

THIS IS ONEIDA THE TIE THAT BINDS

“I would die or fight for my wonderful family. I would die or fight for my family because they mean so much to me. I couldn’t imagine not having my brothers or parents being there for me. I love my amazing family, and I would do anything for them.” The preceding four sentences were recently penned by my eleven-year-old daughter, Madison, for a school assignment. What parent wouldn’t be beaming with pride over these words? Naturally, there are moments where my children don’t always get along, but I have been blessed with three great kids.

I have an older sister and a younger brother. Since I was in the middle, I seemed to have my share of fights with each. Although my siblings and I fought from time to time, we also loved each other and always had each other’s backs. My father once gave me a whipping because my brother had gotten into a fight, and I witnessed it and didn’t stop him from fighting. Perhaps I didn’t totally deserve that whipping, but I am sure there were other instances in which I got away with something that merited a whipping.

The young people on our campus don’t always get along the way we would like, but for the most part our students live, eat, play, work, and worship together pretty well. The Oneida bond is so much different from the typical school bond. Our kids don’t just attend classes together from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and participate together in extra-curricular activities. They are together around the clock. Although they fight and argue at times, they also stand up for each other.

Our overall school spirit is typically pretty good because of this strong bond. We recently hosted some basketball games which nearly all of our student body attended. We lost the games to our cross-county rival, but I was glad to see our students support our teams as if they have gone to school at Oneida all of their lives. A classmate of mine visited for the game. We hadn’t seen each other in about 20 years, but it was as if we had never been apart as we hung out and reminisced of Oneida days gone by.

Some of the best friendships I enjoy today are with friends I made while a student or staff member at Oneida. The tie that binds Oneida hearts together is undeniable. I invite you and anyone you want to bring with you to come and see and experience this Oneida bond. Come and see a game, have a meal with us, watch a drama production, or attend a daily chapel service. Then you, too, will be forever bonded with this wonderful, little place and her people.



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OBI President

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