

# Bulldog Bulletin

**“All children can learn”**  
Washington Junior High School  
Oglesby Public Schools 125

## Coaching Openings

We have two paid positions that are currently not filled and our students need a person to lead the event.

- 5th/6th boys basketball
- Track assistant

If you or anyone you know may be interested in these positions, please have them contact Mr. Merritt Burns.

burnsm@ops125.net  
815-883-3517



## TeacherEase

Parents, be sure to access TeacherEase to keep your information up to date and to monitor your child’s grades. This also helps to keep communication lines open between school & home.

## Principal Notes:

### Data Discussions

Each week our students will be engaging in conversations with our staff members about student grades in the classroom, grades on district assessments along with general check-ins to make sure the students are doing well.

These discussions are intended to be a further development towards helping the students own their actions, which creates the scores that are reported on TeacherEase.

Each student was chosen by a staff member to speak with our staff at the end of the day. Some students may have a conversation twice a week, if we feel they need some additional conversations.

Last year, we had students complete student data tracker worksheets in an attempt to have them own their data/grades. However, we felt as though that was a good starting point, but left us with more understanding as adults and a little more ownership from the kids.

This next step we are optimistic will really enlighten the students and the staff to best support students on their journey through middle school. While we are not 100% positive about how this will play out and how successful the program will be, we appreciate the conversation and support in this endeavor with the students and we know that these will allow us to have more meaningful discussions with parents about their child at parent-teacher conferences and beyond.

## Superintendent Notes:

On behalf of the administration, school board and the staff, I would like to welcome all of you to Oglesby Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year. I would like to introduce new staff that we have this year:

Heather Weber (3-5 Special Ed. Cross-Categorical), Lindsay Nagle (Junior High Science), Victoria Duttlinger (Junior High Math), Bailey Simpson (2nd grade), Mackenzie Tillman (3rd grade), Jordan Pyatt (District Nurse), Betsy Caputo (1:1 aide), Amy Lund (Junior High aide), Carrie Willoughby (Junior High aide), Wendy Woulfe (library/steam/media).

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing the best we can for your children. We have many great additions from last year that include updates to curriculum, updates to technology and updates to buildings. Washington school has all new windows and some paint throughout it. We are excited to start the year off successfully and looking forward to a great year with our students.

**SEPTEMBER MENUS FOR WASHINGTON: Click [here](#)**

## Nurse's Notes

Physical Examination & immunizations: Students in grades K & 6 must submit proof of physical examination and immunizations no later than October 15, 2023 to remain in attendance.

Dental Clinic: Orland Park Dental Services will be coming to OPS soon! Stay tuned for the date. Eligible students will receive a cleaning, fluoride treatment, and sealants if needed. Sealants are a protective coating on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. This program is offered for all grades, but the state requires K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> graders to have a mandatory dental exam prior to May 15, 2024. This dental exam will fulfill this requirement. Forms have been sent home with your students. Please return them to school **by Thursday, August 31** if you would like your child to participate.

Vision examinations: All kindergarten students are required to submit proof of a vision examination.

## Upcoming Dates

- ⇒ September 4: No School, Labor Day
- ⇒ September 11: Red, White, Blue Day
- ⇒ September 11: GBB games begin
- ⇒ September 12: Blue & Gold Day
- ⇒ September 13 & 20: Early Dismissal
- ⇒ September 20: Board Meeting, 5:30pm

### **Medicaid Data Release/Special Education Students:**

If your child receives special education services and is also Medicaid eligible, District 125 can seek partial reimbursement from Medicaid for health services documented in your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Medicaid reimbursement is a source of federal funds approved by Congress to help school districts maintain and improve diagnostic and therapeutic services for students. The reimbursement process requires the school district to provide Medicaid with your child's name, birth date and Medicaid number. Federal law requires annual notification of our intent to pursue this reimbursement opportunity. If you approve of the release of information to Medicaid, do nothing. If you object to the release of information to Medicaid, now or at any time in the future, please state your objection in writing and forward it to the district office. Regardless of your decision the district must continue to provide, at no cost to you, the services listed in your child's IEP. Your continued consent allows the district to recover a portion of the costs associated with providing health services to your child.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Girls Basketball games start on Monday, September 12. Coach Madison Pearson will be leading the 7th & 8th grade girls, while Coach Caitlin Nelson will be leading the 5th & 6th grade girls.

Game schedules can be found on the [www.ops125.net](http://www.ops125.net) website or by clicking on the following link:

### [Game Schedule](#)

If you were unable to attend the mandatory sports meeting please ensure you complete [the Google Form](#) required of all parents of athletes. It **MUST** be submitted before students compete in an activity.

An updated physical needs to be annually completed and submitted to the main office before participation in practices/games can occur for all 5th, 7th & 8th grade athletes.

Boys Basketball will begin practices in October so please be looking ahead to make sure your child has a physical and you have completed the necessary paperwork in advance of the practices.

Second Step Curriculum: In compliance with the Illinois Children's Mental Health Act Public Act 93-0495 (SB 1951). Oglesby Elementary District #125 will employ the Second Step: Violence Prevention Curriculum in grades Preschool through 8. Second Step is a curriculum which addresses the issue of interpersonal violence among children and adolescents. It is designed to reduce their impulsive and aggressive behavior and increase their level of social competence through empathy training, interpersonal problem solving, behavioral skill training and anger management.



## **Sick Student?**

We take every effort to communicate home to parents & students about any activities or assignments that they may have missed. Please make sure that you or your child are looking at our website for the daily homework packet. It is updated in real-time and provides links and worksheets students need. Click [here](#).