

OREGON-DAVISTM

Schoolhouse

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Superintendent's Message

In her book "Mindset: The New Psychology Of Success," Stanford professor Carol Dweck refers to individual's mindsets with regards to their ability to perform new tasks. Dr. Dweck discusses that many individuals remain in their comfort zones while others venture out of their comfort zone or "out of the box". Dweck labeled these mindsets as "fixed" and "growth," respectively.



A fixed mindset refers to the belief that skills are connected to an individual's genetic composition. Either an individual is good at a particular skill or an individual is not good at a particular skill. This applies to academics as a student may say "I'm not good in math because my parents were not good in math" or "Just passing the course is good enough for me".

Individuals who believe skills can be learned, at least to some degree, have a growth mindset. Growth mindset individuals understand that their success depends on their willingness to learn, practice and achieve their goals. They continuously strive to learn new skills to better themselves. Individuals with a growth mindset have a passion and a drive to succeed.

Too many times, students as well as adults are "stuck" in a fixed mindset. It is never too late to "think outside the box", prepare for the future, or change your mindset. I encourage and challenge you to have a growth mindset as well as motivate others to have a growth mindset.

Examples of developing a growth mindset:

<u>Instead of...</u>	<u>Think with a growth mindset...</u>
"I am not good at this."	"What am I missing?"
"I give up."	"I will use a different strategy."
"It's good enough."	"Is this really my best work?"
"This is too hard."	"This may take some time to learn."
"I just can't do this."	"I am going to work harder to complete this."

—Dr. Donald E. Harman, Superintendent,
Oregon-Davis School Corporation

Oregon-Davis Parents Get Connected

Parents now have instant access to their children's grades by downloading the PowerSchool app. The PowerSchool app provides instant notifications any time grades are posted. It is a great way for parents and students to stay informed. Parents can use their existing username and password used for online registration. Once the app is installed, it will ask for a district code, which is QPDG.

To search for this app, simply go to the Play Store on your Android device or the App Store on your Apple device and search for "PowerSchool." If you need assistance with setup, please call the school office in which your student is enrolled.

Starting this year, Oregon-Davis Elementary and Jr.-Sr. High both have Facebook pages. These Facebook pages are great for notifications on upcoming events, reminders and recent happenings. The district website will now be more focused on links to important sites, documents, contacts, policies, etc.

Like O-D's schools on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OregonDavisJrSrHigh> and <https://www.facebook.com/OregonDavisElementary>.

High School Final Exam Schedule

Monday, Dec. 19 Written portions of final exams due
 Tuesday, Dec. 20 Final exams for Periods 5-8
 Wednesday, Dec. 21 Final exams for Periods 1-4
 We will follow a normal school schedule for these days.

Holiday Programs

Elementary: The Elementary holiday program will be Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. The program is held in the elementary gymnasium and is for Grades K-4.

High School: The Christmas concert will be held on Monday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. in the ODHS Cafetorium. It will feature the beginning band, junior high band and high school bands. The bands will be playing Christmas favorites, such as "Jingle Bells," "Auld Lang Syne," and "Sleigh Ride."

School Cafeterias Put Students and Teachers First

Both cafeterias at Oregon Davis have adopted a student- and teacher-first approach, says Food Service Director, Jeff Messer, who was recently certified as a Level 1 Nutritionist through the School Nutrition Association. Messer, along with school nutritionist, Kaylyn Mackillop, strive to prepare healthy meals that taste great, all while following government regulations. This is no easy task, but one Messer is happy to take on.

"We look forward to students and staff coming into the cafeteria and being comfortable and enjoying a tasty, nutritious meal," says Messer, who often walks the cafeteria to ask students what they think about the food. "Keeping the meal interesting along with great taste, hot food, and a well-balanced diet keep the students coming back for more."

Messer cooks many meals completely from scratch, including burger gravy, American goulash, tater-tot casserole, baked chicken quarters, chili and homemade soups. He likes to use fresh ingredients as well as spices like onion, garlic and others. Due to regulations, table salt can not be used in meals, but Messer says with all the other spices available, no one really misses it.

"Potatoes and gravy really go over well," says Messer. "With families so busy anymore, how often does a student really get a good, home-cooked meal?"



Our goal for the remainder of the school year is to continue setting high expectations for learning, and create opportunities for all of our students to succeed.

Youth Club Provides After School Programming for Students

Over 100 students at Oregon Davis' schools are currently enrolled in the after school Youth Club provided by The Starke County Youth Club. Students range in age from kindergarten all the way through 12th grade. The after-school program takes place at the schools, and offers education, life skills, culture and socialization from Monday through Friday. Youth Club is designed to build relationships with children and their families, in order to have an impact on their success at school, their creation of a future story, and their investment in their community.

The benefits of the after school programming are many, says Executive Director of SCYC, Irene M. Szakonyi. "From academic success, to personal accomplishments and family support, regularly attending kids have better grades, they participate more and they develop pro-social behaviors."

Each afternoon, SCYC provides homework assistance, individual tutoring and interactive activities that are aligned to Indiana State Standards. Students are also encouraged to explore the arts, theatre and culture, and often have the opportunity to experience technology, foreign languages, ethnic cuisines and hand arts. Another foundation of the program is healthy relationships. Children benefit from the adult leaders who care passionately about their learning and growth.

Overall, educators, students and their families tend to agree that the after school programming has a positive impact on students and their families. When surveyed, over 82-percent of students in the program say it helps them get their homework done and makes them feel safe. In addition, 90-percent say they learn new things at Youth Club. That's curiosity and education combining with Youth Club's mission to build a future of achievement.

Honoring the State Champion Teams

In 2007, the Oregon-Davis boys and girls basketball teams made history by becoming the first teams in Indiana history to win both basketball state championship in the same year. On Dec. 3, 2016, O-D honored these state championship teams, as well as the 2014 girls state championship team. Many team members were on hand after the junior varsity game to dedicate the newly constructed trophy case at O-D. We are proud of our athletic history!



At Oregon-Davis School Corporation, our goal is help students discover new things every day, by enabling them to pursue their full potentials in academics and extra-curriculars.



Join us in supporting our neighborhood, school and community environment. Supporting our students is not the main thing, it's the only thing.

Elementary Students Strive to Give Back

Oregon-Davis' elementary students are not short on opportunities to give back to the community. Most recently, students participated in Give-It-Back Day, which occurred the day before Thanksgiving Break began. Give-It-Back Day was a half-day program where students got to choose a fun activity to participate in for the second half of the school day, and had the opportunity to purchase snacks to enjoy during this time, too. During the week, students also had the opportunity to dress up and bring in 50 cents to donate to Give-It-Back Day families. All donations were used to purchase food items for families in need during the holidays.

In addition to Give-It-Back-Day, other opportunities for students to give back throughout the year include Jump Rope for Heart, Mini Relay for Life and Pennies for Patients.

While students may not always have a lot to give, they open their hearts and are very charitable and willing to participate in these activities to give back to those in need, said Bettie Awald, school counselor at Oregon-Davis Elementary. "By our students participating in these activities, it has taught them to give back to others, be tolerable of differences and to be kinder to each other. We are blessed to have the community support in our endeavors to give back to those in need, which in turn reflect in the positive manners we see in our students," she explained."

Another outlet for student philanthropy is the Student Council. This group of students spearheads the entire elementary student population in giving back to the community by organizing activities such as a food drive, clothing drive and donating school supplies to those in need. The student council also operates the elementary Bobcat store. These funds go into an account that helps students in need for such things as field trip expenses, lunch expenses and additional needs that may come up throughout the school year.

eLearning Days to be Scheduled this Spring

Oregon Davis School Corporation is committed to challenge and prepare our students with skills for the 21st century. Four major 21st century skills include communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Additionally with these skills, OD is dedicated to provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum that is planned, student-centered, technology infused and research-based for the success of all of our students.

In the past year, OD has utilized eLearning Days in the event of inclement weather. We will not continue this procedure; rather, we will utilize scheduled eLearning Days. The scheduled eLearning Days will allow our staff and students to plan and prepare for this off-campus experience.

OD is currently scheduling eLearning Day for the spring semester and beyond. Specific dates will be communicated to our students, parents and all stakeholders as soon as the days are determined. Do not hesitate to contact your student's principal or the superintendent if you have any questions regarding eLearning Days.

You're Invited!

The Oregon-Davis School Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, 5998 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN. You are invited to attend these meetings.

Board of Education

Chris LawrencePresident
Andrea McIntoshVice President
Kurt HayesSecretary
Shirley BudkaMember
Lee Nagai.....Member

Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, *Oregon-Davis Schoolhouse*, Oregon-Davis School Corporation, 5998 N. 750 E., Hamlet, IN 46532, or call (574) 867-2111.

Contact Us

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Our Administrators

Dr. Donald Harman.....Superintendent
Timothy Pletcher... Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
William BennettElementary Principal
Greg Estok..Dean of Students/Athletic Director

Our Website Address

<http://odschools.org/>

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With positive attitudes, effective communication between staff and families, and perseverance, we strive to make 2016-17 the best school year yet.

**Check Out Our New
Facebook Pages**



[www.facebook.com/
OregonDavisJrSrHigh](http://www.facebook.com/OregonDavisJrSrHigh)



[www.facebook.com/
OregonDavisElementary](http://www.facebook.com/OregonDavisElementary)

All School Calendar 2016-17

Dec. 21 Second Nine Weeks Grading Period Ends (45 Days)
Dec. 22-Jan 3..... Christmas Vacation (no school)
Jan. 4..... Teacher Records Day/Professional Development Day (no school)
Jan. 5..... Second Semester Begins
Feb. 20 President's Day (no school or make-up day)
March 10 Third Nine Weeks Grading Period Ends (46 Days)
March 27-31 Intersession Week
March 27-April 7 Spring Vacation (no school)
April 14 Good Friday (no school)
April 17 No School/Make-up Day
May 29..... Memorial Day (no school)
May 26..... Fourth Nine Weeks Grading Period Ends (43 Days)
May 26..... Last Student Day
May 30..... Teacher Records Day/Professional Development Day (no school)
June 2..... Commencement (Friday 6:30 p.m.)