Shared History | Food Drive | Athletics | Permanent School Fund on the Ballot | School Board Update



Welcome from the Superintendent
Dr. Kristine Flesher

October 20, 2026

Dear Orono Families and Staff,

One of the defining strengths of our school community is the deep connection between our past, present, and future. This fall was extraordinary as we prepared for Homecoming and opened our 1951 time capsule! Joined by descendants of our first School Board, legacy alumni, and community leaders, we were thrilled to open the box and reflect on our shared history. As we looked through the documents and photos preserved for 75 years in a handmade copper box, we felt a tangible connection to those who came before us. The time capsule served as a powerful reminder that our schools have always been shaped by a commitment to community, excellence, and dedicated student support. Please read on to learn more!

That same spirit of community extends to our present work. From October 26 to November 2, Orono Youth in Action is hosting its annual **"We Scare Hunger"** food drive. Collection boxes will be available in all school buildings, including the Discovery Center in Maple Plain. Through this effort, we care for each other and create a meaningful difference for local families. All items will be donated to WeCAN, IOCP, and the Spartan Basic Needs closets.

By honoring our history, celebrating our traditions, and caring for our neighbors, we live out the core values of connection and caring. Thank you for helping us bring these values to life every day.

With appreciation,
Kristine Flesher, Ed.D., Superintendent



A Tradition of Excellence: The Early Years of Orono Public Schools

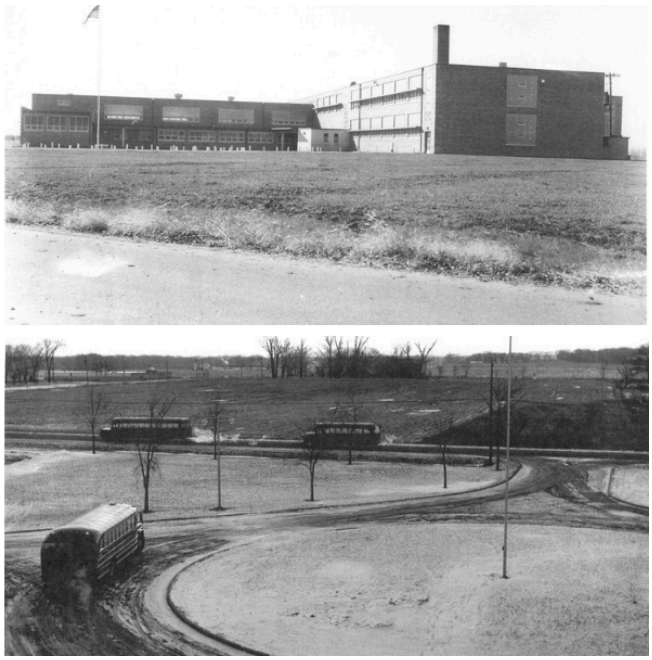
From the very beginning, **excellence in education was central to Orono's vision**. Documents preserved in the district's 1951 time capsule, together with local news accounts, offer a remarkable glimpse into the priorities and aspirations that guided the district in its formative years. These records reveal that Orono's commitment to challenging, preparatory curriculum was not a recent development, but an important part of Orono's educational identity from the start. We invite you to dig into a little history with us!

- View the video, below, that captured the opening of the time capsule and alumni reflections
- Visit the **History webpage** that includes photos and scanned documents from the time capsule
- Share photos and memories! Email Communications@orono.k12.mn.us. We plan to share our history all year long through social media
- Visit a local treasure, the Pioneer Museum, open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission! 1953 West Wayzata Blvd., Long Lake
- View the October 12 School Board presentation on our early district history



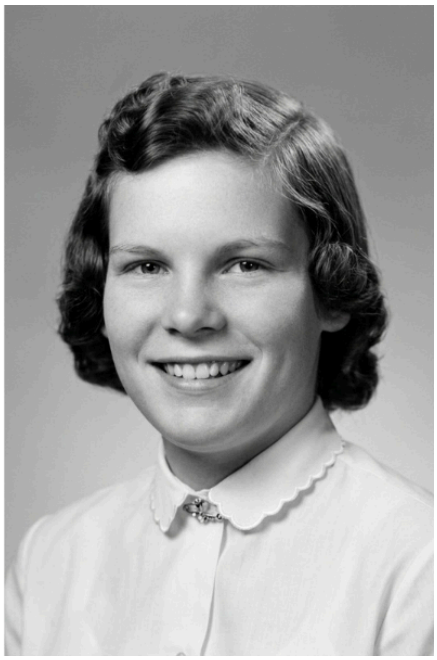
Thank you to the community members who joined us at the opening and helped us reconnect with the people, places, and stories that shaped our school community: Dr. Kristine Flesher, Superintendent; Dr. Karen Orcutt, Former Superintendent; Dean Mooney, Class of 1964; Kim Crosby Snow, Class of 1990; David Crosby; Wendy Lundsgaard, current school board member; Bobbi Hamilton McCoy, Class of 1970; Marvin Johnson, Class of 1953; Robert Gasch, Class of 1968; and Dave McKown, Class of 1955.





District leaders and community members lay the time capsule under the cornerstone on May 6, 1951. This first campus building, now Orono Intermediate School, opened as a junior-senior high school serving grades 7-12. At right, buses leave the new school on the circular driveway still in use today.





The Orono School Board as pictured in the first Orion yearbook, spring 1952. At right, Ms. Janet Anderson won the district naming contest as a rising ninth-grader. Learn more on the History webpage!



Fall Athletics Update

Many of our fall teams are heading into the post-season. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches on their hard work and perseverance. Please visit the Activities & Athletics webpage for more information.

Cross Country Boys & girls are competing at Hyland Greens this afternoon. Go, Spartans!

Football rolls past Delano 42-0 to remain unbeaten and improve to 7-0 on the season. Our No. 1 state-ranked Spartans close out the regular season Wednesday, October 21, at Providence.

Boys Soccer powers past Princeton to advance to the Section Championship! Spartans will host No. 2 seed Delano on Wednesday, October 21, at 7:00 PM at Pesonen Stadium.

Girls Soccer wins a thriller over Benilde-St. Margaret's in an eight-round shootout to advance to the Section Championship! Spartans scored with just three minutes left in regulation to tie the game 1-1 before eventually coming out on top in the shootout. Orono will travel to No. 1 seed Blake on Wednesday, October 21, for the Section Championship match.

Girls Swim & Dive Audrey Crawford set a new school record in the 100 Freestyle at True Team State, finishing with a time of 52.17. Congratulations, Audrey!

Girls Tennis

Team: Girls Tennis won the 2026 Metro West Conference Championship after going unbeaten in conference play. The girls fell 4-3 to Delano in the Section 5AA Championship to finish as section runners-up. Congratulations to our Spartans on another incredible team portion of the season. We are proud of all you accomplished!

Doubles: *Congratulations* to Mollie Hollerman and Bluma Molitor on qualifying for the Girls Tennis State Tournament in doubles competition after earning the Section 5AA Doubles Championship!

Girls Volleyball is now 12-10 on the season. The girls play away tonight vs. Big Lake. Best of luck!

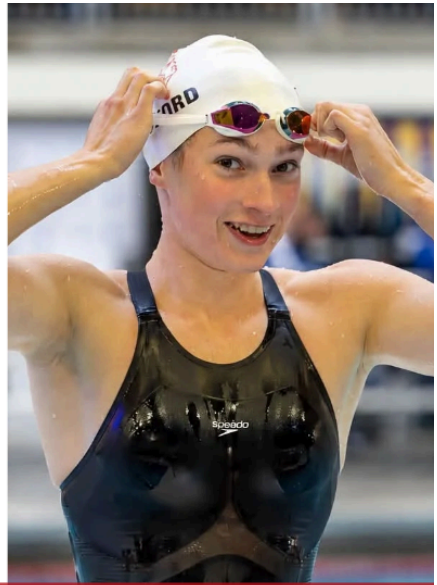
WINTER sports information meetings are scheduled. Please review the schedule online and join us!



First Place @ Litchfield



Undefeated!



Crawford: Record in the 100 Free



Girls Tennis: Section 5AA Runner-up



Section Doubles Champions!







Election Resources

School Board Election Candidates | Learn More

Permanent School Fund | Minnesota Constitutional Amendment | Learn More

Orono School Board Highlights

October 12, 2026 Regular Meeting | Agenda

- Superintendent's Report on Excellence | Watch the Presentation
- Board Members' Questions and Comments | Watch the Presentation
- District History – The Orono Jr.-Sr. High School 1951 Time Capsule | Watch the Presentation

September 28, 2026 Regular Meeting | Agenda

- Superintendent's Report on Excellence | Watch the Presentation
- Board Members' Questions and Comments | Watch the Presentation
- Minnesota Permanent School Fund | Watch the Presentation
- Preliminary Year-End Financial Report | Watch the Presentation
- Preliminary Levy Certification | Watch the Presentation

The next meeting of the Orono School Board is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the District Office Assembly Room. A Coffee & Conversation Session will precede the Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. No advance reservation is required.

District Calendars

Please see the Calendars webpage for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 academic calendars.