



ORISKANY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 2026

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

Michelle Anderson

Michelle Gu

Therese Hanna

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Important Numbers

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
P: 315.768.2149
F: 315.768.2137

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
P: 315.768.2063
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DISTRICT OFFICE
P: 315.768.2058
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ORISKANYCSD.ORG



Volume 47 · Issue 3

Dear Oriskany CSD Community,

As we move from February into March, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the progress we have made together this school year and share a look ahead at the important work underway for the months to come.

At the midpoint of the year, we are encouraged by the continued focus on our district goals, supporting strong instruction, fostering a safe learning environment and meeting the individual needs of our students. Across classrooms, extracurricular programs and school activities, our students are demonstrating growth, perseverance and school pride. This progress is a direct result of the dedication of our staff and the ongoing partnership we share with our families. Looking ahead, we remain focused on finishing the school year strong while planning thoughtfully for the future. Your involvement, whether through attending events, participating in board meetings or staying informed through district communication plays an important role in our shared success.

Reminders for School Attendance

Despite the challenges that winter weather can bring, consistent attendance remains essential to student success. When school is in session, every day of learning matters, and we appreciate your support in ensuring students are present, prepared and engaged. As always, if we have inclement weather that either delays or closes school we will utilize our ParentSquare platform and various local media outlets to inform our families. Please be sure that we have the most current contact information for your students on file to get these important updates.

New Visitor Sign In Process

At Oriskany Central School the safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. To further strengthen our campus security, we are pleased to announce the implementation of the **Raptor Visitor Management System**.

How it works: The Raptor system allows us to better track visitors, contractors and volunteers who enter our building. When you visit the school, you will be asked to present a valid government-issued ID (such as a driver's license).

What you need to know:

- **Bring your ID:** You'll need a driver's license or state ID for your first check-in.
- **Get your badge:** The system prints a custom visitor pass for you to wear while on campus.
- **Safety first:** This helps us know exactly who is in the building at all times.



Gregory Cuthbertson
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org

Please rest assured that the system only identifies relevant safety data and does not share your information with outside agencies. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe!

Budget Preparations

February is also a time when the district begins formal preparation for the 2026-2027 school budget. As always, our goal is to develop a budget that is fiscally responsible while preserving the high-quality educational programs and services our community expects. Budget development requires careful consideration of enrollment trends, program needs, staffing, contractual obligations and state aid, all while being mindful of the impact on taxpayers. We are committed to transparency throughout this process and will continue to share information as it becomes available. We welcome any feedback or suggestions from the community as we always strive to improve and provide the best possible education for our students. We certainly appreciate the support that our community has shown for the district over the years and we look forward to not only maintaining our programs, but enhancing them in a variety of ways. As we get closer to finalizing the budget, we will share with you all relevant information and be transparent with our process and planning.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org or call 315-768-2058. Thank you for making Oriskany a great place to live and learn!

Gregory Cuthbertson





BLOOD DRIVE

EXCEEDS COLLECTION GOAL

The Oriskany Central School District held a blood drive on January 30 at the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School, surpassing its collection goal with strong community support.

The District set a goal of collecting 18 units of blood and exceeded that mark with 24 units collected. There were 24 presenting donors, including several first-time participants, reflecting broad participation from students, staff and community members.

With a severe blood and platelet shortage impacting communities nationwide, the successful turnout was especially meaningful. Each donation will help support the American Red Cross in meeting ongoing patient needs.

The next Oriskany Central School District blood drive is scheduled for March 27. Community members can sign up by visiting the American Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org.



Complete Your Household Income Form TODAY!

School meals are free to all students again this year, but submitting a household income collection form is still a win-win for schools and families!

- Help provide essential funding for your school to support student learning
- Receive discounted utilities and internet access
- Become eligible for fee waivers for college applications and admissions tests (i.e., SATs, ACTs)
- Become eligible for discounted school fees such as band instrument fees, textbook fees, athletic fees, technology fees, etc.

Completing your form online takes less than 10 minutes – it's easy and confidential. Only one form per household is needed.

Visit ezmealapp.com to complete your form today!

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. 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.

Eligibility:

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

Registration materials can be obtained from:

- N.A. Walbran Elementary School Main Office: 8610 NY-69, Oriskany, NY 13424
- Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School District Registrar Office: 1312 Utica St., Oriskany, NY 13424

Registration packets must be returned with:

- Two (2) proofs of residency (ex. utility bill, mortgage statement, tax document, etc.).
- Proof of your child's age (ex. birth certificate).

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 14. **All applications and documents must be on file with the Registrar's Office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2 to be included in the placement lottery.**

Thank you for taking an active role in your child(ren)'s education. Your involvement and partnership with the school plays a key role in the growth and development of your child!

PRE-K PARENT ORIENTATION

The Oriskany Central School District will hold a Pre-K Parent Orientation on **Tuesday, May 5** 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.



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Tina Tefft BUS DRIVER

Tina Tefft joins the Oriskany Central School District Transportation Department as a bus driver. With 16 years of experience behind the wheel, Mrs. Tefft brings a strong commitment to safety and service to her new role. Outside of work, she enjoys watching football and proudly serves her community as a volunteer firefighter with the Stittville Fire Department.

Dear Families and Community Members,

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work, dedication and growth we have seen from our students and staff. The winter months are often busy and challenging, but they are also a time when meaningful progress is made. Our teams have been working tirelessly to support students, and we are excited to look ahead to the spring season and the opportunities it brings.

This year, several district committees have been engaged in important work to strengthen our systems and better support teaching and learning. Our Curriculum Committee has been focused on exploring and implementing a Curriculum Management Tool that will allow us to better organize and align our curriculum from pre-K through grade 12. This work is aimed at improving consistency, accessibility and long-term planning across grade levels and content areas. We are hopeful that a system will be in place by the end of this school year.

In addition, our MTSS Committees have been working diligently to identify a social-emotional learning (SEL) screening tool. The goal of this work is to ensure we have meaningful data to help support school counseling services and to guide SEL instruction and supports across grade levels. This data-driven approach will help us better identify student needs and provide targeted supports in a timely manner.

As we move into the spring months, families will begin to hear more about annual IEP and 504 meetings. These meetings are an important opportunity for teams to review student progress and make thoughtful program and service recommendations for the remainder of this school year and into the next. We value the partnership we share with families and appreciate your collaboration throughout this process.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and programs. We look forward to finishing the year strong and welcoming the energy and renewal that spring brings.

Sincerely,
Catherine Mucurio



Catherine Mucurio

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS

As we reach the halfway point of the winter sports season, excitement continues to build within our programs. This year, we kicked off winter sports with our first ever Winter Warmup event, designed to showcase not only our athletics but also our classes and clubs.

The event featured demonstrations from our indoor track team, cheers from the cheerleaders between events, and scrimmages from our JV and varsity girls and boys basketball teams. Additionally, Superintendent Cuthbertson challenged a member of our hockey team to a shootout.

The stands were filled, and our community and families had the opportunity to visit various booths set up by different clubs and classes. There were food and activities for everyone to enjoy, showcasing our pride in Oriskany.

During this winter season, we will honor our seniors from several teams.

From the Oriskany/Westmoreland girls basketball team, we will recognize Juliana Acee. From the Oriskany/Westmoreland cheer team, we honor Bryana Manella, Aryanna Walker and Tara Calderon. From the Oriskany/Westmoreland indoor track team, we proudly acknowledge Brayden LaGasse and Carlie LaShure.

From the Jugglers hockey team, we will celebrate Jacob Bennett. Lastly, from the Oriskany boys basketball team, we recognize Ed Wright, Jayson Mayo, Nicholas Swald, Dawson Foss, Tyler Tamburino and Matthew "Dibbs" Dibble.

We thank our seniors for their commitment and dedication to Skyhawk Athletics, and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

New to Oriskany this year are boys and girls volleyball. In the spring, we will collaborate with Westmoreland on a pilot program for boys modified lacrosse and girls flag football.

Our junior varsity (JV) and varsity winter athletic teams participated in a community service project to raise funds for cancer awareness and support. They partnered with the More Than a Game Foundation, which benefits the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and the Upstate Cancer Center. The teams organized a "Chuck-a-Duck" event and collected donations, while the Oriskany Sports Boosters contributed proceeds from the concession stand to help the teams reach their fundraising goal.

As we continue through winter and look forward to spring, varsity and JV registrations will open in FamilyID on February 9, and Modified registrations will open on March 6.

As always, thank you for your support of Skyhawk Athletics. I am only a phone call away.

Dave Buck



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





WRIGHT *joins* 1,000-POINT CLUB

Oriskany basketball player Ed Wright has officially joined the 1,000-point club.

During the boys varsity basketball team's away game against Sherburne-Earlville on January 21, senior Wright hit a big milestone when he scored his 1,000th career point. The Skyhawks went on to claim a 72-43 victory over Sherburne-Earlville.

Congratulations to Ed Wright on his outstanding accomplishment!



ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

The months of December through February have been very busy here at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. December was highlighted by our annual holiday music concert. Music education teacher Mr. Joshua Davis led our fifth and sixth grade students in a wonderful performance that highlighted our elementary band and chorus.

On January 15 we offered a Community Game Night from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We had more than 200 individuals come back to the building to participate in games in the gym, cafeteria and library. Faculty, students and families had a great time!

In late January and early February, our students in grades 3-6 had the opportunity to participate in the NYS Computer Based Testing Simulation. This simulation is a great internal review for our school to verify that our technology infrastructure is prepared for NYS testing in the spring. It also provides our students with valuable practice and exposure to the computer based testing format.

We value the opportunity to connect our students to resources that we have in our area and we are excited to once again offer wellness activities in the month of February for our students. Fifth and sixth grade will participate in cross-country ski and snowshoe at the Black River Outdoor Education Center. Fourth grade will attend the Utica Zoo for a snowshoe opportunity and third grade will attend and participate in a UCFC soccer practice at the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium. Our PK-2 classrooms will participate in sledding here at the elementary school.



Tom Meiss
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
tmeiss@oriskanycsd.org

Tom Meiss



N.A. WALBRAN Gives Back!

This winter, students at N.A. Walbran Elementary School celebrated the holiday season by giving back to their community.

Students in grades 4-6 collected and donated hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to Thea Bowman House in Utica. Thea Bowman House is a nonprofit organization that serves low-income, at-risk children and families in the Utica area.

Students in grades 1-3 collected and donated new pajamas to Project Jammies, which donates new pajamas to The House of the Good Shepherd in Utica.

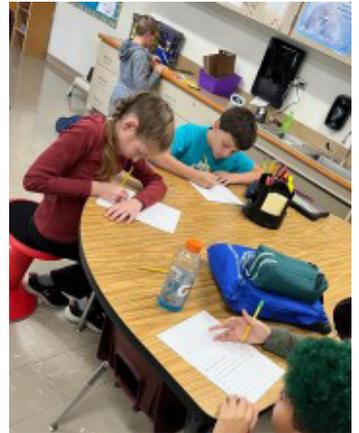
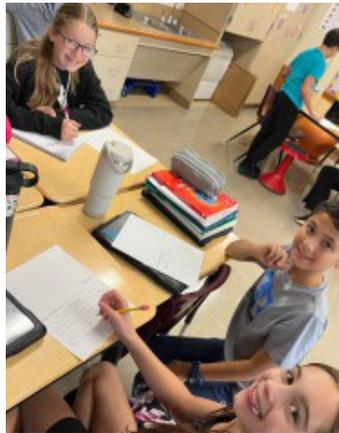
Pre-K students collected and donated new bedding and pillows to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds and provides beds for children all throughout the country. To date, they have built and donated more than 330,000 beds, and volunteers have donated more than 500,000 hours of their time with the organization.

Thank you to all who contributed to the various collections, and thank you to our elementary students for demonstrating how important it is to give back to our community!

ELEMENTARY TEACHER, STAFF
APPRECIATION CARDS

To show their thankfulness for the elementary teachers, the sixth grade students made the entire faculty and staff at N.A. Walbran a thankful card. A different student made a different card for each faculty member. They also had some help from fourth and fifth grade students to help finish them on November 20, in time for the teachers to see them in the faculty room on November 21.

The students made a total of 47 cards for the entire faculty and staff. Students have made thankful cards in previous years, so many staff members know what they are and look forward to them each year.



**N.A. WALBRAN
HOSTS COMMUNITY**
Game Night



On January 15, N.A. Walbran Elementary School sponsored a community game night for students and their families. Approximately 250 community members filled the cafeteria, gymnasium and library to play a wide variety of games. Bowling, ping-pong and jenga were major highlights in the gym, while board games, cards games and twister were popular choices in the cafeteria and library.

A special thank you to the elementary faculty and staff that participated and interacted with the community throughout the evening. All of the games were donated from faculty and staff, and the evening would not have been possible without their overwhelming support.



Holiday SPIRIT WEEK

During the week of December 15-19, N.A. Walbran Elementary students and staff participated in a spirit week. Themes were decided upon by the N.A. Walbran Student Council and they included Merry Monday, Toasty Tuesday, Holiday Cheer, Candy Cane Lane and Long Winter's Nap. Students and staff had fun dressing up in their favorite flannels, festive attire and holiday pajamas.



HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

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. In addition, our modified boys and girls basketball teams have recently begun competition and are already showing great promise. Looking ahead, registration for varsity spring sports opens on February 9, 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 p.m. and Saturday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Our students have been working tirelessly to put on a fantastic show for the community. Additional details can be found on the district website.

This month, our school counselors will begin scheduling courses for students in grades 8 through 11 for the 2026-2027 school year. If you would like to participate in your child's scheduling meeting, please contact the Office of Counseling and Career Services at 315-768-2065. The Course Description Guide, detailing all the courses offered for grades 9 through 12, is available on the district website. As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at 315-768-2063.

ORISKANY PROUD

All my best,
Andrew K. Kennedy



Andrew Kennedy
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
akennedy@oriskanycsd.org



Mrs. Shepard HONORED AT SU Basketball Game

On November 18, Mrs. Shepard was honored at a Chick-fil-A-sponsored Teacher Appreciation Night during the Syracuse men's basketball game. She was one of only eight recipients selected from more than 350 applicants. Her AP Biology students from three years ago nominated her for this well-deserved recognition.



Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School presents

BEETLEJUICE JR.

Friday, March 21
7:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 22
2:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Language Club visits EASTERN STAR

During the month of December, Language Club visited Eastern Star to work with the pre-K students. They sang songs about numbers, colored by number (en Español) and enjoyed a Rice Krispies Treat snack. Before leaving, everyone wished each other "Feliz Navidad."



LANGUAGE CLUB HOSTS HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT!

On December 5, 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."

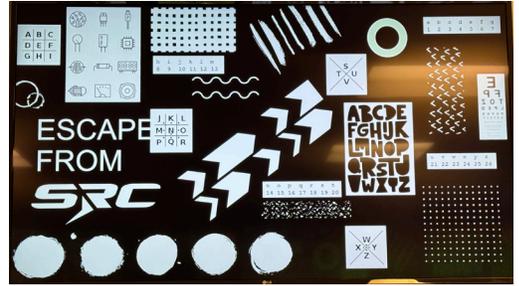


STUDENTS EXPLORE STEM at SRC, Inc.

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School students recently visited SRC, Inc. with Mrs. Sciorilli for a hands-on learning experience focused on the four Cs of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math): collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking.

During the visit, students worked together to solve puzzles that unlocked prizes, learned how to write and translate binary code, and created personalized bracelets or necklaces using lifesavers. The day concluded with a spirited game of STEM Jeopardy, where students competed with peers from other schools.

SRC, Inc., a not-for-profit research and development company, applies science, technology and innovation to solve complex problems for organizations such as the U.S. military and federal agencies. The company's mission to inspire creativity and problem-solving made the field trip a meaningful opportunity for students to explore potential STEM careers.





ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1313 Utica Street
Oriskany, NY 13424

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

On November 19, three Oriskany students were recognized as part of the Optimist Club of Whitestown's Student of the Month program.

The honorees, Jayson Mayo, Braelyn Oehler and Ed Wright, were selected for their outstanding academic performance, involvement in school activities, commitment to community service and leadership contributions both in their school and community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
**Jayson, Braelyn
and Ed!**

