

Oriskany

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2024

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Gregory Cuthbertson

SCHOOL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE
Michelle Tikalsky

DIRECTOR: SPECIAL PROGRAMS +
SUPPORT SERVICES
Denise Mazza

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Andrew Kennedy

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Catherine Mucurio

Board Of Education

Amy L. Mayo President

Brian Judycki Vice President

Michelle Anderson

James P. Chase

Louis Ciotti

Therese M. Hanna

Jeffery Kraeger

Important Numbers

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
P: 315.768.2149
F: 315.768.2137

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
P: 315.768.2063
F: 315.768.2046

DISTRICT OFFICE
P: 315.768.2058
F: 315.768.2057

ORISKANYCSD.ORG



Volume 46 · Issue 3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Oriskany Central School District Community,

I hope that this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the warmer and longer days of spring. I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire school community for welcoming me with open arms during my first year as the Superintendent of Schools and for your continued support and dedication to the Oriskany Central School District.

This is an exciting time of year as we begin to prepare for the end of the school year. The months of May and June are filled with events, activities and ceremonies that celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the 2023-2024 school year. Please be sure to check our website and social media for the latest updates about end-of-year activities and events.

Mascot Update

On the back of this newsletter is information regarding the final four choices for the new school mascot and the community poll that will be held on Wednesday, May 29 from 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m. in the Oriskany High School Atrium. The final four choices for the community poll are Patriots, Raptors, Skyhawks and Wolves. This poll will determine the recommendation that will be presented to the Board of Education for the mascot change.

Budget Overview

This is also the time of year when we present the 2024-2025 school budget for your consideration. Our commitment to excellence in education remains unwavering, and our efforts to maximize our resources to efficiently and innovatively meet the goals and objectives of our academic programs are central to our mission. Throughout the last several months, we have been working diligently to put together a spending plan that maintains and enhances our academic programs while remaining fiscally responsible to our community.

Our budget for the upcoming fiscal year reflects a comprehensive approach to meeting the diverse needs of our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Through careful planning and strategic allocation of resources, we aim to enhance educational opportunities and support the holistic development of every learner.

Key Budget Priorities:

1. Academic Enrichment - Investing in curriculum development, instructional resources and professional development programs to promote academic excellence and student success.
2. Technology Integration - Enhancing technology infrastructure, providing access to digital learning tools and fostering innovation in teaching and learning.
3. Support Services - Strengthening student support services, including counseling, special education and wellness initiatives, to ensure the well-being of every student.
4. Facilities Maintenance - Continued investment in facility maintenance and upgrades to create safe, conducive learning environments for students and staff.
5. Community Engagement - Building partnerships with families, community organizations and stakeholders to promote collaboration and enrich the educational experience.

Financial Transparency

We remain committed to transparency and accountability in our financial practices. Our budgeting process involves input from various stakeholders, including parents, staff and community members. We encourage active participation and feedback to ensure that our budget reflects the priorities and values of our community.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the future, we recognize the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. By staying true to our mission and vision, we will continue to adapt and innovate to meet the evolving needs of our students and community.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible education for our students.

Sincerely,

Gregory Cuthbertson

Superintendent of Schools



Dear Members of the Oriskany Central School District Community:

I would first like to begin by saying THANK YOU for your continued support of our students, staff and our programs. It is only with your approval each year that we are able to offer our students a variety of educational opportunities.

As with every year, we continue to face the rising costs of the goods and services we use in our district. The Board of Education works hard each year to put together a budget that is fiscally responsible for our tax payers. Through the hard work of our administrative team and the Board of Education we are able to bring forward a budget that will remain within the New York State tax cap limit for the 2024-2025 budget year. We will continue to use our well-established partnerships in order to maintain cost effectiveness within the operational aspects of our District.

We are very pleased with the progress of our Capital Improvement Project that has taken place this year. We have completed our new transportation facility and have made tremendous headway in the scope of work within our two academic buildings. We are looking to have our project completed by the end of December 2024.

The Oriskany Board of Education believes that the 2024-2025 proposed budget offers the best possible balance of a continued commitment to education for the children of the Oriskany Central School District, while also maintaining an affordable value for our residents and members of the community. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and welcome your participation in the voting process which will take place on Tuesday, May 21st from 12:00 – 8:00pm. Voting will take place in the atrium, located in the back of the High School.

Please visit our District website for the latest budget information or you can contact the district office at 315-768-2058 with any questions.

On Behalf of the Oriskany School Board,

Amy Mayo

Board President

2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The District budget vote, along with the Board of Education election, will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm, in the atrium (rear) of the Jr./Sr. High. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, it will be enacted for the 2024-2025 school year. If not passed, the Board of Education can:

- Place a revised budget before district residents for a vote.
- Place the same budget before district residents for a vote.
- Immediately adopt a contingency budget.

Should the proposed budget be defeated and a contingency budget is adopted pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, \$521,797 will be eliminated in equipment, salary increases, student supplies, and additional items to be determined by the Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year.

<p>EARLY MAIL VOTING & ABSENTEE BALLOTS</p> <p>Applications for Early Mail Voting and Absentee Ballots are located on the School District Website or at the District Office from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday -Friday, beginning April 23, 2024. Completed applications must be filed with the District Clerk at least 7 days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Otherwise, the application may be personally delivered to the District Clerk not later than the day before the election. If you are qualified for absentee voting and issued an absentee ballot, the ballot itself must be received by the School District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election in order to be canvassed.</p>	<p>Voter Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a U.S. citizen; • 18 years or older; • a District resident for 30 days prior to the vote; and not being disqualified from voting, such as certain convicted felons, or the person has been adjudicated mentally incompetent.
<p>PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>The public hearing on this year's proposed budget will be on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Jr./Sr. High School.</p>	

PROPOSED BUDGET	2023-2024 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Proposed Budget
Administrative Component		
Board of Education	\$21,475	\$16,600
Central and Business Administration	\$431,933	\$414,100
Central Services	\$869,422	\$871,393
Supervision - Regular School	\$324,783	\$325,000
Benefits	\$352,123	\$366,301
Total:	\$1,999,736	\$1,993,394
Program Component		
Teaching - Regular School	\$4,332,259	\$4,019,183
Special Education	\$2,592,747	\$2,634,050
Instructional Support Programs	\$1,747,013	\$1,649,215
Transportation	\$795,640	\$874,400
Benefits	\$3,099,125	\$3,266,670
Total:	\$12,566,784	\$12,443,518
Capital Component		
Operations/Maintenance	\$1,139,005	\$1,220,500
Bus Purchases	\$165,000	\$189,000
Debt Service	\$923,338	\$1,778,826
Benefits	\$246,017	\$264,039
Total:	\$2,473,360	\$3,452,365
Total Appropriations:	\$17,039,880	\$17,889,277

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY COMPONENT			
Total Budget 2023-2024 \$17,039,880	Program Component \$12,443,518 69.6%	Capital Component \$3,452,365 19.3%	Administrative Component \$1,993,394 11.1%
Budget-to-Budget Increase 4.75%		2024-2025 Tax Levy Increase 4.74% limit is 4.74%	
While the tax limit referred to as "2% tax cap", each district is required to annually calculate their specific tax levy limit in accordance with a formula that accounts for individual district conditions and variables. For districts across New York State, this calculation rarely results in a limit of exactly 2%, calculated rates can vary as high as 6% or more. For Oriskany CSD, this proposed tax levy increase of 4.74% does not exceed the tax levy limit and requires a simple majority vote.			

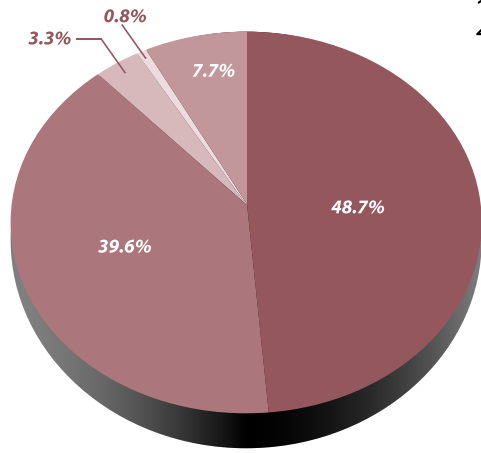
For more budget information, please visit our website!

www.oriskanycsd.org

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

REVENUES

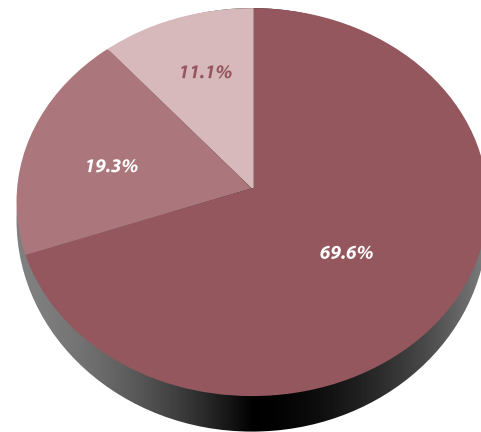
2024-25 ANTICIPATED REVENUES



Category	2024-2025 Estimates	%
State Aid	\$8,709,170	48.7%
Tax Levy	\$7,081,727	39.6%
Fund Balance	\$1,372,724	7.7%
Local Non-Tax	\$590,500	3.3%
PILOTS	\$135,156	0.8%
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$17,889,277	100.0%

2024-25 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Category	2024-2025 Estimates	%
Program	\$12,443,518	69.6%
Capital	\$3,452,365	19.3%
Administrative	\$1,993,394	11.1%
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$17,889,277	100.0%



EXPENDITURES

State Aid - To be finalized after the State Budget is adopted
Tax Levy - Monies collected from district taxpayers via school tax bills. Now limited by the Property Tax Cap Legislation.
Local Non-Tax - Use of district reserves, PILOTS, and miscellaneous revenues.
Fund Balance - Unrestricted monies that can be appropriated into next year's Budget.

Three Component Budget

The State legislation which requires the state's school districts to have a public budget vote, includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three components: Program, Capital and Administration.

Administration Component: Provides funding for the support services of the District. This component is comprised of those expenses which are associated with the BOE, Central Administration and Central Services.

Capital Component: Comprised of those expenses which are associated with the operation and maintenance portions of the budget. Also included in this component is debt service.

Program Budget: Generally the largest portion of the District budget. This portion covers general instruction, special education, BOCES instructional programs, curriculum and staff development. Additionally, pupil support services such as counseling, library, health, co-curricular, interscholastic and transportation are included in this component.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$17,039,880	\$17,889,277	\$17,551,677
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$849,397	\$521,797
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.75%	2.97%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$6,761,366	\$7,081,727	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$30,000	\$40,000	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$6,791,366	\$7,121,727	\$6,791,366
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$329,989	\$437,171	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,431,376	\$6,644,556	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,431,376	\$6,644,556	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See note below regarding separate propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,999,793	\$1,993,394	\$1,977,444
Program Component	\$12,491,812	\$12,443,513	\$12,382,868
Capital Component	\$2,473,360	\$3,452,365	\$3,201,365

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:

If the proposed budget is defeated twice, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget. The following items are excluded from a contingent budget: equipment purchases, student supplies, non-essential maintenance, transportation of students under mileage limits set by state law, and public use of school buildings and grounds except where there is no cost to the District. In light of the Property Tax Cap law, under contingency, the school district can levy no more taxes than the amount of taxes levied in the prior school year by the district.

Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount

Description	Amount
Oriskany Public Library	\$40,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$527

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Oriskany Central School District, of the Towns of Whitestown, Marcy, Floyd, and Rome, Oneida County, New York, will be held at the Oriskany Central Jr./Sr. High School Atrium (rear) on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of noon and 8:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Tax Cap Levy Calculation

	2024-25
Prior Year Tax Levy	\$6,761,365.00
Prior Year Adjusted Levy X Tax Base Growth Factor (1.0172)	\$6,877,660.00
Add Pilots Receivable in 2023-24	\$99,105.00
2023-2024 Local Capital Levy Share from last year's tax cap calculator	\$329,989.00
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	\$6,646,776.00
Adjusted Tax Levy X Allowable Levy Growth Factor (2.00%)	\$6,779,712.00
Remove Pilots Receivable in 2024-25	\$135,156.00
Tax Levy Limit	\$6,644,556.00
Add Current Year Exemptions: 2024-25 Local Capital Levy Share	\$435,938.00
Add ERS Employer Contribution Amount	\$1,233.00
Max. Allowable Tax Levy for 2024-2025	\$7,081,727.700
Allowable Increase in Dollars	\$320,362.00
Allowable Increase in %	4.74%
2024-2025 PROPOSED LEVY	\$7,081,727.00
Actual Increase in Dollars	\$320,362.00
Actual Increase in %	4.74%
Difference Between Allowable and Actual	\$0.00

Taxpayers will receive their rebate check because we are within our 2% tax cap calculation

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

Proposition #1- Budget Resolution

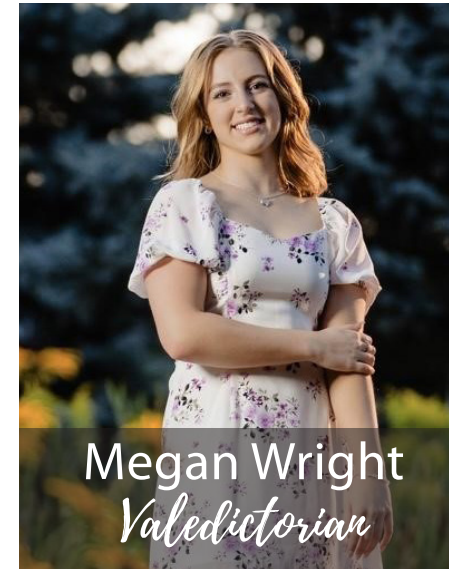
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District in the County of Oneida, State of New York, by and hereby is authorized to expend \$17,889,277 for the 2024-2025 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition #2- Oriskany Public Library

Shall the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$40,000 for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to the district residents by the Oriskany Public Library?

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Election of One (1) member to the Board of Education, for a three (3)-year term commencing on July 1, 2024, and concluding on June 30, 2027. The vacancy arises from the expiration of the term of Amy Mayo.



Megan Wright
Valedictorian

Valedictorian AND Salutatorian



Madelyn Race
Salutatorian

Megan Wright, daughter of Edward and Rene Wright, has been named the Oriskany Central School District class of 2024 valedictorian.

Megan has received many accolades during her time at Oriskany, including the Elmira College Key Award, Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Science and Math Award, AP Scholar Award and the Rensselaer Medal Award. Megan has taken an extremely rigorous course load which included AP Physics, AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP English Literature and Composition and has also taken AP Calculus as an independent study. She has also taken numerous Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) dual enrollment courses. As a senior, Megan was a member of the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES New Visions: Education program.

Megan has been involved in many extracurricular activities at Oriskany, including serving as National Honor Society vice president, Language Club president, Student Council vice president, and class representative president, as well as a member of Yearbook Club, Science Club, Drama Club and Prom Committee.

Megan has balanced her academics while also participating in Oriskany athletics on the girls varsity basketball team since her sophomore year, where she has been named a three-time Scholar Athlete and awarded the Oriskany Holiday Hoops All-Tournament Team for the past two seasons. Megan has also been a member of the girls varsity softball team since her freshman year, where she has been a four-time Scholar Athlete and Center State Conference All-Star. Her athletic achievements include the girls varsity softball sectional and regional championship wins in 2022. As a result, the team traveled to Long Island for the Class D Softball State Championship and finished second in the State, making school history.

Next year, Megan plans to attend Utica University to dual major in mathematics and physics with hopes to become a high school teacher or college professor.

Madelyn Race, daughter of William Race and Ann Dygert, has been named the Oriskany Central School District class of 2024 Salutatorian.

During Madelyn's time at Oriskany, she has received many accolades including the Le Moyne College Vice Presidential Award, MVCC President's List Achievement Award, University of Rochester Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award, RIT Business and Leadership Award, and a 2024 Women of Distinction Award. Madelyn has also taken multiple rigorous courses including AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Biology, AP Calculus, and multiple MVCC dual enrollment courses.

Madelyn is involved in many extracurricular activities including serving as secretary of the Oriskany chapter of National Honor Society, president of the Students Against Destructive Decisions club, and treasurer of the Teen AIDS Task Force, as well as being a member of the Science Club. She has balanced her academics while also participating in Oriskany athletics on the girls junior varsity and varsity basketball teams throughout high school. This school year, Madelyn has also been involved in an internship at the Daily Sentinel through the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Regional Program for Excellence.

After high school, Madelyn plans to attend Le Moyne College to major in actuarial science with hopes to become an actuary.

Congratulations, Megan and Madelyn!

Resource Management Strategies

The 2024-2025 school expenditure plan supports the goals and objectives of maintaining small class sizes, providing exceptional programs, and opportunities for our students. The Board of Education and Administration have taken actions to provide an atmosphere of success and prepare our students for career and college readiness. The District is committed to providing safety, personal attention, positive relationships, and a productive climate for learning. These areas of focus are reflected in the expenditure budget proposal including:

- Completed renovation and update of our facilities as the 22-24 Capital Project comes to a close. Upcoming renovations for 24-25 include upgrading boilers, remodeling the cafeteria, completion of elementary STEAM room, and window/ceiling upgrades.
- Increased enrichment activities for students both at the elementary and Jr/Sr high school buildings.
- Maximizing grant, state, and federal funds to support and offset local funds necessary for school programs.
- Supporting staff development and improvement through research-proven means that lead to increased student performance.
- Allocating a large portion of the District's expenditure dollars to focus on supporting educational programs for all students. Instituting new Social Emotional Programs and counseling to support student mental health.
- Implementation and continued development of a new math curriculum and support from a teacher on assignment. Implementation of a new ELA curriculum to bring the District in compliance with the mandate for the Science of Reading.
- Involving the community, faculty, staff, and students in the quest for a new mascot through committee involvement and voting. The introduction of the new mascot is set for Fall 2024, to develop and encourage school and community pride, and identity.

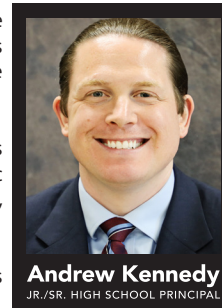
Hello Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

It's unbelievable that it is already May. I hope everyone enjoyed their spring recess. There is more daylight in the day, and hopefully everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. It is hard to believe that we are already in the last marking period of the year. Spring sports have already started. We are offering golf, baseball, softball, tennis and outdoor track and field. I look forward to seeing the community out at these athletic events as we support our student athletes. We are also making arrangements for our upcoming Jr./Sr. Prom, as well as our senior trip to Boston/Salem, Massachusetts.

Also, April signifies the start of assessment season at the Jr./Sr. High. The 7th and 8th grade NYS English Language Arts Assessment were administered on April 19 and 20. The month of May brings the NYS Mathematics Assessment on May 2 and 3, Advanced Placement Exams on May 3 - May 11, and the NYS Grade 8 Science Performance Assessment at the end of the month. June brings the NYS Grade 8 Science Assessment on June 5, NYS Regents Examinations and World Language Checkpoint A & B Examinations.

On May 21, the District Art/Technology Show will be held in the Jr./Sr. High School from 5-7p.m. Artwork on display will be from students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. There will also be a live technology demonstration by the technology club, and live music by students from the elementary band at 7p.m. Moreover, there will be a Jr./Sr. High School Spring Band and Chorus Concert on June 12, which will be held in the Jr./Sr. High Gymnasium at 7p.m.

As always, if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 315.768.2063. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Andrew Kennedy
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

ORISKANY PROUD

Dear N.A. Walbran Families:

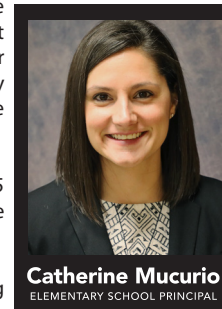
As we continue onto the last quarter of the school year, we have so much to celebrate! As always, our students and staff have brought many opportunities for learning and exploration to our school community.

Our big focus for March was our Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) program. Through PARP, students read as much as possible to build their love of literature -- and to sweeten the deal, our PARP team and several local businesses provided prizes for activities and contests throughout the month. We hosted a variety of activities including the Portable Planetarium and our "Read In," where students in grades K-6 stayed after school and cuddled up with a good book and some snacks. Finally, we closed out PARP with a scavenger hunt during PARP Finale Family Night. Our school theme this year is space, which coincided perfectly with the total solar eclipse on April 8. Students received solar eclipse glasses for safe viewing and were encouraged to discuss the eclipse, as well as safety tips for viewing!

Other notable events from the month of March included our student council-initiated Spirit Day for St. Patrick's Day and our March 15 Staff Development Day, that continued our journey of learning about the science of reading with the support of The Reading League organization.

April events included the final PARP event, our Principal's Challenge! I partook in some silliness when our students reached their reading challenge goals -- which they always meet or surpass! We also had Spring Break, NYS Assessments and hopefully, some warmer weather!

Thank you for your continued support.



Catherine Mucurio
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

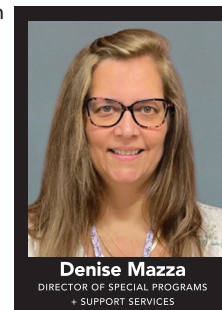
MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, Grandparents and Community Members,

It is my pleasure to share the successes and growth of the 2023-24 school year. Our students are reaping the benefits of their hardwork and commitment to their education, with many accomplishments. Six of our students have achieved a place on the BOCES Honor Roll. College acceptances have begun to arrive. Eleven of our 9th graders participated in a presentation from the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to begin exploring their options for their future. Pre-ETS is a free program, funded by Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), that assists students in identifying career interests, developing employment-related soft skills, exploring post-secondary education options and obtaining work experience. In the spirit of the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), students are returning to our district from out of district programs as well as lesser restrictive programs within special programs. Student successes described in annual review meetings have reduced parents, teachers and myself to tears.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Oriskany Special Programs Community for 15 years of successes. My years spent here have been filled with pride for the programs and experiences that have put students first.

Please contact me if you have any questions: dmazza@oriskanycsd.org or 315.768.2048.



Denise Mazza
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES

ORISKANY CSD RECEIVES DONATION OF 75 AMERICAN FLAGS

On March 12, a donation of 75 American flags from lifelong Oriskany resident Therese Hanna to the Oriskany Central School District was approved by the Board of Education. Mrs. Hanna, a Board of Education member for the past 12 years, carefully ironed each flag before they were placed in classrooms. She will take any of the old, worn flags that were replaced to Oriskany American Legion Post 1448 for a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Friday, June 14 at 6 p.m., which all are welcome to attend.

Mrs. Hanna has a passion for instilling patriotism in Oriskany's children. "I wanted to make sure that all flags were the same in each classroom and in excellent condition, so our students know that the flag is to be respected," said Mrs. Hanna.



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT



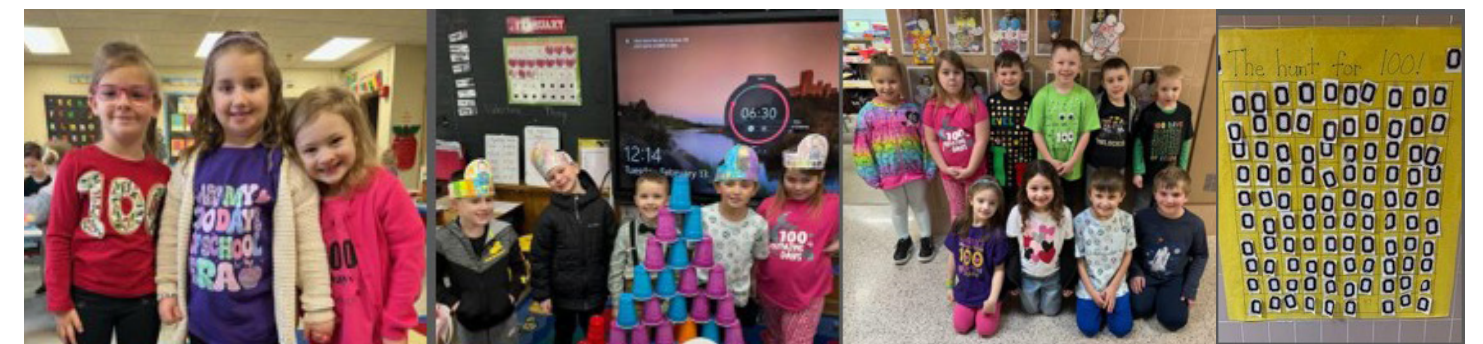
Keishla Vazquez, Bus Monitor

Keishla Vazquez joined the Oriskany School District in February as a bus monitor. A graduate of Lisander Borrero Terry High School in Puerto Rico, Keishla has worked at the Utica City School District as a bus monitor, the Durham School Services as a bus monitor and Upstate Cerebral Palsy as a teacher's aide. Keishla has a passion for working with children and her hobbies include cleaning, cooking and shopping.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

100th Day of School

On February 13, students at N.A. Walbran Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of the 2023-2024 school year! Included in the fun-filled day of activities was a schoolwide search for 100 Oriskany "O"s hidden throughout the building. As students found the numbered "O"s, they added them to a chart on display in the hall. As you may notice, we still haven't found "O" number 97!



BOYS AND GIRLS INTRAMURALS UPDATE

N.A. Walbran boys had the opportunity to practice their hockey and volleyball skills during the January and February intramural sessions with physical education teacher Mr. Enos. There was a great turnout and everyone had fun!

Physical education teacher Mrs. Brown hosted volleyball intramurals for N.A. Walbran girls, which was met with enthusiasm for the sport!



Positivity Project Assembly

A team from Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN) visited N.A. Walbran Elementary and participated in the school's monthly Positivity Project (P2) Assembly. ICAN, a not-for-profit organization, is a unique home and community-based network that provides individualized, coordinated and family-driven services and care to meet the complex needs of children and families in the Central New York community.

ICAN helped students learn more about some of the character traits they've been targeting over the past few months. The students participated in a schoolwide game and were presented with information on the character traits.



JOE TRIONFERO PRESENTS THE SHOW OF LOVE



N.A. Walbran Elementary welcomed professional entertainer and motivational speaker Joe Trionfero to help celebrate Positivity Project character traits! The Show of Love is an assembly program that specializes in character education for schools. Although respect and kindness are the main objectives, civility and responsibility were constantly highlighted as students continually strive to stop the senseless hurting that kids do to one another.

Through audience participation combined with a mix of music, fun and competition; the show entertained and inspired students and staff.

ORISKANY Winter Pep Rally

On January 26, the Jr./Sr. High held its first ever Winter Pep Rally and Senior Recognition Night. Students, staff and community members were invited to come and recognize all of the senior athletes from all winter sports teams. Everyone enjoyed the event and it was great to have the continued involvement of the community.

During the Pep Rally, the modified teams played "hot potato," freshmen and sophomores had a pool noodle relay race, and juniors and seniors played "ships and sailors." The senior game was a balloon relay race and the winners of the "pin game" played a cup game.



A Delicious Celebration: 5th Annual Pi K Walk/Run

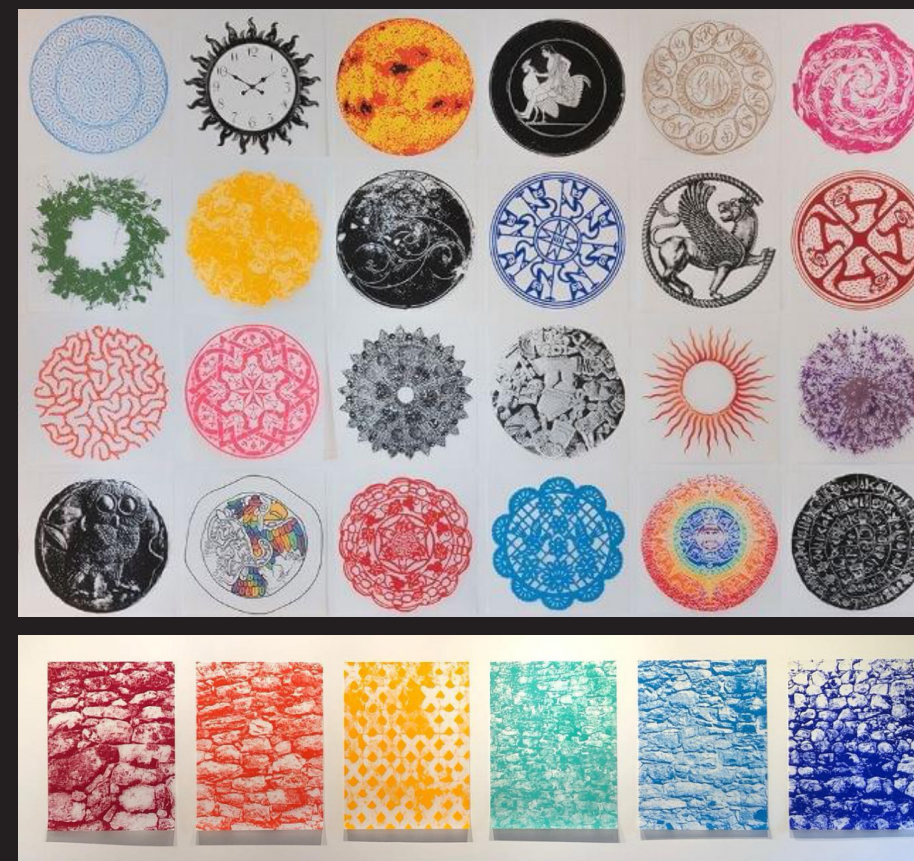
March 14 marks the annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi). However, at Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School, the festivities take on a flavorful twist with a Pi K event. Organized by the AP calculus students, this event combines the joy of physical activity with the sweetness of pie rewards at the finish line.

Participants embarked on a 3.14 kilometer walk/run through the village of Oriskany, symbolic of the first few digits of the famous irrational number. As they enjoyed the beautiful 60-degree day, they not only exercised their bodies but also engaged in a playful homage to mathematics. The event attracted more than 40 students, along with supportive teachers and staff members.

As the sun set on the 5th Annual Pi Day Pi K, one thing was abundantly clear – at Oriskany, mathematics isn't just a subject, it's a source of inspiration, creativity and of course, delicious pies.



An Evening of Art for Educators



Science teachers Mrs. Shepard and Mrs. Sciorilli attended "An Evening of Art for Educators" at Hamilton College's Wellin Museum of Art on March 7. The biannual event allows K-12 teachers and administrators to experience the Museum's current exhibitions and discuss ideas for tours and lessons with colleagues and museum staff. The event also gives teachers a chance to collaborate across disciplines and school districts while earning professional development hours that relate to what they teach in their classrooms.

Mrs. Shepard and Mrs. Sciorilli were able to meet René Treviño, the featured artist, view and discuss the connection between art and science, and engage in a variety of activities from creating art to viewing the night sky in the planetarium.

FBLA MEMBERS PLACE FIRST AT REGIONAL SPRING DISTRICT MEETING



Congratulations to Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members: Nathan Domenico, Sean Graziano, Nick Hays, Lauren Kraus and Jayden Lutton on attending the FBLA regional Spring District Meeting at Theodore's Restaurant in Canastota. The members competed against more than 100 students from nine FBLA chapters throughout Madison, Oneida and Herkimer counties in a variety of writing, speaking and performance-based events. These events were focused on business leadership and technology. Oriskany won first place in three speaking events and placed first, second and third in the competitive exams for various business categories.

FBLA, led by business teacher Pam Musacchio, allows members to gain experience and knowledge in business and leadership skills as well as gain confidence through working with local businesses, community leaders and the public.

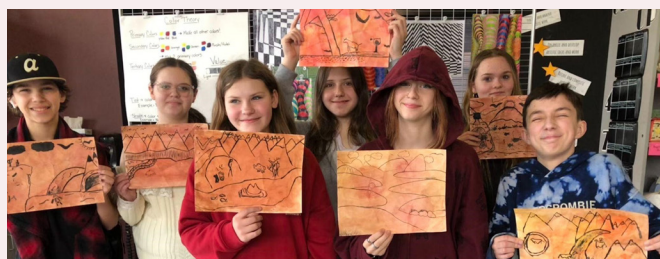
Art is all Around Us!

Jr./Sr. High School students have been exercising their creativity in a variety of art classes this semester.

Seventh grade students learned about the origins of art by creating their own examples of Stone Age paintings, and eighth grade students learned about Impressionism and created their own Impressionist landscapes.

General drawing students created their own creative color wheels while learning about composition and design; and students in 3D Art created realistic, free standing hands in the style of French artist Auguste Rodin.

Studio art students studied Op Art and artists including Victor Vaserey and Bridget Riley. The class then practiced creating optical illusions by manipulating value, contrast, line and color.



Language Club Attends Utica City FC Game

On March 3, members of the Language Club attended the Utica City Football Club (FC) game versus the Baltimore Blast at the Adirondack Bank Center in Utica. Students were able to greet the Utica City FC players when they returned to the field from halftime, take on field pictures after the game and watch a great game where Utica triumphed 10-2!



Language Club Visits Eastern Star Daycare

On February 28, members of the Language Club continued working alongside staff at the Eastern Star Daycare Center to introduce basic vocabulary within their language of study to the children through the use of songs, stories and mini lessons. Throughout February, Language Club members also worked on numbers and colors with the children to create hearts celebrating Valentine's Day and American Heart Month.



WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

On March 8, International Women's Day, Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon hosted the sixth Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony at Hart's Hill Inn.

The awards showcase and honor the remarkable contributions of students and women in the Mohawk Valley. Constituents of the 119th Assembly District nominated a total of 60 women who have made a positive impact on their own lives and the lives of others.

For the second year, Assemblywoman Buttenschon included two student honorees from each local high school who met the criteria for the Women of Distinction Award. Seniors Kaelyn Buehler and Madelyn Race were nominated and selected to represent the Oriskany Central School District. Congratulations, Kaelyn and Madelyn!



THANK YOU!

Members of Language Club would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who came out and showed their support during the Applebee's pancake breakfast fundraiser on March 17.



SIMPLE MACHINES: MARSHMALLOW LAUNCHERS



Seventh grade students wrapped up their science unit on simple machines with a fun lab where they got to create marshmallow launchers to test on their teacher.

Groups were tasked with creating a lever that could launch a marshmallow and hit a target that their teacher was holding while sitting on her desk. They were provided with a cup, utensil, tape, classroom full of materials and a marshmallow; and given 11 attempts to test their inventions and make adjustments to hit the target.

While making their adjustments, students had to draw their launchers and identify three components -- the fulcrum (fixed point that the lever rotates on), the output force (how the marshmallow leaves the lever) and the input force (the force they put on the lever). The seventh grade inventors enjoyed exercising their creativity and working with classmates during the project.

The students were also recently challenged to find and identify simple machines such as levers, pulleys, screws, inclined planes, wedges and wheels with axles that they use every day.

Students Attend Women and STEAM Symposium

A team of students attended the Women and STEAM Symposium presented by the Project Fibonacci Foundation, Inc. at the Beeches Manor in Rome on March 7.

The event allowed students to interact with a panel of inspirational women excelling in all areas of science, technology, engineering, art and math. Students were motivated and empowered by the event and made connections through networking sessions and a career fair.



MOHAWK VALLEY JUGGLERS TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT

The Mohawk Valley Jugglers varsity hockey team once again took the time to recognize the educators from all of their 11 school districts who help them succeed off the ice.

At their game against Syracuse at the Nexus Center in Utica on January 30, the team held a "Teacher Appreciation Night."

For the occasion, each player honored a teacher for their contributions to education during a ceremony before the start of the game. Oriskany students Jacob Bennett, Sean Graziano, Matt Kernan and Noah Napolis nominated and recognized technology and engineering teacher Mr. Lallier.

All teachers who were honored received a gift on the ice. Jacob, Sean, Matt and Noah chose Mr. Lallier for his positive, upbeat personality, his dedication and commitment to his students, his value of education and his respect for others.

The Jugglers capped off "Teacher Appreciation Night" by defeating Syracuse, 3-2.



TEAM TRIUMPH IN CNY MATHLETICS

In a dazzling display of collaborative intellect, the Oriskany Mathletics Team emerged victorious in the B Division of the Central New York Mathletics 2023-2024 season. The team, composed of outstanding mathematicians from grades 7-12, demonstrated synergy and skill throughout the season, ultimately clinching the coveted title.

Central New York Mathletics is an organization designed to promote mathematical problem solving skills in middle and high school students through academic competition. Since the 1960s, CNY Mathletics member schools have been hosting monthly competitions with challenging individual and group questions for participating teams.

The win is not just a trophy on the shelf; it's a testament to the dedication, teamwork and passion that Oriskany invests in nurturing the next generation of mathematical minds.

The Mathletics Team includes Gavin Bronk, Nicholas Citriniti, Sean Graziano, Anna Kasperovich, Kiril Kasperovich, Thomas Maher, Erika Reid, Katie Saladin, Jack Tagliaferri and Landon Volz.



Mascot Advisory Poll: Wednesday, May 29th

The Oriskany CSD Mascot Committee is looking for your participation in the final step of our Mascot feedback process. On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, all students, all staff, and all Oriskany School Community residents will have the opportunity to participate in an advisory poll to make their selection from the four finalists' names. The four finalists' names along with possible logos and information are below.

Throughout the day on Wednesday, May 29th, students and staff will have the opportunity to participate in the advisory poll via an electronic form. More details will be sent to students and staff about this process as we get closer to the May 29th date.

Oriskany School Community residents will have the opportunity to participate in the advisory poll on Wednesday, May 29th from 12:00pm to 7:00pm in the Davis Gymnasium Atrium Lobby. Community members who wish to participate in the poll will need to verify their residency status with proper identification or documentation (ex.Photo ID, Tax Bill, Utility Bill.) Students who attend academic programs off campus without access to the internal polling process are encouraged to come to the Atrium Lobby with their parent or guardian to participate in the advisory poll. We hope to have our Mascot Reveal on Friday, June 7th at 1:30 p.m. at the Bernie Block Field. More information to follow on the Reveal Celebration.

These are samples. The final logo will be drafted after the Board of Education has approved the mascot.

ORISKANY PATRIOTS		<p>Students: educated, engaged, empowered, proud, respectful, tolerant, honest, integrity</p> <p>District: safe, innovative, productive, positive, modern, inclusive, continuous improvement, open communication</p>	<p>Mascot: ATTRIBUTES loyal proud disciplined courageous respectful</p>
ORISKANY RAPTORS		<p>Students: educated, engaged, empowered, proud, respectful, tolerant, honest, integrity</p> <p>District: safe, innovative, productive, positive, modern, inclusive, continuous improvement, open communication</p>	<p>Mascot: ATTRIBUTES powerful strong fierce competitive</p>
ORISKANY SKYHAWKS		<p>Students: educated, engaged, empowered, proud, respectful, tolerant, honest, integrity</p> <p>District: safe, innovative, productive, positive, modern, inclusive, continuous improvement, open communication</p>	<p>Mascot: ATTRIBUTES innovative agile swift historically significant</p>
ORISKANY WOLVES		<p>Students: educated, engaged, empowered, proud, respectful, tolerant, honest, integrity</p> <p>District: safe, innovative, productive, positive, modern, inclusive, continuous improvement, open communication</p>	<p>Mascot: ATTRIBUTES devoted intelligent brave fierce territorial</p>



ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1313 Utica Street
Oriskany, NY 13424



ORISKANY