

**Oneonta City School District**

31 Center St.  
Oneonta NY 13820  
607-433-8200  
607-433-8290 (fax)

**Tom Brindley**  
*Superintendent*

June 4th, 2020

Dear Oneonta City School District Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community,

These are most difficult times right now for anyone of any age. We and the world watched as George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis and the outrage and civil unrest that has transpired since. Many questions filled, and continue to flood our minds. These are difficult questions to attempt to answer and honestly, I am not sure that there is any meaningful answer and certainly not one that I can produce at the moment. You, our students and our school community, have expressed your concerns and are advocating for your classmates and your/our future in some incredible ways. I am always proud of how our Oneonta students conduct themselves, but to watch as current and former students collaborate and advocate for positive change both locally and elsewhere is truly impressive.

Although we don't have control over many things, we do have control over our school environment. On the day I addressed the faculty and staff of the Oneonta High School as their new principal, I advised that I have only one expectation: That you, our faculty and staff, treat your students the way that you would want someone in your position treating your own child, brother, nephew or niece. That was it. Now, as superintendent, I say these same words every chance I get when addressing the wonderful people that I get to work with. But is that enough?

We have work to do, and we want to do that together. Conversations must be had to build even stronger unity and community. Our students and our collective future are the reasons why people enter into education and as such, it is our mission to serve you as we believe in the right for all people to be heard, treatment to be equitable, and above all supported as one in our Yellowjacket Family. We are here for you. We are available and ready to talk. But most of all, we are listening.

There is a lot going on and a lot to try and process. Although our brick and mortar buildings are closed, we are here for you. Please find a host of contacts listed below as well as some general resources.

Sincerely,

Your Fellow Yellowjacket

Resources:

- National Association of School Psychologists Lesson Plan and talking with MS/HS kids  
<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice/social-justice-lesson-plans/talking-about-race-and-privilege-lesson-plan-for-middle-and-high-school-students>
  - Parent Tips  
<https://www.parenttoolkit.com/social-and-emotional-development/advice/social-awareness/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-and-racism>
  - Educator Tools  
<https://www.tolerance.org/topics/race-ethnicity>
  - Local NAACP  
<https://www.oneontanaacp.com/>
  - Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) – check with your employer for resources  
Oneonta City School District Employees- Lifeworks is available
- Articles, support, links to how to work through discrimination in the workplace and School

School Resources:

Our counselors will be checking their messages on a daily basis. If you have an emergency or are in crisis, please call 911.

Oneonta High School (607) 433-8243

- School Counselors:  
Mrs. Garcia ext. 2121 [sgarcia@oneontacsd.org](mailto:sgarcia@oneontacsd.org)  
Mr. Kaschak ext. 2122 [kkasckak@oneontacsd.org](mailto:kkasckak@oneontacsd.org)  
Mrs. Segal ext. 2123 [nichola@oneontacsd.org](mailto:nichola@oneontacsd.org)
- School Nurse Mrs. Hassick ext. 2124 [chassick@oneontacsd.org](mailto:chassick@oneontacsd.org)
- School Psychologist Mrs. Szerszen ext. 2234 [kszerszen@oneontacsd.org](mailto:kszerszen@oneontacsd.org)
- School Social Worker Mrs. Foster ext. 2127 [ffoster@oneontacsd.org](mailto:ffoster@oneontacsd.org)
- Principal Mrs. Wolstenholme ext.2115 [awolstenholme@oneontacsd.org](mailto:awolstenholme@oneontacsd.org)
- Assistant Principal Mr. Ballard ext. 2132 [jballard@oneontacsd.org](mailto:jballard@oneontacsd.org)

Oneonta Middle School (607) 433-8262

- School Counselors  
Mr. Mason ext. 3435 [rmason@oneontacsd.org](mailto:rmason@oneontacsd.org)  
Mr. Scanlon ext. 3454 [tscanlon@oneontacsd.org](mailto:tscanlon@oneontacsd.org)
- School Nurse Mrs. Richter ext. 3427 [mrichter@oneontacsd.org](mailto:mrichter@oneontacsd.org)
- School Psychologists  
Mrs. Rutherford ext. 3430 [drutherford@oneontacsd.org](mailto:drutherford@oneontacsd.org)  
Mrs. Zimmerman ext. 3430 [lzimmerman@oneontacsd.org](mailto:lzimmerman@oneontacsd.org)
- Principal Mr. Molle ext. 3450 [tmolle@oneontacsd.org](mailto:tmolle@oneontacsd.org)

Greater Plains Elementary (607) 433-8272

- School Counselor Mrs. Herger ext. 4403 [sherger@oneontacsd.org](mailto:sherger@oneontacsd.org)
- School Nurse Mrs. Depperman ext. 4402 [ldepperman@oneontacsd.org](mailto:ldepperman@oneontacsd.org)
- School Psychologist Mrs. Rutherford ext. 4406 [drutherford@oneontacsd.org](mailto:drutherford@oneontacsd.org)
- Principal Mrs. Osborn ext. 4400 [nosborn@oneontacsd.org](mailto:nosborn@oneontacsd.org)

Valleyview Elementary (607) 433-8252

- School Counselor Mrs. Hoffman ext. 6403 [khoffman@oneontacsd.org](mailto:khoffman@oneontacsd.org)
- School Nurse Mrs. Zakala ext. 6402 [szakala@oneontacsd.org](mailto:szakala@oneontacsd.org)
- School Psychologist Mrs. Zimmerman ext. 6406 [lzimmerman@oneontacsd.org](mailto:lzimmerman@oneontacsd.org)
- Principal Mr. Baskin ext. 6400 [wbaskin@oneontacsd.org](mailto:wbaskin@oneontacsd.org)

Riverside Elementary (607) 433-8273

- School Counselor Ms. Hoose ext. 5403 [mhoose@oneontacsd.org](mailto:mhoose@oneontacsd.org)
- School Nurse Mrs. Carr ext. 5402 [tcarr@oneontacsd.org](mailto:tcarr@oneontacsd.org)
- School Psychologist Mrs. Beckerink ext. 5406 [sbeckerink@oneontacsd.org](mailto:sbeckerink@oneontacsd.org)
- Principal Mrs. Murdock ext. 5400 [mmurdock@oneontacsd.org](mailto:mmurdock@oneontacsd.org)