



Orono Schools

Where Excellence is a Tradition and a Goal

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District News • November 26, 2024



From the Superintendent

Dear Orono Community,

As we approach Thanksgiving, a season centered on gratitude, I am especially thankful for this community. In times of tragedy and mourning, our true strength shines through. In recent days we have witnessed the remarkable compassion, resilience, and unity that define us. Together, we provided comfort and support for one another—a reflection of the caring spirit that makes the Orono Schools community so special.

We know that it's also important to find opportunities to celebrate the successes of our students and staff as we look to the future. This newsletter highlights a few of those moments. Whether through academic achievements, athletic wins, or times of personal growth, these triumphs are a reminder of the hope and promise that bind us together.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take time to rest, reflect, and connect with loved ones—family, friends, neighbors and colleagues. Let us all embrace this moment to find gratitude for what we have, and to honor the spirit of unity that sustains us.

Thank you for your continued care and dedication to our students and one another.

With warmest wishes,
Kristine Flesher, Ed.D.
Superintendent

No School K-12

THANKSGIVING BREAK | NOV 27-29, 2024

Veterans Day Celebration

On November 11, we were grateful to once again host our local veterans from the Paul Stinson American Legion Post 514; Jim Meyer, Commander. Thank you to Maple Plain Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske for organizing such a meaningful event. The OHS Wind Ensemble opened the program with "America the Beautiful" and played the "Armed Forces Medley." We were also pleased to welcome Representatives Warren Limmer and Kristin Robbins, local mayors, police chiefs and law enforcement officers, and so many other community partners.

Guest speaker Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Trey Lachicotte reminded us, "As we commemorate Veterans Day, let us be stewards of peace, champions of freedom, and advocates for those who wear the uniform. Let us remember those who are no longer with us, our brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their legacy lives on in each one of us."

At the conclusion of the program, Orono students came down from the bleachers and lined up to thank the veterans in attendance for their service. We are always proud of our students and the respect they show to our veterans. Thank you!





School Board Honors Student Scholars and Staff Earning Tenure

Earlier this month, the Orono School Board and administrators honored students who have earned recognition as National Merit Semifinalists, National Merit Commended Scholars, and/or Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars with Distinction.* Teachers earning tenure in the district were also honored by the Board and administration. Well done! Congratulations to all. We invite you to [view the program](#).

Students are: Reilly Anderson, Justin Barry, Madeline Dent, James Field, Grace Fischer, Adeline Furst, Abigail Henry, Ashley Ishaug, Henry Jackson, Jorja Kenworthy, Thomas Martin, Quinn Martini, Cameron Oddenino, Max Peterson, Kai Reidy, Stewart Royal, Henry Shafer, Alisha Shah, Sydney Sloneker, Audra Solie, and Caleb Thompson.

Staff members are: Paige Awes, Jenna Reed, Nathaniel Uselding, Dianna Hunt, Kristen Quill, Julie Longstreet, Danielle Malin, Peter Sherman, Mia Hansen, Brittany Jacobs, and Marie Techam.

**students earning AP Scholar and AP Scholar with Honor will be recognized this spring at OHS.*

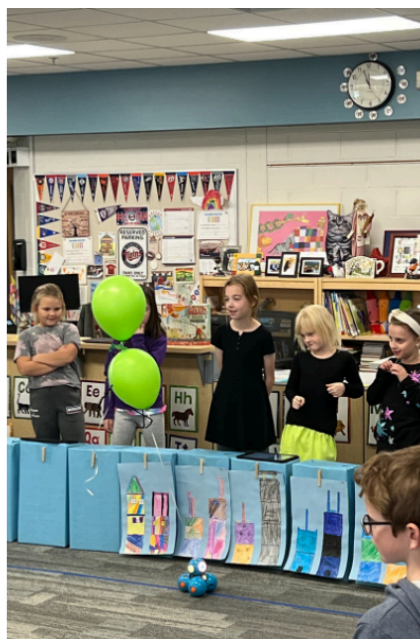


Students Put Their STEM Knowledge and Commitment to Character on Parade

It was a remarkable afternoon in the Elementary Media Center as our MAC (multi-age community) students demonstrated their enthusiasm for the annual project, “Balloons Over Schumann: A Parade of Character.” With vision and support from Bailey Nett, Instructional Technology Coach, students applied a complex set of skills to imagine, plan, build, and program their Dash robots—complete with colorful balloon characters—to move along a parade route of skyscrapers. Student teams...

- were assigned a unique number of base-10 blocks (flats, longs, cubes) to create a varied skyline for the parade route (mathematics)
- selected a book character and explained how that character demonstrated a Pillar of Character (literacy & Character Counts)
- planned, designed, and decorated a balloon to attach to their robot (design & engineering)
- used Blockly code to program Dash robot “floats” to follow the parade route (programming)

The students invited family members, guests and other students to enjoy the show. Thank you to our students, Ms. Nett, and all our teachers!



Fall Sports Conclude with Outstanding Results

The Spartans enjoyed an exceptional fall athletics season with many post-season appearances around the state. Girls' Swim & Dive captured its first ever State Championship by dethroning the reigning 10-time defending State Champion Visitation School! Football brought us "to the Bank" once again for an outstanding State Semifinal game vs. Totino-Grace. And earlier this season we were so proud of our Girls Varsity Tennis team who dominated the Metro West Conference with skill and perseverance. Congratulations to all players, coaches, and their supportive families for a wonderful fall!

Winter sports are underway, so please join us and cheer on the Spartans! The full calendar of events can be found at <https://spartans.oronoschools.org/athletics>. You can also follow AD Paul Brunner's Orono Spartans social media coverage on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).



Girls Swim & Dive
True Team State Champions | 3A Section Champions
First-time STATE Champions!



Football State Semifinalists
U.S. Bank Stadium



Orono School Board Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 | [Agenda](#)

- Superintendent's Report on Excellence | [Watch the Presentation](#)
- Board Reports & Comments | [Watch the Presentation](#)
- Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes in School District General Election | [Watch the Presentation](#)
- Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election | [Watch the Presentation](#)
- Audit Report - MMKR (Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A) | [Watch the Presentation](#)
- Presentation by Shelby McQuay from Ehlers Financial Regarding the Operating Levy | [Watch the Presentation](#)

The next meeting of the Orono School Board is scheduled for Monday, December 9, at 6 p.m. in the District Office Assembly Room. If you are interested in participating in the Public Comment session at 7 p.m., please learn more and register on the [School Board's Public Comment webpage](#).

Important Dates

- November 27-29 - Thanksgiving Break (No School E-12)
- December 23-31 and January 1-3 | Winter Break (No School E-12)
- January 6 - Classes Resume
- January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School E-12)
- January 24 - End of Semester 1
- January 27 - Professional Day (No School E-12)

Please see the [Calendars page](#) on the Orono Schools website for more information.



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