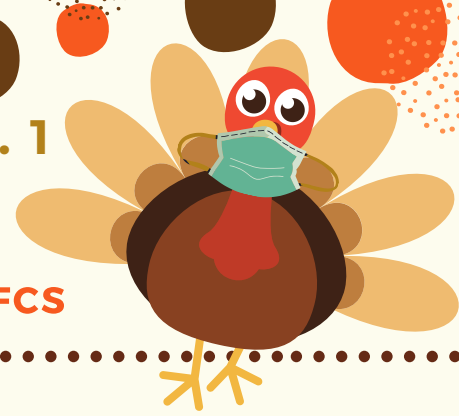


# IN THE LOOP

with LINK

Family Engagement Updates from OFCS



## Olmsted Falls Families... We Are Thankful for YOU!

### THANK YOU FOR...

Getting your kids to school every day.

Helping them with their homework.

Reading with them and to them.

Asking them what they learned today and listening to their response.

Driving them everywhere, and once they can drive themselves, worrying about them getting there safely.

Showing up for conferences, concerts, and sporting events.

Filling out financial aid forms and driving to college visits.

Volunteering in the school or classroom.

Encouraging a love of learning.

Teaching kindness by example.

Valuing education, and encouraging your children to do their best.

-For all of these things and more-

### THANK YOU!

THANK YOU

### WHAT IS LINK?

LINK is an acronym for Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. The LINK Program is a district-wide family-community engagement resource. The goal of the program is to connect the Olmsted Falls School District with parents and families, to encourage two-way communication, and to help parents support their children's learning at home.

### Parent/Family/Community Engagement Opportunities & Important Dates

- 11/10 OFIS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/12 ECC Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/16 OFMS Student-Led Conferences
- 11/17 OFIS PTA Meeting  
Falls-Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting
- 11/18 OFMS Student-Led Conferences  
OFHS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/19 Falls-Lenox Parent/Teacher Conferences  
OFMS Student-Led Conferences
- 11/23 Falls-Lenox Parent/Teacher Conferences  
OFHS Parent/Teacher Conferences  
OFHS PTA Meeting
- 11/25-27 Thanksgiving Break - No school

STAY  
"IN THE LOOP"  
ON TWITTER!

@OFCSLINK  
@OFCSDistrict



## THANKS FOR "NOTHING", 2020!

by *Julianne Allen, OFCS Family & Community LINK Coordinator*



Ahh, November. The month when we are reminded to be thankful for our family, our health, the roof over our heads, the food on our table, the toilet paper we stocked up on earlier this year, the decent wi-fi connection, the days that the kids go to school in person, and- WAIT A SECOND. The last few parts of that sentence seem a little, well, basic. Thankful for paper products? The internet? Children leaving the house for a day? Is this what it has come to in 2020?

Yes, my fellow parents and guardians. This is what it has come to. It feels like nothing is normal, and some days it's hard to be thankful for that. However, I am not writing this so that you can all feel worse for reading it. I'm going to give this my best shot and find the bright side, even if it is hiding under a dark COVID cloud this year. From one Olmsted Falls parent to another, here are just a few things I am thankful for this year:

**#1 I'm thankful that our kids are tougher than we are.** They didn't ask to be born during the 100 year stretch when a pandemic popped up, nor to grow up in the midst of it. None of this is fair. But they grab their masks and do what they've got to do. They are learning all kinds of lessons during this ordeal, and while I wish none of it had ever happened, I do believe that they will be ready to roll with the punches later in life because of it. And if you believe the children are our future (shout-out to the late, great Whitney Houston), then you have to agree it's not so bad that they've dealt with some tough stuff and come out the other side. And they will know never to run out of TP.

**#2 I love "regular" school as much as the next parent, but...I'm thankful that less in-person days mean less lunch packing.** Actually, we've completely abandoned lunch packing in my house, because, in case you missed it...**SCHOOL LUNCH IS FREE THIS YEAR.** And the food in OF is GOOD. Certainly much better than what I'm rustling up around here. Don't believe me? Check this out: [OFCS Bulldog Cafe](#)

**#3 I am thankful that practicing good hygiene is cool again.** Parents of teens, you know what I am talking about. Parents of younger kids...

**#4 I'm thankful that the COVID notice from the school is not the lice or hand/foot/mouth disease notice of yesteryear.** Because at least with COVID, we can protect ourselves with masks and distancing and the aforementioned hygiene. Lice doesn't care about any of that stuff. In fact, lice LOVES clean. Don't ask me how I know this. I just know this.

**#5 I'm thankful that there was a small respite from serving as an unpaid cabbie.** My youngest did her dance classes on-line all spring. No running late, no screaming at each other while she looked for the other ballet slipper, no shoving dinner in her mouth as we raced from saxophone lessons to band practice to dance...because we did all of this from the comfort of our home. Still some yelling, but less driving...a small victory.

**#6 Togetherness- I'm thankful for it even though we weren't sure we wanted so much of it.** At my house, we've been together since March. My oldest daughter finished up her senior year at OF from home, my freshman daughter did the same. My husband and I have been working from home since then. My senior then had to start her Freshman year in college from home, as her university wasn't allowing all students to come to campus. My sophomore has been adjusting to the hybrid schedule at school. We were together here for seven months, until my oldest was permitted to move on campus last month. She'll be back at Thanksgiving and stuck with us until mid-January. Meanwhile, her sister gets all of the attention from her parents that she doesn't really want and it is glorious. Something else to be thankful for. The pandemic has made it impossible for our children to get away from us.

**#7 I'm thankful for the things that used to be routine.** Leaving my house without a mask. Going INTO THE SCHOOL BUILDING. Watching a sporting event or a concert in person. Hanging out with other parents and their kids and not worrying that someone could get sick. Sitting next to my co-workers and working together on a project. Normal, boring, regular life. **I'm thankful for the nothing because right now it is everything.** This situation is temporary, but oh so difficult. I'm thankful that I haven't given up, and I'm thankful that you haven't given up either. We will get through this, and it will be ok. Not perfect, but pretty darn normal. And I'm thankful for that.

# TAKE NOTE!

"NEW" E-ASSEMBLY DATE IS  
COMING SOON!

Thank you to the 300+ parents who registered for the October e-assembly. While we are disappointed that the event had to be postponed, we are excited that there was so much interest. Stay tuned for the announcement of the new date.

## WORD(S) OF THE MONTH

**ENGAGE, ENGAGING, ENGAGEMENT**

**ENGAGE:** To come together and interlock.

**ENGAGING:** Tending to draw favorable attention or interest

**ENGAGEMENT:** Emotional involvement or commitment

Ex) *OFCS is dedicated to: finding ways to **engage** parents in partnership with teachers, designing **engaging** work for students, strengthening family and community **engagement** in our buildings and district.*

## QUICK QUESTION:

Q: Should I attend a virtual parent-teacher conference?

A: YES! You should! Of course you should! (If you haven't received information about how to schedule a conference, contact your child's principal ASAP!)



"Mrs. Hammond! I'd know you anywhere from little Billy's portrait of you."

CM  
COLLECTIVE

"In The LOOP with LINK" will be published periodically throughout the year for parents and caregivers in the Olmsted Falls School District. We hope that you enjoyed our first issue. Have an idea for something you'd like to read about in future issues? E-mail your questions, comments, and suggestions to [OFCSLINK@ofcs.net](mailto:OFCSLINK@ofcs.net). Thanks for reading! -Julianne Allen, OFCS Family & Community LINK Coordinator