



BUDGET EDITION

Oriskany

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2025

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Gregory Cuthbertson

SCHOOL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE
Michelle Tikalsky

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS
AND SUPPORT SERVICES
Catherine Mucurio

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Andrew Kennedy

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Thomas Meiss

Board of Education

Therese M. Hanna President

Louis Ciotti Vice President

Michelle Anderson

James P. Chase

Brian Judycki

Jeffrey Kraeger

Paul Piersma

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 46 · Issue 4

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Oriskany Central School District Community,

I hope that this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the warmer and longer days of spring. I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire school community for your continued support and dedication to the Oriskany Central School District.

This is an exciting time of year as we begin to prepare for the end of the school year. The months of May and June are filled with events, activities and ceremonies that celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the 2024-2025 school year. Please be sure to check our website and social media for the latest updates about end-of-year activities and events.

Budget Overview:

It is also the time of year when we present the 2025-2026 school budget for your consideration. Our commitment to excellence in education remains unwavering, and our efforts to maximize our resources to efficiently and innovatively meet the goals and objectives of our academic programs are central to our mission. Throughout the last several months we have been working diligently to put together a spending plan that maintains and enhances our academic programs while remaining fiscally responsible to our community.

This year's budget proposal has proven to be very challenging. After a flat increase in our state aid for the 2024-2025 school year and the governor's proposed 2% increase for this year, we are seeing compounding gaps in our revenue from the state. (As of this writing, we still don't have a finalized state budget.) As you know, state aid contributions make up roughly 50% of our revenues, while the other roughly 50% comes from our Tax Levy, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS), Appropriated Fund Balance and Local Non-Tax sources. Some other challenging factors that we are facing for the 2025-26 budget include a double-digit percentage increase in our health insurance contributions (outside of our control); continued increases to our program costs, especially special education programs/services; and collective bargaining agreement contractual increases for our employees.

This year we are proposing a \$19,467,028 budget with a 4.83% or \$342,271 increase to our tax levy. This tax increase is in line with what was approved for the 2024-2025 school year, and remains tax cap compliant under this proposed budget. With lower state aid coming into the District combined with continuing increased costs to do business, we are looking to maintain our programs and services while remaining fiscally responsible. This budget will provide the necessary resources to continue to build upon our proud mission, "To 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."

Our budget for the upcoming fiscal year reflects a comprehensive approach to meeting the diverse needs of our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Through careful planning and strategic allocation of resources, we aim to enhance educational opportunities and support the holistic development of every learner.

Key Budget Priorities:

1. Academic Enrichment: Investing in curriculum development, instructional resources and professional development programs to promote academic excellence and student success.
2. Technology Integration: We recently made the switch to the Managed IT Services (MITS) through Madison-Oneida BOCES. This service is a comprehensive service that provides leadership, technology planning and a team of IT experts for the District to support our technology needs.
3. Support Services: Strengthening student support services, including counseling, special education and wellness initiatives to ensure the well-being of every student.
4. Facilities Maintenance: Continued investment in facility maintenance and upgrades to create safe, conducive learning environments for students and staff.
5. Community Engagement: Building partnerships with families, community organizations and stakeholders to promote collaboration and enrich the educational experience.

Looking Ahead:

We remain committed to transparency and accountability in our financial practices. Our budgeting process involves input from various stakeholders, including parents, staff and community members. We encourage active participation and feedback to ensure that our budget reflects the priorities and values of our community in the upcoming budget discussions and vote.

BUDGET HEARING:

When: Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

BUDGET VOTE:

When: Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Noon-8:00 p.m.
Where: Jr./Sr. High School Atrium

For more information about the budget proposal, please visit the District's website, oriskanycsd.org, under the Business Office page.

As we look ahead to the future, we recognize the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. By staying true to our mission and vision, we will continue to adapt and innovate to meet the evolving needs of our students and community.



Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible education for our students.

Sincerely,

Gregory Cuthbertson

Superintendent of Schools

Dear Oriskany Central School Community:

At our April 15, 2025 meeting, the Oriskany Board of Education approved a \$19,467,028 budget for the 2025-2026 school year. This budget represents an increase in appropriations from the 2024-2025 budget and is reflective of our commitment to maintaining a high-quality educational program within the financial means of our state and our community. We continue to maximize monies and services by working in partnerships with BOCES, federal, state and local governments, and continue to look for cost efficiencies throughout the operational aspects of our school district.

The proposed 2025-2026 budget also includes a tax levy that stays within our maximum allowable tax cap of 4.83% and therefore will require a simple majority vote.

This year's budget proposal again demonstrates our enduring support of a comprehensive educational program that continues to provide creative and innovative learning opportunities for our students to enhance their educational experiences, and a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares students to be college and career-ready.

The Oriskany Board of Education believes the 2025-2026 proposed budget offers the best possible balance of a continued commitment to a comprehensive education for our children of Oriskany while maintaining an affordable value for our residents and members of our community. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and urge your participation in the voting process on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, held from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. high school atrium (rear).



The budget hearing will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. high school auditorium. All community members are welcome to attend. Further, please visit our district website for the latest budget information and feel free to call the District Office at 315-768-2058 with any questions you may have regarding the 2025-2026 proposed budget.

On behalf of the Oriskany School Board,

Therese Hanna
Board President

2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The District budget vote, along with the Board of Education election, will be held on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., in the atrium (rear) of the Jr./Sr. high**. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, it will be enacted for the 2025-2026 school year. If not passed, the Board of Education can:

- Place a revised budget before District residents for a vote.
- Place the same budget before District residents for a vote.
- Immediately adopt a contingency budget.

Should the proposed budget be defeated and a contingency budget is adopted pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, \$631,550 will be eliminated in equipment purchases, student supplies, the multi-year copier contract, and additional items to be determined by the Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year.

EARLY MAIL VOTING & ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for early mail voting and absentee ballots are located on the school District website or at the District Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, beginning April 22, 2025. Completed applications must be filed with the District Clerk at least 7 days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Otherwise, the application may be personally delivered to the District Clerk no later than the day before the election. If you are qualified for absentee voting and issued an absentee ballot, the ballot itself must be received by the School District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election in order to be canvassed.

TO VOTE YOU MUST BE

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election, and who is not otherwise ineligible to vote under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing on this year's proposed budget will be on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. high school auditorium.

	2024-2025 Approved Budget	2025-2026 Proposed Budget
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT		
Board of Education	\$16,600	\$15,850
Central and Business Administration	\$414,100	\$450,450
Central Services	\$871,393	\$1,118,450
Supervision - Regular School	\$325,000	\$317,000
Benefits	\$366,301	\$399,002
Total:	\$1,993,394	\$2,300,752
PROGRAM COMPONENT		
Teaching - Regular School	\$4,019,183	\$4,197,700
Special Education	\$2,634,050	\$3,081,950
Instructional Support Programs	\$1,649,215	\$1,650,700
Transportation	\$874,400	\$956,600
Benefits	\$3,266,670	\$3,558,332
Total:	\$12,443,518	\$13,445,282
CAPITAL COMPONENT		
Operations/Maintenance	\$1,220,500	\$1,273,500
Bus Purchases	\$189,000	\$380,000
Debt Service	\$1,778,826	\$1,780,128
Benefits	\$264,039	\$287,366
Total:	\$3,452,365	\$3,720,994
Total Appropriations:	\$17,889,277	\$19,467,028

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY COMPONENT

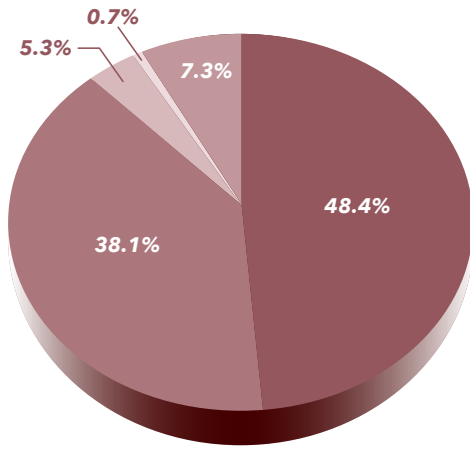
Total Budget 2025-2026 \$19,467,028	Program Component \$13,445,282 69.1%	Capital Component \$3,720,994 19.1%	Administrative Component \$2,300,752 11.8%
Budget-to-Budget Increase 8.82%		2025-2026 Tax Levy Increase 4.83% limit is 4.83%	

While the tax levy limit is often referred to as a "2% tax cap", each district is required to annually calculate their specific tax levy limit in accordance with a formula that accounts for individual district conditions and variables. For districts across New York State, this calculation rarely results in a limit of exactly 2%, calculated rates can vary as high as 6% or more. For Oriskany CSD, this proposed tax levy increase of 4.83% does not exceed the tax levy limit and requires a simple majority vote.

For more budget information, please visit our website!
www.oriskanycsd.org

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

REVENUES

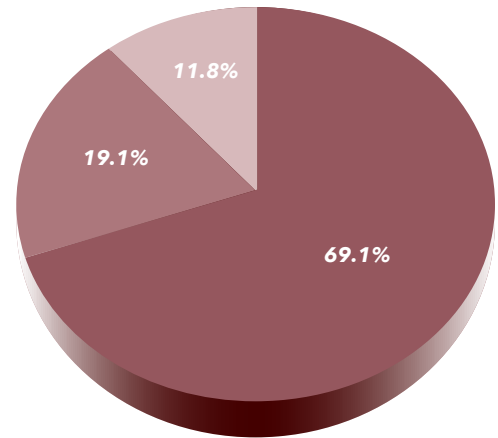


2025-26 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	2025-2026 Estimates	%
State Aid	\$9,422,134	48.4%
Tax Levy	\$7,423,998	38.1%
Fund Balance	\$1,426,391	7.3%
Local Non-Tax	\$1,034,700	5.3%
PILOTS	\$159,805	0.7%
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$19,467,028	100.0%

2025-26 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2025-2026 Estimates	%
Program	\$13,445,282	69.1%
Capital	\$3,720,994	19.1%
Administrative	\$2,300,752	11.8%
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$19,467,028	100.0%



EXPENDITURES

STATE AID To be finalized after the state budget is adopted.

TAX LEVY Monies collected from District taxpayers via school tax bills. Now limited by the Property Tax Cap Legislation.

LOCAL NON-TAX Use of District reserves, PILOTS, and miscellaneous revenues.

FUND BALANCE Unrestricted monies that can be appropriated into next year's budget.

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.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$17,889,277	\$19,467,028	\$18,835,478
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$1,577,751	\$946,201
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.82%	5.02%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,081,727	\$7,423,998	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$40,000	\$40,000	
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)	\$7,121,727	\$7,463,998	\$7,121,727
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$437,171	\$497,742	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,644,556	\$6,926,256	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,644,556	\$6,926,256	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See note below regarding separate propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,993,394	\$2,300,752	\$2,188,402
Program Component	\$12,443,518	\$13,445,282	\$13,396,082
Capital Component	\$3,452,365	\$3,720,994	\$2,188,402

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 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.

Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount

Description	Amount
Oriskany Public Library	\$40,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$476

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Oriskany Central School District, of the Towns of Whitestown, Marcy, Floyd, and Rome, Oneida County, New York, will be held at the Oriskany Central Jr./Sr. High School Atrium (rear) on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of noon and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Tax Cap Levy Calculation

2025-26

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$7,081,727
Prior Year Adjusted Levy X Tax Base Growth Factor (1.0217)	\$7,235,400
Add Pilots Receivable in 2024-25	\$148,889
2024-2025 Local Capital Levy Share from last year's tax cap calculator	\$437,171
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	\$6,947,118
Adjusted Tax Levy X Allowable Levy Growth Factor (2.00%)	\$7,086,061
Remove Pilots Receivable in 2025-26	\$159,805
Tax Levy Limit	\$6,926,256
Add Current Year Exemptions: 2025-26 Local Capital Levy Share	\$497,742
Max. Allowable Tax Levy for 2025-2026	\$7,423,998
Allowable Increase in Dollars	\$342,271
Allowable Increase in %	4.83%
2025-2026 Proposed Levy	\$7,423,998
Actual Increase in Dollars	\$342,271
Actual Increase in %	4.83%
Difference Between Allowable and Actual	\$0.00

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

Proposition #1

BUDGET RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District in the County of Oneida, State of New York, is hereby authorized to expend \$19,467,028 for the 2025-2026 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition #2

ORISKANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Shall the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$40,000 for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to the District residents by the Oriskany Public Library?

Proposition #3

CAPITAL RESERVE VEHICLE PURCHASES

Shall the following resolution be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District in the County of Oneida, State of New York, is hereby authorized to spend \$100,000 from the District's existing Reserve Fund approved by the voters in May 2022 for the acquisition of one (1) 7-passenger hybrid student transport van and one (1) Ventrac Tractor for snow removal and lawn care?

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Election of three (3) members to the Board of Education, for a three (3)-year term commencing on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028. The vacancy arises from the expiration of the terms of Michelle Anderson, James Chase and Louis Ciotti.

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

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The 2025-2026 school expenditure plan supports the goals and objectives of maintaining small class sizes, providing exceptional programs, and opportunities for our students. The Board of Education and administration have taken actions to provide an atmosphere of success and prepare our students for career and college readiness. The District is committed to providing safety, personal attention, positive relationships and a productive climate for learning. These areas of focus are reflected in the expenditure budget proposal, including:

- Completed renovation and update of our facilities as the 22-24 Capital Project came to a close.
- Increased enrichment activities for students both at the elementary and Jr./Sr. high school buildings.
- Maximizing grant, state and federal funds to support and offset local funds necessary for school programs.
- Supporting staff development and improvement through research-proven means that lead to increased student performance.
- Allocating a large portion of the District's expenditure dollars to focus on supporting educational programs for all students, including new Social Emotional Programs and counseling to support student mental health.
- Implementation and continued development of a new math curriculum and support from a teacher on assignment; implementation of a new ELA curriculum to bring the District in compliance with the mandate for the Science of Reading.
- Involving the community, faculty, staff and students in the quest for a new mascot through committee involvement and voting. The introduction of the new mascot logo, "Skyhawks: Anchored in History - Ready for Battle," was unveiled in February 2025.

B O A R D O F E D U C A T I O N C A N D I D A T E S *

There are three (3) 3-year vacancies (2025-2028) for the Board of Education:**in order that they will appear on the ballot***Michelle Anderson**

I am a 19-year resident of Oriskany, married to my husband Rob and have four beautiful children, Alyssa, 26; Kayla, 25; Brody, 16; and Brayden, 13.

My educational background includes a master's degree in Childhood Education and Special Education from Touro College; a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Oneonta, leading me to be permanently certified in preschool through sixth grade; and I have a provisional certification for special education. Early in my career, I worked in the Universal Pre-kindergarten program in Utica and left to focus on early intervention services for my daughter and eventually expanded my family. During my departure from teaching, I have been active with volunteering, advocating and coaching. Currently, I am a substitute teacher for the Rome Central School District.

While serving as a board member for the Oriskany Central School District, I have been board president, vice president and committee member (Safety, Policy and Audit/Finance). Presently, I am also serving as the Cooperative Board President for the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. Through my years of service, in trying to remain current with relevant board topics, I have attended the NYSSBA conventions, the Rural School Association Conventions and School Board Institutes workshops, each time networking with other board members and bringing back current ideas to share.

When selecting a candidate to serve our district, it is important to be mindful of the changing landscape of education. In the upcoming years, our district will need to plan for new graduation measures proposed by the State Education Department, respond to the mandate for electric buses, understand the impact of AI, and deal with the emerging needs of students, all while being fiscally responsible. I believe that I could continue to serve our community well as I am already versed in the challenges facing our district and could continue to ensure the tough questions are asked and decisions are thoughtfully made. Thank you for your support on May 20!

**John Stewart**

I have lived in the Oriskany School District for 10 years and I have a daughter in 7th grade.

My education includes an AAS Degree from MVCC in Criminal Justice and a Bachelors Degree from SUNY Poly in Sociology.

I am currently a lieutenant with the Utica Fire Department and a New York State Certified Paramedic. I have been with the Utica Fire Department for 19 years, and I am also currently serving as the Master of the Oriskany Masonic Lodge which partners with the village to facilitate various community events, like Christmas in the Place of Nettles and supporting our local t-ball teams.

I am running for a seat on the Oriskany Central School Board of Education to be an advocate for each one of our students to make sure all have the support, resources and leadership to reach their goals and to help set the direction of the district to achieve the highest student performance, including developing a responsible budget to present it to the community, aligning district resources to improve achievement.

**Michelle Gu**

Years resided in school district: 9 years **Number of children:** 3

Education: Bachelor's degree from Utica College and a Doctorate in Law from Western New England University

Professional experience: Private practice attorney for 16 years in Utica, NY. Prior to becoming an attorney, I was a Child Protective Investigator for Oneida and Herkimer Counties. I was responsible for investigating reports of serious physical and sexual abuse of children. I am also an Attorney for Children (AFC) for the New York State Appellate Division 4th Department. I received the highest honor for an AFC in 2021 from the Appellate Division for excellence in representing children.

Civic and Community Activities: Oneida County Bar Association and New York Bar Association member

Why I would like to be considered: As a resident, attorney and most importantly, a mother in the Oriskany Central School District, I have a vested interest in our district. My children Troy (9th grade), Portia (6th grade) and Pierce (1st grade) are students at OCSD. Our district is unique and the cornerstone of our community. Fostering inquisitive, socially responsible and productive students is paramount. My goals as a prospective board member are to ensure the fiscal stability of our district, ensure that our students have as many academic, social and athletic opportunities as possible, and to provide leadership that will position our district for a bright future.

**Louis Ciotti**

As an alumnus of Oriskany Central School, class of 1994, and the son of a proud 1969 graduate, I am deeply rooted in this community. My family and I moved into the district in 2013, and since then, I have been committed to supporting the schools that shaped generations, including my own. Over the past three years as a member of the Oriskany Central School Board, and currently serving as vice president, I have worked to uphold fiscal responsibility, advocate for equal opportunities for all students, and address the challenges posed by changes in New York State's financial aid policies for public schools.

My wife, Becky, is an educator with over 20 years of experience as a history teacher at Rome Free Academy and currently serves as a school administrator at Camden Central School. Our daughters, Lilly and Clara, are active participants in district life—Lilly, a 9th grader involved in track, drama club, and cheerleading; and Clara, a 7th grader singing her heart out in Chorus.

Professionally, I bring over two decades of experience as an electrical engineer, technical program manager, and analyst. Currently, I manage RF sensors and new product development at Hidden Level in Syracuse, NY. My career has equipped me with skills in project management, business/data analytics, and quality control—key competencies that enhance my ability to address complex educational challenges. I am also active in fostering collaboration, driving process improvements, and ensuring accountability in the projects I lead.

I firmly believe that strong schools are the cornerstone of a thriving community. As a Board of Education member, I am passionate about continuing to build on our district's strengths while preparing for an equitable and sustainable future for all students. I would be honored to earn your support in this election.



Andrew Kennedy
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
akennedy@oriskanycsd.org

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

It's hard to believe that May is already here! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Recess. With longer days and warmer weather, it finally feels like spring is in full swing. We've officially entered the final marking period of the school year, and there's so much to look forward to. Spring sports are well underway, with students participating in golf, baseball, softball, tennis, and outdoor track and field. I encourage everyone to come out and show their support for our student-athletes at these events. Additionally, preparations are in motion for some exciting upcoming events, including our Jr./Sr. Prom and the senior trip to Philadelphia. It's shaping up to be a memorable end to the school year!

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

Mark your calendars! The District Art and Technology Show is scheduled for May 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. high school. The event will feature artwork from students in kindergarten through 12th grade, along with a live technology demonstration by the Technology Club. In addition, the Elementary Spring Concert is May 20 at 7 p.m. Looking ahead, the Jr./Sr. High School Spring Band and Chorus Concert will take place on June 11 at 7 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium. We hope to see you there!

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.

ORISKANY PROUD

All my best,

Andrew Kennedy



Tom Meiss
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
tmeiss@oriskanycsd.org

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed Spring Recess and had an opportunity to relax with family and friends. Prior to the Spring Recess we were able to hold our April Positivity Project Assembly and PARP Principal Challenge outside at Bernie Block Field. In late April and early May we completed our NYS 3-6 Computer Based Testing for ELA, Math and Science (Grade 5 only).

It is amazing how quickly the 2024-25 school year has gone! As we move into the month of May we are enjoying good weather by providing our students with more outdoor activities and opportunities. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and our District-Wide Curriculum Committee has identified the week of May 19-22 to offer a Spirit Week, daily inspirational quotes on the morning announcements and a virtual assembly.

I would like to highlight some of the special events that are upcoming as we close out the 2024-25 school year:

- Tuesday, May 20: Budget Vote, District Art/Technology Show and Elementary Spring Music Concert
- Thursday, June 12: 6th Grade Trip to Niagara Falls
- Friday, June 13: Elementary PE Day
- Friday, June 20: Pre-K Graduation
- Wednesday, June 25: 6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

As always, I would like to thank the community for their continued support of our school and programs. Open lines of communication and involvement/interactions are vital to the development and overall growth of our students.

Sincerely,

Tom Meiss

FROM THE OFFICE OF **SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES**



Catherine Mucurio
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS
& SUPPORT SERVICES
cmucurio@oriskanycsd.org

Dear Oriskany Community,

As spring blooms around us, so does the work of preparing for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. Across the District, our Special Programs team is actively engaged in planning meetings to project student needs and ensure we are ready to support all learners this fall. These meetings are critical as we look ahead to continued growth and success for every student we serve.

One of our key focus areas remains the increasing need for social-emotional support. We recognize that a student's well-being is connected to their academic success, and we are committed to strengthening these supports throughout the District. In tandem, we are continuing to develop and refine our MTSS-I (Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Intervention) protocols and procedures. This work ensures we are addressing the needs of the whole child - academically, behaviorally and emotionally - so every student has the tools they need to thrive.

As we look forward, we also want to take a moment to express our gratitude to our incredible teachers. With Teacher Appreciation Week coming up, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every educator in our District. Your dedication, passion and commitment to our students make all the difference. We see the work you do, and we are so grateful to have you on this journey with us.

Together, we continue to build a supportive, inclusive and forward-thinking learning community - thank you for being part of it.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mucurio

Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Erika Reid has been named valedictorian and Brienne Eldred has been named salutatorian of the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School class of 2025.

Erika is the daughter of Frances and Thomas Reid. She has received many different awards during her time at OCS, including the University of Rochester Honorary Science Award, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Science and Math Award, AP Scholar with Honor, the Rensselaer Medal Award and Mohawk Valley Community College's (MVCC) Presidential Award.

During her time at OCS Erika has also taken many rigorous courses, including AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP English Literature, AP Calculus and multiple MVCC dual-enrollment courses. She has done phenomenally on her Regents exams, including earning a 100 on each math Regents exam.

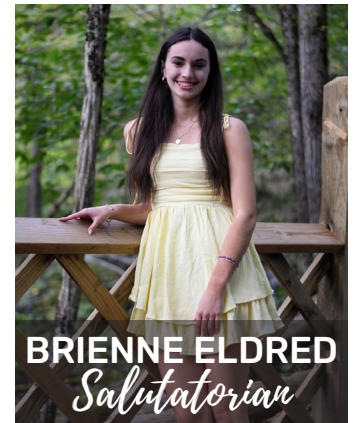
Erika is also involved in many different clubs at OCS, including serving as National Honor Society president, a Key Club member, Technology Club member, Students Advocating for the Environment president, Art Club secretary, Humanity First secretary, and a member of Mathletics. She also works part-time for CNY Cardiology in medical records.

Erika has been accepted to both SUNY Polytechnic Institute and RIT, and she is currently deciding where she would like to go in the future. She plans on majoring in either computer programming or computer science.

Brienne is the daughter of Jeffrey Eldred and Dawn Domion. During her 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 the Russell Sage Student Sage Award. Brienne has also taken multiple rigorous courses, including AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Precalculus, 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 also played soccer three out of four years in high school. During her high school years, she has earned the Scholar-Athlete award five times.

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



Congratulations to Erika and Brienne on these outstanding accomplishments, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE 100th Day of School

Students at N.A. Walbran Elementary celebrated the 100th day of the 2024-25 school year by wearing a shirt to symbolize the 100th day or dressing like they were 100 years old! Students also had the chance to find 100 Skyhawks logos hidden throughout the school.



THANK YOU, PTA!

The PTA recently provided a healthy snack of yogurt parfaits with lots of different toppings for the students to enjoy!



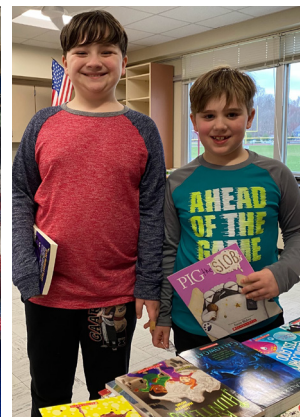
Elementary Students Participate in PARP

PARP was once again a huge success this year at N.A. Walbran Elementary! The theme was Blooming With Books and the students enjoyed many activities during the three-week program. The idea is to increase the time spent reading in the month of March, and hopefully continue reading after the program is completed. It all began with each student being able to plant zinnia seeds in a decorated planter, and then taking care of it in school. The students were able to take part in a Guess the Teacher contest, theme Wednesdays, an after-school Read In for students in grades 1-6, and participate in a bookmark contest. There were also three different DEAR times, in which every person in the school was asked to Drop Everything And Read.

On April 3, students and their families were invited back to school for the finale, where our local Cornell Cooperative Extension was able to provide fun and engaging activities, including students being able to taste honey, learn about dairy feeding, and being a crop detective.

This amazing program was once again sponsored by the PTA, and each student was able to take a book home with them.

As has been our school's tradition, after the students reached their goal of reading at least 1,000 hours throughout the program, Mr. Meiss has agreed to a challenge. Stay tuned for the silliness that is to come!



ELEMENTARY ALL-COUNTY

The Oriskany Central School District sent five students from N.A. Walbran Elementary School to participate in the OCMEA All-County Music Festival at Sauquoit Jr./Sr. High School on April 4-5. Congratulations to band members Lucas Boyko and Victoria Walker, as well as chorus participants Autumn Davis, Catherine Kent and Penelope Russum. The students prepared under the direction of Oriskany music teacher Mrs. Roberts, leading to a wonderful performance at the festival!



JR. HIGH ALL-COUNTY

Congratulations to Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School students Vito LoCaccio, Tanner Koons, Ceci Piersma and Madeline Babcock for participating in the Oneida County Junior High All-County Chorus at Waterville. These students auditioned in January and worked on four additional pieces of music that they practiced and performed with approximately 75 other seventh, eighth and ninth graders from around the county.

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WELLNESS DAY

In February, Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School successfully organized a Health and Wellness Day for students. Each grade took part in a day of activities designed to promote physical activity and wellbeing.

The event included a variety of exciting experiences for students. Seventh and eighth grade students participated in fitness sessions at Elevate CNY Sports Complex, ninth grade students enjoyed ice skating at Whitestown Community Center and Ice Rink, and tenth grade students had fun bowling at Vista Lanes.

Unfortunately, snow tubing at Maple Ridge for eleventh and twelfth grade students had to be canceled due to inclement weather and subsequent safety concerns on the mountain. A different event for them to participate in will be rescheduled.

Each of these activities gave students the opportunity to stay active and connect outside of the classroom. Thank you to all who participated and helped make this event a success!



ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY STUDENTS STUDY SENSORY ORGANS



To kick off their study of sensory organs, Anatomy and Physiology students dissected sheep eyes. Students 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.

STEM in the Workplace at SRC

On March 20, seven Oriskany freshmen attended a STEM in the Workplace day at SRC in North Syracuse. Students 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 students to be open minded, network, challenge themselves and not be afraid to fail.

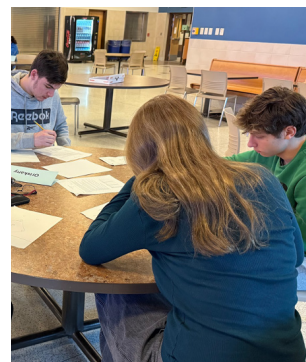
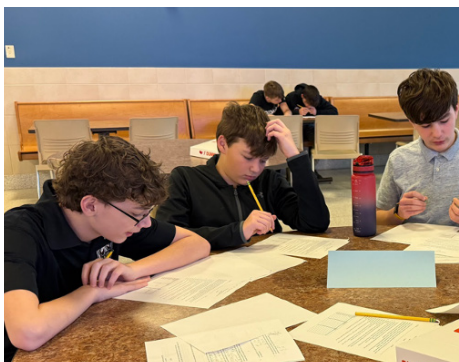


MATHLETICS TEAM

FINISHES STRONG WITH A VICTORY AND 2ND PLACE OVERALL!

The Mathletics team closed out an exciting season with a big win at their final event of the year! After months of problem-solving, team challenges, and relays, the team's hard work paid off with a first-place finish at the last meet in Camden on April 5.

This year's team saw an impressive number of participants, with students from grades 7-12 stepping up to represent our school. Their dedication, collaboration and sharp thinking carried the team through a competitive season, ultimately earning them second place overall. Congratulations to all the Mathletes on an outstanding season—you've made us proud!



NEON DANCE

On April 4, the Oriskany Student Council hosted a Neon Dance that lit up the night! Students in grades 7-12 had a blast dancing under the glow of neon lights, enjoying music, glow-in-the-dark accessories, light-up corn hole and glowing Jenga. It was a night full of fun, laughter and dancing the night away!



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS

Dear Families and Community Members of Oriskany,

As winter came to a close, our girls and boys varsity basketball programs each earned league titles. Both teams advanced to the Quarterfinals of Sectionals. Nick Hays and Eddie Wright were selected for the Boys Basketball All-Star team. Nick Hays, who finished with an impressive 1,122 points, secured a spot on the 1,000-point scorers board and was also named the CSC Player of the Year. On the girls' side, Maddy Enos was honored as co-MVP for CSC, Jackie Down was named to the All-Star team, and Gianna Santucci received Honorable Mention.

Our indoor track team also succeeded, with the boys 4x200 relay team - consisting of Jefferey Phillips, Julian Jaloweic, Jack Tagaleferri and David Zinicola - finishing in first place. Additionally, Jack Tagaleferri took first place in the 300m on the boys' side, while Emma Szarek finished first in the 600m for the girls. Both Emma and Jack qualified for the state competition.

Our cheer team placed second in the Class D Cheer Sectionals, with Bella Smith and Brianna Manella earning All-Star honors.

Arianna Kernan represented Oriskany on the Section III Gymnastics State Team, and her exceptional scores contributed to the overall State Championship.

Freddy Smith had a successful wrestling season and earned an All-Star spot in the CSC.

Each sports season requires our teams to engage in a community service project as part of our community involvement. This winter, our JV and varsity teams from basketball, cheer, hockey, indoor track and wrestling collaborated for the More Than a Game Hoops for Hospitals initiative. The teams collected donations, worked at the concession stand, organized a bottle and can drive, sold 50/50 tickets and held a Chuck a Duck fundraiser to raise money for the foundation, which was donated to the high school art teacher battling cancer. Together, these teams raised more than \$6,500 in just two nights.

Looking ahead to spring sports, we are excited to see increased participation. If Mother Nature cooperates, we'll have the opportunity to hold games. This spring will be busy with makeup games, regular season games, matches and meets. We encourage everyone to come out and support your Skyhawks.

We have already started our spring community service, with the varsity baseball team giving back to the community by cleaning up the Little League field and the outdoor track, and assisting with the Oneida County Intergenerational Spring Clean-Up Day.

As we progress through the remainder of the school year until August, we will host Junior Skyhawks skills and drills days, a basketball camp and a cheer camp. More details will be shared soon.

Lastly, we want to send a special message to our seniors as they prepare to graduate and move on. Their dedication, commitment and impact as student-athletes in the Oriskany Skyhawks athletic programs will always be remembered. They have significantly contributed to the success of our athletic programs, helping Oriskany earn recognition as a NYSPHSAA School of Distinction award winner for the past three years, and we are striving for a fourth consecutive year. Thank you for everything you have done to contribute to our success, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you, as always, for your support of Oriskany Skyhawks Athletics.

Best regards,

Dave Buck



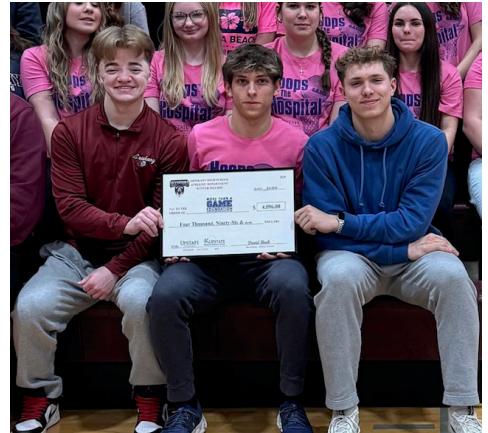
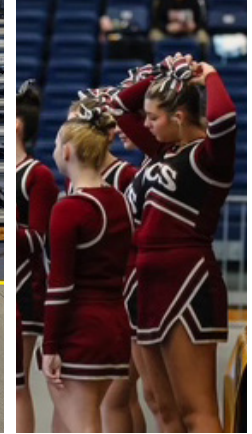
Dave Buck

DIRECTOR OF
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