

Update from the Superintendent
Dr. Kristine Flesher

October 16, 2025

Dear Families and Staff,

At Orono Schools, *safety is always our highest priority.* We continually review and strengthen our plans to ensure that every student and staff member feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. At this week's School Board meeting, our team shared an overview of our multifaceted safety plan, highlighting the layers of prevention, preparation, and response that guide our daily work. You can view the full presentation to the School Board.

I am also including important reminders to help families stay informed and connected: updating parent contact and emergency contact information, reviewing our inclement weather guidelines, and downloading the bus tracking app for timely transportation updates. The upcoming MEA break is a great time to take a few minutes to review and update your information before winter weather arrives.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our schools safe, welcoming, and ready for learning each day.

Warm regards,
Kristine Flesher, Ed.D.
Superintendent

We are Partners in School Safety

Our partnership with families is an essential part of school safety. Thank you for taking a few minutes to keep your family's information current and stay connected through the resources below.

Update Emergency Contacts This Weekend

It is critical that you review your contact information. Each parent/guardian has their own account in ParentVUE and some email addresses are out of date. Following a system audit, we learned that many families *do not have any* emergency contacts listed for their child(ren). Please **Log In to ParentVUE** to review and update as needed. Thank you!

Download the FirstView 1.0 Bus-Tracking App

This is a new app that will provide bus-tracking and important notifications immediately to your phone. Parents, students, and caregivers are all welcome to use the app to stay informed. **Visit the Transportation website** for instructions. Let's get 100% participation!

Review District Weather Guidelines

Fall is a beautiful time of transition as we head into winter. And it's also a great time to review the **inclement weather guidelines** on the district website. Learn about school closing, late starts, communication, and more.

Performing Arts

Fall and winter are brimming with incredible performances from our talented band, choir, and theater students! We invite you to check the **schedule of events** and join us in celebrating their hard work and creativity. Families with younger children are especially encouraged to attend; it's a wonderful way for them to see what lies ahead.



This past weekend our middle school students entertained audiences with their fall production, “Too Many Ghosts.” Thank you to Orono Community Education and 4 Community Theater for offering a full drama experience to our middle school students.

Thank you to the Orono High School band for bringing us an entertaining Pops Concert on October 11. It's amazing the number of pieces our musicians have learned in the few short weeks since school started!





Tickets on Sale Now
Performances Begin November 14
oronohs.booktix.com

Student Awards

Congratulations to **Owen Marks** and **McKenna Monger** who recently earned the National Speech & Debate Association Academic All-American Award. This national honor recognizes high school students who have earned the highest levels of distinction in both speech and debate competition and academics. Fewer than 2% of NSDA student members receive the award each year. To qualify, students must demonstrate outstanding competitive success, maintain a strong GPA, and uphold the NSDA's Code of Honor, reflecting excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

A huge congratulations to junior **Simon Forbes** for being selected to serve on the Minnesota Youth Council (MYC), part of the Minnesota Alliance with Youth. The MYC is the official "voice of youth" in the state, created by statute to serve as a bridge between young people, youth-led and youth-serving organizations, and state policymakers. The council ensures that youth voices are heard in shaping policies and decisions that directly impact their lives. Simon will represent Congressional District 3.



Pictured l-r: McKenna Monger, Owen Marks, and Simon Forbes

Fall Athletics Update

As the regular season wraps up, we extend our **congratulations to all of our fall athletic teams** for their hard work and commitment to teamwork—both on and off the field. We look forward to cheering you on as you finish the regular season and compete through Sections and beyond!

- **Boys Cross Country** finished in 2nd place at the Metro West Conference Championship meet. Gabe Hallen (2nd), Eddie Loberg (5th), and Davis Kelly (12th) earned All-Conference. Cooper Munsch (21st) and Drew Gronholz (24th) also earned Honorable Mention All-Conference.
- **Girls Cross County** finished in 4th place at the Metro West Conference Championship meet. Lula Coffey (12th) and Jocie Hallen (16th) earned All-Conference. Taylor Walsh (17th) and Maryn Leary (18th) also earned Honorable Mention All-Conference.
- **Football** closes out the regular season with a 36-10 win over Providence Academy. Congratulations! Playoff seeding and schedules will be announced today.
- **Boys Soccer** ended the 2025 season as the Section 6AA Runners-Up after a hard-fought match!
- **Girls Soccer** won a section quarterfinal game before falling to Blake in the section semifinals. Congratulations to Eva Gower and Kate Spaniol were named All-State Players.
- **Girls Swim & Dive** won the True Team Section 3A Championship followed by a fifth consecutive Metro West Conference Championship! The Spartans are a perfect 35-0 in conference duals over the last five seasons. The Spartans will look to defend their True Team State Title at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center Thursday, Oct. 16. Good luck, girls!
- **Girls Tennis** advanced to the team Section semifinals, losing to rival Delano. The individual Section tournament was Monday morning with singles Bluma Molitor & Kira Johnson advancing to the Semifinals and Class AA Doubles team of Mollie Hollerman & Cece Sorenson **placing first and qualifying for state!**
- **Girls Volleyball** fell to New Prague in the final regular season game. The girls have received the No. 6 seed in the Section 6AAA Tournament and will play the #3 seed Holy Angels in a quarterfinal

Winter Sports

Winter sports registration now open in MyPaymentsPlus. See the Winter Sports Meeting Schedule and plan to attend! **Orono Middle School** families are encouraged to check out the winter sports opportunities for students in grades 6-8, too. It's a great way to get involved!



Orono Boys Cross Country



Orono Girls Cross Country



Football



Boys Soccer - Section 6AA Runners-Up



Orono Girls Soccer



Orono Girls Swim & Dive



Orono Girls Tennis





Orono Girls Volleyball

Important Dates



October 16-17 - State teacher convention (MEA), No School E-12
October 19-25 - CHARACTER COUNTS! week
October 22 - **Unity Day - wear orange!**
October 27 - OHS Fall Choir Concert, Wayzata Community Church | Get your tickets!
November 7 - Professional Day, No School E-12
Please see the Calendars page on the Orono Schools website for more information including the 2025-26 academic calendar.

Orono School Board Meeting Highlights

Monday, October 13, 2025 | Agenda

- Superintendent's "Report on Excellence" | Watch the Presentation
- Board Members' Questions and Comments | Watch the Presentation
- Orono Schools Safety Framework | Watch the Presentation

The next meeting of the Orono School Board is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the District Office Assembly Room. A Coffee & Conversation session will precede the Board meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required.
