



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.