

ORONO SCHOOLS

TODAY



July 2025

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Orono Community,

As we prepare to welcome students and families to the 2025–26 school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible accomplishments of the past year and share a few exciting updates.

Our students continue to shine—in the classroom, on the stage, and on the field. In 2024–25, Orono teams and individuals advanced to 22 MSHSL state tournaments. Beyond scores and standings, these achievements reflect the dedication, discipline, and character of our student-athletes, coaches, and families. Congratulations to all who proudly represented Orono.



Kristine Flesher, Ed.D.

This summer, construction began on our new College & Career Center at the high school (see back page). Funded through the generosity of the Richard & Jennie Goelz family, this space will serve as a hub for student exploration, guidance, and future planning. We are deeply grateful for this gift and look forward to opening the center this school year.

Districtwide, we continue to build on our commitment to scholarship, character, and connectedness. I am inspired by the strong partnerships that define our community and help make Orono a place where every student can thrive.

Our next edition of *Orono Schools Today* will include a recap of academic achievements in 2024–25 after our team has ample time to evaluate the scores and Advanced Placement data we received this summer. We can tell you there is great news to share!

Thank you for your continued support of Orono Schools. We're excited for the year ahead and all we will accomplish together.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

E-12 INFORMATION
[ORONOSCHOOLS.ORG/BTS](https://oronoschools.org/bts)

Although we still have several weeks of summer before we welcome our Spartans back to school, we've gathered everything you need to know for a smooth return:

- school supply lists
- important dates
- orientation events
- picture day details
- OHS parking permits
- opportunities for student engagement
- more!

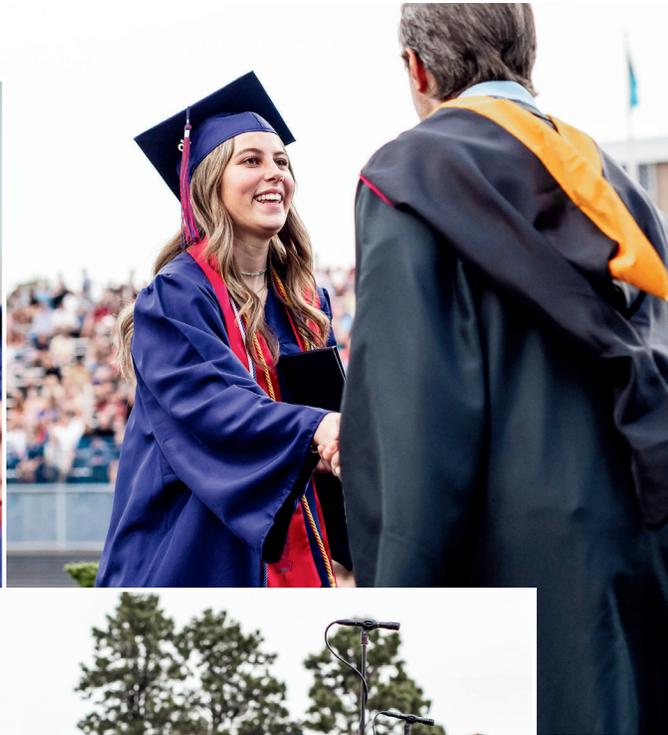
We invite you to visit oronoschools.org/bts today!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2-3 Congratulations, Class of 2025!
- 4-5 2024-25 Points of Pride
- 6-7 Spring Athletic Achievements
- 8 College & Career Center Progress

2025

225 Graduates | 101 Honor Graduates



| 90 AP Scholars | 100% Bright Future





A YEAR OF ORONO EXCELLENCE

ACADEMICS

A complete academic summary for the 2024-25 school year will be shared in fall 2025.

- Class of 2025 National Merit Finalists were Jorja Kenworthy and Quinn Martini
- National Merit Commended Scholars were Thomas Martin, Cameron Oddenino, Henry Shafer, and Alisha Shah.
- 98% of the class of 2025 took an OHS course during high school that was college-credit-bearing (AP, CIS, HTC, PLTW or PSEO)
- 562 OHS students took 1,020 Advanced Placement (AP) exams in spring 2025 with 91% earning a "passing" score of 3+ on exams
- OHS achieved Platinum level (the highest) in the Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll
- College matriculation rates continue to be exceptional, with many receiving admission offers to highly selective schools
- At the annual OHS junior and senior academic awards event, 123 juniors were recognized for achieving a 3.5 GPA; 101 seniors were named Honor Graduates
- Junior Book Awards went to: Kaia Erickson, Dartmouth; Evelyn Miller, Harvard; Cannon Lewis, Yale; Koen Holwell, St. Lawrence
- More than \$107,000 in locally raised scholarships were awarded to seniors—the highest ever. Thank you to all our donors!
- 15 grade 7 History Day projects qualified for state. Aiden Sukow and Andrew Johnson placed 5th for "Japanese Internment Camps." Seven students earned Honorable Mention awards.
- 165 second-grade students shared their passion projects in the annual Schumann Elementary Imagination Fair.

ARTS

- OHS students submitted their best work to the MSHSL art show, earning nine Superior awards—the highest honor—and five Excellent awards.
- Superior Awards: Andrew Carlson, Aya Hanson, Amelia Hawley, Abbey Henry, Lauren Masica, Daria Mayo, Lydia Richardson, and Estella Ryskamp. Excellent Awards: Hailey Hansen, Leyla Lyu, Annalisa Tedlund, Maya Vanyo, Charlett Winkler.
- At the Metro West High School Visual Arts Exhibition, Annalisa Tedlund earned an Excellence award (only five awarded); Andrew Carlson and Abigail Henry earned Achievement awards (only 10 awarded).
- Greta Rolfzen earned a Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award for her original dramatic script, "The Final Call," the OHS theatre One Act play in 2024.
- OHS Wind Ensemble was invited to perform at the MMEA mid-winter clinic and at Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- The OHS Wind Ensemble earned third prize for outstanding wind band performance in the national competition for the American Prize.
- The OHS fall musical, "Anastasia," earned numerous Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Awards including Outstanding Technical Production, Costume Crew, and Sound Crew. Individual Outstanding honors included Henry Shafer & Axel Duke (Leading Role), McKenna Monger (Supporting Role), Lucy Keating & Ava Klug (Technical Leadership).
- "The Brothers Grimm Spec-tac-u-lathon" took first place at the Conference One Act competition and first place at the subsection competition in New Prague.

ACTIVITIES

- In DECA, 75 students competed at state with 11 qualifying for Internationals. Danny Kinzer ('26) was a finalist in the Principles of Entrepreneurship event, placing in the top 20 in the world.
- Spartobots Robotics team was honored with the 2025 Rising All-Star Award.
- Debate returned to Orono this year with Simon Forbes and Ethan Weiss competing in the quarterfinal round at State.
- Speech took 1st in the Metro West Conference, earning 15 of 26 All-Conference awards. At Sections, the team took 3rd overall with eight speakers qualifying for state. At state, Maya Haugen placed 2nd; Oliver Berg, 4th; and Sophie Middleton, 6th. At nationals, Oliver Berg placed 3rd; Maya Haugen, 16th; Meg Arneson, 19th; and McKenna Monger, 27th.
- Woody Field was President of the Minnesota Assn. of Honor Societies, earning the MASSP President's Scholarship.

STAFF

- Jared Shogren earned the "Leo Weiss Courage to Teach Award" from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas.
- Mark Seguin was named Girls Swimming & Diving Class A Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season.
- Hannah Williams was named the Section 5A Assistant Coach of the Year for Orono Girls Hockey.
- Barry Wohler was named Boys Basketball Class AAA Coach of the Year.



This past year has been a testament to the dedication, talent, and hard work of our students and staff, showcasing meaningful academic engagement and personal connectedness across all grade levels. Our Spartans achieved outstanding excellence in athletics, performing arts, and many activities, with an incredible number of state appearances and top finishes throughout the year. While we are proud to highlight our state-level competitors, we are equally proud of the **strong student engagement** that makes such success possible—fostering teamwork, perseverance, and a deep sense of unity within our schools. We applaud all our students for their effort, growth, and commitment. Go, Spartans!

ATHLETICS (2024-25 State team, individual qualifiers, and special awards)

- Boys Cross Country Team: Section Champions; State 6th Place; individuals Owen Chapman; 3rd place; Gabe Hallen, 13th place
- Girls Cross Country: Jocie Hallen competed at state placing 33rd
- Football: State Semifinalists
- Boys Soccer: State 4th Place
- Girls Soccer: State 4th Place
- Girls Swim & Dive Team: State Champions, True Team State Champions; state titles in the 200 Free (Andreen) and 200 Free Relay (Davis, Schottler, Knutson, Andreen)
- Boys Alpine: State competitors JT Burns & Danny Kinzer
- Jazz and Kick Dance Teams: Section Champions; Jazz finished 2nd place and Kick 3rd place at State.
- Boys Basketball: State 3rd Place
- Nolan Groves ('25) was named Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year and MaxPreps High School Basketball Player of the Year
- Girls Basketball: Mya Moore ('26) became Orono's all-time leading scorer with nearly 1,900 career points
- Boys Hockey: State 3rd Place
- Girls Hockey: State 3rd Place
- Zoe Lopez earned the Athena Award
- Boys Nordic individual state qualifiers: Johnny DiPrima, Ben Masica, Walter Holmes, and Wells Huotari. Holmes & DiPrima State 3rd Place.
- Boys Swim & Dive Team: State 4th Place; Individual state medalists were Cameron Oddenino, Stewart Royal, Ben Mitchell, Justin Barry, Eli Fish and Gideon Fish
- Wrestling state competitors: Brett Kiecker and Emery Soukop both finished 3rd in State
- Boys Golf: Dylan Kringen, State 2nd Place
- Girls Golf state competitors: Nora Benson and Ava Hanneman. Ava won the State Championship and was honored as 2025 Ms. Minnesota Golf
- Girls Lacrosse: Conference and Section Champions, first state appearance in program history
- Boys Tennis: Doubles State Champions Quinn Martini & Anthony Perrill
- Boys Track: True Team State 5th place and Section Champions with nine state qualifiers: Art Bocharnikov, Carsen Burckhardt, Owen Chapman (6th, 1600m), Gabe Hallen (4th place, 800m); 5th place, 1600m), Dane Heinen, Cooper Munsch (7th place, 1600m), John Skoog, Trevor Stundahl (4th place, 300H), and Luke Withrow
 - Skoog, Hallen, Gronholz, and Hirt 2nd Place in the 4x800m
- Girls Track: True Team State 3rd place with state qualifiers Ryanne Andreen, Mila Bailey, Eleanor Bernstein-Foster, Jocie Hallen, Taydem Ide, Natalie Kindseth, Addison Mushitz, Lydia Richardson, Kate Spaniol, Delaney Stephens, Alivia Uselding (6th place, 300H), and Taylor Walsh
 - Walsh, Stephens, Hallen and Andreen 2nd Place in the 4x800m
 - Bernstein-Foster, Andreen, Spaniol, Bailey 4th Place in the 4x200m
- In Mountain Biking, Will Beck placed 1st in the Jail Trail Race, the first-ever varsity win for Orono. Cameron Cole finished 4th in State.
- Trap Shooting team was 2nd in conference and state competitors. Nick Lang ('27) was the high gun in competition, averaging 23.5/25 hits for the season.



SERVICE, SUPPORT & CONNECTEDNESS

- The Orono Foundation for Education celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year. In the fall, the Foundation donated \$489,285 to support various student- and staff-enriching initiatives. **Thank you to our incredible community for your generosity!**
- For Unity Day in October, students were encouraged to wear orange. OMS students held their annual Unity Walk and OHS held a series of activities to pledge unity and inclusion.
- 234 students from 16 different activities signed up for the Unified Polar Plunge, raising \$25,297. Funds supported Special Olympics Minnesota and OHS activities.
- The OHS Student Voice Club hosted an event featuring traditional dances, authentic music and food-tasting for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- The "Community Breakfast for Connectedness" welcomed staff, school board members, first responders, parent organization representatives, elected officials, and clergy members to discuss strategic goals for a connected community. Former Independence Mayor Marvin Johnson was honored with the first Orono Guiding Torch Award.
- Orono Community Education hosted its annual Wellness Expo with more than 50 organizations on hand at the
- Activities Center to share resources, provide hands-on experiences, and raise funds for IOCP and WeCAN.
- Students from Orono Schumann Elementary and Orono Middle School continue to build strong relationships with our neighbors at Stonebay of Orono Senior Living. Great fun for students and residents!
- Thank you to Mike Bash and Ali Howe for their dedication to the Orono community, concluding their School Board terms in January 2025.



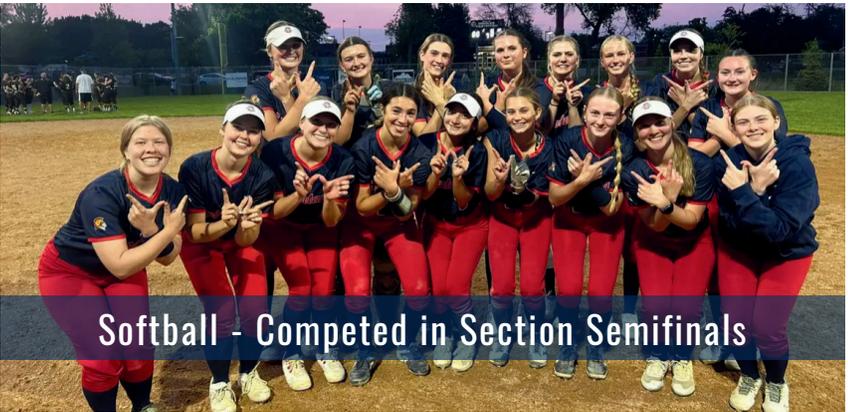
Boys Tennis
Section Runners Up

Doubles State Champions!
Anthony Perrill & Quinn Martini



Baseball - Section I

Outstanding Spring



Softball - Competed in Section Semifinals



Boys Golf - Section 2AAA Runners-Up



Boys Volleyball - First Year in the MSHSL



Girls Lacrosse - Section Champions, I



Spring Play: "You Can't Take it With You"



Boys Lacrosse - Secti



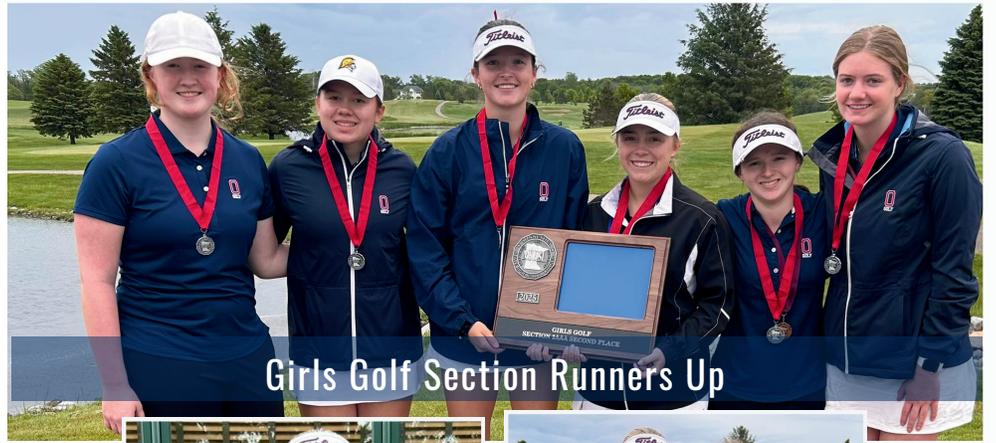
Runners Up

2025 Season!



Up

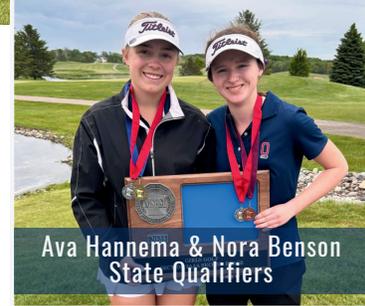
Dylan Kringen
Boys Golf State 2nd Place!



Girls Golf Section Runners Up



Ava Hanneman, State Champion!



Ava Hannema & Nora Benson
State Qualifiers



Girls & Boys Track & Field



First-Ever State Appearance!



State Competitors

Boys Track & Field

- Art Bocharnikov – High Jump
- Carsen Burckhardt – Shot Put
- Owen Chapman – 3200, 1600m
- Gabe Hallen – 1600m, 800m, 4x400m
- Dane Heinen – 400m, 4x400m
- Cooper Munsch – 1600m
- John Skoog – 4x400
- Trevor Stundahl – 300m Hurdles, 4x400m
- Luke Withrow – Pole Vault

Girls Track & Field

- Ryanne Andreen – 4x800m, 4x200m, 4x400m
- Mila Bailey – 4x200m, 4x100m, 200m
- Eleanor Bernstein-Foster – 4x200m
- Jocie Hallen – 4x800m
- Taydem Ide – 4x100m
- Natalie Kindseth – 4x400m
- Addison Mushitz – 4x100m
- Lydia Richardson – Triple Jump, Long Jump
- Kate Spaniol – 4x200m, 4x100m
- Delaney Stephens – 4x800m, 800m
- Alivia Uselding – 300m Hurdles, 4x400m
- Taylor Walsh – 4x800m, 800m, 4x400m



on Runners Up



Orono Public Schools, ISD #278
Kristine Flesher, Ed.D., Superintendent
685 N. Old Crystal Bay Road
Long Lake, MN 55356

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 32324
Twin Cities, MN

OHS College & Career Center Progress

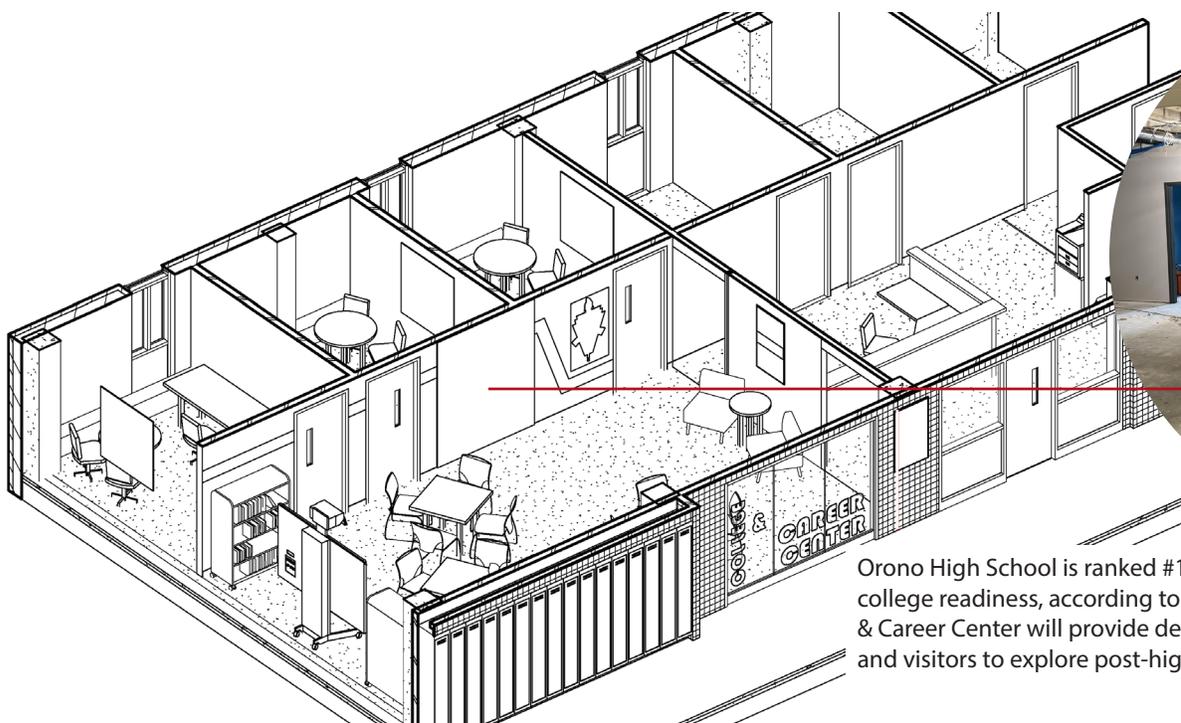
Thanks to the generosity of the Richard and Jennie Goelz family, Orono High School is bringing back a dedicated College & Career Center—an exciting addition that will ensure every student is able to pursue their post-secondary educational and career dreams.

Located next to the counseling office, this welcoming new space will serve as a hub for college and career exploration. It will host college admissions representatives, support career pathway research, and provide office space for one-on-one advising and small group meetings. The center is designed to offer both inspiration and practical resources for all students, whether they plan to attend college, pursue a trade, explore military service,

or enter the workforce. The College & Career Center will give students access to tools, guidance, and opportunities tailored to their goals.

We are deeply grateful to the Goelz family who made this project possible and shared in our vision to help every Orono student feel prepared and confident about their next steps. The center is currently under construction and will be ready for student use during the 2025–26 school year.

This project is another example of how community partnerships help us create meaningful opportunities for all students!



Orono High School is ranked #1 in Minnesota on indicators of college readiness, according to *U.S. News*. The new OHS College & Career Center will provide dedicated space for students, staff, and visitors to explore post-high-school options.