



The Thurmanator Thought...

As many of you have now heard, Olympia High School was recognized as one of three winners of a competitive grant from Monsanto's "America's Farmers Grow Rural Education" program. The Grant award of \$25,000 has been awarded to the Olympia district and plans for the project selected are in place and ready for implementation. Olympia CUSD 16 is excited and honored to have been announced as the Illinois recipient of the award from Crop Reporting District #4. The following is a brief excerpt describing the program to be funded by the \$25,000 Monsanto Grant.

"Olympia CUSD 16 is seeking grant dollars to implement a "grow our own" vegetable program utilizing our District Greenhouse and anticipated hydroponics program. Grant dollars would be utilized to provide professional development on hydroponics, build a curriculum, associated costs to grow/serve vegetables, and most importantly, teach and assess student learning in math and science. The program would be a continuous program, starting in the fall with education in seed production, moving to hands on growing, harvesting, and serving of vegetables in the spring. Our ultimate goal is to increase science and math achievement by exposing students to advanced principles of chemistry, ecology, algebra, horticulture, and physical sciences."

We applaud all those involved in making this program come to fruition through their outstanding efforts in proposing the project and writing this grant application. The grant project team included business manager, Andrew Wise, department chair and science teacher, Chris Embry-Mohr, FFA sponsor and agriculture teacher, Corinne Schaidle, department chair and math teacher Sara Kleinschmidt, food services director, Mary Idleman, and principal, Lance Thurman.

Superintendent Brad Hutchison accepted the honor and award at the National Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Illinois on August 30, 2011. Superintendent Hutchison was accompanied by Dr. Andrew Wise, Matt Alexander, and David Glenn.

A big thank you goes out to our area farmers who supported the grant and voted for Olympia!

Important Dates

October

- 10 No School Columbus Day
- 11 Board of Education Mtg.
Financial Aid Meeting
- 11-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 14 End of 1st Grading Period
- 19 Grandparents Day
- 21 Report Card Release
- 26 Late Start
- 28 No School
- 31 Red Cross Bloodmobile

November

- 14 Board of Education Mtg.
- 23 Late Start
- 24-25 No School Thanksgiving

December

- 12 Board of Education Mtg.
OHS Formal Concert
- 21 End of 2nd Grading Period
- 22 First Day Winter Break

January

- 3 Teacher's Institute
- 4 School Resumes
- 6 Report Card Release
- 9 Board of Education Mtg.
- 16 No School Martin Luther King's Birthday

Veteran's Day Assembly

On Friday November 11 from 1:00-1:45 pm there will be an all school assembly honoring veterans. The assembly will feature inspirational performances by the OHS choir and band as well as a presentation led by OHS students. A Veteran's Day video slideshow will also be shared.

The assembly will be hosted by the OHS History Club. For further information you may contact Mr. Haak at mike.haak@olympia.org.

**"Olympia High School,
where we CARE to
succeed."**

MAP Testing

OHS completed its fall benchmarking session on September 27th. MAP data is now available now and demonstrates how your freshman, sophomore, or junior student compares to other student's across the nation. The data is accessible via computer and your son/daughter has a username and password with which to access this information.

The National Status Norms are the following:

	Reading	Mathematics
Freshman	222	233
Sophomore	223	235
Junior	227	239

A student's typical variation may be within one or two points above or below these normative scores. Students below grade level will be contacted to begin our mandatory intervention program which takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during advisory.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall parent teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, and Wednesday, October 12, 2011. The conferences will run from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Please contact Mrs. Hardesty in the guidance office to sign-up to meet with your child's teachers. To schedule an appointment, contact the OHS Guidance Office at 309/379-5911, extension 9023.

The Three C's For Maintaining Health

Clean hands, Cover cough, Containment when sick

The following guidelines will help to prevent the spread of illness—including the H1N1 virus.

Clean Hands—practice good hygiene by washing hands often with soap and water.

Cover Cough—use the inside of the elbow to cover sneezing and coughing.

Containment When Sick—keep sick children at home for **at least 24 hours after they are fever free** without the aid of fever reducing medication.

The signs and symptoms of the flu are: fever above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling tired. In some cases the symptoms may also include vomiting and diarrhea. If your child's symptoms become severe or if they are at higher risk for complications, **contact your healthcare provider.**

Families may also wish to consider being vaccinated for the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus when it becomes available.

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Financial Aid Meeting for Olympia Students and Parents

On Tuesday, October 11, the Olympia High School Guidance Department will be sponsoring a very important meeting for high school seniors and their parents dealing with the financial aid process. The meeting will be held in the Olympia High School Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately one hour. October 11 is the first night of Parent/Teacher conferences so parents should plan their conferences around this important meeting.

Financial aid advisors from Eureka College and Illinois State University will be on hand to give a general overview of financial aid ...what it involves, what are its benefits and how to apply. This meeting will offer a viewpoint about the financial aid process from both a private and public college perspective. Handouts will be available and time will be allowed for questions.

You will want to attend this meeting if college is in the future for you next year. Even if you do not think you qualify for financial aid, there is a lot of important information that you need to know.

We look forward to seeing you October 11, 6:30 p.m., in the high school auditorium.

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Olympia High School Celebrates Grandparents

OHS will be hosting its sixth annual Grandparent's Day on Thursday October 20th. Registration forms are available in the high school office and should be returned by Friday October 15th.

The day's events begin at 8:45am with check in at the high school office followed by coffee and donuts in the OHS Media Center. After a short assembly in the auditorium, grandparents will participate with their grandchild (or an adopted student) in a 2nd block class and lunch. The day will conclude at 12:30pm following awards and pictures in the auditorium.

We hope that grandparents will take advantage of this opportunity to experience the exciting things going on at Olympia.

