



ORISKANY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WWW.ORISKANYCSD.ORG

VOLUME 9 5TH ISSUE

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Groundhog Day
Monday, February 2nd



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Students and Families,

The second semester officially began on January 26, marking the midpoint of the 2025–2026 school year. I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication our students have demonstrated so far. Our winter sports teams continue to have a successful season, and it has been exciting to watch our student-athletes compete on the court, track, and ice over the past several months. Looking ahead, registration for varsity spring sports opens on February 17, with the season beginning on March 9.

Beyond athletics, students are also actively involved in the many clubs and activities offered at the Jr./Sr. High School. I strongly encourage all students to participate in an extracurricular activity outside of the regular school day. There truly is something for everyone. Please also mark your calendars to support our students in this year's musical, *Beetlejuice Jr.* Performances will take place on Friday, March 21, at 7:00 PM, and Saturday, March 22, at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Our students have been working tirelessly to put on a fantastic show for the community. Additional details can be found on the district website.



A reminder that students will be on Mid-Winter Recess from February 16th-20th. This month, our school counselors will begin scheduling courses for students in grades 8 through 11 for the 2026-2025 school year. If you would like to be involved in the meeting to plan your child's schedule, please contact the Office of Counseling and Career Services at (315) 768-2065. The Course Description Guide, which outlines all available courses for grades 9 through 12, is available on the district website and will be updated shortly.

ORISKANY PROUD
Sincerely,
Andrew K Kennedy
Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Principal

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS



Ski and Snowboard Club

February...

6th, 13th, & 27th

March...

6th



February...

2nd- Groundhog Day

14th- Valentine's Day

16th- President's Day-No
School

17-20th- Mid-Winter Recess

24th- BOE Meeting @ 6pm

Working Papers



Students interested in employment can obtain working paper applications in the Counseling Office. Any questions, please contact Ms. Vaughn @ 315-768-2065.





Oriskany Central School's Second Marking Period Honor Roll 2025-2026

Highest Honor Roll: 94.5-100.0

- Grade 12: Alexia Birt, Matthew Dibble, Brayden LaGasse, Corinne Looney, Edward Wright
- Grade 11: Ashley Zyskowski
- Grade 10: Lilliana Ciotti, Nicholas Citriniti, Audrina Gulisano, Landon Volz
- Grade 9: Gavin Bronk, Isabella Hart
- Grade 8: Juno French, Tanner Koons, Vito LoCaccio, Olivia Petronella, Liam Tylutki
- Grade 7: Lucas Boyko, Portia Gu, Kali Kraeger, Camille Looney, Ralph Petronella III, Jayden Schultz, Parker Volz, Robert West

High Honor Roll: 89.50-94.49

- Grade 12: Jessica Beckwith, Nadia Chmut, Bryana Manella, Gabryella Manella, Braelyn Oehler, Savannah Schultz
- Grade 11: Emma Combs, Kaylee Corey, Alexis Roman, Lance Smith III,
- Grade 10: Robert Duff Jr., Troy Gu, Chase Larson, Collin Opperman, Madeline Powers
- Grade 9: Lilly O'Dell, Caroline Gulick, Jacob Kent, Camryn LoRusso, Victoria Reyes
- Grade 8: Brayden Anderson, Meika Butenhoff, Khilee Camerota, Carter Charles, Landon Christopher, Matthew Dousharm, Vanessa Fleeger, Audrianna Granato, Nolan Opperman, Greyson Ruiz, Samuel Sperling, Caysen Stapleton, Aaliyah Zurek
- Grade 7: Jace Bewick, Annika Detrick, Elijah Dyer, Wyatt Fairbrother, Catherine Kent, Liam Murphy, Penelope Russum, Irelynn Sanger, MagnoLeea Worn

Honor Roll: 84.00-89.49

- Grade 12: Angela Ajiataz, John Babcock, Jayson Mayo, Cameron Post, Tyler Tamburion, Elizabeth Wright, Ethan Zarnoch-Riley
- Grade 11: Danica Dame, Charles Golden, Adilyn Jamieson-Rothdiener, Tayton Kimball, Darcie Klein, Dean Koenig, Matthew LoCash, Darien McGallian, Logan Neal, Brynne Russum, Brent Tinney, Carter Usyk
- Grade 10: Ashlynn Andrews, Jewels Bewick, Gianna Detrick, Nathan Gulisano, Colton Huey, Kirill Kasperovich, Nicholas Koenig, Kaelyn Mayo, Mia Shwamle, Donte Wolcott, KhaiLee Worn
- Grade 9: Peyton Dame, Wyatt Davis, Sophia Judycki, Cohen Kraeger, Ceci Piersma, Emily Poissant
- Grade 8: Clara Ciotti, Laila Greenfield, Nathan Kronafel, Maddison Landon, Mitchell Mimassi, Kirke Palmer III, Emma Stewart, Taren Urtz, Brylie VanVechten
- Grade 7: Logan Alden, Joseph Camerota, Allie Citriniti, James Conroy, Briella Calderon, Jackson LaMonica, Cole Larson, Quintin LoRusso, Jace Phillips, Victoria Walker, Avery Wilson, Ethan Wise

This Happened...

For the month of December language club went to Eastern Star to work with the PreK students. They sang songs about numbers... colored by number (en Español) and enjoyed a rice Krispy treat snack. Before leaving everyone wished each other 'Feliz Navidad'.



This Happened...

On December 5th students from language club hosted a holiday movie night for elementary school students. Upon arrival students read books with a high schooler and/or made a craft of their choice. After creating either a holiday bookmark, ornament or a popsicle stick snowman students had the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Pictures were graciously taken by a member of yearbook club and candy canes were gifted by Santa. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a snack while they watched The Grinch.



The OCS Drama Club Presents



March 21st @ 6:00PM &

March 22nd @ 2:00PM & 7:00PM





Oriskany Central School District

Pre-K Parent Orientation

Tuesday, May 5th 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Location: N.A. Walbran Elementary School

Pre-K/Kindergarten Parent Registration

Registration for the pre-kindergarten program for four year olds and for kindergarten in the Oriskany Central School District for the 2026-2027 school year is underway.

Eligibility:

- Pre-kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Oriskany Central School District who will be four years old (4) on or before December 1, 2026.
- Kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Oriskany Central School District who will be five years old (5) on or before December 1, 2026.

Registration materials can be obtained from the N.A. Walbran Elementary School Main Office or Tammy Vaughn, District Registrar, who is located at the Jr. Sr. High School. Registration packets must be returned with two (2) proofs of residency (ex. utility bill, mortgage statement, tax document, etc.) and proof of your child's age (ex. birth certificate). Please call 315-768-2065 if you need a packet mailed. Current Oriskany Pre-K students will receive Kindergarten registration packets through their Pre-K classroom teacher.

All pre-kindergarten slots are assigned by lottery. If more registrations are received than the number of available slots for the program, then a lottery is held at the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th. All applications and documents must be on file with the Registrar's Office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2nd to be included in the placement lottery.

The Oriskany Central School District will hold a Pre-K Parent Orientation on **Tuesday, May 6th** from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at N.A. Walbran Elementary School for all parents/guardians of eligible children entering pre-kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year. Incoming pre-kindergarten students are welcome to attend the orientation with their families. Tours of the school will be given to all families that attend.

Thank you for taking an active role in your child(ren)'s education; involved parents make a huge difference!

Questions? Contact Ms. Vaughn: 315-768-2065 or tvaughn@oriskanycsd.org.



SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026



ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026	March 24, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 29, 2026





How to Apply for TAP and Other NYS Student Financial Aid

Financial aid comes primarily from the federal government, state government and/or your college.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/pay for a complete list of NYS financial aid programs.

TAP

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) provides tuition awards to eligible students attending a college or university located in New York State.

Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.

To be Eligible for TAP You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an approved postsecondary institution in NYS.

Award Amount

- Up to \$5,665 annually, as determined by factors including:
 - Family net taxable income.
 - Tuition charged by your college.
 - Other family members enrolled in college.

How to Apply

- From the FAFSA confirmation page, follow the Apply Now link for New York state-based financial aid.
- Visit hesc.ny.gov/tap for eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

Excelsior Scholarship

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid, allows eligible New York State students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.

To be Eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- Be on track to complete an associates degree in two consecutive years or bachelors degree in four consecutive years.
- Agree to live in NYS for the length of time the award was received.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for full eligibility details.

How to Apply

- Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream



Higher Education
Services Corporation



How to Apply for Federal Student Financial Aid

Financial aid is available from the federal and state governments and your college. This includes Pell Grants, Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Student Loans.

Before You Apply

Get Your StudentAid.gov account.

- Dependent students require at least one parent to also have a StudentAid.gov Account (FSA ID) in order to complete and electronically sign the FAFSA and other federal student aid documents.
- Get it before you sit down to do the FAFSA.
- Visit studentaid.gov and click "Create Account."

Check your eligibility

Go to studentaid.gov/aid-estimator to use the **Federal Student Aid Estimator** for an estimate of your federal aid eligibility.

Complete the FAFSA

- Go to studentaid.gov and navigate to the **FAFSA® Form** to start applying for FAFSA.
- To fill out the FAFSA, you and your contributor(s) must have all of the required materials to submit your application.
- The FAFSA form applies to a single academic year. That means you need to submit a new FAFSA form each year you're applying for aid.

Apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- If you're a NYS resident and include a NY school on your FAFSA, you should also apply for NYS aid online by using the NYS resident link on the FAFSA Submission Confirmation page.
- You must apply for TAP and complete or renew the FAFSA every year.
- You can apply directly at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw

Gather These Materials

- For both students and parents:
 - Drivers License.
 - Social Security Number.
 - Tax returns from two years prior to the FAFSA application year.
 - Records of other untaxed income, such as child support received, veterans' benefits, or military allowances.
 - Email address.

What's Next?

- You will receive an email notice when your FAFSA has been processed and your FAFSA Submission Summary is available for review. Be sure to log into your account to verify all of your information is set.
- Be sure to respond to any questions or requests for more information by the deadline indicated or you could lose your eligibility for financial aid.

Important Reminders

- Find out the financial aid deadlines at your college.
- Apply for financial aid every year.
- Don't pay for financial aid information that you can get for free. Visit hesc.ny.gov for more information.
- Attend financial aid workshops to learn more about programs and completing applications. Check with your high school counselor and visit hesc.ny.gov



Higher Education
Services Corporation



Enhanced Tuition Awards

The Enhanced Tuition Awards program provides tuition awards to students attending a participating private college located in New York State.

To be Eligible for Enhanced Tuition Awards You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a participating private college located in NYS.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- Be on track to complete an associates degree in two consecutive years or bachelors degree in four consecutive years.
- After completing your degree, you must live in NYS for the length of time the award was received.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/eta for full eligibility details.

Award Amount

- Up to \$6,000 annually through the combination of your TAP award, ETA award and a match from your private college.

How to Apply

- Visit hesc.ny.gov/eta for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

After Applying, What's Next?

- Check your email and HESC account frequently for updates regarding your application status.
- Respond to any questions or requests for additional information by the deadline indicated.

STEM Scholarship

The NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program provides full tuition awards to students attending a SUNY or CUNY college or university in New York State.

To be Eligible for the STEM Scholarship You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Be ranked in the top 10 percent of your high school graduating class.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree in STEM at a SUNY or CUNY college or university.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
- Agree to live and work in NYS in an approved STEM occupation for five years after college.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/stem for full eligibility details.

Award Amount

- Up to the annual SUNY resident undergraduate tuition rate.

How to Apply

- Visit hesc.ny.gov/stem for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream





NEW YORK FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

Follow these steps in your senior year of high school to apply for financial aid. Deadlines vary so complete the steps when you can, even if it's passed the suggested timing.

PREPARE

SEPTEMBER

Make college list

Work with your advisor/counselor to identify and apply to at least one [financially safer school](#) – a college that you're likely to be accepted to and able to afford.

Create FSA ID

Username and password that all students and their parent(s) must create to start the FAFSA.

- Watch [How to Create a Username & Password \(FSA ID\)](#)
- Create an FSA ID at [studentaid.gov](#)

APPLY

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

**Submit FAFSA
or NYS DREAM
Act Application**

Available by December 1, 2024, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by all colleges, universities, and technical programs for eligible students to apply for financial aid. The NYS DREAM Act Application allows undocumented and other eligible students to apply for NY state and institutional aid.

- Watch [FAFSA Overview](#)
- Collect information needed using the [FAFSA/TAP Checklist](#)
- Fill out and submit your FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](#) and NYS DREAM Act Application at [hesc.ny.gov/dream](#)

**Submit CSS
Profile**

Required by some private colleges for students to apply for financial aid directly from the college.

- Visit [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](#) to see if your college(s) require the CSS Profile and to submit the application
- Collect information needed using the [CSS Profile Checklist](#)

**Submit NYS
TAP Application**

The NYS TAP Application is required in order to receive any NYS TAP funds and other NYS scholarships.

- Visit tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/ to apply, or link directly to the TAP application from your FAFSA submission page.

FOLLOW UP

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

**Review FAFSA
Submission
Summary (FSS)**

The FSS becomes available shortly after you submit the FAFSA. It summarizes the information you reported on it, includes your Student Aid Index (SAI), and flags issues with your FAFSA that must be resolved.

**Complete
verification**

If you're selected for verification, a process colleges use to ensure the information reported on your FAFSA is correct, you're required to provide the requested documents in order to receive financial aid.

- See our [Verification Handout](#)

DECIDE

MARCH - MAY

**Review financial
aid offers**

Aid offers show you the amount of financial aid you will receive if you attend a specific college. Compare all offers before deciding where to attend college.

- Use the [College Cost Calculator](#) to compare your offers and estimate your indirect costs

**Pay tuition
deposit**

A non-refundable down payment required by most 4-year colleges and universities to hold your spot at the college, due by May 1.

- See our [Tuition Deposit Handout](#) for more information



Scan or go to
uaspire.org/NYChecklist
to view online



Winter Break Activities...



WINTER HIKING



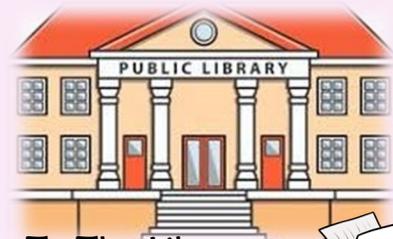
Snowball Fight!!



Walk Your Dog



Go Ice Skating



Go To The Library



Visit A Museum



MOVIE MARATHON



Family Bake/Cook Day



College Visits



Relax and Recharge



February Is...

Bake For Family Fun Month

Great American Pies Month

Library Lovers Month

National Snack Food Month

Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month

Sweet Potato Month

Youth Leadership Month

Did You Know...

February

3rd- National Sweater Day

5th- National Have Ice Cream for Breakfast Day

9th- National Pizza Day

13th- World Radio Day

23rd- Tootsie Roll Day

27th- National Retro Day