

Orland School District 135
15100 S. 94th Avenue
Orland Park IL 60462

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 193
ORLAND PARK, IL

ORLAND SCHOOL
DISTRICT 135



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL
BULLDOGS

CENTER SCHOOL
DOLPHINS



CENTURY JR HIGH
WILDCATS

HIGH POINT SCHOOL
HORNETS



JERLING JR HIGH
JAYHAWKS

LIBERTY SCHOOL
PATRIOTS



MEADOW RIDGE
MOUNTAIN LIONS

ORLAND JR HIGH
EAGLES



PARK SCHOOL
PANTHERS

PRAIRIE SCHOOL
HAWKS



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
OPENS FEBRUARY 3RD

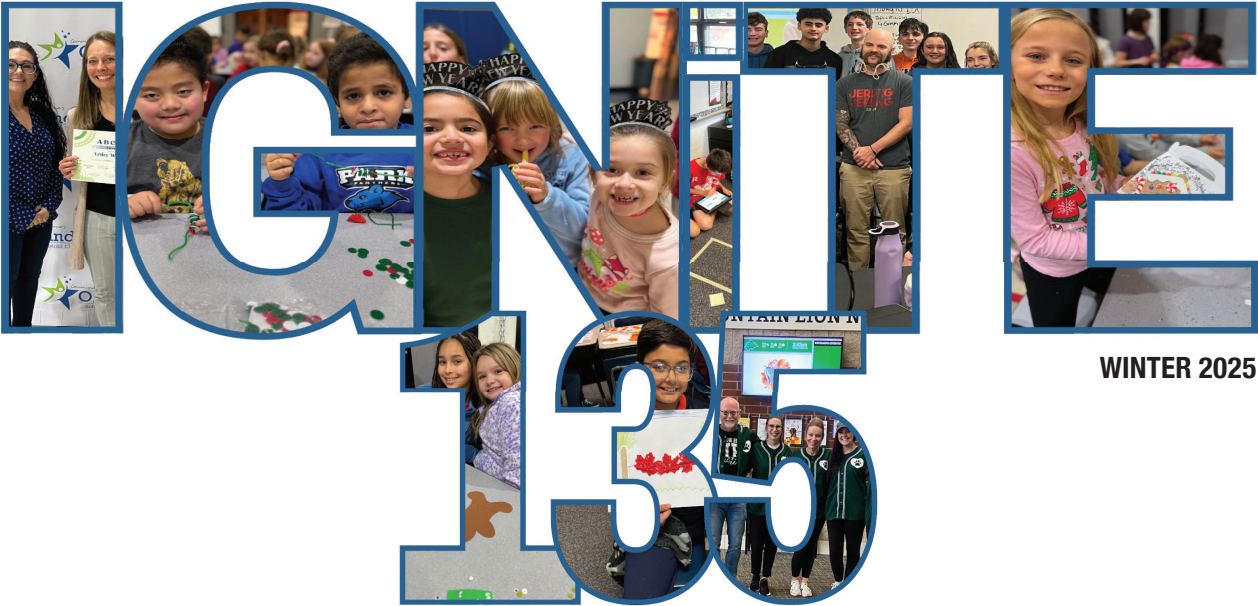
Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens on February 3rd. Families with children who will reach their fifth birthday by September 1st, 2025, are encouraged to register early. Early registration ensures a smoother transition for your child and allows the district to effectively plan class sizes, transportation routes, and other essential school programs. For more information on Kindergarten registration, including required documents and enrollment procedures and to begin the registration process, please visit the Orland School District 135 website at www.orland135.org.

Registration for all other grades (1st-8th) opens on March 3rd, 2025.



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

ORLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2025

BEYOND THE
CLASSROOM

At Orland School District 135, we believe learning extends far beyond the classroom walls. That's why we offer a vibrant array of after-school activities designed to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and build a strong sense of community.

From the moment they step foot in school, our youngest learners have exciting opportunities. Kindergarten through second grade students can explore new passions and discover hidden talents during after school clubs. like art, music, chess, and dance,

As students progress, the possibilities expand. Imagine third, fourth, and fifth graders tackling the mysteries of "Math Without Numbers," embarking on epic quests in Dungeons & Dragons, or simply enjoying the camaraderie of Friendship Club and Board Game Club. For those with a musical inclination, fourth graders can begin their musical journeys with Choir and Orchestra, while fifth graders can join the exciting world of the school band.

Junior high brings even more options. Students can showcase their athleticism on the court, field, or track, competing in sports like volleyball, basketball, cross country, and track within the Southwest Suburban Conference. But that's not all! They can also explore their creative sides with clubs like Cooking Club (pictured right), Newspaper Club, Lego Club, and Art Club. And for those who've found their love in music, Choir, Orchestra, and Band continue to offer enriching experiences.

Continued on page 2 - Activities



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

Board of Education

President

Linda Peckham-Dodge

Vice President

Elizabeth Jobb

Secretary

Nichole Browner

Members

Jim Bax

Alan Kastengren

Patti Thanos

Jennifer Tutor



www.facebook.com/osd135



www.instagram.com/osd135



www.orland135.org

District Podcast:
"Let's Be
Here For It"



Photo credit: Tiffany Iwinski

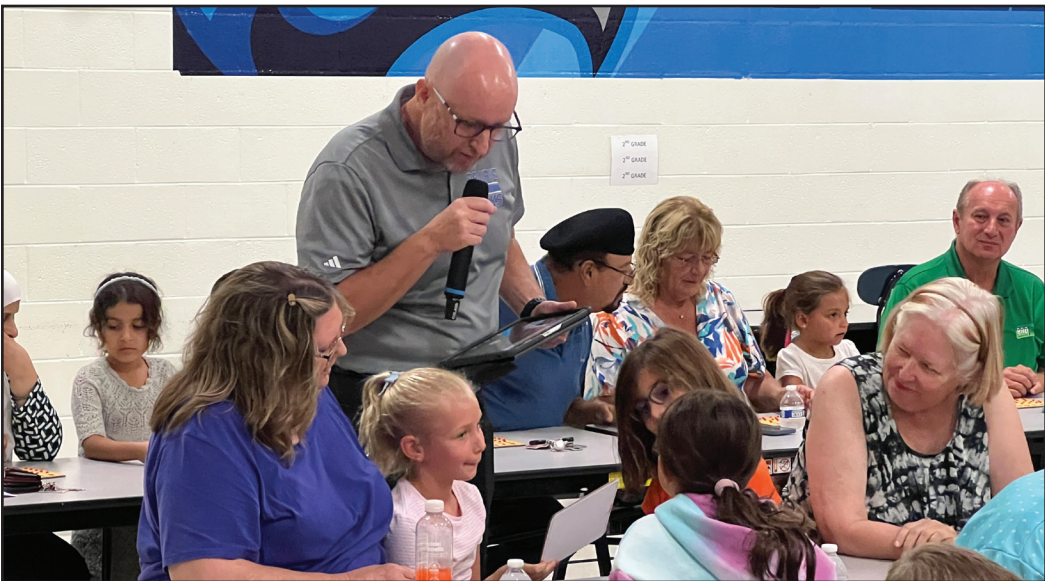


Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

ACTIVITIES CONT.

Building strong family-school connections is also a top priority. From lively BINGO nights (pictured left) to delicious Ice Cream Socials, and even creative Paint Nights and school dances, there's always something fun happening. These events, made possible by the incredible support of the Parents For Education (PFE), provide wonderful opportunities for families to connect with each other and with their children's education.

At Orland School District 135, we believe in a well-rounded education that goes beyond textbooks. We strive to create an environment where every student can discover their passions, develop their talents, and build lasting memories. We look forward to seeing you at future events!

A MAGICAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

The halls of Orland Jr. High were transformed into a winter wonderland this past December as the school presented a dazzling production of "Frozen Jr."

Months of dedicated rehearsals, intricate set building, and countless hours of hard work culminated in a truly magical performance that captivated audiences of all ages.

From the moment the curtain rose, the cast transported the audience to the icy kingdom of Arendelle. The students, brimming with talent and enthusiasm, brought the beloved Disney characters to life with vibrant energy and heartfelt performances. Elsa's powerful rendition of "Let It Go" sent shivers down spines, while Anna's infectious optimism warmed the hearts of all who witnessed it.

The production featured not only the iconic songs from the film, but also incorporated several exciting new musical numbers that added a unique touch to the performance. The complex set design, complete with shimmering snow and icy land-



Photo credit: Lauren Bushwalller

scapes, further enhanced the immersive experience. Beyond the dazzling performances, the "Frozen Jr." production showcased the dedication and teamwork of the entire school community. Students, teachers, parents, and staff all played vital roles in bringing this magical production to the stage.

The success of "Frozen Jr." is a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of the students and staff at Orland Jr. High. Don't miss these upcoming junior high musical performances:

- Century Jr. High: "Matilda Jr." on March 15th
- Jerling Jr. High: "High School Musical Jr." on May 3rd

For more information on how to purchase tickets and show times, please visit the Orland School District website at www.orland135.org closer to the performance dates.



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

STEER YOUR CAREER



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

District 135's popular "Steer Your Career" field trip is returning on April 30th, offering 5th-grade students a unique opportunity to explore a world of exciting career possibilities.

This interactive event introduces students to a diverse range of professions that involve vehicles and machinery. From the towering heights of a crane to the work of an arborist (complete with a demonstration of a massive tree-planting truck!), students have the chance to learn about everything from emergency response and construction to transportation and logistics. Steer Your Career provides invaluable exposure to a wide array of career paths, sparking curiosity and inspiring future aspirations.

We are seeking volunteers to help make this event a resounding success! If you are involved in a career that utilizes vehicles or machinery on wheels, we encourage you to participate. To learn more about participating in Steer Your Career, please contact Allison Kaleta at akaleta@orland135.org.

FROM CLASSROOM TO PUBLISHED AUTHOR

The following story is an excerpt from a Patch article written by Jerling Jr High student Emme Ko about her classmate Ainslee Beaty.



Photo credit: Jerling Gazette

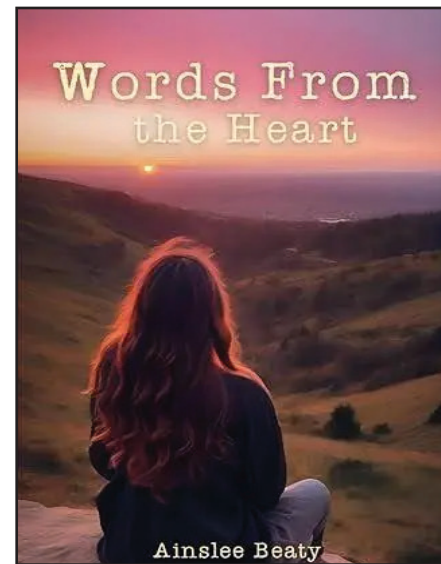
"My 5th grade teacher is actually the first teacher who gave us free writing in the poetry sense. Basically, we just had to make a nature poem, and I have loved writing poetry ever since," that's how Ainslee's Beaty's path to become a poetry author began. Ainslee, whom you might know as the President of NJHS or a distinguished soccer player, is now a published author!

Becoming a published author was like a dream for Ainslee as she never thought she would become a published author. Ainslee says, "My mom has wanted me to publish since the summer before 6th grade, but I never thought I'd actually do it until I saw an ad on Instagram for a self publishing website. Then I just ran with it."

Mr. Reif, Ainslee's ELA and Social Studies teacher adds, "Ainslee is a gem to learning who is a beaming example of 'hard work pays off!'" Her work in publishing her book shows her thoughtfulness, eagerness, and general "good-natureness" and it's inspiring." Reif also states that it is a must read, and is happy he gets to say, "I know her!" Reif points out, "I couldn't be more proud of Ainslee, and to have the privilege to have her in my classroom. She is the best!"

Ainslee's first book of poetry, "Words From The Heart," is currently for sale on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

To read the entire article about Ainslee and her book, visit www.Patch.com/Illinois/OrlandPark.



DISTRICT HONORS RESPECTED RETIREES

Orland School District 135 will be honoring thirteen dedicated school employees who are retiring at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

During the "That's a Wrap" celebration in April, the district will recognize the significant contributions of these individuals who have devoted their careers to shaping the lives of countless students.

Among the retirees are veteran teachers like Tori Alvarez, a first-grade teacher at Park Elementary for 25 years. Amy Kmiciek, a Reading Interventionist at Centennial School, is retiring after 31 years of service in various roles within the district, including classroom teacher and resource teacher. Ms. Kmiciek is looking forward to enjoying the freedom and flexibility of retirement, including the cherished prospect of "waking up without an alarm clock."

Valeria Plotke, a cherished educator for 33 years, is retiring from Meadow Ridge School where she dedicated her career to inspiring young minds as a fourth-grade teacher. Ms. Plotke, who always knew she wanted to work with children, advises new teachers to "make your lessons fun" to create an engaging and joyful learning environment. She fondly recalls her first year at Meadow Ridge, hired by Principal Dotty Woodhouse, who she describes as an "outstanding educator."

Tori Alvarez - 30 Years

Lynn Duehr - 15 Years

Allison Gawron - 34 Years

Dali Hoover - 20 Years

Amy Kmiciek - 31 Years

Kim Pericak - 35 Years

Colleen Panega - 19 Years

Valeria Plotke - 33 Years

Joan Polaski - 19 Years

Mari Kay Reeves - 33 Years

David Robles - 33 Years

Denise Zangri - 25 Years

Bill Zopf - 33 Years

inspiring young minds throughout her career. Reeves encourages aspiring educators to prioritize their well-being and create a positive learning environment.

Allison Gawron, a respected Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) for 34 years, is retiring from Century Jr. High and Jerling Jr. High. Driven by a desire to assist students with special needs, Ms. Gawron dedicated her career to improving communication skills. Her advice for new teachers is simply, "Hang in there." One memorable (and somewhat harrowing) experience involved a thrilling roller coaster ride with a student at Six Flags!

These educators, as well as the additional retiring staff members, shared valuable advice for aspiring teachers, emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships with students, cherishing every moment, and maintaining a positive outlook.

Interested in reading more about the retiring staff members? Scan the QR Code.

