

# **Oak Hill Incoming Grade 6 Class of 2029**



# Oak Hill Administrative Team

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- John Harutunian, Principal
- Amy Geer, Assistant Principal for Student Services
- Dr. Jamin Bercaw, Assistant Principal
- Fiona Healy, Assistant Principal

Supported by secretaries Catrina Walsh, Doreen Vaglica, and Debra Monahan, as well as school nurse Sue Riley

# Welcome from the Oak Hill PTO

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- Parental involvement is always welcomed!
- Community-building events and activities
- Fundraising efforts

Visit us at <http://oakhillpto.org>

# Oak Hill Student Body

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- 664 students
- Almost 35% of our students speak a language other than English at home
- More than 30 different languages are spoken in homes of our students

# Connectedness and Climate

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- Take Care of Yourself
- Take Care of Others
- Take Care of the School Environment

# Goals for 22-23

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- **Supportive school climate**
  - Engage students in conversations regarding:
    - intent versus impact
    - microaggressions
    - the effects of words toward others, and
    - in-groups and out-groups

# Goals for 22-23

- **Academics**

- Refine consistency of instructional practices across teams
- Strengthen and align curriculum across all three grade levels
- Identify and address needs of students who are struggling, and develop effective supports for them

# Goals for 22-23

- **Social-emotional development**
  - Enhance Advisory block to foster student connectedness to at least one adult
  - Integrate classroom practices that help reduce student anxiety
  - Provide opportunities for students to learn strategies for stress management, relaxation, mindfulness, and resiliency
  - Promote student affinity groups



# Getting to School

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- Walk or bike--alone or with a friend!
- Yellow bus
- MBTA bus #52
- Carpool
- Family rides

# Promoting Good Attendance Habits

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- All students should plan to arrive by 7:35AM
  - Classes begin promptly at 7:50AM
- Frequent tardies or absences without medical notes will result in office consequences

# School Hours

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- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday dismissal is at 2:20PM
  - After-school clubs and activities take place on these days
- Wednesday dismissal is at 1:35PM
- Students must leave school at the end of the day unless participating in a school-sponsored activity

# Clubs and Athletics

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- During school activities
- After-school enrichment clubs and groups
- Team athletics
  - 6th grade students may participate in cross country (fall) and track (spring)
- Follow us on Twitter: @OakHillNewton

# Lunch and Morning Break

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- 8-minute break built into Period 3
- 25-minute lunch daily
- Current school lunch is free
  - Students may bring their own lunch
- Students choose their seats in the cafeteria

# 6th Grade Team Structures

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- Team classes include
  - English
  - Social Studies
  - Science
  - Math
- Two team structures:
  - Math, ELA, SS, Sci; ELL and Special Education
  - Math/Sci and ELA/SS; ELL and Special Education

# Team Similarities

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- Subject-area standards
- Building classroom communities
- Organizational and time management strategies
- Technology as a tool for teaching and learning
- Students experience success
- Teacher teams work together

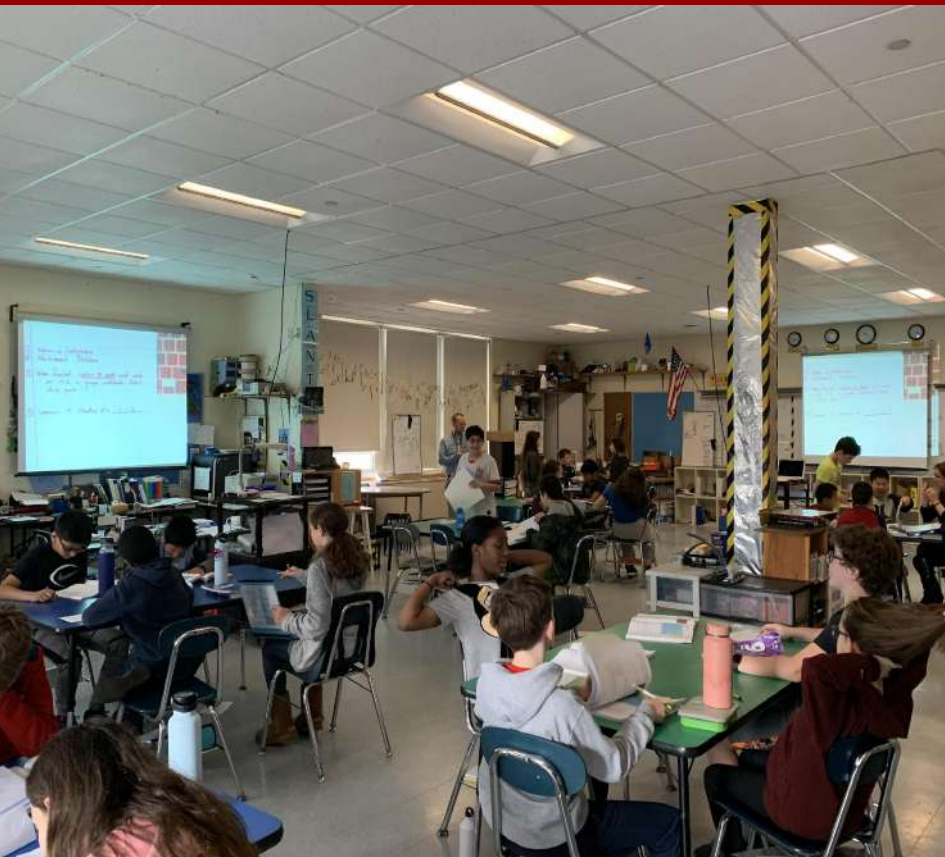
# Team Differences

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- Teaching is a craft
- Teachers bring their own personalities, skills, and interests to their classrooms and their interactions with students



# Team Photos



# Middle School Schedule

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- Middle schools operate on a six-day rotating schedule (the rotation)
- **Team classes** meet daily (six times per cycle)
- **World languages** meet four times per cycle
- **Fine and Applied Arts classes** meet two times per cycle (PE full year; Technology/Engineering, Health, Music, Drama, Art, and Activity Elective half year)

# Middle School Schedule

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- Extension block daily after Period 4
  - Lunch
  - Band, orchestra, chorus occur here
  - Students in classrooms for independent reading, teacher support, and homework help
- Special education strategies, support classes, literacy lab occur during the rotation and at extension

# Six-Day Schedule by Block

<u>M/Tu/Th/F Classes</u> 45/50 min. classes 42/50 min. Wednesdays		DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
<b>A</b> <b>d</b>	<b>7:50-8:05</b> <i>No Advisory W</i>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Advisory</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>8:08-8:55</b> <i>7:50-8:32 W</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>8:58-9:43</b> <i>8:35-9:17 W</i>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>9:46-10:39</b> 8-min. break (MTuThF) <i>9:20-10:02 W</i>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>10:42-11:27</b> <i>10:05-10:47 W</i>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>5</b> <b>A</b>	<b>EXTENSION 1</b> <b>11:29-11:54</b> <i>10:50-11:15 W</i>	<b>Ext. 1</b>	<b>Ext. 1</b>	<b>Ext. 1</b>	<b>Ext. 1</b>	<b>Ext. 1</b>	<b>Ext. 1</b>
<b>5</b> <b>B</b>	<b>EXTENSION 2</b> <b>11:54-12:19</b> <i>11:15-11:40 W</i>	<b>Ext. 2</b>	<b>Ext. 2</b>	<b>Ext. 2</b>	<b>Ext. 2</b>	<b>Ext. 2</b>	<b>Ext. 2</b>
<b>5</b> <b>C</b>	<b>EXTENSION 3</b> <b>12:19-12:44</b> <i>11:40-12:05 W</i>	<b>Ext. 3</b>	<b>Ext. 3</b>	<b>Ext. 3</b>	<b>Ext. 3</b>	<b>Ext. 3</b>	<b>Ext. 3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>12:47-1:32</b> <i>12:08-12:50 W</i>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>1:35-2:20</b> <i>12:53-1:35 W</i>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>

# A Look at World Language Options

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# World Language in 6th Grade

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- Chinese, French, and Spanish
- Meets four times in the six-day cycle
- Three-year program to prepare for level 2 in 9th grade
- Focus on interpersonal communication and understanding culture
- Heritage speakers of an offered language should register for a different language
  - Curriculum is designed for beginners only



# Oak Hill Middle School Mandarin



# Reasons to choose Mandarin

## The World's Most Spoken Languages

Estimated number of first-language speakers worldwide in 2019 (millions)\*



\* Each language also includes associated member languages and varieties  
Source: Ethnologue





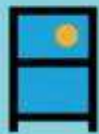
# Reasons to choose Mandarin



fire



woods



sun



moon

黄瓜

nán guā

苹果

máng guǒ

葡萄

bō luó

梨

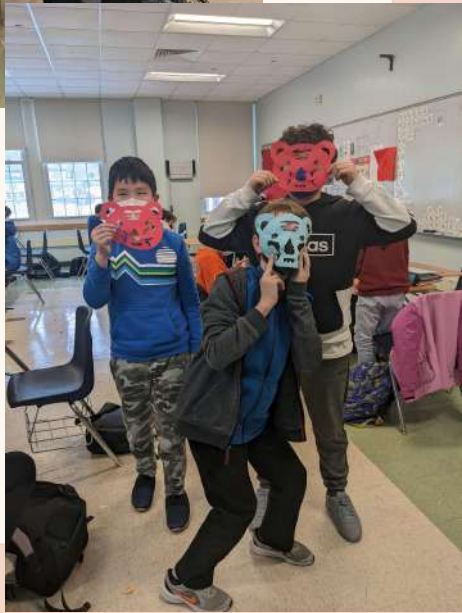
jiè lán

胡萝卜

huā cài

芥兰

yáng cōng



# Music Program

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- Band (wind instruments and percussion)
- Choir
- String Orchestra (violin, viola, cello, string bass)
- Students may register for an ensemble with prior instrument or music experience
- Once registered this spring, students will remain in ensembles for the entire 2022-23 school year

# Registration

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- All incoming 6th grade families must complete the online registration form
  - General information, world languages, and music ensembles
- Link opens at 7:30PM tonight
- Registration closes on Tuesday, April 12 at 11:00AM
- <https://forms.gle/Py47fpNaL1Ff6PfT9>

# Student Services

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- Amy Geer, Assistant Principal for Student Services
- Student Services Department includes:
  - Four school counselors
    - Ms. Jennifer Ames is the counselor for 6th grade students
  - METCO counselor
  - Social worker
  - Psychologist
  - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
  - 16 special education teachers

# Student Services

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- Oak Hill is an inclusive community
- We strive to meet the needs of every student
- We provide appropriate supports where needed
- All students can access school counselors
- Some students receive specialized support from special education and 504 services

# Counseling at Oak Hill

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- Ms. Jennifer Ames will be the school counselor for three years
  - Meets with students individually and in groups; mediates between students
  - Assists in social, emotional, academic, and scheduling issues
  - Supports parents and teachers
  - Meets regularly with teacher teams
  - Facilitates IEP and 504 meetings
  - Provides referrals for community resources and consults with outside agencies
  - Assists with transitions (incoming 5th to 6th, and then to 9th grade at Newton South)

# Important Information for Families

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- The best way to ask about classes is to communicate with your student and your student's teachers directly via email
- School counselors serve as a contact liaison if you need assistance
- School counselors can answer many questions



# Progress Reporting

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- Conferences
  - Listening conferences have taken place early in the year
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences occur November-January (12 minutes with team teachers)
- Grading Reports
  - Three report cards per year, available online, with letter grades and comments
  - Midterm progress reports for core subjects and world language classes

# METCO Program

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- Currently, there are 28 students enrolled in our Oak Hill program
- Newton's METCO program is the largest in the state, with over 400 students
- METCO counselor Dan Arroyo works at Oak Hill 2.5 days per week

# English Language Learner Program

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- Currently, there are 29 ELL students at different proficiency levels
- Anne Myers and Diana Cross are the two full-time ELL teachers at Oak Hill
- **Beginner ELL Program**
  - Sheltered instruction in English and social studies
  - Students join grade level peers in all other classes (in-class support in science)
- **Intermediate/Advanced ELL Program**
  - Students begin transition to mainstream English and social studies classes

# Team Placement Process

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- Our primary goal is to create balanced heterogeneous classes
- Counselors gather information from feeder schools
- Optional parent letter describing student learning styles due to Ms. Ames by **April 12**
- Counselors, assistant principals, and special education case managers all assist in team placement
  - Balance by feeder school and students' strengths and needs
- Team placements are distributed in late August and cannot be changed

# Questions?

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**Thank You!**

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