



The Silverstreak Connection

February, 2026

Osakis, Minnesota

Math Counts



Congratulations to our Junior High Math Counts team on their successful competition at MSU Moorhead! They placed 4th in the team round and did very well in the individual rounds! Great job everyone!

Regional Spelling Bee



6th grader Lucy Dahlheimer represented Osakis well at the Regional Spelling Bee competition Tuesday, February 17 in Fergus Falls! She worked hard and made great improvements from last year's competition! Great job, Lucy!

Osakis Silverstreaks Foundation

By: Osakis Silverstreaks Foundation Advisory Committee

We are excited to share some highlights from the Osakis Silverstreaks Foundation for the past year and we look forward to keeping you updated in this column in upcoming issues of the newsletter!

What is the Osakis Silverstreaks Foundation?

Our mission is to enhance opportunities for students, educators, and the district by awarding grants using funds raised annually by the Foundation. We seek contributions from individuals, foundations, area businesses, and corporations.

What's been happening over the last year?

- Donations were received from local organizations to help fund special projects and teacher grants. A big thanks to: First National Bank of Osakis, Glenwood State Bank, Osakis Creamery, Osakis Sportsmen's Club, Mission Mechanical, Shrode Concrete, and VFW Post #7902.
- Donations were received to purchase a Universal Laser System for our CTE department. A big thanks to: Aagard, Alexandria Industries, Brenton, Douglas Machine, Massman Companies, and PMMI Education and Training Foundation for making this possible!
- Donations were received from individual donors and through company matches - thanks to all of those donors for supporting our efforts!
- A partnership was formed between the Osakis Silverstreaks Foundation and First National Bank so account holders can get their "Osakis Silverstreaks" debit card and the bank will make a donation for every swipe (without costing the customer anything extra!)
- Teacher grants have been awarded to support student learning, positive school culture, and enriching opportunities.
- The community has been invited to participate in special events, such as Family Skating Nights and Family Movie Night. These events are fun and they help us raise funds to put right back into teacher grants.

Interested in learning more?

If you are interested in learning more about us, getting involved with the advisory committee, or making a donation, please contact us at silverstreaksfoundation@gmail.com.

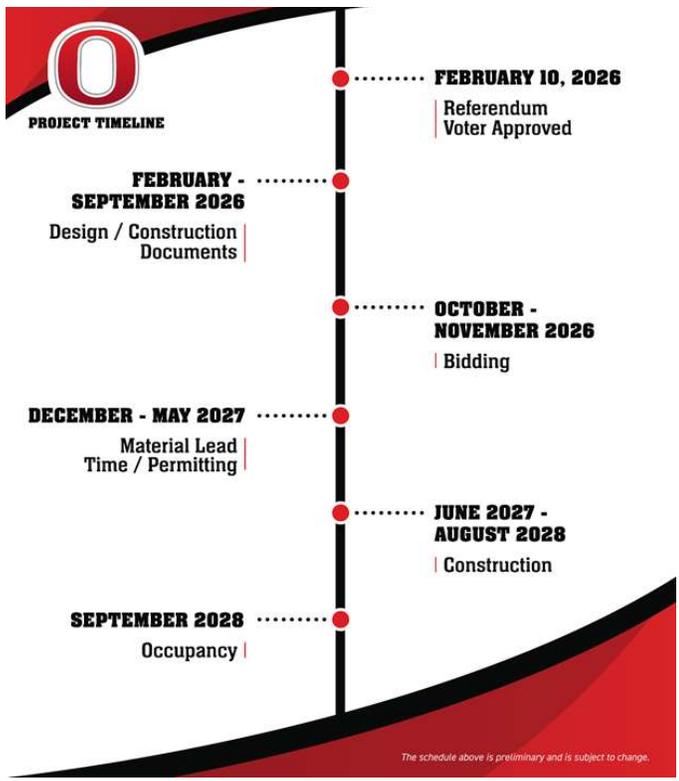
Superintendent's Message

Justin Dahlheimer



On February 10, our \$19.9 million Building Bond Referendum was supported by our community. We are grateful that the community is empowering us to move forward with our vision. Since then, I've been getting the question, "What's next?"

Design kicks off right away in February, with bidding preliminary scheduled for this fall. Core staff planning teams will be formed throughout the design process to help ensure our spaces fully support our educational goals! Construction is tentatively slated for summer 2027 with completion targeted for August 2028 and the new spaces ready for students and staff in September 2028. Final design and construction timelines will be formalized over the next few months and we will keep the community updated as details become available. More updates to come as we reach each milestone!



Secondary Update

Brad Hoffarth, Secondary Principal



2026-2027 Osakis High School Academic Programming Updates

Osakis High School staff is committed to providing all students with well-rounded opportunities to learn while exploring potential career pathways. In an effort to expand options, our staff has been working to increase elective course offerings for our students. To make this possible, students will have expanded opportunities to take required courses resulting in increased scheduling flexibility for elective courses. Our students will benefit and they will be more prepared to make better informed career pathway choices.

Additional course offerings within the CTE, English, Fine Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies Departments have been added. The CTE Department consists of Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Science (FACS) and Trades and Industry/Manufacturing courses. Students will have access to more elective courses in grades 9 -12 that will meet both local and state graduation standards. Students will have the ability to choose courses that match areas of interest while further developing skills that they will use for a lifetime.

Incentive Day

On Thursday, February 26, Osakis High School students had the opportunity to participate in an Incentive Day. To participate, students had to be in good academic and behavioral standing, and could not be on the academic grade check list as of 2/24/26. The grade level with the highest attendance percentage on Incentive Day received a reward. Students chose either one full-day activity or two half-day activities (one morning and one afternoon). Full-day options included Andes Tower Hills for skiing or snowboarding, Skatin' Place, Air Maxx, and weather-permitting, snowmobiling. Students supplied their own snowmobiles and were supervised by staff and Douglas County Deputies. Half-day options available both in the morning and afternoon included ice fishing, Bowling Barn, or staying at school for games and movies. Students who chose ice fishing were responsible for dressing appropriately and supplying their own fishing equipment. Students were supervised by staff while fishing.

Snow Day Procedure Update

Osakis Public School has used the two preapproved traditional snow days and one E-Learning Day. In the event that there are additional weather-related school closures, the school district, as approved by the School Board, will be implementing one more E-Learning day and if needed make up days on April 6 and May 29.

- School closures will be communicated via television, radio and the school messaging alert system.
- Assignments/Activities will be posted on Schoology.
- Teachers will be available by phone, email or Google Meet from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. for questions that students may have.
- Flexible/E-Learning days are considered student contact days for attendance.
- Students who choose not to participate without an excused absence will receive an unexcused absence.
- Attendance will be taken based on assignment completion.
- Flexible/E Learning days will help prevent changes to the district calendar and the addition of days at the end of the school year.

Brad Hoffarth
High School Principal
Phone: 320-859-2191 Ext. 1300



Elementary Update

Shad Schmidt, Elem. Principal



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Osakis Community,
We are over half of the way through the school year! As spring approaches, we want to share some highlights of what our students have been learning, along with upcoming activities and events.
Yours in education,

Shad Schmidt - Elem. Principal

Important Dates to Remember

- **March 4:** Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:30
- **March 27:** No School – Staff Workshop
- **April 3 & 6:** No School
- **April 14 – 30:** Grades 3-6 MCA Testing

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 math equations, how to blend words and learning about Presidents Day, Groundhog Day, and Valentine's Day.
- **1st Grade:** Students are learning to retell a familiar story, describe characters and events, and sequence numbers in math.
- **2nd Grade:** Students are developing grammar and handwriting, practicing math skills, and studying a variety of topics in social studies and science.
- **3rd Grade:** Students are learning different types of sentences, learning how to do basic research, and write a story.
- **4th Grade:** Student are beginning to understand genres, determine main ideas, solve longer word problems, and work independently.
- **5th Grade:** Students graduated from DARE!
- **6th Grade:** Students are gearing up for their field trip to the State Capitol and the Science Museum!

February's Featured Teachers:

This month, we are proud to recognize our 2nd grade team. February, is I love to read month. Our 2nd grade team of Mrs. Reiffenberger, Ms. Gapinski, Mr. Tschida, along with Mrs. Stier planned and implemented a month of fun activities for our school. We thank them for the extra effort in organizing this.

Students of the Month:

All of our students who registered and participated in our annual fundraiser. Our fundraiser provides field trip experiences and other opportunities for our students!

Upcoming Events this Spring

- **March 6:** 6th grade Math Masters Competition
- **March 30:** Grades 1 & 2 Music Concert
- **April 16:** 6th Grade State Capitol and Science Museum Trip
- **April 24:** 5th grade Math Masters Competition
- **April 30:** Grades 5 & 6 Musical

Stay connected by following us on Facebook, Instagram, X, and our school website.

Osakis Polar Plunge - March 5

Schedule of Events

- **Check-In:** During 6th grade lunch at 12:20
- **Pep Fest: 12:45 p.m.** in the High School Gym
- **Polar Plunge: 1:00 p.m.** outside the east doors of the High School Gym

The Polar Plunge is the **largest fundraiser for Special Olympics Minnesota**. All funds raised by Plungers help provide year-round training, competitions, and services for thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state.

This event is presented by the **Law Enforcement Torch Run**, a statewide movement of volunteers dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics Minnesota athletes.

Register here:

<https://www.plungemn.org/events/osakis-high-school-cool-school/>

Let's show our Osakis pride and support this great cause!

Class of 2039 Kindergarten Screening Thursday, March 26, 2026

Call the elementary office to schedule your child today!
320-859-2191 x 1195

Preschool Screening

Contact the elementary office to schedule your child's preschool screening today.

Students starting at 3 1/2 can be screened. Students must be screened by Kindergarten.

320-859-2191 x 1195

Counselor's Corner

Lindsay Kugel



Seniors

Scholarship packets will be passed out to all students in their Government class during the first week of March. There are several local scholarships in this packet from very generous donors. There are directions for completing the applications along with deadlines and information for submitting them. It is the student's responsibility to know the deadlines and make sure they are mailed out with plenty of time to arrive by the deadline. Students who are not in school that day or in the Government class can pick packets up in my office. Some deadlines are in March so it is important to pay attention to the due dates.. Seniors should be busy completing other scholarship applications and finalizing their plans for next year. Mark your calendars for **Senior Awards Night - May 18 at 6:30pm in the auditorium.**

Financial Aid

Seniors who are planning to attend college should have completed their FAFSA by this time. If you still need to complete this application for financial aid and would like help, please let me know. FAFSA information is now being processed and shared with the colleges that students have indicated on their applications. This information is used for colleges to inform potential students what their actual cost will be.

Juniors

Juniors took the ASVAB test on February 11. This test is given as a tool for career/college planning. All scores are sent to the high school only. If a student would like his or her scores sent to a military recruiter, they are able to request that.

Any Junior that signed up to take the ACT will be doing so on March 10. The ACT will be administered at school starting at 8:30am. Scores will be available approximately 6 weeks after the completion of the test. If students would like to improve their scores to improve scholarship opportunities, they can register to take an ACT on a national test day. You can find those dates on the ACT website at www.actstudent.org.

NHS

The members of the National Honor Society worked hard to sell flowers and chocolate for their annual fundraiser. They had a great turnout and will use some of the funds earned for Easter Days. This event has been run by the Osakis Fire Department Auxiliary members and the Osakis National Honor Society has taken the event over. Easter Days will be held on April 4 in the ECFE parking lot. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Osakis Community Center.

The NHS induction ceremony will be held on March 19 at 6:30pm in the Auditorium.



Above: NHS students put together flowers and candy for their annual fundraiser. Additional photos on page 7.

MCA Testing

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) will take place in March and April. Osakis' staff works hard to align the curriculum to help prepare students, so it is important for students to put forth their best effort on these tests. With consistent practice, healthy habits, and test-taking strategies students can boost their test performance and reduce stress. Students will be asked to set a goal for themselves prior to testing. We are planning to provide incentives for students reaching their individual goals.

The dates for the tests are:

7th Reading-4/14-4/16

7th Math-4/21-4/23

8th Reading -4/1

8th Math - 4/21

8th Science - 4/30

10th Reading 3/31

10th Science- 4/29

11th Math- 4/22

Students and Parents

- MCA Reading tests will be administered to students in grades 7, 8, and 10.
- MCA Math tests will be administered to students in grades 7, 8, and 11.
- MCA Science tests will be administered to students in grades 8 and 10.
- Test formats include multiple-choice, short-answer, and technology-enhanced questions.
- Review practice tests on the Minnesota Department of Education website to get familiar with question types. <https://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/readiness-tools/>
- Ask teachers about specific areas to focus on.

Focus on Core Subjects

- Math: Review formulas, practice problem-solving, and work on mental math.
- Use real-world examples to reinforce learning (e.g., measuring ingredients for math skills).
- Reading: Read different types of texts (fiction, non-fiction, poetry) and practice summarizing.
- Science: Study key concepts, conduct simple experiments, and understand graphs/charts.

Test-Taking Confidence

- One test does not define a student's abilities.
- Discuss the Importance of test-taking without pressure
- Explain that the tests help measure learning progress.
- Avoid creating stress—focus on effort rather than perfection.
- Reward effort with positive reinforcement, not just test scores.

Practice Regularly

- Take practice tests to simulate real testing conditions
- Use educational apps and resources like Khan Academy and IXL.
- Work on timed quizzes to improve speed and accuracy.
- Set a study schedule leading up to the test.
- Avoid last-minute cramming, which can increase anxiety.
- Study in a quiet, distraction-free environment.
- Use flashcards, summaries, and notes to reinforce concepts.

Utilize Test-Taking Strategies

- Read all directions carefully before answering.
- Eliminate obviously wrong answers to improve guessing accuracy.
- If stuck, flag questions and return to them later rather than wasting time.
- Double-check answers if time allows.

Take Care of Your Health

- Get 8 - 10 hours of sleep the night before the tests.
- Eat brain-boosting foods like eggs, nuts, and fruits for breakfast on the day of the tests.
- Stay hydrated and avoid too much caffeine or sugar on the day of the tests.

Nurse Notes

Angie Baker-Milhausen

**Allergies vs. Illness**

As we move through the changing seasons, it is common for students to experience sniffles, coughs, and congestion. For families, it can sometimes be difficult to determine whether these symptoms are caused by seasonal allergies or by an illness such as the flu. Understanding the difference helps ensure that students receive proper care at home and that our school community remains healthy.

Seasonal allergies occur when a child's immune system reacts to environmental triggers such as pollen, grass, or mold. Allergies are not contagious and often appear during specific times of the year. Symptoms typically include a clear runny nose, sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, nasal congestion, and a scratchy throat. Children with allergies generally do not have a fever and usually feel well enough to participate in normal school activities. Allergy symptoms may last for several weeks and often improve when the child is indoors or away from outdoor triggers.

In contrast, influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the Influenza virus. Flu symptoms tend to appear suddenly and are usually more intense than allergy symptoms. A child with the flu may have a fever—often 100°F or higher—along with body aches, chills, fatigue, headache, cough, and sore throat. Some children may also experience vomiting or diarrhea. Unlike allergies, the flu often makes children feel very tired and unwell, limiting their ability to focus and participate in classroom activities.

To help protect the health of all students and staff, families are asked to keep children home when they are sick. A child should remain at home if they have a fever of 100°F or higher, have experienced vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours, or have symptoms that significantly interfere with their ability to learn. Most importantly, students must be fever-free—meaning no temperature over 99.9°F—for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen. If medication is needed to bring a fever down, the child is not yet ready to return to school.

Students with mild allergy symptoms and no fever may attend school as long as they feel well enough to fully participate in their day. When families are unsure whether symptoms are due to allergies or illness, consulting a healthcare provider or contacting the school nurse is encouraged.

By staying home when sick, practicing good hand hygiene, and monitoring symptoms carefully, we can work together to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for everyone. Thank you for your partnership in supporting the well-being of our school community.

Media Center News

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



Healthy Screen Habits Start with Us

We've all likely heard the scary statistics about the impact of phones and social media on young people. The good news is that, as parents, we have a lot more power than we sometimes realize to impact our kids' habits.

They are watching us and taking note.

I taught a lesson from Common Sense Media last week to some younger elementary students where we talked about the importance of device free moments, media balance, and why having rules about technology is ok and healthy. Kids are honest and a few shared some unprompted anecdotes:

- My mom is always on her phone and sometimes I want to play
- My dad watches shows in the car while he drives
- I like driving with my mom better than my dad because he texts while he drives

They also shared some other thoughts:

- We aren't allowed to have phones at the dinner table so we can talk
- My mom says I can only spend a certain amount of time on my tablet
- I'm not allowed to have my tablet in my bedroom
- My parents said I can get a phone when I am older

Our kids notice things. They notice how and when we use our devices, they notice what rules we set, and they notice what behaviors we normalize. Here are some tips from Common Sense Media about what we can do as parents to help our students develop healthy habits in our screen saturated culture:

- **Help kids reflect on their phone habits by having open, nonjudgmental conversations.** Then give them a tool like a Family Tech Planner to suggest changes and set goals for themselves - <https://www.common sense media.org/family-tech-planners>
- **Help them find space for face-to-face conversations.** Put phones down during key conversation times such as mealtimes and car rides.
- **Model the manners and behavior you want to see.** Avoid texting in the car. Consider describing your phone use ("I'm looking up directions to the party") so younger kids understand why you're using it. Make sure to excuse yourself if you have to interrupt a family moment to attend to your phone.
- **Charge kids' phones in a common area at night.** Removing their phones can give kids a needed break.
- **Establish consequences for problematic phone use.** If your kids are having trouble putting the phone away when you ask or are having other behavior problems with their phones, consider temporary time or location limits.
- **Understand the underlying reasons your child might be on their phone a lot.** They may have a friend who is

distressed and texting them, a game or app that's pinging for their attention, or they may be avoiding what they see as stressful interactions with others at home. Talking about it can help clarify what drives your child's phone use.

Source: <https://www.common sense media.org/articles/cellphones-and-devices-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers>

We can all work together to help our kids develop healthy habits. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at jotremba@osakis.k12.mn.us.

High School Activities

Pat Kalpin, Activities Director



Congratulations to our 2026 Senior MSHSL Triple 'A' Award recipients. Female - Bella Weisser and Male - Tyler Stier. The Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, commonly known as the Triple 'A' Award, honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher grade point average and who participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities.

Bella Weisser is the daughter of Jason and Amy Weisser. During her high school athletic career, Bella has been involved in tennis, basketball, and track and field. She has earned 13 letters across all her activities. For Fine Arts, Bella has been a member of the choir for two years and the band for four years. She states that "Through participation in fine arts activities, my experiences have helped me grow in confidence and learning how to take on my role in the best way". She also states, "While being involved in athletics, she has learned that these specific experiences have given me the ability to push through challenges and also taught me a lot about going out of my comfort zone and pushing myself to another level".

Tyler Stier is the son of Matt and Melanie Stier. During his high school athletic career, Tyler has been involved in football, basketball, and tennis. He has earned 7 letters across all his activities. For Fine Arts, Tyler has been a member of the band throughout his high school career. Tyler states, "I have always believed that work ethic plays a large role in how you do academically in life. I always try to work my hardest no matter what I'm doing." He also states that, "Through activities, they have helped me for the rest of my life by teaching me about having to put in the time and hard work to learn and be successful at it".

Congratulations again to Bella and Tyler!

Spring activity registration is now open by going to the Osakis Public School website. Below are the start dates for each activity:

Softball - March 9
Track and Field - March 9
Baseball - March 16
Boys/Girls Golf - March 16
Boys Tennis - March 23

Go Silverstreaks!

Triple 'A' Award Recipients



Congratulations to Osakis' 2026 Triple 'A' Award recipients. Pictured above are Bella Weissner & Tyler Stier

School Resource Officer Update *Deputy Nicole Swanson*



School Safety Update: Communication, Preparedness, and Prevention

February is often a focus on kindness and connection, but it is also an important time to reinforce how communication, preparation, and responsible decision-making support school safety.

We continue to see how quickly rumors and misinformation can spread, often through social media or overheard conversations. While students are observant, inaccurate information can create unnecessary concerns. When choosing kindness, it includes being responsible with what we share with others, what we hear from others and asking trusted adults when questions or confusion arise.

From a safety standpoint, ongoing efforts are focused on strengthening preparedness and communication at Osakis Public School. This includes increasing radio communication capability use and planning to ensure clear, efficient communication during daily operations and emergency situations.

There is planning with the assistance with Douglas County Emergency Management for Osakis' reunification process. This will include establishing and training the Osakis Reunification team. These coordinated efforts help ensure clear roles and effective family reunification procedures if it is ever needed.

In addition, planning is underway for Breathe Easy Week, which promotes healthy, substance-free choices, breathing easy by being vape-free, encouraging honesty, and supporting positive decision-making both in school and in daily life. This week will be partnered with Horizon Public Health and utilizing Osakis LEAD students to get peers involved in the importance of committing to breathing easy.

As your School Resource Officer, my role is not only response, but prevention, education, and connection. I am committed this year to continuing working alongside students, staff, families, and community partners to ensure our school remains a safe and supportive place to learn and grow. If you have questions or concerns, I encourage open communication because safety is strongest when we work together.



Above & below: NHS students working on their flowers and candy fundraising project



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Mrs. Anderson & Mrs. Campbell's classes have enjoyed a variety of activities over the past month!



Osakis Preschool Registration will begin on Monday, March 16. We will once again be offering the following classes:

Children who are 4 by Aug 31, or young 5 year olds will meet on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays:

Full days
1/2 day mornings (8:00 am - 10:50 am)
1/2 day afternoons (12:00 pm - 2:50 pm)

Children who are 3 by Aug 31, or young 4 year olds will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8:00 am - 10:50 am)

Also, children that will be 5 by August 31, and eligible for kindergarten but not quite ready for that are able to sign up for the Silverstreaks Academy program. This runs Monday - Friday all day at no cost.

Registration will be available on the Osakis Public School website this spring.



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

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