

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Newsletter

www.oriskanycsd.org

Volume 10

1st Issue



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ORISKANY SKYHAWKS HOMECOMING WEEK

SPIRIT WEEK OCTOBER 5TH - 9TH : THEME DAYS TBD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

- PK-12 STUDENT PEP RALLY @ 1PM Jr./Sr. HIGH SCHOOL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

- COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPIRIT PARADE THROUGH THE VILLAGE @ 5:15PM (Parade starts at Firehall to NA Walbran)
- CLASS AND CLUB GAMES AND ACTIVITIES AT BERNIE BLOCK STADIUM 5:30-6:45PM
- SKYHAWK BONFIRE @ 7PM AT N.A. WALBRAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

- HOMECOMING DANCE 7-10pm @Jr./Sr. HIGH SCHOOL



Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

We are officially one month into the 2026–2027 school year, and it has been an exciting and successful start at the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School! We hope everyone had a restful and rejuvenating summer and has settled into the new school year with enthusiasm and a positive mindset.

Our commitment this year remains focused on providing a safe, supportive, and academically challenging environment where every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. From the classroom to athletics, the arts, clubs, and other extracurricular activities, we are proud of the many opportunities available for students to discover their interests, develop their talents, and reach their fullest potential.

As we move into October, we are looking forward to celebrating one of our favorite school traditions, Homecoming Week! Spirit Week will take place October 5–9, with theme days to be announced. We encourage our students and staff to show their Skyhawk spirit and enjoy the activities planned throughout the week.

Homecoming Week Highlights

Thursday, October 8

- PK–12 Student Pep Rally at 1:00 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School

Friday, October 9 — Families & Community Welcome!

- Community School Spirit Parade through the village at 5:15 p.m.
- Class & Club Games and Activities at Bernie Block Stadium from 5:30–6:45 p.m.
- Skyhawk Bonfire at 7:00 p.m. at N.A. Walbran

Saturday, October 10

- Homecoming Dance from 7:00–10:00 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School

Families and community members are invited to join us for Friday evening's Homecoming festivities as we come together to celebrate our students, our school, and our Skyhawk spirit!

As always, open communication is an important part of our school community. If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or would simply like to share something positive happening at school, please do not hesitate to reach out. My door is always open, and I value the opportunity to work together with our students, families, staff, and community.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our school. Let's continue working together to make the 2026–2027 school year a year of learning, growth, school spirit, and achievement!

Oriskany Proud

Sincerely,

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



October Happenings

October:

- 1st- Yearbook Sale Begins
- 3rd- SAT
- 6th- MVCA College Night
- 8th- Progress Reports Mailed
- 9th- Superintendent Conference Day= No School
- 12th- Columbus Day= No School
- 13th- BOE Meeting @ 6pm
- 17th- ACT
- 22nd- PSAT
- 31st- HALLOWEEN!!



jostensyearbooks.com

Did You Know...

October

- 1st- National Homemade Cookies Day
- 2nd- National Custodian Day
- 4th- World Smile Day
- 6th- Mad Hatter Day
- 14th- National Dessert Day
- 15th- National I Love Lucy Day
- 17th- National Pasta Day
- 21st- National Apple Day
- 27th- Black Cat Day



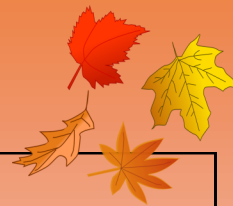
October Happenings

ATTENTION!!!

The 9th grade class will be hosting their annual Brooks BBQ on October 28th. Tickets will go on sale October 9th. Tickets will be available at the Homecoming Fall Event and will remain available in the main office during regular school hours. Thank you for your support!!



Counseling and Career Services News...



JUNIORS take the PSAT/NMSQT

11th graders will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT), which will be administered on October 22, 2026. The benefits of taking the PSAT include the following:

1. It provides practice for taking the S.A.T., which most juniors will take for the first time in the Spring 2027.
2. Students can predict their S.A.T. scores from the PSAT/NMSQT scores. This information will be helpful this year as students explore colleges and consider the admission requirements of particular schools.
3. Students may choose to participate in a service that will forward their names to various colleges that are seeking students like them. Then they will receive information from these colleges.
4. Students are automatically entered in scholarship competitions by taking the PSAT/NMSQT.
5. Scores on the PSAT will indicate if students have the reading and math skills they need for college.

As stated earlier, the PSAT will help prepare for the SAT which the Juniors should take in the Spring. If you do not perform as well as you would have liked to in the Spring, you will have the opportunity to take the SAT over again in the Fall. Information regarding upcoming test dates can be found online at www.collegeboard.com.



Selective Service Registration

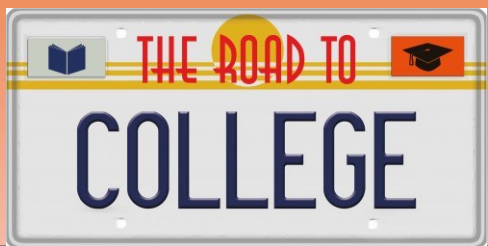
May I have your attention please!!! I have an important announcement for all 17 – and – 18 year-old males. If you are within 30 days of your 18th birthday, federal law requires you to register with Selective Service.

Registering with Selective Service allows you to receive federal student loans for college, participate in federal job training programs, and have the opportunity to work in the federal government. If you do not register with Selective Service, you will lose out on these things and more.

Registering with Selective Service is simple and easy. Registering with Selective Service within 30 days of your 18th birthday is the law! Just fill out and return the registration card you receive in the mail or go to the post office down the street and fill out a form there. Even better, save a stamp. Save time. Register on-line. Use the internet to register at: www.sss.gov.



Counseling and Career Services News...



College Night



The 49th annual Mohawk Counselor's Association College Night is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at MVCC Utica Campus.

There will be close to 80 colleges attending. Students do not need to pre-register for the event. Information can be found at www.mvcany.org.



UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS



October 7th- Utica University @ 10:30am
October 8th- SUNY Brockport @ 11:15am
October 9th- SUNY Potsdam @ 9:00am
October 15th- HCCC @ 11:00am
 SUNY Canton @ 12:00pm
October 23rd- St. John Fisher @ 11:45am



Updates will go out as more colleges schedule visits.





 Beginning **Monday, October 19th**, and ending **Monday, November 2nd**, students can apply to up to five SUNY campuses with no application fee. This includes all campuses, no matter which application vehicle the student uses. The SUNY 2026 application is expected to be available beginning August 1st.



Please remember that students can submit their application during the free application week period, but supplemental materials such as transcripts and letters of recommendation may be submitted after November 2nd.

Our virtual presentations, including how to apply to SUNY and financial aid information sessions are in full swing this summer and we will add many more events this fall. All student programming can be found at suny.edu/studentevents.

Thank you for your support!



UTICA

UNIVERSITY

FALL EVENTS

17
October

Open House

Experience Utica for yourself! Explore campus, meet faculty and current students, learn about academics and student life, and discover what it means to be a Pioneer.

📍 Utica University ⌚ 9:00AM-2:00PM



21
October

Mohawk Valley U-Nite

An evening for local students and families to experience Utica University, connect with faculty and current students, enjoy a BBQ dinner, and discover the opportunities waiting right here in the Mohawk Valley.

📍 Utica University ⌚ 5:00PM-7:00PM



11
November

Open House

Experience Utica for yourself! Explore campus, meet faculty and current students, learn about academics and student life, and discover what it means to be a Pioneer.

📍 Utica University ⌚ 1:00PM-5:00PM





News From the Office of Counseling and Career Services...



How to Apply for Federal Student Financial Aid

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

Before You Apply

Get Your StudentAid.gov account.

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

Check your eligibility

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

Complete the FAFSA

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

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

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

Gather These Materials

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

What's Next?

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

Important Reminders

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



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News From the Office of Counseling and Career Services...



How to Apply for TAP and Other NYS Student Financial Aid

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

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

TAP

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

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

To be Eligible for TAP You Must

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

Award Amount

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

How to Apply

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

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

Excelsior Scholarship

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

To be Eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship You Must

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

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

How to Apply

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

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



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Services Corporation



News From the Office of Counseling and Career Services...



Enhanced Tuition Awards

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

To be Eligible for Enhanced Tuition Awards You Must

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

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

Award Amount

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

How to Apply

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

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

STEM Scholarship

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

To be Eligible for the STEM Scholarship You Must

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

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

Award Amount

- Up to the annual SUNY resident undergraduate tuition rate.

How to Apply

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

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

After Applying, What's Next?

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



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News From the Office of Counseling and Career Services...

u·aspire

NEW YORK FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

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

PREPARE

SEPTEMBER

☐ **Make college list**

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

☐ **Create FSA ID**

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

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

APPLY

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

☐ **Submit FAFSA
or NYS DREAM
Act Application**

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

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

☐ **Submit CSS
Profile**

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

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



News From the Office of Counseling and Career Services...

☐ Submit NYS TAP Application

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

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

FOLLOW UP

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

☐ Review FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

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

☐ Complete verification

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

- See our [Verification Handout](#)

DECIDE

MARCH – MAY

☐ Review financial aid offers

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

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

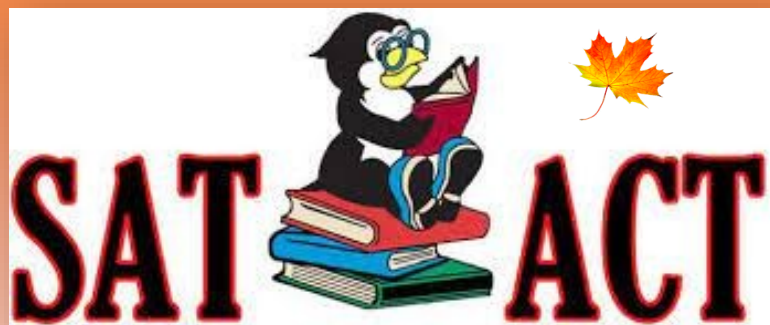
☐ Pay tuition deposit

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

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



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



SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
November 7, 2026	October 23, 2026	October 27, 2026
December 5, 2026	November 20, 2026	November 24, 2026
March 6, 2027	February 19, 2027	February 23, 2027
May 1, 2027	April 16, 2027	April 20, 2027
June 5, 2027	May 21, 2027	May 25, 2027

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
December 12, 2026	November 6, 2026	November 29, 2026
February 27, 2027	January 22, 2027	February 9, 2027
April 10, 2027	March 5, 2027	March 23, 2027
June 12, 2027	May 7, 2027	May 25, 2027



Student SPOTLIGHT



AP Scholar Awards

Every fall, the AP Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple AP Exams.

AP Scholar Awards come in different levels and types. See the criteria below:

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

The following Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School Students (12th graders) and students from the Class of 2025 have been named AP Scholars:

Seniors

Charles Golden- AP Scholar

Adilyn Jamieson-Rothdeiner- AP Scholar

Ashley Zyskowski- AP Scholar with Honors

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Student SPOTLIGHT



Class of 2026

Alexia Birt– AP Scholar

Corinne Looney– AP Scholar

Jayson Mayo– AP Scholar

Braelyn– AP Scholar

Edward Wright– AP Scholar with Honors



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Goal Setting In Health Classes



The students in Mrs. Cortese's Health Classes started the year setting goals for themselves. The Goal Jars help students connect daily habits with long-term well-being. Looking across the wall, their targets focus on three main areas:

Academic Growth: Improving study habits, earning target grades, and mastering new skills.

Health & Athletics: Staying active, excelling in sports like soccer and basketball, and building strength.

Personal Wellness: Cultivating positive friendships, practicing mindfulness, and keeping a positive mindset.

By placing their jars in the hallway students are holding themselves accountable while creating a supportive environment where everyone's progress is visible and celebrated.



7th Grade Writers Receive Awards



Last year, 4th-6th graders had the opportunity to write and then edit and fine-tune a mini sagas to be entered into a contest to have their story included in a book that's being published nationally. A mini saga is a short story (100 words or less) that is not real, ridiculous & funny. These 7th grade students were writers and editors for the elementary building newsletter last year, and on top of their responsibilities with the newsletter, they also took on the additional work of writing these 100-word silly stories. They edited on their own time, and those who finished their editing by the deadline were sent in for the contest. The winners were just selected and these 5 students who had submitted were accepted for publication in the book! Congratulations!!!





WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS

It can be hard to know when to send children to school if they tell you that they do not feel well. Usually, the best place for them is in school, but there are some times when keeping them home to rest or calling for an appointment with your health care provider is recommended.

- **Please keep your child home and/or contact your child's doctor for:**
- Fever greater than 100.4° (taken by mouth)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severe sore throat along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, or after exposure to Strep throat infection
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts
- Large amounts of mucous (liquid) from their nose, with face pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or fluid coming from the ear
- Severe headache, especially with fever

If your child has a fever, it is not a good idea to give them medicine like Tylenol or Advil and send them to school because as soon as the medicine wears off, the fever may return and you will be called to come and pick up your child.

Please keep children home for 24 hours after the fever ends or they have completed 24 hours of medication if prescribed by your healthcare provider.

If you find your child is frequently asking to stay home from school, if they are falling behind or appear anxious about school, or if there does not appear to be any physical symptoms, contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns.

Remind children to throw away used tissues, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands often with soap and warm water will help keep everyone healthier.

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Flu season is officially here!!

Here are some ways to help prevent getting the flu:

- ◆ Get the flu shot, It is recommended for ages 6 months and older
- If you have an existing medical condition such as asthma or diabetes (or other type of medical condition) getting the flu shot might help lessen your symptoms if you or your child ever did become sick.
- ◆ Get plenty of sleep,
- ◆ Wash your hands with warm water and soap, regularly and well. Say the entire alphabet while you are washing, about 20 seconds. When finished with the alphabet, you are finished washing.
- ◆ Cough/sneeze into your elbow or into tissues. Do not use your hands. Throw your used tissues out and wash your hands.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ◆ If possible, limit contact with those around you who are sick.
- ◆

If your child does become sick:

- ◆ Please stay home if you are sick!! Please don't share your germs.
- ◆ Make sure you contact the school nurse the morning of your child's illness, stating that you are keeping your child home due to illness before 8am.
- ◆ Please let the school nurse know if your child has been diagnosed with the flu (and what type) by their medical provider.
- ◆ If your child has a temperature above 100.4, please keep your child home. Your child has to be fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of medications to return to school.
- ◆ If your child is out sick for 3 or more days, please obtain a doctor's note for him/her to return to school.
- ◆ Have your child get plenty of REST and drink plenty of FLUIDS. Clear liquids are preferred: chicken broth, ginger ale, water to name a few. They are not as harsh on your stomach and a bit more tolerable for digestion.
- ◆ If your child has an existing medical condition such as asthma, diabetes, or other medical condition, contact their medical provider. Their medical provider might direct you to a more beneficial type of treatment or a visit to their office for an evaluation.

If your child's physician places your child on medication and they are to receive it during school hours, the child's parent/guardian MUST bring in the medication, signed physician orders with the following information: child's name, medication name, medication time to be taken, medication route and medication dose. Please do not have your child deliver this information/medication to the nurse.

The parent/guardian MUST sign the above doctor's order giving consent allowing the school medical person to administer your child's medication.

Please do not send your child into school with cough drops or other cold/flu/allergy/pain medication. If they have a cough, please provide them candy to suck on throughout the day.

If cough drops or any other medication are discovered without a doctor's order, the medication will be removed from the child, locked in the nurse's office, school administration and the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Stay healthy!!!!

Thank you for you time and understanding,

Wendy Divine RN



October is...

Bat Appreciation Month

Halloween Safety Month

National Caramel Month

National Popcorn Poppin' Month

National Roller Skating Month

Pizza Month

Positive Attitude Month

National Fire Prevention Month

National Apple Month

Have a happy and safe Halloween!!