

Old Town High School

"Where Students are Challenged to Learn and Supported to Succeed."

School Board Report –January 2018

MID-TERM EXAMS

The week of January 16th thru January 20th, is mid-term exam week at OTHS. We do all of our exams during the time that classes regularly fall in the school day. This eliminates the need for us to re-create a new schedule and cause another change for students who are already a bit anxious about the tests to begin with. In addition, our schedule allows for no disruption to programming for our UTC students. When students are not taking mid-terms, classes will proceed as usual. We do not follow the practice of some high schools who only hold mid-terms this week and allow students to leave campus if they are not testing.

I suspect that we will continue to have a conversation around the value of mid-term exams in a proficiency-based learning environment. There are a handful of schools, including a couple in our area that have moved away from them already. I would not be surprised to see us go this route at some point in the next two to three years as more of our four classes fall under our new grading/reporting system.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

With a myriad of game postponements already this winter sports season, we found ourselves in a place where we had to schedule games during our mid-term exam week. We have tried to stay away from that in years past, but this season we were a bit behind with no other real solution. I don't love the idea, but we were faced with few, if any other good options.

Something else to keep in mind - it is pretty common for outsiders to think that just because we have an open date on our schedule that we should be able to play make-up games on those dates. An open date for our teams is only a part of the equation, as you still have to have a matching open date for the opposing team, **and** you have to be able to secure officials through the assigner. Game officials are getting fewer in number, and those that are still in the business are very busy. In addition, athletic directors and assigners do try to steer clear of over-loading weeks for both players and officials for a lot of good reasons. All of those factors play into how difficult it can be to make-up games when they are postponed.

For a complete rundown of all winter sports schedules & results, check our web-site at this link:
<https://sites.google.com/a/rsu34.k12.me.us/old-town-high-school/athletics/schedules-2>

OTHS PROM

For those of you who were disappointed that the OTHS Prom was off-site last year, your worries that the move was permanent may be over. Our students have clearly indicated that their preference is to be in MacKenzie Gymnasium. We have a group of students and parents who have begun planning, and we have a staff member who will be assisting them. This will be the first year in the last ten without the creative magic of the Stan & Rachel Peterson duo, but I have seen the initial plans and I am confident that there are many hands who will help make this a memorable event for our students. The OTHS Prom will be held on the evening of Saturday, May 12th.

ACADEMIC AWARDS BREAKFAST

On Tuesday, January 9th, we recognized 85 students who had earned either their academic letter or service bar. Academic letters and service bars are earned based on what level of the honor roll students achieve at the end of each quarter. A student who earns highest honors gains 10 points, while high honors is worth 5 points, and honors is worth 3 points. When a student reaches a certain pre-determined level of points they earn the right to be recognized at either our academic awards breakfast in January, or our spring awards night in May. This point system was developed by long-time OTHS Principal, Don Sturgeon and has not been altered since. We love the breakfast ceremony, because it preserves an evening for these high performing academic students as a large percentage of them are involved in one or more activities outside of the classroom. We filled the cafeteria with parents and students and our RSU 34 Food Service crew provided us with some amazing scones and cinnamon buns. Thanks, Steph!

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING NON-ATHLETIC EVENTS

Tuesday, January 16 – Friday, January 19	Mid-Term Exams
Monday, February 19- Friday, February 23	February Vacation
Saturday, March 3	OTHS Semi-Formal
Friday, March 9 – Saturday, March 10	MPA One Act Drama Festival
Friday, March 9	3 rd Quarter Progress Reports
Monday, March 19 – Friday, March 23	Winter Carnival Week
Monday, March 26	Spring Sports Season begins
Saturday, March 24	JROTC Military Ball
Friday, March 30	End of 3 rd Quarter

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH – ‘JANUARY 2018’

Grade 9 – Karina Hannon
Grade 10 – Sydney Sheehan
Grade 11 – Adam Regan
Grade 12 – Corinne Saucier
Staff of the Month – Rad Mayfield

Enrollment (as of January 15, 2018)

Grade 12	132
Grade 11	123
Grade 10	128
Grade 9	136
TOTAL	519

UTC Enrollment 55

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott W. Gordon

**Scott Gordon
Principal**