

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School

Newsletter

www.oriskanycsd.org

Volume 8 7th Issue



Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents, & Community Members

April is a welcome arrival, bringing longer days and hopefully the end of winter weather. Spring sports are already underway, including golf, baseball, softball, outdoor track and field, and for the first time, flag football. I look forward to seeing our community come together to support our student athletes at these events. We are also preparing for several upcoming highlights, including the Jr./Sr. Prom and the senior trip to Boston.

April also signals the start of assessment season at the Jr./Sr. High School. The New York State English Language Arts Computer Based Test for 7th and 8th grades will be held on April 14 and 15, followed by the Mathematics Computer Based Test on April 21 and 22. The Grade 8 Science Computer Based Test is scheduled for April 29, and Advanced Placement Exams will take place from May 4 through May 12. In June, students will take the NYS Regents Examinations as well as the World Language Checkpoint A and B Exams.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school community. Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions, concerns, or positive updates to share.

ORISKANY PROUD

Sincerely,

Andrew K Kennedy
Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School
Principal



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HAPPY
EASOER



Oriskany Central School Valedictorian and Salutatorians Announced!

Congratulations Edward!

Edward Wright, son of Edward and Rene' Wright, has been named the Oriskany Central School Class of 2026 Valedictorian.

Edward has received many accolades during his time at OCS, including the University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award, RIT Science and Math Award, and the Elmira Key Award. He is also the recipient of the Cortland Presidential Scholarship and will participate in their Honors program. Edward has taken a rigorous course load including AP World History, AP English Literature & Composition, AP U.S. History, AP Physics, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, and several MVCC dual credit classes. He is also a member of the New Vision Education program through Oneida-Madison BOCES.

Edward has also been involved in many other aspects within the school. He has been a member of band, Language Club, Vice President of Student Council 11th & 12th grade, President of the Varsity Club, and Co-President of National Honor Society. His volunteer work includes community blood drives, Christmas in the Nettles, Oriskany Little League Clean-up, and Burton Basketball Academy.

During Edward's time at OCS, he has been a two sport athlete. His basketball career included being a 4 year starter, captain his junior and senior year, and Center State Conference All-Star grades 10 and 11. Edward's senior year included being named CSC Player of the year, WKTV athlete of the week, and becoming a member of the 1,000 point club. Edward's baseball career spanned a total of 5 years which included being named captain his junior and senior year. He has been a four time Conference All-Star, two-time Conference Player of the Year, Mohawk Valley Player of the Year, Mohawk Valley Pitcher of the Year, All CNY Baseball Player of the Year, All CNY Baseball Small School Team of the Year, and NYS Sportswriters Association Player of the Year. In that time frame Edward has won 3 Sectional titles, 2 Regional Titles, and a 2025 Class D State Champion title where he was named Most Valuable Player of the Season. He also holds a school record with the highest batting average of .594.

Edward has been accepted to SUNY Cortland where he will study Adolescent Education Mathematics. He will also be a member of the Cortland State Red Dragons Baseball team. Congratulations Eddie!



Oriskany Central School Valedictorian and Salutatorians Announced!

Congratulations Jessica!

Jessica Beckwith, niece of Mary and George Marsh, has been named the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2026 Salutatorian.

During Jessica's time at OCS she has received multiple awards including the Rochester Institute of Technology Humanities and Social Sciences Award, Le Moyne College Heights Award, and Clarkson University High School Achievement Award. Jessica, during her time at OCS, has also taken AP World History and five MVCC dual enrollment courses.

Jessica is also involved in many after-school activities. This includes being National Honor Societies secretary, Drama clubs vice president, Art clubs vice president, Senior class president, and in Yearbook club, Science club, and Elevating Student Voices. As well as these clubs, she is also the first Student Board Member in Oriskany History. Jessica was a part of the Oriskany Varsity Cheerleading team for four seasons whilst balancing her academics. During these seasons she received the awards of Cheerleading Sportsmanship, and Most Improved Player. She has also earned Scholar athlete three times.

Jessica has gotten accepted into a number of colleges and is still deciding where she would like to further her academic career. She plans on earning her bachelor's degree in Accounting. Congratulations Jessica!





UPCOMING EVENTS!

April:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1st- | April Fool's Day |
| 2nd- | End of 3rd Marking Period |
| 3rd - | Good Friday-No School |
| 6th-10th- | Spring Recess |
| 14th- | BOE Meeting @ 6pm |
| 14th & 15th- | Grades 7 & 8 NYS ELA Test |
| 17th- | Report Cards Go Home |
| 21st & 22nd- | Grades 7 & 8 NYS Math Test |
| 22nd- | Earth Day |
| 24th- | Arbor Day |
| 28th- | BOE Meeting @ 6pm |
| 29th- | Grade 8 NYS Science Test |

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Science Club is sponsoring the annual **Canal Clean Sweep** on April 17, 2026 after school at the trail next to the car wash on Route 69. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please bring gloves, dress for the weather and arrange transportation to the trail after school and home at 3:45.

In July BOCES will be hosting CTE summer camps!

The camps offered will be:

Auto Mechanics-7/20-7/23

Construction-7/27-7/30

Cosmetology AM & PM-7/13-7/16

Creative Cooking-7/13-7/16

Welding(7th & 8th)-7/20-7/23

Welding(9th & 10th)-7/27-7/30

Free Workshops for students entering 7-10

Register with your school counselor

Deadline is May 29th

All camps will be offered at either 8:30-11:00am or

11:30am-2:00pm

Preference & enrollment is not always a guarantee!



CANALCLEANSWEEP



Oneida • Herkimer • Madison

BOCES

PROM 2026



\$65 | 7-11 PM | WOODS VALLEY
HOLLYWOOD THEME
DATE: MAY 2ND

Counseling & Career Services News/Information...

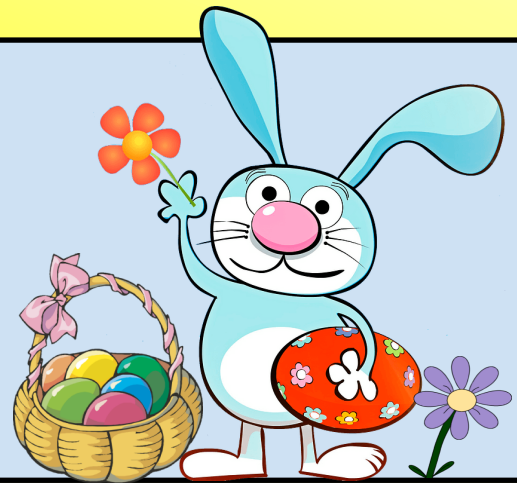
Attention Seniors/Parents:

We have been sending out a lot of emails to seniors regarding scholarships. There is a lot of money out there for you to get to help pay for college. You have to apply for scholarships in order to win. You should be spending the next couple months just focusing on scholarships. Once you complete one application every one after that just gets easier.

As a reminder, if you plan on attending college you will need to complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).

HAVE YOU
COMPLETED
THE FAFSA?

*Don't
wait!*



Seniors!!

Please check your email regularly. I email scholarship information and applications as they are received by the counseling office.

If you need them printed you can contact me by email, phone, or just stop into the counseling office. I am always happy to help.

~Ms. Vaughn

tvaughn@oriskanycsd.org

315-768-2065



**APPLY FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS**



Counseling & Career Services News/Information...



SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
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
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 29, 2026



Test-Taking Strategies

R Read the question carefully, then reread the passage or the problem.

E Examine every answer choice before you choose your answer.

L Label your answer (Math)
Look for proof in the passage and underline it (ELA)

A Always check your work!

X X-out answers that you know are wrong



Counseling & Career Services News/Information...

Junior Year Calendar (reminders)

Continue college selection process. Attend in-person or virtual college fairs, financial aid seminars, general information sessions, etc., to learn as much as you can about the college application process.

April

- When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
- Register for the May/June SAT.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.

May

- Get a jump start on summer activities-consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. If you work, save part of your earnings for college.
- Begin visiting colleges. Phone to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had a college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly!
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test.

June

- After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test and/or the ACT.

July

- Visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you.

August

- Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities.
- Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft application essays; collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes. If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships.



Oriskany Students & Staff Mourn the loss of a Beloved Colleague, Teacher & Friend

Sarah Smith

Sarah began her career in education in January of 2001, working as a substitute teacher in area schools and as a one-on-one aide for a child with autism at the Roosevelt Children's Center in Newark, New York. Even early on, she demonstrated a deep commitment to her students, thoughtfully modifying instruction to ensure each child could fully participate in and benefit from the learning environment.

In May of 2005, Sarah joined the Oriskany Central School District as a long-term substitute Teacher Assistant, recommended by Elementary Principal Carol Zygo. From the start, she worked closely with special education teachers across both buildings, as well as with Barb Schooley in the high school art program, supporting students with diverse needs. It was clear even then that Sarah brought a unique ability to connect with students and help them succeed.

Later that year, Sarah was selected for a full-time teaching position after a highly competitive process. Out of 57 applicants, she advanced through multiple rounds of interviews, ultimately rising to the top among 29 candidates interviewed and 7 finalists. With the support and recommendation of Junior-Senior High School Principal Andy Brown, she was hired effective September 1, 2005—a testament to the strong impression she made on everyone who met her.

Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from SUNY Potsdam in 2003 and completed her Master of Science degree from Nazareth College in December 2004. Prior to joining Oriskany, she also shared her talents with students in the Canandaigua and Norwood-Norfolk school districts.



Throughout her nearly 20-year career at Oriskany, Sarah was far more than an art teacher—she was a vibrant and dedicated member of the school community. She played a key role in the school newsletter’s art page, participated in the Art and Technology Showcase, and was regularly commended by her principals for her creativity and commitment beginning as early as 2006.

She was involved in numerous school activities, including the Battle of Oriskany Road Race, the Model Schools Art Committee, yearbook, Jr./Sr. class advising, play directing, summer program leadership and mentoring programs. In 2007, she took the initiative to propose an Art Club, reflecting her desire to create even more opportunities for students to express themselves. In 2009, she was recognized by both Principal Brown and the Superintendent for the extraordinary time and effort she dedicated to the Junior Prom, particularly in the creativity and detail of its decorations and presentation.

One of the things Sarah took great pride in was her innovative approach to teaching. She believed deeply in the connection between art and writing, encouraging her students to express their perspectives not only visually, but through thoughtful written work. She saw this integration as a powerful way to enhance learning and give students a fuller voice.

Sarah often shared that when she interviewed at Oriskany, she had another job offer. She chose Oriskany because it felt like home—and through her murals at the elementary school, high school and throughout the community, she helped create that same sense of belonging for others.

From her first day on September 1, 2005, to her last on February 21, 2025, Sarah’s impact on her students, colleagues, and the entire community was profound and lasting. She will be remembered not only for her talent and dedication, but for the care, creativity, and heart she brought to everything she did.

SARAH STRONG!



This Happened...

A massive THANK YOU to everyone who came out and supported the Brooks BBQ fundraiser for the Class of 2029!

Your generosity, energy, and school spirit turned this event into an incredible success—we truly couldn't have done it without you!



Mark your calendars!

Brooks' House of Bar-B-Que is BACK on October 28th.



Tickets go on sale October 7th... don't miss out!



Oriskany High School science teacher Sue Sciorilli, standing, with students, from left, Wil Wright, Isabella Hart, Jessica Beckwith, Lexi Birt, Brynne Russum and Jordyn Powers after the STEAM Women Rising symposium on Monday, March 9 at Beeches Manor in Rome.

[Buy Now](#)

Sentinel photo by Mike Jaquays

This Happened...

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, OHM BOCES held an induction ceremony for its CTE Honor Society. Four of our juniors—Darien McGallian (New Vision: Education), Cameron Post (Advertising Design), Alexis Roman (Early Childhood Education I), and Brent Tinney (Outdoor Power, not pictured)—were inducted.



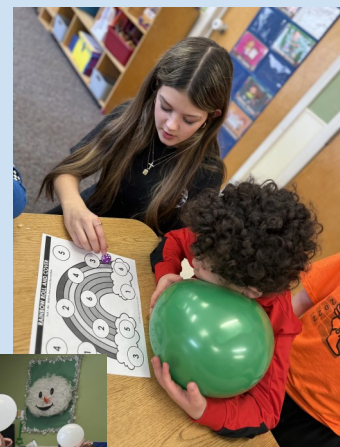
Junior Shadowing Experience



On Thursday, March 26, 2026 Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School had a job shadowing event. Every student in the Junior Class was provided a job shadowing experience. Students were placed with over 20 business place employers across the Mohawk Valley. Students visited some of the following locations; Top Dead Center, Power Sports of Utica, Subaru of Utica, Yorkville Police Department, Meyda, JPJ Electronics, SPI - RMPT, Utica City Courts, Nancy L. Ford Photography, March and Associates Architecture and Planning, The Neighborhood Center, Upstate Caring Partners, Capri Pizza, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Science, Marcy Elementary, SUNY POLY - science lab, SUNY POLY Athletics, Don's Ford Service Center, S.R. Sloan, BOCES (Bridges Program), Solon Moda, Lush Beauty Bar, and Sauquoit Valley High School. A job shadowing experience is literally spending time "in the shadow" of a person performing his or her job functions. It's typically a day-long workplace visit with an individual working in a position, career or industry of interest to you. At the conclusion of the event, the students met in the Alumni Auditorium to complete evaluations and write thank you notes to the people or places they visited. The OHM BOCES - School and Business Alliance (SABA) worked with the Office of Counseling and Career Services and the Oriskany Transportation Department to provide this opportunity for our students.

This Happened...

On Wednesday March 18th Language Club traveled to Eastern Star Daycare to work with the Pre-K students. Continuing their lessons from previous visits they reviewed numbers in Spanish as they worked to keep their balloons up. Our balloon count winners were Nolan and Dax! Afterwards students rolled and counted rainbow numbers to end the day!



On Wednesday March 18th members of Language Club traveled to the Elementary school to help with and participate in the PARP Read In after school. They all had a "sweet" time reading!



This Happened...

On March 20th and 21st the OCS Drama club presented the Musical Beetlejuice Jr. with students from 7th-12th grade involved in the show as part of the cast and/or crew. This production, captivated audiences with its energy and heart. The students spent months learning songs and dances and they put their hearts into the production. Well done Mr. Salce & the Drama Club participants!



On March 26th, students from Art Club hosted and instructed a "Paint & Pop" for a fundraiser. Participants were guided in an instructional session step by step while served a glass of soda pop! Ms. Mahanna & her students did a fantastic job & fun was had by all!

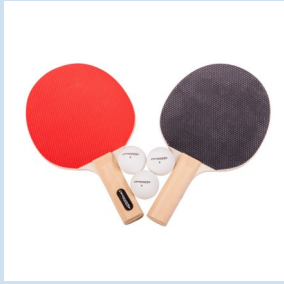


This Happened...

On March 5th ESV held their very first "Boards + Bites" gathering to provide both students and faculty the opportunity to get together in a relaxed, non instructional, environment. Student leaders prepared their very own charcuterie "boards" (pictured) and students/faculty in attendance ate and played the card game TACO CAT; As laughs were laughed, smiles were smiled and food was eaten, they shared some valuable time cultivating and strengthening their relationships with one another.

Elevating Student Voices provides student leaders from grades 9-12 the opportunity to participate in regional discussions learning about perspectives and life experiences from peers as they continue to strengthen and develop their understanding of, respect for, and appreciation of others. Students participate in peer led community circle discussions and work to develop action plans that can be implemented in their home districts helping to ensure that **all** students feel a sense of belonging.





CLASH Of The Classes

JUNIOR

Sophomore

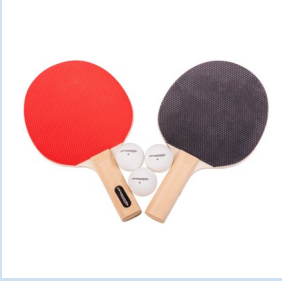


This year's Clash of Classes kicked off with a strong start as students competed in events like Jeopardy, Mario Kart, and wiffle/kickball, with the seniors quickly establishing an early lead. Throughout the week, competition remained tight as juniors and sophomores battled to keep pace, highlighted by standout performances in events such as ping pong, spoons, and food art. However, several key moments were shaped by inconsistent participation, as multiple classes missed opportunities to earn easy points by not showing up to events like the tech challenge, pickleball matches, and Pictionary. Despite this, the juniors made several pushes to close the gap, including strong finishes in spoons, pickleball, and food art. The seniors maintained their edge with consistent top finishes, including wins in Jeopardy, minute to win it, ultimate football, and volleyball. The final day came down to a dramatic volleyball matchup between the seniors and juniors after the standings tightened to a near tie. In the end, the seniors secured the championship with a clutch performance, finishing just ahead of the juniors, while the sophomores placed third. Overall, the event showcased both competitive spirit and the importance of participation, leaving questions about future commitment to the Clash of Classes.



Seniors





CLASH Of The Classes



JUNIOR



Sophomore



Seniors



Spring Break Activities

Pajama Day

Adventure Day

Plant a Spring Garden

Volunteer Day

Have a Picnic

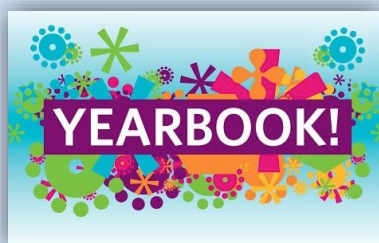
Have a Spa Night

BBQ

Pizza Party

Local Sights Day

Clean Your Room



Online yearbook sales are closed.

There will be very few yearbooks available for sale on a first come first serve basis

April...

Adopt a Horse Month

Frog Month

International Guitar Month

National Care and Letter Writing Month

National Kite Month

Physical Wellness Month

Tulip Month

World Habitat Awareness Month

1st- National Fun Day

5th- National Deep Dish Pizza Day

11th- National Pet Day

15th- World Art Day

21st- World Creativity & Innovation Day

22nd- Earth Day

26th- National Pretzel Day

27th- Administrative Professionals Day