

February 27, 2026

On Friday, April 17, all Lower School students participate in a very special day. Diffendoofer Day is a long tradition at The Oakridge School.

This day is unique for two reasons. First, students teach their peers on Diffendoofer Day. Second, the topics are generally not school subjects and there will be no worksheets, outlines, tests, or homework assignments allowed.

Each student will give a presentation (short speech, slideshow or demonstration) to their class about something they find interesting. Presentations should be 2-3 minutes in length. Students may create brief videos, give demonstrations or they can just speak from the heart with a prop or two. The most important thing is that they love what they are speaking about and they make it interesting for their listeners. (We are trying to avoid any written reports that are read.) Our hope is that all of us will learn a great deal about all kinds of fascinating things. Our students will get to share something they love, and we will all get to know more about our classmates. Finally, each student practices and receives feedback regarding public speaking skills.

Please talk with your child about possible topics (i.e. a favorite hobby, food or product, an interesting place they have visited, or a person they admire). The possibilities are endless. Ideally, it should be something they already know quite a bit about. Next they need to get their topic approved; we try not to have duplicates within a class and the topic should be one they have not presented before. You can email me with their request: sschechter@theoakridgeschool.org or return the signed form. Topics must be approved by Friday, March 27. If your child happens to be absent on Diffendoofer Day, they will present their project at another time.

Finally, research will be required at home so that they can be experts on the topic and feel prepared (five to ten facts will be sufficient). It is helpful to have your child practice their speech with a friend or a family member.

On Diffendoofer Day, students should come to school in comfortable clothes that complement their individual topic, ready to be the teacher. We look forward to this unique and informative day!

Best regards,

Sarah Schechter

Diffendoofer Day 2026

Name: _____

Topic: _____

I plan to research and prepare for this presentation.

Parent Signature: _____

Child Signature: _____

Return this form to the office on or before March 27. * Disregard this if a topic has already been submitted.