



# Oriskany

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 2023

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
**Gregory Cuthbertson**

SCHOOL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE  
**Michelle Tikalsky**

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS  
AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
**Denise Mazza**

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
**Andrew Kennedy**

INTERIM ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
**Karen Miller**

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ORISKANYCSD.ORG



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## *Dear Oriskany CSD Community,*

I would like to start by thanking the entire Oriskany community for welcoming me with open arms during the first three months of my Superintendency. We have had a great start to the 2023-24 school year. I have been fortunate to meet and listen to many school stakeholders in the short period of time I have been here. It has been my intent to learn more about this great community. I still have much to learn about the District and I hope to immerse myself in the Oriskany community to learn more. I will continue to encourage those of you who I have not yet met to introduce yourself when the opportunity presents itself in the coming days, weeks and months ahead.

I also want to share a couple of updates and/or initiatives for the District as we head into the fall and winter months.

### **Capital Project 2022**

One of the first initiatives that I inherited when I came to the District was the 2022 Capital Project. The project was a two-phased project and we just completed phase one which was our new transportation facility. We had our ribbon cutting ceremony on October 17 for the new facility and we are excited about the state of art space for our transportation department. Mr. Zachary Nicotera, our new Director of Transportation who joined us in late August has done an incredible job of strengthening our department and we hope that the community has noticed these changes as well.

Phase two of the project is now underway in both the Elementary and Jr./Sr. High schools. The work in each of these buildings will be challenging while school is in session and safety is our number one priority. We will continue to have ongoing meetings with our construction managers as the project progresses to ensure that minimal disruptions are occurring during the school day. We plan to have updates on the District website

of the progress for phase two and we know that the necessary work will enhance our instructional program for years to come.

### **ParentSquare**

Another early initiative that I felt was important for the District was to improve our communication systems. During my early conversations with stakeholders, one of the key themes that I heard was that consistent communication needed to be improved throughout the District. We implemented ParentSquare in mid-October as an umbrella communication system that allows for better two-way communication with our families. District staff had various ways and applications to communicate with students and families which often made it difficult when families were in multiple buildings or on different athletic teams or clubs. By using one platform we hope to strengthen our ability to communicate consistently with all our families. Also, by using various modalities to receive and return communication to and from families like phone calls, emails and text messaging, we hope to ensure that overall communication is improved. For more information about ParentSquare, please visit our website under the ParentSquare channel.

### **Mascot Change**

The last initiative or update is on the Mascot. As you know, the New York State Education Department required schools to make a resolution at the end of the 2022-2023 school year to end the use of indigenous mascots in schools. The Oriskany CSD Board of Education did make a resolution in June 2023 to end the use of the "Redskins" mascot. In September, a mascot committee was formed composed of staff, students and community members to begin the process of a mascot change. The function of this committee is to only make recommendations to

*Continued on next page ...*



the board of education, as the board is the only governing body to decide on a mascot change. One of the first discussions for our committee was to use the language "Retire" when talking about the current mascot. "We are Oriskany," and no mascot name from our past or in our future will define us as a community. We are in the process of collecting feedback from our school community for the proposed mascot change. Our plan is to have all school community stakeholders provide feedback and be a part of the mascot change proposal. No decision will be made in isolation. We ask that you provide your thoughts and feedback to help guide us in this process. We have included our Thoughtexchange questions at the end of this newsletter. You can participate by filling out the hard copy on the last page and mail it back to the District Office; by using the QR code on page 14; or by going to our website under the Mascot change section. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lastly, my goal for the Oriskany Central School District is to continue to build upon the successes of our District and develop a consistent and responsible educational program for all our students and families moving forward. I want to encourage open and honest communication with our staff, our students, our families and community members and I look forward to working with each of you in the future.

Our mission statement reads, ***"The mission of the Oriskany Central School District is to educate, engage, and empower students to excel in an ever-changing world. We are committed to our tradition of personal attention, positive relationships, and an innovative climate for learning."*** When I read the mission statement and think about the people that I have met, I understand how powerful that message is regarding the values we place on the importance of relationships within our District. Education is a relationship business. From a bus driver at the morning pick up, to the aides greeting students as they enter the building, to the teachers performing their magic throughout the day, to the cafeteria staff in the lunch line, to the cleaners making our schools shine, we all are a part of a community of learning, it does "take a village" as the saying goes. The relationships that we develop and the interactions that we have with each other within this community are some of the most important lessons our children will have in their lives. Yes, the ABC's and 123's are important and will always be at the forefront of our educational program, but the social learning and 21st century skills that we foster are incredibly vital in today's world, especially post COVID-19. My hope is that we can nurture a learning community together that will place values on relationships. We may not always agree and sometimes we may even agree to disagree, but through open and honest communication we need to work together for the best interest of our students. My door is always open and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:gcuthbertson@oriskanycsd.org) or 315.768.2054.

Thank you,

*Gregory Cuthbertson*  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Dear Members of the Oriskany CSD Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome and ongoing support. In my role of interim principal at N.A. Walbran, it's been wonderful getting to know your children, and I look forward to meeting more families at upcoming school events and activities. At N.A. Walbran, we continue to operate as a team (home and school) and it takes every single one of us working together in order to provide the best possible educational experience for our children.

September provided us time to establish and practice classroom and building routines. Student dismissal is running smoothly, and we thank you for your support with parent pick-up, walker and bus procedures. During October, our instructional team established meetings to review multiple data measures, in both math and reading. This allows us to target your child's individual instructional levels in an attempt to best meet their unique needs and maximize their growth.

During the month of October, the Oriskany Central School demonstrated how much we value our community partners. The school partnered with the Oriskany Museum and Legion to host a USS Oriskany assembly that involved four USS Oriskany veterans sharing their history with our students. Additionally, Fire Safety Week was a success and our students learned about safety from local firefighters and first responders. Our PTA continues to support our school community in many ways. Throughout the month of October, the PTA held a Scholastic Book Fair and every child received a bookmark. The PTA also sponsored a Halloween Fun Night, which served as a safe platform for our students to celebrate. November 9 will be our annual Veterans Day celebration which will honor those who are presently serving, and/or have previously served in our armed forces. Thank you to all veterans for protecting our freedoms.

Our teachers are looking forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 15 through 17. A friendly reminder that Parent Teacher Conference days are half-days with early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences serve as a wonderful opportunity for you and your child's teacher to communicate on progress made during the first months of school and discuss learning goals. Safety remains a top priority, and we have used these beginning months of school to also practice our safety drills. To date, we have conducted five fire drills, three lockdown drills and one bus drill. The OHM BOCES Safety Service joined us for some of our lockdown drills and have provided necessary feedback. As the first 10 weeks of school come to a close, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. It has been a privilege serving the Oriskany community, and together we can continue to accomplish great things for our children. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 315.768.2149 or [kmiller@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:kmiller@oriskanycsd.org).

Respectfully,

*Karen L. Miller*  
INTERIM ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a wonderful start. Our "Back to School Night" was a tremendous success. We had seventh and ninth grade orientation, as well as Chromebook orientation for our new seventh grade students. The night ended with a meet and greet with all of our staff.

I am happy to announce that the Jr./Sr. High School is participating in the new Elevating Student Voices program run by the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. The goal of the program is to create a discussion between eight neighboring districts, in the pursuit of embracing diversity, equity, inclusion and creating a sense of belonging for all students. We will be sending eight high school students (two per grade) to participate, including two senior students who will act as facilitators. The group will meet for a half-day for discussion sessions, three times during the year. It will end with an all-day Youth Summit in May 2024. This program follows the NYSED Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CR-S) framework, which calls on us to continually create opportunities where, "Students acknowledge the limitations of their own perspectives. They have empathy for others while they appreciate and respect others' differences. They demonstrate cooperation and teamwork, while using active listening and communication skills to resolve conflict. They use interpersonal skills to build and maintain strong relationships, including those along lines of difference, in their class and school communities." My goal is to have our students learn from other students in the area and come up with ways on how we can improve our District using a growth mindset. Our seventh and eighth grade students have also been fortunate enough to have Erin Gruwell and Tony from the Freedom Writers come and talk to them this October. They spoke about topics such as homelessness, addiction recovery, bullying, depression and suicide awareness, and how to use storytelling to overcome adversity.

I want to give a big thank you to everyone that helped volunteer making this an amazing Homecoming Weekend for our students and community! This year's Spirit Week was September 25-30 and included a variety of activities designed to promote school spirit and a sense of community. Spirit Week was capped off with a Pep Rally on Friday night, and Maroon and White Dance Saturday night. I want to give a special shout out to Amy Piersma, Emma Rogers, Erin Cortese and Dave Buck for all of their help in making the Pep Rally a huge success! It was great to have another community event with such a huge turnout.

Each day, students are encouraged to stay during the student activity period from 2:30-2:55 p.m. This is a way to pre-arrange support from one of their teachers, and catch up on any work they need to complete. I hope that students take advantage of this supportive program that we offer to benefit their academics.

As always, if I may be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 315.768.2063.

ORISKANY PROUD

All my best,

*Andrew K. Kennedy*

ORISKANY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



## A MESSAGE FROM SPECIAL PROGRAM & SUPPORT SERVICES

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, Grandparents and Community Members,

Fall has settled in, as have our students and programs. Fall benchmark testing has occurred and data meetings are underway to determine adjustments for appropriate intervention. Tier 1 provides for the instructional needs of all students in their classroom. Tier 2 provides for the instructional needs of students that require supplemental/enhanced support to progress. Tier 2 intervention may be in or outside the classroom in flexible, small groups working on skill deficiencies. Tier 3 is designed to provide for the instructional needs of students who have not been successful with the supports of Tiers 1 and 2. Tier 3 intervention provides daily intensive skill instruction in a small group with the services outside the classroom using specialized instruction, i.e., Soliday Reading, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy and EnVisions MDIS math intervention. Appropriate intervention is indicated through progress monitoring and progress is reported home at quarterly marking periods.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are being implemented and discussed/written at Annual Review meetings. With Computer Based Testing (CBT) looming, our Committee on Special Education must reimagine the implementation of testing accommodations. This decision-making considers each student's unique needs during testing:

- Is participation standard administration appropriate?
- In order to participate, does the student need an accommodation?
- To what extent does the student's disability impede his/her demonstration of knowledge and/or understanding?

- What instructional accommodations, if any, are provided to the student in the classroom?
- What accommodation(s) focus on removing the obstacles to equal participation that are a result of the student's disability?
- What accommodation(s) will facilitate participation that enables the student to be as independent as possible?
- NYSED VESID. (May 2006). "Test Access & Accommodations for Students with Disabilities"

Testing accommodations may include "tests read" which will require teaching students to use the computer/Chromebook for "tests read." Computer-based "tests read" may allow students to remain in the natural testing environment using a computer/Chromebook in the classroom with headphones/earbuds. Teachers were offered training in their respective buildings with our Technology Integration Specialist focusing on how to use Kami, Google Translate and Immersive Reader. Additionally a Moving to Electronic Assessments (Kami / Google Translate / Immersive Reader) session was offered on the October 6, Superintendent's Conference Day for instructional staff.



*Denise Mazza*

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES





Dear Oriskany Central School District families,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the families in the Oriskany Central School District for a very warm welcome as I transitioned into this role. I am honored to serve the students, families and community. It is with great enthusiasm and dedication that I embrace this role to provide an exceptional service for all of our students. My objective is to reimagine the transportation department by establishing goals and implementing a standard of excellence.

My goals for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

- To provide a great working environment for our bus drivers and monitors while also implementing procedures, standards and accountability;
- To reduce turnover and maintain appropriate staffing levels needed to execute all bus routes and extracurricular trips;
- To improve communication with parents, students and between school buildings;
- To improve bus safety and route efficiency.

On September 14, all students at N.A. Walbran Elementary School participated in School Bus Safety Drills to ensure your child's safety on the school bus and to maintain compliance with Section 3623 of New York State Education Law.

The following items were reviewed with your child:

- Ridership Rules;
- Seat Belts;
- Security;
- Disabled bus driver and use of bus radio;
- Safe loading and unloading demonstration;
- The use and operation of emergency doors, fire extinguishers, first-aid equipment and windows as a means of escape in case of fire or accident;
- Safe boarding and emergency exiting procedures with specific emphasis on when and how to approach, board, disembark and move away from the bus.

New York State school bus drivers are the most highly trained, tested and observed drivers on the road and our school buses are maintained to an exceptionally high standard. School bus safety rules are designed solely to protect students of all ages from traffic dangers and to prepare them for the unlikely event of a bus accident or other emergency. We ask that all students be safety-conscious.

Bus Safety Tips to review with your child:

- Students should be prepared and at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to pick up time;
- Demonstrate safe behavior at the bus stop;
- Do not move towards an approaching bus until it is completely stopped and the driver signals that it is safe;
- Read and abide by the bus rules poster, which is located inside of every school bus;
- Tell the bus driver, teacher or parent if something or someone makes you feel unsafe at the bus stop or on the bus.

Important Reminder - loading and unloading remains the moment of greatest potential risk for students using school buses. Simply put, there is inherent danger involved in children getting on and off a large vehicle stopped in the roadway.

I look forward to a successful 2023-2024 school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Best Regards,

*Zachary R. Nicotera*

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION  
znicotera@oriskanycsd.org



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Dear Oriskany Community,

As we conclude our fall sport season, we have crossed several milestones. The boys and girls soccer teams hosted sectional games at home. Our cheerleading team not only hosted 24 schools from Section III Athletics, our team won their division, and their scores were in line with much larger schools out of their division. The 2023 fall season was the first for a new competition format called Game Day. With having only two cross-country runners this year, they were able to compete as members of the Westmoreland team. Both runners competed and excelled in their divisions. Our small, but fierce team of two gymnasts qualified for sectionals in their first meet of the season. All of our varsity athletic teams earned scholar athlete awards for the fall season. I would like to congratulate all of our student-athletes on their accomplishments this fall season.

As we move on to winter sports, with the new six team classifications, some of our sports teams will compete in Class D. For girls and boys basketball, we will compete in Class C. Our teams are ready for the challenge and look forward to facing some different teams than we have in the past. Our indoor track team will be hosting some runners from Westmoreland as we compete at several venues this winter. Cheerleading will go back to the traditional sideline competition as we have seen in the past. Oriskany also will be represented by four players on the Mohawk Valley Jugglers ice hockey team.

As we move forward with following the New York State Department of Education mandate, we begin to retire our current mascot. It brings back memories of what a coach told me as a young player, "it's not about the uniform or what's on the uniform, it is about who is in the uniform that matters." As we go through this process, I reflect on who is in the uniform and here at Oriskany we do have the best student-athletes in our uniforms.

As always I like to thank the families and the community members of Oriskany for all of their support for our athletic programs. I am always available by phone at 315.601.0445 or by email at [dbuck@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:dbuck@oriskanycsd.org).

Sincerely,

*Dave Buck*

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS  
Girls Varsity Basketball Coach





# Capital Project

## Transportation Center Ribbon Cutting

On October 17, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Transportation Center was held after school. Board of Education members, Superintendent Cuthbertson, current and retired bus drivers and staff and community members were present to tour the 5,000 square foot bus facility.

With members of the Oriskany CSD present, a tour and demonstration of the facility's automated school bus wash commenced. The \$3.1 million transportation center is now completed as part of the \$13 million total capital project. Board of Education member, Therese Hanna was given the honor of cutting the ribbon.





### *Christine M. Benedict*

Christine M. Benedict joined the Oriskany Central School in the beginning of 2023 as a school monitor. Benedict loves working with students and chose Oriskany because of its small, inclusive atmosphere.

Prior to working at the Oriskany CSD, Benedict served as a teacher's aide at the Madison-Oneida BOCES and as a group leader for before and afterschool programs with the YMCA. Benedict earned her degree in Early Childhood Nursery Education from Herkimer College. During her free time, Benedict enjoys making beeswax candles, reading and gardening. Benedict looks forward to continuing her time at the Oriskany Central School throughout the 2023-24 school year.



### *Reagan Bishop*

The Oriskany Central School is excited to welcome Reagan Bishop as its newest teaching assistant. Bishop is an Oriskany alumna who cannot wait to partake in nurturing the minds of the students at the Oriskany CSD.

Bishop earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Cortland, and prior to working for Oriskany, held a position at the Eastern Star Daycare for seven years.



### *Jonathan Espinal Castillo*

Oriskany would like to welcome Jonathan Espinal Castillo as one of our valued school bus drivers. Castillo is a devoted member of the staff who worked for the Utica City School District prior to joining the team at Oriskany.

In his free time, Castillo enjoys activities such as baseball and basketball. Castillo chose educational transportation because he enjoys working with children and assisting them in their educational journey.



### *Dortha C. DeSalvo*

Dortha DeSalvo joined the Oriskany Central School in the beginning of 2023 as a school bus driver and cleaner. DeSalvo is 19A Examiner Certified and has served more than 27 years in bus driving and administration through the Birnie Bus Service and Durham School Services.

DeSalvo attended Mohawk Valley Community College and in her free time, enjoys learning about her faith.



### *Anngisile Longo*

The Oriskany Central School welcomes Anngisile Longo as a school bus driver. Longo looks forward to working for a small school district as it offers a more relaxing environment.

Prior to coming to Oriskany, Longo worked as a bus driver for the Birnie Bus Service, Durham Bus Services and the Utica City School District. Longo also earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Polytechnic Institute.



### *Natalia Medina*

Natalia Medina joined the Oriskany Central School District for the 2023-2024 school year as a school bus driver. Medina enjoys working with children and is excited to contribute her services to the Oriskany CSD.

Medina graduated from James Monroe High School in Rochester, NY and gained experience in bus driving through her work at the Utica City School District. In her free time, Medina enjoys cooking and extreme couponing.





### *Zachary Nicotera*

Zachary Nicotera joined the Oriskany Central School District in August of 2023 as the Director of Transportation and has made tremendous improvements to the District's transportation department already. Nicotera has passion for working with children and is delighted to serve the District by providing new ideas and leadership for the department.

Nicotera graduated from the Thomas R. Proctor High School and attended the Utica School of Commerce. Nicotera enjoys volunteering for his local church in Utica and in his free time he likes to read, cook and spend time with his friends and family.



### *Nicole Nolin*

We are excited to welcome Nicole Nolin to the Oriskany Central School as the long term sub for Physical Education Teacher. Nolin chose to work at the Oriskany CSD because of the many opportunities extended to her throughout the years during and following her collegiate education.

Nolin previously worked as a long-term substitute and tennis coach at Waterville CSD as well as the JV basketball coach for the Oriskany CSD. Nolin earned a Bachelor's of science and master's degree in education and hopes to share her knowledge and passion with the students throughout the upcoming year.



### *Leonardo Rodriguez*

The Oriskany Central School is pleased to welcome Leonardo Rodriguez to the District as a school bus driver and laborer. Rodriguez looks forward to furthering students' education during his time working for the District.

With 14 years of experience as a warehouse worker and bus driver with a certification from the Commercial Driver's License program, Rodriguez is highly qualified for this role. He is excited to meet the challenges of his new role and the opportunities it presents. During his free time, Rodriguez enjoys staying active through football, basketball, baseball and boxing, in addition to playing video games and spending time with his family and two dogs.



### *Lydia Rogers*

Lydia Rogers has joined Oriskany as a teacher assistant after having served as a substitute teacher for N.A. Walbran Elementary. Prior to her position as a teacher assistant, Rogers worked for Oriska Insurance Co. as an administrative assistant.

Rogers graduated from the Oriskany CSD and earned her bachelor's degree from SUNY Oneonta. She chose to pursue education so she could make a difference in the lives of students and exercise her creativity.

Rogers loves to spread kindness and create a positive atmosphere. During her free time, she loves to create artwork, walk her dogs spend time outside, bake and spend time with her friends and family.



### *Gail Scarafile*

The Oriskany Central School District is pleased to welcome Gail Scarafile as a school bus driver and 19A Examiner for the 2023-24 school year. Scarafile looks forward to working close to home through her position as a bus driver.

Prior to joining the Oriskany CSD, Scarafile worked as a bus driver for LaidLaw and the Birnie Bus Service for 20 years. In her free time, Scarafile enjoys baking, cooking and spending time with her grandchildren.



### *Justin M. Suhocki*

Justin Suhocki joined the Oriskany Central School District for the 2023-24 school year as a school bus monitor. Suhocki is excited for the change of pace and scenery that moving to a small district like Oriskany offers and looks forward to working with individuals of all ages.

Suhocki's experience in school bus monitoring and dispatching spans more than 22 years through his time at the Birnie Bus Service and the Utica City School District. During his free time, he enjoys volunteering for the Boilermaker Road Race, watching football, Nascar, fishing and spending time with his dog.

# AP Scholar Awards



Each fall, the Advanced Placement (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 (grade 12) and Class of 2023 graduates have been named AP Scholars:

### GRADE 12 STUDENTS

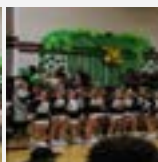
- Javante Brill-Rollins - AP Scholar
- Kaelyn Buehler - AP Scholar with Honor
- Gavin Howd - AP Scholar
- Anthony Kernan - AP Scholar
- Megan Wright - AP Scholar

### CLASS OF 2023

- Jessalyn Birt - AP Scholar with Distinction
- David Cronauer - AP Scholar
- Ryan Donohue - AP Scholar with Distinction
- Jenna Palmiotto - AP Scholar
- Juliet Tagliaferri - AP Scholar



# PEP Rally



Ms. Piersma and Ms. Rogers were pivotal in the success of this year's Spirit Week and Maroon and White Weekend! A great deal of fun was had at the Friday night Pep Rally and student-athletes enjoyed several exciting games. Senior athletes and their parents were recognized for all of their hard work. A student who was voted most spirited during the week was awarded the privilege of smashing a shaving cream pie in Mr. Kennedy's face. Thank you, Mr. Kennedy, for being such a great sport!

Unfortunately, the week ended with the Westmoreland Oriskany Varsity Football team falling just a little short to Sandy Creek. However, our boys varsity soccer team defeated Hamilton with a 2-0 win at Bernie Block Field. The junior class hosted a dunk tank during the soccer games which provided much fun and many laughs. Thank you to the staff who volunteered to sit in the tank and to those who came out to support the juniors. The students ended their celebration with the Maroon and White Dance on Saturday evening.

Thank you to Mr. Buck and Mrs. Cortese, as well as all the staff who helped to make Spirit Week and the Pep Rally a success!

# SIDEWALK CHALK ART

FOR A CAUSE

On October 13, the Student Against Destructive Decisions Club gathered together to create sidewalk chalk art for Seen Enough Tobacco Day. The club created their sidewalk art at the front bridge entrance of the high school. The club even included some interesting facts and statistics about the use of drugs, alcohol and overall health in their drawings to educate other students.



## USS ORISKANY

On October 2, a USS Oriskany pre-K through sixth grade assembly took place at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. Students wore red, white and blue to show patriotism. Students sang the National Anthem and interactive patriotic music was displayed on the Promethean board.

Four veterans from the USS Oriskany shared history about their ship and what Oriskany meant to them during their time in the Navy. Community partners from Oriskany Museum and Oriskany American Legion Post 1448 also participated in the event.



## Studio Art



During the fall, students in the Studio Art Class worked to create artwork in the style of the Cubist Art Period. Cubism was started by Pablo Picasso and George Braques. The art period's hallmark characteristics included a monochromatic color scheme, multiple points of view, distorted and angular shapes and fragmented pieces of objects. Students combined their knowledge of Cubism and specific drawing techniques, such as chiaroscuro, to create their own cubist still lifes.





## Exploring More in Art

At N.A. Walbran, students have been exploring topics of space exploration in art class with this year's space theme under the direction of Art Teacher Kimberly Kane. Pre-K students created three-dimensional unidentified flying objects (UFO) with aliens while kindergarteners went stargazing virtually and then recreated constellations. The first graders constructed a space shuttle in flight and the second graders used their imagination to transform cardboard tubes into rockets, aliens, astronauts and more!

As the learning at N.A. Walbran continued, the third grade classes made four sided, symmetrical aliens that stand on their own four feet. The fourth graders created a ringed moon by painting circles of various values to make a background for a silhouette. Lastly, the fifth grade students created brand new universes and the sixth graders captured a lunar landing by drawing an astronaut who landed on the moon with the earth behind him.

The artwork these earthlings have created is out of this world!



## enVision Math Solve & Share

On October 6, N.A. Walbran Elementary teachers participated in math professional development, which focused on the three-step lesson structure:

1. *Problem Based Learning: Solve & Share*
2. *Visual Learning*
3. *Assess and Differentiate*

Pictured below you will see N.A. Walbran teachers and staff participating in a Solve & Share activity. The purpose of the solve and share is to elicit productive struggle that builds understanding by connecting prior knowledge to new ideas. Each day in math class, teachers introduce the solve and share problem which implements tasks that promote reasoning and problem-solving. The students get time to think on their own and teachers observe students at work which supports productive struggle and lets teachers pose purposeful questions. Students share with their peers and discuss solution strategies and key ideas which facilitate meaningful mathematical discourse. Math practices and effective teaching practices are implemented throughout enVision mathematics. Solve and share is an especially good opportunity to focus on specific practices. A rigorous curriculum emphasizes conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency and applications. Students get to see how people use mathematics to think about and solve real world problems.



## FedEx Cares

On September 8, N.A. Walbran Elementary School was presented with a very generous donation of \$2,223 from FedEx through their FedEx Cares program.

The funds were raised through their annual golf tournament, held on August 19. Each year, a few local schools are selected to receive a portion of the funds that were raised to be put toward school supplies, materials, activities and more for the students in those schools. This year, N.A. Walbran Elementary was selected as one of the schools to receive the donation.

We would like to thank everyone at FedEx, including representatives Mr. Joe Kennard and Mr. Tim Price, and the sponsors who participated in the golf tournament for this generous donation and for selecting N.A. Walbran Elementary as a donation recipient.



## N.A. Walbran Kindergarten Fun

At N.A. Walbran, the kindergarten classes have been hard at work. The classes visited the fire station and learned all about fire safety during the month of October. The classes also participated in fall and Halloween themed activities and even participated in a Halloween themed school parade. Our teachers have observed significant growth in the students' academics and are also so proud of how hard the kindergarteners have been working on numbers, letters and identifying high frequency words!



# ThoughtExchange

Dear Oriskany CSD Community,

As we begin the process of selecting a new mascot, we would like to hear from you. It is important that this be an open and inclusive process, in which all voices have a chance to participate.

Please participate in the following ThoughtExchange. This will be an opportunity to gather feedback about what characteristics and attributes you want to be sure that the new District mascot represents. Not only will you be able to share your own thoughts, but you will have the opportunity to rate the thoughts of others.

Please note this Exchange will be open through **Friday, December 8, 2023**.

## About the ThoughtExchange

As we begin the process of selecting a new District mascot, we want to hear from you. The Oriskany Central School District is actively seeking input from students, staff, parents, alumni, and community members. We are using the ThoughtExchange platform to gather your valuable input/feedback. This approach will help us identify the values and priorities of our entire school community and will provide important information to our District Mascot Renaming Committee.

## Why are we changing our District mascot and logo?

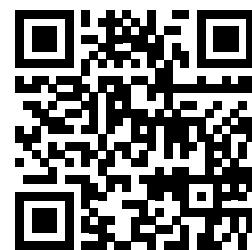
To comply with Part 123 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Prohibiting the Use of Indigenous Names, Mascots, and Logos by Public Schools, all school districts in New York State must ensure their mascots, team names, and logos are non-discriminatory and do not use Indigenous names or imagery. For more information, see the Background and Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Part 123 from NYSED.

## Part 123 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education

The New York State Board of Regents voted unanimously to adopt a new Part 123 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to prohibiting the use of Indigenous team names, mascots and logos by public schools on April 18, 2023. To learn more, visit: <https://www.oriskanycsd.org/part123regulations>

## Background and Frequently Asked Questions

For more information regarding Part 123 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and the answers to frequently asked questions, visit: <https://oriskanycsd.org/frequentlyaskedquestions>



[www.oriskanycsd.org/mascotthoughtexchange](https://www.oriskanycsd.org/mascotthoughtexchange)



## MASCOT CHANGE SUBMISSION FORM

To provide a seamless mascot selection, we would like to hear from you. It is important that this be an open and inclusive process, in which all voices have a chance to participate. This will be an opportunity to gather feedback about what characteristics and attributes you want to be sure that the new District mascot represents.

We recognize that some District residents may not feel comfortable using the online ThoughtExchange platform, and would prefer to mail or drop off a written response.

Please participate in our mascot change process by visiting [www.oriskanycsd.org/MascotThoughtExchange](http://www.oriskanycsd.org/MascotThoughtExchange) or by writing a response to the following prompt and mailing or dropping this form off at 1313 Utica Street, Oriskany NY 13424.

To help us better understand your perspective, what best describes your role in the Oriskany CSD community? (select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Alum
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff Member	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Member/District Resident	_____
	_____

## QUESTION

What important considerations should we make (such as ideals, characteristics or attributes) when selecting a new District mascot? What are your suggestions for a new District mascot that reflects these considerations?

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PLEASE NOTE RESPONSES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NO LATER THAN **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023.**

*Thank you for your participation!*



**ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1313 Utica Street  
Oriskany, NY 13424

*Upcoming  
Events*

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

NOV 15 - 17	<b>Elementary PT Conference Days &amp; Early Dismissal</b>
NOV 21	<b>Board of Education Meeting</b>
NOV 22 - 24	<b>Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL</b>
DEC 1	<b>TATF Blood Drive</b>
DEC 5	<b>Board of Education Meeting</b>
DEC 7	<b>Grades 7-12 Chorus and Band Concert</b>
DEC 14	<b>Elementary Chorus &amp; 5th and 6th Grade Band Concert</b>
DEC 19	<b>Board of Education Meeting</b>
DEC 22-29	<b>Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL</b>
JAN 1	<b>Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL</b>