

ORONO HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF



ORONO  
2024

JUNE 6, 2024

PESONEN STADIUM, LONG LAKE, MINNESOTA

COMMENCEMENT

# THE VALUE OF CONNECTEDNESS

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

I am so proud that each of you has navigated your unique journey to arrive at this point. Your achievements are truly commendable! You leave here on solid ground academically with deep knowledge of what it means to be a person of character. Now, as you cross the stage to become cherished Orono alumni, my wish is that you also recognize the profound value of *connectedness*.

In a world that often emphasizes individuality and personal success, it is essential to remember the importance of our connections—to ourselves, each other, and our communities.

**Strength in self-awareness.** During your time here, you have discovered your passions, your strengths, and your areas for growth. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, continue to nurture this self-awareness and self-connection. Understand your values, set meaningful goals, and pursue your dreams with authenticity and integrity.

**Power in collaboration.** The relationships you have built with your peers, teachers, coaches, advisors, and community mentors have provided incredible opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another. These connections have not only supported your academic endeavors but have also enriched your lives in countless ways. Remember the lessons learned from group projects, shared challenges, and collective achievements. Carry forward the spirit of teamwork and the willingness to both give and receive support.

**Joy in engagement.** We are all part of an intricate network of relationships that extend beyond our immediate circles. As you move forward, whether to college, the workforce, or other adventures, seek out opportunities to belong and connect. Engage with your communities, contribute positively, and be a force for good. Your actions, no matter how small, can create ripples of change that benefit society.

Class of 2024, I urge you to cherish and cultivate connections. Your individual journeys are enriched by the relationships you build along the way.

**Kristine Flesher, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

ORONO HIGH SCHOOL

# COMMENCEMENT

73<sup>rd</sup> GRADUATING CLASS

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

PESONEN STADIUM  
LONG LAKE, MINNESOTA

7:00 P.M. PROCESSION BEGINS



# PROGRAM

## **PROCESSIONAL**

(please stand)

*Pomp and Circumstance* by Edward Elgar

Orono High School Wind Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Tim Arnold

## **WELCOME**

Dr. Amy Steiner, Orono High School Principal

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

(please remain standing)

*The Star-Spangled Banner*, music by

John Stafford Smith, lyrics by Francis Scott Key  
Performed by the Orono High School Chamber Choir under the direction of Ms. Nichole Brenna and Mr. Mark Hemingway

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S ADDRESS**

Dr. Kristine Flesher

## **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

*Loch Lomond*, traditional Scottish folk song,  
arr. by Jonathan Quick

Orono High School Chamber Choir

## **HONORED STAFF MEMBERS**

Selected by the Class of 2024

Introduced by Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal

Mr. Jeremy Buch, Ms. Tatum Fjelstad, Mr. Paul Ivers, Mr. Keith Jurek, Mr. Andrew Kahler, Mr. Robert Smallling, Ms. Michelle Swenson, Mr. Barry Wohler

## **ADDRESS TO THE CLASS**

Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal

## **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

*Festive Overture* by Dmitri Shostakovich

Orono High School Wind Ensemble

## **INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Natalie Close and Carys Summers

Student Body Presidents

## **STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Grant Hemenway

Matthew Kasbohm

## **PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2024**

Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal

<b>READERS</b>	Shana Borgen, Kathryn Haagenson & Lauren Handrick Orono High School Counselors
<b>PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS</b>	Mr. Michael Bash, Chair Ms. Sarah Borchers, Vice Chair Ms. Laura Wallander, Clerk Ms. Ali Howe, Treasurer Ms. Wendy Lundsgaard, Director Mr. Todd Madson, Director
<b>MUSICAL PERFORMANCE</b>	<i>Highland Cathedral</i> Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb, Composers Meridith Richmond, Bagpiper
<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE CLASS OF 2024</b>	Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal
<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS</b>	Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal
<b>RECESSATIONAL</b>	<i>Fanfare and Recessional</i> composed by Edward Elgar, arr. James Ployhar Orono High School Wind Ensemble <i>Guests are asked to remain in their seats until graduates and faculty have exited.</i>

Congratulatory photo opportunities on the  
Spartan Plaza immediately following Commencement  
Sponsored by Spartan Parent Association

Thank you to Cooper Shannon Photography for  
capturing the Commencement celebration. You can  
download photos following the event at:  
**<https://bit.ly/2024-COMMENCEMENT>**

Junior Class Escorts: Adeline Furst, Ashley Ishaug,  
Alisha Shah, and Stewart Royal

*A special thank you to Otten Brothers Garden  
Center & Landscaping for their many years of  
stage decoration.*



# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

## ADMINISTRATION & FACULTY

**Dr. Kristine Flesher, Superintendent**

**Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal**

**Mr. Jeff Aman, Associate Principal**

**Mr. Paul Brunner, Director of Athletics & Student Activities**

Mr. Jesse Allex	Ms. Jennifer Henry	Mr. Nathan Porter
Mr. Tim Arnold	Ms. Erin Head	Ms. Mallory Purdy
Ms. Kelsie Balon Peck	Ms. Sara Ibs	Mr. Gregory Pusch
Mr. Charles Bohl	Ms. Jennifer Ivers	Ms. Brandy Randall
Ms. Shana Borgen	Mr. Paul Ivers	Ms. Ericka Ronnings
Mr. Thomas Borrell	Mr. Keith Jurek	Dr. Jennifer Runck
Mr. Paul Brauchle	Mr. Andrew Kahler	Mr. Peter Sherman
Ms. Nichole Brenna	Ms. Kristen Lekatz	Ms. Sandhya Singh
Ms. Shannon Briggs	Mr. Jarrett Lundquist	Mr. Robert Smalling
Mr. Jeremy Buch	Mr. Dennis Lynn	Ms. Jill Sowada
Ms. Sarah Cole	Ms. Danielle Malin	Ms. Jennifer Springmeyer
Ms. Jessica Curtis	Mr. Mark McConnell	Mr. Joseph Suchomel
Ms. Iris Erickson	Mr. Quinn Montgomery	Ms. Shiow-Jen Sun
Ms. Donna Ferber	Ms. Erin Murray	Ms. Michelle Swenson
Ms. Renate Fiora	Ms. Michelle Naylor	Ms. Marie Techam
Ms. Tatum Fjelstad	Ms. Grace Nohner	Mr. Philip Troy
Ms. Cara Forbrook	Ms. Lisa O'Halloran	Mr. Mark Vonder Haar
Ms. Kristin Frey	Ms. Leslie O'Meara	Mr. Jeffrey Weiland
Ms. Jessica Frie	Ms. Gretchen Ospina	Mr. Lawrence Williams
Mr. Brian Goudy	Dr. Kirsten Pardun-Johannsen	Mr. Barry Wohler
Ms. Kathryn Haagenson	Ms. Ann Peiler	Ms. Lori Wooley
Ms. Lauren Handrick	Ms. Abby Perrin	

# ORONO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

## GRADUATES

Jada Marie Abed ‡\*  
Tamer Ussama Abukhadra  
Rylan Hunter Adsem  
Drew Cameron Anderson \*  
Peyton Myron Anderson \*  
Sarah Marie Anseth \*†  
Ivette Deloya Arcos  
Kaitlyn Mae Arnes  
Alexis Elaine Arnold \*†  
Estelle Grace Atkinson \*†  
Maya Delphene Augeson  
Paige Victoria Alton Baker  
Rory Robert Alton Baker \*  
Owen Thomas Barkley \*  
Caden Alexander Barnes  
Leah Rose Barry ‡\*Ω  
Dexter Reed Benson ‡\*†Ω  
Charlotte Elise Bertram ‡\*†  
Grace Catherine Bickett ‡\*†  
Alfie Rupert Bolgar  
Jacob David Boner  
Nathan Steven Boner  
Sindri Margarete Bonner ‡\*†  
Aliza Ann Botzet Johnson ‡\*†  
Nevaeh Kathleen Bourgea  
Spencer James Bowe ‡\*Ω  
Claire Maria Brann  
Corah Amelia Breiter ‡\*†  
Christopher Dennis Byrnes ‡\*  
Kaelin Rose Carpenter ‡\*†  
Gya Nicole Casado  
Logan Reid Chappell  
Adam Philippe Charrier \*†Π  
Lisle Thomas Cherwien  
Domenick Luciano Cline ‡\*†  
Natalie Walton Close ‡\*†  
Isabelle Christine Courteau  
Jonah Sky Cowden ‡\*†  
Fallon Caroline Dalager-Aberle \*†  
Cameron Glenn De Lange  
Madeleine Janis Dore Ξ‡\*†£  
Caden Thomas Duffee  
Cayden Quinn Effertz  
John Andrew Engebretson  
Alexander Scott Engle ‡\*Ω  
Claire Elise Erb \*†Π  
Hattie Jane Etzel φ  
Jack Creighton Eugster ‡\*Ω  
Brooks Michael Fegers  
Noah Joseph Feldmann  
Kieran Joseph Foley  
Everett Alexander Forbes \*  
Hunter McArthur Fox φ  
Kyiv Aleksander James Frederick  
Owen Fitzgerald Gagne \*  
Emanuela Ghenadievna Gariuc  
Samuel Steven Garthwait \*  
Jackson Anthony Gilster  
Ethan Andrew Gmach  
Alondra Pamela Gonzalez Corrales  
Nicholas Owen Govrik  
Audrey Helen Gratton ‡\*†  
Alexandra Paige Groenke  
Charlie Thomas Gronholz \*†φ  
Isabelle Jane Haag  
Nathan Edward Halloff  
Jordan Louis Hansen  
Emily Gerda Hedberg ‡\*†Π  
Sylvie Jane Hedeen \*  
Grant Jeffrey Hemenway  
Lila Cadence Higgins  
Aiden Joseph Hills  
Owen Louis Hirt ‡\*†  
Will Daniel Hoffman  
Hailey Robin Holmes  
Haley Jane Holzschuh

# CLASS OF 2024

Maxwell Michael Hultmann ‡  
Lila Kaye James ‡\*†Π  
Peter Gabriel Jans \*†  
Riley Bennett Jeremiason  
Bria Angella Johnson  
Ella Marie Johnson  
Grace Rose Johnson  
James Christopher Johnson \*  
Lewis Kipling Johnson ‡\*  
Madelyn Grace Johnson \*†  
Steven Morrison Johnson Jr.  
Madeline Lauren Jonas \*†  
Ksenia Sergeevna Kachula  
Jonathon Drew Kanive \*†  
Matthew Robert Kasbohm \*  
Sasha Rose Kelly  
Piper Ann Kimbrel \*  
Colin Michael Knoll  
Gabrielle Mae Knooihuizen  
Ethan James Koch \*  
Kaavya Kokate ‡  
Evie Jean Kompelien  
Maxwell Larson Kozar  
Gage Lucas Kracht \*  
Ethan Mark Kremers \*†  
Jackson Huntington Krueger \*  
Gabriel David Lammers  
Anna Marie Lang  
Lauren Carolyn Larson \*  
Andrew Jacob Lawson \*  
Thomas Edward Lewin \*  
Kyle Levi Lewis ✕‡\*  
Carson James Libby \*  
Johnathan William Lisle \*  
Payton Elizabeth Litz  
Abrianna Nicole Loop  
Margaret Eve Lundell ‡\*†  
Victoria May Maas  
Katherine Cecelia Maiser  
Wyatt Jeffery Malec  
Grace Kathryn Mandy  
Peyton Christina Manson  
Joseph Cole Mariani ‡\*†Ω  
Lukas Rylan Martin  
Elizabeth Jeanne McCaherty Π  
Kyle William McCaherty  
Haylie Ann McConn \*  
Aidan Robert McDonald  
Brady William McPherson \*†  
Carlos Mendez Tejada  
Addison Janet Merdan Π  
Ayden Patrick Mette  
Emily Anita Middleton ‡†Ω£  
Halle Jennae Miller \*  
Olivia Kathryn Monger \*†  
Elijah Maximus Moody ‡  
Joseph David Mugaas \*†  
Lydia Douglass Muldoon ‡\*†  
Lily Kathryn Munsch ‡\*†  
Connor Michael Murphy  
Allyson Grace Nafstad ‡\*†  
Champ William Nelson  
Erik Thomas Nelson ‡  
Riley Eric Nelson  
Mara Sienna Newcomer  
Alexa Lee Niccum \*φ  
Isabella Nikolov  
Kennedy Dawn Owen ‡\*†  
Mason Lucas Pankonin  
Jack Karl Parresol  
Devin Allen Pearce \*  
Danielle Catherine Pearson \*  
Ian Robert Perl  
Ryan Hannah Perman ‡\*†  
Hugh Gregory Perrill \*  
Maxwell Charles Petersen  
Maxwell James Petersen  
Thomas Woodward Pillsbury

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Alexandra Grace Pleimann ‡\*  
William John Prodahl  
Lilian Christine Quale \*†π  
Kaelyn Thomas Radford  
Hailee Addison Rahn  
Middleton Elliott Randolph IV \*†  
Sophia Jean Rapp ‡\*†  
Nora Elle Redding ‡\*†  
Allie Michel Renstrom-Jacobsen  
Naomi Athenea Reyes Martinez  
Domanick William Richards  
Vienne Cora Richardson \*†  
Damon Lawrence Richmond ‡\*†  
Sophia Lee Robertson  
Sarah Jacob Robson ‡\*†  
Liam Martin Rodgers ‡  
Ellery Hughes Rohrer \*†  
Brooke Shae Rose  
Walter Edward Royal ‡\*†Ω  
Victor John Ruhland ‡\*†  
Jack McGill Rusciano \*  
Audrey Maya Sanden \*  
Easton Jensen Sankey  
Logan Robert Schleeter  
Samuel Stephen Schmid \*  
Rylan John Schultz \*  
Ben Miko Setnicker \*†  
Sam Murphy Setnicker  
Marcello Rober Sforza  
Clancy Anne Shelp  
Jack William Shideman  
Hayden Michael Simon  
Owen Thomas Skanse ‡\*†  
William Adam Skoog  
Hazel Mae Solie ‡\*†  
Eleanor Thorne Sowieja  
Sydney Kay Steiner \*  
Adele Grace Strommen ‡\*†  
Carys Frances Elizabeth Summers ‡\*†  
Andrew Ethan Swearingen  
Kate Marie Swenson ‡\*  
Elsa Grace Throldahl ‡\*†π  
Levi James Torgerson  
Isabelle Rene'e Torve \*†  
Luke Thomas Tufvander  
Elliot Michael Tysdal \*  
Elizabeth Jordan Uradnik  
Connor Charles Valene  
Morgan Amanda Walsh \*†  
Aiden Michael Ward ‡\*  
Maisie Katherine Wellman  
Luke Steven Wendling ✕‡\*  
Ellie Madison Wheaton ‡\*†  
Natalie Anne Widen \*†  
Madilyn Joanne Widener  
Brooklynn Emilee Wilson  
Javonte Antuan Wilson  
John Thomas Withrow ‡\*†  
Jackson Jimmie Woodburn  
Kyle Piper Zinn ✕‡  
Oleh Olehovych Zvirenko

✗ AP Capstone Diploma

† National Honor Society

‡ AP Scholars

Ω National Merit Scholars

\* Honor Graduate

π Tri-M Music Honor Society

£ National Speech and Debate Honor Society

φ Student enlisted in the Armed Forces

# THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The traditional academic procession features the faculty wearing distinctive apparel as an indication of scholarship and academic rank. The procession dates back to 1321 but was not adopted throughout the United States until 1900.

The use of the black robe in academic processions is thought to have arisen from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, when universities arose from cathedral schools. Robes may be of any color and are sometimes trimmed with velvet or fur.

The academic hoods worn around the neck and down the back of the gown are lined with the official colors of the university conferring the degree. The binding edge of the hood distinguishes the subject to which the degree pertains. For example, many of our faculty wear hoods edged in light blue signifying their degree in education.

## THANK YOU

We are grateful for the team at Orono High School that works diligently to make Commencement memorable for our graduates and families: Jesse Allex, Pamela Byrnes, Jessica Frie, Sigrid Heinen, Sue McCabe, Tammy O'Connor, Kristin Palm, and Adrienne Wikman.

“Take pride in how far you’ve come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don’t forget to enjoy the journey.”

— Michael Josephson, Founder, CHARACTER COUNTS!

A **white honor cord** is awarded to AP Scholars

- **AP SCHOLAR** is awarded to students who averaged 3.0 or higher on three AP exams by May 2024.
- **AP SCHOLAR WITH HONOR** is awarded to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and 3.0 or higher on four exams by May 2024.
- **AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION** is awarded to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3.0 or higher on five or more of these exams by May 2024.

A **red, silver** and **white** honor cord is awarded to students completing the AP Capstone Diploma requirements. These students earned a score of 3.0 or higher on AP Seminar, AP Research, and on four additional AP exams.

A **gold honor cord** is awarded to Honor Graduates who have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher after seven semesters of coursework.

A **blue honor cord** is awarded to students earning National Merit honors (National Merit Finalist or National Merit Commended Student).

A **blue and yellow honor cord** is awarded to members of the National Honor Society. These students have maintained a 3.7 or higher unweighted GPA, and have been selected by faculty based on their outstanding leadership, character, and commitment to service.

## HONOR DESIGNATIONS

- ☒ AP Capstone Diploma
- ‡ AP Scholars
- \* Honor Graduate
- † National Honor Society
- Ω National Merit Scholars
- Π Tri-M Music Honor Society
- £ National Speech and Debate Honor Society
- φ Student enlisted in the Armed Forces



## ORONO FOUNDATION

Since 2000, our community has partnered with the Orono Foundation for Education to raise funds that bridge the gaps in Orono School District budgets due to state funding shortfalls and increases in inflation. These critical funds support district needs and help sustain excellence in Orono Schools. Because of your generosity, the Orono Foundation contributes to Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings, World Language courses, the CHARACTER COUNTS! program, teacher professional development, and facility and equipment upgrades to ensure that our schools remain at the forefront of innovation.

Thank you to our students, teachers, administrators, staff members, parents, families, and community members for your continued support which allows us to build a bridge for brighter tomorrow.

Graduates, on behalf of the Orono Foundation board of directors, committee members, and staff, congratulations and welcome to the Orono Alumni Association! Good luck as you move forward; know that Orono's excellent education has prepared you well. Please stay in touch!

*Learn more | Donate | Nominate Alumni for a Distinguished or Promising Award*  
[oronofoundation.org](http://oronofoundation.org)



FOR EDUCATION

