



ORISKANY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 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

Board Of Education
Louis Ciotti President

Jeffrey Kraeger Vice President

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Therese Hanna
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Important Numbers

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JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
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ORISKANYCSD.ORG



Volume 47 · Issue 2



Spirit Week Concludes With STUDENT SPIRIT RALLY

On September 26, Spirit Week closed out with a spectacular student school spirit rally in the Jr./Sr. high school gymnasium. The event successfully brought the entire Oriskany Central School District together, including students of all ages, high school athletes and staff. The rally celebrated Oriskany student-athletes and showcased school pride.

This spirited celebration featured various activities and games designed to build excitement and unify the community. These included team introductions and special recognition of student-athletes. This year, student-athletes from Westmoreland that are part of combined Oriskany-Westmoreland sports programs joined the rally as well.

The event was further energized by student games and competition, successfully concluding Spirit Week and filling the gymnasium with Skyhawks pride!



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Oriskany CSD Community,

We had an excellent opening for the 2025-2026 school year. The start of a new school year brings with it a sense of anticipation and opportunity. It is a time to set new goals, forge new relationships and engage in new experiences that will shape our future generations.

This fall semester has been filled with many achievements and student experiences as you will see throughout this newsletter. I'm incredibly proud of the progress our students and staff have made. From academic accomplishments to extracurricular involvement, our District continues to shine.

This year, our guiding theme is:

"FROM POTENTIAL TO PURPOSE—A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH"

Driven by our District's thriving culture of growth and high standards, this theme is dedicated to transforming the innate talents of our students and staff into meaningful achievements and clearly directed goals. This focus is the foundation for our four key 2025-2026 District Goals:

2025-2026 DISTRICT GOALS: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Goal 1: Student Growth – Bridging Potential and Purpose: The primary goal is to establish measurable objectives for both academic and personal growth, ensuring every student has clear pathways to discover and pursue their purpose.

Goal 2: Staff Development – Empowering the Foundation: We are committed to a comprehensive and personalized professional development plan that aligns with our strategic priorities for all educators and teams.

Goal 3: Community and Family Engagement – Cultivating a Collaborative Ecosystem: This goal recognizes that engaging families and the broader community as essential partners builds a strong foundation of support and resources for our students.

Goal 4: Operational and Financial Stewardship – Sustaining the Foundation: We will continue our commitment to effectively managing the District's operations and financial resources to ensure a stable and secure foundation for long-term growth.

These goals will provide us with focus and direction for continuous improvement and growth while continuing the proud mission to educate, engage, and empower students to excel in an ever-changing world. We are committed to our tradition of personal attention, positive relationships, and an innovative climate for learning.

Below are some highlights and updates from the start of the school year and we have many exciting events and activities planned. I invite all of you to participate in making this a memorable and rewarding time for our students and school community.

DISTRICT NEWS AND UPDATES

Upcoming District Events

- **PK-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Date: November 14 and November 20-21, 2025

We encourage all parents to meet with their child's teacher to discuss academic progress, set goals and work together to ensure student success. PK-6 students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on these days.

- **Go Home Early Drill**

Date: November 25, 2025

Schools dismiss 15 minutes early on this day.

- **Thanksgiving Break**

Date: November 26-28, 2025

Schools will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you enjoy this time with family and friends.

We have many other events planned in November and December. Please refer to the District Calendar and check the District's website for updates and changes.



Gregory Cuthbertson

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org

315.768.2058

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Weather Alerts: As we approach winter, please stay informed about potential school closures or delays due to weather. We use ParentSquare as our primary communication system. Please make sure that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you and your student. Contact the Main Office at your child's school to update as needed. We also use our website, social media and local news media for announcements as well.

Attendance Matters: Regular school attendance is essential for student success. We appreciate your efforts in ensuring students attend school on time and are prepared to learn every day. With that being said, we still encourage and promote a healthy environment for our schools. With the flu and cold season upon us, we encourage families to practice good hygiene and keep students home if they are feeling unwell, especially if they have a fever. Together, we can keep our schools healthy and safe.

Lastly, thank you for your continued dedication to our District and for making Oriskany Central School a place where every child can thrive. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the District, please feel free to contact me at gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org or 315-768-2054. Thank you.

Warm Regards,
Gregory Cuthbertson

FROM THE OFFICE OF

Special Programs & Support Services



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

Dear Community Members,

With a new school year underway, the Department of Special Programs is excited to welcome our students and families back! Our mission is simple: to make sure every student's educational journey is the best it can be.

Our department supports students in many different ways, including:

- Special Education and 504 Accommodation Plans
- Homeschooling support
- Services for students in Foster Care or experiencing housing transitions through McKinney-Vento
- English Language Learner (ELL) programs
- Our Alternative High School Program at the Oneida County Correctional Facility

- Preschool services for our youngest learners

We know that every child's path is unique. That's why we focus on the whole student – providing academic help, social-emotional supports, classroom interventions and even counseling when needed. By working closely with teachers, principals and families, we ensure that students have what they need not just to succeed in school, but to feel supported and valued every step of the way.

We are so proud of the work our students and staff do together each year, and we look forward to continuing to build strong partnerships with families and our community. Together, we can help every student learn, grow and thrive!

Here's to a wonderful rest of the school year ahead!

Catherine Mucurio

WELCOME BACK, Students & Staff!

On September 4, the Oriskany Central School District welcomed back students and staff and officially kicked off the start to the 2025-2026 school year.

Upon arrival at both schools, students were greeted by Superintendent of Schools Gregory Cuthbertson, the school principal and staff. Throughout the day, students reconnected with friends and teachers, settled into new classes and began setting goals for the year ahead.

Across both schools, the first day set a positive tone for what promises to be another great year at Oriskany CSD – one filled with academic achievements, school spirit and opportunities for students to learn, grow and succeed.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS

As we approach the end of the fall season, the Oriskany Skyhawks continue to excel in our athletic programs, with overall participation increasing. Our commitment to the growth and development of these programs remains strong.

This year, we hosted a student spirit rally to close out Spirit Week. This assembly included our elementary students, where junior and senior high students congratulated Joelle Bewick, a fourth grader from N.A. Walbran Elementary, for being named Skyhawk of the Month. We also welcomed student-athletes from Westmoreland to join the rally and participate in our Homecoming Dance. During this event, we introduced our teams, each class represented their colors in a color war, and various games highlighted our Skyhawk spirit.

We celebrated our senior athletes during several senior nights, recognizing these individuals:

Gymnastics: Braelyn Oehler

Girls Varsity Soccer: Angela Ajiataz and Jamyson Kelly

Boys Varsity Soccer: Tyler Tamburino, Ethan Zarnoch-Riley, Brayden LaGasse and Dawson Foss, along with Westmoreland seniors Mack Dykstra, Brody Faffley and Richard Zeigler

Cheer: Jessica Beckwith, Bryana Manella, Tara Calderon and Aryanna Walker

We wish our athletes the best of luck and thank them for their dedication and commitment to our athletic programs.

Additionally, the Oriskany/Westmoreland cheer team organized the Fall Classic, hosting 16 schools. They managed the event successfully and won their division. After their victory, the team traveled to Westmoreland to cheer on the varsity football team, which won its Homecoming game on the new turf field. Later that evening, they attended the Westmoreland Homecoming Dance.



Oriskany also hosted the Westmoreland/Oriskany Pop Warner and cheerleading events on several Sundays at Bernie Block Field. This allowed our future Skyhawks to play on Oriskany's fields, while also attracting teams from across the region to enjoy our facilities.

We continue to upgrade our facilities and equipment. We added a new tent called the Hawk's Nest to provide shelter for outdoor sports during inclement weather. Backdrop photo credit: Peyton Buehler.

Winter sports will begin on November 17 and schedules will be posted on ScheduleGalaxy. The Sports Boosters will host their Holiday Hoops event on January 2-3. Our boys basketball teams will take part in the Madison tournament, and both varsity basketball teams will compete at the Nexus Center. The cheer team will participate in several competitions, while the indoor track team will be held at Utica University for most of the season. Our lone hockey player will also hit the ice for the jugglers during an exciting winter Skyhawks season. All teams will participate in media days hosted by Syracuse.com during the second week of November. There will also be an athletic informational meeting during that same week.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for November 21, 2025! More details will follow soon.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Remember, I am only a phone call away.

Best,
Dave Buck



Dave Buck

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



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Nathan Aloisio **BUS DRIVER/LABORER**

Nathan Aloisio is excited to join the Oriskany CSD as a bus driver and laborer. His previous experience includes working as a shipping coordinator at a local printing company for 14 years.

Outside of work, Mr. Aloisio enjoys digging locally and collecting Herkimer diamonds, snowmobiling and target shooting.

Jeffrey Alsheimer **CUSTODIAN**

Jeffrey Alsheimer joins the Oriskany CSD as a custodian. He's a graduate of the New York Mills UFSD and the University of Northwestern Ohio, and he previously worked as a kitchen manager at a local restaurant for 16 years.

Mr. Alsheimer is happy for the opportunity to work close to home and he's looking forward to embracing a new role that offers him the exciting opportunity to grow in his career.



David Salce **MUSIC TEACHER**

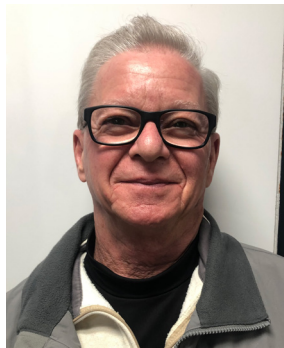
David Salce is excited to work with students as the music teacher at Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and he previously worked as the director of music at the Syracuse Children's Theatre.

Mr. Salce's decision to work in music education was inspired by his mother's love of music and his past music teachers. In his free time, he enjoys singing, playing piano, baking and participating in community theater. He also volunteers his time at his mother's preschool and his grandparents' church.

John Wheeler Jr. **BUS DRIVER/LABORER**

John Wheeler Jr. joins the Oriskany CSD as a school bus driver and laborer. He's looking forward to working at Oriskany because he enjoys the small school atmosphere.

In his free time, Mr. Wheeler enjoys cheering on Syracuse sports teams, the New York Yankees and the Buffalo Bills.



Arthur Wilson **BUS DRIVER**

Arthur Wilson joins the Oriskany CSD as a bus driver. His prior experience includes driving both trucks and buses, and he's happy to work with the Oriskany CSD because he appreciates that it's a smaller school district. In his free time, Mr. Wilson enjoys cheering on the Green Bay Packers and the New York Rangers.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

We are off to a wonderful start to the 2025-26 school year here at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. This year our school theme is, **"It will be a sweet year!"** Students, faculty and staff are having fun with the dessert-style themes posted throughout the school.

On September 10, we welcomed students and families into the building for our annual Back-to-School Night. Families had the opportunity to tour the building and meet faculty and staff members. We are so appreciative of the participation and support that we received.

A variety of fire safety activities took place during the Fire Safety Week in October. Thank you to second grade teacher Mrs. Debbie Waskiewicz and the Oriskany Volunteer Fire Department for organizing and providing our students with this beneficial program. Each grade level got an age appropriate lesson, activity and/or field trip related to fire safety.

Our kick-off event for the Positivity Project took place on September 26, when elementary students attended the student school spirit rally at the Jr./Sr. high school. The students had an opportunity to collaborate and support the Jr./Sr. high school students during introductions of athletic teams and team-building games. We presented our September Skyhawk Student of the Month Award to fourth grade student Joelle Bewick! She was nominated by Mr. Enos and Mrs. Clark for her leadership and positive attitude.

We look forward to seeing everyone during parent teacher conferences on November 14, 20 and 21. Thank you for your continued support of your child's education.

Sincerely,
Tom Meiss



Tom Meiss
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
tmeiss@oriskanycsd.org

September SKYHAWK of the Month

Mrs. Salvatore

Article written by Isaac Baker

Mrs. Salvatore is the Skyhawk of the Month for September. She is a teacher's assistant. Mrs. Salvatore's favorite activity to do with students is watching them do different activities during the school day, like specials.



What inspired Mrs. Salvatore to work with students is that she likes working with children and helping them learn and grow. Mrs. Salvatore's favorite memory at N.A Walbran is going with the sixth graders to Niagara Falls each year. If Mrs. Salvatore could take her students anywhere in the world on a field trip, it would be to Disneyland or Disney World. Mrs. Salvatore likes spending her free time watching her own kids play sports. Mrs. Salvatore has two dogs: a chocolate lab and a black lab, named Zuma and Maverick; seventeen chickens and three Nigerian dwarf goats named Lula, Minnie, and Hershey.

September STUDENT of the Month

Joelle Bewick

Article written by Chloe Buehner

Joelle Bewick was chosen as September's Student of the Month. Her teacher is Mrs. Servadio in 4th grade.



Joelle's favorite subject is math and her favorite special is physical education. She was nominated by her P.E. teacher Mr. Enos, who said, "I nominated Joelle Bewick for several reasons. Joelle is a leader in the gym. She is respectful, she is responsible and she is safe. She is also one of the hardest workers I have in 4th grade. She also gets along with all the other students and is willing to work with anyone in the gym."

Joelle is happy to be the Student of the Month and said that she feels good about being selected. Some of Joelle's favorites are:

Animal:
Dog

Season:
Winter

Color:
Purple

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN

Meet the Teacher and Bus Ride!

On August 28, incoming pre-K and kindergarten students at N.A. Walbran Elementary were welcomed to the school for an orientation and bus ride. Students and their families had the opportunity to meet their teachers, view classrooms and take a practice bus ride.

The event was a wonderful way to help Oriskany's youngest learners feel comfortable and excited about starting school.



ELEMENTARY GRADES PRE-K-6

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT



On September 10, students and their families gathered at N.A. Walbran Elementary School for the annual Back-to-School Night. Families toured classrooms, met with teachers and spent time exploring the school.

Afterward, many gathered at the playground, where students played and spent time outside together.

It was a successful event enjoyed by all!



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
GET ACTIVE
WITH SOCCER INTRAMURALS

Students at N.A. Walbran Elementary School had the opportunity to have fun and participate in friendly competition with soccer intramurals. A total of 32 students participated and enjoyed the opportunity to stay active and learn new skills outside of regular physical education classes.

Mrs. Brown led the girls intramurals on September 30 and Mr. Enos led the boys intramurals on October 1. Both groups played endline soccer, a variation of soccer that emphasizes teamwork and strategy. In this version, players are split into two teams with half defending the goal and half playing offense. Later in the game, the format shifted so that four players waited on the sidelines while one served as goalie and three played defense.

The intramural program provided a great way for students to build teamwork skills, stay physically active and most importantly, have fun with their classmates!



HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

The 2025-26 school year is off to a great start! Our Back-to-School Night was a huge success, featuring seventh and ninth grade orientations as well as a Chromebook session for our new seventh graders. The evening wrapped up with a meet-and-greet, giving families the opportunity to connect with our staff.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Homecoming week such a memorable celebration for our students! Spirit Week, held from September 22-26, was packed with exciting themed days that built school pride and community spirit. Students and staff showed their creativity during Neon Day, Rhyme Without a Reason Day, Character Day, and Maroon and White Day.

The week culminated in Color Wars on Friday, when each grade proudly represented its class color, followed by the Skyhawk Spirit Rally, which brought together our entire school district for team introductions, student games and a spirited celebration of our athletes and school pride. For the first time, all athletes participating in combined Westmoreland and Oriskany sports attended the rally, adding to the excitement and energy in the gymnasium. The atmosphere was electric, and it was a wonderful reminder of the unity and enthusiasm that define our Skyhawk community!

Finally, I want to remind students of the importance of staying for the Student Activity Period from 2:30 to 2:55 p.m. This time is a great opportunity to meet with teachers for extra help, complete assignments, or catch up on any missed work. I encourage all students to take advantage of this valuable time to support their academic success.

As always, if you need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 315-768-2063.

ORISKANY PROUD

All my best,
Andrew Kennedy

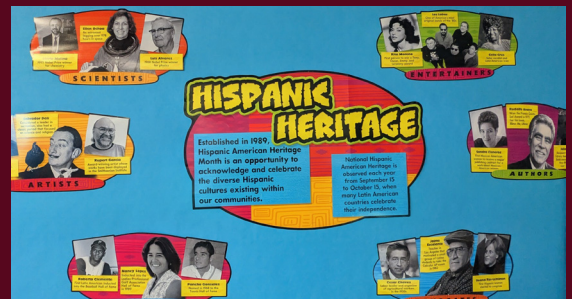


Andrew Kennedy
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
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Spanish Classes Celebrate NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Students in Mrs. Perez's and Miss Davidson's Spanish classes learned about and celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month. Unlike other awareness months, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from September 15 to October 15. This is to accommodate the independence days of several Latin American countries.

National Hispanic Heritage Month honors the cultures, histories and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. It's a time to recognize the rich diversity within Hispanic and Latino communities and their impact on American society. The students researched and learned about various famous Hispanic politicians, actors, singers and athletes who are from and/or live in the United States.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY HOSTS FIRST *Blood Drive* OF 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



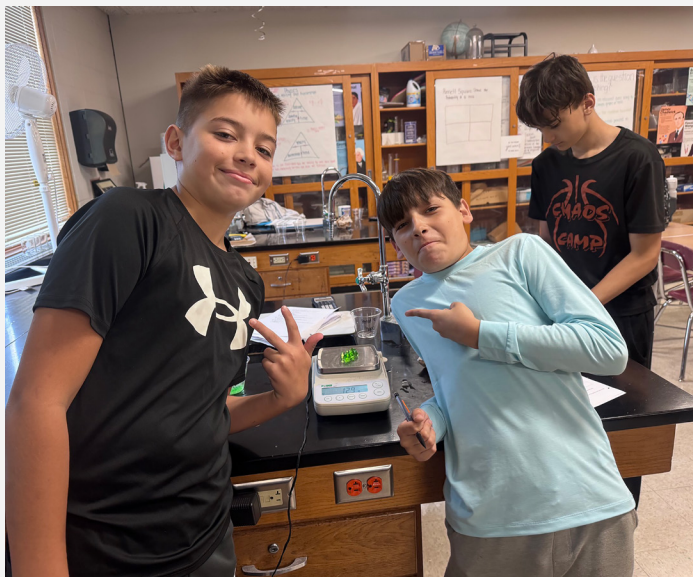
On September 26, the National Honor Society hosted its first blood drive of the 2025-26 school year at Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School. Students, staff and community members came together to make a life-saving impact, contributing to an event that collected much-needed blood donations to help patients in need across the region.

Thank you to everyone who participated by donating blood, volunteering or helping to spread the word. Your generosity reflects the strong sense of compassion and community that defines Oriskany.

The next blood drive will be held on Friday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. high school. Students, staff and community members are encouraged to sign up and help save lives.



SEVENTH GRADERS STUDY DIFFUSION, OSMOSIS IN SCIENCE CLASS



Students in Mrs. Shephard's seventh grade science class recently conducted a hands-on experiment to study the movement of materials across cell membranes through diffusion and osmosis.

Using gummy bears and carrots as models, students observed the effects of placing the items in salt water versus distilled water. The carrots in salt water became flexible, while those in distilled water became more firm.

The gummy bears showed even more striking results. Those placed in salt water experienced minimal changes, but the gummy bears in distilled water expanded dramatically. Some increased in mass from 2.1 grams to about 13 grams.

The activity gave students a fun and memorable way to visualize key biological processes that occur in cells every day.



ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1313 Utica Street
Oriskany, NY 13424

FBLA MEMBERS EARN

First Place

AT FALL DISTRICT MEETING

Congratulations to Oriskany FBLA members Brayden Lagasse, Bella Smith, Aryanna Walker and Khailee Worn for their outstanding achievements at the Fall District Meeting held at Herkimer College on October 17.

The students successfully completed three workshops and earned first place in the Ronald McDonald Coin Collection Fundraiser, showcasing their commitment to community service, teamwork and leadership.

