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## School of Learning and Teaching\_The Crimson Chronicle

Orono Middle School

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# *The Crimson Chronicle*

*Orono Middle School's Community News Publication*

[Oms.rsu26.org](http://oms.rsu26.org)



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*2019-20*

*(Updated June 8)*

**UP & COMING EVENTS:**

[\(Link to OMS Public Events Calendar\)](#)

*Have a great summer!*



### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:**

Dear OMS Students, Families and Community Members,

To help improve communications we have made recent updates to our [OMS Public Calendar](#). Moving forward our plan is to include all OMS activities and important dates, including our athletic game/meet schedules on this calendar. Our hope is that this will streamline access to school events for parents, staff, and community members. The OMS public calendar link can be found on the [homepage of our website](#).

I also hope you find this publication, our parent/community newsletter *The Crimson Chronicle*, to be a valuable communication resource. This dynamic electronic publication will be updated regularly and is designed to inform parents and community members about events and happenings at OMS.

This will be the last edition of the Crimson Chronicle for the 2019-20 school year. Summer editions will resume in July. Many thanks to all for your support this school year. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Glencross, Ed.D  
Principal

### **OMS NEWS:**

- 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony (*Important Update*) - This link includes important [details about our 2020 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony](#). The ceremony is on Monday, June 1 at 6pm. Please carefully review our letter, linked above, to become familiar with the expectations/protocols for this event. We appreciate everyone's understanding of the importance of maintaining appropriate social distancing protocols. The OMS staff and I look forward to recognizing our 8th graders on Monday. We hope this will be an enjoyable and memorable event for all. [Click here to view our special 8th grade video](#) - many thanks to Mrs. Hart for her work on this.

- Project Design Competition - Congratulations middle schoolers Cailan Barton, Beatrix Foster, and Rowan Jackson Sanborn for placing second in the MLTI Student Conference Innovation Challenge with their 'Apples to Energy' pitch and prototype! Their idea was to use bruised and inedible fruits and vegetables that grocery stores would throw away, to make electricity, compost, and juice. Each of them received a \$1000 scholarship to UMaine. The MLTI Student Conference went virtual this year, and many Orono students attended with Ms. Jackson Sanborn during the last week of classes. Workshops on a variety of computer skills gave students a chance to experiment with new software and sites, and design challenges focused on the state of Maine had students coming up with solutions for real-world problems. Presentation can be [accessed by clicking here](#).
- End of the Year OMS Slide Show (*New Update*) - Our OMS Slideshow is put together by Mrs. Bishop and is distributed to students each week. This special edition includes student awards for 2019-20 and special greetings from OMS staff to our 8th graders.
- End of the Year 7th Grade Video - This was prepared by Mrs. Bishop to recognize the hard work and effort of our 7th grade. Many thanks to you all for a fun and memorable school year.
- End of the Year OBS Video - Operation Breaking Stereotypes students from Orono Middle School and Leonard Middle School believe that we need to see our common humanity, but we also need to stop and listen and be aware of who each person really is — not the labels and expectations that the world puts on us, but the raw, open, beautiful qualities each of us carries close to our hearts. Please watch this video and let these students inspire you to begin creating your new, open, and connected world.
- 5th Grade Transition (*For 5th Grade Families*) - I am writing to welcome you to Orono Middle School and to provide you with some important links (below) that will help you become familiar with your new school. Usually this is something we do when you visit us at OMS. This year, however, we are having to think creatively due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We hope you enjoy these resources and that they help you become familiar with your new school. The OMS

staff and I look forward to meeting you this fall once school resumes. Be safe and have an enjoyable summer.

- [5th Grade Orientation Video](#)
- [video showing how to open an OMS locker](#)
- [OMS Virtual Step up Night](#)
- OMS Yearbook Update (*New Update*) - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the time to order a 2019-2020 yearbook has been extended to June 3rd. However, YBPay is closed on the Lifetouch website. We will, however, accept payment yearbook order(s) when yearbooks are passed out to students in the fall. If you wish to place an order please contact Samantha Hanson, our yearbook advisor at ([shanson@rsu26.org](mailto:shanson@rsu26.org)). *Please note, due to complications resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, that year books will be distributed in August when we return to school.*
- Schedule for remaining school days:
  - Monday, June 1 - Non Color Day
  - Tuesday, June 2 - Non Color Day
  - Friday, June 3 - Non Color Day



### **Remote School Tips/Ideas**

- [Surviving Distance Learning](#) - A short video providing tips for parents and families by Dr. Andrew Kahn, Clinical Psychologist with Eastern Maine Counselling and Testing services.
- From Our Guidance Office - Mr. Buehner shares a short video here titled, [How to Be Organized for Distance learning](#).
- [Laptop Ergonomics](#) - Here is a short video showing tips and ideas for laptop ergonomics. Student and families may find this useful during this time of increased online learning.
- ['Let Yourself off the Hook'](#): Advice for Teachers and Parents During COVID-19 - We include here a link to a short podcast. Many thanks to Mrs. Archer for sharing this resource.

- Information from the OMS Library - With public libraries closed, finding reading material can be a challenge! See [Ms. J's list of free audio and ebooks](#) so you can get your reading fix.
- Turn On/Off Notifications in GoogleClassroom (*Useful Information*) - [Here is a short video showing how to turn on/off email notifications in GoogleClassroom](#). This may be helpful for students to manage the amount of email received.
- RSU26 Schools Closed to Public - All buildings are now closed to the public. Buildings will only be staffed with essential personnel moving forward, as most staff have transitioned to working remotely. Please call or email your child's school or the central office if you have a need. School Office Phone Numbers: Asa Adams: 866-2151, Orono Middle School: 866-2350, Orono High School: 866-4916, Superintendent's Office: 866-7110.

### **Community Resources**

- Articles of Interest - From online professional journal *Edutopia*  
[Why Are Some Kids Thriving During Remote Learning?](#) (from April 24, 2020)  
[Why Don't We Differentiate Professional Development?](#) (from January 15, 2016)
- Message from Orono Public Library - We miss seeing you! The Orono Public Library staff has put together a [short newsletter](#) to inform you of the many ways you can still access great content, and stay connected to our wonderful Library community, while our building is closed. The new due date for items you have checked out is June 1st. If you have received a late notice email about items you have checked out, please ignore! If you have anything checked out from the library, no fees will accrue during this time. Please continue to keep your items at home until further notice.
- [Resource Sheet from our School Counselors](#) - This document provides valuable information about community resources that may be of value to families during this Covid-19 Crisis. The document includes information on emergency and non-emergency situations, area

resources (food pantry, internet resources etc.), public and personal health tips and information and mental health supports.

- Information from Mr. Buehner: OMS Families: I want you to be aware of another service available to you 24/7. The **Disaster Distress Helpline** is part of the Department of Health and Human Services and is a great resource for anyone feeling overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Help is also available for any life events that are causing emotional and mental distress. You can call or text them for immediate assistance. Mr. Buehner also shares a short video here titled, [How to Be Organized for Distance learning](#).

Link to the website: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>

Phone number: 1-800-985-5990

Text **TalkWithUs** to **66746** to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

- [COVID-19 Resources](#) - Provided by RSU26/Northern Light HealthCare social worker, Erin Perry. Ms. Perry can be reached at [rperry@rsu26.org](mailto:rperry@rsu26.org)

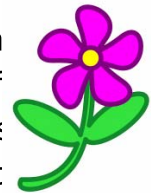
### **School Information for Families:**

- PowerSchool - We encourage you to view your student's grades through PowerSchool at this website: <https://rsu26.powerschool.com/public/home.html>. If you have questions, or encounter a problem accessing your parent account, please contact [Mrs. Hartery](#) (our school secretary) or [Mrs. Barton](#) (our district technology leader).
- Lifetouch Picture Day - School pictures may be ordered by going to [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) (Use Picture Day ID: LG109040Q0).
- OMS Student Athlete Pictures - School sports pictures can be accessed and ordered at the following link: <https://www.montyrand.com>

- OMS Yearbook Order Information - Order forms will also be available at school. Website: [ybpay.lifetouch](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com); Use ID Code:1416620; Price: \$20.00 Softcover or \$25.00 Hardcover; Order Deadline: April 13,2020.

### **Digital Citizenship/Technology Resources:**

- Teens, Technology, and Sleep Patterns - Many parents have kids or teens with devices in their room during bedtime, and many of you have fought to change that and felt defeated. Parents may have things like: "I go to bed before my teens, so there is no way for me to make sure they turn them in, so I have given up." Or, "They say they turn off screens, so why even try." Or "They have to do homework late at night, so why even have a rule about this?" Do any of those sound familiar? Today it is all about answers. [We are sharing with you rules and solutions](#) other families have come up with around how to keep devices out of the bedroom during sleep hours.
- Digital Citizenship Guide for Parents - We share here a resource of value to help parents navigate the complex world of digital citizenship. This guide was prepared by *Public Safety Canada and MediaSmarts*, a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization for digital and media literacy. The information offered here is current and relevant to our middle school students in an easy to search format - Simply click on a descriptor in the table of contents for quick access to the different sections.
- Another Digital Citizenship Resource - The big idea message is that good citizenship is an essential practice in both real life and online. [Common Sense Media](#) has some great tools for talking with your family about online behavior as well as reviews for all kinds of media that will help you make informed decisions as a family.
- Myths and Truths About Kids' Internet Safety - If you believe everything you hear about kids online, you might think pedophiles and cyberbullies are around every cyber-corner. Yes, there is bad stuff out there. But the truth is, there's a lot of good, and some experts are arguing against a "techno-panic mindset" that worries parents unnecessarily. The bottom line is that we can't keep our kids safe if we don't know the facts. [Read on for the five most popular myths about Internet safety -- and the truths that can set your worries free.](#)





- [Social Media Red Flags Parents Should Know About](#) - It can be hard to keep up with the latest apps that kids are using. Just when you've figured out how to talk to your kids about [Instagram](#), they're begging to download [Snapchat](#) and [TikTok](#). But here's the deal: Even when new apps come along, adding new features such as the ability to disappear or track your location, they're often not that different from other apps. And if you know what to look for, you can help your kid avoid some common social media pitfalls such as [drama](#), [cyberbullying](#), and [oversharing](#).
- [Technology Integration Tool](#) - Our staff is piloting a new tool to help us manage and monitor student technology use at OMS. [Relay Classroom](#) is a tool to help teachers facilitate and manage students' Internet activity during class. With Relay Classroom, teachers can monitor web traffic, respond to the students who need help, and so much more. The Relay Classroom layout is comprised of three sections that make it easy to manage students' web activity during class. These sections include: Sharing access to classroom resources, supporting and responding to student progress, and monitoring students web activity at school. The Classroom Relay support tool will help us administer the [RSU 26 Computer Acceptable Use Policy](#) and use technology resources in the classroom to enhance the value in the learning process and prepare students for future success.

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT LINKS:**

- [Link to OMS Public Events Calendar](#)
- [2019-20 Student Parent Handbook](#)
- [2019-20 OMS Bell Schedule](#)
- [2019-20 Maroon & White Day Schedule](#)
- [2019-20 School Calendar](#)
- [2019-20 Bus Schedule](#)

- [School Lunch Menus](#)
- [Free & Reduced Application: School Lunch Program](#)
- [PowerSchool Login](#) - <http://rsu26.powerschool.com>
- [Link to OMS Public Events Calendar](#)
- [OMS School Newspaper](#)
- [BIRCH Project Newsletter](#)



*The Crimson Chronicle will resume publication with our summer editions in July. Have a great summer!*

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