

Principal's Annual Report
Old Rochester Regional High School
2022

Michael Devoll – Principal
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Our Towns

Our school serves three southeastern Massachusetts towns: Mattapoisett; Marion; and, Rochester. All three towns have maintained their individual charm through careful and thoughtful community planning. Marion and Mattapoisett are quaint, close-knit seaside communities. Rochester has a more rural landscape surrounded by scenic farms, cranberry bogs, pine forests and fresh water ponds. Residents are proud of their school systems and have been very supportive in passing legislation to ensure its continued success.

Our School

The 2021-2022 school year featured a student body made up of 674 students, including 71 students attending Old Rochester Regional High School through the School Choice Program. Our student body resides in the communities of the Tri-Town: Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Through the School Choice Program, the school was able to welcome residents of the following communities to our school: Acushnet, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Middleboro, New Bedford, and Wareham. In 2022, ORRHS graduated a class of 193 seniors. ORRHS offers a comprehensive curriculum with a wide selection of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. The hard work and determination of these young scholars will not stop there as they earned themselves 597 college acceptances to 181 universities and colleges across the country. In this graduating class, 79% of the students plan to attend a 4-year college and 8% plan to attend a 2-year college. Three graduates will be entering the armed forces of the United States. Forty-eight members of this graduating class were inducted into the National Honor Society, forty-nine graduates received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, there were two Commended Students and one Finalist in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program, and 79 of the graduates received scholarships from a variety of 131 state and local organizations. Graduates will be attending institutions across New England such as Bentley, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis, Brown, Bryant, College of the Holy Cross, Harvard, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Northeastern, Providence College, Quinnipiac, Stonehill, Suffolk, Wheaton and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Across the country and world, ORRHS will send graduates to Arizona State, College of Charleston, Lewis and Clark College, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University Chicago, Rochester Institute of Technology, University College Dublin, University of Arizona, University of California Davis, University of Glasgow, University of St. Andrews, and the University of Tennessee. The most well-attended colleges amongst our graduates are University of Massachusetts Amherst and University of New Hampshire. This year, the most popular anticipated college majors include Engineering, Business, Criminal Justice, Education, and the Health/Science fields including Nursing.

Our Faculty

Of the 61 faculty members at ORRHS, 78% have their Master's degree and 3% have their Doctoral degree. The school has a 14.5 to 1 student to teacher ratio.

Accreditation

Principal of Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, Michael Devoll was pleased to report that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, voted for continued accreditation for Old Rochester Regional High School at their April 2019 meeting. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, founded in 1885, is the oldest accrediting agency in the country and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable agency to award accreditation to New England Schools. The Association is a voluntary accrediting agency of more than 2000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities, and vocational, technical, and career institutions. Of these, approximately 630 high schools, middle/high schools and PreK-12 schools have been accredited through the Association's Commission on Public Schools.

Community Service Learning

The 2021-22 school year began with the excitement of seeing returning members as well as welcoming new member's energy and commitment to give back to our Tri-Town community. CSL offered yearly volunteer opportunities and always enjoyed adding new ones so students could participate on their own. The club met once a week after school. The CSL co-advisors, Karen Browning and Andrea Moniz, helped to advise students as they take on student leadership roles on various community service projects that are new and on-going projects. For the 5th year, under the leadership of the students, the CSL Club collected new pairs of socks for their "SOCKTOBER" event in October. It was another huge success and the socks were donated to The Women's Center in New Bedford. As October came to a close, the CSL Club turned its focus to the December group event in collaboration with Toys for Tots and the Tri-Town police departments, for our "Stuff a Cruiser" event. This year they were especially pleased as all three town's police departments were represented and CSL was able to collect many toys for local children. The club appreciated the generosity of our Tri-Town residents.

Among these group volunteer activities, CSL has had several individual volunteer opportunities brought to the group by students and led by students, such as volunteering on weekends at Damien's Pantry.

The CSL Club has also been informed of opportunities brought from the community, such as with the Mattapoisett Land Trust (story walks), The Friends of the Mattapoisett Bike Path (tour de Creme bike ride and "Bikes for All" program), and at the Mattapoisett Library (used book sales). For the second year, the CSL Club has continued a wonderful connection with VASE from Sippican School in Marion. The students have volunteered in various events and opportunities with the students. Some of them included the Holiday Shop event, the After Class Enrichment (ACE) Homework Help and a "movie night!"

The club planned a “beach clean-up” in the spring, as well as a school wide clean-up outside (trash as well as pruning branches and mulching in the memorial gardens). The club capped off the successful year in May of 2022, where the club honored students who have submitted their community service hours that have earned them the “President’s Volunteer Service Award”, an award where students earn either a gold, silver, or bronze medallion medal depending on the number of their volunteer hours along with a signed letter and certificate from the President of the United States, thanking them for their community service.

GSA Club

The ORRHS GSA had a very successful year advocating for education and policy change in the school district and the state to create a more inclusive community. Our GSA leadership continued last year’s presentation series, providing staff training on LGBTQ+ issues and updating them on topics such as basic education on LGBTQ+ terms and identities, respecting trans students and their needs, and creating and integrating LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum. Throughout the year, the GSA focused on educating about community care and mental health support, and invited community members to meetings to continue conversations about what is affecting our students. In March, students participated in the National Queer Youth Walkout to raise awareness of the devastating impact of anti-transgender legislation across the U.S., and the GSA president, Alia Cusolito, spoke at the Massachusetts State House on Transgender Day of Visibility to state legislators and community members. Alia was also awarded the 2022 Advancing Equity and Justice Award from the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth in recognition of their contributions as a student leader. In addition, our members were also involved with other groups, including TriTown Against Racism (TTAR), the ORR School Committee Equity Subcommittee, Massachusetts Commission for LGBTQ Youth, Queer Youth Assemble, and Let Trans Athletes Play.

Class of 2024

Despite the challenges of the 2021-2022 school year, the Class of 2024 managed to have a fun and productive year. The new officers started the year off by helping to organize the first ever outdoor Homecoming. With the theme of Angry Birds, the sophomore class decked their class hallway with decorations, created a fun skit complete with choreographed dances and music, and performed in front of the whole school on the football field. Volunteers from the class ran the concession stand during the very cold homecoming dance. The class ran several fundraisers including restaurant nights at The Inn on Shipyard Park and Walrus and the Captain. They also participated in the neediest family fundraiser and organized the first freshmen/sophomore semi-formal winter dance. In June, the class elected new officers and senators.

AFS Club

The AFS Club empowers students to become globally engaged citizens by delivering meaningful intercultural experiences that provide the knowledge and skill needed to help create a more just and peaceful world. AFS is open to all students who enjoy traveling and meeting new people. 2021-2022 was a great year as our club welcomed three international students to ORRHS and were able to attend a few of our traditional

activities. In October, we were able to open up the Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest and also visit Keith's Apple Orchard with our exchange students, where we took a tractor ride through the pumpkin patch to introduce our new international students to our community. In November, the club hosted the Annual International Dinner where they invited the Southeastern Mass International student delegation. They presented slideshows on their countries and educated the ORR students about other cultures. The club traveled to New York City in December with the international students and club members. The club visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and learned about immigrants and their stories of how they passed through those now quiet halls from 1892 to 1954. In May the club took a trip to Fenway Park to watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Houston Astros. Lastly, the club finished with a trip to Newport and shared one last dinner with the international students.

Student Council

The 2021-2022 school year was another year full of Covid-19 challenges and new normals, but Student Council (STUCO) remained committed to promoting positive school spirit and supporting students and activities within the school community. STUCO started the school year by organizing and running secure online elections for the class of 2025. After hosting a successful socially distanced Club Hub in the media center for the whole school in October, STUCO then got to work on the massive undertaking of planning ORR's first ever all fresco Homecoming! From meeting with town nurses to reaching out to parents and local businesses for donations, STUCO successfully organized and executed a truly unique homecoming dance, complete with a DJ, fire pits, warming stations, and a tent for dancing under the stars.

From the proceeds raised through the Homecoming ticket sales, STUCO was once again able to help various clubs and organizations fund activities and initiatives. Clubs that received funding from STUCO in the 2021-2022 school year included Cultural Club, Drama Club, GSA, Environmental Club, and E-Sports.

STUCO remained busy throughout the year, including hosting the annual fundraiser for neediest families and end-of-year ice cream social for the school in December. In January, STUCO members attended an educational trip to the Edward M. Kennedy Center to learn more about the important role of the Senate in our government. In February, STUCO members performed random acts of kindness during kindness week and provided hot chocolate to the entire student body before winter break. In the spring, Senators attended the SEMASC Leadership Conference at Marshfield High School, and STUCO hosted the first outdoors Class Olympics, complete with a new inflatable obstacle course event, on the football field. The year culminated with STUCO presenting \$500 "Unsung Hero" scholarships to two deserving seniors from the Class of 2022.

Art Department

Students in the art classes used their artwork to connect with their community. In the fall of 2021 the students made bowls and hosted their second Empty Bowls fundraiser. Soup was donated by Blunt Fine foods and patrons made a donation in

exchange for a hand-crafted ceramic bowl and warm soup. All monies raised went to support local families.

Art 1 and English students collaborated to bring modern day monsters to life through words and sculptures. The collaboration was on display in the library. Students entered local and regional art shows and earned recognition. ORR students had artwork selected for the Emerging Young Artist Show (UMass Dartmouth) and were also recognized with honorable mention awards in the Scholastic Art competition.

Locally the AP Art and Design and Honors Art II classes showed their work at the Mattapoisett Library. Eight students submitted AP Art and Design portfolios, all earning passing grades and half earning 4s and 5s.

National Honor Society

During the 2021-2022 school year, members of the Old Rochester Regional National Honor Society have worked tirelessly to fulfill the tenets of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. In addition to maintaining high academic standards and serving in leadership roles here at ORR, they have joined with the school and greater community on various initiatives throughout the year. NHS members have reached out to younger students through tutoring sessions and craft afternoons. During the literacy initiative, students donated over 1,000 books to Southcoast schools and Gifts to Give. They also supported the Boy's and Girl's Club of Fall River's afternoon program with supply packages. NHS members reached out to the senior citizens in our community through holiday greetings and packages. In an effort to promote positive mental health here at the high school, students started various positivity and mental health campaigns. These students have laid the groundwork for the new NHS members who will continue the valuable work done by this group.

Music

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Music Department saw a return to many of the pre-Covid events. The Southeast District Music Festival was finally in-person again, and ORRHS had one student participate. So far in the 2022-2023 school year, the music department have had eight students accepted to and participate in the District Festival, as well as one student recommended to audition for All-State. The District Music Department and FORM were also able to once again sponsor the annual FORM Concerts in the High School Gym. They were very well attended and continue to be a great recruiting tool for the High School Music Department and fundraiser for the FORM Scholarships. In May 2022, the Concert Band and Chorus returned to the Great East Music Festival. The Chorus received a Gold rating and the Concert Band received a Platinum rating. This was the first festival for most of ORRHS's students due to Covid, so this was an exceptionally good day for group! The music ensembles plan to return to the Great East Music Festival this Spring.

Debate Team

The Old Rochester Regional High School Debate Team had a successful year in 2021-22 within the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League (EMDL). The COVID pandemic

caused two major changes to debate. First all debates took place virtually and second, the size of the team increased. The 2021-22 debate season was once again held virtually. During the season, the debaters argued the following resolution:

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.

Strong debate performances were made by seniors Edward Gonet, Mackenzie Wilson, Sam Harris and Max Vivino. The Old Rochester Regional Varsity Debate Team was the highest ranked four-person team in the league in the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League. Edward Gonet was the highest affirmative speaker in the league. The affirmative team debated in the league finals with the entire league as an audience. Sam Harris, Mackenzie Wilson and Max Vivino were also in the top ten speakers in the league.

In 2022-23 the Debate Team is arguing the following resolution:

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, bio-technology, cybersecurity.

Mock Trial

The Mock Trial club once again participated in a virtual tournament in January and February while competing in turn as both the prosecution and defense in a simulated criminal case involving a felony murder charge due to an armed robbery gone wrong. Juniors Caitlin Collier and Sam Williamson returned and gave strong performances as attorney and witness, respectively. Sophomores Ella Caesar and Jaymison Gunschel also performed well in the attorney role, building on their skills learned during the 2020-2021 season. Senior Chris Bell put forth a very strong performance as a witness, earning the top possible score 10/10 for one of our three preliminary trials. The team will return to an in-person format for the 2022-2023 season, holding trials in host-school classrooms rather than in a virtual setting.

CPR/AED Training

CPR & AED Training for both Coaches and Students were held in 4 separate classes with full attendance over this past school year. Training included Adult, Child, and Infant CPR, and Choke Save as well as the use of Automated External Defibrillator. Certification cards were given on completion of these courses. Choke Save Training was also given to all cafeteria staff with certification cards on completion. In January students were trained in the use of the AED and hands only CPR. This training took place in their Bulldog block. It was met with great interest, and participation.

Environmental Club

The Environmental Club collaborated with the Mattapoisett Land Trust and Sippican Land Trust to learn about local flora and fauna, and maintain and clean up land trust properties in the two towns. They were active in learning about the flora and fauna of the school campus, while picking up trash, and clearing the nature trail. They brainstormed about strategies to bring back the recycling program throughout the building. Students

made a proposal to STUCO for materials for recycling around campus and beyond, and were granted to funds. They ordered and used the tools to clean-up plastic and trash, not only on the school campus, but at the beach clean-up at Fort Phoenix in the spring. Finally, they collaborated with the community service club in weeding and mulching the memorial gardens on campus.

Student Newspaper

The student newspaper was able to increase the rate of production for the newspaper after being sidelined by COVID for a couple of years. The staff welcomed a fresh batch of Freshmen who started to make their way into leadership positions. This fresh burst of energy was exciting coming off a year of remote meetings that limited the students' ability to produce as a team.

Science Fiction Club

The science fiction club was able to return to in-person meetings and create opportunities for students to gather and share the stories and games that inspire their creativity. This year also saw the return of Science Fiction Club game nights that provide a safe opportunity for ORR students to build connections with their peers throughout the building and across grade levels.

Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 continued to vigorously pursue fundraising throughout the 2021–2022 academic year in preparation for future senior activities. To begin the year, the class sold Bulldog tumblers. The class held several dine-out nights throughout the year. During the holiday season, the class sold candy cane grams to benefit the Neediest Family Fund. In the spring, the class organized a school dance to benefit the freshman and sophomore classes, while simultaneously running a successful calendar raffle which included prizes from various businesses throughout the area. Overall, the class of 2025 had a very busy and productive 2021-2022 school year of successful fundraising.

Once again, the Old Rochester Regional High School proved to be first-class and continued the school's history of excellence. Students and staff congratulated the following staff members for their work at ORRHS as they moved on at the close of the school year: Phil Alessi, Jeremy Bare, Megan Hall, Donna Perry, Jaden Teixeira, Nicole Sadeck, Aaron Strothers, Zach Tilden, and Michelle Wright.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Devoll
Principal