



**The Thurmanator Thought...**

Through a new Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/26seconds](http://www.facebook.com/26seconds) , State Farm is helping highlight the issue around the dropout crisis. We are partnering with America’s Promise Alliance to help raise the graduation rate to 90% nationwide by 2020.

This Facebook site is geared mainly to 13-19 year olds. The goal is to provide monthly challenges for them to keep them engaged and committed to staying in school. They can choose to affiliate themselves with a non-profit organization – or not. In any case, there are monthly prizes for the kids who log in every month and on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month, a new challenge is issued.

I hope you’ll share this with your students and help get them engaged. We need to assure that every child, regardless of their circumstances, understands how critically important it is to graduate from high school.

**What we hope you’ll do:**

- Engage your network of youth by asking them to commit to engaging on the 26 Seconds Facebook page every month and complete the challenge.
- Let your youth know that there are opportunities every month for individual prizes and that the organization with the most affiliated youth on the site each month can receive a \$2600 grant.
- If a student participates in 6 of the 9 challenges, they are eligible to be in a contest and be chosen to receive the grand prize – which will most likely be a large event with a celebrity.
- Each month, re-engage with your network of youth and encourage them to participate in the month’s challenge.

I would point out that although our dropout rate at OHS has been 1.0 in 2010 and 0.9 in 2011, we still know that this affects individual students at OHS each year and we want to support this initiative as a way to provide information and strategies for our students.

Sincerely,  
Lance Thurman, Principal

**Important Dates**

**September**

- 5 No School-Labor Day
- 12 Board of Education
- 12-17 Homecoming Week
- 15 Community Carnival  
Bonfire
- 16 Lunch Carnival  
Homecoming Football Game  
vs. Rantoul 7:00pm
- 21 Late Start
- 28 Noon Dismissal

**October**

- 10 No School Columbus Day
- 11 Board of Education Mtg.
- 11-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 14 End of 1st Grading Period
- 20 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



The Olympia Health and Wellness committee is sponsoring the third annual Olympia 5K Run. Participants may walk or run the distance. All staff, students, and community members are encouraged to participate.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept 17, 2011 on the Olympia Cross Country track at the OHMS complex. The cost of entry is \$15.00 for an individual, \$5.00 for students, and \$30.00 for a family of 4. Participants will receive a T-shirt with each entry. There will be a Kids Fun Run beginning at 8:45 am. The actual race will begin at 9:00 am with an 8:00 am registration and check in.

We invite you to consider joining and promoting Health and Wellness within the Olympia Community. All registrations need to be received by September 5, 2011.

### Homecoming 2011 "Under the Sea"

We have a variety of events planned for Homecoming 2011. The festivities kick off on Monday September 12th with plenty of opportunities to show your Spartan Spirit!

Show your school spirit by dressing up:

- Monday—*Hat Day*
- Tuesday—*Costume Day*
- Wednesday—*Mismatch Day*
- Thursday—*Theme Day*
- Friday—*Spartan Spirit Day*

Other homecoming week highlights include hall decorating (Monday) and judging (Tuesday), door decorating and judging (Tuesday), the community carnival, pep rally, and bonfire (Thursday beginning at 6:30pm), lunch carnival and pep rally assembly (Friday), and of course, the football game vs. Rantoul (Friday) at 7:00pm.

The homecoming dance will be held Saturday September 17th 7pm-10pm in the cafeteria. Tickets for the dance will be available September 9-16 at a cost of \$10 per person. At the door the cost will be \$20 per person.

Happy Homecoming! Go Spartans!

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### Late Start

Olympia High School will continue using a late start schedule to allow teachers necessary collaboration time to improve instructional planning and methodology and to increase academic rigor. The late starts will take place six times during the year. These dates include: **September 21st, October 26th, November 23rd, January 25th, February 22nd and March 21st.**

Students with access to their own transportation do not need to arrive before 9:15 am on these late start dates. **However, all district bus routes will run on their normal schedule.** Students riding the bus to OHS will have access to the commons, cafeteria, and library areas of the building. In addition, the breakfast program will be available. Intervention time and computer lab time will be available to students as well.

The late start schedule may be found on the back of each student handbook.

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

### Financial Aid Meeting

An informative **Financial Aid Meeting** for college-bound seniors and their parents will be held on October 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the OHS Auditorium.

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. The meeting will last approximately 1 hour.

### College Board Exam To Be Offered to Juniors at Olympia

On **October 12, 2011** juniors across the country and at Olympia High School will take the **PSAT/NMSQT**, a College Board sponsored exam. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are to:

- Receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- Enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- Help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service

Registration will be in the Guidance Office at a cost of \$14.



### 9/11-Ten Years Later

In just over a week, America will observe the 10th anniversary of September 11. However, many of today's elementary and secondary school students are too young to remember the day and its meaning to our country and its citizens. If you are interested in preparing some information for discussion with your child about 9/11, the following websites offer free online information to provide you with resources and strategies for addressing the attacks:

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum  
<http://www.911memorial.org>

The Pentagon Memorial Fund <http://www.pentagonmemorial.org>

Flight 93 National Memorial <http://www.flight93memorialproject.org>

Discussions with content experts and workshop sessions -- recorded and archived online -- identify resources available at each organization, supply background information on 9/11, and encourage conversations on how to document, preserve, and interpret recent history and current events. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://smithsonianconference.org/september11/>. In addition, we will be addressing this content as appropriate with the media attention at that time in many of our history classes and possibly in reflective journaling in English classes when that day arrives.