



# ORISKANY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | BUDGET EDITION

May 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**

**Therese Hanna**

**Brian Judycki**

**Paul Piersma**

*Important Numbers*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P: 315.768.2149

F: 315.768.2137

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

P: 315.768.2063

F: 315.768.2046

DISTRICT OFFICE

P: 315.768.2058

F: 315.768.2057

ORISKANYCSD.ORG



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dear Oriskany Central School District Community,

I hope that this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the warmer and longer days of spring. I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire school community for your continued support and dedication to the Oriskany Central School District.

This is an exciting time of year as we begin to prepare for the end of the school year. The months of May and June are filled with events, activities and ceremonies that celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the 2025-2026 school year. Please be sure to check our website and social media for the latest updates about end-of-year activities and events.

### Budget Overview:

At Oriskany Central School District, our mission is to provide an environment where every student can thrive. As we turn our attention toward the 2026-2027 school year, we have been hard at work developing a fiscal plan that protects the "Oriskany Experience" while remaining deeply mindful of our responsibility to you, the taxpayer. This budget is more than just a financial document; it is our roadmap for student success and a reflection of our community's shared priorities. Our goal throughout this process remains clear: to develop a fiscally responsible budget that continues to support high-quality educational opportunities for every student while being mindful of the financial impact on our taxpayers

This year's budget reflects a careful balance between maintaining strong academic programs, supporting student wellness and addressing rising operational costs. As you know, state aid contributions make up roughly 50% of our revenues, while the other roughly 50% comes from our Tax Levy, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS), Appropriated Fund Balance and Local Non-Tax sources. Like many districts across New York, we are facing a "perfect storm" of financial pressures. Inflation, contractual obligations and the skyrocketing costs of healthcare, utilities and special education services are straining our resources. These challenges are compounded by the governor's current budget proposal, which allocates only a 1% increase, or roughly \$54,000 in Foundation Aid for Oriskany. Unfortunately, this modest increase falls significantly short of the actual cost increases the District must absorb this year.

However, after careful and diligent planning over the past several years, we feel that we are able to present a balanced and fiscally responsible budget to our school community that maintains and builds upon our educational priorities for our students. This year we are proposing a \$19,736,110 budget with a 2.14% or \$158,828.63 increase to our tax levy. This tax increase remains tax cap compliant under this proposed budget. This budget will provide the necessary resources to continue to build upon our 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."

Our budget for the upcoming fiscal year reflects a comprehensive approach to meeting the diverse needs of our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Through careful planning and strategic allocation of resources, we aim to enhance educational opportunities and support the holistic development of every learner.

### Key Budget Priorities:

- 1. Academic Enrichment:** Investing in curriculum development, instructional resources and professional development programs to promote academic excellence and student success.
- 2. Support Services:** Strengthening student support services, including counseling, special education and wellness initiatives, to ensure the well-being of every student.
- 3. Community Engagement:** Building partnerships with families, community organizations and stakeholders to promote collaboration and enrich the educational experience.
- 4. Facilities Maintenance:** Continued investment in facility maintenance and upgrades to create safe, conducive learning environments for students and staff.

### Looking Ahead:

We are proud of the progress our students and staff have made toward our District goals, and this budget continues to align resources with those priorities. Every decision has been made with a focus on what is best for students while maintaining long-term financial stability. We remain committed to transparency and accountability in our financial practices. Our budgeting process involves input from various stakeholders, including parents, staff and community members. We encourage active participation and feedback to ensure that our budget reflects the priorities and values of our community in the upcoming budget discussions and vote.

### BUDGET HEARING:

**When:** Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

### BUDGET VOTE:

**When:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026, Noon-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Jr./Sr. High School Atrium

For more information about the budget proposal, please visit the District's website at [oriskanycsd.org](http://oriskanycsd.org) under the Business Office page.

As we look ahead to the future, we recognize the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. By staying true to our mission and vision, we will continue to adapt and innovate to meet the evolving needs of our students and community.



Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible education for our students.

Sincerely,

*Gregory Cuthbertson*

Superintendent of Schools

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

At our April 14, 2026 meeting, the Oriskany Board of Education approved a proposed 2026-2027 budget of \$19,736,110. This is a 1.38% increase over the current year and continues our focus on maintaining strong educational programs while managing costs responsibly. Like most school districts, a large portion of our revenue is set at the state level, which limits how much flexibility we have from year to year.

The proposed tax levy increase is 2.14%. This is within the District's allowable tax cap and requires a simple majority vote. As we worked through this year's budget, the goal was to balance rising costs with the need to be mindful of the impact on taxpayers. We continue to see increases in areas like employee benefits, transportation, utilities and general operating costs.

Budget presentations and supporting materials are available on the District website ([OriskanyCSD.org](http://OriskanyCSD.org) > Our District > Business Office > School Budget 2026-2027). If you have questions, please contact the District Business Office.

At its core, this budget is about continuing to provide a strong and well-rounded educational experience for our students. It supports student growth and achievement, a safe and inclusive environment, and the connections that make our school community what it is. That includes academics, student support and extracurricular opportunities.

In addition to the budget, there are several propositions on the ballot. Proposition 2 provides \$40,000 in continued support for the Oriskany Public Library. Propositions 3 and 4 would establish transportation and technology capital reserve funds. These do not impact the tax levy. They are simply a way for the District to plan ahead for larger equipment and infrastructure needs instead of reacting to them later.

There are four open seats on the Board of Education this year, with six community members running. That level of interest is a positive sign and reflects a strong commitment to the District and its future. We encourage all residents to take the time to learn about the candidates and participate in the voting process.

We would also like to recognize Brian Judycki, who will be concluding his service on the Board at the end of his term. We thank him for his nine years of service and the time and effort he has given to support the students and community of Oriskany.

Overall, this budget reflects a balanced approach. It maintains the programs our students rely on, stays within the tax cap and continues to plan responsibly for the future.

The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School atrium (rear). A public hearing and Meet the Candidates night will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium.

We encourage all residents to stay informed, ask questions and participate in the voting process.

On behalf of the Oriskany Board of Education,

*Louis Ciotti*



**Louis Ciotti**  
SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

# 2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The District budget vote, along with the Board of Education election, will be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., in the atrium (rear) of the Jr./Sr. High**. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, it will be enacted for the 2026-2027 school year. If not passed, the Board of Education can:

- Place a revised budget before District residents for a vote.
- Place the same budget before District residents for a vote.
- Immediately adopt a contingency budget.

Should the proposed budget be defeated and a contingency budget is adopted pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, \$414,850 will be eliminated in equipment purchases, student supplies, school buses and additional items to be determined by the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

## PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

### PROPOSITION #1 - BUDGET RESOLUTION

Shall the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District in the County of Oneida, State of New York, is hereby authorized to expend \$19,736,110 for the 2026-2027 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

### PROPOSITION #2 - ORISKANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Shall the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$40,000 for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to the district residents by the Oriskany Public Library?

### PROPOSITION #3 - CREATION OF A TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following resolution be adopted? RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District in the County of Oneida, State of New York, is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated, "2026 Transportation Capital Reserve Fund", created to defray the cost of school buses and other vehicles, including but not limited to diesel school buses, other diesel vehicles, zero-emission school buses, other zero-emission vehicles, and transportation infrastructure, including construction and reconstruction of School District buildings and facilities, original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such reserve fund to be five million dollars (\$5,000,000) inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of five (5) years. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to pay funds from the available fund balance, state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects, such other monies, as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount.

### PROPOSITION #4 - CREATION OF A TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following resolution be adopted? Resolved that the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District in the County of Oneida, State of New York, is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated, "2026 Technology and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund", created to defray the cost of equipment, machinery or apparatus incidental thereto, and the purchase of technology equipment, furnishings, and other equipment, machinery or apparatus separately, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such reserve fund to be one million dollars (\$1,000,000) inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of five (5) years. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to pay funds from the available fund balance, state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects, such other monies as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount.

### CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

To vote on the election of four (4) "at large" Board of Education members. Three (3) members for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2026, and concluding June 30, 2029, and one (1) member for a two (2) year term commencing immediately following the election, and concluding June 30, 2028. The vacancies arise from the expiration of the terms of Ms. Therese Hanna, Mr. Brian Judycki, and Mr. Jeffrey Kraeger, and the vacancy of Ms. Michelle Gu.

### EARLY MAIL VOTING & ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for early mail voting and absentee ballots are located on the School District website or at the District Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, beginning April 21, 2026. Completed applications must be filed with the District Clerk at least 7 days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Otherwise, the application may be personally delivered to the District Clerk no later than the day before the election. If you are qualified for absentee voting and issued an absentee ballot, the ballot itself must be received by the School District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election in order to be canvassed.

### TO VOTE YOU MUST BE

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election, and who is not otherwise ineligible to vote under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law.

### PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing on this year's proposed budget will be on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$19,467,028	\$19,736,110	\$19,321,260
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$269,082	(\$145,765)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.38%	-0.75%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,423,998	\$7,582,826	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$40,000	\$40,000	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$7,463,998	\$7,622,826	\$7,463,998
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$497,742	\$506,552	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,926,256	\$7,076,274	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,926,256	\$7,076,274	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See note below regarding separate propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,300,752	\$2,433,172	\$2,432,022
Program Component	\$13,445,282	\$13,605,500	\$13,576,800
Capital Component	\$3,720,994	\$3,696,438	\$3,312,438

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:

If the proposed budget is defeated twice, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget, consisting of "teachers' salaries and ordinary contingent expenses" subject to a cap on the administrative portion of the budget, with no increase in the tax levy over the prior year. Ordinary contingent expenses are those necessary to provide the minimum services legally required to: operate and maintain school buildings and the educational program; preserve the property of the District; and ensure the health and safety of students and staff. The BOE determines which appropriations constitute ordinary contingent expenses. The following items are examples of non-contingent expenses excluded from a contingent budget: capital construction projects, equipment purchases, student supplies, new multi-year contractual arrangements, rental of office equipment, transportation of students under mileage limits set by state law, and public use of school buildings and grounds, except where there is no cost to the District. In light of the Property Tax Cap Law, under contingency, the School District can levy no more taxes levied in the prior school year by the District, and adhere to the contingent budget administrative budget cap.

**Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount**

Description	Amount
Oriskany Public Library	\$40,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$466

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Oriskany Central School District, of the Towns of Whitestown, Marcy, Floyd, and Rome, Oneida County, New York, will be held at the Oriskany Central Jr./Sr. High School Atrium (rear) on May 19, 2026 between the hours of noon and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

	2025-2026 Approved Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Budget
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>		
Board of Education	\$15,850	\$16,050
Central and Business Administration	\$450,450	\$466,650
Central Services	\$1,118,450	\$1,100,760
Supervision - Regular School	\$317,000	\$334,800
Benefits	\$399,002	\$514,912
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,300,752</b>	<b>\$2,433,172</b>
<b>PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>		
Teaching - Regular School	\$4,197,700	\$4,006,700
Special Education	\$3,081,950	\$3,148,944
Instructional Support Programs	\$1,650,700	\$1,570,525
Transportation	\$956,600	\$977,225
Benefits	\$3,558,332	\$3,903,106
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$13,445,282</b>	<b>\$13,606,500</b>
<b>CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>		
Operations/Maintenance	\$1,273,500	\$1,234,400
Bus Purchases	\$380,000	\$380,000
Debt Service	\$1,780,128	\$1,736,275
Benefits	\$287,366	\$345,763
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,720,994</b>	<b>\$3,696,438</b>
<b>Total Appropriations:</b>	<b>\$19,467,028</b>	<b>\$19,736,110</b>

**GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY COMPONENT**

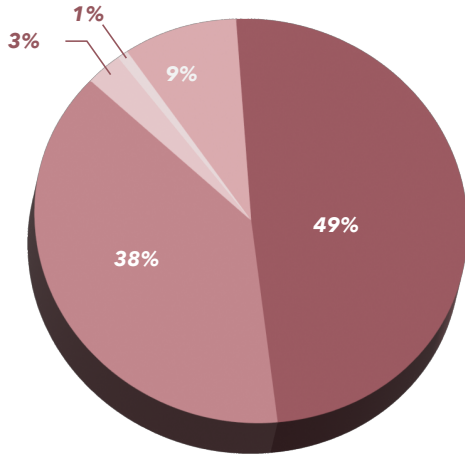
Total Budget 2026-2027 <b>\$19,736,110</b>	Program Component <b>\$13,606,500</b> 69%	Capital Component <b>\$3,696,438</b> 19%	Administrative Component <b>\$2,433,172</b> 12%
Budget-to-Budget Increase 1.38%		2026-2027 Tax Levy Increase 2.14% limit is 2.14%	

While the tax levy limit is often referred to as a "2% tax cap," each district is required to annually calculate their specific tax levy limit in accordance with a formula that accounts for individual district conditions and variables. For districts across New York State, this calculation rarely results in a limit of exactly 2%, calculated rates can vary as high as 6% or more. For Oriskany CSD, this proposed tax levy increase of 2.14% does not exceed the tax levy limit and requires a simple majority vote.

**For more budget information, please visit our website!**  
[www.oriskanycsd.org](http://www.oriskanycsd.org)

# ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

REVENUES

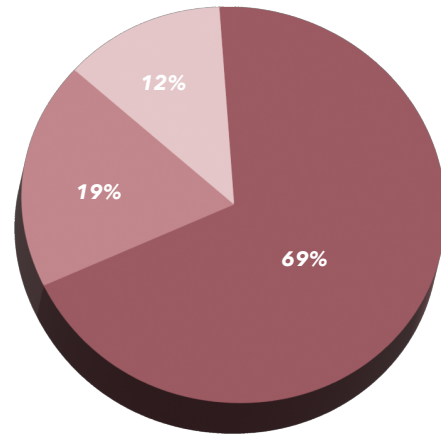


## 2026-27 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	2026-2027 Estimates	%
State Aid	\$9,731,181	49%
Tax Levy	\$7,582,826	38%
Fund Balance	\$1,688,651	9%
Local Non-Tax	\$558,700	3%
PILOTS	\$174,752	1%
<b>Total Anticipated Revenues</b>	<b>\$19,736,110</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 2026-27 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2026-2027 Estimates	%
Program	\$13,606,500	69%
Capital	\$3,696,438	19%
Administrative	\$2,433,172	12%
<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>	<b>\$19,736,110</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



EXPENDITURES

**STATE AID** To be finalized after the state budget is adopted.

**TAX LEVY** Monies collected from District taxpayers via school tax bills. Now limited by the Property Tax Cap Legislation.

**LOCAL NON-TAX** Use of District reserves, PILOTS, and miscellaneous revenues.

**FUND BALANCE** Unrestricted monies that can be appropriated into next year's budget.

## THREE COMPONENT BUDGET

The state legislation which requires the state's school districts to have a public budget vote includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three components: Program, Capital and Administration.

**ADMINISTRATION COMPONENT:** Provides funding for the support services of the District. This component is comprised of those expenses which are associated with the BOE, Central Administration and Central Services.

**CAPITAL COMPONENT:** Comprised of those expenses which are associated with the operation and maintenance portions of the budget. Also included in this component is debt service.

**PROGRAM BUDGET:** Generally the largest portion of the District budget. This portion covers general instruction, special education, BOCES instructional programs, curriculum and staff development. Additionally, pupil support services such as counseling, library, health, co-curricular, interscholastic and transportation are included in this component.

## Tax Cap Levy Calculation | 2026-27

Prior Year Tax Levy	<b>\$7,423,998</b>
Prior Year Adjusted Levy X Tax Base Growth Factor (1.0029)	\$7,445,528
Add Pilots Receivable in 2025-26	\$161,063
2025-2026 Local Capital Levy Share from Last Year's Tax Cap Calculator	\$497,742
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	\$7,108,849
Adjusted Tax Levy X Allowable Levy Growth Factor (2.00%)	\$7,251,026
Remove Pilots Receivable in 2026-27	\$174,752
<b>Tax Levy Limit</b>	<b>\$7,076,274</b>
<b>Add Current Year Exemptions:</b> 2026-27 Local Capital Levy Share	\$506,552
<b>Max. Allowable Tax Levy for 2026-2027</b>	<b>\$7,582,826</b>
<b>Allowable Increase in Dollars</b>	<b>\$158,828</b>
<b>Allowable Increase in %</b>	<b>2.14%</b>
<b>2026-2027 Proposed Levy</b>	<b>\$7,582,826</b>
<b>Actual Increase in Dollars</b>	<b>\$158,828</b>
<b>Actual Increase in %</b>	<b>2.14%</b>
<b>Difference Between Allowable and Actual</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Taxpayers will receive their STAR exemption because the 2.14% is within the maximum allowable tax levy for 2026-2027.**

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The 2026-2027 school expenditure plan focuses on the District mission, goals and vision: "From Potential to Purpose, A Foundation for Growth." It provides the avenue to align the District's spending with data-driven decisions and promotes each of the District's five goals: Climate, Culture, Fiscal Responsibility, Building Partnerships, and Growth and Achievement. The Board of Education is committed to maximize our resources to efficiently and innovatively meet the objectives of our academic programs that are central to our mission. The 2026-2027 spending plan provides safety, personal attention, positive relationships and a productive climate for learning, while remaining fiscally responsible to our community. These areas of focus are reflected in the expenditure budget proposal, including:

- Increased enrichment and wellness activities for staff and students at both the elementary and Jr./Sr. high school buildings.
- Maximizing grant, state and federal funds to support and offset local funds necessary for school programs.
- Expanding professional development opportunities through collaboration with neighboring school districts.
- Allocating a large portion of the District's expenditure dollars to focus on supporting educational programs for all students.
- Building a comprehensive approach to meeting the diverse needs of our students, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.
- 20% increase in family and community involvement and engagement.
- Presentation of technology and math at the NYSCATE Conference - "BeeBots"
- NYS Kids Compass team participation.
- Careful planning and strategic allocation of resources to enhance educational opportunities and support the holistic development of every learner.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES \*

There are three (3) 3-year vacancies (2026-2029) and one (1) 2-year vacancy (2026-2028) for the Board of Education:

*\*in order that they will appear on the ballot*



## Megan Mathis

**Years Resided in the School District:** 40 years

**Number of Children:** 2

**Education:**

- Oriskany Class of 2004, Salutatorian
- Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Utica College
- Master's Degree in Special Education from Grand Canyon University

**Professional Experience:** Financial Specialist at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, primary focus is customer service

**Civic and Community Activities:**

- Religious Education Teacher for Sacred Heart Parish in Rome, NY
- Volunteer at the Oriskany School as needed for the PreK class
- Children are active participants in sports outside of school
- President of Oriskany Hills Friday Night Golf League

**Why I would like to be considered:** As a lifelong resident of Oriskany and a parent of two children in the district, my interest is to advocate for the children. I would like the children to have access to a variety of educational opportunities and athletics, while staying fiscally responsible. With a strong background in customer service, I will listen to the different voices, whether it be students, parents, or faculty. Oriskany is a great community with an excellent educational system, and I will strive to keep it that way.



## Cassandra Gleason

I am a proud resident of Oriskany, where I have lived with my husband John for over 10 years with our children Nora (11) and Jack (7). With more than 18 years of experience in education - including 11 years as a school counselor - I bring a deep understanding of student needs, academic support systems, and the importance of strong school-community connections. My experience in education began at UCP's Tradewind Education Center where I gained extensive experience working with students with special needs and developed a strong foundation in special education. From there, I spent 9 years at Stockbridge Valley Central School as a K-12 School Counselor where I gained valuable experience working in a small, rural school district. At the start of this school year I began my current role as a High School Counselor at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District, where I continue to support students and families every day.

I hold a Master's degree in School Counseling from Seton Hall University, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and an Associate's degree in Human Services from Mohawk Valley Community College.

As a parent of two children, I am personally invested in the success and well-being of our school. Beyond the classroom, I have spent the past five years coaching Westmoreland Pop Warner cheer and am entering my third year coaching little league baseball. I believe it's important to give back to the community that supports my children and create positive opportunities for other children as well.

I am running for the Board of Education because I believe every child deserves a supportive, high-quality education and every family deserves a voice. With both professional experience and a personal stake in our schools, I am committed to making thoughtful, student-centered decisions that strengthen our district today and for years to come.



## Therese Hanna

I have been a resident of the Oriskany Central School District for over 60 years. I am an alumni of the 1972 Class. Married 50 years and have 2 children Gregory and Melissa who both graduated from Oriskany. My 3 grandsons: John, Devon and Elijah have also graduated from Oriskany. I've been blessed with one great grandson Xavier.

**Attended:** M.V.C.C., Maria College in Albany, N.Y. and Utica College. I have an Associate's in Physical Therapy and a Bachelor's in Therapeutic Recreation.

**Work experience:** Farmer, Dish Washer, Mental Hygiene Therapy Aide, Physical Therapy Assistant and Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Retired from Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center (Marcy and Utica State Hospital) after 39.9 years. I work occasionally at Masonic Home in Rehab.

**Civic and community activities:** First Aid, CPR and AED Certified, I help organize the Veteran's Day Assemblies, Oriskany Alumni Association, PTA, Oriskany Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Oriskany Legion Auxiliary Unit 1448, Oriskany Public Library, Oriskany Sports Boosters, Historical Society and Museum, Oneida County Legion Auxiliary - Committee on Education and Scholarship, Write an article for the Retirees of Oriskany quarterly, I present Student of the Month award monthly, I provide school tours when there is a class reunion in town. Presently, I'm on our Oriskany School Board and Facilities Committee and an alternate on the Safety Committee.

I would like to continue serving on the Oriskany School Board and on committees. Presently, we offer a lot to all of our students. But, I think we as a district can offer even more with shared services and stay financially aware. I support all our students in all their extracurricular activities and academics, Tech, Art, Drama Clubs and Athletics. Our Staff and Board are helping to make our students become positive and productive citizens in our communities. I'm hoping parents and grandparents attend activities and be a part of your children's learning.

You are all welcome to come to a Board of Education Meeting and share your thoughts. Meetings are listed on the schools web page. You have 5 minutes on any topic without using a student or staff name. Please come out to vote. Thank you, Therese (Pianella) Hanna.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES \*

There are three (3) 3-year vacancies (2026-2029) and one (1) 2-year vacancy (2026-2028) for the Board of Education:

*\*in order that they will appear on the ballot*



### Edmie Castillo Reyes

I have resided in Oriskany, within the Oriskany Central School District, for approximately one and a half years, having relocated to Oriskany in the fall of 2024. I am the parent of three children currently enrolled in the Oriskany School District, twins in 9th grade and youngest in 5th grade.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Accounting with a minor in Management Information Systems, as well as a Master of Business Administration. My academic background provides a strong foundation in financial analysis, budgeting, and organizational management directly applicable to board responsibilities. I have 23 years of professional experience in fiscal management, regulatory compliance, and policy administration. My career includes work with government budgets and operational oversight, equipping me to contribute meaningfully to the board's fiduciary responsibilities and policy decisions for students and taxpayers.

While I do not hold formal membership in local organizations, I am an active presence in the school community. I attend school events and activities, like basketball games, championship rallies, drama plays, etc. Some of these are events in which my children are not participating, because I believe that showing support for this community is what matters most. I am committed to supporting Oriskany students in every way I am able, and I view community engagement as a daily practice. Running for the Board of Education is the natural next step in that commitment.

My family has relocated multiple times, living in Japan and Indiana, before settling in Oriskany. Each move meant a new school, new neighbors, and the challenge of starting over. Of every place we have lived, this is the only community where our children never wanted to leave. From day one, they were welcomed warmly by students and families. That is the reason I am running.

I want to give back to the school and community that gave so much to my family. I will advocate for expanded opportunities for every student. I am also committed to strengthening student safety, including policies and digital literacy education to address the growing risks of social media and online environments.

I bring a fresh perspective, 23 years of financial and policy expertise, and a deep, chosen commitment to Oriskany. I recognize I am relatively new to this community but I am not here by chance. I am here by choice, and I am committed to serving it with the same dedication it has shown us.



### Jeff Kraeger

As a 40+ year resident and 1995 graduate of the Oriskany Central School District, I am proud to call this community my home. My family's roots here run deep—from my grandfather and parents to my older children, Colin and Kegan, we are all proud Oriskany alumni. Today, my wife Stacey, a Kindergarten teacher at the elementary school, and I are raising our children, Cohen (9th grade) and Kali (7th grade), right here in the village. Cohen plays football, basketball, and baseball for our school. He is also a member of the mathletics team and recently joined the science club. Kali plays soccer, basketball, and softball. She has also enjoyed cheering for the Westmoreland Pop Warner football teams.

For the past three years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Education, currently as Vice President. In addition to my leadership role, I am an active member of the Policy and Combined Sports committees. My commitment to our youth extends beyond the boardroom; I also serve as a board member for the Oriskany Little League and have coached youth sports for many years.

Professionally, I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from SUNY Polytechnic Institute and have spent the last 25 years at TRENTON Technology in Utica, where I serve as the Director of Information Technology. In this role, I manage the software, hardware, and documentation divisions. I believe this technical background combined with a common-sense approach is vital as we navigate a rapidly changing educational landscape.

My goal is to continue balancing the needs of our students, teachers, and staff while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. With your support, I hope to serve another term and ensure Oriskany remains a district where every student can succeed.



### Nicole Cardarelli

**Why would I be a beneficial addition to your school board?**

- **Elementary Educator:** experience teaching in grades: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, AIS Reading
- **Professor of future educators at SUNY Oneonta:** Science & Technology Methods
- **Community member:** volunteer when possible; currently Team Mom on 2 of my boys baseball teams
- **Parent:** Salvatore (11 yrs.), Dominick (9 yrs.), Anthony (6 yrs.)

**How would I be a beneficial addition to your school board?**

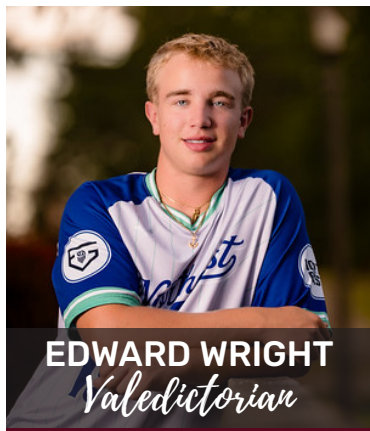
My husband and I were proud to build our forever home in Oriskany 7 years ago for the opportunity to raise our children in a close-knit, small-town community. As a parent of three young boys, I am actively involved in the district through their various activities, which has strengthened my connection to our schools and community.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to become more involved by serving on the school board. With 17 years of experience as an elementary educator, along with my recent role as an adjunct professor for SUNY Oneonta's elementary education program, I bring a strong foundation of educational knowledge and classroom experience. I believe I can offer valuable insight into areas such as technology integration, accommodations and supports for diverse learners, and current state-led initiatives impacting both students and staff.

I believe our town is what we make of it, and I am committed to doing my part to support our school district's continued growth. I am passionate about helping prepare our students for the future, supporting our dedicated staff, and strengthening communication and engagement throughout our community.

# Valedictorian and Salutatorian

*The Oriskany Central School District is proud to announce the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2026 valedictorian and salutatorian. Edward Wright has been named valedictorian and Jessica Beckwith has been named salutatorian.*



Edward is the son of Edward and Rene' Wright. He has received many accolades during his time at OCS, including the University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award, the Rochester Institute of Technology (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.

During his time at OCS, Edward has taken a rigorous course load including AP World History, AP English Literature and Composition, AP U.S. History, AP Physics, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus and several Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) dual-credit courses. He is also a member of the New Visions: Education program through the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES.

Edward has been involved in many extracurricular activities within the school community. He has been a member of band and Language Club, has served as vice president of Student Council in 11th and 12th grades, serves as president of the Varsity Club, and is co-president of National Honor Society. His volunteer work includes participating in community blood drives, Christmas in the Nettles, Oriskany Little League cleanup and Burton Basketball Academy.

During Edward's time at OCS, he has been a two-sport athlete. His basketball career included being a four-year starter, serving as captain during his junior and senior year, and being named Center State Conference All-Star in 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 five 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. During that period, Edward has also won three sectional titles, two regional titles and a 2025 Class D State Championship 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 Red Dragons baseball team.

Jessica Beckwith is the niece of Mary and George Marsh. During her time at OCS she has received multiple awards, including the RIT Humanities and Social Sciences Award, the Le Moyne College Heights Award and the Clarkson University High School Achievement Award. She has also taken AP World History and five MVCC dual-enrollment courses.

Jessica is also involved in many after-school activities, including serving as secretary of National Honor Society, vice president of Drama Club, vice president of Art Club and president of the senior class. She is also a member of Yearbook Club, Science Club and Elevating Student Voices.

Jessica also serves as the very first student member of the Oriskany Central School District Board of Education. She was also a member of the varsity cheerleading team for four seasons, while balancing a rigorous academic course load. During that period, she received the Cheerleading Sportsmanship and Most Improved Player awards. She has also earned the Scholar-Athlete Award three times.

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



*Congratulations to Edward and Jessica on these exceptional accomplishments, and best of luck in your future endeavors!*



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

**Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,**

It's amazing how quickly May has arrived! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful spring recess. With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, it truly feels like spring has settled in. We are now in the final marking period of the school year, and there are many exciting opportunities ahead for our students and school community. Our spring athletic season is in full swing, with students competing in golf, baseball, softball, outdoor track and field, and for the first time, flag football. We encourage families and community members to attend events and support our student-athletes throughout the season. We are also looking forward to several special events in the coming weeks, including the Jr./Sr. Prom and the senior class trip to Boston. These experiences are always highlights of the year and help create lasting memories for our students.

April kicked off our annual assessment season at the Jr./Sr. high school. The New York State English Language Arts Computer-Based Test for grades 7 and 8 took place on April 14-15, followed by the Mathematics Computer-Based Test on April 21-22. The Grade 8 Science Computer-Based Test was administered on April 29. Looking ahead, Advanced Placement Exams are scheduled from May 4 through May 12. In June, students will participate in the NYS Regents Examinations, as well as the World Language Checkpoint A and B Exams.

Looking ahead, the Jr./Sr. High School Spring Band and Chorus Concert will take place on May 14 at 7 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium. Be sure to save the date for our District Art and Technology Show on May 19 from 5-7 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. high school. This year, the showcase of student artwork has expanded to include even more pieces from kindergarten through 12th grade. The Jr./Sr. high school and elementary art teachers will also be recognizing student achievement by awarding prizes to the top five artworks from each school, and attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite pieces. The Technology Club will feature a 3D printing display, including student-created projects such as a full-scale Thor's hammer and Captain America's shield. These pieces will be part of an interactive photo booth where attendees can take pictures with the props. In addition, a variety of student work from our technology classes will be on display. The evening will also include the elementary spring concert at 7 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us for these celebrations of student talent and creativity.

As always, if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 315-768-2063. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**ORISKANY PROUD**

All my best,

**Andrew Kennedy**



**Tom Meiss**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**  
 tmeiss@oriskanycsd.org

**Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,**

N.A. Walbran Elementary has prioritized opportunities for community involvement throughout the school year. Our Community Game Night and 2 Miles of Smiles events have further enhanced the positive relationships between staff, students and families. This partnership is vital to the development and overall growth of our students.

PARP is an annual highlight of each school year. Mrs. DeFabio and Mrs. Amodio put a wonderful program together which provided many different opportunities for students to enjoy. The Kick-Off Event, Student Read-In Finale and Teacher Challenge were made possible by support from the elementary and high school students and staff working together to achieve common goals.

Please take a moment to reference some special upcoming events:

- **Tuesday, May 19:** Budget Vote, District Art and Technology Show, and Elementary Spring Music Concert
- **Wednesday, June 10:** Elementary PE Day
- **Thursday, June 11:** 6th Grade Trip to Niagara Falls
- **Thursday, June 18:** Pre-K Graduation
- **Wednesday, June 24:** 6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

As always, I would like to thank the community for their continued support of our school and programs. I am looking forward to all of the exciting events as we approach the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year!

Sincerely,

**Tom Meiss**

## FROM THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS &amp; SUPPORT SERVICES

**Dear Oriskany Central School Community,**

As we approach the close of another school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the work happening within our Special Programs Department and to share some of the exciting opportunities our students have experienced.

This year, our students participating in the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program have engaged in a variety of innovative, real-world learning experiences. Through a partnership with the Department of Labor, students utilized virtual reality (VR) technology to explore a wide range of career pathways, allowing them to "step into" different professions and better understand their interests and future possibilities.

In addition, students participated in the Financial Reality Fair at Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC). This hands-on experience challenged them to navigate real-life financial scenarios, including managing budgets, applying for loans and making informed decisions about banking and expenses. These opportunities are critical in helping our students build independence and confidence as they prepare for life beyond school.

Behind the scenes, our team has been working diligently to strengthen our systems and supports. A focus this year has been on increasing Medicaid reimbursement for the District while ensuring all procedures are accurate, compliant and up-to-date. This work helps us maximize available resources so we can continue to provide high-quality services to our students.

We have also collaborated closely with our Regional Partnership to provide targeted professional development for staff. These trainings have focused on enhancing our understanding and implementation of effective progress monitoring and intervention

strategies at both the elementary and secondary levels. Building staff capacity in these areas ensures that we are meeting student needs.

Together, we continue to build a program that supports growth, independence and success for all learners. Thank you for your continued support of our students and programs. We look forward to another year of progress and innovation.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Mucurio*



**Catherine Mucurio**

**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS +  
SUPPORT SERVICES**

[cmucurio@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:cmucurio@oriskanycsd.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS

**Dear Families and Community Members of Oriskany,**

As the winter season comes to a close, we reflect on the successful months we've had in Skyhawks Athletics. Our boys varsity basketball team reached the Sectional Class D final, though they fell short in their bid for victory. The girls basketball team advanced to the Class B semi-finals but was unable to progress further. In cheerleading, our winter cheer team secured second place at Sectionals, and Emma Zarek will proudly represent us at the State Indoor Track Meet. Unfortunately, the Juggler hockey team was eliminated during Sectionals.

This winter season was a notable success, thanks to the determination of our student-athletes, the dedication of our coaches, and the unwavering support from families and the community. Several players received All-Star honors: Jacob Bennett in hockey; Bryanna Manella and Deliah Chase in cheerleading; and girls basketball players Jackie Downs, who was named League MVP, along with Camryn LoRusso and Juliana Acee, who were recognized as All-Stars. On the boys basketball team, Eddie Wright earned MVP recognition and joined the 1,000-point club for Oriskany, with Dean Koenig and Daniel Kosakowski also receiving All-Star honors. Additionally, Marc Smith was named Coach of the Year.

We are proud to announce that the Lady Skyhawks varsity basketball team was recognized as the only Scholar-Athlete team for the winter season, achieving a GPA of 90% or higher to qualify.

Recently, the State Class D Baseball Championship team was honored by the New York State Senate and Assembly. Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon presented the team and coaches with a proclamation at the school.

As part of our commitment to community involvement, each sports season requires our teams to participate in a community service project. This winter, our JV and varsity teams from basketball, cheerleading, hockey and indoor track came together for the "More Than a Game: Hoops for Hospitals" initiative. The teams collected donations, worked at the concession stand, organized a bottle and can drive, and held a Chuck-a-Duck fundraiser to support the foundation. Together, they raised more than \$5,000 in just two nights, with proceeds benefiting local organizations such as the Golisano Children's Hospital and the Upstate Cancer Center.

Spring is here, and we will adapt to the weather to ensure that games are played. Our team will collaborate closely with the facilities team to ensure that the fields and playing surfaces are ready. Again this year, the varsity softball and baseball teams will participate in the Oneida County Stop DWI Classic on prom weekend. It sends a strong message to our student-athletes during this important weekend.

We are committed to enhancing the athletic experience for our student-athletes

by replacing worn-out uniforms, upgrading equipment, purchasing new training materials, and maintaining our facilities to keep them up-to-date. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our partners and supporters, including the Oriskany Sports Boosters, the Wadas Foundation, Oneida County, Accelerate Sports, Elevate sports complex and, of course, our families and community members of Oriskany. Your ongoing support allows us to sustain the success of our programs and enrich the experiences for our student-athletes.

As a Class D school district, we take pride in providing some of the best equipment, uniforms and facilities for our athletic programs. We are committed to continuous improvement with the assistance of our partners and community. Our goal is to stay current with the latest standards and enhance our equipment and facilities, ensuring our students thrive and that Oriskany pride remains strong.

Lastly, we want to send a special message to our seniors and their families as they prepare to graduate and embark on new journeys. Their dedication, commitment and impact as student-athletes in the Oriskany Skyhawks athletic programs will always be remembered. They have made significant contributions to the success of our athletic programs. Thank you for everything you have done to help us thrive, and we wish you the best in your future endeavors. Crafting this message becomes increasingly difficult each year; the relationships we've built make it bittersweet. I am proud to see them move on and grateful to have been part of their journey.

Thank you, as always, for your support of Oriskany Skyhawks Athletics.

Best Regards,

*Dave Buck*



**Dave Buck**

**DIRECTOR OF  
SKYHAWKS ATHLETICS**

**GIRLS VARSITY  
BASKETBALL COACH**

[dbuck@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:dbuck@oriskanycsd.org)

## Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Adds New Cafeteria Milk System

Students at the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School now have improved access to milk during lunch thanks to a new bulk milk machine installed in the cafeteria with support from New York State Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon.

The system was introduced in response to a statewide shortage of half-pint milk cartons, while also providing a more flexible and sustainable way for schools to serve milk. For Oriskany students, the addition means quicker access during lunch and a more reliable option in the cafeteria.

Buttenschon visited the school on March 13 to see the system in action, touring the cafeteria and speaking with students and staff about its impact.

The bulk milk machine allows the District to move away from relying solely on traditional cartons, reducing waste while ensuring students continue to have access to a nutritious beverage option each day.

The visit highlights ongoing collaboration between the Oriskany Central School District and state leaders to support student wellness and bring practical solutions to local schools.

The District extends its appreciation to Assemblywoman Buttenschon and district resident Terri DiNitto for their roles in helping make this addition possible for Oriskany students.



## ORISKANY STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO CTE HONOR SOCIETY

Several Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School students were recently inducted into the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Honor Society during a ceremony held by the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES CTE program on March 24.

Students inducted into the CTE Honor Society exemplify the highest level of commitment in their respective fields. During the ceremony, the honorees were recognized for maintaining excellent attendance and strong academic performance in both their specialized BOCES programs and in their home school districts.

The inductees from Oriskany include:

- Darien McGallian (Cosmetology I)
- Cameron Post (Advertising Design II)
- Alexis Roman (Early Childhood Education I)
- Brent Tinney (Outdoor Power and Recreational Equipment Technology I) *(Not pictured below.)*

Following the induction ceremony, a celebratory reception was held for students, their families and faculty.

Congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement!



# ELEMENTARY PARP PROGRAM IS A SWEET SUCCESS

N.A. Walbran Elementary School’s annual PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) program proved to be a tremendous success this year, thanks to the continued support of the PTA and the enthusiastic participation of students and families.

Centered around the theme “Sweeten Your Mind - Read Every Day,” the three-week initiative encouraged students not only to read regularly, but to build a lasting love of reading. The program kicked off with a cozy treat as students enjoyed hot cocoa while selecting a new book to dive into. Creativity was on full display during the bookmark contest, where one winner from each grade level earned the opportunity to have their design printed for their peers, along with a \$15 Barnes and Noble gift card.

Students also had fun participating in the popular Guess the Teacher contest, where students in grades 4-6 matched teachers with their favorite sweet treats. DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time was designate three times

throughout the program, and there were also themed days each Wednesday.

One of the highlights of PARP was the Read-In event, where approximately 70 students in grades 1-6 stayed after school to read together and celebrate their progress. Each participant received a coupon for a free ice cream treat from Stewart’s Shops.

The program concluded with a carnival-themed celebration on April 1, followed by a special teacher challenge that was earned by students for surpassing their collective goal of reading 1,000 hours.

With strong participation and plenty of memorable moments, this year’s PARP program was a sweet success. N.A. Walbran Elementary looks forward to continuing this tradition and inspiring even more young readers in the years to come!





IN MEMORY OF

# SARAH SMITH

Sarah Smith was a beloved art teacher at Oriskany for nearly 20 years. Sarah lost her courageous battle with breast cancer on March 12, 2026.

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

In May 2005, she joined the Oriskany Central School District as a long-term substitute teacher assistant, where she worked closely with special education teachers and supported students across both buildings. From the start, she showed a deep commitment to her students, adapting instruction to meet individual needs.

Over nearly 20 years at Oriskany, Sarah became a vibrant and dedicated member of the school community. She contributed to the school newsletter, Art and Technology Showcase, and numerous activities including yearbook, class advising, play directing, mentoring and summer programs. She also founded the Art Club and was recognized for her creativity and dedication, including her past work on the Junior Prom decorations.

Sarah was passionate about integrating art and writing, encouraging students to express themselves both visually and through written work. She chose Oriskany because it felt like home—and through her teaching and murals, she helped create that same sense of belonging for others.

From September 1, 2005, to February 21, 2025, Sarah made a lasting impact on her students, colleagues, and community. She will be remembered for her creativity, dedication, and the care she brought to everything she did.

*Sarah Strong!*





**ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1313 Utica Street  
Oriskany, NY 13424



**Please take the time to vote**  
on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, noon-8:00 p.m.  
at the Jr./Sr. High School Atrium.