



# OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

*School Board Report - May 2021*

*Scott Gordon, Principal*

## Grade 9 Students Return!

On Monday, May 10th, we welcomed back nearly 100 grade 9 students to Old Town High School. They will be with us (4) days per week for the balance of the school year. Families were asked to make a decision on 4 days per week or all virtual for the rest of the year and I am happy to report that the vast majority chose to return.

Our hope for these students would be that they continue the success they were experiencing or, if they have been unsuccessful, that they find new success in being in-person with their teachers (4) days per week.

## Grade 8 - Student Tours

On Tuesday, May 4th and Thursday, May 6th, we offered our incoming 8th graders and parents an opportunity to have a brief guided tour through Old Town High School. Pre-COVID, students and families had a chance to see our building and meet some staff in our annual 8th Grade Open House, which has traditionally happened in April. This has always been an important piece of the transition process as it does alleviate anxiety for some students to simply see the building and meet a few staff members. With the current restrictions in place, the old format would not work, however we felt comfortable having families sign-up in advance and guiding them through the building in small groups. We were fortunate enough to have eight very dedicated current OTHS students who were happy to lead tours and answer questions. The whole process went very well and in reflecting on it, we think with some refinement this might be better than the Open House concept.

## BEZOS Scholar

Avery Ell was selected to participate in the Bezos Scholars Program. If you have never heard of it, you are not alone - here is a link where you can read more - if you wish.

## [BEZOS Scholar](#)

In a nutshell, this is a year-long leadership development program aimed at high achieving high school juniors (becoming seniors) from schools with 30% or more free and reduced lunch rate. The goal of the program is to foster and develop youth leadership and voice. There are only 12 students selected from the ENTIRE COUNTRY

and 5 students from the African Leadership Academy (for a total of 17 students). The application process is rigorous and competitive, but our own Avery Ell nailed it. She will spend the next YEAR attending virtual meetings/trainings, getting to see exclusive speakers, participating in a virtual Aspen Ideas Festival (the actual trip to Aspen was cancelled due to the pandemic), and executing her own community change project here in Old Town. She is a very impressive young lady.

I've attached a press release that was sent out announcing the cohort, but you can also read that information in addition to the names of other scholars here:

<https://bezoscholars.org/stories/bezos-scholars-program-announces-2021-cohort/>

## OTHS Schedule of Events

Here is a list of upcoming games/events this week:

- Tuesday, May 11
  - JV Baseball vs. Orono - 4pm
  - Baseball vs. John Bapst (at Husson) - 4pm
  - Softball vs. John Bapst (at Union St. Field) - 4pm
  - Tennis @ Foxcroft Academy - 4pm
  - JROTC - Change of Command Ceremony - 6pm - MacKenzie Gymnasium
- Wednesday, May 12
  - JUNIOR NWEA Testing
  - JV Baseball vs. John Bapst - 4pm
  - Softball vs. Orono - 4pm
  - LMS - Track Meet - 4pm
  - Tennis @ Ellsworth - 4pm
  - JV Tennis vs. Ellsworth - 5pm
- Thursday, May 13
  - Baseball vs. Orono - 4pm
  - Softball vs. Orono - 5pm
- Friday, May 14
  - Orono Track Meet @ Orono - 3:30pm
  - JV Baseball vs. Ellsworth - 4:30pm
- Saturday, May 15
  - JV Tennis Jamboree - 10am
  - Track @ Caribou - 12-noon
  - Tennis vs. Washington Academy - 2pm
  - JV Baseball vs. Brewer - 3pm

## By the Numbers

Total Enrollment 527

Grade 9 133

Grade 10 136

Grade 11 127

Grade 12 131

Always In (Self-Contained) 15

UTC Students (Monday/Friday) 27

As always, if you have any questions or concerns - please feel free to drop me an email.  
Thanks so much for your on-going support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Principal, OTHS