



ORISKANY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 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

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Louis Ciotti President

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Important Numbers

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
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DISTRICT OFFICE
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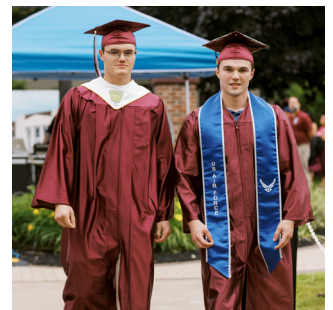
Congratulations
CLASS OF 2025

On June 27, the 49 students in the Class of 2025 became the newest graduates of the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School! The graduates were celebrated for the hard work and dedication they've shown throughout their educational careers.

During the commencement ceremony, remarks were made by Jr./Sr. High School Principal Andrew Kennedy and Superintendent of Schools Gregory Cuthbertson. The salutatory address was given by Brienne Eldred and the valedictory address was given by Erika Reid. Mr. Kennedy presented the recognition of awards and the senior class officers presented the class gifts.

The commencement ceremony concluded with each of the graduates crossing the stage to receive their diplomas from Superintendent Cuthbertson.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 and best of luck in the future!



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Oriskany Central School District Families,

As the Superintendent of Schools, it is with immense excitement and anticipation that I extend a warm welcome back to all our students and families for the start of the 2025-2026 school year! I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to join me in extending a warm welcome to the newest members of the Oriskany team featured on page 4. Whether you are returning to our hallways or joining the Oriskany school community for the first time, we are thrilled to embark on another year of learning, growth and shared success.

The summer months have been busy here at Oriskany, with our dedicated staff working tirelessly to prepare our buildings and classrooms for a vibrant and engaging educational experience. From facility improvements to curriculum enhancements and professional development for our teachers, every effort has been made to ensure a safe, supportive and stimulating environment where all students can thrive.

This year, we will continue to build upon our strong foundation of academic excellence, while fostering a love of learning through personal attention and positive relationships in an innovative climate for learning. We are committed to providing a well-rounded education that not only challenges our students intellectually but also nurtures their social-emotional wellbeing and encourages their unique talents and interests.

We firmly believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for student success. We encourage you to be an active participant in your child's education, whether through attending school events, communicating with teachers or volunteering your time. Your involvement makes a significant difference, and we value your contributions to our school community.

Throughout the year, we will keep you informed of important dates, school news and student achievements through our newsletters, ParentSquare, school website and social media channels. Please make sure your contact information on file with the school is up-to-date to ensure you receive all vital communications.

On behalf of the entire Oriskany Central School District staff, I wish you and your children a wonderful and productive school year. We are truly honored to be a part of your child's educational journey and look forward to a year filled with discovery, achievement and positive memories.

Sincerely,
Gregory Cuthbertson



Gregory Cuthbertson
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org
315.768.2058

FROM THE OFFICE OF

Special Programs & Support Services



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

Dear Community Members,

Welcome back – a year of growth, innovation and support for all learners!

As we kick off a new school year, I'm excited for the meaningful work ahead and the opportunity to dive deeper into understanding our students' needs across grades pre-K through 12. This year, we'll continue to take a data-driven approach to guide our decisions, identify areas of growth, and celebrate the progress our students make. A close look at student data allows us to respond more effectively and ensures that we are providing the right support, at the right time, for every learner.

We are also proud to share that our efforts to seek out additional resources have already yielded positive results. Thanks to the generosity of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, we have received a \$13,000 grant to support literacy initiatives across our programs. This

funding will enhance our ability to provide high-quality instruction, strengthen our interventions, and invest in strategies and materials that help all students access learning in ways that work best for them. At the heart of our work is a commitment to increasing awareness, knowledge and acceptance in understanding that all students learn differently. This year, we will continue to explore new research, rethink our practices and lean into instructional strategies that reflect the diverse needs of our students. By creating learning environments that are inclusive and responsive, we are helping all students feel understood and empowered. Here's to a strong start and an incredible year ahead!

Sincerely,
Catherine Mucurio

ORISKANY CSD RECEIVES GRANT FROM DOLLAR GENERAL

Literacy Foundation

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation (DGLF) recently awarded the Oriskany Central School District two grants in the amounts of \$3,000 and \$10,000 to support summer and adult literacy, respectively. The funds are a part of a record-setting, one-day donation in the Foundation's history of more than \$13.2 million to support adult, family and summer literacy programs in the 48 states in which Dollar General operates.

"Many community members may not realize that our District is responsible for the education of individuals housed at the Oneida County Correctional Facility, as it falls within our residency area," said Director of Special Programs Catherine Mucurio. "We are excited to expand our educational programming at the facility through the introduction of new resources and the funding of staff salaries. Investing in the education of youth within the facility not only supports their personal growth, but also contributes to the long-term strength and safety of our community."

In addition to these efforts, the District has received funding to enhance its pre-kindergarten and kindergarten screening process. "We've partnered with Barnes & Noble to provide activity packs and books for all incoming pre-K and kindergarten students," Mucurio shared. "With two District-run Universal Pre-K programs, we are excited to welcome families and encourage them to begin their children's educational journey with us."

These initiatives reflect the District's commitment to providing equitable access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for all students – whether they are just starting school or working toward a high school equivalency.

"For over 30 years, the Foundation has been investing in literacy and basic education programs in our hometown communities," shared Denine Torr, executive director of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. "Today's grant announcement is a celebration of our unwavering commitment to student and teacher success. We are grateful to all the grant recipients for their commitment to advancing education and helping students thrive."

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation supports organizations that increase access to educational programming, stimulate and enable innovation in the delivery of educational instruction and inspire a love of reading. Each year, DGLF awards funds to nonprofit organizations, schools, and libraries within a 15-mile radius of a Dollar General store or distribution center to support adult, family, summer and youth literacy programs. The Foundation also offers a student referral program for individuals interested in learning how to read, speak English, or prepare for the high school equivalency exam. Referrals to a local organization that provides free literacy services are available online or through referral cards found in the Learn to Read brochures that are available at the cash register of every Dollar General store.

FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION

The Child Nutrition Programs are operated in each building by the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School Food Service team. We are pleased to announce that in the 2025-2026 school year, we will be continuing to operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) – meaning all meals are FREE to all students!

OHM BOCES strives to provide students with tasty, nutritious, fresh foods that appeal to students and the school community. We have continually exceeded federal and state guidelines for all required nutrients and increased our offerings of fresh fruit and vegetables. Farm to School items and programming are improving our students' connections to fresh food and resources. The menu balances student preference, commodity foods and locally sourced foods that are fresh, fun and encourage students to explore new flavors and new preparations.

Each student has their own meal account with an assigned pin number. Please be sure to help your children learn their numbers, especially if they are new participants. You can also use this account to make payments for a la carte items; checks made out to OHM BOCES Food Service, or online prepayments (ezschoolpay.com) are preferable, though cash in a labeled envelope is also an option.

Because we are operating under CEP this year, families do not need to fill out Free/Reduced meal applications. However, it is helpful to your school if you complete the income collection form available at ezmealapp.com. PDFs and hard copies are also available. Eligible families may qualify for benefits such as waived test fees.

While complete meals are FREE, single items like milk will still be charged to student accounts. Milk this year will be \$0.75. Other a la carte items such as frozen yogurt, baked chips and whole grain cookies will be available for purchase most days in the school cafeterias. Prices on those items range from \$0.75-\$2.50. There is no charging of a la carte items, meaning students must have a positive account balance, or cash in hand in order to purchase.

Please sign up for an ezschoolpay.com account! This is an excellent way to monitor your children's meals and a la carte purchases. These accounts are free to set up and use; you can even set up email reminders for when a balance gets low! If you choose to use them for prepayment, a small fee is incurred with each transaction.

Please don't hesitate to contact us!

Jake Perrin School Food Service Director
jperrin@oneida-boces.org | 315-223-6068



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Alivia Bell

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Alivia Bell joins N.A. Walbran Elementary as a third grade teacher. This will be her second year teaching after previously teaching first grade.

Ms. Bell earned her bachelor's degree from SUNY Oneonta, where she's currently studying to earn her master's degree in literacy. In her free time, she teaches dance classes and works at a daycare with kids in grades K-6.



Allyson Brosemer

ELEMENTARY ART TEACHER

Allyson Brosemer is excited to join the Oriskany CSD as an art teacher at N.A. Walbran Elementary. This will be her seventh year teaching art and while she has experience teaching students of all grade levels, she's looking forward to working with elementary students.

Ms. Brosemer grew up in Old Forge and she's excited to be back in an area that's close to home.



Gaetano Camello

BUS DRIVER/LABORER

Gaetano Camello joined the Oriskany CSD as a bus driver and laborer in April. His previous work experience includes 25 years at Liberty Paints, seven years at Birnie Bus Service and seven years at Madison-Oneida BOCES. He holds a welding certificate from Mohawk Valley Community College.

Mr. Camello enjoys working in a smaller school community like Oriskany. Outside of work, his hobbies include golf, hunting, fishing, camping and woodworking.



Anthony Church

CUSTODIAN

Anthony Church joined the Oriskany CSD as a custodian in January. His previous work experience includes working as a custodian and auto mechanic, and he is also a New York State vehicle inspector. Outside of work, he enjoys music, mechanics and playing video games.



Collin Clanton

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

Collin Clanton joins the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School as a seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher. He earned his bachelor's degree from Utica University and his master's degree in secondary education from Grand Canyon University. He chose to work in Oriskany because of his connection to the community, and his desire to make an impact on individuals through personal connections in the classroom is what led to his career in education.



Mr. Clanton's hobbies include sports – especially soccer – and local history, and he has a love for the outdoors. He has also coached the Westmoreland/Oriskany boys JV and varsity soccer teams, has coached volleyball in Westmoreland, and he volunteers at the Country Pantry in Clark Mills.

Mr. Clanton is excited for the opportunity to work with such a great District and community!

Joshua Davis

MUSIC TEACHER

Joshua Davis joins the Oriskany CSD as a K-12 music teacher. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education and his master's degree in music worship and performance, both from Messiah University.

Mr. Davis loves teaching and sharing new information with people, and his goal is to help kids learn about music so they can grow to appreciate it and learn about how it can impact their day-to-day lives.

Outside of work, Davis' interests include playing music, working out, reading and playing video games, among others. He also serves his church through youth ministry and teaching, and he performs at parades and special events with Downbeat Percussion.



Korrina Koenig

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Korrina Koenig joins the Oriskany CSD as an elementary teacher. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from St. Lawrence University and her master's degree in childhood education from SUNY Potsdam. She has several years of experience working in elementary schools, including tutoring students in Ogdensburg, NY; interning at a primary school in London, England; and substitute teaching and student teaching in the Whitesboro CSD. She also taught special education preschool and has worked in various daycare centers and summer camps.

Ms. Koenig is originally from Rhode Island but is thrilled to be making this area her home. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, hiking and visiting national parks.



Grace Mahanna

HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER

Grace Mahanna joined the Oriskany CSD as a high school art teacher this past spring. She earned her associate degree in fine arts from Mohawk Valley Community College and then earned her bachelor's degree in visual arts education from SUNY New Paltz. Mahanna was previously a substitute teacher and she also teaches art classes to children of all ages at the Kirkland Art Center.

Ms. Mahanna loves working with children and sharing her love for art, and she's happy to be working in a small district similar to the one she graduated from. In her free time, she loves



ceramics, painting, drawing, taking photos on her film camera, going outside and spending time with her family.

Ariana Pratt

SOCIAL WORKER

Ariana Pratt is thrilled to join the Oriskany CSD as a school social worker. She will be working with all grade levels and she's excited to put the knowledge and experience she gained from earning her master's degree at Utica University to use.

When she's not working, Ms. Pratt enjoys spending time with her family, finding new recipes to cook and watching the Philadelphia Eagles during football season (go Birds!). She looks forward to meeting and building relationships with the students and families within the District.



Michael Polak

CUSTODIAN

Michael Polak joins the Oriskany CSD as a custodian.

He's committed to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for both students and staff, and he's honored to be taking on this new role that was previously held by someone who served the District for more than 40 years.



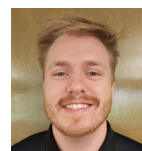
Brandon Reid

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

Brandon Reid joins the Oriskany CSD as a long-term substitute. He earned his bachelor's degree from Cazenovia College and his previous work experience includes teaching sixth grade and social studies at local school districts.

Mr. Reid chose a career in education because he wants to make a difference in kids' everyday lives. He opted to work at Oriskany so that he can be back home, and he's looking forward to learning from some of his past teachers and giving back to his community.

In his free time, Mr. Reid enjoys going to the gym, watching his favorite sports teams and golfing.



Eric Taylor

TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR

Eric Taylor joined the Oriskany CSD as the new Transportation Supervisor in February. He previously served as Transportation Supervisor for the Poland CSD and VP of Operations for Birnie Bus Service. He earned his bachelor's degree from Concordia College and he holds several transportation-related certifications.

Mr. Taylor chose to work at Oriskany because of the District's reputation of being a good school system in a close-knit community that is very supportive of both students and staff. Outside of work, he serves as a council member in the town of Trenton and he enjoys snowmobiling, hunting and spending time with his grandchildren.



ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL MESSAGE



Tom Meiss
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
tmeiss@oriskanycsd.org

Dear Oriskany Families,

Welcome back to all students, families, faculty, staff and community members! I am excited to build off our growth from last year and proud to serve as the Principal of N.A. Walbran Elementary School.

Our theme for the 2025-26 school year is **"this will be a sweet year."** You can expect to see many dessert type crafts displayed throughout the building. A special thank you to Mrs. Kane as she provided each staff member with an art-inspired treat that can be displayed in each classroom or office.

The faculty and staff's commitment to personal attention and willingness to build positive and long-lasting relationships is key to the development of our students. We are excited to get back to work together! We continue to strive to offer a balanced educational experience for our students where they can grow academically, socially, emotionally and through the fine arts.

The community support within the Oriskany Central School District is something that sets our District apart. We appreciate your involvement and welcome you to fall opportunities such as Back-to-School Night, the Halloween parade and PTA meetings.

Sincerely,
Tom Meiss

Kindergarten Celebration

On June 18, families and community members were welcomed to N.A. Walbran Elementary to celebrate with the kindergarten classrooms. It was a joyous occasion that marked the end of a successful year for the kindergartners, who expanded their knowledge, met new friends and made lasting memories this school year.

Thank you to Ms. Closinski, Mrs. Kraeger and Ms. Ricci for their efforts with this program and throughout the school year!

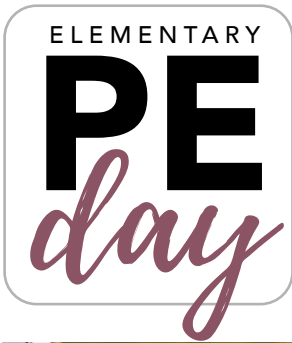


Sixth Grade Students COMPLETE LEGACY PROJECT

Sixth grade students completed a Legacy Project with the theme of "What a Wonderful World," where they repurposed art material to create a mural. There was also a school-wide garden theme of "Lets Grow Together" with an emphasis on taking care of our world, turning trash into treasure, being grateful and continuing to grow.

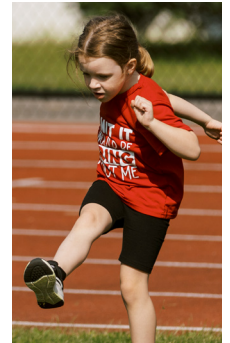
The Legacy Project was dedicated to Oriskany Central School District retirees who each made the District more beautiful: Mr. Dinardo, known as "Augie" (Jr./Sr. high school custodian); Ms. Smith (7-12 art) and Mrs. Kane (pre-K-6 art).





On June 16, students at N.A. Walbran Elementary had a blast at the annual P.E. Day! Students competed in six different stations and enjoyed snow cones provided by the PTA.

The physical education department would like to thank everyone who helps make this event a success every year!



Pre-K Students Celebrated WITH GRADUATION CEREMONY

On June 20, Oriskany's youngest students at N.A. Walbran Elementary received their certificates of completion as they graduated from pre-K!

In their caps and gowns, students performed songs, received their certificates and watched a photo slideshow of all the fun memories they made during the school year with their teachers and friends.

Congratulations to all of the pre-K students and best of luck in kindergarten!



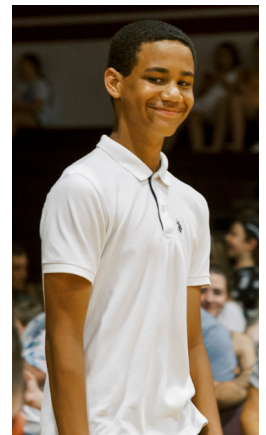
SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS *Celebrate End of* ELEMENTARY YEARS

On June 25, sixth grade students celebrated their upcoming move from N.A. Walbran Elementary School to the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School during a Moving-Up Ceremony held in the Jr./Sr. high school gymnasium.

Students in the class of 2031 each received a completion certificate, along with individual awards from the PTA, Triple C, New York State Comptroller, Oriskany Fire Department and Ms. Hinderling's Be All You Can Be Award.

Students and attendees also enjoyed a slideshow of memories from throughout the students' elementary years.

Congratulations to each of the sixth grade students and best of luck as you continue your educational journey!



HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families,

I hope this message finds you well and that you've enjoyed a restful and memorable summer. As we prepare for the start of a new school year, I am thrilled to welcome back all of our students, families and staff to Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School.

It is an honor to begin my fourth year as your principal. The start of the school year brings a renewed sense of energy, optimism and the opportunity to set new goals. We remain deeply committed to creating a supportive, inclusive and enriching environment where every student can succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

Over the summer months, our dedicated faculty and staff have worked hard to ensure a smooth and successful start to the year. We are especially excited to welcome our new students, including the incoming 7th grade class. We recognize that transitioning to a new school can be both exciting and overwhelming, and we are here to support you every step of the way. Our teachers, counselors and staff are eager to help you feel connected and confident as you begin this new journey.

To our returning students, welcome back! I encourage you to keep striving for excellence and to take full advantage of the many opportunities available to you through academics, athletics, the arts and extracurricular activities. Oriskany truly offers something for everyone.



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

Strong communication and collaboration between school and home are vital to a successful year. I encourage all families to stay actively involved and connected. We are here to support both you and your child.

Please note these important upcoming dates:

- **Back-to-School Night (Jr./Sr. High School):** September 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **First Day of School:** September 4
- **School Picture Day (Jr./Sr. High School):** September 5

Be sure to visit our school website and check our monthly newsletters for the latest updates and information on events and activities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with the Oriskany Central School District. Together, we can make this school year an enriching and rewarding experience for all students. I look forward to welcoming everyone back soon and to an exciting year ahead.

As always, if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 315-768-2063.

ORISKANY PROUD

All my best,
Andrew Kennedy

Oriskany Students attend **ELEVATING STUDENT VOICES YOUTH SUMMIT**

On April 14, nine district-identified student leaders from Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School attended the Elevating Student Voices Youth Summit, hosted by the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. Regional students had the opportunity to learn about perspectives and life experiences that were different from their own, participate in discussions, develop strategies to ensure that all students feel a sense of belonging within their school community, and learn from community leaders – as well as other students and districts – about just how impactful their small gestures of kindness, positivity and inclusion can be.

Together with 10 other school districts, students highlighted the work that they have developed throughout the 2024-25 school year. Some of their initiatives included:

- Collaborating with the AV room at the Jr./Sr. high school to highlight and emphasize monthly themes such as Poverty in America Month and Black History Month.
- Sending out a building-wide poll and creating a bulletin board showcasing "Where Our Roots Lie."
- Collaborating with the Language Club to work with pre-K students at Eastern Star, starting the conversation of diversity using the Spanish language as a focal point.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Positivity Project at N.A. Walbran Elementary, tying in read-alouds to their monthly themes of leadership, perseverance and appreciating the good in others.

Keynote speaker Dr. Mark Montgomery spoke about positively impacting others through education and support. His message resonated not only with

students, but participating faculty as well.

Another highlight from the summit was Oriskany's very own Ishaal Mirza speaking alongside panelists from the Indium Corporation, Connected Community Schools and The Neighborhood Center, as well as student leaders from Whitesboro and Holland Patent. One question that was discussed included, "Why is it important that we continue to have conversations, take actions that challenge stereotypes and reinforce that all people deserve to have their voices be heard, have equitable opportunities, and feel a sense of belonging in school, at work and in their communities?" Another included, "What are the skills and problem-solving abilities needed in promoting mental health and wellness, diversity, equity and inclusion?"

The Youth Summit provided many opportunities for important, timely discussions, and Oriskany students came back with a wealth of knowledge to share with their fellow classmates and school community.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS

The spring athletic season was quite busy, and despite facing challenging weather conditions, our teams excelled in baseball, track and golf, making history along the way.

Our varsity baseball team finished with an impressive record of 19-1, becoming the New York State Class D State Champions for the first time in the school's history. After finishing as finalists the previous year, the team returned this season ready to take on the challenge. They were also recognized as the All-CNY Team of the Year by Syracuse.com, with Eddie Wright named CNY Player of the Year for Baseball.

On July 9, as a member of the Oneida County Board of Legislators, I, along with my colleagues and Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente Jr., honored the state champion baseball team with a proclamation acknowledging their accomplishments. From now on, July 9 will be celebrated as The Oriskany Skyhawks Baseball Day in Oneida County.

The coaching staff includes Head Coach Eric Enos and Assistant Coaches Matt Enos and Cody Murphy. The members of the New York State Championship team are:

Trey Smith III
Nick Hays
Eddie Wright
Matt Kernan
Kameron Zabek

Sean Graziano
Tyler Tamburino
Dean Koenig
Dawson Foss
Thomas Maher

Nick Swald
Chase Koenig
Jack Mason
Jacob Bennett
Jayson Mayo

Official Scorekeepers: Katie and Marlena Rieben.

Our outdoor track team had several sectional winners at the Section III Class D Championships. The boys team placed fourth overall, achieving first place finishes in the boys 100m, 200m, triple jump and the 4x100m relay. Additionally, we secured second place in both the boys and girls pentathlons as well as the boys 400m event. At the state meet in Middletown, NY, Jack Tagliaferri finished fourth in the state for the 100m, competing against all teams in Class D. He was also a runner-up for Male Track Athlete of the Year.

Our Oriskany/Westmoreland Golf team saw one of their eighth graders, Ashton Ricci (Westmoreland), advance to the round before the state competition. Overall, it was another successful season for our golf team.

Jack Tagliaferri and Brienne Eldred were honored by Section III Athletics for their accomplishments as student-athletes this past June at the SRC Arena in Syracuse.

Oriskany's varsity sports continue to excel academically. This spring, all of our varsity teams qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Award, which means each team finished with a GPA of 90% or higher. With all of our fall, winter

and spring varsity sports qualifying for the Scholar-Athlete Award, we have now earned the School of Distinction Award for the fourth consecutive year, granted by NYSPHSAA.

Each year, NYSPHSAA presents the Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award to schools that actively promote sportsmanship among their students, coaches, spectators and communities. Winners are determined based on their responses to the Sportsmanship Promotion survey, which helps athletic departments evaluate their policies and procedures for fostering positive sportsmanship within their athletic communities.

This year, award winners were selected for their exemplary efforts in embodying and promoting the importance of sportsmanship during interscholastic competitions. Oriskany has earned a place on this distinguished list of banner recipients. I am incredibly proud of this achievement, as we have dedicated significant effort to developing a sportsmanship program here in Oriskany, and having it recognized so early in the program's development is truly gratifying.

I bid farewell to our graduating seniors, who will always hold a special place in the history and success of Oriskany Athletics. I will never forget you for everything you have accomplished. I wish you the best of luck, and please, don't be a stranger!

As I look forward to a new school year and welcoming new student-athletes, I am also excited to welcome back our existing student-athletes.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you for your support of Skyhawk Athletics.

Thank you,
Dave Buck



Dave Buck
DIRECTOR OF SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS
GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH
dbuck@oriskanycsd.org



JACK TAGLIAFERRI FINISHES FOURTH IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Oriskany senior Jack Tagliaferri represented the Oriskany varsity track and field team at the New York State Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Middletown High School on June 13, where he finished fourth in the state in the Class C Division.

Jack competed in the 100m dash, making it through the preliminaries with a time of 11.38 seconds. He finished fourth place in the finals with a time of 11.36 seconds.

The state championship appearance was a fitting capstone to what has been an amazing year for Jack. His phenomenal indoor and outdoor seasons have seen him rewrite the Oriskany record books. He holds school records indoors in the 55m, 300m, 600m, high jump and 4x200m relay, along with outdoor records in the 100m, 200m, 400m and the 4x100m relay. His dedication and hard work have certainly paid off.

Congratulations, Jack!



ORISKANY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES *Sportsmanship Award*

On July 14, the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School was named as one of the four recipients of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Sportsmanship Banner Award. This marks the 29th year the NYSPHSAA has honored deserving school districts with the Sportsmanship Promotion program.

Each year, the NYSPHSAA presents the Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award to schools that have developed proactive approaches in keeping sportsmanship in the forefront with their students, coaches, spectators and communities. Winners are determined based on their responses to the Sportsmanship Promotion survey, which helps athletic departments evaluate their policies and procedures for fostering positive sportsmanship within their athletic communities.

For the 2024-25 school year, 332 schools submitted the Sportsmanship Promotion survey to NYSPHSAA, with 45 schools selected by their sections as plaque winners. This year's award winners were chosen on their exemplary efforts in embodying and promoting the importance of sportsmanship during interscholastic competition. An official Sportsmanship Banner will be presented in the fall.



VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM CELEBRATES HISTORIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

The conclusion to the Oriskany varsity baseball team's 2025 season was one for the record books as the team became state champions for the first time in the program's history.

Prior to the championship win, elementary students, teachers and staff gathered in the afternoon of June 13 to wish the varsity baseball team good luck as they headed off to the New York State Baseball Championships on June 13-14 in Binghamton. The baseball team walked through the hallways receiving cheers, hugs and high-fives and enjoyed snow cones before getting on the bus.

The Skyhawks secured a spot in the state final four by defeating Notre Dame Academy 8-3 on June 7. This marked the team's second consecutive final four appearance, having also reached this stage in 2012, 2007 and 1993.

Oriskany beat Fillmore 5-2 in the semi final game on June 13. Eddie Wright pitched a complete game, struck out eight batters and allowed just three hits. The Skyhawks scored first and never looked back. With a 2-1 lead in the final inning, Wright drove in a run to extend the lead to two runs.

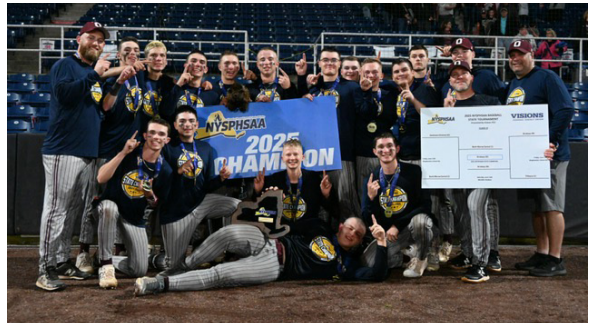
Then, Sean Graziano's inside-the-park home run brought in two more runs, putting the Skyhawks up 5-1. Fillmore scored one in the bottom of the seventh but Oriskany held on for the win to punch their ticket to the final game the next day.

When Saturday concluded, the Skyhawks were state champions for the first time in program history. Oriskany defeated North Warren 9-2 to be crowned Class D state champions. Chase Koenig pitched a dominant six innings, struck out 13 batters, allowed five hits and two unearned runs. He also batted in two RBIs at the plate.

The Skyhawks struck first, plating two runs in the first inning. Mathew Kernan reached on a bunt to score Nick Hays. Koenig then walked to score Wright to give the Skyhawks an early 2-0 lead.

In the top of the second, Thomas Maher scored on a sacrifice fly from Hays. Wright then scored on an errant throw to put the team up 4-0. Oriskany scored four runs in the fourth inning to break the game open. Jack Mason hit a two-run single, while Koenig and Dawson Foss each had an RBI to put the Skyhawks up 8-1. Graziano had an RBI single in the seventh inning to put Oriskany up 9-2. Dean Koenig then came in to get the final three outs to crown Oriskany as state champions.

Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff on this outstanding achievement!





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