Jr./Sr. High School Students Network with Business and Community Leaders at SABA Breakfast

The School and Business Alliance (SABA) focuses on School-to-Career Programs to help build career awareness for students. The mission of SABA is to provide career development and work-based learning experiences which inspire and enable students to make informed decisions about post-secondary and career opportunities. They accomplish so by providing activities such as: career exploration, career speakers, college tours, summer work opportunities, career shadowing and the SABA breakfast.

On Dec. 6, several OCSD students had the opportunity to attend the SABA breakfast. Students participating in the event had the opportunity to meet with like-minded students who have similar career interests. They are placed at a table with a business professional with knowledge of the career field and they are able to bounce ideas off of each other and get feedback or more in-depth career awareness. Additionally, SABA recognizes several businesses that help them fulfill their mission by providing a variety of career opportunities for students.

OCSD student, Joshua Thompson had the opportunity to speak at the event and recognize one of the businesses that received an award. In March of 2019, Joshua had the opportunity to spend the day in a job shadowing experience at Audioptix, a premier production hub that specializes in videography and audio engineering services, as well as motion graphics, graphic design, YouTube channel and content creation, feature and short film, stop motion animation and more. CEO and Creative Director Anthony “AO” Owens founded Audioptix in 2018. Joshua presented the “Made a Difference Award” on behalf of SABA to Anthony Owens.

Visit our district website as well as our social media channels for the latest news, announcements, photo galleries, upcoming events and much more!
Dear Oriskany Community Members,

First and foremost, I wish a very Happy New Year to all of our Oriskany students, families, faculty and staff, and community members who make the Oriskany Central School District such a wonderful place to work. We are thankful to you for allowing us to provide our students with a multitude of learning opportunities, rigorous and relevant academic programs and activities that enrich the lives of our students to grow from and excel in.

Additionally, I wish you all a very safe, healthy, happy, warm and productive 2020-2021 year as we close out the first semester of our academic school season and enter into the second semester, or final 20 weeks, of the school calendar year. It’s hard to believe that our first semester of the school year has so quickly come and gone and we begin the conclusion of yet another school year.

Proudly, as we enter into this New Year, we have much to share and celebrate with you within our District. The New York State Education Department recently released the graduation rates for the 2019 school year and the Oriskany Central School District has represented itself very well. Through everyone’s hard work and tenacious efforts, the district holds a 96% graduation rate, one of the highest rates noted within the central New York region and placing well above the 84% state graduation rate average. Additionally, our school district places first in the Oneida County region with students earning Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation. At 58%, this places our district well above the state average of 22% of students earning designation status and higher than the 32% average in Oneida County.

Please know, our belief at Oriskany Central School District is that, collectively and collaboratively, we prepare our students together, as one extended family. Our entire District faculty and staff, from pre-K through grade 12, work diligently to provide as many opportunities, both programmatically and socially and emotionally, as possible, to prepare our students for life outside of the high school setting in regard to post-secondary pursuits and career opportunities. Please also know, we thank you as well, the parents, the guardians, the community and the business partners for providing us the continued support and belief that anything is possible, or can be achieved, through a combined effort. Your belief and support in us has not gone unrecognized.

Some of our new academic highlights and opportunities for our students include a couple of new academic afterschool enrichment programs; The Be All You Can BEE After-School Program held at the N.A. Walbran Elementary School and the Academic Enrichment Program held at the Jr./Sr. High School.

The Be All You Can BEE After-School Program is a newly designed program at the elementary school that encourages and supports students in third through sixth grade who may need supplemental academic enrichment in the areas of math and English language arts. Staff will also focus on areas of social and emotional growth within the program by providing these students healthy recreational activities.

Students will be provided with research-based learning activities for both of the content areas in math and ELA. Staff will provide and target 20 minutes of instruction each night with students, spending engaged time in each of the subject areas. Additionally, vocabulary instruction, placing emphasis on the NYS Next Generation Language Arts Standards, will be integrated into each session during the 20-minute warm-up period. The introduction of the topic of social-emotional learning into the curriculum will also be incorporated into the afterschool sessions, aligning and interconnecting with our already established Positivity Project initiatives of Being All You Can BEE at the N.A. Walbran Elementary School. The program will consist of Tuesdays and Wednesdays for one hour and 30 minutes each day, commencing from January 2020 to April 2020.

The Academic Enrichment Program is a new program for all students, grades seven through 12, in the Jr./Sr. High School. The intent of this program is to provide additional support to students who are struggling academically, as well as to provide our students with the appropriate organizational and time management skills necessary to be successful in the high school setting and beyond.

The program operates three days a week; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, when school is in session, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is housed in the Jr./Sr. High School Library. The structured and quiet learning environment is supervised by certified instructional staff members on a daily basis, who are there to not only support our students academically, but to also create and cultivate positive working relationships with all of our students.

Completing current assigned homework, studying for exams, collaborating in group study sessions, working on projects, or catching up on past classwork, while under the guidance and support of a certified teacher, are all examples of the tasks students can conduct or accomplish. The program is open to and encourages all of our seven through 12 students in the District to attend as an academic support structure.

Congratulations go out to Kendra Yaddow and Dennis DeHart, both who had artwork submitted to the 2020 Scholastic Art Awards Competition. "The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recognize the vision, ingenuity, and talent of our nation’s youth, and provide many opportunities for creative teens to be celebrated. Each year, increasing numbers of teens participate in the program, and become a part of our community—young artists and writers, filmmakers and photographers, poets and sculptors, video game artists and science fiction writers—along with countless educators who support and encourage the creative process."

The Scholastic Art Awards bring equity to our STEAM and School of Innovation mindset placing the “A,” or Arts, in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) initiative. The Awards give students opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication and scholarships. Students across America
submitted nearly 340,000 original works this year in 29 different categories of art and writing. In the Central New York region alone, there were 4,650 individual works of art submitted and judged for awards. In our first-ever involvement in the Scholastic Award competition, Kendra and Dennis received Honorable Mentions for their two-point perspective drawings in ink.

Another first and great opportunity for our aspiring student business entrepreneurs at Oriskany School District is the introduction of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) into our afterschool programs. Future Business Leaders of America is the largest career student business organization in the world. Each year, FBLA helps more than 230,000 members prepare for careers in business, inspiring and preparing our students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. The program focuses on leadership development, academic competitions, educational programs, community service and awards and recognition.

This year, in its first inception, four of our Oriskany students placed in the FBLA District Competition held at Morrisville College on January 10, 2020. Congratulations to Anna Zumbrun, Kara Daskiewich, Julia Bates and Joey Behr for placing in their top three business categories at the Future Business Leaders of America competition. Thank you, as well, to Mrs. Pam Musacchio, for organizing and implementing this wonderful opportunity for our students to be a part of. We are “Oriskany Proud” of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them qualify and advance to state competition. Bravo!

To look for, or access, more information on our programs, clubs, activities or announcements, please visit our District website at www.oriskanycsd.org, our Twitter feed at @OriskanyCSD and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OriskanyCSD, for the most up-to-date happenings in our schools.

As always, it takes a collaborative effort on everyone’s part to ensure the success of our students and I want to thank each of you for your continued support of our students and our programs, your continued passion for our schools and our district and your continued belief that every child that enters the Oriskany Central School District deserves the right to the best available learning opportunities encompassed by an environment that believes in character, integrity, compassion and respect for all.

Respectfully,

TIMOTHY J. GAFFNEY
Superintendent of Schools
Oriskany Central School District
tgaffney@oriskanycsd.org
315.768.2058

Oriskany Students Prove They’re the Future Business Leaders of America at Competition

Congratulations to Anna Zumbrun, Kara Daskiewich, Julia Bates and Joey Behr.

The four students placed in the top three in their business categories at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) District Competition held at Morrisville College on January 10.

N.A. Walbran Elementary School has implemented a Student Mentor Program

Our Mental Health Focus Team led by Instructional Leader, Heather Gray, organized the program. In the fall, faculty and staff were surveyed on their interest to be a mentor. Students were chosen for the program based on classroom teacher input, attendance or discipline referrals. Students in the program meet with their mentor one to two times per week, as time permits. The goal of the program is to improve self-esteem and positive feelings toward school.
**Oriskany Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation**

On Thursday, March 12, the Oriskany Central School District will be holding an orientation for parents/guardians of children eligible for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year. To be eligible for pre-kindergarten, the child must be four years old no later than December 1, 2020. To be eligible for kindergarten, the child must be five years old no later than December 1, 2020.

At N.A. Walbran Elementary School, there are full-day kindergarten classes. In addition, there is a half-day pre-kindergarten program. One session is in the morning and one session is in the afternoon.

The orientation will run from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. Registration materials will be collected at this time. Please remember to bring two proofs of residency and proof of your child’s age. Tours of the school will be given to all families who attend. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten screening will take place in the elementary school at a later date and parents/guardians will also be asked to sign up for a screening time. Future pre-kindergarteners and kindergartners are welcome to attend the orientation.

Registration packets can be picked up from the main office at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. Further information may be obtained by calling the elementary school office at 315-768-2149.

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**2020 Scholastic Art Competition Honorable Mentions**

Students Kendra Yaddow and Dennis DeHart both had artwork submitted to the 2020 Scholastic Art Competition. In all, there were 4,650 individual works of art submitted and judged for awards. Kendra and Dennis received Honorable Mentions for their two-point perspective drawings in ink.

The Award Ceremony was held on January 21, 2020, in the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College. The ceremony began at 7:00 p.m. and lasted approximately 90 minutes. The exhibit will be open to the public from January 22 through Friday, February 28 in the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College. It is open daily Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Kendra and Dennis!
Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

We continue to BEE All We Can BEE at N.A. Walbran Elementary School!

As part of the Positivity Project, our January vocabulary focus was kindness. Our BEE Kind Assembly focused on math activities, specifically our participation in St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital’s Math-A-Thon. All of the money that we raised was donated in honor of one of our kindergarteners, Liliana Mancini, a cancer survivor.

We are excited to be heading towards our 100th day of school! Zero the Hero from Mrs. DeFabio’s kindergarten class has been visiting our classes every 10th day to help us keep track. We will be celebrating the day with a variety of activities in February along with our yearly BEE Enthusiastic Winter Fun Day. Our students will participate in a variety of outdoor winter activities such as sledding and building snowmen for the primary students and ice skating and snowshoeing for our intermediate students.

In March, we will have our annual Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) program. Our theme is “Go for the Gold ... READ!” We have various PARP activities planned for March for your family to participate in. Reading with your child is an important aspect of their school success. Information regarding all of the upcoming events will be sent home as well as posted on our website and Facebook account.

On Thursday, March 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., we will be holding an orientation for parents/guardians of children eligible for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year. Feel free to contact the elementary office or consult our website if you have questions regarding registration. Packets can be picked up at the main office.

Continue to check out our school website as well as my Facebook page (“Oriskany Elementary Principal”). Photographs and articles of all of our events can be found on both. Also, please join us every Sunday night for a Bedtime Story; a video of a faculty or staff member reading one of their favorite stories!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

KAREN CIANFROCCO HINDERLING
Elementary School Principal

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

The second semester started on January 27, so it’s hard to believe we are already more than halfway through the school year.

Our winter sports teams all had successful seasons. The boys and girls basketball teams have been competitive in league play, and the indoor track team has been successful at their league meets. Spring varsity and junior varsity athletics begin on Monday, March 16. Please check our website for the specific sport offerings we will be providing this year. I would highly encourage all students to get involved in something extra-curricular outside of the academic school day.

Our Learning Center continues to grow, servicing more and more students and we are also supporting several students through our Academic Enrichment program. We have seen great academic progress.

Our school counselors have been busy with scheduling courses for students in grades 8 through 11 for the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like to be a part of the meeting to create your child’s schedule, please contact the Office of Counseling and Career Services at (315) 768-2065. The Course Description Guide, which highlights all of the courses that we offer for grades 9 through 12, can be found on the district website.

We are committed to ensuring that our students leave OCS with the skills needed to be college and career successful. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

JAMIE GRIMSHAW
Jr./Sr. High School Principal
Oriskany Students Get in the Holiday Spirit with Christmas Concerts

Oriskany Central School District band and chorus members helped to spread holiday cheer with a pair of winter concerts during the month of December.

On Dec. 5, Oriskany Elementary School students kicked off the holiday season with a band and chorus concert.

On Dec. 12, students in Jr./Sr. High School chorus, jazz band and concert band performed a winter concert.

Oriskany Teen AIDS Task Force Visits Memorial Quilt

Students from the Teen AIDS Task Force visited Payne Hall at Mohawk Valley Community College on Dec. 5 to see sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and learn about its significance.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a four and one-half ton, handmade tapestry that stands as a memorial to more than 96,000 individuals lost to AIDS. Established in 1987, the NAMES Project Foundation is the international organization that is the custodian of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The quilt began with a single three by six foot panel created in San Francisco in 1987. Today, the quilt is composed of more than 49,000 individual three by six foot panels, each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. These panels come from every state in the nation, every corner of the globe and have been sewn by hundreds of thousands of friends, lovers and family members. It is the largest piece of ongoing community art in the world.

In a war against a disease that has no cure, the quilt has evolved as a most potent tool in the effort to educate against the lethal threat of AIDS. By revealing the humanity behind the statistics, it helps teach compassion, triumphs over taboo, stigma and phobia and inspires individuals to take direct responsibility for their own well-being and that of their family, friends and community.
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

In 1972, the Oriskany Central School District Board of Education established a residency policy aligned with NYS Education Law. The policy states that only children who legally live within the boundaries of the school district are eligible to attend the Oriskany Central School District. Residency is established by the primary address of a child’s parents or legal guardian. Children may not choose to live with another individual (even to live with other family members) in order to take advantage of a particular school district.

However, according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, a child may be eligible for attendance in the Oriskany Central School District if the child does not have a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence.

This may include:
- living with another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as “doubled up”)
- living in a shelter
- living in a hotel/motel
- living in a car, park, bus, train or campsite

If you have questions regarding residency, homeless youth or eligibility for attendance in the Oriskany Central School District, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 315.768.2058.

BEE Generous Assembly

at N.A. Walbran

On Dec. 19, students at N.A. Walbran Elementary School participated in a BEE Generous assembly.

Students wore fun holiday clothes, read a story about being generous and sang festive songs!

FIRE INSPECTION

The Oriskany Central School District, in accordance with the State Education Department (Ed. Law. Section 807-a (5)(a)) has submitted annual fire inspection reports for the 2019-20 school year to the SED Office of Facilities Planning in Albany. The fire inspection was performed in December of 2019. The reports are available at the Business Office. If you are interested in viewing the reports, please call 315.768.2058 to set up an appointment.
Visit our website for the latest news, announcements, photo galleries, upcoming events and much more!