

Oakdale Gazette

April 2025 Edition



Amazing Shake

Do you like handshakes? If you do, then you will like the Amazing Shake competition. The Amazing Shake is a championship where students compete with other like minded people to see who does the best at shaking a judge's hand and having a simple conversation. This competition has multiple rounds, but first it starts off with a big group of people. As time passes, the big group of becomes smaller and smaller. It gets to a point where teachers decide on five students who received the highest score to compete with students from other schools.

It is not easy to get first place in competitions that big, but two of our very own 6th and 8th graders got some of the highest awards. These brilliant young women are Coralea Peek and Anna Wikinson. Anna scored the highest in the round, "Work the room" and Coralea scored highest in the round called "Gauntlet." Coralea shared, "My first year I got top 20, and then the next time I got top 3, and the third year I got 1st place. I feel like it was a great confidence boost, because each year I did better and I really felt like I proved myself worthy of winning the amazing shake."

It was not only Coralea and Anna who were in the top spots, but we also have students who made it into the top 10. These amazing students are Bathory Gonzalez and Ayden Hernandez. Here are their thoughts about the Amazing Shake: "It felt good to represent my school. It was a very fun experience to do with my friends and the best part was having fun and talking, I love to talk." said Ayden Hernandez. "Being in the Amazing Shake was probably one of the best experiences. It was a very good learning experience and such a healthy environment to be in. If I had the chance, I would definitely do it all over again." shared Bathory Gonzalez. Congratulations to our Oakdale winners! ~Betzy Alamos

Lunchtime!

Do your parents wonder what you eat or do at lunch these days? Every student has to have at least one school lunch they favor. I am an 8th grader, and lunch is my favorite part of the day, so I would like to get the perspective of other 8th graders. I chose these two people specifically because they seem fun and genuine. I think these students did well portraying a part of how they rate the school lunch.

Emmanuel Rodriguez stated, "I sit with my friends because they make lunch fun while eating. It is a free time where I can talk to them and see them. If I had to make a school dish, I would make 'Green Spaghetti,' and if you don't know what it is, it's a Mexican dish. When people ask me what my favorite part of the school day is, I always reply with lunchtime."

Lizbeth Monroy also states, "I sit with Emmanuel during lunch, and my favorite memory of us is laughing at each other's jokes. My favorite school lunch is chicken tenders with fries because it's so yummy! I also enjoy the fruit and frozen fruit they give out; it always tastes so fresh. Although I think the lunch time is short and they should expand it to at least 10 more minutes, we can catch up with our friends more, but most importantly, have more time to enjoy our food." ~ Esmerie Salinas



Honoring Success



Celebrating student achievements is essential for fostering a positive learning environment and motivating students to excel. Recognition can take many forms, from awards and ceremonies to simple acknowledgments in the classroom. When students are celebrated for their hard work and accomplishments, it reinforces their sense of belonging and encourages them to set and pursue higher goals. This recognition not only boosts their self-esteem, but also inspires their peers to strive for excellence, creating a culture of achievement within the school community.

Recognition events, such as award ceremonies or even informal celebrations, provide students with the opportunity to share their accomplishments and feel supported by their peers and educators. The excitement felt by students when they achieve something significant is palpable, as Kasey Mena expresses, "I made it into the National Junior Honor Society. When I got the email saying I was accepted, I was overfilled with excitement." Celebrating such milestones not only boosts individual self-esteem, but also encourages others to strive for excellence, creating a positive feedback loop within the school community.

Ultimately, honoring student achievements reinforces the idea that with effort, determination, and confidence, anything is possible. Bathory's Gonzalez words remind us of that: "To people who want to achieve their dreams, remember it takes time and confidence. Confidence is your best friend and you will need it. Remember you can do or be whatever you want as long as you want it badly enough and have effort, determination, and confidence. And remember, you are awesome." By celebrating successes, we cultivate an environment where students feel empowered to pursue their dreams and support one another in their journeys. This culture of recognition not only enhances individual growth, but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and collaboration among students, making the educational experience more enriching and fulfilling. ~ Zuleimy Nava

I'm most proud...

In the year 2025, Kylie Minor was most proud of getting over her fear and being able to talk in front of people. This accomplishment impacted Kylie in a positive way because she can now talk to new people and in front of a class without getting too overwhelmed and do class presentations better. This can also inspire people to overcome their fears and face challenges they are uncomfortable with. This achievement can also encourage others to speak their minds and get their ideas and opinions out there.

The month before April of 2025, Carter Hurshman accomplished many things he was very proud of. One of which is related to sports, such as joining the Oakdale football team, even while having screws in his ankles. Most of the people who supported him during these times and who helped him achieve this were his dad and mom. These accomplishments have had a significant impact on his mental health; since he began playing sports, he has felt much more energetic and happy. His parents have helped him the most by allowing him to play football and encouraging him to pursue this passion!

Despite the many, many challenges people face, there are always personal accomplishments you can make that don't revolve around school, but around your daily life. Carter, though having had many surgeries on his legs, still manages to play a very rough sport like football. Carter is also planning on joining the Oakdale choir. He's doing so much, but it is all things he is proud of and that he likes doing. Kylie is a typically shy person who is quite, but she managed to overcome her fear and now talks more than ever without being anxious. ~ Ava Hurshman



Mrs. Meredith's leadership classes went on a field trip to the Samaritan Farm on Wednesday, April 16th. The Samaritan Farm produces food for the meals provided by the Samaritan House. The leadership students volunteered at the Samaritan Farm, working really diligently to mulch the walking pathways of the garden. The students learned a lot about teamwork and community service.

Leadership Trip



I interviewed one person in the leadership class about what they were most excited about for this trip. Baylee Thurman was most excited about helping provide a service to a non-profit organization that is actively working on supporting others. When I asked Bathory Gonzalez the same question, this was her reply, "It was hard and respectable work and it took time and effort, but it was worth it because I got to help the community." This shows that this field trip made students excited about working with a non-profit organization and helping out the community by doing some strenuous work.

Although the students did some painstaking work, they enjoy Mrs. Meredith's Leadership classes and participating with the visit to the Samaritan Farm by supporting the Samaritan House's food program. These students learned that it is important to help our community because it fosters social connections, strengthens community bonds, and improves the lives of others. All of this ultimately contributes to a more vibrant and supportive environment for everyone. Helping others also offers personal benefits like increased self-esteem, a sense of purpose, and a more positive outlook on life. ~ Keily Coram

Unexpected Fun!

On April 4th, our 8th graders got disappointing news: their trip to Camp War Eagle was cancelled! The students who were going had been working hard for the past three weeks to ensure they had no missing assignments, ISS, OSS, and fewer than 3 detentions. Although the trip had been cancelled, Mr. Resendiz announced that there would be no 8th-grade classes and that the trip would be made up by having a fun day at Oakdale instead! The students watched a movie for the next couple hours, socialized with friends, and they ate snacks. By the time the movie was over, the 8th-grade teachers had already planned many fun activities for the students to enjoy.

Some of the activities that the students got to choose from included arts and crafts, Just Dance, Gen Z slang trivia, Trashketball, and playing in the gym. "Playing Trashketball was fun because it is similar to normal basketball, and that is my favorite sport." says Komadi McKoy. When asked what her favorite part of this game was, Kaitlyn Ortiz said, "My favorite part was working with other people I didn't know. At first it was scary, but then I got used to it. I also liked how everyone was cooperating." After the students' morning activities, the staff ordered pizza, bought sodas, juice, and chips for all the students to enjoy with their friends for lunch.

After lunch, students got to go to the gym to play basketball, volleyball, or just hang out with friends. When the students finished their other two activities of choice, the teachers treated them with a variety of ice cream sandwiches or drumsticks. After they were done with all of their activities, they ended the day with all of the 8th graders gathered in the gym for a game of prison ball. The Marvels and The Revolutionaries played against each other. This experience shows how you can always have fun, even when something unexpected happens! ~ Lindley Ayala



Do you even wonder what the latest trends are in 2025? This year is all about comfort, baggy jeans, and oversized hoodies. I have also seen many students throughout Oakdale this school year mix "sporty" looking clothes with "classic" ones. Fashion trends throughout middle school tend to change whenever you move up grade levels. A lot of students get their inspiration from other students or apps where they see people posting what they wear.

One student I asked about this topic was an 8th grader, Andrea Velasquez. She states, "What I think about school trends is that everyone wants to dress comfortably, because they just want the day to go by fast being cozy. Not a lot of students try to copy people with clothes or their outfits, usually they have their own sense of how they want to dress! This year was probably the best year where I have seen students dress nicely in the first week of school and I just knew the fashion trends later on in the school year would be awesome!" After hearing from an 8th grader, I thought it would be nice to hear the perspective of a 6th grader on this topic.

The 6th grader I interviewed was Joseph Fogle. He said, "I like the way people dress because it can get really creative and some are traditional. I enjoy wearing shorts during summer and spring and I also love the sporty look. One fashion trend I don't enjoy and avoid wearing would be preppy, because it's not my kinda style. In the future, I feel like clothes would be more unique than they already are, from all the technology that's happening in the world." It can be hard to choose what you want to wear because you want to be comfy, but you also want to look your best. I think these students had great advice for anyone wanting help with tips or the current trends when it comes to fashion at Oakdale! ~ Kaylee Barnett

Fashion Trends



Rosie's Talent!

Oakdale Middle School has many talented kids that do activities in and outside of school. One example of Oakdale talent is Rosie Farmer. On April 4th and 5th, Rosie Farmer competed in the Talent on Parade in Branson, Missouri. She competed in multiple categories winning many different awards, such as Top Entertainer, Musical Theater Category Cup, Judges' Choice, Double Diamond, and she got first place! Rosie is also on the 2025-2026 Oakdale Dance Team.

Rosie was asked some questions to share some depth about her competition. She answered, "Categories that I competed in were Musical Theater, Tap, Lyrical, and Open. I performed nine dances in total. These dances took a while to prepare, and I've been working on them since September. My favorite dance was an open category dance called 'Silver Screen' because it had cool props and I got to do it with my friends!"

I asked Coach Aguilar, the Oakdale dance coach, what Rosie's personality is like and how much of a hard worker she is. She replied, "The first time I met Rosie, she came in with a lively personality, a bright smile, and ready to learn. Rosie's positive attitude is contagious. You can often catch her in the hallways, making friends laugh. She's always ready to learn and wanting to include herself in various things, whether it's academics or extracurriculars. Although she has a very busy schedule, she works hard to fit in all of her activities." ~ Lilliana Barraza

