

ORONO SCHOOLS

TODAY



October 2023

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Orono Community Members,

I am pleased to share this edition of *Orono Schools Today* and am proud to acknowledge the remarkable levels of excellence demonstrated by students, staff, alumni and the community. Each of you shares in the success of our learning community through generosity demonstrated in so many ways: your support for the technology and operating levies; volunteerism; mentorship; and collaboration with our partners, including parent organizations, the Orono Foundation for Education, and so many more. *We thank you every day.*

This academic year is pivotal as we engage in the strategic planning process to continue shaping the future of our school district. Through this

process, we will evaluate our vision, set clear goals, and outline the necessary steps to achieve them. Your input and involvement are welcome and paramount to the process. Please see page 9 to learn how you can engage in the process.

In addition to our pursuit for the best academic outcomes for our students, we remain committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where every student, parent, guardian, and staff member feels a strong sense of belonging. This work is essential for the well-being and success of our entire community.

We are proud of the high levels of participation in activities and athletics in this district. Through these pursuits, our students discover their passions, learn the value of teamwork, and build lifelong friendships.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working together to make our district an even better place for learning, growth and achievement.

Sincerely,



Kristine Flesher, Ed.D.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT OPEN HOUSE

Join us to learn more about Orono Schools for the 24-25 school year!

Thursday, November 16

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Tours scheduled at all schools

PLEASE
RSVP



or <https://bit.ly/ORONO-OPEN-HOUSE-2023>

Please learn more:

www.oronoschools.org/enroll

Contact us:

enrollment@orono.k12.mn.us

telephone: 952-449-8312

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 OHS Achievement 2022-23
- 4 Technology Update
- 6 District Points of Pride 2022-23
- 8 School Board News
- 9 Strategic Planning Year
- 10 Alumni Awards
- 12 Senior Spartan Experience - Call for Mentors

Orono High School Achievement

ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), National Merit and Post-secondary plans

Reaching Higher | Pursuing Passions

College-level Experiences & Advanced Placement Results

Orono High School students are pursuing rigorous curriculum to prepare for post-secondary academic and career goals. By offering a myriad of curricular options, Orono Schools opens doors that help students succeed on their own unique pathway.

Congratulations to our students and staff who continually demonstrate dedication and commitment to academic excellence!

“

We are proud to offer access to a wide range of AP courses that meet the needs and interests of our students. These courses build on a districtwide foundation of **excellence** and provide a springboard from which our graduates can achieve their post-secondary academic goals.

DR. AMY STEINER
OHS PRINCIPAL

College Experience

Class of 2023

Dual Enrollment (College Accounting, Computer Applications for College, Project Lead the Way Pre-engineering)

21%

Orono Advanced Placement (24 courses)

86%

Hennepin Technical College

8%

PSEO - Full time

3%

PSEO - Part time

7%

Total percent of class taking courses with the potential to earn college credit

92%
(unduplicated)

| AP Exams | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Number of students tested | 457 | 450 | 388 | 421 |
| Number of exams administered | 946 | 899 | 772 | 810 |
| Percent of exams resulting in a score of 3+ | 82% | 79% | 83% | 79% |
| Percent of graduating class taking and passing at least one AP exam | 65% | 64% | 65% | 66% |
| Percent of graduating class completing at least one AP course | 77% | 80% | 81% | 86% |

| AP Awards | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| AP Scholar | 72 | 66 | 79 | 70 |
| AP Scholar with Honor | 29 | 38 | 40 | 28 |
| AP Scholar with Distinction | 70 | 68 | 68 | 74 |
| Total AP Scholars | 181 | 172 | 187 | 172 |
| AP Capstone Diploma | 6 | 11 | 21 | 6 |
| Seminar & Research Certificate | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 |



AP School Honor Roll

2023



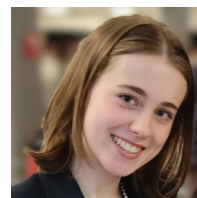
For the first time in fall 2023, Orono High School met or exceeded three criteria—college culture, credit, and optimization—to earn Platinum level in the Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll





National Merit Scholars

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Semifinalists | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Commended Scholars | 3 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 5 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 8 |



Semifinalists: Jack Eugster, Emily Middleton and Walter Royal

These students from the Class of 2024 scored among the nation's best on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT) taken in fall of junior year. The top 1% in the nation are named National Merit Semifinalists; generally, the top 2%-3% of PSAT scorers receive Commended Scholar status. These students will be recognized by the School Board in November 2023.



Commended Scholars: Leah Barry, Dexter Benson, Spencer Bowe, Alexander Engle and Joseph Mariani

ACT Data

Even with some colleges and universities no longer requiring admissions tests, the ACT can open up opportunities for students to earn direct admission into certain colleges or programs. Strong scores can also round out students' academic picture and help them qualify for scholarships.

ACT Data

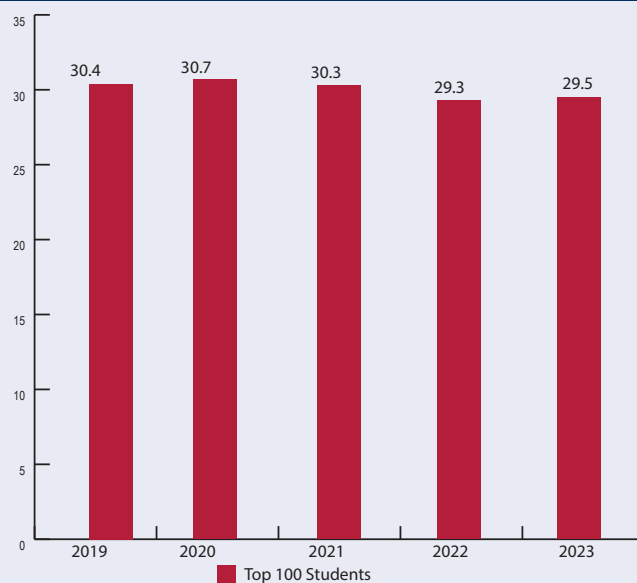
Class of 2024 ACT Summary

Students Testing 204/222
or 92%

ACT Performance

Mean Composite **Top 100** 29.5

Five-Year ACT Score History: Top 100



Technology Update

Teachers and students continue to enrich their learning and skill-building through technology; the district focuses efforts and infrastructure on safety & security

Age-appropriate Technology Instruction

In Orono Schools, we believe it is our responsibility to build students' technological fluency and skills as they prepare to thrive in a digitally connected world.

Orono teachers and technology instructional coaches select and create age-appropriate digital content that supports classroom learning. Through creative and engaging interactive apps, collaborative projects, and cutting-edge tools, students can direct their learning and explore interests. Professional development courses give our educators the opportunity to stay up-to-date on teaching practices for everything from basic computer literacy to advanced programming and applications. Teachers and media specialists also introduce the concept of *technology discernment*, the process of evaluating technology and information to ensure that what and how we learn is accurate, appropriate, and supports learning goals.

Crisis Training & Response

The health and safety of our students and staff are always our top priority. This includes planning for crisis response. Last year, we installed a modernized phone system that enables E911, giving first responders pinpoint accuracy when and where help is needed on campus. Our teams have partnered with the Minnesota School Safety Center and the Department of Homeland Security to learn best practices for keeping students

and staff safe during a crisis. We currently use the Raptor visitor management system and are testing and training staff to use Raptor's Emergency Management System to expedite and streamline response and

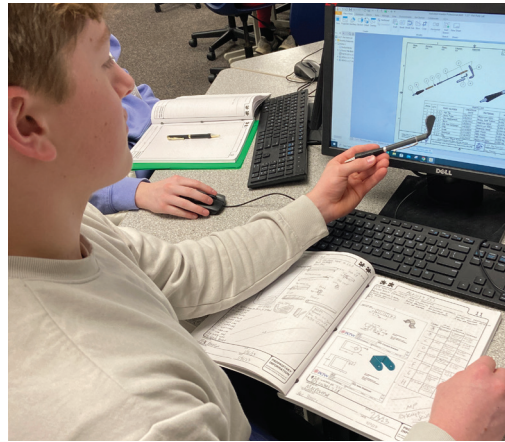
communication no matter the incident (weather, medical issue, gas leak, intruder). You can learn more on our Safety & Security website.

Focus on Cybersecurity

To protect student and staff data and sensitive district information, Orono continues its high-priority focus on cybersecurity, threat visibility and mitigation. In addition to 14-character passwords and two-factor authentication that may be familiar

strategies, the district has implemented an Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solution to continuously monitor for cyber threats across the network.

We thank our Technology Advisory Committee, formed in fall 2022, for their expertise and collaboration as we evaluate and implement the best solutions now and in the years ahead.



Passage of the Technology Levy

in November 2022 ensures a dedicated funding stream for the next 10 years.

Your support makes this work possible.

Replaced and upgraded wireless access points

269

320

Hours served by Tech Buddies summer interns

Modernized cybersecurity infrastructure to mitigate risk

100%

200+

Teacher training hours, summer 2023, to support classroom instruction & learning

Network uptime during the first 44 days of school

99.9%

468

Tech Support tickets solved in 24 hours this fall

Refreshed teacher workstations & elementary learning spaces

100

418

New and refreshed chromebooks issued to students

Assignments uploaded and available to students 24/7

2,536

\$140K

DONATION to upgrade the OHS Auditorium sound system.
Thank you!



CELEBRATING Excellence

ACADEMICS

- Class of 2023 **National Merit Finalists** were Zara Coakley, Eli Hamer, Rylan Hunt, and Michael Rascher
- Class of 2023 **National Merit Commended Scholars** were Angus Muldoon, Roxanne Neset, Brock Peyton, Rachel Pusch, and Caleb Vaughan
- In the *U.S. News and World Report* "2023 Best High School" rankings, OHS maintained its ranking as **#1 traditional high school** in Minnesota and #4 overall.
- 90 students in the Class of 2023 were awarded \$93,750 in **scholarships**. Thank you to the generous donors who fundraise to support Orono students!
- 421 students took 810 AP exams in spring 2023, with 79% of exams scoring a 3+
- For the first time, OHS achieved Platinun level in the AP School Honor Roll
- 92% of the Class of 2023 took courses with the potential to earn college credit
- Michael Rascher was a U.S. Presidential Scholar Award Semifinalist; one of only 9 from Minnesota
- Junior Book Awards went to: Emily Middleton, Dartmouth; Joseph Mariani, Harvard; Spencer Bowe, Yale; Grace Bickett, St. Lawrence; Carys Summers, Bowdoin
- 13 OMS History Day projects qualified for state competition, the highest in school history. Earning 5th place in the Group Performance category was Marie Benway, Annalise Jackson and Gaby Kastamo.
- 190 second-graders shared their passion projects in the annual Imagination Fair

ARTS

- Hennepin Theatre Trust awarded honors for the 2022 fall musical, "Sound of Music." For outstanding performance in a leading role, Lauren Dock, Axel Duke, and Amelia Shafer; for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role, Lily Quale; for technical leadership, Charles Konkol and Riley Wignall.
- Amelia Shafer was one of six finalists for Hennepin Theatre Trust's "Technical Theatre Career Pathway" program
- Three students earned Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards: Andrew Carlson, Silver Key; John DeLong, Honorable Mention; Amelia Shafer, Gold Key and Honorable Mention
- In the MSHSL Regional Art Festival, the following students earned Superior ratings: Owen Barkley, ceramic sculpture; Noah Feldmann, digital drawing; Amelia Shafer, ceramics sculpture; Alexis Arnold, ceramics; John DeLong, painting. Earning Excellent ratings were: Kiki Kummel, painting; John DeLong, mixed media; Amelia Shafer, painting; Lilian Hasse, painting
- Tim Arnold was named a quarterfinalist in the 2024 Music Educator Awards presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum

ACTIVITIES

- Fifth-grade Math Masters turned in top results, including Charlie Stegemann's 1st place finish in the Individual Round
- The OHS Student Senate and Well-being Club co-sponsored the first ever "You Matter Week" to support student and staff mental health and well-being
- Orono Youth in Government participated in the YMCA's 2023 Conference with leaders and presenters: Madeleine Dore, Simon Forbes, Hunter Wheaton & Hannah Ferber
- Orono Speech Team was top-ranked all year across multiple competitions
- Barb Shofner, Head Speech Coach, was chosen as the National Speech and Debate Association Head Coach of the Year for the Central Minnesota District
- DECA sent 65 students to the state Career Development Conference; from there, 35 students qualified for the International Career Development Conference. At state, Orono placed 1st in Sales Project, Franchise Business Plan and International Business categories.
- The OHS Student Voice Club provided excellent content and presentations for Black History Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Quiz Bowl placed 9th at state and sent five competitors to the National competition
- Math Team finished 2nd out of 55 teams in the Class AA State Tournament. Michael Rascher qualified as an individual (#1 in Class AA) and also qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics competition.
- The Table Tennis team, through Community Education, earned 2nd place in state
- The OMS Solar Boat Team earned two first-place trophies at the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society Solar Boat Regatta
- OHS Yearbook won an All-State Silver Award from Journalism Educators of Minnesota as well as 2nd place Best in Show



The 2022-23 school year was highly successful with many “firsts” and outstanding results in **academics, arts, athletics, activities and service**. The following achievements represent *only a few* highlights from the year, including state-level results in athletics. We celebrate the many outstanding achievements and performances along the way. Way to go, Spartans!

ATHLETICS (2022-23 state team, individual qualifiers and special awards)

- The Boys Cross Country team finished 5th at state
- Sindri Bonner qualified for the Girls State Cross Country meet
- Orono Girls Swim & Dive sent 9 girls to State in 8 events: Reilly Anderson, Graycin Andreen, Hailey Ball, Elle Davis, Lila James, Kaelyn Knutson, Mallory Knutson, Addie Thalhuber, and Skye Thalhuber
- Graycin Andreen was named 2022 Section Swimmer of the Year
- Girls Soccer All-state Team: Nora Chouanard and Kayla Kallenback
- Boys Soccer All-state Teams: Avery Anderson, Nate Halloff and Franklin Schwendimann
- Franklin Schwendimann was named a 2022 Mr. Soccer Finalist and Conference Player of the Year
- Derek Engler earned the Boys Soccer Class AA Coach of the Year Award
- Mountain Bike team State qualifiers: William Burns, Reese Jeremiason, Alexander Knorp, Carmichael Leland, Mikhail Long, Jack McKeand (earning 2nd place), and Jillie Swenson
- Kayla Kallenbach and Avery Anderson were MSHSL AAA winners for excellence in academics, arts and athletics. Avery was also selected as the Region 2AA Triple ‘A’ Award winner
- In Unified Bocce, Alisa Barnett & Bradley Walker placed 2nd with Andrew Rosales & Brady McPherson placing 3rd
- Three athletes qualified for State in Alpine Skiing: J.T. Burns, Eva Pinske and Jack Schideman
- Miles Miner and Sindri Bonner were State individuals qualifiers in Nordic Ski
- Orono Jazz Dance Team won the State Championship for the first time in school history
- The High Kick Dance team took 3rd place at State for the first time
- Retiring Dance Team Head Coach, Sharon Forde, earned the Class AA Head Coach of the Year Award
- Boys Basketball qualified for State for the first time since 2015 and finished in 3rd place
- Girls Hockey earned 2nd place at State, the best finish in school history
- Boys Hockey earned 4th place at State
- Boys Hockey Head Coach Sean Fish was named the Section 2A Head Coach of the Year
- Boys Hockey Assistant Coach Gregg Malmgren was named the 2A Assistance Coach of the Year
- Celia Dahl was the 2023 Athena Award winner (hockey and lacrosse)
- The Boys Swimming & Diving team earned 3rd place at State. Individuals earning All-state Honors: Eli Fish, Gideon Fish, Owen Gagne, Stewart Royal, Walter Royal, Kaden Starcznski, Mitchel Volk and Colin Ziegler.
- Girls Track & Field earning All-state Honors: Sindri Bonner, Alivia Uselding, Eva Pinske, and Taylor Walsh. Ryanne Andreen qualified for State in the 400M
- Boys Track & Field earning All-State Honors: Jack Fischer, Charlie Gronholz, Gabe Hallen, August Heinen, Owen Hirt and Miles Miner
- Hugh Perrill and Owen Skanse finished 4th in Doubles Tennis at State
- Ava Hanneman was a third-time state qualifier in Girls Golf
- Nolan Jensen and Cruz Fey qualified for state in Boys Golf

SERVICE

- School Board members Robert Tunheim (2010-2022) and Martha Van de Ven (1991-2022) were honored for service and dedication at the conclusion of their long-running terms
- The Orono PTO, OMSPA, and SPA parent organizations worked tirelessly to raise funds, host student and community events, and support our staff. Thank you!
- Orono Community Education’s annual Community Wellness Expo included activities, informative displays from wellness providers and the Empty Bowls fundraiser.
- Orono Foundation for Education presented the district with a gift of \$200,000 that directly funds classroom instruction and OHS AP courses
- The Unified & Athletic Team Polar Plunge fundraiser raised more than \$30K for the Unified Club and athletic teams.
- The first annual Senior Service Day was organized by the OHS National Honor Society leaders



FINANCE

- The district was issued a clean financial audit from Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A. the highest opinion an auditor can issue for school districts.
- Moody’s Investors Service affirmed Orono Schools’ long-term issuer rating of Aa2 in May 2023. This rating places Orono in the top 2% of all Minnesota school districts. A grading of Aa2 indicates a high level of confidence in prudent financial management.

School Board News

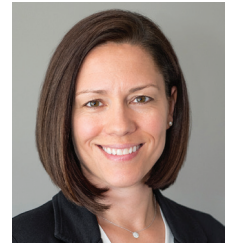
The Orono School Board has been busy at work this year! In addition to their governance responsibilities, Board members are assigned to district committees and parent-teacher organizations as a key way to stay in touch with the community. They attend meetings and present Board reports during monthly Board meetings. Please reach out to your Orono School Board members if you have questions.

Orono School Board Priorities This Year

As the six-member elected body of the Orono School District, the School Board assumes a governance role. This year, the Board has been focused on these priorities:

- Review of **student learning outcomes** from the 2022-23 school year, data and trends over time, and plans for **continuous improvement** at all grade levels.
- Completion of a **full district policy review** started during the 2022-23 school year. The Board, and members of district administration, are updating policies to reflect current district needs and align with guidance from the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA).
- Full **facilities review**, including an HVAC study, with plans to replace obsolete units in The Link and Orono Middle School 2023-24.
- Review of **safety, security and crisis-response** plans including a re-design of the Orono Middle School secure entrance and implementation of the Raptor Emergency Management system.
- Evaluation of a **demographic study** to understand changes in community populations, housing, enrollment trends, and expectations for the next several years.

For more information on the governance role of Orono School Board, please visit oronoschools.org/schoolboard.



Mike Bash, Chair; Sarah Borchers, Vice Chair; Ali Howe, Treasurer



Laura Wallander, Clerk; Wendy Lundsgaard, Director; Todd Madson, Director

School Board website

Please visit oronoschools.org/schoolboard for:

- 2023-24 meeting calendar with agendas, meeting minutes and links to recorded meetings
- School Board member contact information and the committees on which members serve
- Ways to communicate with the Board through direct communication, monthly Public Comment sessions (first meeting of the month) and informal Coffee & Conversation sessions (second meeting of the month)

We look forward to working with you!

oronoschools.org/schoolboard

Regular Meetings

In general, the Orono School Board holds official meetings open to the public at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Meetings are held at the District Office, 685 Old Crystal Bay Road N, Long Lake. Meeting dates, agendas, approved minutes and recordings are posted on the website at oronoschools.org/schoolboard.

Public Comment/Coffee & Conversation

The first meeting of the month includes an opportunity for Public Comment. Registration opens at 9 a.m. on the Friday before the Board meeting and closes at 12:00 p.m. on the Board meeting date. Coffee & Conversation is an informal way to meet with a few Board members and district administration before the second Board meeting of the month.

Work Sessions

The School Board also holds work sessions to study topics in depth; however, no formal action is taken. Work sessions are open to the public and typically held immediately following regular meetings on a predetermined basis.

All meetings and work sessions are open to the public unless the board enters a closed session to discuss personnel matters or pending litigation.

Strategic Planning Year

Superintendent Kristine Flesher, Ed.D.

As educational leaders, it is our duty to provide the best possible learning environment for our students, and strategic planning is a fundamental tool to achieve this goal. *Character, scholarship, and relationships*—the goals developed during the previous strategic planning process—have been critical guides for our work serving Orono students. Now, to review and refresh our roadmap for the future, we are ready to embark on the process once again. It will allow us to evaluate our vision and continue to establish and articulate clear, long-term objectives.

At the heart of our strategic planning efforts is a commitment to improving student outcomes. By setting measurable goals for student achievement, we can direct resources and efforts toward initiatives that make a real impact on the education and well-being of our students. This not only benefits students but ensures the long-term success and reputation of our district.

Strategic-planning Process

We have defined five phases in our strategic-planning process. Over the summer and fall, we completed the Pre-planning Phase and are now ready for Phase 2: Stakeholder Input. The strategic-planning process gives us one more opportunity to involve our community in setting the direction for the district. The community includes you: parents and guardians, teachers, staff, community residents and stakeholders. Your input will be invaluable in shaping our priorities and making decisions that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of our district.



<https://bit.ly/ORONO-STRATEGIC-SURVEY>

Action Step: Please Complete the Community Survey

I encourage you to participate in the process by completing the community survey and/or applying to serve on a committee. These steps will only take a few minutes but will go a long way in helping us define community needs.



The Orono Schools strategic-planning process includes five phases that will be carried out this academic year and beyond.

Committee Applicants Sought

Orono Schools is seeking applicants to serve on two committees. Space is limited, and selection will be based on perspective, experience, knowledge, and representation within the community. If interested, please complete the application by **November 17, 2023**.

- **Curriculum and Accountability Council (CAC):** The Curriculum and Accountability Council is an ongoing, advisory committee to district curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The CAC meets 4-6 times during the school year.
- **Strategic Planning Core Planning Team:** Members will provide guidance, input, and feedback regarding the district Strategic Plan. The Team will meet two days in February 2024 to support development of a new strategic plan and then meet again at the mid-point of the five-year implementation cycle to provide feedback.



<https://bit.ly/ORONO-COMMITTEES>

For more information, please contact Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability at aaron.ruhland@orono.k12.mn.us.

2022-23 Alumni Awards

Presented by the Orono Alumni Association

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Emilee Elbert

Emilee Harren Elbert is a 1996 graduate of Orono and is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army

Judge Advocate General Corps. She is a decorated veteran who has served 19 years as a lawyer domestically and internationally for the U.S. Army.

As a student at Orono, Emilee was involved in a variety of activities. She played volleyball, basketball, ran track and was on the ski team. She was also in drama and choir and participated in the Mentor Connections Internship Program. Her advice for current Orono students is to “take advantage of all of the different things that Orono has to offer including sports, activities, and post-secondary programs.”

Emily majored in English at Mary Washington College and then attended Law School at the University of North Dakota. She began working for the U.S. Army JAG Corps shortly after graduating and has spent much of her time overseas in Germany as well as serving 15 months in Iraq, and 9 months in Afghanistan. Her family recently moved back to the United States and are now stationed in Colorado Springs.



Emilee Elbert

In addition to committing her career to civil law, Emilee volunteers for an organization called Wintergreen where she volunteers to help individuals with disabilities and wounded warriors experience the joys of downhill skiing.

Leslie Locke

Leslie Locke is a 1990 graduate of Orono Schools and a professor of education at the University of Iowa. She has been instrumental in developing innovative techniques for educators and administrators alike to afford all children the ability to receive excellent educational opportunities.

Due to family challenges, Leslie had a lot of transition in her life at a young age. She grew up in Waverly and moved to Maple Plain with her mom to attend middle school at Orono. In high school she transferred back to Waverly where she struggled academically and almost dropped out. Instead, she returned to Orono as a senior. She stated that she owes much of her success to Orono Schools for affording her the flexibility to pursue her degrees. In particular, to the graciousness and encouragement of Tom Wasbotten,

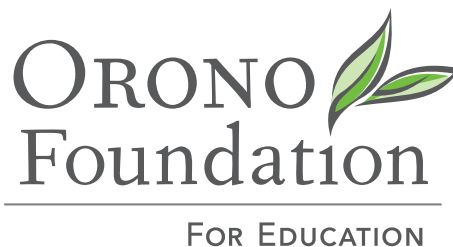
who Leslie stated, “totally saved (her) life.”

Leslie is a first-generation high school and college graduate who now studies educational opportunity, particularly by race and gender. She completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota and then received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M. She teaches Educational Leadership to masters and Ph.D. students and has been teaching remotely since she moved back to Maple Plain in 2020.

She has received numerous teaching awards from the University of Iowa and was awarded a Fulbright Scholar in 2020. Leslie remains engaged in the local community through the Orono Action Committee, Orono Community Education Advisory Board, and the Orono Foundation for Education.



Leslie Locke



Promising Alumni Award

Jessi Heitz

Jessi Heitz is a 2008 graduate of Orono and has worked for Orono Schools for over nine years, currently in the Buildings and Grounds department. She has also served the community for 14 years as a member of the Maple Plain Fire Department. In 2022, Jessi was acknowledged for two lifesaving awards as well as undertaking the most hours (187) of training of any of her fellow firefighters. In addition to these two jobs, Jessi provides care for two elderly individuals in our community and is an absolute breath of positivity to everyone she encounters.

As a past student in the Special Education program in Orono, Jessi credits her mentors and teachers Dr. Kristine Flesher, Jennifer Henry, Erica Ronnings, and others for her success. "There were so many great teachers and Special Ed staff that really pushed me and drove me to be the person who I am and taught me that no matter if you fail, try again, because it could be a different outcome. If it wasn't for them having the faith and courage and all of that in me, I don't think I would be where I am today."



Jessi Heitz

Jessi's positive attitude is inspiring to everyone who knows her. In another interview she stated that her commitment to training is to make sure that no matter what the call is that she can respond without hesitation and walk away knowing that she did her best no matter the outcome. She volunteers at many community events where she meets families and helps to build community trust. She brings her positive attitude to the halls of Orono Schools where—no matter the situation—she has a genuine interest in improving the day and life of every student she interacts with.

Alumni Scholarship Recipients

The Orono Foundation for Education honors the recipients of that year's alumni awards by granting a current Orono senior with a post-secondary scholarship in the alum's name. The award winner is asked to set the criteria to determine the characteristics of the student receiving "their" scholarship. The 2023 scholarship honorees are:

Angus Muldoon
in honor of Emilee Elbert

Christian Malveda
in honor of Leslie Locke

Hugo Holmes
in honor of Jessi Heitz

NOMINATE...

a Distinguished or Promising Alumni

The Orono Alumni Association, in collaboration with Orono High School and the Orono School District, announces the commencement of the nomination process for the **2023-2024 Distinguished Alumni and Promising Alumni awards.**

Nominations must be received by
February 1, 2024

Submit nominations through the Orono Foundation website at
<https://bit.ly/AWARDS-FORM>

One nominee will be chosen for each award and notified of their selection by early May 2024.





Orono Public Schools, ISD #278
Kristine Flesher, Ed.D., Superintendent
685 N. Old Crystal Bay Road
Long Lake, MN 55356

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Senior Spartan Experience - Mentors Needed!

Orono High School is seeking mentors to support graduating seniors participating in "Senior Spartan Experience" (SSE) this year. The program started in 2021 with four students and grew to 30 for 2023! Students in the Class of 2024 will begin applying in December and hope to be matched with mentors in January 2024.

Students in SSE engage in group activities with a culminating two-week, professional experience before graduation.

That's where you can help! If your profession is matched with a student's interest area, you'll provide a two-week internship, job shadow, service project, etc. in a supportive learning environment. Students will build their professional work skills under your direction!

Support a senior from the Class of 2024 through "Senior Spartan Experience"

Orono High School staff members Kathryn Haagenson and Erin Head are seeking individuals to be part of their SSE mentor directory for this year and beyond.

Please sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/SPARTAN-EXPERIENCE>

On the form, you'll provide your industry, organization name, and activities a student may be doing in your place of business. Thank you for your partnership!

Questions?

Please email Kathryn Haagenson, Orono High School Counselor, at kathryn.haagenson@orono.k12.mn.us

