



# Oriskany

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET EDITION

May 2023

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
**Timothy J. Gaffney**

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

**James Chase** President

**Carl Graziadei** Vice President

**Michelle Anderson**

**Louis Ciotti**

**Therese M. Hanna**

**Brian Judycki**

**Amy L. Mayo**

### 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

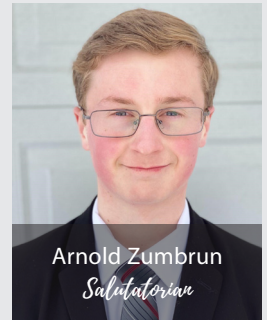


Volume 45 · Issue 1



Ryan Donohue  
*Valedictorian*

## Valedictorian AND Salutatorian



Arnold Zumbrun  
*Salutatorian*

Ryan Donohue, the son of Edward and Kimberly Donohue, has been named Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2023 valedictorian.

Ryan has received many accolades during his time at OCS, including the Rensselaer Polytechnic Medal and the Clarkson University High School Leadership Award. Ryan's most noteworthy achievement was being named a National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. Ryan has taken an extremely rigorous course load which included AP world history, AP English literature, AP U.S. history, AP calculus, AP physics and nine MVCC dual enrollment classes.

Ryan is also involved in many extracurricular activities at OCS, including: National Honor Society, Technology Club president, Key Club president and class treasurer. He has balanced his academics while also participating in the OCS athletic program. He has been on the varsity golf team throughout high school. He was recently named team captain for the 2022-23 golf team. This year, he was also a player on the varsity basketball team.

Ryan has been accepted to several colleges and is currently deciding where he would like to further his academic career. He plans on majoring in civil engineering. Congratulations, Ryan!

Arnold Zumbrun, son of Arnold and Colleen Zumbrun, has been named Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2023 salutatorian.

Arnold has been the OCS nominee for the Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Medal and the University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Science Award. Last year, Arnold doubled-up on his classes and completed his sophomore and junior years of high school simultaneously. This accelerated his high school graduation, allowing him to graduate high school in three years. This year, he participated in the MVCC College Connections program, where he is taking computer science related courses. In June, Arnold will have completed over 40 credits through the MVCC College Connections program and dual enrollment courses offered at OCS.

Arnold is an excellent student and an active member of his community. Throughout high school, he has been a member of Technology Club, Science Club, National Honor Society, Mathletics and Student Council. He also held the position of tenth grade class president. Additionally, Arnold is an active member of St. Peter's Parish in Rome.

After high school, Arnold hopes to join SUNY Binghamton's computer science program, but he is also considering attending SUNY Polytechnic Institute or SUNY Buffalo. He plans to use his degree in computer science to be a software engineer with a focus on artificial intelligence. Congratulations, Arnold!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians, Families, Students and Community Members,

As we quickly move into the last marking period of the school year, I hope this correspondence finds each of you healthy and well, filled with the light and hope that each new spring day brings to each of us. Please know, we will continue to place our students at the forefront of our mission in providing them with an abundance of opportunity, which not only recognizes and emphasizes the rigor of academics and relevance, but also provides and expands upon shared lifelong experiences amongst our students, staff, families and community members. We are richer for walking this path together with robust experiences that we will forever cherish and that will provide for us a lifetime of treasured memories.

*"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." -- Helen Keller.*

So, as we welcome each new spring day with the promise of rejuvenation and new beginnings, we also look to conclude another successful, chaptered school year at the Oriskany CSD. We look forward to the following experiences yet to come for our students:

- Jr./Sr. High School Prom
- Senior Trip
- Spring Athletics
- Senior Scholarship Breakfast
- HS technology Trip to NYC
- Sixth Grade Niagara Falls trip
- Advanced Placement Exams
- Regents Exams
- Grades 3-8 Exams
- Sixth Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- Pre-K Graduation
- Senior Graduation

While we move throughout the course of the school year, please continue to access our District webpage and social media feeds to keep up-to-date on all of our celebrations, recognitions, happenings and end of the year events closing out our 2022-23 school year.

District website: [www.oriskanycsd.org](http://www.oriskanycsd.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OriskanyCSD](https://www.facebook.com/OriskanyCSD)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/OriskanyCSD](https://twitter.com/OriskanyCSD)

I would also encourage you to please come out to support our students and the Oriskany Central School District on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:00-7:00 p.m. during the budget voting process. Please see Board of Education President Mr. James Chase's mention of this within the newsletter. Your continued and appreciated support of our school and our students provides the foundation and groundwork for all of the programs, partnerships, opportunities and experiences we offer our students here at Oriskany. We are forever thankful for your support and sharing with us the mindset that enforces our District's mission statement – *That We Educate, Engage, and Empower Students to Excel in an Ever-Changing World. We are Committed to our Tradition of Personal Attention, Positive Relationships, and an Innovative Climate for Learning.*

In closing, I want to provide you an update on our Capital Project. As you may know, our new transportation facility was referenced in our last District newsletter. However, as we move along with other aspects of the project, I have attached architectural drawings, provided by March Associates, to supplement the following:

- A reimagined 21st century library suite at the Jr./Sr. High School which will include a new audio visual studio for students and classes to access as they directly learn and engage in activities that promote broadcasting, marketing and other associated fields of broadcast communication. The updated library suite will also include space for large group activities, small group collaboration and provide improved technology to the students and staff.
- An upgraded/reconfigured cafeteria and kitchen suite at the Jr./Sr. High School, replacing outdated and end-of-life equipment utilized to provide food services to our students. The updated suite will also have a revised layout to better accommodate student access to two serving lines and provide improved circulation for the kitchen staff.

- An upgraded locker room facility at the N.A. Walbran Elementary School for our students to utilize during the course of the school day, that will also provide for additional, much needed storage for equipment, materials and other resources that our students utilize on a daily basis during and after school.

Additional Capital Project updates at the:

## JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

- Upgrade electrical power distribution system
- Replace boilers with high efficiency type
- Add air conditioning to auditorium
- Provide new VoIP PA and phone system
- Replace interior doors and other hardware
- Replace classroom ceilings and lights
- Replace windows in original building
- Improve ventilation in various rooms

## N.A. WALBRAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Upgrade electrical service and power distribution system
- Replace boilers with high efficiency type
- Ventilation improvements to classrooms
- Provide new VoIP PA and phone system
- Replace doors and frame at main entrance, improve security
- Create a STEAM Maker Space Lab for student engagement
- Replace interior doors and hardware
- Replace classroom ceilings and lights
- Replace hot water storage tank

As you can see, much of the Capital Improvement Project addresses the infrastructure within these buildings to ensure and support the continued 21st century learning environment, safety and well-being of our students. Together, we have worked diligently and passionately to provide the best available learning opportunities and maintain an excellent learning environment for our students. Moving forward, we will need to additionally focus our efforts on the upgrades and modernization of our facilities to improve the safety, efficiency and functionality of our campus for generations of learners to come.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Education, we thank you for the continued support each of you has provided for our students, staff and schools throughout the year. The partnership between school and community is critically important to the success of all our students at Oriskany, and we greatly appreciate all of your collaborations and efforts in making our school a very special place to be a part of.

Please feel free to contact the District office at 315.768.2058 with any questions you might have.

I wish each of you a healthy and happy spring and summer, spending much needed and invaluable time with friends, family and loved ones.

Be happy, be kind and be well!

Respectfully,

*Timothy Gaffney*



**Timothy J. Gaffney**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
tgaffney@oriskanycsd.org  
315.768.2058



**Dear Members of the Oriskany Central School District Community:**

I would like to start by first saying thank you for your continuous support and involvement in our students' academic endeavors. Planning for a new school year reminds us that the future holds endless opportunities, none of which could be accomplished without your help and support. The District continues to focus on teaching and learning, all the while maintaining our tradition of personal attention, positive relationships and an innovative climate of learning.

In this ever-evolving environment, we are faced with rising costs due to inflation and an increase in goods and services needed to maintain our tradition of providing the best for students and faculty. The Board of Education feels very strongly that we support our community members as much as possible. Through the hard work of our administrative team, we can stay within the NYS tax cap limit. The total budget for the 2023-2024 school year is \$17,039,880. It represents a 2.1% increase, or a total of \$351,114 over the 2022-2023 school year. To make this happen, the Board of Education and the Oriskany CSD administrative team analyzed all facets of the budget to keep programming intact.

This year's budget proposal demonstrates our ongoing support of a comprehensive educational program that continues to provide safe, supportive, and creative learning opportunities for our students, while also preparing students to be college and career successful. At our April 4 meeting, the Oriskany Board of Education approved a \$17,039,880 budget for the 2023-2024 school year for District vote. This budget reflects our commitment to maintain a high-quality of educational program for our students. As always, we strive to maximize monies and services by ongoing working partnerships with BOCES, Mohawk Valley Community College, Federal, State and local governments, and continue to look for cost efficiencies throughout the operational aspects of our District.

We are excited in our Capital Improvement project that is currently underway and are eager to see the completion of the new transportation facility as well as several planned improvements to come at both N.A. Walbran and the Jr./Sr. High School.

The Oriskany Board of Education believes that the 2023-2024 proposed budget offers the best possible balance of a continued commitment to education for the children of the Oriskany CSD, 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 on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:00-7:00 p.m. in the atrium at the back of the High school.

The Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. high school auditorium. All community members are welcome to attend. Please visit our District website for the latest budget information or feel free to call the District office at 315.768.2058 with any questions you may have regarding the 2023-2024 proposed budget.

On Behalf of the Oriskany School Board,  
**JAMES CHASE** Board President

**Absentee Ballots**

Notice is given that applications for absentee ballots to those who may be entitled under Education Law 2018-a are available in the office of the Clerk of the District on school days between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A list of all the persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the Clerk of the District until the day of the election. Notice is given if an absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application for the same must be received by the Clerk of the District at least seven (7) days before the election; if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, the application for the same must be received by the Clerk of the District the day before the election.

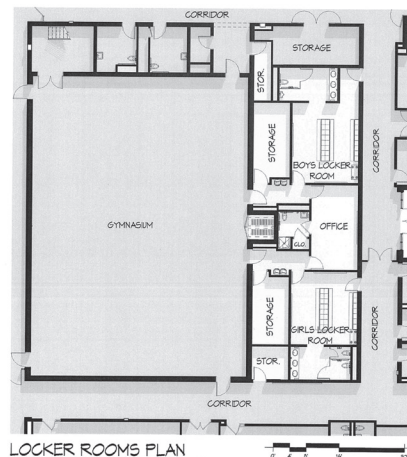
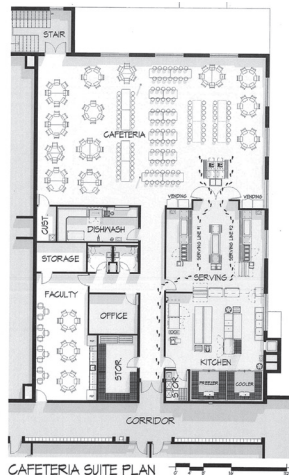
**Voter Qualifications**

In order to vote in the Budget Vote and Election, you must be:

- 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.

**Voting Information**

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Oriskany Central School District will be held at the Jr./Sr. High School on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:00 – 7:00 p.m. Prevaling time in the high school back atrium entrance, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.



**CAPITAL PROJECT PLANS**

# BUDGET 2023-2024

PROPOSED BUDGET	2022-2023 Approved Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget
<b>Administrative Component</b>		
Board of Education, District Clerk, & District Meetings	\$22,475	\$21,475
Chief Administration	\$234,300	\$252,047
Business Administration	\$521,000	\$507,885
Auditing, Purchasing, & Fiscal Agent Fees	\$51,750	\$51,750
Legal Fees	\$30,300	\$30,300
Personnel, Records Management, & Public Info Services	\$95,750	\$95,781
Central Printing and Mailing	\$56,000	\$56,000
Insurance	\$67,800	\$74,580
Refund on Property Taxes	\$1,000	\$1,000
BOCES Administrative & Capital Expenses	\$153,000	\$141,011
Curriculum Improvement	\$21,000	\$14,562
Supervision	\$297,100	\$310,221
Benefits	\$249,435	\$259,548
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,800,910</b>	<b>\$1,816,160</b>
<b>Program Component</b>		
Legal Fees	\$15,150	\$15,150
Inservice Training	\$28,500	\$26,925
Teaching - Regular School	\$4,136,541	\$4,413,931
Programs-Students w/ Disabilities	\$2,608,000	\$2,592,748
Occupational Education	\$477,000	\$477,000
Teaching - Special Schools	\$20,000	\$15,000
School Library & Audiovisual	\$177,000	\$182,483
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$300,500	\$300,500
Counseling/Career	\$190,100	\$212,457
Health Services	\$145,600	\$149,454
Co-Curricular	\$81,700	\$81,700
Interscholastic Athletics	\$243,000	\$260,100
Transportation	\$756,050	\$792,893
Recreation	\$13,950	\$14,319
Benefits	\$3,000,150	\$3,138,467
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,193,241</b>	<b>\$12,673,127</b>
<b>Capital Component</b>		
Operations	\$207,000	\$208,450
Maintenance	\$81,800	\$842,555
Security	\$88,000	\$88,000
Transportation - Bus Purchases	\$250,000	\$165,000
Debt Service	\$1,020,000	\$922,338
Benefits	\$311,616	\$324,250
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,694,616</b>	<b>\$2,550,593</b>
<b>Total Appropriations:</b>	<b>\$16,688,766</b>	<b>\$17,039,880</b>

REVENUE	2022-2023	2023-2024
State Aid	\$6,781,525	\$7,956,698
Local Non-Tax	\$1,587,827	\$641,230
Tax Levy	\$6,618,827	\$6,761,365
Fund Balance	\$1,680,587	\$1,680,587
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$16,668,766</b>	<b>\$17,039,880</b>

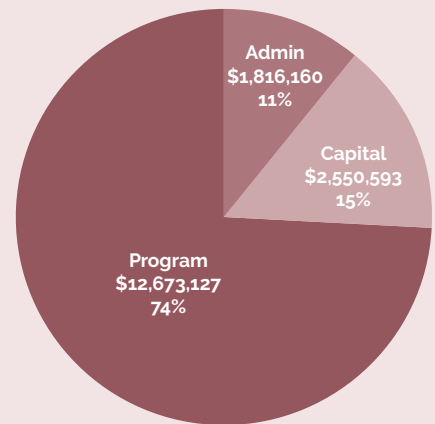
## Three Component Budget

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.



[www.oriskanycsd.org](http://www.oriskanycsd.org)

For more budget information, please visit our website!

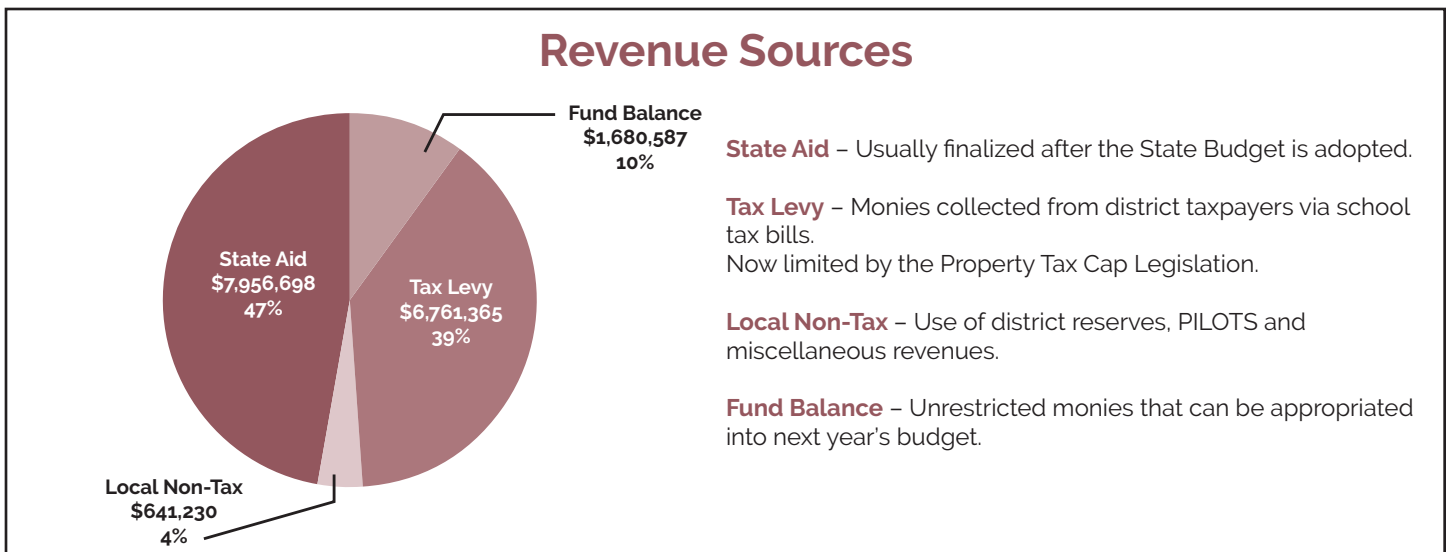


## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2022-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$16,688,766	\$17,039,880	\$16,808,100
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$351,114	\$119,414
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.10%	0.70%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$6,618,827	\$6,761,365	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
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)	\$6,618,827	\$6,761,365	\$6,618,827
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$301,620	\$329,989	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,317,207	\$6,431,376	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,317,207	\$6,431,376	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,800,910	\$1,816,160	\$1,814,660
Program Component	\$12,193,241	\$12,673,127	\$12,647,927
Capital Component	\$2,694,616	\$2,550,593	\$2,345,593

Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 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.



## Tax Cap Levy Calculation

2023-24

Tax Base Growth Factor	1.0014
Allowable Levy Growth Factor	2.00%
Prior Year Tax Levy	\$6,618,827.00
Prior Year Adjusted Levy X Tax Base Growth Factor (1.0041)	\$6,628,093.00
Add Pilots Receivable in 2022-23	\$76,083.00
2022-2023 Local Capital Levy Share from last year's tax cap calculator	\$301,620.00
<b>Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$6,402,556.00</b>
Adjusted Tax Levy X Allowable Levy Growth Factor (2.00%)	\$6,530,607.12
Remove Pilots Receivable in 2023-24	\$99,230.35
<b>Tax Levy Limit</b>	<b>\$6,431,376.77</b>
<b>Add Current Year Exemptions:</b> 2023-24 Local Capital Levy Share	\$329,989.00
<b>Tax Levy Threshold</b>	<b>\$6,431,376.77</b>
<b>Allowable Increase in Dollars</b>	<b>\$142,538.77</b>
<b>Allowable Increase in %</b>	<b>2.11%</b>
<b>2023-24 PROPOSED LEVY</b>	<b>\$6,761,365.77</b>
<b>Actual Increase in Dollars</b>	<b>\$142,538.77</b>
<b>Actual Increase in %</b>	<b>2.11%</b>
<b>Difference Between Allowable and Actual</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## Basic STAR Exemption

Three factors that determine the tax rate on your home include: tax levy, equalization rates and property assessment. The tax levy is set by the school district in May; equalization rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Services in August and each respective town establishes assessments and equalization rates. These are estimates, therefore, tax rates are not finalized until late August, at which time school tax bills are printed and mailed.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$566

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

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



## Resource Management Strategies

The 2023-24 school expenditure plan supports a quality, comprehensive instructional program. Actions taken by the Board of Education and administration have allowed the District to continue providing exceptional programs and opportunities for our students that will prepare them for college and career success. As a result of sound fiscal management again this year, the District is in a position to increase program offerings for students in order to support Oriskany's commitment to safety, personal attention, positive relationships and a productive climate for learning. These areas of focus are reflected in the expenditure budget proposal, including:

- Increased enrichment opportunities for students both at the elementary building and the Jr./Sr. high school building.
- Additional access to instructional technologies to support the innovation initiative that will position our students for success in existing highly competitive college and career placements.
- Expanding partnerships with area organizations and institutions to increase internship and apprenticeship experiences for students and staff.
- Maximizing grant, state and federal funds to support and offset local funds necessary for school programs.
- Supporting staff improvement through research-proven means that lead to increased student performance.
- Recognizing and allocating a large percentage of the District's expenditure dollars to focus on supporting educational programs for all students. The District has been able to show a consistent trend in recognizing the support systems and opportunities provided for our students.



## Property Tax Report Card

412901- Oriskany Central School District Contact Person: <b>Michelle Tikalsky</b> School Business Executive Telephone Number: 315.768.2051	<b>Budgeted 2022-23 (A)</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-24 (B)</b>
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	\$16,688,766	\$17,039,880
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>1</sup>	\$6,618,827	\$6,761,366
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable <sup>2</sup>	0	0
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$6,618,827	\$6,761,360
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$301,620	\$329,989
G. School Tax Levy Limit , Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>3</sup>	\$6,317,207	\$6,431,377
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,317,207	\$6,431,377
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) <sup>2</sup>	0	0
Public School Enrollment	\$530	\$520
Consumer Price Index	4.0%	8.00%
<sup>1</sup> Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest. <sup>2</sup> Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements. <sup>3</sup> For 2023-24, includes any carryover from 2022-23 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.	<b>Actual 2022-23 (D)</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-24 (E)</b>
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$4,846,817	\$5,680,865
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,680,587	\$1,680,587
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$667,551	\$681,696
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%

Reserve Type	Reserve Name	Reserve Description*	3/31/23 Actual Balance	6/30/23 Est. Ending Balance	Intended Use of the Reserve in the 23-24 School Year (Limit 200 Characters)**
Repair	Capital	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	\$1,313,840	\$1,313,905	As needed to support the Voter Approved Capital Project
Repair	Repair	To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.	\$401,555	\$401,575	As needed for unexpected repairs
Workers' Compensation	Workers Comp.	To pay for Workers Comp. and benefits.	\$231,027	\$231,038	As needed for workers' compensation
Unemployment Insurance	Unemployment	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.	\$174,689	\$174,698	As needed for unemployment compensation
Reserve for Tax Reduction		For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.			
Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service	Debit Service	To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.	\$938,565	\$938,612	As needed for debt service payments
Insurance	Insurance	To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.	\$823,008	\$823,049	If necessary for uninsured losses
Property Loss	Property Loss	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.	\$51,177	\$51,180	If necessary for property losses
Liability	Liability	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.	\$100,566	\$100,571	If necessary for liability claims
Tax Certiorari	Tax Certiorari	To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements	\$105,945	\$105,950	If necessary for tax certiorari settlements
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries		To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			
EBALR - Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	\$437,905	\$482,905	If necessary for employee benefit payments
Retirement Contribution	ERS Reserve	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	\$859,464	\$859,507	If necessary for payments to Employment Retirement System
Other Reserve	TRS Reserve	To Fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Teachers' Retirement System	\$243,124	\$243,136	If necessary for payments to Teachers' Retirement System

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRINCIPALS

### ***Hello Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,***

It's great that it is already May. I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Recess. There is more daylight during 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 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, MA.

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

On May 16, the District Art Show will be held in the Jr./Sr. High School from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Artwork on display will be created by students in grades kindergarten-12. There will also be live music by students from our band and chorus, face painting by the Art Club members and a live art demonstration by art students. There will also be a Jr./Sr. High School Spring Band and Chorus Concert on June 12, which will be held in the Alumni Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

We continue to offer the Academic Enrichment program for students to utilize for extra academic help, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will be especially helpful with the school year starting to wind down in the upcoming months. Students can also utilize after-school help every day from 2:30-3:00 p.m. We provide transportation home at both 3:00 and 5:00 p.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.



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### ***Dear Oriskany Community Members,***

As we enter the final stretch of the academic year, we have much to celebrate and reflect on. In this newsletter, you'll find updates on upcoming events, important announcements and highlights of recent achievements from our students and faculty. We are immensely proud of our school community for their hard work and dedication, and we encourage you to take a moment to read through the articles and celebrate with us the many successes of our school community.

Our big focus for the month of March was our Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) initiative. Throughout the month, several activities and challenges were presented to students to win prizes, but most of all, to gain the love of reading and the chance to see the principal do something silly during our Principal's Challenge. This year, to go along with our school theme, the PARP theme was "Books Make Me Feel." The students had the opportunity to meet our guest author Kathleen Blasi and participate in our own read-in, where students stayed after school and cuddle up with their favorite books. Other notable recent events included our Student Council-initiated Spirit Week, annual Winter Fun Day and our faculty basketball game -- which was a huge success!

Upcoming events for the remainder of the school year include NYS assessments for both ELA and math, a Career Day for our students in grades 4-6, our band and chorus concerts, PE Day and lastly, our sixth grade and pre-K moving up ceremonies! To keep you updated on events, we post often on our District website and social media. We are always looking for new educational opportunities and encourage community members to reach out with ideas!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school. We look forward to the remainder of the academic year with optimism and enthusiasm.





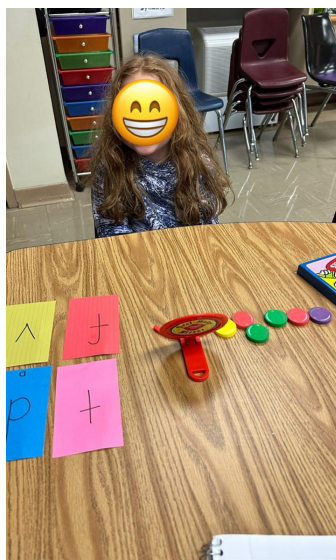
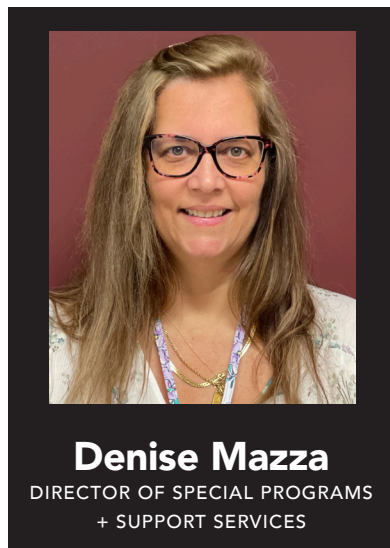
## Personal Attention, Positive Relationships and an Innovative Climate for Learning

**Importance of Independence:** As Oriskany's Instructional Support Team (IST) and/ or Committee on Special Education (CSE), considers recommendations for students, independent learning is a factor. Data decisions are made, within both the IST and CSE, to provide personal attention in the least restrictive environment. Will this recommendation assist the student in academic independence?

Personal attention is provided through Response to Intervention (RTI) services: speech/ language therapy (ST), occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), learning center, reading and math interventions. Special education services are defined by Part 200.1 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Special education means specially designed individualized or group instruction or special services or programs and related services are defined as developmental, corrective and other supportive services as are required to assist a student with a disability. Special education services that are available at OCSD are consultant teachers, resource (including specially designed reading Instruction) and co-teaching; in addition to related services (ST, OT and PT).

Special education teachers and related service providers collaborate with classroom teachers and as a RTI or CSE team to create an innovative climate for learning. These services may be in a group or individual setting.

Please contact me if you have any questions:  
[dmazza@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:dmazza@oriskanycsd.org) or 315.768.2048.



## STUDENTS SLICE INTO PI DAY

The Oriskany math students recently celebrated Pi Day to recognize the mathematical constant, Pi. The approximate value of Pi is 3.14, therefore March 14 is the day to honor it. It has become an annual Pi Day tradition at Oriskany, to complete a 3.14 kilometer ("Pi-k") walk/run down Utica Street.

The AP calculus students acted as the event coordinators and did an amazing job this year preparing, publicizing and coordinating every detail of the event. Although it was postponed one day due to the weather, the group was ready to go on March 15. More than 30 students, faculty and staff completed the walk/run and celebrated with a pie at the finish line.

The AP calculus students that acted as coordinators for the Pi Day event were Jessalyn Birt, Ryan Donohue, Jenna Palmiotto and Jack Tamburino.



## Clash of Classes

During the week of March 6-10, students participated in the annual Clash of Classes. This week-long competition puts students against each other in activities such as a bake off, Mario Kart and spoons, as well as sports like ping-pong, ultimate football and more.

With points being awarded to first, second and third place finishers, total grade level points were added up at the end of the week. The winning class earned bragging rights along with their graduating year inscribed on a plaque displayed in the school. After a long couple of days with each class taking home multiple first place finishes, it was the senior class that reigned supreme finishing with 3,150 points. The juniors came in second with 2,350, followed by the sophomores with 2,300.



## COMPUTER APPLICATIONS



Mrs. Musacchio's MVCC computer applications class recently created video and audio presentations utilizing the broadcasting equipment in our school's media center. Students were given the opportunity to apply what they are learning in class through the use of equipment and technology. It was not only a great learning experience, but was fun and allowed for the students to utilize their creativity.

## Women of Distinction AWARD CEREMONY

119th District Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon held her annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony on March 24 at the Utica State Office Building.

In honor of Women's History Month, Assemblywoman Buttenschon once again hosted the Women of Distinction Awards to recognize women in the Mohawk Valley who effect positive change and go above and beyond to support their communities. This year, Assemblywoman Buttenschon expanded the awards to two young women in each high school throughout the area that meet the criteria for the Women of Distinction Award.

Payton Smith and Jenna Palmiotto were selected and nominated to represent the Oriskany Central School District at the Women of Distinction event.



# ORISKANY HONORS SCHOLAR ATHLETES

All of our spring sports programs have begun, hopefully with a little help from mother nature we will have great weather for our sports teams to compete this season.

This past winter all of our varsity athletic teams earned the honor of scholar athlete through the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). This award is earned when 75% or more of the varsity roster has a 90 or above GPA. Our girls & boys basketball teams, boys and girls indoor track teams, cheerleading and hockey teams all earned the award. I am proud to say that this is the second sports season in a row that all of our varsity teams have earned this prestigious award. I hope to continue this trend and earn the School of Distinction award for a second year in a row.

As the Director of Athletics, I have recently started a community service initiative for the sports teams. All of the sports teams are required to complete a community service project as a team. Our focus is to give back to the community while growing relationships between the athletes on and off the field. To highlight some examples of our service projects as part of our community service initiative, we have held clinics for our Jr. Skins elementary athletic programs, held Coaches vs. Cancer games to help raise money for cancer research, the girls basketball team volunteers at PTA drop off night and the varsity baseball games and have given back to the Oriskany Little league by taking part in their annual clean up day.

Another initiative for the athletic teams to be a part of is the national organization, "Anyone Can Save A Life," for emergency action planning. The "Anyone Can Save A Life" program helps by implementing a program - and more specifically, creating a Student Response Team. Each action plan empowers student-athletes to be part of the coordinated response necessary to ensure the best possible outcome to every emergency. We train all our coaches and students to prepare them for emergency situations if or when they arise.

All of our student-athletes now take part in a training each sports season to help develop them to be more successful on and off the playing areas. The trainings included topics such as the proper use of social media, how to recognize and report bullying and hazing as well as leadership and sportsmanship.

Oriskany athletics is the proud recipient of the Edwin Wadas Foundation grant. Grants help enhance the athletic experience. The grant we received was used to fund pitching machines for the softball and baseball programs, to purchase new safety screens for the baseball and softball fields and to purchase a squat rack to be used in the newly updated Walbran Field House at the Bernie Block Field.

During the last week of March, Kaelyn Buehler attended the first ever NYSPHSAA Leadership Conference in Albany. Kaelyn was one of 30 representatives of Section 3 Athletics and one of 200 students from across the state of New York. The Conference consisted of two keynote speakers, Missy West and Stephanie Marquesano. West is a NYSPHSAA Hall of Famer and co-founder of ORCA Leadership. Marquesano is the founder and president of The Harris Project. Other presentations were given regarding "College and Career Readiness," by Omari Pearson of Passion to Purpose and "Fuel Your Game: A Winning Nutrition Plan," by Christina D'Amico of Christina D'Amico Nutrition. Workshop sessions included "Name, Image and Likeness," with Tyler Langford from Eckler Sports and "Characteristics of Servant Leadership," discussions from the New York Army National Guard.

Sincerely,

Dave Buck, Director of Athletics

**#OriskanyProud**



## All-County Music Festival



Four music students represented Oriskany at the Oneida County Music Educators Association (OCMEA) Junior High All-County Music Festival held in the Clinton CSD on March 17 and 18.

Ninth graders Jessica Beckwith and Wilbur Wright, and eighth-graders Olivia Lloyd and Darien McGallian joined more than 200 of the best musicians in seventh, eighth and ninth grade from across Oneida County, to work with guest conductors in the festival band, chorus and orchestra. The students auditioned in January, and then spent the next two months working with choir director Mrs. Gutowski to learn the Festival music. At the Festival, the chorus worked with award-winning, Rochester-based, guest conductor Mrs. Carrie Zugelder to polish the music and prepare it for performance. The students enjoyed making connections with other musicians from around the county and performing with a larger chorus. They are looking forward to continuing their growth as musicians and participating in other opportunities that are available through the Oriskany music department, OCMEA and NYSSMA.

## Class Contest Winner



Junior Madelyn Race recently received an honorable mention in the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS) National Essay Contest through the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Interactive Video Course (IVC) program.

For the high school essay contest, students were asked to describe something they love about their life, something going on in the world that they don't like and something that they wish were different. The competition aims to promote the study of the Chinese language and culture among students in the United States and to foster greater cross-cultural understanding.



## Law & Order

The MVCC business law class recently experienced a real life trial at the Madison County Courthouse.

Students walked away with a much better understanding of how the key components of a trial play out. The class was very appreciative of Judge Donald Cerio and his staff for welcoming them and taking time to speak with them before the trial began.

# Letter from the Nurses

Dear Parents/Guardians of our Oriskany Students,

**Health and Dental:** We will be sending out envelopes in June with important information regarding physicals needed for the 2023-24 school year. This pertains to our students who will be moving up into pre-k, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and 11th grades. Also, any student who plans to participate in a fall sport. We will be mailing these forms to your provided address, but just in case you may need one, our health examination form can be found on our Oriskany website homepage under Departments, School Nurses. The health examination form can be mailed, dropped off at the designated school or faxed.

A copy of the health examination must be provided to the school within 30 days from when your child first starts at the school. If a copy is not given to the school within 30 days, the school will contact you. If your child has an appointment for an exam during this school year that is after the first 30 days of school, please notify the health office with the date.

A dental certificate that states your child has been seen by a dentist or dental hygienist is also asked for at the same time. If needed, the school will provide you with a list of dentists and registered dental hygienists who offer dental services on a free or reduced cost basis.

**Medication Pick-Up:** Students who have medications located in the nurse's office will need to have a parent pick them up by 2:30 p.m. on June 20, 2023. If any medication remains in the nurse's office after this date/time, they will be properly disposed of.

Please feel free to contact Julianne Swinton, elementary school nurse at 315-768-2148 or Maryruth Stopera, Jr./Sr. high school nurse at 315-768-2061 with any questions or concerns between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday through June 22, 2023.

Thank you,

**Maryruth Stopera, BA, RN** | Junior/Senior High School Nurse

**Julianne Swinton, BSN, RN** | Elementary School Nurse

**Vaccinations:** Our seventh and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will need to have their meningitis vaccine completed prior to entering their appropriate grade on the first day of school. In addition, our sixth graders will need to have their Tdap vaccine entering the new school year. If on the first day of school your child(ren) has not received their vaccination, we will be contacting you to request a specific date for their scheduled vaccination. If by the 14th day of school proper documentation has not been provided proving that your child did receive their vaccination, the NYS student will NOT be able to attend school on the 15th day. Students who transfer from out-of-state have up to 30 days.

Information forms will be sent home regarding which vaccinations are mandated by NYS for each grade and birth year in June. Vaccinations can be provided either by your child health-care provider or by the Oneida County Department of Health (DOH). They can be reached at 315.798.5747. Appointments are necessary because certain vaccinations are only given on certain days. A Co-pay may be required at the DOH.

## STUDENT WALK THROUGH OF NEW BUS GARAGE



On March 31, Oriskany students in OHM BOCES Career and Technical Education programs, along with aspiring civil engineers, had the opportunity to tour the new bus garage construction site; a part of the District's Capital Project Phase I. Each student met OSHA standards, wearing a hard hat, safety glasses and a high-visibility safety vest.

Students met with the construction manager, Mr. Buck, and Mr. Kennerknecht. and were given a breakdown of the project and each individual construction trade that is being utilized during it. The students were very inquisitive and learned how they could get involved in a construction-related trade after high school. The field trip also demonstrated the importance of everyday academic study and its uses in a real-world profession. We look forward to bringing more students to the work site as the project progresses.

# Certificate of Appreciation



Each year, the Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) Office of Accessibility hosts an Accessibility Recognition Day where students can nominate faculty and staff who have impacted them. Mrs. Mazza was nominated and recognized for her “exemplary attitude, valuable assistance, and ongoing support of students registered with the Office of Accessibility at MVCC.”

In addition to being Oriskany’s Director of Special Programs & Support Services, Mrs. Mazza also serves as an adjunct professor at MVCC, teaching the course Introduction to Exceptionalities. This course provides an overview of the education of children and adolescents with exceptionalities, focusing on those with disabilities and those with giftedness. Topics include the historical, philosophical and legal foundations of special education and other exceptionalities and their prevalence, causes and characteristics. Educational modifications, accommodations and teaching strategies for general and specific classrooms are addressed. Current issues and trends educating children with exceptionalities are explored.

**Congratulations, Mrs. Mazza!**



## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY DONATES SOCKS TO THE NEEDY

Some of the most requested items in homeless shelters are socks. Between walking to medical appointments, work opportunities and searching for food banks, the average homeless person puts a lot of wear and tear on their socks and shoes. Keeping their feet warm and dry is difficult, especially with weather that can be extreme. Clean, dry socks are the best way to prevent skin infections, nail diseases and frostbite.

Due to the importance of the cause, the National Honor Society (NHS) decided to collect socks and donate them to our local Rescue Mission. From February 27-March 3, the National Honor Society collected new socks to donate. The NHS members collected more than 100 pairs of socks to donate to the homeless.

# MORE THAN JUST A MEAL APPLICATION

As part of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, the OHM BOCES Food Service team is proud to serve nutritionally-balanced, locally-sourced and delicious meals to students across the county. Our Food Service team is filled with dietitians, food service experts and cooks, creating menus that follow the USDA nutrition guidelines for sodium, calories and fat content, while still maintaining the integrity and quality of meals that students love. Meals are also enriched with whole grains through our breads, rolls, wraps, pasta, rice and cereals, as well as lower in sugar than traditional products found on grocery store shelves.

For the past ten years, Farm to School Mohawk Valley has been assisting schools in procuring, processing and serving locally sourced items. On our monthly menus, you will find bolded products that indicate that they are from New York State, including milk, black beans, green beans, corn, carrots, potatoes, apples, cheddar cheese, string cheese, yogurt, meatballs, hot dogs, bologna, salami and more.

In addition to local foods, each kitchen offers a variety of fresh, chilled or cooked fruits and vegetables during both breakfast and lunch services. Offering multiple colors, textures and flavors can increase student participation as well as nutrient variety. In addition to produce options, students can choose from a variety of entree selections, including entree salads or party plates for students who love a little taste of everything.

Applying for free and reduced meals is an easy step to make sure your student is getting the proper nutrients and fuel that they need to grow and learn. Oiskany, along with all other participating OHM BOCES Food Service districts, now offers a simple way to apply online. Head to [ezmealapp.com](http://ezmealapp.com), select your school and get started on the application! Qualifying students help their school, the meal program and may qualify families for additional benefits such as waived test fees or discounted internet rates.

Submitting your application for the **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)** can do more than just provide access to free and reduced-price meals.

## **SCHOOL FUNDING**

*May provide additional funding for state and federal programs and services at your school.*

## **ACADEMIC TESTING**

*May provide reduced registration fees for AP, SAT and/or ACT tests.*

## **SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

*May result in free or discounted fees to participate in extracurricular activities.*

## **COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES**

*May result in free or discounted entrance fees for private and state schools.*

## **INTERNET ACCESS**

*May qualify you for discounted rates on internet services.*

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

*Establishes eligibility for free or reduced prices on delicious and nutritious meals.*

To apply visit the link below or scan the QR Code  
[secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx](http://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx)



# ELEMENTARY *All-County Festival*

Congratulations to Landon Christopher, Peyton Dame, Caroline Gulick, Sophia Judycki and Ceci Piersma. These students recently participated in the Oneida County Music Educators Association (OCMEA) Elementary All-County Festival. The Oriskany band and chorus members came in for extra rehearsals, learned additional music with Mrs. Marcinkowski and Mrs. Roberts, and then on March 31 and April 1, got together with other fifth and sixth grade students from all over Oneida County to practice and perform for their friends and families. All of the elementary students worked hard, had fun and put on an outstanding concert!





# Pick a Reading Partner

Each year, the students at N.A. Walbran participate in Pick A Reading Partner or PARP for short. It is a program designed to engage children to read for fun, schoolwide. Learning to read is an important skill in a child's education. The primary objective of PARP is to engage and involve families in helping children become life-long readers. PARP is a reading program in which parents, teachers and community organizations work together to encourage children to become better readers.

The PARP program is organized during the month of March over a three-week timeframe. Some of the fun activities throughout the PARP month were our annual read-in; where students stay after school and cuddle up with a favorite book, prizes from local businesses for students who won contests and our PARP finale. We were able to welcome families back for our evening PARP finale which was a scavenger hunt around the school, answering a variety of questions pertaining to our PARP time. The students met their reading goal, which led to the Principal's Challenge: a silly race on a tiny bike! We thank our PTA and our PARP coordinators Stacy DeFabio and Dayna Franz, who put in so much time and effort into the planning and preparation so that our students, staff and families can enjoy this wonderful experience each year.





## Morning Traffic Play With Sixth Grade ELA



Back in February, our sixth grade ELA teachers Mr. Wright and Mrs. Lomanto had students perform a play titled "Morning Traffic." The play was featured in our sixth grade English textbooks.

The students were able to break into two groups, each having a group leader or director. With the leader's help, each person was able to choose their part in the play. The performances were held in Mr. Wright's room. The students made props and planned a set for the drama performance.

"Each group was amazing! My peers and I were thrilled to perform for our classmates. Every performance was fun and the play itself was heartwarming. I would recommend that every future sixth grade class perform this skit. Personally, this performance helped build my confidence and self-esteem. This assignment was perfect!"

– Ceci Piersma, Sixth grader

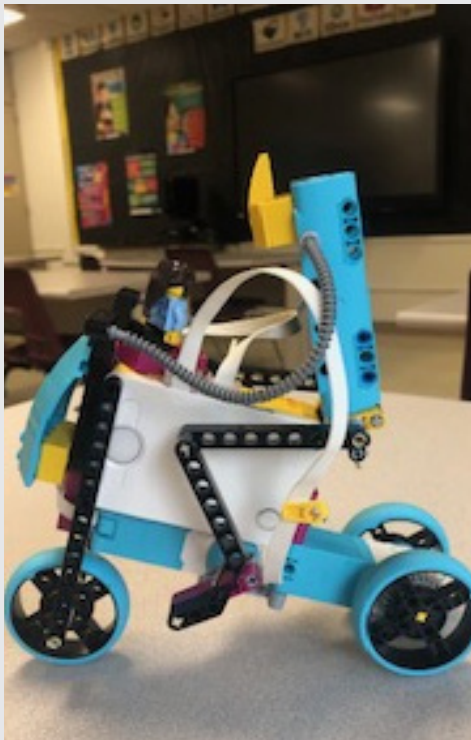


## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all volunteers and donors who came out on March 24 for the TATF blood drive. We exceeded our goal and collected 22 units of life saving blood. After three blood drives, a total of 60 units of blood have been collected. We have a final blood drive on Friday, May 19 and hope to have enough donors to earn multiple scholarships for our graduating seniors.



## WALBRAN ELEMENTARY LEARNING CODING AND ROBOTICS



Throughout the school year, more than 20 sixth grade students signed up to participate in afterschool robotics sessions with Mrs. Daskiewich. Each session lasted five weeks and gave students the opportunity to build robots with the Lego Prime building kits.

Students learned how coding is used in robotics through fun, hands-on projects. During the various sessions, students built a break dancing robot, a driving car and a smart bike. Once the robots were built, students coded them to complete different tasks and activities. Problem solving skills had to be used when things did not work out the way they thought they would. The robotics sessions stimulated students' creativity and curious minds, and created excitement for future robotics and coding opportunities at Oriskany.



**ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1313 Utica Street  
Oriskany, NY 13424

