

# Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School

## Newsletter

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

Volume 8 7th Issue



## Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents, & Community Members

It's wonderful to welcome April! With longer daylight hours, we're hopefully past the last snowfall of the season. Spring sports are already in full swing, including golf, baseball, softball, tennis, and outdoor track and field. I look forward to seeing our community come together to cheer on our student-athletes at these events. We're also busy preparing for upcoming school events, including the Jr./Sr. Prom and the senior trip to Philadelphia.

April marks the beginning of assessment season at the Jr./Sr. High. The 7th and 8th grade NYS English Language Arts Computer-Based Test will take place on April 8th and 9th. In May, students will take the 7th and 8th grade NYS Mathematics Computer-Based Test on April 30th and May 1st, the NYS Grade 8 Science Computer-Based Test on May 7th, and Advanced Placement Exams from May 5th to May 16th. June will bring NYS Regents Examinations and World Language Checkpoint A & B Exams.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of our students, staff, and school! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or positive news to share.

ORISKANY PROUD

Sincerely,

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



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HAPPY  
EASER



## **Oriskany Central School Valedictorian and Salutatorians Announced!**



### **Congratulations Erika!**

Erika Reid, the daughter of Frances and Thomas Reid, has been named the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2025 Valedictorian. Erika has received many different awards during her time at OCS, including the University of Rochester Honorary Science award, the RIT Science and Math Award, AP Scholar with Honor, the Rensselaer Medal Award, and the MVCC's Presidential Award.

During her time at OCS, Erika has also taken many rigorous courses including AP World History, AP US History, AP English Literature, AP Calculus, and multiple MVCC dual enrollment courses. She has done phenomenally on her regents tests, including gaining a 100 on each math regents exam.

Erika is also involved in many different clubs at OCS including: National Honor Society President, Key Club Member, Technology Club member, Students Advocacy for the Environment President, Art Club Secretary, Humanity First Secretary, and Mathletics. She also works part time for CNY Cardiology in medical records.

Erika has been accepted to both SUNY Poly and RIT, and is currently deciding where she would like to go in the future. She plans on majoring in either Computer Programming or Computer Science.

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### **Congratulations Brienne!**

Brienne Eldred, daughter of Jeffrey Eldred and Dawn Domion, has been named the Oriskany Central School Class of 2025 Salutatorian.

During Brienne's time at OCS, she has received many accolades including the Thomas College Presidential Academic Achievement Award, Elmira College Key Award, RIT's Business and Leadership Award, and Russell Sage Student Sage Award. During her time at OCS, Brienne has also taken multiple rigorous courses including AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Pre-Calc, AP Biology, AP Calculus, and multiple MVCC dual enrollment courses.

Brienne is also involved in many extracurricular activities. She's been a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club, the Technology Club, the Humanity First Student Division, the Varsity Club, the Teen AIDS Task Force, the Science Club, and the Junior Prom Committee. She has balanced her academics while also participating in the OCS athletic program. She has been on the Varsity Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams since her Freshman year. As an athlete on these teams, she has earned a Captain position for each team. She also holds the Indoor Track school record for High Jump. In her Junior year Outdoor season, she was named a CSC All Star Athlete. Brienne played soccer three out of four years in high school. During her high school years, she has earned scholar athlete five times.

After high school, Brienne plans to attend Thomas College to major in Forensic Psychology while competing on their track and field team.



# UPCOMING EVENTS!

## April:

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 1st-       | April Fool's Day          |
| 11th-      | End of 3rd Marking Period |
| 8th-10th   | Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Test   |
| 15th-      | BOE Meeting @ 6pm         |
| 17th-      | Report Cards Go Home      |
| 18th-      | Good Friday-No School     |
| 22nd-      | Earth Day                 |
| 21st-25th- | Spring Recess             |
| 25th-      | Arbor Day                 |
| 29th-      | BOE Meeting @ 6pm         |
| 30th-      | Grades 3-8 NYS Math Test  |



# UPCOMING EVENTS!

Science Club is sponsoring the annual **Canal Clean Sweep** on April 17, 2025 after school at the trail next to the car wash on Route 69. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please register with the link, bring gloves, dress for the weather and arrange transportation to the trail after school and home at 4:30.

Please use the following link to register:

<https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/Fa1dCR6DPPTvn3VLI9fNU1qzYc?domain=reg.resport.io>

## **There will be a STEAM Summit at ESF April 26 open to students in grades 5-10.**

Featuring a series of workshops, a keynote address, and a women in business panel focused on opportunities in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math

\$5.00 Registration

SUNY ESF: 1 Forestry Dr. Syracuse, NY 13210

(GPS: 1000 Irving Ave. Syracuse, NY)

For more information, contact Caitlyn Copfer at 315-424-0040 or [ccopfer@ywca-syracuse.org](mailto:ccopfer@ywca-syracuse.org)

The mission of Girls' Summit is to empower, motivate, educate, and change the perception of girls and women in S.T.E.A.M.

However, this program is open to 5th-10th graders, regardless of their sex and gender identity..

**APRIL 26, 8:30am-3:00pm**

# Counseling & Career Services News/Information...

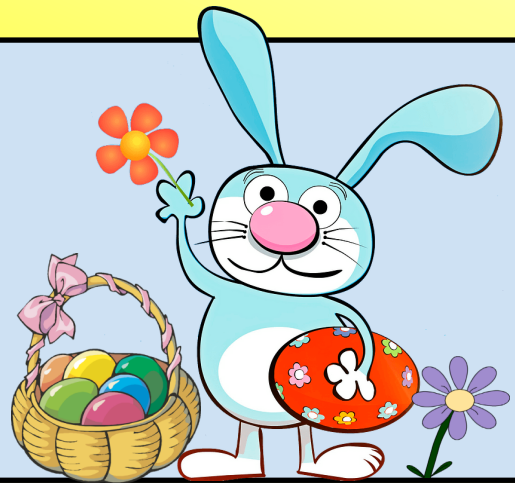
## Attention Seniors/Parents:

We have been sending out a lot of emails to seniors regarding scholarships. There is a lot of money out there for you to get to help pay for college. You have to apply for scholarships in order to win. You should be spending the next couple months just focusing on scholarships. Once you complete one application every one after that just gets easier.

As a reminder, if you plan on attending college you will need to complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).

HAVE YOU  
COMPLETED  
THE FAFSA?

*Don't  
wait!*



## Seniors!!

Please check your email regularly. I email scholarship information and applications as they are received by the counseling office.

If you need them printed you can contact me by email, phone, or just stop into the counseling office. I am always happy to help.

~Ms. Vaughn

tvaughn@oriskanycsd.org

315-768-2065



**APPLY FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS**



## Counseling & Career Services News/Information...



| SAT Test Date | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| June 14, 2025 | May 9, 2025           | May 26, 2025               |



**Test-Taking Strategies**

**R** Read the question carefully, then reread the passage or the problem.

**E** Examine every answer choice before you choose your answer.

**L** Label your answer (Math)  
Look for proof in the passage and underline it (ELA)

**A** Always check your work!

**X** X-out answers that you know are wrong



# Counseling & Career Services News/Information...

## Junior Year Calendar (reminders)

Continue college selection process. Attend in-person or virtual college fairs, financial aid seminars, general information sessions, etc., to learn as much as you can about the college application process.

### **April**

- When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
- Register for the May/June SAT.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.

### **May**

- Get a jump start on summer activities-consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. If you work, save part of your earnings for college.
- Begin visiting colleges. Phone to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had a college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly!
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test.

### **June**

- After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test and/or the ACT.

### **July**

- Visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you.

### **August**

- Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities.
- Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft application essays; collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes. If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships.
- Complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form if you hope to play Division I or II sports. (This form cannot be mailed until you finish your sixth semester of high school.)



# This Happened...

TATF held the 4th blood drive of the school year on March 21 in the high school alumni auditorium. It was the best attended blood drive so far and we currently have a total of 47 units donated for the school year. Our final blood drive will take place May 16 from 9am-2pm in the alumni auditorium. TATF is hoping for a great turn out to earn multiple scholarships for graduates.



On March 20, seven freshmen attended STEM in the Workplace day at SRC in North Syracuse. We were welcomed by OCS alumni and SRC Vice President of Business Development & Strategy, Dave Bessey. Students toured a lab, participated in a drone demonstration, played STEM feud, and interacted with a panel of engineers. The theme of the day incorporated the four “Cs” of STEM: collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. Students were encouraged to pursue their passion and take lots of math and science classes. The panel reminded them to be open minded, network, challenge themselves, and not be afraid to fail.

# This Happened...

On March 21st and 22nd the OCS Drama club presented the Musical Shrek Jr. with over 45 students from 7th-12th grade involved in the show as part of the cast and/or crew. This production, based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig, captivated audiences with its energy and heart. The students spent months learning songs and dances and they put their hearts into the production.



# This Happened...

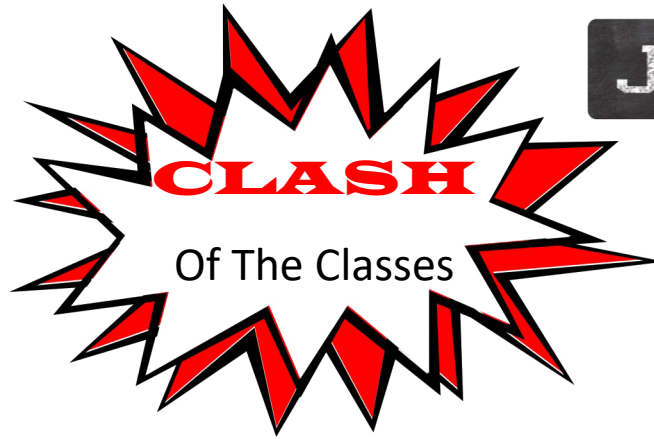
Shrek The Musical Continued.....



Congratulations to Vito LoCac-  
cio, Tanner Koons, Ceci Piers-  
ma, and Madeline Babcock for  
participating in the Oneida  
County Junior High All County  
Chorus this weekend at Water-  
ville. These students audi-  
tioned in January and worked  
on 4 additional pieces of music  
that they practiced and per-  
formed with approximately 75  
other 7th, 8th and 9th graders  
from around the county.



*Sophomore*



JUNIOR

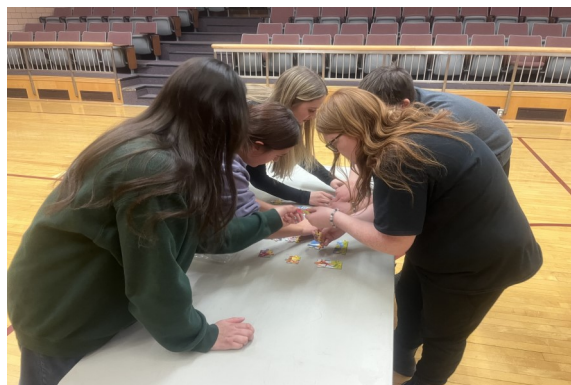
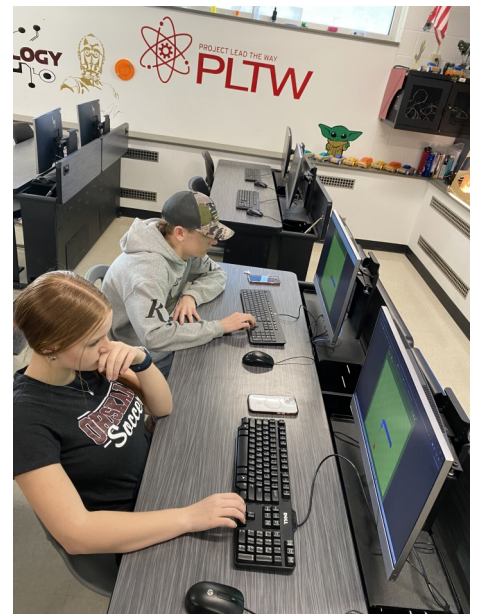
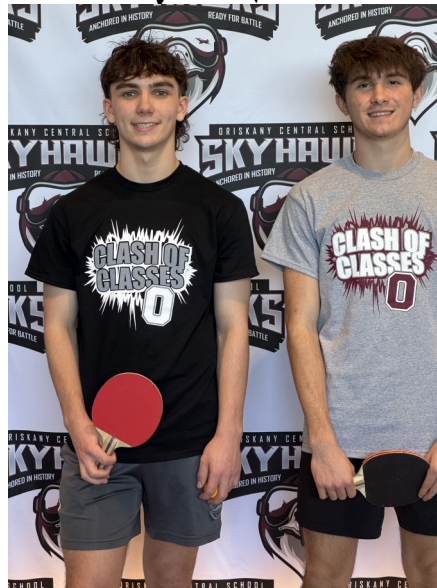
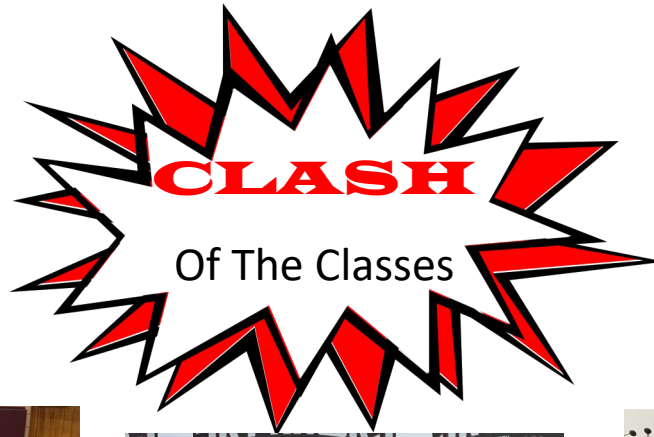


During the week of March 10-14, students participated in the annual Clash of Classes. This week-long competition pits students against each other in activities such as a Bake Off, Mario Kart, and Spoons, along with sports like ping-pong, ultimate football, and more. With points being awarded to first, second, and third place finishers, total grade level points are added up at the end of the week. The winning class earns bragging rights along with their graduating year inscribed on a plaque displayed in the school. After a back and forth long couple of days with each class taking home multiple first place finishes, it was the Senior class that repeated as back to back champions finishing with 3,400 points. The Juniors came in second with 2,250, followed by the Sophomores with 1,450. Varsity Club would like to thank all who participated and a special thanks goes out to the teachers that volunteered to host different events.



*Seniors*







### Spring Break Activities

**Pajama Day**

**Adventure Day**

**Plant a Spring Garden**

**Volunteer Day**

**Have a Picnic**

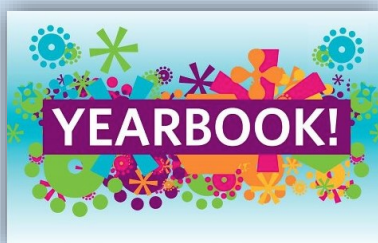
**Have a Spa Night**

**BBQ**

**Pizza Party**

**Local Sights Day**

**Clean Your Room**



Online yearbook sales are closed.

There will be very few yearbooks available for sale on a first come first serve basis

# April...

**Adopt a Horse Month**

**Frog Month**

**International Guitar Month**

**National Care and Letter Writing Month**

**National Kite Month**

**Physical Wellness Month**

**Tulip Month**

**World Habitat Awareness Month**

**1st- National Fun Day**

**5th- National Deep Dish Pizza Day**

**11th- National Pet Day**

**15th- World Art Day**

**21st- World Creativity & Innovation Day**

**22nd- Earth Day**

**26th- National Pretzel Day**

**27th- Administrative Professionals Day**