ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 2026

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Gregory Cuthbertson

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Catherine Mucurio

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
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Board Of Education

Jeffrey Kraeger President
Michelle Anderson Vice President
Louis Ciotti
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Therese Hanna
Megan Mathis
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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
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BEST HIGH SCHOOLS U.S.News & WORLD REPORT SILVER

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PROPOSED *Capital Project*

Dear Oriskany CSD Community Members, Families and Friends,

As Superintendent of Schools, I am privileged every day to witness the incredible achievements of our students and the dedicated work of our educators. Our community has built a strong foundation of educational excellence, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our school environment continues to support, inspire and protect the next generation.

To maintain this standard and prepare our facilities for the future, our Oriskany Central School District will present a Capital Project Referendum to voters on **Tuesday, December 8, 2026**. I am writing to share why this project is essential and how your support can make a lasting impact on our community.



Gregory Cuthbertson
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org
315.768.2058

Why Now? Understanding Our Facilities' Needs

Over the past year, our facility planning committee—composed of Board of Education members, school staff, community leaders and architectural experts—conducted a comprehensive review of all district buildings. While our staff does an outstanding job maintaining our facilities, many of our key infrastructure elements, safety features and learning spaces are reaching the end of their functional lifespan.

This referendum addresses three critical pillars:

1. **Safety & Security Enhancements**
   The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Proposed improvements include upgraded secure entrance vestibules at both buildings and improvements to our parking lots and drop-off zones across our campuses. New digital signage outside each school building will also enhance campus safety, streamline emergency communications and keep our parents and community informed with real-time district updates.
2. **Essential Infrastructure & Maintenance**
   Just like a home, school buildings require periodic investment to prevent major, costly repairs down the road. This Capital Project will address long-overdue roof replacements at both buildings, renovation of our old elementary kitchen, energy-efficient HVAC upgrades including air conditioning of some of our larger spaces at the Jr./Sr. High School, and updated electrical infrastructure at N.A. Walbran.
3. **Modernized Learning Environments**
   Educational needs have evolved significantly over recent decades. The proposed plan includes updating classrooms to foster hands-on learning, collaboration and 21st-century learning skills. We are planning to replace old flooring and outdated chalkboards to refresh our classrooms at both buildings.

Fiscal Responsibility & No Additional Tax Impact

We understand and deeply respect the financial investment our taxpayers make in our public school system. Our Board of Education and administrative team have worked tirelessly to structure this proposal responsibly. By strategically timing the vote to coincide with the retirement of existing district debt, NYS Building Aid and the use of Capital Reserve Funds, we are able to offer this project with **no additional tax impact on local property owners.**

I invite you to attend the public information session and presentation on Monday, November 30, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School auditorium. There is additional information, related documents and updates on the district website at **oriskanycsd.org/our-district/capital-project**. In addition, please feel free to contact me at the District Office at 315-768-2058 if you have any questions related to the project.

Thank you for your continued partnership, dedication and support of the Oriskany Central School District. Please remember to cast your vote and make your voice heard on Tuesday, December 8!

Respectfully,
Gregory Cuthbertson | Superintendent

PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 30 | 6:00 PM
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

PROJECT VOTE
DECEMBER 8 | 12-8 PM
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL REAR ATRIUM

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CAPITAL PROJECT *Details*

CAPITAL PROJECT PRELIMINARY TIMELINE

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL SESSION
NOVEMBER 30

REFERENDUM VOTE
DECEMBER 8

DESIGN PHASE
JANUARY 4 - JUNE 1

NEW YORK STATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL
JUNE 7 - AUGUST 31

BID AND AWARD
SEPTEMBER 7 - OCTOBER 12

CONSTRUCTION
NOVEMBER 1, 2027 - OCTOBER 31, 2028

2026 | **2027** | **2028**

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

TOTAL COST: $12,850,000 | **AID:** 82.4%

INCREASE TO TAX LEVY: NONE.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT HAS NO ANTICIPATED TAXPAYER IMPACT THROUGH THE USE OF RETIRED DEBT, BUILDING AID AND CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS.

No additional impact on local taxes!

There are two main reasons why the proposed capital project is expected to have no additional tax impact on local taxes.

State Building Aid: New York State reimburses local school districts for their costs on capital construction projects. For this project, an estimated 82.4% of the approved cost would be paid for with New York State building aid.

Strategic Debt Service Payments: The District will be able to eliminate additional local taxes by replacing existing debt service payment that will be retiring as of 2027 with new debt service payments that are associated with this proposed capital project.

The Numbers: A Responsible Financial Plan

The proposed capital project is currently planned at $12.85 million. The District will use $1.5 million from its Capital Reserve, along with State Building Aid and strategic management of our bonded debt and Debt Service Fund, to structure the project with a net-zero increase to the local levy attributable to the project.

By coordinating new Capital Investments with the retirement of existing debt and changes in State Building Aid, the District can address facility needs while maintain a stable local tax impact.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TOTAL PROJECT COST
$12,850,000

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND
$1,500,000

CONSTRUCTION BONDS
$11,350,000



N.A. Walbran Elementary

Potential Projects

- **Hallway and Interior Renovations:** Upgrades to corridors and other interior spaces, including finishes and associated building improvements.
- **HVAC and Ventilation Improvements:** Replacement or improvement of aging mechanical systems and ventilation in identified priority areas.
- **Cooling Improvements:** Expansion of air conditioning/cooling where included in the final project design.
- **Electrical System Upgrades:** Improvements to electrical infrastructure needed to support building systems and renovated spaces.
- **Asbestos Abatement:** Removal or remediation of asbestos-containing materials where necessary to complete planned renovation work.



Replacement of Circa 1960s Electrical Service at N.A. Walbran Elementary



Kitchen Renovation at N.A. Walbran Elementary



Roof Replacement at Jr./Sr. High and N.A. Walbran Elementary



N.A. Walbran Elementary Corridor Upgrades: Ceiling Replacement, Student Lockers and Wall Finish

- **Building Preservation Work:** Improvements addressing aging materials and other conditions identified through facilities planning.
- **Kitchen and Food Service Renovations:** Improvements to the elementary kitchen and related food service/support areas.
- **Site Drainage Improvements:** Correction of identified drainage conditions around the building and site.
- **Paving and Exterior Site Improvements:** Repair or replacement of deteriorated paved areas and related exterior improvements.

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School

Potential Projects

- **Classroom Renovations:** Improvements to identified classrooms and instructional spaces, including interior finishes and associated building systems.
- **HVAC and Ventilation Improvements:** Upgrades to aging mechanical systems and ventilation in priority areas.
- **Auditorium and Gymnasium Air Conditioning:** Provide cooling to the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium and gymnasium.
- **Building Preservation and Exterior Improvements:** Address aging building materials and other exterior conditions identified through facilities planning.
- **Asbestos Abatement:** Removal or remediation of asbestos-containing materials associated with renovation work.



Replace Classroom Chalkboards with Markerboards at Jr./Sr. High and N.A. Walbran Elementary



Replacement of Exterior Signs



Paving Improvements at Jr./Sr. High School



Entrance Bridge Restoration at Jr./Sr. High School

- **Bathroom Renovations:** Renovation of a boys bathroom and two faculty/single occupancy bathrooms to be made handicap accessible.
- **Jr./Sr. High School Bridge Repair:** Repair and preservation of the bridge structure to address its condition and support continued safe access and long-term use.
- **Bus Loop Reconstruction:** Reconstruction and restoration of the bus loop and sidewalks to improve transportation flow and site functionality.
- **Site Circulation Improvements:** Improvements to vehicle and pedestrian movement in conjunction with the bus loop work.
- **Drainage Improvements:** Address identified drainage concerns on the Jr./Sr. High School site.
- **Paving Improvements:** Repair or replacement of deteriorated pavement in identified areas.
- **Relocation of the District Office:** Relocate the district office to the Jr./Sr. High School due to a deteriorating facility without State Aid.

ORISKANY SCHOOLS WELCOME STUDENTS,FAMILIES WITH

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS









N.A. Walbran Elementary School and Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School kicked off the start of the 2026-27 school year by welcoming students and their families to several back-to-school events intended to prepare families for the year ahead and familiarize students with their new routines.

Pre-K and kindergarten students and their families attended the annual Meet the Teacher and Bus Ride on Aug. 31. Students had the opportunity to meet their teachers, visit their classrooms and take a practice bus ride. It was a great way to help Oriskany's youngest students get acclimated before the start of the school year.

On Sept. 1, a Grades 1-4 Back-to-School Night was held at the elementary school and a Back-to-School Night was held at the Jr./Sr. high school. At N.A. Walbran, families were able to tour classrooms, connect with teachers, learn about classroom expectations and learn about the students' routines.

At the Jr./Sr. high, the evening began with several grade-level events. Seventh grade students and their families participated in an orientation where they learned more about the transition to the Jr./Sr. high school and what to expect during their first year. Students also received their district-issued Chromebooks and participated in a Chromebook orientation.

Ninth grade students and families attended an orientation focused on helping students successfully transition into high school, and senior families participated in a senior class meeting where they received important information to prepare students for their final year at Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School.

Students in grades 8-12 and their families were also able to pick up students' schedules, and the evening concluded with an open house that gave families the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and learn more about the programs and opportunities available to students.

The back-to-school events concluded with a Grades 5-6 Curriculum Night on Sept. 9, where families had the opportunity to meet the core disciplinary teachers whose classes students attend for ELA, math, science and social studies. They also learned more about the students' day-to-day routines, classroom protocols, general curriculum and grading information.

The events were a great way to kick off the new school year and prepare Oriskany students and families for all of the exciting things to come in 2026-27!

ORISKANY STUDENTS

Return for New School Year

The halls of N.A. Walbran Elementary and Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School were once again filled with excitement as students returned for the first day of the 2026-27 school year on Sept. 3.

Faculty and staff throughout the Oriskany Central School District were thrilled to welcome students back for a new school year. The halls and classrooms quickly came to life as students reconnected with classmates, got acquainted with new teachers and classes and settled into their routines.

Here's to another great year of learning, growth and new opportunities in the Oriskany CSD!









ORISKANY CSD CELEBRATES

SCHOOL SPIRIT AT PEP RALLY

The Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium was filled with laughter, comradery and school spirit at the districtwide student pep rally held on Oct. 8. The rally brought students in grades pre-K-12 and staff together for a fun celebration of school spirit and a celebration of the District's student-athletes. Westmoreland athletes who compete in combined Westmoreland-Oriskany teams were also invited to attend.

Elementary students participated in a variety of grade-level games, including color sorting for pre-K and kindergarten; a cotton ball pickup challenge for grades 1-2; a balloon punt, pass and kick game for grades 3-4; and dizzy mummy for grades 5-6.

Jr./Sr. High School students participated in games such as ships and sailors, mat surfing, a stocking on the head relay, the cup game and giant box stacking for senior athletes.

The pep rally also served as the culmination of the Color Wars competition, with each grade proudly representing their assigned color. After a week of friendly competition, the junior class was named the Color Wars champion.

The student pep rally was a great opportunity to celebrate teamwork, school spirit and what it means to be Skyhawk proud!









ORISKANY JR./SR. HIGH

Ranked No. 2 High School in Utica Area

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School has been named the No. 2 high school in the Utica area for 2026-27, according to U.S. News and World Report.

High schools were scored and ranked based upon college readiness, state assessment proficiency, state assessment performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rate. According to U.S. News and World Report, Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School has a 96% mathematics proficiency, 89% reading proficiency, 88% science proficiency and an impressive 100% graduation rate.

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School is also in the top 11% of high schools in New York State with a rank of 143 out of 1,383 schools.

This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication and excellence of both Oriskany students and staff. Congratulations to all whose efforts made this honor possible!





HOMECOMING WEEK ENDS IN
FALL FESTIVITIES AT BERNIE BLOCK FIELD

Homecoming Week in the Oriskany Central School District culminated in a celebratory parade, fall activities and a bonfire for the school community on Oct. 9.

The parade kicked off at the Oriskany Fire Department and made its way through the village, ending at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. Student-athletes and other student groups walked in the parade and rode in various vehicles, with local first responders leading the way.

At Bernie Block Field, classes and school clubs hosted various fall-themed activities that attendees could participate in. Students and their families could get their faces painted, try their hand at dunking various staff members in the dunk tank, take a wagon ride around the school grounds, bob for apples, mix some spooky potions and more. Whether they wanted to get creative, show off their athletic skills or simply enjoy the fresh air and delicious concessions, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The evening concluded with a bonfire in front of the school, a longstanding Oriskany tradition to celebrate another successful homecoming. The Oriskany Fire Department was on hand to light and monitor the fire, and it was the perfect way for the school community to relax and enjoy each other's company after a fun-filled evening.

Thank you to all who helped make the homecoming celebrations a resounding success and a fun time for all!







2016 BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM EARNS
GREATER UTICA SPORTS HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION



A decade after their history-making season, the 2016 Oriskany boys varsity basketball team has been elected to the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame. The team was honored along with the other members of the Class of 2026 at the organization's 36th annual banquet on Sept. 20.

The 2016 team went 27-0 and won the Class D state championship under head coach Chris Mahoney. The undefeated team ousted New York Mills in the Section III title game and went on to beat top-ranked Moriah with a score of 79-54 in the Class D state championship game in Glens Falls.

The team made Oriskany Central School District history by earning the District's first state championship win.

Congratulations to the 2016 Oriskany boys varsity basketball team on this outstanding recognition!

ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1313 Utica Street
Oriskany, NY 13424

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2026, 6:00 P.M. | JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

VOTE!

DECEMBER 8

TUESDAY

12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL REAR ATRIUM

