

ROTATIONS

December Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Quarter 3 starts January 15 for grades 7 & 8
- Grades 2-5 Art Clubs are active now!
- Grades 6-8 Art Club is on a winter hiatus till late February
-

ROTATIONS REMINDERS

- Make sure your devices are charged every night at home
- Headphones are required to have AT SCHOOL
- Check your email for reminders about library books.
- SEL- **Homework** - Write 2 safe adults (in home and out of home) sign and return.

CONTACT INFO

ART Ms. Hilary Spector (K-2)
spector@ogschool.org

Mrs. Erin Vance (3-8)
vance@ogschool.org

DRAMA Ms. Mel Ludington (K,2,4,6,7,8)
ludington@ogschool.org

LIBRARY Mrs. Jina Rappaport (K-4)
rappaport@ogschool.org
Mrs. Alyssa Osterman (5-8)
osterman@ogschool.org

MEDIA ARTS Dr. Jason Meltzer (6-8)
meltzer@ogschool.org

MUSIC / BAND Mr. Logan Farris (K-2,5,6,8)
farris@ogschool.org
Mr. Rick Frankowski (3,4,Band)
frankowski@ogschool.org
Mr. Dave Jones (7th & Band)
jones@ogschool.org

S.E.L. Mrs. Susie Kiefer (K-5)
skieier@ogschool.org

STEM Mr. Dan Henneberry (1,3,5-8)
henneberry@ogschool.org

*Check out what's
going on in each
class below!*

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

ART

Ms. Spector & Mrs. Vance

KINDERGARTEN - Kindergarten is using chalk pastel and construction paper to create a winter village collage. This week they are cutting shapes to collage houses and next week they will add decorations and details with pastels.

1st GRADE - First graders have been drawing plants from observation to fill the backgrounds of their Henri Rousseau inspired tropical bird pieces. They can practice drawing toys of objects from observation at home! Next they will paint and add color to their jungle.

2nd GRADE - Second grade is finishing up their Day of the Dead guitar collages. Watch out for their finished work on Artsonia.

3rd GRADE - Students just finished their Norval Morrisseau (Canadian artist) based collages. You can see them on Artsonia if your artist completed and submitted their artwork properly. Next up, we are starting an OGS favorite!-- Our Northern Lights mountain landscape. We are starting the mountains and lake before winter break and they will learn the magic of applying the chalk pastels to make the lights in the sky after we return in Jan.!

4th GRADE - Students are working on Ms. M's final lesson here at Oak Grove. 4th Graders are creating some fall to winter tree landscape with an animal home built in. They are using liquid tempera paints and oil pastels to create different effects and textures in these seasonal compositions. Mrs. Vance has taken back over and will complete the lesson with the students. We congratulate Ms. McClanahan on finishing her student teaching! She will graduate from U of I in May 2026.

5th Grade - Students are finishing up their perspective hallways/museums. They added some awesome pencil details "behind the glass walls" of their museum. We have dragons, Birds, dinosaurs, outer space candy stores and more! We used colored pencils to add color in the museums and submitted to Artsonia. Next up, 5th grade will be working with radial symmetry to create colorful intricate designs.

6th Grade - We finished up R2 last week and started with a new group of students. The class voted to start with the stippling animal drawing project and we are working hard to complete these before winter break so that we are at a fresh start when we come back in January. We are challenging the 6th graders to take some interesting and more artistically minded digital photos over winter break.

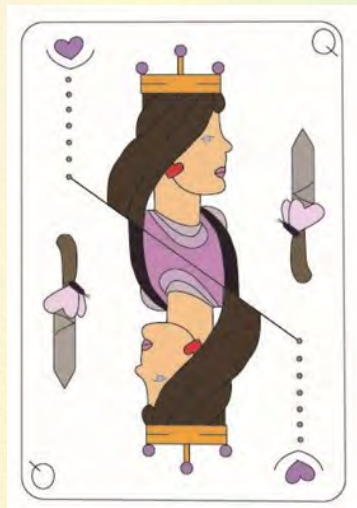
7th Grade - Graphic Designers have finished their units on Photoshop and illustrator and we have moved to digital drawing on the class iPads. We are using apple pencils and learning all about the Procreate app. They are completing some tutorials to help get them used to the interface and understand the functionality of the app and we will be moving on to their own unique and creative digital drawings next!

8th Grade - Our Mixed Media students wrapped up their copper tooling relief sculptures this week. We used liver of sulfur to oxidize the copper and allow for different values on the medal and they created backgrounds with colored pencil to mount and frame the copper. Now the students are moving on to a collage project using recycled magazines and papers. Our 8th grade Graphic Designers are working with Procreate, read the 7th grade summary for more information!

MAKE SURE YOU ARE CHECKING YOUR STUDENT'S [ARTSONIA](#) ACCOUNTS TO SEE OUR AMAZING OGS ARTWORK!

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

RECENT ARTSONIA SUBMISSIONS AT OGS



MAKE SURE YOU ARE CHECKING YOUR STUDENT'S [ARTSONIA](#) ACCOUNTS TO SEE OUR AMAZING OGS ARTWORK!

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

DRAMA

Ms. Ludington

KINDERGARTEN students finished our unit based on "Where the Wild Things Are." Look for a Wild Rumpus Dance Video soon:). January we will focus on stories featuring snow.

2nd GRADE drama students have taken turns interviewing three animal suspects: Darwin the raccoon, Millie the goose and Samson the baby bunny. Soon the young detectives will make their accusations, and we will learn who stole Arthur's birthday cake.

4th GRADE students have enjoyed the opening scenes of "How Anansi Brought the Stories Down." Students will take turns being actors, running crew and light board operators as we finish the tale in January.

6th Grade Rotation 3 has begun. We are currently doing some short, modern scenes. In January, we will focus on two person scenes featuring Commedia dell'arte characters.

7th Grade Acting students will perform "Me Too Iguana," "Turtle Throws a Tantrum," and "Lion is Down in the Dumps" later this week. When we return from winter break we will be creating a puppet show performance for OGS's new JR Kindergarten.

8th Grade Musical Theater students are continuing to learn songs and have begun to learn some choreography. They are excited for the Ensemble members to join their class soon.

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

Improv Club Performance



OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

LIBRARY Mrs. Rappaport & Mrs. Osterman

Kindergarten: We are reading the 2026 Monarch Book Nominees, learning about manners when online, pop-up books, and what a series is. We are also making a pop-up card for STEM.

1st grade: We are reading the 2026 Monarch Book Nominees, learning about narrative nonfiction, and discussing the difference between a fact and an opinion.

2nd grade: We are reading the 2026 Monarch Book Nominees and writing book recommendations.

3rd grade: We are reading the 2026 Monarch Book Nominees, learning about genres, and making inferences.

4th grade: We are reading some of the 2026 Bluestem Nominees, learning what is the theme, and learning digital literacy skills.

5th grade: We are talking about some of the 2026 Bluestem and Caudill Nominees.

6th grade: The 6th grade students have been visiting the library every Friday with their ELA class. This is an opportunity to check out books and read. They had a Digital Literacy lesson on researching, notetaking and avoiding plagiarism.

7th grade: The 7th graders came to the library with their ELA class to check out new books. They had a Digital Literacy lesson as well.

8th grade: The 8th graders checked out new books and wrote book reviews about their independent reading books in the OGS Library Catalog. They had a Digital Literacy lesson on copyright, public domain, and fair use.

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

Oak Grove Winter Choir Concert



OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

MEDIA ARTS

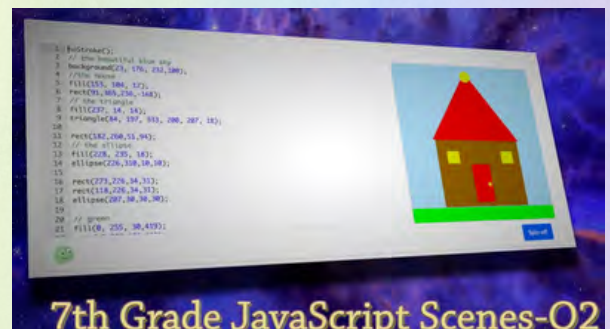
Dr. Meltzer

6th Grade-Media Arts: Our 2nd rotation ended with a bang! We did a great job of “App-Smashing” where students created AI backgrounds in Adobe Express and then used WeVideo to create our “Virtual Vacations.”

Our 3rd rotation just started. We are learning about the basics of graphic design using Google Drawing before jumping to using Adobe Photoshop.

7th Grade-Programming: We are deep into the middle of learning multiple programming languages. We have now covered JavaScript, Python, Google Sheets, HTML & Swift. We will finish up the quarter learning more about AI and block coding on Scratch.

8th Grade-Digital Production: 2nd quarter continues strong. We have covered many skills and created many projects including creating Commercials, Keyframing Animation in Photoshop, and inventing New TV shows by creating our own TV Intros. We will finish up by recording multi-cam interviews.



OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

MUSIC Grades K, 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th

Mr. Farris

Kindergarten: The jingle of bells and the singing of 'Jingle Bells' means its almost winter break in the music classroom! The students have been having fun learning about different holidays and their songs. We even traveled to the offices and sang them 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'.

1st Grade: The first graders have been having so much fun singing 'Nice not Naughty' and 'Kitty for a present' in the holiday themed music classes! We also played some great holiday songs on the Boomwhackers.

2nd Grade: The second graders loved singing 'This Holiday' and the Two-part song 'Here comes the Snow'. They also had a blast performing the 'Home Alone' Rhythm Play-Along. The students love learning and performing Holiday themed music, there is nothing like the excitement of winter-break approaching!

5th Grade: What do you do when you are getting really confident on the Ukulele and it's the holiday season? You rock out on all of the holiday favorites!! From 'Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah' to 'Jingle Bells', we are having so much fun putting our chords to work! May I remind you that a Soprano Ukulele would make for a terrific holiday gift!

6th Grade: The second rotation guitar students performed for their friends during lunch on December 4th. It was so much fun to see the students outside of their normal light, performing and singing together. We now started a new rotation of students and they are working so hard at learning the new instrument. We have been having fun playing 'Jailhouse Rock' and 'This Land is your Land'. There are also some fun holiday songs that are approachable for the new string player that we are also exploring. You can't have the holidays without music!

8th Grade: The 8th graders are having the best time ever learning their music for Shrek Jr. They are channeling their inner 'Broadway Actor' and really impressing us every day. There is nothing like watching jaws drop when students see their peers sing for the first time. You are going to LOVE THIS SHOW!

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

MUSIC Grades 3rd, 4th, 7th Mr. Frankowski, Mr. Jones

3rd Grade: 3rd graders are off to the races with their recorders. Most have begun checking off Hot Cross Buns and are nailing their first 3 notes. To come is Au Claire De La Lune and Mary Had a Little Lamb.

4th Grade: Students did a fabulous job for their first drum pad and sticking assessment! We have begun working on eighth notes and the differences between them and quarters. Our next skill to practice is listen to a rhythm and writing it out!

7th Grade: Students are learning familiar Holiday songs and getting ready to perform for elementary students. Skills they are working on include singing, strumming, and playing melodies using tablature.

OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

STEM

Mr. Henneberry

Looking for the perfect holiday gift?

Purdue University's School of Engineering has created a wonderful holiday gift guide for the STEM minded student!

[STEM Gift Guide](#)

1st Grade Alphabet Architects



3rd Grade Preview

Starting in January we will learn to how to block code our very own PCB board. Let the creativity begin!



7th and 8th graders are completing their quarter project, check out our social media for updates next week!



OGS ROTATIONS NEWS 25-26

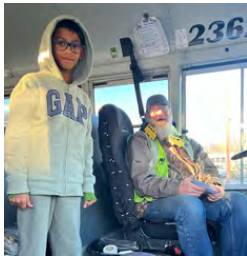
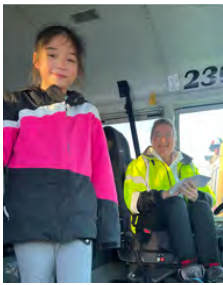
S.E.L.

Mrs. Kiefer

DECEMBER SEL FOCUS: EMOTION MANAGMENT

December Acts of Kindness

K-5 participated in acts of kindness for all those who help make Oak Grove a special place! Students also performed acts of kindness for each other!



Upstairs & Downstairs Brain

Students learned how to regulate their emotions to better access their upstairs brain (thinking brain or frontal cortex).

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MY BRAIN?



Key messages include:

Performing Acts of Kindness makes others feel special, seen and important. It also creates connection and joy in the giver of kindness. We did over 1,000 Acts of Kindness this month!



December Focus: Emotion Management

- K & 1 Recognizing Zones of regulation & managing anger, nerves, excitement
- 2 & 3 Tools to Manage Emotions/Taking a Break
- 4- Parts of the brain & rethinking situations
- 5- Making Changes to avoid predictable or reoccurring stressors

January Focus: Empathy & Kindness & Growth Mindset

