golf Club in Marcellus. It was a beautiful day for golf, with clear skies and perfect temperatures.



Since 1997, the Jack Gallaher Helping Hand Fund has provided scholarships and other financial assistance to Adult Education students who face hardships during their workforce training programs. We truly appreciate all the sponsors, teams and volunteers who supported the tournament this year.

[Check out this video about one of our scholarship recipients, Courtney Crader](#) (in photo), a welding student who needed a financial boost to complete the program and is now starting a new job.

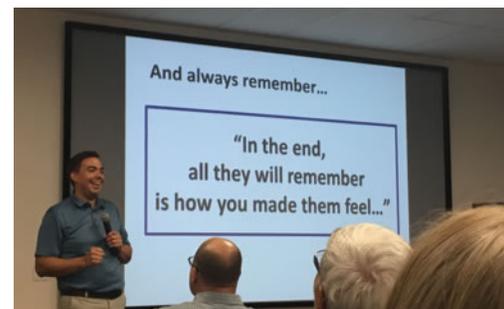
CNYRIC launches research and design program

You wouldn't buy a car before test driving it, so why buy the latest technology before making sure it is what you're looking for? For districts interested in testing out the latest devices and applications, a dedicated space to do so has been developed at the CNYRIC. This space will allow districts to test, plan, purchase and deploy new technology. In light of this new effort, CNYRIC Project Manager **Kevin Clapp** has taken on the role of managing projects for all school districts. Additionally, Director of Technology **James "Jim" O'Connor** has been named as head of the new Research and Design initiative. Congratulations to Kevin and Jim!

CNYRIC staff day focuses on the magic of Disney and communication

Staff at the CNYRIC recently participated in a day focused on communication for their annual CNYRIC Staff Development Day. The day began with a talk from **Mark D. Mambretti**, a principal at East Aurora Middle School and a graduate of the Disney Institute for Leadership

Excellence. Mambretti discussed the Disney customer experience and how to create the Disney "magic" in our own daily lives and with our customers. Following this speaker, employees were encouraged to break out into different sessions focused on communication styles and communication in the workplace, the Google Suite, email etiquette, customer service, and a tour of the new Network Operations Center. Thanks to everyone who participated in the day!



Fall is a great time to learn something new!

Interested in learning a new skill? Excited about trying a fun class with family or friends? [Check out our newest course catalog to find a part-time class for you!](#)

You can also learn about our programs by stopping at an Open House at 1 p.m. every Thursday at our Main Campus, 110 Elwood Davis Road in Liverpool, or at 1 p.m. every Thursday at 1710 NYS Route 13 in Cortland.



2019 Notice of Availability, Asbestos Management Plans

As provided under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40 CFR 763), the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services hereby makes known the steps it has undertaken to comply with AHERA and the availability of asbestos management plans.

1. In 1988, OCM BOCES contracted with the firm of O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc. of Syracuse, NY to survey our buildings and construct a management plan for each of our facilities. Mandatory re-inspections have been performed every three years since then. The last re-inspection was conducted in June 2019. Management plans for applicable facilities were updated accordingly.
2. The re-inspection information was submitted to the State Education Department as required.
3. Periodic surveillance is conducted on a six-month cycle.
4. The Maintenance and Operations staff have completed an Awareness Training program.
5. All response actions taken are within Federal and State guidelines.

AHERA Management plans may be viewed by appointment at the Thompson Road Administration Building, Health, Safety and Risk Management Office during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. For additional information or appointment, please contact: David Daignault, Coordinator of Health & Safety Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES Thompson Road Campus Operations & Maintenance Building Syracuse, NY 13211 (315) 431-8591.

Get social with OCM BOCES

We are #OCMProud. We're proud to be a part of OCM BOCES and we want to hear why you are too. Share your good news, stories and successes with us using #OCMProud.

OCM BOCES is now on Instagram! Follow the OCM BOCES Instagram account [@ocm.boces](https://www.instagram.com/ocm.boces) and the OCM BOCES Adult Education account [@ocmboces.ae](https://www.instagram.com/ocmboces.ae) today!

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, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube account 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](https://www.facebook.com/ocmboces) and Instagram ([@ocm.boces](https://www.instagram.com/ocm.boces)) and **follow us** on Twitter ([@ocmboces](https://twitter.com/ocmboces)).

Need help? Don't 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 once each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org or Katie Jensen at kjensen@ocmboces.org.

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