



"Where Students Come First"

Community Newsletter

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Lancaster Subdivision Annexation

Residents of the Lancaster subdivision, which is located on O'Plaine Road, north of Route 137, petitioned the Regional Board of Trustees in June of 2012, asking that their properties be detached from Woodland Consolidated School District 50 and Warren Township High School District (WTHS) 121 and annexed into Oak Grove School District 68 and Libertyville High School District 128.

The petition was opposed by all four school districts. Hearings were held in front of the Regional Board of Trustees and on January 3, 2013, the petition was denied, meaning the Lancaster subdivision would remain in the Woodland and WTHS school districts.

The Lancaster residents then appealed to the Circuit Court, which overturned the ROE decision, declaring the detachment from Woodland and WTHS and annexation to Oak

Grove and District 128 to take place. Again, all four school districts opposed the appeal.

Following the Circuit Court's decision, the four school districts appealed the decision to the Illinois Appellate Court system. After hearing the case, the Appellate Court affirmed the Circuit Court decision, meaning the Lancaster annexation to Oak Grove and Libertyville High School should take place.

The four affected school districts then appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court, asking them to hear the case, and overturn the lower courts' rulings. We were notified on January 29, 2015 that the IL Supreme Court would not hear the case.

Thus, effective July 1, 2015 for all purposes, the school district boundaries will change for all students living in the Lancaster subdivision. They will attend Oak Grove for grades K-8 and Libertyville High School for grades 9-12.

We estimate there will be 40-50 extra students at Oak Grove beginning in the fall of 2015. The registration process occurs before the end of the current school year, from which we should have a more accurate number of new students.



Meet the Board Candidates

On Tuesday, April 7th, voters will have the opportunity to fill three open seats on the Oak Grove Board of Education. For helpful information on how to choose a board candidate, please visit <http://bit.ly/1obUmoo>

Marty Jacobs

Marty Jacobs is a 30 year resident of Green Oaks. His three children are K-8 graduates of Oak Grove School, each having received an excellent education at the Grove. Mr. Jacobs has BA, MEd, and JD Degrees and holds an Illinois Certificate in teaching and one in educational administration as well as an Illinois Attorney's License. In 2008 he retired after 33 years in public education. Mr. Jacobs wants to be a member of the school board because he feels it is his time to give back to the community that has given him so much, and knows the value of being able to bring a career's worth of experience in the field of education to the BOE. Mr. Jacobs believes that he will be an enhancement to an already outstanding school district, and looks forward to joining our fine staff of teachers, administrators, and support staff with the goal of helping to make a great district even better.



requirements that will drive our vision for the future of Oak Grove School. She is confident that this vision will help the District prioritize its investments, reduce waste and improve our operational processes so that we can best meet the needs of our students, within the District's available budget.

Lane Hasler

Lane Hasler is the current Board Vice-President seeking a second term. Lane and his wife, Katie, have two children, Julia who is in sixth grade and Owen who started at Oak Grove School in first grade and is now a junior at Libertyville High School. Mr. Hasler is an attorney with his own practice specializing in corporate restructurings and construction. During Lane's time on the Board, the Oak Grove School has undergone dramatic changes in Board operations, the School's Administration and in the building itself and the technology used in the classrooms. Mr. Hasler assisted in the creation of the Board's Finance and Facilities Committees and served as the first chair for each.



Amy Frantz

Amy Frantz and her husband, Jeff, have lived in the District for the last eight years. They have a daughter in 2nd grade, and sons in 6th and 7th grade. Mrs. Frantz has served as a classroom and PTO volunteer, chaired PTO Committees, and was the PTO Secretary in 2012-2013. As an active member of the community, she wants to help Oak Grove continue to offer an excellent education in a nurturing environment. Mrs. Frantz graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications. She has twelve years of experience working as a Project Manager in the Communications industry, and plans to utilize her communications background to help define a clear process for communication inside and outside of the District. Mrs. Frantz will leverage her project management experience to work with all stakeholders to maintain and improve our long-term strategic plan to meet the ever-changing



The Finance Committee developed review and reporting procedures in response to financial issues. Mr. Hasler oversaw the replacement of the internal business manager position with an arrangement with District 70 (Libertyville) so both districts share the same business manager. The Facilities Committee introduced management and planning procedures, which formed the basis for a comprehensive building and grounds renovation and also provides the framework for future maintenance and improvement. Starting with a comprehensive study of the existing building, Lane led a five year program which will be completed this summer and included new Junior High science classrooms, cafeteria, and locker and restrooms, a professional development center, refurbishing the insides of classrooms, air-conditioning the entire building and new playgrounds. The Facilities Committee is now

the Facilities and Tech Committee in recognition of the importance of technology in our classrooms. Starting with a comprehensive study of the existing technology and a separate study of how technology is used in education, Mr. Hasler led the District's change in how it managed technology both in terms of personnel and how devices and applications are selected and implemented in the classrooms. Mr. Hasler continues to chair this committee. During his tenure, Mr. Hasler assisted in the selection of Superintendent Dr. Lemon and hiring of Curriculum Director Mrs. Cacciatore who have each brought positive change to Oak Grove School.

The Board is currently negotiating a renewal of the District's contract with the teaching staff, and Mr. Hasler serves as the Board's co-representative in working with the Union on reaching a new contract. Mr. Hasler appreciates the support he has received and would like to continue the current work and provide continuity for the Board and Oak Grove School.

Anthony Giamis

Dr. Giamis and his wife, Liz, have lived in Libertyville with their two children, Zachary and Christopher, since 2011. Dr. Giamis works as a scientist/business manager for Integrated Science and Technology (iSAT) at Abbvie, where his primary role is to produce imaging agents for drug discovery. Dr. Giamis earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Rochester Institute of Technology, a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Syracuse University, and has worked at Emory University Hospital in the Nuclear Medicine Department. While at Emory, Dr. Giamis was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Fellow. This appointment allowed Dr. Giamis to focus on "Best Practices" for curriculum development in the science and mathematics programs for undergraduates. In his spare time, Dr. Giamis is active in Scouting, and is currently the Scoutmaster for Troop 71 in Libertyville. Dr. Giamis served as the Committee Chair for Oak Grove Pack 194 from 2011 to early 2015 and has participated in several Scout Pack and District leadership roles over the last three years. Dr. Giamis plans to work with the OGS administration, teachers, and parents



to uphold and advance Oak Grove's excellence in education. If elected, Dr. Giamis would bring patience and teamwork to improve communications between the Board of Education and the community, use his experience with curriculum development to strengthen our programs, and provide analytics to address accountability.

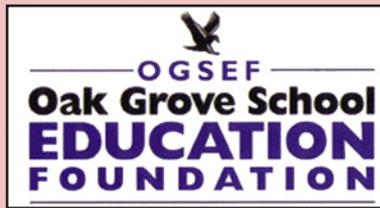
Elaine Vong-Salton

Elaine Vong-Salton and her husband, Greg, have lived in the Oak Grove School district since 2000. They have three children: Natalie (OGS class of 2009) who is a sophomore at the University of Michigan, and two current OGS students, William and Eleanor. Mrs. Vong-Salton graduated from the University of Michigan with a B. S. in Chemical Engineering and has worked at Abbott Laboratories Diagnostic Division as a manager, process engineer, and project manager.



Mrs. Vong-Salton understands the importance of relational trust between stakeholders at Oak Grove School, which includes parents, teachers, administration and considers it the responsibility of board members to ensure this relational trust. Mrs. Vong-Salton seeks to balance fiscal responsibility with OGS strategic needs to maintain Oak Grove School as an outstanding district and will strive to work with the administration to define and clarify a change management process at OGS. Lastly, by drawing upon her experience in business, Mrs. Vong-Salton would work with fellow board members, administration and teachers to work to improve OGS using innovation in a cost effective manner.

Mrs. Vong-Salton has volunteered her time and expertise at Oak Grove in many ways: as a member of the 2013 Strategic Planning team; as a founding member of the school foundation, serving as Vice President 2006-2009; as a member of the Foreign Language Task Force 2011; as project manager for the Junior High playground renovation project 2009; as a member of the 21st Century Learning Team 2010; and art awareness volunteer for 13 years. Mrs. Vong-Salton has also been a Girl Scout troop leader for 12 years.



The Oak Grove School Education Foundation (OGSEF) supports our teachers as they create engaging, empowering and inspiring new educational possibilities for our future leaders – our children! With the help of the parents, community residents and businesses, OGSEF invests in students at Oak Grove School by funding grants that enable teachers to differentiate programming in the classroom and incubate new ideas in areas such as STEM, Arts & Language, Social and Emotional Learning, Physical Activity and Innovation & Creativity.

OGSEF grants have funded over 20 programs to enhance our student’s educational experience. A few highlights include:

The Science of Baseball/Science of Sport: Started at MIT and introduced into the second and third grade classrooms, this program leverages our love of sport to explore fractions, physics, engineering and more!

Robotics: This integration of STEM Robotics curriculum into 7th Grade introduces students to programming mobile robots, applying measurement and geometry to calculate robot navigation, and much more.

Daily 5 Professional Development: The Daily 5 is an organized system to help students gain the skills to become independent in their literacy development through daily activities: Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing, Word Work, and Read to Someone. Our Kindergarten teachers are attending a professional development conference to learn how to take the next steps in Daily 5 and work with students individually and in small groups to address specific needs in reading development.

How Can You Help?

Innovation knows no bounds, but it does require funding to fuel these programs! We have several ways for our parents and greater community to help support these education initiatives!

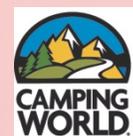
Leave your mark at Oak Grove! Our children's memories of their time at Oak Grove will last a lifetime, so take this opportunity to leave a permanent mark with a custom brick in the new Elementary playground. Pavers will be available for order/installation in the fall. Visit <http://conta.cc/1Gf2FcO> to learn more about this program!

Save the Date – The Grove Gala 2016! Our biennial Spring Gala will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Independence Grove. Mark your calendars and look for more information on tickets in the fall. This is a party you will not want to miss!

Visit our Website! Visit www.ogsef.org for more information the Foundation, to make a donation, volunteer or learn more about becoming one of our valued Business Partners!

We would like to thank our parents, teachers, staff, community and OGSEF Business Partners for your continued support!

OGSEF Business Partner Program Members



OGSEF is a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization

1 to 1 at Oak Grove

In May of 2014, the Board of Education unanimously approved the purchase of enough iPad Airs and iPad Minis to assign to every student in grades K-5. By reallocating the laptops already owned by the school to the students in grades 6-8, we were able to provide a personal device to every student at Oak Grove. This was a great step forward, and it has had a tremendous impact on teaching and learning.

We are now taking the next step with our iPad take-home pilot. Almost 100% of the parents of students in grades 3 and 4 expressed an interest in this pilot, attending informational sessions and signing off on our expectations and their responsibilities. So far the pilot has been going very well!



The vast majority of parents were very supportive of having students bring devices home to work on school-related activities, but some parents initially wondered whether it would be better for students to use their own iPads at home rather than a school-owned device. There are some distinct advantages to using a school-owned iPad at home:

- any content that gets saved on a school-owned iPad is now available to students at home
- all internet activity is filtered at home through the same web filter that students use at school
- the only apps on the iPad are ones that were chosen by teachers, and students add or remove apps
- tech support is available

We hope to collect some good data from this pilot, and if it is successful, we plan to expand the take home program to include other grade levels. Please visit 1to1.orgschool.org for more information.

PARCC Assessments

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers. These assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy give teachers, schools, students, and parents better information about whether students are on track in their learning and for success after high school, and tools to help teachers customize learning to meet student needs. Oak Grove students in grades 3-8 recently finished the first round of assessments, and will participate in the end-of-year (EOY) sessions during the first week of May.

PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should work as a tool for enhancing teaching and learning. The assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and were designed to help to ensure that every child is on a path to college and career readiness by measuring what students should know at each grade level.



There are some significant differences between the PARCC assessments and the ISAT tests they replaced. The PARCC tests are designed to be taken on a tablet or computer, a major shift from the pencil and paper tests of old. The math portion of the PARCC assessment does not have any multiple choice type questions; it requires students to write a response or complete math problems and type the correct answer without choices displayed.

The ELA portion of the PARCC assessment has some multiple choice answers but may contain two or more correct responses. Follow up questions that are dependent on how the student responded to the first question. Since the March section of the PARCC test is called the Performance Based Assessment (PBA), it took more time to complete the test than the section our students will complete in May, the End of Year (EOY) section. In May, our students will only have two math and two ELA sections, both with shorter testing windows than this past round and they will look more like the previous ISAT but addressing our current standards.

Oak Grove Renovations

In 2010, the Oak Grove Board of Education embarked on a strategic plan to modernize our facilities. The original building was built in 1954 and additional wings were added in 1960, 1964, 1971, 1977 and 1991. Currently, the District proudly educates approximately 805 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade.



demolition

of its record so far of providing a first rate facility while being good stewards of district finances.

To date, the District has invested approximately \$7,500,000 on improvements. We are nearing the end of our plan and are scheduled to make another \$4,500,000 worth of improvements in the summer of 2015. When complete, the building will be completely air-conditioned and technology will have been upgraded in every classroom. There will be some work remaining for the summer of 2016, but the project will be coming to a close.

Improvements have been made to modernize the oldest sections of the building first. The first project was the renovation of the Junior High cafeteria and the creation of a state of the art science lab for 7th graders. During each project, the classrooms have been renovated, technology and lighting upgraded, new heating and air conditioning installed, and flooring upgraded in the classrooms and hallways.

First, the District, working with Ruck Pate Architects, conducted a complete facility analysis. Next, the District began to formulate a Master Facilities plan. The goal has been to renovate the entire building without needing to borrow any monies, or sell bonds. This is virtually unheard of and the Board of Education is proud

With each subsequent renovation the past three summers, a master blueprint has been followed. The rooms are designed to be age appropriate. The science labs for 6th and 8th grades have been renovated and are outstanding learning environments. The school's restrooms have been remodeled and updated as part of the renovations. The Junior High gymnasium has been renovated and air-conditioned.

District administrative offices were also consolidated as part of the plan and a staff professional development room was created. As part of all improvements, the District has elected to replace cabinetry, ceilings, and lighting in order to reduce overall maintenance costs and to conserve energy.

The PTO and Oak Grove School Educational Foundation partnered to build a new elementary playground and to replace the mulch on the junior high playground. We solicited the opinions of all district students in the design. This past August we proudly unveiled the new playground. The PTO, OGSEF, and school board raised \$250,000 to install a state of the art facility. It is a great asset to not only our school, but to our community. Come visit!

This is a great time to be an Oak Grove Eagle. The District, parents, students, and community should be proud of the work completed to date. Our school is in a position to lead the way into the 21st century and on a path to continued success today and into the future.



new elementary playground sponsored by the PTO and the OGSEF



updated classroom



newly designed science lab



professional development room



big checks for the playground

The Oak Grove PTO

The purpose of the Oak Grove Parent Teacher Organization is to foster a close relationship between the home and school, thereby creating an atmosphere where parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently to raise the educational standards of the school, assist the children in their development, and further the spirit of cooperation among parents, teachers and the community.

In pursuit of these goals, the PTO sponsors a number of fundraisers and programs, including the following: Variety Show, Programs and Speakers (Assemblies), Red Ribbon Week and Snowflake for drug prevention, Welcome New Family Night, Mall in the Hall, Pancake Breakfast, K-7 Social

Nights, Book Fairs, School Directory, Ice Cream Socials, Spirit Wear, and our biggest... Hot Lunch Program.

The PTO cannot exist without the involvement and membership of the parents and teachers of Oak Grove School. The organization welcomes new parents to the school and thanks its present members for their support and effort in achieving its success.

To learn how to get involved, please email your interest to pto@ogschool.org.

Oak Grove School District 68
1700 S. O'Plaine Road
Green Oaks, Illinois 60048

**GREAT NEWS FROM
OAK GROVE SCHOOL!!!**



Non Profit
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Libertyville, IL

Carrier Route
Pre-Sort

ECRWSS

Residential Postal Customer

Negotiation Update *a message from the BOE*

During our first negotiation session with the OGEA, we emphasized the respect and appreciation the Board of Education has for our teachers, who are truly at the heart of our students' learning success and our OGS reputation. Both the Board and the OGEA have committed to conducting these negotiations with mutual professionalism and collegiality, and have agreed that we will keep discussions related to this matter between adults and out of the classroom.

As your elected School Board representatives, we acknowledge our duty to serve as responsible stewards of both educational excellence and taxpayer resources. This means that we strive to make all decisions in a manner that protects and advances the quality of teaching and student learning, while continuously reviewing and improving efficiency and effectiveness to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability in our District.

Moving forward, consistent with our Strategic Plan and communications action team, we will continue to keep the Oak Grove School District 68 community informed of the status of our ongoing contract negotiations as appropriate at key milestones in the process.

In closing, as always, we thank you for your ongoing support of Oak Grove School and our students.

- The Oak Grove School District 68 Board of Education

Jennifer Manski, President
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Harold Sargent

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