



# Oriskany

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 2024

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
**Gregory Cuthbertson**

SCHOOL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE  
**Michelle Tikalsky**

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS  
AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
**Denise Mazza**

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
**Andrew Kennedy**

ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
**Catherine Mucurio**

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**Therese M. Hanna**

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### Important Numbers

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
P: 315.768.2149  
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JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL  
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ORISKANYCSD.ORG



Volume 46 · Issue 2

## Dear Oriskany School Community,

It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the 2023-24 school year. We have had a very busy and exciting first semester to the school year. As you will see in this issue, we continue to provide excellent academic and extracurricular opportunities for our students. As a district, we take great pride in our ability to provide various learning opportunities for our students and we hope to expand these opportunities in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the work that has been done up to this point and what we are working on for the remainder of the year.

### Capital Project 2022

As you know, our Capital Project 2022 was broken out into two phases. Phase 1 was the construction of the new transportation facility. The new facility was completed in October 2023 and the transportation department has moved their operations to this new location full time. Our old transportation garage is now our maintenance/building and grounds home base. These moves have given our district the flexibility and space needed to help each department function more efficiently and effectively.

Phase 2 of the project is in full swing. Much needed work at both N.A. Walbran Elementary and the Jr./Sr. High School is taking place. At the elementary school, the locker room is being completely renovated. New flooring, walls, ceilings, plumbing and electrical, along with fit and finishes will update the space for our students. Another major component of the work at the elementary school are the classroom spaces. New ventilation in each classroom, complete with new ceilings, lights, doors and hardware is also currently taking place.

In the Jr./Sr. High School, most of the current work is in the library. This space is under a complete renovation that will bring it into the 21st century. The expected date of completion for this space will be March/April of this year. Once this is complete, the next major work in the building will be the cafeteria. We have scheduled the cafeteria to go offline the week of April 15, which is the week before Spring Recess. Once this happens, our Jr./Sr. High students will be served lunch from our auditorium. This will be an inconvenience for the remainder of the school year, but we need to begin the work at this time in order to have the space ready for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. We are currently working with the OHM BOCES School Food Service on a plan, and we will communicate with students and families as we get closer to this date.

### Mascot Update

We are continuing the process to change our school mascot. The ThoughtExchange was a valuable tool for us to get feedback from the community. We had 737 participants in the ThoughtExchange with more than 500 thoughts shared. The District Mascot Committee reviewed the data and has begun filtering through the information to make recommendations to the Board of Education. The next steps will be for the mascot committee to narrow down the possible list of names to seven to nine names then to be put forward to the student body for a vote. After the students have voted, the list will be narrowed down to three to four names that will then be polled to the entire district community. The results of this poll will be the recommendation made to the Board of Education. Again, the Board of Education is the only governing body that can make the determination of a possible mascot change.

Continued on next page ...



Lastly, as we transition into the second semester of the school year and begin our budgeting process for the 2024-25 school year, we look at our programs, operations and opportunities for students and staff. Every budget year cycle is different, and many times, as we begin to build our budget, there are many unknowns until the Governor and Legislature finalize the state budget. It is often stated that “we are building an airplane in the air” when it comes to the early budget process. This year is no exception as we have seen the end of the federal American Rescue Plan Elementary School and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) monies that provided schools additional funds to support the return to school from the COVID-19 pandemic. With these monies no longer available, districts that used these monies for salaries or recurring costs will now have to fund these through the general fund. Oriskany was no exception and we will have to plan accordingly with next year’s budget.

One of the District’s board-approved goals regarding fiscal responsibility states, **Oriskany CSD is dedicated to maximizing its resources to efficiently and innovatively meet the goals and objectives of programs while reflecting the financial values of the community.** We welcome any feedback or suggestions from the community as we always strive to improve and provide the best possible education for our students. We certainly appreciate the support that our community has shown for the District over the years and we look forward to not only maintaining our programs, but enhancing them in a variety of ways. As we get closer to finalizing the budget, we will share with you all relevant information and be transparent with our process and planning. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org) or call 315.768-2058. Thank you for making Oriskany a great place to live and learn!

Thank you,

*Gregory Cuthbertson*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



### Dear Members of the Oriskany CSD Community,

The second semester started on January 29, this means we are officially more than halfway through the 2023-2024 school year! I am extremely proud of all the hard work our students have put in so far. We had the highest number of students pass the first marking period in 16 years!

Our winter sports teams are having successful seasons. It has been exciting seeing our student athletes compete on the hardwood, track and ice these past two months. It is also great seeing our modified girls and boys basketball teams recently starting to compete. Varsity spring sports registration begins February 11, with the season starting March 11. Our students have also been busy with the various clubs we offer at the Jr./Sr. High. I highly encourage all students to get involved in an extracurricular activity outside of their regular school day. We have something for everyone!



On March 22 and 23, please come out and support our students performing in this year’s musical “Willy Wonka Jr.” The performances will take place Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 23 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Our students have been working extremely hard to put on these performances for our community. More information can be found on the District website.

This month, our school counselors will begin scheduling courses for students in grades 8-11 for the 2024-2025 school year. If you would like to be a part of the meeting to create your child’s schedule, please contact the Office of Counseling and Career Services at 315.768.2065. The Course Description Guide, which highlights all of the courses that we offer for grades 9-12, can be found on the District website.

As always, if I may be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 315.768.2063.

All my best,

*Andrew K. Kennedy*

ORISKANY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



### Dear Members of the Oriskany CSD Community,

It's hard to believe that we are in the second half of the school year. Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated students, parents and staff members for making this semester a success. The enthusiasm for learning and commitment to excellence have truly made a positive impact on our school community.

Since our last newsletter, many events have taken place. In November, we hosted our annual Veterans Day Assembly. This year was extra special with more than 40 veterans from various branches of the military joining us to be honored and to speak with our students about their time serving our country. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Cuthbertson shared the special meaning of setting The White Table -- a symbol for a remembrance of service members fallen, missing or held captive in the line of duty.

In December, we held our Holiday Chorus and Band Concert, festive Spirit Week and, most importantly, our grade level teams promoted our annual service projects. Every year, each grade chooses a local organization that students would like to support and give back to. Some of the organizations we supported this year included Feed Our Vets, Food Bank of Oneida County, The House of the Good Shepherd Project Jammies, Humane Society of Rome, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Spring Farm CARES, Stuff the Bus CNY and Thea Bowman House Hat and Mitten Drive. If you were able to contribute, thank you! Your generous response was apparent and made a difference in the lives of many people and animals! With your support, our students learned that even small contributions add up to make a big difference. We finished out December with our school-wide assembly focused on self-control and a holiday sing-a-long. Officer Jeff recognized students who received positive referrals, and our special area teachers awarded Positivity Project (P2) banners to homerooms that demonstrated those particular traits.

In January, students in grades three through six continued their practice for the transition to computer based testing (CBT). This year, each grade level (with the exception of third grade) will participate in at least one computer based state test. Fifth and sixth grade will take all computer based assessments, and fourth will take computer based English Language Arts (ELA) only. Assessments this year will begin in April and conclude in May. January provided an opportunity to participate in a testing simulation which allowed students and teachers to become more familiar with the platform that will be used in upcoming state testing. Next year, all grade levels will participate in CBT for all of their state assessments. Please know, you can best support your children by ensuring that they get a good night's sleep, a nutritious breakfast and encouraging them to try their absolute best!

February is a short month with Mid-Winter Recess from February 19-23. March is reserved for Pick a Reading Partner (PARP). We all know the importance of reading to our children and having them read to us. Be on the lookout for information coming home about how you can be an active participant in this year's PARP program. Finally, on March 18 we will be holding our Pre-K/Kindergarten Parent Orientation for the 2024-25 school year for all parents of incoming pre-K and kindergarten students and their children. Please see the rest of this newsletter for more information on this important event.

Thank you for your continued support. If you are a parent in the District, and have not yet signed up for our new communication platform ParentSquare, please do so in order to receive up-to-date information and communications regarding our school and District. Continue to check our District website and Facebook page for photos from events as well! newsletter for more information on this important event.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Mucchio*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



## A MESSAGE FROM SPECIAL PROGRAM & SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Beginning with the first individualized education program (IEP) to be in effect when the student turns age 15, transition is included in the IEP. Transition planning and services are designed to incrementally prepare a student with an exceptionality to achieve their post-secondary goals related to living, learning and earning within the community. Services and goals include a focus on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with an exceptionality to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities. Student activities include career research and job outlook, college program research and application process, to name a few. Throughout high school, students explore strengths, preferences and interests to identify goals for life after high school:

- Where will they live?
- What career path would they like to pursue?
- What education or training may be needed?

A group of Juniors and Seniors had the opportunity to tour MVCC - Utica Campus School of Technology, Science, Engineering and Mathematics. The goal of this trip was to make students aware of these programs and how they may advance the classes they attend at BOCES CTEC. MVCC offers many associate degree and certificate programs in fields such as:

- welding
- HVAC
- air conditioning technology
- hydraulics
- electronics
- electrical service
- mechatronics
- airframe
- aircraft maintenance
- carpentry
- masonry
- machinist technology

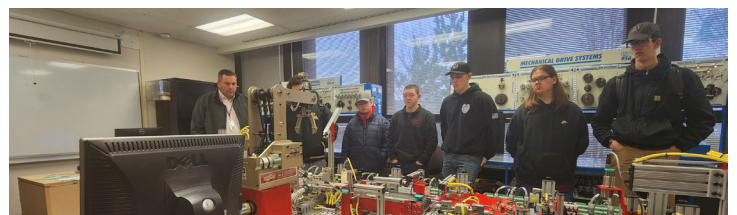
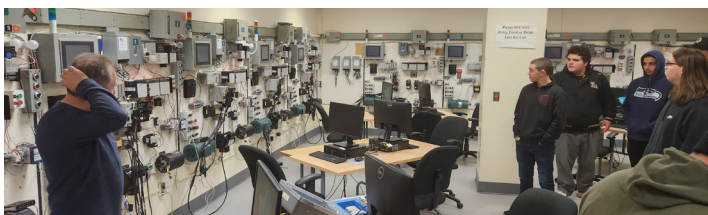
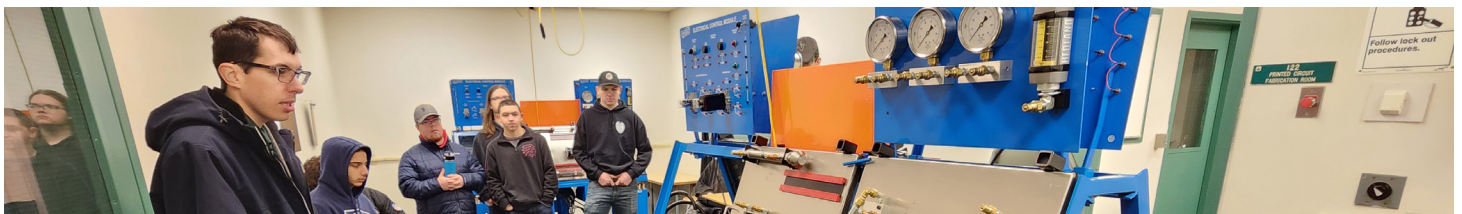
The students had the opportunity to tour the entire campus and be treated to lunch in the dining hall. The job placement for most of these programs is outstanding, sometimes hired out of the programs before completion. Additionally, these programs offer specific training for local companies such as Danfoss and Wolfspeed, Danfoss even offers MVCC classes specifically to prepare for jobs within their company.

The Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) is part of the New York State Education Department and is comprised of three primary areas: Vocational Rehabilitation (including Independent Living Program Administration), Adult Education, and the Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision. Vocational rehabilitation (VR) is designed to help people with exceptionalities meet career goals, from entry-level to professional. During a student's junior year, Oriskany Special Program teachers collaborate with a transition liaison from ACCES-VR to begin the application process. ACCES-VR services may include the following:

- A vocational assessment
- Vocational counseling and guidance and referral services
- Vocational skills training
- Assessment & training for independent travel
- Books, tools, & clothing required for training or employment
- Support Services, such as interpreter services
- Job Placement Services
- Assistive technology assessment & implementation

*Denise Mazza*

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES





Dear Oriskany Central School District families,

As we enter in to the second half of the 2023-2024 school year, I am filled with profound gratitude and joy to be a part of the Oriskany Central School District. Below you will find some tips for winter school bus safety.

**Winter School Bus Safety Tips:**

The safety of our students on the school bus depends not only on the bus driver, but others on the road as well. Below you will find some winter safety tips for students, parents and motorists:

- **Don't Rush to Catch the Bus.** When roads and walkways are slippery, rushing to catch the bus or driving faster to make it to your destination can have disastrous results. Children need extra time to get to the bus stop in cold, windy or snowy conditions. Encouraging them to leave a few minutes early and take their time can reduce the number of falls on slick pavement.
- **Bundle Up.** Students need to keep warm at the bus stop, but they also must still be able to see and hear what's going on around them. When bundling up your child in the morning, make sure he or she still has an adequate line of sight and can hear traffic and other noises.
- **Put Down the Phone.** Not looking where you are walking can have disastrous results. When walking on snow or ice covered surfaces, watch where you are walking, take shorter, more deliberate steps.
- **Get a Grip.** Wear footwear appropriate for conditions. Avoid footwear with slick (no-tread) soles when walking on wet surfaces, snow or ice.
- **Just a Little Patience.** Our School bus drivers are very well trained on driving in inclement weather; however, snow and icy roads can slow down even the most experienced driver. Safety is each driver's top priority and extra time may be needed to get from stop to stop.
- **The Last Step.** The seemingly simple task of getting on and off the bus can be taken for granted. Encourage your child to always use the handrails!
- **Pay Attention to Weather Alerts and School Messages.** As hectic as mornings can be, parents should be aware of weather alerts and school cancellations or delays. Bad weather also can lead to early dismissals or a change in bus routes. Make sure your school has your contact information to receive alerts, and be sure to check your school website or our local media outlets when inclement weather is expected.

On November 8 at N.A. Walbran Elementary, and November 16 at the Jr./Sr. High School, all students participated in winter School Bus Safety Drills to ensure their safety on the school bus and to maintain compliance with Section 3623 of New York State Education Law.

**The following items were reviewed with students:**

- Ridership Rules
- Seat Belts
- Security
- Disabled bus driver and use of bus radio
- Safe loading and unloading demonstration
- The use and operation of emergency doors, fire extinguishers, first-aid equipment and windows as a means of escape in case of fire or accident
- Safe boarding and emergency exiting procedures with specific emphasis on when and how to approach, board, disembark and move away from the bus

**Important Reminder** - School bus safety rules are designed solely to protect students of all ages from traffic dangers and to prepare them for the unlikely event of a bus accident or other emergency. We ask that all parents remind their children of the bus rules and to always be safety-conscious.

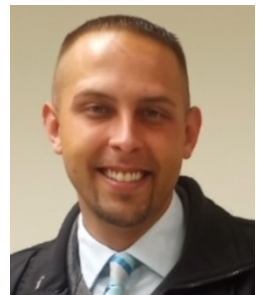
Looking ahead, I am excited for the additional changes and upgrades to the Transportation Department that will assist us in providing an exceptional service to our students and families. These items include a computerized bus routing software and the future rollout of electric school buses. Additional information will follow as we move forward.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office.

Respectfully,

*Zachary R. Nicotera*

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION  
znicotera@oriskanycsd.org



# Oriskany Teachers Programs

## Recognized during Celebration of Education

Three Oriskany CSD educators were honored at the Genesis Group's 17th Annual Celebration of Education at Hart's Hill Inn on Nov. 16. The Celebration of Education is an annual event that honors educators and educational programs throughout the Mohawk Valley that positively impact students, schools and the community.

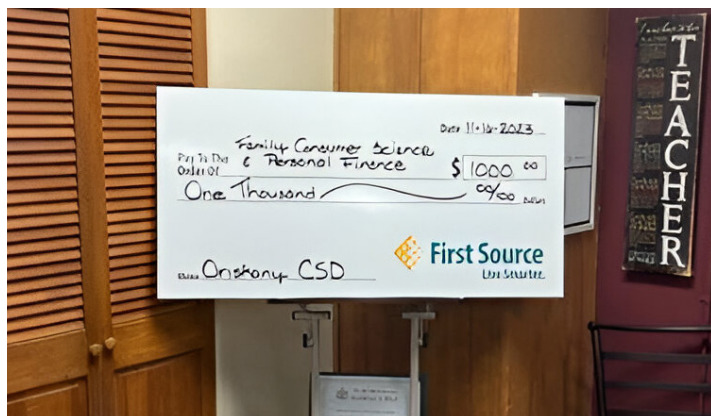
The event serves as a platform to celebrate and honor the remarkable educators and educational programs within the community, and the many ways in which they are shaping future generations with their knowledge, dedication and passion.

First grade teacher Heather Gray was recognized as an Outstanding Educator who has made a significant contribution to the lives of students and the community as a whole.

Jr./Sr. High School teachers Erin Cortese and Pam Musacchio were presented with a \$1,000 grant from First Source Federal Credit Union to help fund educational projects in their Family Consumer Science and Personal Finance classes.

The grant money will be used to collaborate on a real life financial literacy experience with students. Cortese and Musacchio envision high school students using their knowledge from personal finance to create real world scenarios for the middle school students involving community members and local professionals. They would also like to create a "retail business" managed by high school students, where middle school students can earn "Cortese Cash" or fake money to spend on food, beverage and supplies. Students would earn a "paycheck" based on the work they complete in class. They would review gross pay and net pay with students and what their deductions would be. The students would then deposit their earnings into a "bank" which would be managed by the high school students.

Congratulations and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Oriskany CSD!



# Pre-K / Kindergarten

## Parent Orientation

The Oriskany Central School District will hold a Parent Orientation on Monday, March 18, from 6-7 p.m. at N. A. Walbran Elementary School for all parents/guardians of eligible children entering pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. Incoming pre-K and kindergarten students are welcome to attend the orientation with their families, and tours of the school will be given to all families that attend.

Eligibility:

- Pre-kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Oriskany Central School District who will be (4) four-years-old on or before December 1, 2024 of the current school year.
- Kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Oriskany Central School District who will be (5) five-years-old on or before December 1, 2024 of the current school year.

Registration materials can be obtained from the N. A. Walbran Elementary School main office, and will be collected during the Parent Orientation. Please be sure to bring two (2) proofs of residency (utility bill, mortgage statement, tax document, etc.) and proof of your child's age (birth certificate).

All pre-K slots are assigned by lottery. If more families complete applications during March 18- April 12 registration than there are available slots, a lottery is held at the April 16 Board of Education Meeting. All applications and documents must be on file with the registrar's office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12 to be included in the placement lottery.

Thank you for taking an active role in your child(ren)'s education; involved parents make a huge difference!

## Elementary Students — Learn About Cyber Safety —

On November 1, fifth and sixth grade students at N.A. Walbran Elementary participated in an assembly on internet cyber safety, presented by the Village of Oriskany Police Department. The presentation emphasized Technology's Golden Rule – "don't take a photo or video, post on social media, email, text, type or say anything that you would not want your parents, teachers, friends, future colleagues or employers to see or hear."

Guidance Counselor Brandi Bostic also tied this important topic for students and adults of all ages into her bi-weekly, social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons for students.





# Fifth and Sixth Grade *Intramurals*

The fifth and sixth grade students have been participating in various activities after school, led by Physical Education teachers Mr. Enos and Mrs. Brown. In the month of December, they concentrated on basketball, ultimate football and volleyball.



## *Imagination & Engineering* IN FIRST GRADE ART

First grade students have been learning about and creating with lines during their art classes. Students were tasked with building amusement parks for spiders! They brainstormed different kinds of lines and drew them on paper strips. The paper strips then became three-dimensional lines with the ends of the paper strips bent to create feet and stuck to a base.





# PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

## Spread Spirit of Giving Through Service Projects

Pre-kindergarten students were excited to bring in new bed pillows that were donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a charity focused on providing suitable beds and bedding to children in need. Across the U.S., many children go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. SHP believes that all children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads and that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional and mental support that children need.

Kindergarten students were also thrilled to give back this holiday season. The students discussed that while it's great to receive gifts for the holidays, it's also fun to give!

Kindergarten students brought in items to donate to Spring Farm CARES of Clinton. The Animal and Nature Sanctuary is home to an average of 200-225 animals including horses, donkeys, goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and poultry. Kindergarten students really rose to the challenge, collecting at least four boxes of items for this amazing organization, including food and toys for the animals, paper towels and many office supplies.

Students also made Christmas cards, ornaments and window decorations for the 90 residents of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) Firemen's Home in Hudson, NY.

Thank you to the amazing students and their families!





# VETERANS DAY *-Assembly-*

Elementary students hosted a Veterans Day Assembly on November 9 to thank and honor local veterans for their service to our country.

Before the assembly, student council members provided breakfast for the veterans in attendance and had some time to talk with each of them.

During the assembly, elementary chorus sang "Thank You, Soldiers" under the direction of music teacher Mr. Shipp, and Superintendent Cuthbertson shared the special meaning of the setting of The White Table. The White Table is a symbol of remembrance for service members fallen, missing or held captive in the line of duty. Sixth grade student council members Tanner True and Landon Christopher set the table as Mr. Cuthbertson spoke.





# Movie Night

The Jr./Sr. High School Language Club hosted a movie night for elementary school students on the evening of December 13th the High School Auditorium. The event allowed parents some extra time to do holiday shopping while students viewed Dr. Seuss' The Grinch and enjoyed a juice box and popcorn/bagged chips that were included in the cost of their tickets.



## Seniors Network with Area Professionals at SABA Breakfast

Eight seniors had an opportunity to network with local business and industry leaders to learn more about their career interests at the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance's (SABA) 22nd annual breakfast on Dec. 1.

Nearly 200 members of the business community and students from local school districts attended the event. Students had an opportunity to network with representatives from different career sectors during the breakfast prepared by the Culinary Arts students of the OHM BOCES Career and Technical Education Center.

The program featured guest speaker Tim Thomas, Chief Strategy Officer and Assistant Vice President for Learning & Academic Affairs at Mohawk Valley Community College and OHM BOCES Cooperative Board Member.



# "NAILED IT!" Halloween Edition

On October 31, Mrs. Cortese's seventh grade Home and Careers class completed a Halloween-themed "Nailed it!" challenge. Based on the popular Netflix reality show, the "Nailed It!" challenge had students take a crack at re-creating edible masterpieces. While working together, each group had to complete their job in order to make a batch of Rice Krispie Treats. Once the treats were made, the students were individually tasked with producing a Halloween-themed treat. Students were supplied with frosting, food gel and a variety of decorations. They certainly "nailed it!"





# LANGUAGE CLUB MEMBERS GUEST TEACH AT *Eastern Star Day Care*



Members of the Jr./Sr. High School Language Club have been working alongside staff members at the Eastern Star Day Care Center to introduce day care students to basic vocabulary within their language of study through the use of songs, stories and mini lessons. Recently, the Language Club worked with their younger counterparts on numbers and colors by reading Dr. Seuss' "Ten Apples Up on Top!" Afterward, Language Club members helped the day care students count, color and trace sentences in Spanish to create their own story to keep in their classroom.

## Seniors Honored as Students of the Month by Optimist Club of Whitestown

On November 15, three Oriskany students were honored at the Elks Lodge for the Optimists Club of Whitestown's Student of the Month Program.

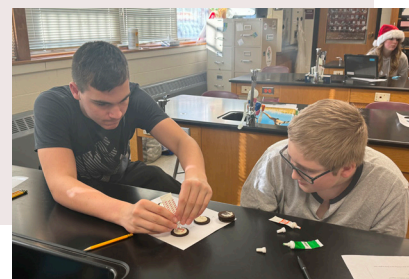
Seniors Anthony Kernan, Megan Wright and Anna Kasperovich were chosen based on their academic standing, participation in school activities, community service/volunteering and for taking on leadership roles in their school and community.

**Congratulations to Anthony, Megan and Anna on all of their achievements!**



## UGLY SWEATERS AND OREOS FOR SCIENCE!

Anatomy and Physiology students wrapped up December by applying their knowledge of body systems to ugly sweaters, while Living Environment students reviewed mitosis using Oreo cookies.





# National Honor Society

## INDUCTS 11 NEW MEMBERS

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School held its annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on November 9 in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium. Eleven students were selected for induction into the Cum Laude Chapter based on their scholarship, leadership, service and character, bringing the total number of members to 21. Inductees included:

**Kate Dellers    Brienne Eldred    Kaelyn Fabbio    Sean Graziano**  
**Chase Koenig    Thomas Maher    Jeffrey Phillips    Erika Reid**  
**Gianna Santucci    Jack Tagliaferri    Jessica Zyskowski**

*Congratulations* TO ALL OF OUR NEW INDUCTEES!



# CHEMISTRY GETS "COOL" WITH DRY ICE LAB

Thanks to Mercer's Dairy of Boonville, chemistry students had the opportunity to observe first-hand the behavior of nonpolar and polar substances through a lab featuring solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) and solid water (ice).

Students saw that when carbon dioxide changes states from a solid to a gas at approximately  $-109.3$  degrees F, it produces invisible carbon dioxide gas and interacts with water vapor, causing the water vapor to condense and form a visible "fog" cloud.

Students also heard the screeching sound produced when a metal spoon is held against dry ice. As the carbon dioxide changes from solid to gas, it causes the metal spoon to vibrate strongly enough to feel and to hear.

The class was also able to melt the dry ice, which can only be done under pressure. It was placed in a disposable pipet, the pipet was clamped shut and the pressure increased as the bulb filled with carbon dioxide gas. Once the pressure was high enough, the dry ice melted. If the pressure in the pipet is not released, the carbon dioxide continues to absorb energy and boils until the pipet explodes.

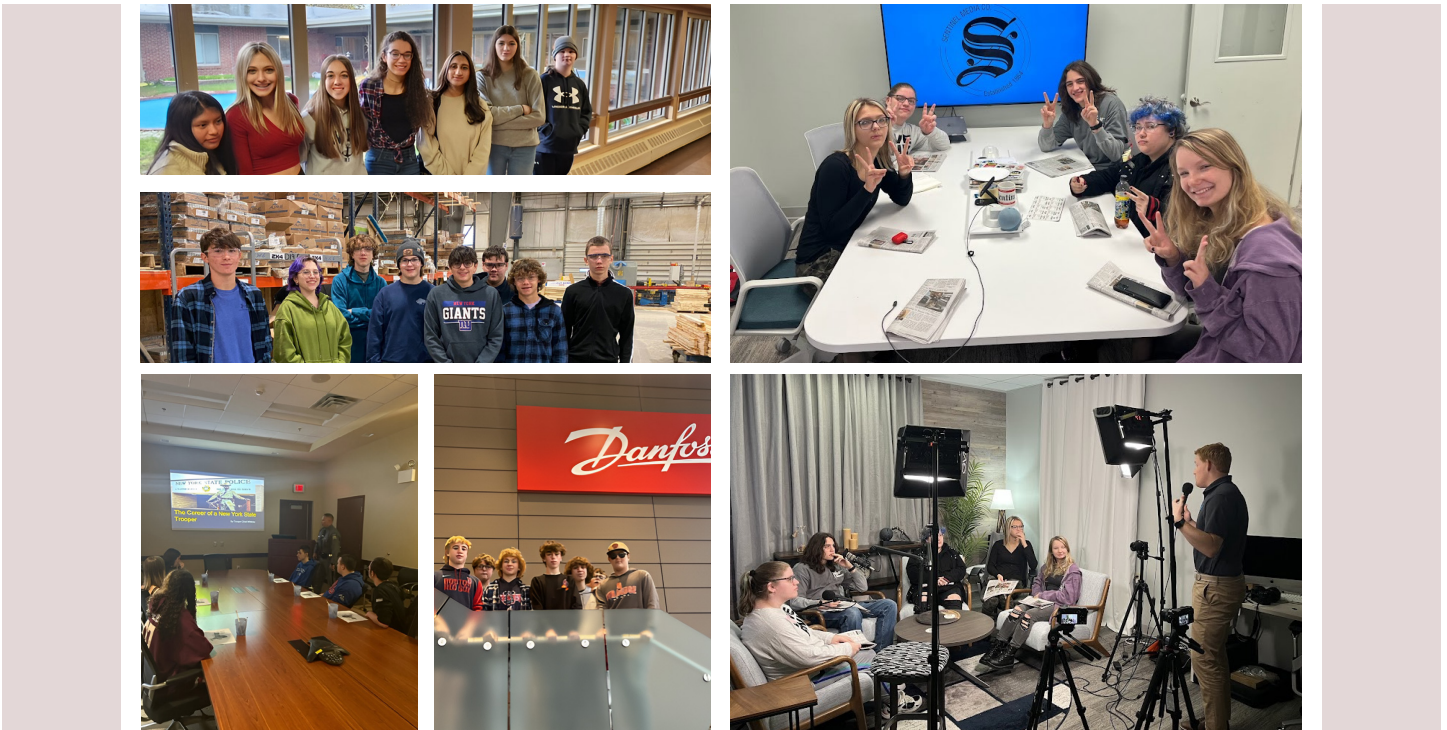
Because of the low temperature of dry ice and the risks present when it rapidly changes states, students under the direction of chemistry teacher Mrs. Mann practiced a number of safety precautions including avoiding direct contact with skin, wearing safety goggles and not using glass containers.





# Sophomores Tour Local Businesses

On November 9, 10th grade students had the opportunity to visit several local businesses for tours coordinated by the Office of Counseling and Career Services and the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance (SABA). Students were separated into one of five career clusters based on a survey that they previously completed in English class. For the tours, students were able to visit Danfoss, The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing, New York State Police, Rome Sentinel and S.R. Sloan, Inc.



## Students Tour MVCC School of STEM

On December 13, a group of juniors and seniors toured Mohawk Valley Community College's (MVCC) School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Many of the programs correlate with classes that students are currently taking at the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Career and Technical Education Center. Students learned about associate degree and certificate programs offered at MVCC in fields such as:

- Air Conditioning Technology
- Aircraft Maintenance
- Airframe
- Carpentry
- Electrical Service
- Electronics
- HVAC
- Hydraulics
- Machinist Technology
- Masonry
- Mechatronics
- Welding



These programs have outstanding job placement, with students sometimes being hired from the programs before they even complete them.

The students were also able to tour the rest of the MVCC campus and were treated to lunch in the College's dining hall.



## ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1313 Utica Street  
Oriskany, NY 13424

### NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT



#### *Jennifer Davis,* **Elementary Counselor**

Jennifer Davis joined the Counseling and Career Services in February as an Elementary Counselor. A graduate of the Oriskany CSD, Jennifer worked in the Rome City School District for 16 years and spent the last three years with the Lowville Academy Central School District. She enjoys helping students achieve success both in and out of the classroom, as well as working with parents. She loves the Oriskany community and is excited to return to her Alma Mater to help students learn and grow into successful adults. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys traveling, photography and watching baseball.



#### *Joe Lo Giudice,* **Mechanic**

Joe Lo Giudice joined the Transportation Department in January as a Mechanic. He brings with him more than 15 years of experience working with both Birnie Bus Service and Durham School Services.



#### *Soralis Ramierz,* **Bus Driver**

Soralis Ramierz joined the Transportation department in November as a Bus Driver. She previously served as a bus driver for the Utica City School District, Durham School Services and Birnie Bus Service. Soralis loves working with children and the smaller community that Oriskany provides. In her free time, she enjoys attending church, cooking, taking care of family and going to the gym.



#### *Jacquelyn Gazaille,* **Confidential Secretary**

Jacquelyn Gazaille joined the District Office in January as the confidential secretary for the School Business Executive and as the Accounts Payable Clerk. Jackie has had a diverse and impactful career, from co-owning a computer consulting firm to serving as a paralegal and later contributing to the NYS COVID task force. Her transition to the education sector, beginning with the Rome City School District, reflects a commitment to addressing the challenges faced by children following the COVID pandemic.

Jackie's involvement as an international student coordinator and providing a home for children who have aged out of foster care highlights her dedication to fostering connections and supporting those in need. Additionally, her new found engagement with the community spirit in Oriskany and desire to serve as a positive liaison in the District office further demonstrate her commitment to creating a positive educational environment.

In Jackie's free time, she can be found with her two horses, supporting her daughter, an avid equestrian, her husband and family. Jackie looks forward to bringing her wealth of experience, compassion, and community spirit to her new role.