



MAY
2017

ORISKANY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET EDITION

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 04 - WWW.ORISKANYCSD.ORG

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
GREGORY K. KELAHAH

INTERIM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
KAREN M. C. HINDERLING

JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
JULIE L. THOMPSON

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
P: 315.768.2149
F: 315.768.2137

HIGH SCHOOL
P: 315.768.2063
F: 315.768.2046

DISTRICT OFFICE
P: 315.768.2058
F: 315.768.2057



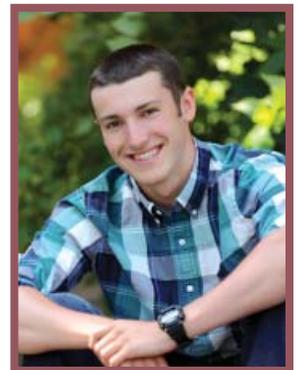
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Oriskany CSD Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced!

Angela Marie Rossi, daughter of Michael and Lori Rossi, has been named the Oriskany Central School Class of 2017 Valedictorian. Angela has received many accolades during her time at OCS, including the Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award, Elmira College Key Award, Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award and has been recognized for 100 clinical hours of internship at St. Luke's Hospital. In addition to maintaining top grades in an extremely rigorous academic program, Angela has been very active in extracurricular activities. She is the National Honor Society President and the Student Council Vice President, and is involved with Language Club and Rachel's Challenge. Outside of school, Angela enjoys reading, skiing, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. "I am incredibly grateful for all of the experiences that Oriskany has allowed me to take part in, as well as the people I have met along the way that have helped shape me into the person I am today," said Angela. Angela will be attending college as a pre-med student, aspiring to become a neurologist working in a clinical setting while also conducting research. Congratulations Angela!



Matthew Noga, son of Barney and Susan Noga, has been named the Oriskany Central School Class of 2017 Salutatorian. Matthew has been the recipient of the Clarkson Leadership Award, Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Edwin A. Stevens Scholarship, and the Whitestown Optimist Student of the Month Award. Matthew is a dedicated swimmer and swims competitively with the Clinton Cudas Swimming Club. At OCS, Matthew is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Club, Language Club and the Regional Program of Excellence. Besides his rigorous academic program and extracurricular activities, Matthew also likes to spend time with friends and family. "I'd like to thank all of my teachers, coaches, friends, and family for supporting me throughout high school," said Matthew. "Without their support, I wouldn't have become as successful as I am today." Matthew is heading to Stevens Institute of Technology in the fall, where he will major in computer engineering. Congratulations Matthew!



PLEASE
VOTE

Budget Hearing
May 9, 2017
6:00 P.M.
District Office

Budget Vote
May 16, 2017
12:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Oriskany Jr.-Sr. High School



Dear Members of the Oriskany Central School District Community,

The mission of the Oriskany Central School District is to “prepare students to excel in an ever-changing world. We are committed to our tradition of personal attention, positive relationships, and a productive climate for learning.” I am thankful to our Board of Education for having the continued foresight to recognize the academic preparation and learning environment our students would need in order to be successful in their chosen profession. For our students to excel in an ever-changing, ever increasing technological environment, where information is rapidly communicated, our students’ abilities to process and communicate understanding in a fluid and adaptable manner is highly critical to their success.

The Innovation Initiative continues to ensure students are actively engaged in their own learning, and are becoming adept in using a variety of digital tools that allows them to take their learning to new higher levels. I am excited that we continue to drive this initiative forward. We offer a comprehensive curriculum that provides creative and innovative learning opportunities that infuses lessons in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), academic enrichment, and real-world experiences, ensuring that students will possess the requisite skills and knowledge to be productive members of our future society. I had the pleasure of attending the elementary school’s “STEAM Days of Curiosity” last month where a variety of digital tools were brought in for students to learn and use—everything from programming circuits to robotics to creative play tools. It was apparent how at a very young age our children can analyze information and process solutions to complex problems relatively quickly, at times better than us adults. Witnessing the discussions and team work occurring amongst the various student activities reassured me that we are on the right path in preparing our students for success.

At the high school with our continued commitment to career and technical education, advanced placement and college level courses, and business partnerships to secure real world internships, I am confident that students are engaged in an exemplary compulsory program that will give them a competitive advantage in a global economy. Further, ensuring that we continue to address the academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs of all students, and individualizing learning as much as possible, we continue to share and celebrate the successes of each and every student in our school district.

Lastly, our 2017-2018 spending plan continues to dedicate dollars towards researched-based professional development for teachers. Teachers who have deeper content knowledge are best prepared to create a classroom climate where students can take what they know and through trial and error, develop new understanding. Further, through positive relationships - teacher to student, and student to student - the focus shifts more to the process of learning, and engagement becomes routine. Research shows these attributes along with a supportive learning climate influences positive student outcomes. In summary, we will continue to strategically align our resources and practices to best serve the needs of all students here at Oriskany.

Thank you for your continued support, and please remember to participate in the voting process on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

ALICIA D. KOSTER





ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2017-2018 SCHOOL BUDGET SPECIAL SECTION

BUDGET VOTE and SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS Tuesday, May 16 • Noon – 8:30 p.m. Oriskany Jr.-Sr. High School

Voters are asked to decide upon one (1) proposition, including the adoption of the proposed budget for the school year commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and to elect three Board of Education members.

Budget Proposition: Shall the Board of Education of the Oriskany Central School District, Oriskany, New York, be authorized to expend the sums of money, which will be required for school district purposes for the 2017-2018 School Year, in the total amount of \$14,900,851 (The Budget), and to levy and collect the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the School District.

School Board Candidates. Election of three (3) members to the Board of Education, each vacancy is for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2017 and concluding June 30, 2020. The candidates are:

- Ms. Shirley Burtch (incumbent)**
- Mr. Carl Graziadei (incumbent)**
- Mrs. Therese Hanna (incumbent)**

Dear Members of the Oriskany Central School District Community,

At our March 29, 2017 meeting, the Oriskany Board of Education approved a \$14,900,851 budget for the 2017-2018 school year. This budget represents a 1.50% increase in appropriations from the 2016-2017 budget, and is reflective of our commitment to maintain a high-quality educational program within the financial means of our state and our community. We continue to maximize monies and services by working in partnerships with BOCES, Federal, State, and local governments, and continue to look for cost efficiencies throughout the operational aspects of our school district.

The proposed 2017-2018 budget also includes a proposed tax levy that stays within our maximum allowable cap of .37%, and therefore will require a simple majority vote.

This year's budget proposal again demonstrates our enduring support of a comprehensive educational program that continues to provide creative and innovative learning opportunities for students to enhance their educational experience, and a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares students to be college and career successful.

The Oriskany Board of Education believes the 2017-2018 proposed budget offers the best possible balance of a continued commitment to a comprehensive education for the children of Oriskany while maintaining an affordable value for our residents and members of our community. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and urge your participation in the voting process on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Please check out our district website for the latest budget information. Further, feel free to give the District Office a call with any questions you may have regarding the 2017-2018 proposed budget.

On Behalf of the Oriskany School Board,

CARL GRAZIADEI
Board President





Proposed Budget

	2016-2017 Final Budget	2017-2018 Proposed Budget
General Support		
Total Board Of Education	\$17,354	\$7,729
Total Central Administration	\$211,626	\$224,122
Total Finance	\$390,367	\$444,986
Total Staff	\$98,781	\$119,335
Total Central Services	\$1,012,308	\$1,236,766
Total Special Items	\$233,804	\$207,282
Total General Support	\$1,964,240	\$2,240,220
Share Of Total:	13.38%	15.03%
Instruction		
Total Administration & Improvement	\$436,177	\$416,149
Total Teaching	\$6,204,211	\$5,984,976
Total Instructional Media	\$262,928	\$627,345
Total Pupil Services	\$598,981	\$661,946
Total Instruction	\$7,502,297	\$7,690,416
Share Of Total:	51.10%	51.61%
Pupil Transportation		
Total Pupil Transportation	\$913,282	\$908,201
Share Of Total:	6.22%	6.09%
Community Service		
Total Recreation		\$10,000
Total Other Community Service		
Total Community Service		\$10,000
Share Of Total:		0.07%
Undistributed		
Total Employee Benefits	\$3,301,649	\$3,191,485
Total Debt Service	\$879,997	\$835,529
Total Interfund Transfer	\$125,000	\$25,000
Total Undistributed	\$4,306,646	\$4,052,014
Share Of Total:	29.34%	27.19%
Total Appropriations	\$14,680,641	\$14,900,851

Revenue

	2016-2017	2017-2018
State Aid	\$7,157,848	\$6,825,045
Local Non-Tax	\$387,761	\$424,996
Tax Levy	\$5,768,506	\$5,789,984
Fund Balance	\$1,366,526	\$1,860,826
Total Revenues	\$14,680,641	\$14,900,851

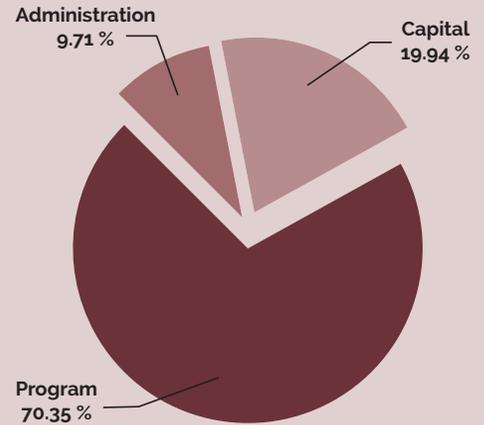
Three Component Budget

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.

Program Budget: This portion covers teacher salaries, school supplies, and all related educational costs.

Capital Budget: Refers to all facilities costs such as leases, annual debt service, custodial salaries and benefits, service contracts, custodial supplies, maintenance and repair of facilities, and utilities.

Administration Budget: This section includes central administration and school offices, along with clerical support, salaries and benefits, and related expenses of all school administrators, board of education expenses for planning, and other administrative activities.



www.oriskanycsd.org/businessoffice

For more budget information please visit the Business Office Section of our website!



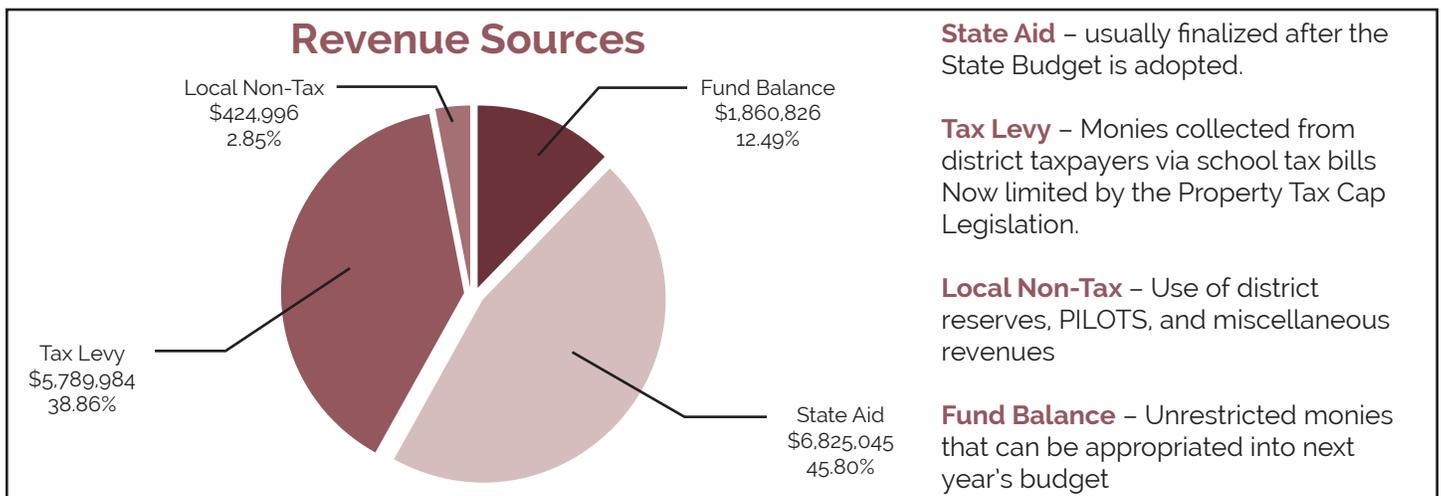


2017-18 School District Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 14,680,641	\$14,900,851	\$14,857,351
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$220,210	\$176,710
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.50 %	1.20%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$5,768,506	\$5,789,984	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$5,768,506	\$5,789,984	0.37%
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$202,177	\$184,569	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$5,566,329	\$5,605,415	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$5,566,329	\$5,605,415	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,260,453	\$1,446,518	\$1,192,518
Program Component	\$11,284,402	\$10,483,422	\$10,697,922
Capital Component	\$2,135,786	\$2,970,911	\$2,966,911

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 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. The following items are excluded from a contingent budget: equipment purchases, student supplies, non-essential maintenance, transportation of students under mileage limits set by state law, and public use of school building 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 than the amount of taxes levied in the prior school year by the district.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)





Proposed Tax Levy for 2017-18 School year

2017-2018 Proposed Levy	5,789,984.00
- Exclusions	184,569.00
Proposed Tax Levy Before Exclusions	5,605,415.00
2017-2018 Maximum Allowable Levy	5,789,984.00
- Exclusions	184,569.00
Calculated Tax Levy Limit	5,605,415.00
\$ Amount Below The Tax Levy Limit	
% Percentage Below The Tax Levy Limit	

Since the proposed tax levy before exclusions is less than or equal to 2017-2018 tax levy limit, then the voter approval necessary is "simple majority" (50%+1)

Budget disclosures refer to the calculated tax levy limit and proposed tax levy before exclusions, not the maximum allowable levy.

Basic STAR Exemption

Three factors that determine the tax rate on your home include: tax levy, equalization rates and property assessment. The tax levy is set by the school district in May; equalization rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Services in August and each respective town establishes assessments and equalization rates, but these are just estimates. Therefore, tax rates are not finalized until late August, at which time school tax bills are printed and mailed.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$603.60

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

Tax Cap Formula

Prior Year Tax Levy (16-17 Warrant)	\$5,768,506	
Tax Base Growth Factor	x 1.0007	
Pilots -Prior Year (FY16-17)	+\$166,411	
Prior Year Exemptions	- \$202,177	
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	= \$5,736,778	
Allowable Growth Factor	x 1.0126	
Pilots- Coming Year (FY 17-18)	- \$203,646	
+ Carryover		
Tax Levy Limit	=\$5,605,415	-2.83%
+ Pension Exclusions ERS		
TRS		
Capital Tax Levy	+ \$184,569	
Tax Levy Limit Plus Exclusions	=\$5,789,984	0.37%

Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in the School District Budget Vote and Election, you must be:

- a US citizen;
- 18 years old;
- a District resident for 30 days prior to the vote; and
- not being disqualified from voting, such as certain convicted felons, or the person has been adjudicated mentally incompetent.

Absentee Ballots

Notice is given that applications for absentee ballots to those who may be entitled under Education Law 2018-a are available in the office of the Clerk of the District on school days between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A list of all the persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the Clerk of the District until the day of the election. Notice is given that if an absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application for the same must be received by the Clerk of the District at least 7 days before the election; if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, the application for the same must be received by the Clerk of the District the day before the election.



2017-18 Property Tax Report Card

412901- Oriskany Central School District Contact Person: Alicia D. Koster , School Business Administrator Telephone Number: 315.768.2058	Budgeted 2016-17 (A)	Proposed Budget 2017-18 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	\$14,680,641	\$14,900,851	1.50%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	\$5,768,506	\$5,789,984	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$5,768,506	\$5,789,984	0.37%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$202,177	\$184,569	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	\$5,566,329	\$5,605,415	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) ³	\$5,566,329	\$5,605,415	
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	\$0	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	630	604	-4.13%
Consumer Price Index			1.26%
<i>1 Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest. 2 Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements. 3 For 2017-18, includes any carryover from 2016-17 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.</i>	Actual 2016-17 (D)	Estimated 2017-18 (E)	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$4,115,620	\$3,917,996	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,366,526	\$1,860,826	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$587,222	\$596,034	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%	





Resource Management Strategies

The 2017-2018 school expenditure plan supports a quality comprehensive instructional program. Actions taken by the Board of Education and Administration have allowed the District to provide programs and opportunities for our students that will prepare them for success in colleges and careers. As a result of sound fiscal management, the District this year is, again, in a position to increase program offerings for our students in order to support our commitment to personal attention, positive relationships, and a productive climate for learning. These actions are reflected in the expenditure budget proposal, including:

- Increased enrichment opportunities for students both at the elementary and the high school while maintaining effective remedial and compulsory programs.
- Utilizing BOCES to offer summer academic programs for our elementary and high school students.
- Additional access to instructional technology to support the innovation initiative that will position our students for success in the existing highly competitive college and career climate.
- Expanding partnerships with area organizations and institutions to increase internship and apprenticeship experiences for students and staff.
- Maximizing grant, state, and federal funds to support and off-set local funds necessary for school programs.
- Supporting staff improvement through research-proven means that lead to increased student performance.
- Over 70% of our expenditure dollars go to support our educational program. We have shown a consistent trend in protecting dollars attributable to student learning and achievement.

Oriskany Jr.-Sr. High School Students Take Home Top Prize at CNY Innovation Challenge

A group of students from Oriskany Jr.-Sr. High School took home the top prize at the inaugural Central New York Innovation Challenge held at Lemoyne College on April 8.

The competition for students in grades 6-12 promoted innovation, entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers and the importance of capturing intellectual property. As part of the Challenge, students were asked to develop and pitch a creative solution to an everyday problem. Eighteen teams made up of more than 60 students presented their concepts in front of a panel of judges for a chance to win cash prizes.

The Ladies of Oriskany team took home first place and a \$1,000 prize for their creation of a dog waste recycling system. The dog waste recycling system rewards dogs with a treat when their owner recycles the dog's waste. The team included Oriskany 10th graders Jenna Schlick, Courtney Donohue, Jasmine Wilson and Jennifer Hall.

A second team from Oriskany Jr.-Sr. High School, consisting of 10 graders Kyle Pestar, Dylan LaSalle, Derek Balfe and Alex Waterman also participated in the competition, creating a customizable water filtration system.

Teams of students began working on their innovative product concepts in January. Each team started with a concept, designed and developed a product, documented intellectual property for possible patent applications, researched the current market and developed a marketing pitch to sell their concept.

At the Central New York Innovation Challenge presentations, students also had the opportunity to network with industry professionals and improve their presentation skills, while business partners were able to build relationships with top local talent.





Dear Oriskany Families,

As this newsletter comes to you, I hope everyone had a wonderful spring recess and had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful weather with friends and family. We would like to thank all the families that participated in our Parents as Reading Partners program "March PARP Madness." In April, we had an exciting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) event called "Days of Curiosity" in which our students participated in a variety of activities. Be sure to read all the details of the event on the Oriskany Central School District website.

The month of May is here and it's another very exciting month at N.A. Walbran Elementary School! May 19-20 is our sixth grade Plant/Bake Sale and Silent Auction. Please come visit us in the cafeteria on those two days to support our sixth grade class for their end of the year enrichment opportunity! On May 16, our third through sixth grade students will be performing in our Spring Band and Chorus Performance under the direction of Mrs. Marcinkowski and Mrs. Joslin. Our kindergarten screening for our 2017-18 kindergarteners will be taking place on May 18 and May 22. Also, school will be closed on May 29 for Memorial Day.

For the month of June, please remember that we will be having our Elementary PE Day on June 9 and our Sixth Grade Moving-Up Ceremony will be held on June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Also, thank you for your patience during the painting of our main office. In addition, you will see our new office window provides a more secure school for our children. Stop by and see our updated look!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school at any time.

Thank you,

KAREN M. C. HINDERLING

Interim Elementary School Principal

Dear Oriskany Families,

I hope that you had a wonderful spring recess and are enjoying the warmer weather.

Teachers and students have begun to prepare for end of the year assessments, including Advanced Placement examinations in early May and Regents examinations in June. Regents teachers are holding many review sessions, so please encourage your students to attend these important classes so they can be even more successful on their examinations. Please encourage your students to study for all of their final examinations, and to communicate with their teachers in a timely fashion if they need assistance.

There are many events that take place in May and June, from concerts to athletic events to graduation. I hope to see many of you at these events as we wind down the 2016-2017 school year!

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

JULIE L. THOMPSON

Jr.-Sr. High School Principal



Jean O'Connor joined the Oriskany Central School District as a cafeteria monitor at N.A. Walbran Elementary on March 20. Ms. O'Connor previously worked in the field of Human Resources for 25 years and was employed by RCIL, Centrex Labs, Lab Corp and PAR Technology. She received her education from the University of Phoenix and is a member of The Society for Human Resource Management. She has also worked as a substitute teacher and is especially excited for this opportunity to work with children again. In her free time Ms. O'Connor enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, boating, reading and traveling.

"My entire family has been educated in the Oriskany Central School District – my husband, kids and now grandkids," said Ms. O'Connor.

Kelly Houghtaling joined the Oriskany Central School District as a school counselor for grades 6-9 at the high school on March 14. Ms. Houghtaling was previously employed as the Dean's assistant at The Sage Colleges. She holds a Master of Science Degree in professional school counseling from Sage Graduate School, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology with a minor in women's studies from Siena College and an Associate of Applied Science Degree in business administration from Hudson Valley Community College. Ms. Houghtaling is also a Certified New York State K-12 School Counselor. In her free time she enjoys traveling, spending time with her family and friends, and walking her dog.



"I really enjoy the small-town feel and close-knit environment of Oriskany," said Ms. Houghtaling. "Growing up in a large city and attending a larger high school, I appreciate the student interactions that I can get from working in a smaller school and community. I am really excited to be joining the Oriskany CSD family and am looking forward to meeting all my students and their families!"



Robert Allen joined the Oriskany Central School District as School Safety Officer (SSO) at N.A. Walbran Elementary on February 27. Mr. Allen previously served in the United States Army Military Police corps and the NYS National Guard Military Police. He was previously employed as a security officer at Riverside Mall, a police officer for the Village of Whitesboro, a safety officer at Whitesboro High School, and a criminal justice teacher at Madison-Oneida BOCES. He also currently serves as the football coach for Holland Patent High School and volunteers as a pop Warner football coach. Mr. Allen holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from Mohawk Valley Community College and is a graduate of the Mohawk Valley Police Academy.

"After retiring from the Village of Whitesboro Police Department, this position gives me a chance to return to law enforcement and work part-time at the Elementary school," said Mr. Allen.

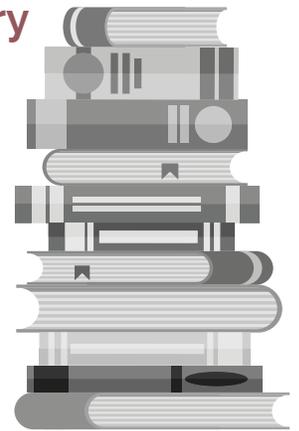
AHS Receives Book Donation from Oriskany Public Library

The Oriskany Alternative High School (AHS) program recently received a donation of 53 books from the Oriskany Public Library to add to their lending library collection. The donation included books from some of the students' favorite series like Twilight and The Hunger Games, and favorite authors like James Patterson and John Grisham.

The lending library offers students an opportunity to borrow books to read when they are not in class.

"Our students read for many reasons," said AHS teacher Denise Mazza. "Some students enjoy reading to pass time and improve their reading skills and vocabulary. While others appreciate that it allows them to become a character in the book and go to an alternative place for a little while."

The Alternative High School program would like to thank the Oriskany Public Library for their generous donation!



BOOKS



N.A. Walbran Elementary Celebrates Sports and Reading with March PARP Madness

On March 1, N.A. Walbran Elementary students kicked off their 2017 Parents as Reading Partners Program (PARP) with a school-wide assembly celebrating the program's theme of March PARP Madness. The assembly featured surprise visits from real mascots including the Herkimer College General, Utica College's Trax the Moose, MVCC's Mo the Hawk and Audie from the Utica Comets. The final surprise special guest was Utica Comets' Captain, Carter Bancks. Each guest shared their favorite book with the group and then took to the crowd to celebrate with the students.



Throughout the month of March, N.A. Walbran Elementary held a bracket style tournament to see which grade level had the highest percentage of students reading during each week. The grade level with the higher percentage of readers advanced in their bracket, while the team that fell short moved into the second chance bracket. The kindergarten students were the winners of the original bracket and the overall PARP bracket challenge, while the third grade students were the winners of the second chance bracket. Both grades were rewarded for their achievements with class parties.

During the PARP program, students also participated in a read-in, a Soles4Souls sneaker and shoe drive, weekly Drop Everything and Read sessions and daily sports trivia.

The month-long celebration of reading wrapped up on April 6 with a Sports Fair for students and their families. Oriskany Jr.-Sr. High School students set up booths throughout the elementary school and shared their experiences playing their favorite sports with the younger students.



"Kindergarten Meteorologists" Learning Through Weather



Kindergarten students at N.A. Walbran Elementary have been learning important critical thinking and analysis skills through their project-based learning (PBL) lessons on weather forecasting.

The students worked in weather teams to observe and track different aspects of the weather in the morning and afternoon of each day. One team tracked the temperature while the other team tracked the weather conditions (sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy and snowy). The students graphed their findings in temperature and weather logs and then posted the results in the hallway so that other students could see their forecasts.

During their weather forecasting lessons, the kindergarten students also learned about the seasons, types of weather and how temperatures affect a thermometer. To supplement the kindergarteners' weather lessons, Ms. Waskiewicz's 5th grade enrichment group recorded themselves reading weather-themed books and linked the recordings to QR codes for the kindergartners to listen to at reading centers.

The weather projects wrapped up with a visit from WUTR Chief Meteorologist Rachael Witter on March 23. Rachael spoke to the students about her job, how and why she chose to become a meteorologist and how she creates her forecast each day. The students also had the opportunity to help Rachael create her forecast for that night and were featured during the evening news broadcast.

Like our new Oriskany Central School District Facebook page for news, photos and updates from throughout the district.
[Facebook.com/OriskanyCSD](https://www.facebook.com/OriskanyCSD)



Find us on:
facebook

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ART BUZZ

Art Club Encourages School Pride, Perseverance and Citizenship with "O-SNAP" Board

Keep your eye out for the Oriskany High School Art Club's new "O-Snap" board! The "O-Snap" board features pictures of students based on specific "snappable" criteria including school pride, perseverance, "beyond the box" and citizenship. If a student is seen following these criteria, their picture will be snapped and they may be featured on the "O-Snap" Board. Art Club looks forward to snapping students as they show school pride, grit, creativity, and citizenship. Be on the lookout for students being "snappable"!



Student Artist of the Month

In January 2017, the Oriskany High School Art Club began selecting a student artist to be recognized each month. Students are nominated by fellow classmates based on their perseverance, school pride, classroom citizenship and creativity. For the month of April, the Art Club congratulates artist Aaron Drake. Aaron is a junior at Oriskany High School and is on the baseball and soccer teams. Aaron was nominated because he is helpful, compassionate, creative and demonstrates school pride. You can view artwork created by Aaron and other Oriskany students by visiting artsonia.com and searching Oriskany JSHS.

Past student artist of the months have included Matthew Gregg (Jan), Tehgan Brooks (Feb), and Caitlyn Szalkowski (Mar).

Congratulations Aaron Drake and all of our previous Artists of the Month!

www.oriskanycsd.org

Visit our website for the latest district and school news, announcements, photo galleries, upcoming events and much more!

