



The Silverstreak Connection

December, 2025

Osakis, Minnesota

5th & 6th Grade Knowledge Bowl Excels!



An excellent final competition for our 5th and 6th grade Knowledge Bowl teams, who competed December 3, 2025 in Fergus Falls against 22 competitive teams!

The team of Jase Nevala, David Collins, Eloise Harren, Lucy Dahlheimer, Kameron Miller, and Caleb Cozart earned 14th place.

The team of Abby Otremba, Huxley Rice, Zoe Reinbold, Jacob Finnegan, Henry Kalpin, and Seth Moore earned 7th place and also got the Excellence in Science award.

The team of Audra Reiffenberger, Erik Schwope, Odin Brown, Travis Miller, Bently Johnson, and Brielle Larson earned 1st place and earned the Excellence in Written Round award.

Congratulations to all the teams on an awesome season!



Above: Students that attended the Manufacturing, Transportation, and Construction Career event at ATCC.

Osakis High School Students Discover Manufacturing, Transportation, and Construction Careers at Alexandria Technical & Community College

Alexandria, MN – Alexandria Technical & Community College (ATCC) welcomed students from Osakis on October 30 for an immersive exploration of manufacturing and construction career opportunities. The event provided students with hands-on exposure to the advanced technical programs and career pathways available in these vital industries.

During the tour, students engaged directly with instructors and current students from ATCC's Manufacturing, Construction, and Transportation & Mechanics divisions. Participants learned about a range of programs, including:

- Carpentry
- Diesel Mechanics
- Machine Tool Technology
- Marine, Motorcycle, and Powersports Technician
- Mechanical Drafting, Design, and Engineering
- Mechatronics
- Welding Technology

The experience allowed students to explore the region's thriving advanced manufacturing sector while gaining insight into the educational pathways that can lead to rewarding careers in these industries.

This event was made possible through the generous support of our manufacturing sponsors: Aagard Group, Alexandria Industries, Beacon Engineered Solutions, Brenton Engineering Co., Felling Trailers, ForceAmerica, ITW Heartland, Massman Automation Designs, Standard Iron & Iron Works, Inc. - Alexandria, and Ziegler, Inc. – Fergus Falls. Their dedication to developing the next generation of skilled professionals makes experiences like this accessible to students throughout the region.

Special thanks to the Tri-State Manufacturers' Association for securing transportation funding through a grant from the Minnesota Center for Excellence – Manufacturing, ensuring that students would be able to attend this valuable event.

ATCC remains committed to connecting young people with the exceptional career opportunities available in manufacturing and construction, helping to build a strong workforce for the future.

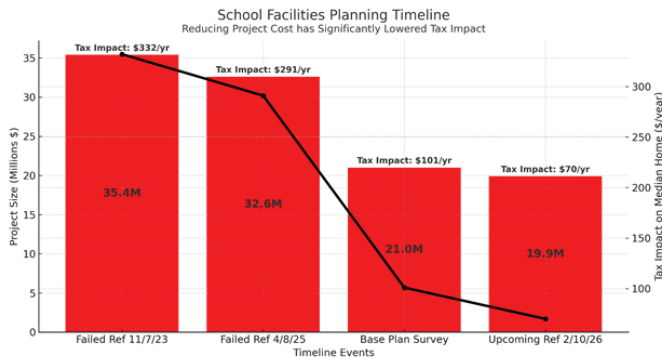
Superintendent's Message

Justin Dahlheimer



February 10, 2026 Referendum Scheduled

The months after last spring's failed referendum were filled with sharpening pencils, surveying our community, and reducing the previous facilities plans based on the information we received from our community. This process has resulted in a **much smaller project** – 40% smaller – than the previous referendum, to be exact and a **more affordable project**—the tax impact of this plan is 75% less on a median taxpayer than our initial project scope.



The \$19.9 million February 10, 2026 Building Bond Referendum is still able to accomplish our most pressing needs:

Safe Spaces - By rebuilding our performance space on the South entrance, a larger multipurpose (50% more seating!) performance space can be built near added parking. With a monitored entrance and a parking lot that keeps our buses, vehicles, pedestrians, and green spaces/playgrounds separate—we can safely manage the daily traffic in and out of the school. This design also allows us to abandon many unmonitored entrances.

Skilled Students - The plan adds modern classroom spaces that will lead to increased student engagement in hands-on learning, skills, and trades. There is room to add an accessible special education space designed for the equipment used in those classrooms.

Shared Success - As our strategic plan sets forth, improving our facility is one of the main initiatives to impact student achievement. Our students are being taught, trained, and immersed in our community so they can play a key role in helping Osakis thrive for years to come.

Early voting begins on **December 26, 2025** at the District Office. On **February 10, 2026**, voting will be at Ed Pollard

Community Center from 7am to 8pm. Look for more information on this referendum in the *Osakis Anchor*, on our district website (<https://www.osakis.k12.mn.us/>), and in a mailing sent to your home if you are a voter registered in the Osakis Public School District.

Weather-Related Announcements

With winter now in full swing, there could be abrupt changes to our school schedule should snow, ice, or frigid temperatures threaten safe travel to and from school. We could have 1 hour, 2 hour, or 3 hour late starts. In the event of a cancellation, we have two days factored into our school calendar that would not have to be made up. The next two days would be e-learning days, where students would have assignments given to them ahead of time to be completed on those days. The next two days would be made up on April 6 and May 29. Finally, we have the option of three more e-learning days.

Communication is critical to navigating any uncertainty our Minnesota winter imposes. We do not want to be too quick to make a cancellation decision, so please be aware of where and how to be notified of our most recent decisions:

Websites:

<https://www.kare11.com/closings>
<https://www.voiceofalexandria.com/weather/cancellations/>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/school-closings/>
<https://www.fox9.com/school-closings>
<https://www.osakis.k12.mn.us/>

Local tv stations:

Channel 11 - KARE
 Channel 5 - KSTP
 Channel 9 - Fox

Local radio stations:

KIK-FM - 100.7 FM
 KBHL - 103.9 FM
 KEYL - 1400 AM
 KXRA - 1490 AM

Follow our District social media - Facebook (Osakis Public School), Twitter/X (@ISD213), Instagram (ISD213)

Parents/Guardians will receive a phone call and text message regarding any weather-related decision - **it is critical to have this information up-to-date** with our Elementary and High School Offices via our Skyward Student Information System.

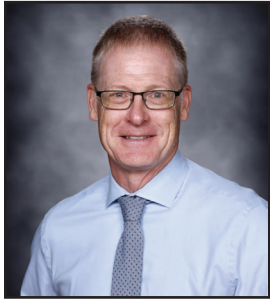
Please help our bus drivers by **clearly marking your driveway** so we can keep our buses from getting stuck.

Parents/Guardians, please be aware of communication from our principals regarding expectations of your students on any e-learning days and how to work with our teachers on those days.

All that said, we hope it is an enjoyable winter with very few disruptions to our calendar!

Secondary Update

Brad Hoffarth, Secondary Principal



Happy Holidays

Students will be dismissed from school on Tuesday, December 23 at 1:00 for the Holiday Break and classes will resume on Monday, January 5. Thank you for taking pride in our school and community. We appreciate and value your support. Osakis High School students and staff wish you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday season.

First Semester Reminders

The end of the first semester is Friday, January 16. We encourage all students to do their best when preparing for upcoming finals and end-of-semester projects. With only two weeks of classes following the Holiday Break it is important for students to prioritize self-care such as consistent sleep patterns, healthy eating habits, and physical activity during break. This will help with the transition back to school in January.

Power of One

Lindsey Hinnenkamp, Mikayla Johnson, and Mike Steinbeisser have continued to work with Osakis Public School staff to lead the Power of One initiative.

Activities included the following events:

- Angel Tree/Thankful Tree and Prize Trees were set up during the last week of November and they will remain up during the month of December.
- Lunch With Littles took place on Thursday, December 4.
- Twelve LEAD students attended a MSHSL Regional Leadership training session on Wednesday, December 3 in Willmar.
- Holiday Hallway Decorating took place for Grades 7-12 on Thursday, December 11.
- Power of One Grade Exchange Day on Friday, December 19.

Winter Weather Safety

The transition to winter means we all need to focus on safety, both on the bus and behind the wheel. Minnesota weather can change quickly so dressing in layers and wearing appropriate winter clothing and footwear is critical. Reminding our young drivers to keep their windows and lights clear of snow while slowing down, increasing following distance, and being extra patient around snowplows is extremely important.

Snow Day Procedure Update

Teaching staff worked two extra days between July 1, 2025 and August 24, 2025, to take the place of two traditional weather-related school closures. The first day was used for the Wednesday, November 26 weather related school closure. There is one remaining school closure before using up to two flexible/e-learning days. If there are additional weather-related school closures following flexible/e-learning days then April 6 and May 29 would be used as make up days. Updates will continue to be communicated through the school web page, school social media, and local television and radio stations.

Brad Hoffarth
High School Principal
Phone: 320-859-2191 Ext. 1300
www.osakis.k12.mn.us



Elementary Update

Shad Schmidt, Elem. Principal



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Osakis Community,

We are already more than a quarter of the way through the school year! As the holidays approach, we want to share some highlights of what our students have been learning, along with upcoming activities and events. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in education,

Shad Schmidt - Elementary Principal

Important Dates to Remember

- **December 23:** Early Dismissal 1:00 pm
- **December 24 - January 4:** Winter Break
- **January 16:** End of Quarter two/First Semester
- **January 19:** No School – Staff Workshop
- **February 13 & 16:** No school

Classroom Highlights

- **Pre-School:** Students are learning about numbers and shapes.
- **Silverstreak Academy:** Students are learning foundational skills in literacy, math concepts and social-emotional development through cooperation, independence through creative and structured activities.
- **Kindergarten:** Students are learning simple math equations, learning how to blend CVC words and learning about the First Thanksgiving.
- **1st Grade:** Students are learning to add doubles, tell time and count by 2s, 5s, and 10s. They are also learning to compare different characters and what they say, think and do when they face challenges in a variety of genres.
- **2nd Grade:** Students are developing reading comprehension and writing skills, practicing multi-digit addition and subtraction, and studying topics in social studies and science.
- **3rd Grade:** Students are learning about Government for the People. Students are also writing informative/explanatory essays on a government or Social Studies topic of their choice. Students are also doing basic multiplication and fractions.
- **4th Grade:** Students are learning to build on complex operations in math, read various genres of grade level text, and learn about geography, history, and life sciences.
- **5th Grade:** Students started DARE. Students participate in weekly lessons taught by Deputy Nicole. They cover topics such as the DARE Decision Making Model, peer-pressure, and the 5 W's of bullying.
- **6th Grade:** Students are learning about minerals, rocks, and the rock cycle. They are modeling the rock cycle using stop motion videos!

December's Featured Teachers:

This month, we are proud to recognize our music department, led by Mr. Bottelberghe and Ms. Imsande. Both have been working tirelessly to prepare and present this month's concerts, ensuring our students shine on stage. They bring tremendous experience, deep knowledge, and genuine passion to our music program. Their dedication enriches our school community and

we are grateful for the energy and excellence they bring each day.

Students of the Month:

This fall has been truly unique for our 4th grade students. Throughout the season, all three of their classroom teachers have been out on extended leave, resulting in substitute teachers stepping in for longer periods of time. Despite these unusual circumstances, our students have shown remarkable resilience, flexibility, and positivity. They have continued to learn, grow, and support one another, taking the situation in stride. We are incredibly proud of their adaptability and the way they have embraced each day with perseverance.

Upcoming Events this Winter

- **December 22:** 5th and 6th grade Skiing at Andes
- **February:** Elementary Booster Fundraiser

Enjoy time together with family and friends!
Stay connected by following us on Facebook, Instagram, X, and our school website.

MENTAL HEALTH

*Mikayla Johnson, Mike Steinbeisser,
Lindsey Hinnenkamp, and Deputy Nicole Swanson*



The school year is well underway, so we wanted to update everyone on the activities of LEAD. LEAD is a new program at school this year that combines Student Leadership and Student Council. There are kids from 5th-12th grade participating. Right out of the gate, LEAD helped organize and plan the Homecoming Week events. LEAD is also currently planning holiday activities and dress-up days. LEAD students will be volunteering at the weekly Staff Coffee Cart. They have also been meeting with Horizon Public Health to plan opportunities meant to improve student mental health and reduce vaping.

Also, groups of LEAD students will attend Leadership trainings offered by the Minnesota State High School League and Jostens. In the coming months, LEAD will also be planning Snow Week activities.

There is an opportunity to support LEAD by any district residents who receive internet services from Arvig through their School Partnership Program. There is no cost to the Arvig member, but for everyone who signs up and designates Osakis as their school of choice, we will receive \$1 a month. The information to sign up is in the upper right corner of this page.

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL School Partnership Program

Arvig® donates \$1 each month to local schools for every internet customer in the program.

More than \$1.5M donated since 2010!

I want to support: _____ NAME OF SCHOOL

Located in: _____ INCLUDE THE ENTIRE SCHOOL NAME AND CITY IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED

Name on Arvig Account: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Select your
school online!

888.99.ARVID

arvig.com/supportyourschool

Limited to schools within the Arvig service area; some restrictions apply. ©Arvig 2025 Item58



9th Grade Students participate in AI Challenge



Above: Skyler Larson & Dylan Hetland participate in an Artificial Intelligence (AI) event at MSUM.

Below: The group of students from area schools that attended the Artificial Intelligence (AI) event at MSUM



On October 29, 2025 9th graders Skyler Larson and Dylan Hetland spent the day at MSU Moorhead with students from around the area learning about Artificial Intelligence (AI), how to productively and appropriately utilize it, and how to develop their own AI tools. They chose a real-world crisis (Forest Fires), developed solutions that use AI tools, and then presented the ideas they developed to a panel of judges. These gentlemen were each awarded a \$200 MSUM Scholarship, if they choose to attend there! Great job on your teamwork and problem-solving strategies!



Osakis Agriculture Education/ FFA Report:



The Osakis FFA chapter has had an exciting and busy month filled with activities, accomplishments, and plenty to look forward to. Our members have been working hard, building leadership skills, and continuing to make our chapter proud.

One of the biggest highlights recently was Donkey Basketball on November 18. The event was full of energy, laughter, and friendly competition. Just under 700 students, staff, and community members packed the gym to cheer on the riders and the donkeys! It was a fun and memorable night that showed just how much support our chapter has from the community. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the event with us.

We also wrapped up our annual fruit sales; one of our most important fundraisers. Members worked hard to meet their goals, and we are grateful for the incredible community support. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we sold a total of \$25,681 this year, an amazing accomplishment that helps support future chapter activities and leadership opportunities. Congratulations to our top five sellers: Jackson Graff – \$3,282, Levi Middendorf – \$2,018, Ben Munsterman – \$1,440, Abigail Fiskness – \$1,380, Addison Roering – \$1,363.

The fruit arrived December 2, just in time for holiday meals, gifts, and celebrations!

Another exciting event this month was the Region 3 Barn Dance on November 21, where members from multiple area chapters came together for an evening of music, dancing, and fun. It was a great chance for students to meet new friends, connect with other FFA members in our region, and unwind after a busy fall season. The atmosphere was lively and welcoming, making it a definite highlight for everyone who attended.

Looking ahead, our chapter is preparing for the State Leadership Development Events (LDEs). This year, our Parliamentary Procedure team will proudly represent us with the following members serving as officers: Levi Middendorf – President, Leila Sandford – Vice President, Jaxon Christner – Secretary, Addison Roering – Treasurer, Ava Kallstrom – Reporter, and Justin Maus – Sentinel.

We also have Tucker Kreemer going to state for Creed Speaking. Wish our team the best of luck as they prepare to compete at the state level and demonstrate their knowledge, teamwork, and leadership skills.

As we move into the next month, the Osakis FFA is looking forward to more activities, leadership opportunities, and community events. With fruit delivery, winter events approaching, and more chances for involvement, our chapter is excited for what's ahead. Thank you to our school, families, and community for your continued support—stay tuned for more updates soon!

Looking Forward

Our final chapter meeting of 2025 will be held on Monday, December 16. Members, make sure to check in with Ms. Knott or Mrs. Jensen for updates if you didn't sell fruit. We will also be taking a trip to the Minnesota FFA Rodeo on January 31. Members, sign up with Ms. Knott or Mrs. Jensen if you are interested!



Parliamentary Procedure team Members
Back: Addison Roering, Levi Middendorf, & Jaxon Christner
Front: Ava Kallstrom, Leila Sanford, & Justin Maus



Tucker Kreemer will compete in Creed Speaking at state



Above: High School staff members Shane Massmann, Brad Hoffarth, Kendell Proell, and Kirsten Wessel pictured with the donkeys they competed with.
Below: Cory Abers participating in donkey basketball.



Media Center News

*Jennifer Otremba, District Media,
Innovation & Design Specialist*



Explore the Shelves with Us! A Parent's Guide to Our Library Genres

One of the best parts of a job in the library is helping students discover books that make them light up! Sometimes all it takes is trying a new genre - something they've never explored before - to spark that excitement. Here's a fun tour of the genres your child will find in our school library for chapter books. Feel free to use this guide at home to encourage them to "genre-hop" and try something new!

Fantasy: Think dragons, magic, quests, and far-off lands. Fantasy invites readers to step through wardrobes, ride dragons, and see what courage looks like in worlds full of wonder.

Mystery: Clues, puzzles, and "whodunits"! Mystery stories keep kids turning pages to crack the case. Great for curious minds who love solving problems.

Animal Stories: From loyal dogs to mischievous cats to talking animals with big personalities - animal stories warm hearts and make us laugh (and sometimes cry).

Realistic Fiction: Stories that feel just like real life. These books help kids see themselves and others more clearly, exploring friendships, family, school, and growing up.

Adventure: Fast-paced and full of action - perfect for readers who love excitement! Whether it's exploring the wilderness or escaping danger, adventure stories keep readers on the edge of their seats.

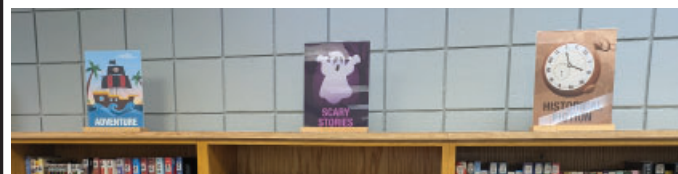
Historical Fiction: Travel through time and experience life in different eras. These books mix real history with unforgettable characters and teach students about the past through powerful storytelling.

Scary Stories: Goosebumps, creepy moments, and just the right amount of "EEK!" Scary stories help kids practice bravery while having fun - ideal for thrill-seeking readers.

Science Fiction: Aliens, futuristic technology, space travel, and "what if" questions. Sci-fi encourages kids to imagine the future and think creatively about science and innovation.

Graphic Novels: Illustrated storytelling at its best! Graphic novels are rich, engaging, and perfect for visual learners or reluctant readers. (Plus, they're real reading - and wonderful reading at that!)

Classics: Timeless stories that have shaped literature. Classics help students experience unforgettable characters, beautiful language, and themes that never get old.



Above: Some of our genre visuals will help students locate books more easily.

Tips:

- Encourage your child to try a new genre each month (shelves and books are all clearly labeled with the genre).
- Ask what they're reading and what they like about it.
- Celebrate ALL reading—graphic novels, audiobooks, re-reads, short books, long books... It all counts!

If your reader is "stuck" and not sure what to try next, send them our way - Chris Alverson and I love to be reading matchmakers!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at jotremba@osakis.k12.mn.us.

Counselor's Corner

Lindsay Kugel



SENIORS

Osakis High School has become a member of Direct Admissions through the Office of Higher Education. Any student that did not opt out of the program has been sent communication indicating all of the colleges they are automatically accepted at for the fall of 2026. They will need to follow the prompts to provide specific information required to proceed with their acceptance. If you would like to set up a meeting with me to go over any questions you have regarding graduation, college, work, or financial aid, please contact me to set up a time to meet.

All seniors have access to a spreadsheet of national scholarships available to them. Local scholarship packets will be available in March. Please encourage your child to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

FAFSA

The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) is open. Parents and students will need to use their filed 2024 tax information. If you would like assistance in completing your FAFSA, please contact Lindsay Kugel at lkugel@osakis.k12.mn.us to set up an appointment.

JUNIORS

Juniors should be setting up times to meet with me to look forward to next year and beyond. We can look at programs of interest and make the most of their senior schedule to set them up for success after high school.

SOPHOMORES

Sophomores will be attending the Sneak a Peek at Alexandria

Technical and Community College on January 6, 2026. They will be able to view programs of their choice and do some hands-on activities while exploring the campus.

2026-2027 REGISTRATION

Registration will begin in early February. Students will be able to see course descriptions and indicate their interest in courses they would like to see offered next year. After collecting that information, a master schedule will be created and registration can begin. There will be a 10th grade registration meeting at 6:30 on Monday, January 12, 2026 in the auditorium. The meeting will discuss graduation requirements, handbook language, college credits, and planning. If you have any specific questions you would like addressed, please send them to me at lkugel@osakis.k12.mn.us to allow time to prepare necessary information.

NHS

We have a total of 23 National Honor Society members this year. They have been busy making blankets to donate to the Galeon. They are running a food drive from December 1-19. The food and donations collected will benefit the local food shelf at Market on Main. Several of these members will be working with the Osakis Women's Association to help them prepare for their Season of Giving project and at Santa Days.

CAREER EXPO 2025

The Career Expo 2025 was a great opportunity for students in grades 9-12 to learn about careers in our community. With close to 50 businesses participating, students were presented with valuable information to help them prepare for their future careers. Thank you to the businesses that attended and to the alumni that returned for the event.



SENIOR BANNERS

Thank you to Rose City Canopy and Sign for creating senior banners for students wishing to have a banner displayed downtown again this year. Thank you to the generous donations from the following:

Osakis Lions Club
Osakis Women's Association
Osakis VFW
Nelson Community Group
Trish Mages

High School Activities

Pat Kalpin, Activities Director



The Benefits of Youth Sports

Here at Osakis, our youth activities for elementary-aged students have become more prevalent in the school and community. We have several volunteer youth coaches who take the time to teach the game and try and provide a positive experience for each of the participants. Teaching the game takes time, but the benefits

of the youth sports programs go well beyond the scoreboard, skill level, or the outcome. They offer more than just an opportunity for children to stay active; they play a pivotal role in shaping their physical, emotional, and social development. From improving fitness levels to teaching valuable life skills, the benefits are numerous. Below are a few of the benefits of youth sports and what they can provide to the development of students.

Physical Health

Engaging in sports helps children develop stronger muscles, bones, and cardiovascular systems. Regular activity also boosts immunity and reduces the risk of obesity, a growing concern among youth today. Sports can help build endurance, coordination, and flexibility, which are essential for long-term health.

Mental and Emotional Growth

Participation in sports has a profound impact on mental well-being. Children learn discipline, focus, and resilience, which help them navigate life's challenges. Sports also foster self-confidence, as athletes set and achieve personal goals. The sense of accomplishment and improvement, no matter how small, contributes to a child's self-esteem.

Social Skills

Team sports, in particular, promote collaboration and communication. Working together toward a common goal teaches children about teamwork, empathy, and leadership. Friendships forged on the field or court can last a lifetime, providing a strong social support network.

Life Lessons

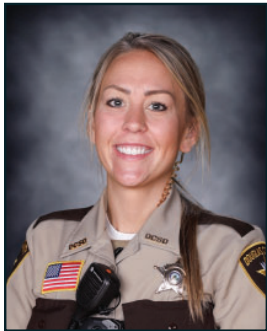
Youth sports teach important values such as perseverance, time management, and respect for authority. Losing a game or facing challenges teaches children how to handle failure with grace and bounce back stronger.

Overall, youth sports offer benefits that go beyond physical fitness. They help children become well-rounded individuals, equipped with the tools they need to thrive both on and off the field of play. As was mentioned earlier, it takes a ton of volunteer hours and flexibility in scheduling to make this all work.

If you happen to drive by the school on a Saturday in January and notice vehicles parked up and down the streets, chances are there is some type of youth activity or tournament at the school. Even if you don't have children, grandchildren, or relatives participating that day, stop in and check out how these young students participate. It is a fun experience even as a spectator!

School Resource Officer Update

Deputy Nicole Swanson



With the holidays around the corner, many students will be spending more time online, and some may be receiving their first phone, tablet, or gaming device. This makes December the perfect time to revisit digital safety and healthy technology habits. A couple tips and reminders for parents and guardians navigating a safe digital home:

Review Privacy Settings

- Check that accounts are set to private.
- Turn off location sharing, except with trusted caregivers.
- Discuss what personal information should never be shared online.

Smart Social Media Use

- Remind students to think before they post, once something is online or sent you cannot take it back.
- Encourage them to report concerning messages, bullying, or unsafe behavior immediately.
- Talk about taking breaks from social apps if they begin to feel overwhelming.
- Possessing or sending inappropriate content of yourself or peers is a crime

Avoiding Scams & Unsafe Links

- Teach students to avoid clicking unknown links, pop-ups, or “too good to be true” offers.
- Encourage families to use strong passwords and enable multi-factor authentication when possible.

The District 213 Newsletter publishes several issues per year. If you have questions please contact Justin Dahlheimer, School Superintendent, at 320-859-2191

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Michael Collins, Chairperson
Corey Goodwin, Vice Chairperson
Jeff Kalpin, Treasurer
Amy Weissner, Clerk
Greg Faber, Director
Tricia Mages, Director

For additional information call or visit
our website at:
www.osakis.k12.mn.us

Managing Editor/Layout and Design: Timothy Larson

Healthy Screen Time Habits

- Set boundaries for nighttime use, devices should ideally stay out of bedrooms.
- Encourage unplugged time each day, especially during family gatherings or before bed.
- Consider using parental controls or screen-time limits for younger students.

Protecting New Devices

- Add a passcode or fingerprint lock right away.
- Install device-tracking tools in case they become lost.
- Discuss responsible use, including respecting others' privacy.

The holiday season is a wonderful reminder of how important family and connection truly are. Our students thrive when they feel supported, valued, and surrounded by the people who love them most. This break is a perfect opportunity to slow down, be present, and enjoy time together without the usual distractions. As a fun holiday challenge, families might consider setting aside devices for certain times each day, no extra screen time, just shared moments, conversations, and traditions. It's a great way to help students understand what matters most during this season: being with their village, building memories, and strengthening the bonds that support them all year long.

School Safety Updates:

Over the last couple of months, we have continued to make strong progress in strengthening school safety. Every classroom has updated its Emergency Response Folder to ensure it provides quick, accessible information during an emergency and can confidently be used by a substitute teacher when needed. Thank you to all staff for your time and attention to getting these completed.

We have also been working on our reunification process. This includes developing a core reunification team within our school staff and preparing training to ensure we can respond effectively and consistently should reunification be necessary.

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the reunification process, we will be utilizing guidance and materials from the I Love U Guys Foundation, a nationally recognized organization focused on school safety and crisis response.

Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions or ideas.

Wishing all our families a safe and fulfilling holiday season!

-Your School Resource Officer