

Orland School District 135
15100 S. 94th Avenue
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ORLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 135



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL
BULLDOGS

CENTER SCHOOL
DOLPHINS



CENTURY JR HIGH
WILDCATS

HIGH POINT SCHOOL
HORNETS



JERLING JR HIGH
JAYHAWKS

LIBERTY SCHOOL
PATRIOTS



MEADOW RIDGE
MOUNTAIN LIONS

ORLAND JR HIGH
EAGLES



PARK SCHOOL
PANTHERS

PRAIRIE SCHOOL
HAWKS



HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 2025-2026 YEAR?

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is officially open on the District 135 website. Registering your child now is important because it helps ensure a smoother transition for them and allows the district to effectively plan class sizes, transportation routes, and other essential school programs. For more information on registration, including required documents and enrollment procedures, and to begin the registration process, please visit the Orland School District 135 website at www.orland135.org/register.

Scan the QR
code to begin
registration.



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

ORLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2025

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

The 2024-2025 school year has been a really busy and successful one for the Orland 135 school district! The District kicked things off by unveiling work on five new additions to school buildings. These weren't just small tweaks; these additions were important because they helped 135 make space for more students and staff. Plus, they bring our school facilities up-to-date with the latest designs and technology, making them more modern and better suited for learning.

This past year also brought a lot of

recognition to our schools, showing just how much hard work students and staff put in. Meadow Ridge and Century Junior High, once again earned the prestigious Apple Distinguished School certification. This means they're recognized for using Apple technology in creative and effective ways to help students learn and grow. Meadow Ridge, along with Orland Junior High, was awarded the Whole Child Award from the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. This award highlights schools that focus on more than just academics; they make sure to support every part of a student's development, including their social, emotional, and physical well-being. And to top it off, all ten schools in our district received a Commendable rating on their Illinois School Report Card.

In 2024, Orland 135's Board of Education was honored with Board Governance Recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards. This award recognized their hard work and commitment to guiding our district and providing the best possible support for all the students and staff in the Orland 135 community.

Throughout the academic year, the schools made it a top priority to strengthen the connections between the school community and families. This commitment was clear through the sheer number of events held – over 200 activities which included BINGO nights, creative painting parties, exciting dances where family members could join in, and fascinating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) nights that sparked curiosity in young minds. These events provided opportunities for students, parents, and teachers to connect outside of the regular classroom setting.

This year, the District was excited to launch two



Photo credit: Jerling Jr High

brand-new district-wide events that we plan to make yearly traditions. The first was the Innovator Expo, a chance for students to showcase their creativity with technology in the classroom. The second was a new End of the Year Movie Night event, which capped off the 2024-2025 school year. *Moana 2* was shown at Century Jr High and many families showed up to lay in the grass to watch the movie and kick off summer.

The 2024-2025 school year truly stands out as a period of progress and achievement for Orland 135. As this successful academic year wraps up, the solid groundwork we've laid in strategic planning and community engagement sets a very promising path for the future of Orland 135.



Photo credit: Meadow Ridge

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District Podcast:
"Let's Be
Here For It"



MY FIRST YEAR AT LIBERTY SCHOOL - A STUDENT ARTICLE

The following story is an excerpt from an article written by Bana, a Liberty School 4th Grader, about her first year at Liberty School and in the United States.



Photo credit: Adobe Stock Image

Starting my first year at Liberty School was an exciting, challenging experience, especially since it was also my first year in the United States.

Everything felt new-the people, the culture, the education system, and even the food.

At first, the different language and way of life was a bit difficult.

Conversations felt fast, and I sometimes struggled to keep up. However, my teachers and classmates were supportive, always willing to help me understand lessons and overcome daily school life.

One of the biggest differences I noticed was the interactive style of learning.

In my previous school, lessons were mostly based on memorization, but here, I was encouraged to ask questions, share my thoughts, and

work on group projects. This made learning more fun.

Making friends was another important part of my journey. At first, I was nervous about fitting in but I soon found people who shared my interests. School activities helped me connect with others and feel more at home.

Looking back, my first year at Liberty School and in the U.S. was a mix of challenges and exciting new experiences.

It taught me flexibility, adaptability, and the importance of an open mind. Though it wasn't always easy, I've grown so much and look forward to what's ahead.

MOVIE NIGHT MAKES A SPLASH

Orland School District 135 kicked off the summer season with an unforgettable evening on June 12th, as it hosted its first outdoor movie night! The magic unfolded at Century Junior High, where a large crowd of families gathered for a special screening of Disney's *Moana 2* under the night sky.

This event offered a unique cinematic experience. The school grounds were transformed into an open-air theater, thanks to a massive inflated screen and a projector that brought the animated adventure to life. Families embraced the cozy and relaxed atmosphere; many arrived in their pajamas, armed with comfy blankets and chairs, ready to settle down on the grass. The scene was picturesque with people of all ages, from toddlers to grandparents, enjoying the beautiful weather and the shared anticipation of the movie.

To make the evening even more festive, several popular food trucks were on site offering a delicious variety of dinner options, ensuring no one went hungry, and a selection of refreshing ice



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

cream treats that were perfect for a warm June night. And of course, what's a movie night without classic snacks? The dedicated Parents for Education (PFE) played a vital role, operating their own bustling booth. They were busy selling freshly popped popcorn, cotton candy and bottled water, making sure every moviegoer had their favorite munchies covered. Their efforts really helped enhance the overall experience for everyone.

This event marked a new and exciting venture for the school district, representing a fantastic initiative to bring the community together outside of school hours. Seeing many families from across the district gather, relax, and share an evening filled with fun, laughter, and a beloved movie truly highlighted the strong and vibrant community spirit that thrives within Orland School District 135.



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

CENTER STUDENT'S GREEN EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

Everett, a student at Center School, launched a successful recycling program at Center during the 2024-2025 school year driven by his passion for the environment and garbage trucks. His initiative caught the attention of Waste Management, who awarded him a special behind-the-scenes tour of their facility!

During the tour, Everett learned about waste logistics, diversion methods, and sustainability goals from various managers. Waste Management staff even highlighted a school project Everett had made using a recycling theme. To further promote environmental awareness, Everett received educational materials to share with his classmates. His story showcases how young individuals can significantly impact environmental responsibility and foster positive community partnerships.



Photo credit: Kaitlin Brose

BACK TO SCHOOL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Orland School District 135 is buzzing with excitement to welcome everyone back for the 2025-26 school year! Mark your calendars, because the first day of school is Wednesday, August 20th!

To start things off, join the Orland Park community for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5th, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Orland Park Civic Center. This special evening, hosted by the Orland Park Police Department, is a great chance to connect with local first responders and learn about community safety.

Get ready for the 3rd Annual Back to School Bash on Wednesday, August 6th, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Meadow Ridge. This event is the perfect way to get excited for the new school year, with music, games, and activities for the whole family. It's also

a fantastic opportunity to see old friends and make new ones!

Our junior high student's Locker Move-In will be Tuesday, August 12th, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at all junior high buildings. This is a chance for junior high students to find lockers, get supplies sorted, and feel prepared before the first bell rings.

Join us for "Pop In with Popsicles" on Tuesday, August 12th, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This refresh-

ing event will be held at all of our primary and intermediate school buildings. It's a fun chance to visit schools, and enjoy a cool treat with friends and staff.

We're excited to welcome all our students and staff back for what promises to be a successful and engaging academic year. We can't wait to see you at these events as we build a strong, connected school community!



Photo credit: Jordan McCollom

INNOVATOR EXPO SHOWCASES STUDENT INGENUITY



Photo credit: DJ Del Toro

On Tuesday, April 29th, Orland School District 135 hosted its very first Innovator Expo at High Point School. This special event invited the entire community to come and see the incredible creativity and technological skills that students are developing across the district.

The school's gym and multipurpose room were completely transformed into lively and interactive exhibit spaces. There, students demonstrated how they are actively using new tools and innovative ideas as part of their everyday schoolwork. Visitors got to explore a wide array of student-led projects. There were intricate, imaginative and artistic creations crafted using Logitech Crayons. Attendees also saw impressive robotics demonstrations involving Spheros and Indi Cars, where students programmed robots to perform various tasks, highlighting their coding and problem-solving abilities.

Students confidently presented their work,

eagerly explaining the underlying concepts and the development processes behind their innovations. It was clear they were passionate about what they had created. Beyond the visual displays, the Expo also featured student-produced podcasts, where students shared their insights and learning experiences in an auditory format. Expo visitors could even put on their own podcast headsets and step in front of the microphone to try out their podcasting skills. There were also displays of various apps that students had developed, ranging from games to practical tools, which truly highlighted their diverse technical skills and inventive capabilities.

The Innovator Expo was designed to be a family-friendly and engaging event, with a strong emphasis on interaction. Visitors were encouraged to talk directly with student presenters. This interaction allowed for a deeper understanding of the students' educational journeys and their hands-on experiences



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta



Photo credit: Allie Kaleta

with these cutting-edge resources. To add an extra layer of fun, there was an interactive BINGO card. Participants could search for and identify various featured innovations, with the chance to win prizes. This playful element made exploring the exhibits even more exciting.

Ultimately, the Expo served as a powerful and inspiring example of how Orland School District 135 is fostering intellectual curiosity and embedding a strong spirit of innovation throughout students' academic careers. The Innovator Expo will be back next spring for its second year to continue demonstrating innovative activities and projects that students are working on throughout the school year.