

Principal's Message	1
February Happenings	2-3
Student Spotlight	4
This Happened	5-9
Coming Events	10-11
Counseling Office News	12-17
Winter Break Activities	18
February Is	19

ORISKANY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER WWW.ORISKANYCSD.ORG VOLUME 8 4TH ISSUE Groundhog Day Sunday, February 2nd PRINCIPAL'S

MESSAGE

Dear Students and Families,

On Monday, February 3rd, the Jr./Sr. High will begin the second semester and third marking period, marking the official halfway point of the 2024-2025 school year. I am incredibly proud of the dedication and effort our students have shown throughout the first semester and look forward to their continued success this spring. As a reminder, report cards will be sent home with students on February 7th. If you have any questions regarding your student's grades, please feel free to contact me.

Join us on Friday, February 7th, at 7:00 pm in the Davis Gym for a special School Logo Introduction and Winter Sports Event! We're excited to unveil our new school logo, a symbol of our spirit, values, and future. This celebration will feature student showcases, team introductions, fun activities, giveaways, and the chance to order new Skyhawks merchandise.

Our winter sports teams are enjoying strong seasons, and it has been exciting to watch our studentathletes compete on the court, track, and ice over the past two months. It's also great to see our modified girls' and boys' basketball teams recently begin their competitions. Looking ahead, varsity spring sports registration opens on February 17th, with the season kicking off on March 17th.

Mark your calendars for March 21st and 22nd to support our students in this year's musical, Shrek Jr. Performances are scheduled for Friday, March 21st, at 7 PM, and Saturday, March 22nd, at 2 PM and 7 PM. Our students have been working tirelessly to deliver an incredible show for the community. Additional details are available on the district website.





A reminder that students will be on Mid-Winter Recess from February 17th-21st. This month, our school counselors will begin scheduling courses for students in grades 8 through 11 for the 2025-2026 school year. If you would like to be involved in the meeting to plan your child's schedule, please contact the Office of Counseling and Career Services at (315) 768-2065. The Course Description Guide, which outlines all available courses for grades 9 through 12, is available on the district website and will be updated shortly.

ORISKANY PROUD

Sincerely, Andrew K Kennedy Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Principal

FEBRUARY

HAPPENINGS

Ski and Snowboard Club



February...

7th,14th,& 28th

March...

7th















February...

2nd-Groundhog Day

7th-Report Cards Go Home

14th-Valentine's Day

17th-President's Day-No School

18-23rd-Mid-Winter Recess

25th-BOE Meeting @ 7pm













Class of 2025 will be selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough from February 24th - March 7th. See any Senior to order yours! Money raised will go towards their Senior Trip!









Warm up with the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Student Council! We'll be selling hot cocoa and hot cider from 7:30am-8am starting on Monday, January 13th until sold out!

Prices are \$2 per cup! Add-ons like chocolate peppermint spoons and mini marshmallows are just \$1 extra.

Donations are accepted & appreciated!









Student Spotlight

On December 17, 2024, Senior, Henry Inserra, officially achieved Eagle Scout Rank! He was honored at a ceremony on this date. Henry started in scouts in kindergarten with Pack 39 Oriskany and moved up to Troop 44 Clark Mills.

Congratulations Henry!











Members of language club have been working alongside the staff at Eastern Star Daycare Center to introduce basic vocabulary within their language of study through the use of songs, stories and mini lessons. This past month students worked on colors and counting by decorating a Christmas tree at the





































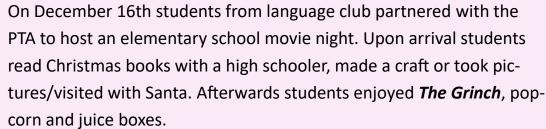














































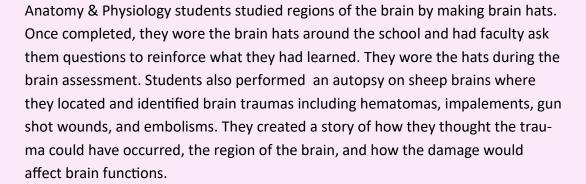






























































Anatomy & Physiology students dissected sheep eyes to start their study of the sensory organs. They also performed a series of experiments that tested their own vision including connections to the cranial nerves, blind spot determination, eye dominance, accommodation, astigmatism, after vision, and traditional vision testing with Snellen eye charts.





































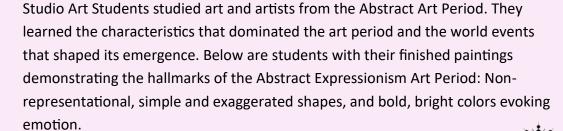


















Students in 7th Grade Art Class Studied Egyptian Culture and the art that represented it. They learned about the Egyptians' burial practices and the artwork included within the pyramids. Using the pinch-pull method and applying their knowledge of the stages of clay and specific clay techniques, each student in class made an Egyptian Tribute Sculpture depicting their own pet.















The OCS Drama Club Presents



March 21st and 22nd 2025





Oriskany Central School District

Pre-K Parent Orientation

Tuesday, May 6th 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Location: N.A. Walbran Elementary School

Pre-K/Kindergarten Parent Registration

Registration for the pre-kindergarten program for four year olds and for kindergarten in the Oriskany Central School District for the 2025-2026 school year is underway.

Eligibility:

- Pre-kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Oriskany Central School District who will be four years old (4) on or before December 1, 2025.
- Kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Oriskany Central School District who will be five years old (5) on or before December 1, 2025.

Registration materials can be obtained from the N.A. Walbran Elementary School Main Office or Tammy Vaughn, District Registrar, who is located at the Jr. Sr. High School. Registration packets must be returned with two (2) proofs of residency (ex. utility bill, mortgage statement, tax document, etc.) and proof of your child's age (ex. birth certificate). Please call 315-768-2065 if you need a packet mailed. Current Oriskany Pre-K students will receive Kindergarten registration packets through their Pre-K classroom teacher.

All pre-kindergarten slots are assigned by lottery. If more registrations are received than the number of available slots for the program, then a lottery is held at the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, April 15th. All applications and documents must be on file with the Registrar's Office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 11th to be included in the placement lottery.

The Oriskany Central School District will hold a Pre-K Parent Orientation on <u>Tuesday, May 6</u> from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at N.A. Walbran Elementary School for all parents/guardians of eligible children entering pre-kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. Incoming pre-kindergarten students are welcome to attend the orientation with their families. Tours of the school will be given to all families that attend.

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

Questions? Contact Ms. Vaughn: 315-768-2065 or tvaughn@oriskanycsd.org.



SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25. 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025





ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 16, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025









How to Apply for TAP and Other NYS Student Financial Aid

Financial aid comes primarily from the federal government, state government and/or your college.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/pay for a complete list of NYS financial aid programs.

TAP

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) provides tuition awards to eligible students attending a college or university located in New York State.

Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.

To be Eligible for TAP You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an approved postsecondary institution in NYS.

Award Amount

- Up to \$5,665 annually, as determined by factors including:
 - Family net taxable income.
 - Tuition charged by your college.
 - Other family members enrolled in college.

How to Apply

- From the FAFSA confirmation page, follow the Apply Now link for New York state-based financial aid.
- Visit hesc.ny.gov/tap for eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

Excelsior Scholarship

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid, allows eligible New York State students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.

To be Eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- Be on track to complete an associates degree in two consecutive years or bachelors degree in four consecutive years.
- Agree to live in NYS for the length of time the award was received.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for full eligibility details.

How to Apply

 Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream





How to Apply for Federal Student Financial Aid

Financial aid is available from the federal and state governments and your college. This includes Pell Grants, Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Student Loans.

Before You Apply

Get Your StudentAid.gov account.

- Dependent students require at least one parent to also have a StudentAid.gov Account (FSA ID) in order to complete and electronically sign the FAFSA and other federal student aid documents.
- Get it before you sit down to do the FAFSA.
- Visit studentaid.gov and click "Create Account."

Check your eligibility

Go to studentaid.gov/aid-estimator to use the **Federal Student Aid Estimator** for an estimate of your federal aid eligibility.

Complete the FAFSA

- Go to studentaid.gov and navigate to the FAFSA® Form to start applying for FAFSA.
- To fill out the FAFSA, you and your contributor(s) must have all of the required materials to submit your application.
- The FAFSA form applies to a single academic year.
 That means you need to submit a new FAFSA form each year you're applying for aid.

Apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- If you're a NYS resident and include a NY school on your FAFSA, you should also apply for NYS aid online by using the NYS resident link on the FAFSA Submission Confirmation page.
- You must apply for TAP and complete or renew the FAFSA every year.
- You can apply directly at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw

Gather These Materials

- For both students and parents:
 - Drivers License.
 - Social Security Number.
 - Tax returns from two years prior to the FAFSA application year.
 - Records of other untaxed income, such as child support received, veterans' benefits, or military allowances.
 - Email address.

What's Next?

- You will receive an email notice when your FAFSA has been processed and your FAFSA Submission Summary is available for review. Be sure to log into your account to verify all of your information is set.
- Be sure to respond to any questions or requests for more information by the deadline indicated or you could lose your eligibility for financial aid.

Important Reminders

- Find out the financial aid deadlines at your college.
- Apply for financial aid every year.
- Don't pay for financial aid information that you can get for free. Visit hesc.ny.gov for more information.
- Attend financial aid workshops to learn more about programs and completing applications. Check with your high school counselor and visit hesc.ny.gov









Enhanced Tuition Awards

The Enhanced Tuition Awards program provides tuition awards to students attending a participating private college located in New York State.

To be Eligible for Enhanced Tuition Awards You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a participating private college located in NYS.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- Be on track to complete an associates degree in two consecutive years or bachelors degree in four consecutive years.
- After completing your degree, you must live in NYS for the length of time the award was received.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/eta for full eligibility details.

Award Amount

 Up to \$6,000 annually through the combination of your TAP award, ETA award and a match from your private college.

How to Apply

 Visit hesc.ny.gov/eta for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

STEM Scholarship

The NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program provides full tuition awards to students attending a SUNY or CUNY college or university in New York State.

To be Eligible for the STEM Scholarship You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Be ranked in the top 10 percent of your high school graduating class.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree in STEM at a SUNY or CUNY college or university.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
- Agree to live and work in NYS in an approved STEM occupation for five years after college.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/stem for full eligibility details.

Award Amount

Up to the annual SUNY resident undergraduate tuition rate.

How to Apply

 Visit hesc.ny.gov/stem for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

After Applying, What's Next?

- Check your email and HESC account frequently for updates regarding your application status.
- Respond to any questions or requests for additional information by the deadline indicated.



u-aspire

NEW YORK FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

Follow these steps in your senior year of high school to apply for financial aid. Deadlines vary so complete the steps when you can, even if it's passed the suggested timing.



- Make college list
- Work with your advisor/counselor to identify and apply to at least one <u>financially safer school</u> – a college that you're likely to be accepted to and able to afford.
- Create FSA ID

Username and password that all students and their parent(s) must create to start the FAFSA.

- Watch How to Create a Username & Password (FSA ID)
- · Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

 Submit FAFSA or NYS DREAM Act Application Available by December 1, 2024, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by all colleges, universities, and technical programs for eligible students to apply for financial aid. The NYS DREAM Act Application allows undocumented and other eligible students to apply for NY state and institutional aid.

- · Watch FAFSA Overview
- · Collect information needed using the FAFSA/TAP Checklist
- Fill out and submit your FAFSA at <u>fafsa.gov</u> and NYS DREAM
 Act Application at <u>hesc.ny.gov/dream</u>
- Submit CSS
 Profile

Required by some private colleges for students to apply for financial aid directly from the college.

- Visit <u>cssprofile.collegeboard.org</u> to see if your college(s) require the CSS Profile and to submit the application
- · Collect information needed using the CSS Profile Checklist

Submit NYS
TAP Application

The NYS TAP Application is required in order to receive any NYS TAP funds and other NYS scholarships.

 Visit tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/ to apply, or link directly to the TAP application from your FAFSA submission page.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Review FAFSA
Submission
Summary (FSS)

The FSS becomes available shortly after you submit the FAFSA. It summarizes the information you reported on it, includes your Student Aid Index (SAI), and flags issues with your FAFSA that must be resolved.

Complete verification

If you're selected for verification, a process colleges use to ensure the information reported on your FAFSA is correct, you're required to provide the requested documents in order to receive financial aid.

· See our Verification Handout

MARCH - MAY

Review financial

Aid offers show you the amount of financial aid you will receive if you attend a specific college. Compare all offers before deciding where to attend college.

 Use the <u>College Cost Calculator</u> to compare your offers and estimate your indirect costs

Pay tuition deposit A non-refundable down payment required by most 4-year colleges and universities to hold your spot at the college, due by May 1.

· See our Tuition Deposit Handout for more information



Scan or go to uaspire.org/NYChecklist to view online

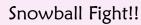


Winter Break Activities...







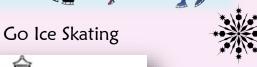


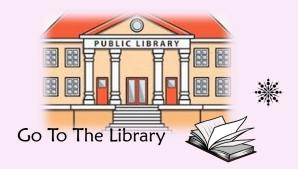




Walk Your Dog













Visit A Museum





Family Bake/Cook Day





