



The Silverstreak Connection

May 2026

Osakis, Minnesota

2026 Honor Students

Osakis High School will be graduating 11 Honor Students this year. Here, in their own words and listed alphabetically are their thoughts.

“My name is **Amelia Crossley**, and my parents are Darla and Larry Crossley. After graduating from high school, I plan to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian. To achieve this goal, I intend to attend the University of Minnesota Crookston to earn a degree in animal science. Afterward, I hope to continue my education at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities by enrolling in their veterinary program. During high school, I had the opportunity to participate in several extracurricular activities, including Knowledge Bowl, archery, FFA, NHS, LEAD, softball, and track and field. Through these experiences, I developed valuable skills and took on important roles. One of my proudest achievements was earning an All-Conference Academic Award for softball. One of my favorite high school memories is spending time in the lounge with my classmates, sharing stories, and playing games together. As we graduate, I believe one of the biggest challenges we will face is adjusting to no longer seeing the familiar faces we’ve been surrounded by for the past 14 years. My advice to underclassmen is to be outgoing and make the most of every moment. Get involved, try new things, and enjoy your high school experience to the fullest.”



“My name is **Emily Dierks**, and I am honored to be recognized as an Honor Student at Osakis High School. My parents, Cory and Jennifer Dierks, have always been there for me, but my mom has been especially influential. She’s the person who reminded me to keep going even on the days when I doubted myself. Whether it was helping me stay organized, cheering me on at events,

or reminding me to take care of myself, she has always been the steady voice that kept me moving forward. After graduation, I plan to attend Alexandria Technical and Community College and major in speech language pathology. Working with children has shown me how powerful communication can be and I want to help kids find their voices and feel confident expressing

themselves. My long term goal is to become a licensed speech language pathologist working in early intervention or school settings. Throughout grades 10–12, I was involved in several extracurricular activities that shaped who I am today. I participated in archery, band, theater, and National Honor Society. Band was especially meaningful to me, and I earned multiple awards for solo and ensemble performances. Archery also played a huge role in my high school experience, giving me many years of memories, friendships, and practices that taught me patience, focus, and teamwork. My best high school memories aren’t tied to one single event—they’re the everyday moments. I’ll always remember laughing in the hallways, supporting each other through tough weeks, and finding small moments of joy even on stressful days. What I will miss most after graduation is the community I found through archery. The friends I made over the years became some of the most important people in my life; leaving that behind will be one of the hardest parts of moving on. I believe the greatest challenge my classmates and I will face after graduation is learning how to navigate independence while managing college and/or work. We’re stepping into a world where we have to make decisions that shape our futures, manage our time wisely, and stay motivated even when things get difficult. It’s a big transition, but it’s also an opportunity to grow. My advice to underclassmen is simple: don’t rush through high school. Take opportunities when they come, ask for help when you need it, and surround yourself with people who want to see you succeed. Most importantly, have fun and don’t wish time away because you never get it back.”

“Hi, my name is **Ava Drevlow**, and my parents are Kip and Carrie Drevlow. After graduating, I plan on furthering my education by going to the Brainerd Central Lakes College campus for dental assisting. I wish to pursue this career because it is hands-on and people-centered. Throughout high school, I have been involved in tennis and the National Honor Society. Being involved in



these activities has shown me teamwork and leadership skills that I will be able to carry with me outside of high school. Some awards that I have received in tennis include lettering in both my junior and senior years, along with being All-Academic and All-Conference. My best high school memory was participating in the state tournament for tennis my senior year. I really enjoyed being able to play and watch competitive matches with my teammates. Tennis has really shaped who I am and I am forever grateful for the friendships I have created

with my team. After graduating, one thing I will miss about high school is the random conversations I have with my classmates in study halls. I have spent many years growing up with a lot of these people and have enjoyed the friendships we have created. I believe that the greatest challenge my classmates and I will face after high school is navigating what we wish to pursue. Each of us will go our separate ways and have to make our own decisions about what we want to do, whether that is going directly into the workforce or attending college to further our education. I know it might take a few tries for some of us to find something that we really enjoy, but continuously working hard towards our future is always beneficial. My advice to underclassmen is simply to put in effort.”



“My name is **Brooke Frisell**, and I am the daughter of Heather and Brent Frisell. As I look toward my future, I plan to attend the University of North Dakota and major in social work. I have always had a heart for helping others and I hope to turn that passion into a career where I can truly make a difference in people’s lives. Throughout high school I have been involved in many activities that

have shaped who I am today. I played volleyball, worked as a boys basketball manager, and participated in leadership, LIFE/FCA, National Honor Society, student council, and Special Olympics. Each of these experiences has taught me something different—how to be a leader, how to support others, and how to be part of something bigger than myself. I am proud of the accomplishments I have earned along the way, including the All-State Academic Senior Award, Silverstreak Award, Most Valuable Defensive Player, All-Conference Team, and All-Conference Academic honors. I also earned letters in both volleyball and basketball. While these awards mean a lot to me, what means even more are the memories, the lessons, and the people behind them. Some of my favorite memories from high school are the simple ones, like going to away Friday night football games with my best friends. Those nights were filled with laughter, excitement, and a sense of belonging that I will never forget. It’s those little moments that ended up meaning the most. After graduation, I know I will miss not only my friends, but also the comfort of seeing familiar faces every day, the support from teachers and coaches, and the feeling of being part of a close community. One of the greatest challenges my classmates and I will face after graduation is stepping into the unknown. For the first time, our paths will all look different, and we will have to make decisions that shape our futures. It can be scary to leave behind everything we’ve known and take on new responsibilities, but it is also an opportunity to grow into who we are meant to be. Learning to trust ourselves, even when we’re unsure, will be one of the hardest, but most important things we do. My advice to underclassmen is to truly appreciate where you are right now. High school may feel long at the moment, but it goes by faster than you realize. Get involved, try new things, and don’t be afraid to put yourself out there. Most importantly, don’t worry if you don’t feel like you fit in or if you don’t have a large group of friends. As amazing as Osakis High School is, that building does not define who you are or where you belong. Your worth isn’t measured by popularity or where you fit into a social circle. Focus on being yourself, finding what makes you happy, and surrounding yourself with

people who truly care about you. In the end, that’s what really matters.”

“My name is **Simon Jacobson**, and I am the son of Eric and Angela Jacobson. My plans at this time are to continue my education by earning an electrician degree at Ridgewater College. I love to problem-solve and work with my hands, and this career will allow me to do both of those every day. Throughout high school, I participated in football, wrestling, trap shooting, National Honor



Society, and LEAD. I was the offensive player of the year and an All-Conference running back in football, and I joined the 100-win club in wrestling, as well as earning letters in all three of these sports. My best high school memory is participating in the state wrestling tournament my senior year. It was a good time and allowed me to showcase my talent on a high stage. What I will miss most after I graduate will be the camaraderie with my classmates. Everyone is here to do the same thing, and all of us have similar assignments, which allows us to work with each other to get through everything together. The greatest challenge my classmates and I will face after graduation is finding where we fit in the world. For some, it might be very complicated as they do not know what they want to do, but for others, it may be easier because they know what they want to do. Even so, everyone will face the challenge of life, where you can be thrown a curveball at any time, which is our greatest challenge. My advice to underclassmen would be to do as many job shadows and college visits as possible. This will help you figure out what you want to do early in your high school career and tailor your classes in that direction. Finding your calling early will also help you decide where you want to attend college or if you even need to do that at all.”

“Hello, my name is **Jonah Krohn**, and my parents are Mike and Amy. I plan to attend Alexandria Technical Community College and then transfer into a 4-year institution to major in accounting. Most of my time in school has been helping other students through their studies or having fun with my fellow classmates. I have been on the A honor roll a few times and have been



given a Silver Streak award, too. My favorite memory from high school has to be when we were having a mock election in American Government. I really liked designing a page and honestly spent too much time on some of the unimportant parts of it than I should have. The greatest challenge that my classmates and I will face after graduation is the possibility of having less-than-perfect teachers. The teachers at Osakis have been wonderful and have a deep understanding of what they teach; they have been the greatest part of my education. The greatest piece of advice I can give to my underclassmen is to treat their peers and teachers with respect, which might seem like some basic knowledge, but those people will be the best friends and mentors that you could ever find. Thank you for this great opportunity to be an honor student in such a great school and community.”



“Hello, my name is **Leah Maddock**, daughter of Ryan and Sarah Maddock. This fall, I will be attending MSU Moorhead, where I plan to major in business administration with an emphasis in human resources. I will also be continuing my athletic career as a member of the women’s tennis team. During high school, I was involved in tennis, golf, and National Honor Society. While participating

in these extracurricular activities, I earned second place in the girls’ state singles tennis tournament in 2023 and 2025. I also received Academic All-State and Academic All-Conference recognition in tennis. In golf, I earned All-Conference honors during my sophomore and junior seasons. Some of my favorite high school memories were made on the tennis court with my teammates during practices and matches. I will miss being around my classmates and teachers every day. I believe one of the greatest challenges our class faces is transitioning from high school into the next stage of our lives. My advice to underclassmen is to enjoy your time in high school and to always treat others with kindness and respect.”

“My name is **Leila Sanford** and my parents are Laura and George Stanek. After graduation I plan to attend Alexandria Technical and Community College majoring in business management. During my 10th-12th grade years at Osakis, I had the opportunity to serve as the President of Leadership, Vice President of National Honor Society, Vice President of FFA, and as a Captain in softball. I earned the following awards throughout high school FFA State Degree, FFA Chapter Degree, FFA Greenhand Degree, Prairie Conference All-Academic Awards, Prairie Conference All-Conference Honorable Mention (softball), and varsity softball letters. My favorite high school memory was definitely when we played spikeball and other random games during our study halls and free hours. I feel like we all got so much closer with each other and that is something that I will miss the most. Our greatest challenge will probably be pretending we know what we’re doing. We’ll all be out there Googling how to do taxes, how to cook something besides ramen, and how to be actual adults. But we’ll figure it out, one mildly chaotic step at a time. Something I wish an upperclassman would have told me when I was younger was that you don’t have to be mean or closed off to seem cool. The truth is, people gravitate more towards kindness and authenticity than attitude. You can be confident, respected, and still treat people well, and that’s what actually sticks with others.”



“Hi! My name is **Tyler Stier**. My parents are Melanie and Matthew Stier. Next fall, I am planning to attend North Dakota State University for mechanical engineering. I participated in basketball, tennis, and band, which is why I was able to receive the Triple A award this year. I was also a part of Student Council, National Honor Society, P4T, FFA,

Achievement and Integration Group, and Special Olympics. Some awards I received in these were Tennis Captain, MIP, and MVP, Basketball Captain and MIP, and academic honors for both of them. My favorite high school memory was all of the bus rides that I had for sports, where everyone on the team laughed and had fun. The greatest challenge I think our class will face after graduating is learning to adapt to a world that is constantly changing. My advice to underclassmen is to enjoy every moment you can in high school, because sooner than you know you’re going to be graduating and missing all of the memories you had.”



“My name is **Trenton VanNyhuis**. My parents are Lee and Kellie VanNyhuis. I am planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree to become a professional land surveyor. I have participated in football, basketball, track, Leadership, and LIFE group. Awards I have won are Academic All-state in all 3 of my sports, MVP in all 3 sports, State Champion Triple Jump, and State Record in 4 by 200.

The high school memory I will miss the most is playing sports with my friends. The biggest challenge we will face is paying off the debt that we get from college. My advice to underclassmen is to always be a role model and do not think you are too cool to do the little things.”

“My name is **Bella Weisser**, and I was chosen as an Honor Student for the class of 2026 at Osakis High School. Throughout high school, I have been a 3-sport athlete and competed in the Tennis and Track State Tournament. I have challenged myself in both the classroom and in extracurricular activities, striving to contribute positively to my school and community. I have been a member of Student Council/LEAD group for four years. In this role, I helped plan and lead major school events such as Snow Week, Homecoming, pep fests, and various student incentive activities. In the performing arts, I have been involved in both choir and band for four years. I served as president of each for two years, participated in concerts and contests, and performed in pep band at athletic events. I am also honored to have been recognized as the AAA Award winner for girls in my school, representing achievement in academics, athletics, and the arts. Overall, my high school experience has been defined by leadership, service, and commitment. I am grateful for the opportunities I’ve had to grow, contribute, and represent my school in so many different ways.”



Class of 
2026
 CONGRATULATIONS!

Superintendent's Message

Justin Dahlheimer



I will be moving on to a new chapter in my career after this school year. It has been a privilege to serve the District, and the community of Osakis, these last fifteen years. I will be handing off to an experienced educator/administrator known to many in our community and a Silverstreak alum.

I want to introduce you to **Louisa Glenetske**, who will be the next person you will see writing this column after July 1, 2026.



Mrs. Glenetske has provided some information for me to share with you:

"I am a 2000 graduate of Osakis High School and began my career in education at Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa (BBE). After returning to the Osakis area with my husband, I accepted a position at Brandon Public School, where I taught high school mathematics. I continued in that role for 14 years through the transition to the consolidated Brandon-Evansville District before moving into district leadership. For the past four years, I have served as superintendent and Evansville Elementary principal, where my responsibilities included leading two building addition projects that began during my first year in the role. After 18 years in the Brandon-Evansville community, I look forward to being fully engaged in my home community.

Having grown up in Osakis, it is especially meaningful to now live, work, and be active in the same community where

my children attend school. I have five children, one who has graduated from Osakis High School and others who are at various stages in their education, which makes this opportunity even more personal and rewarding.

Osakis is known for its strong sense of pride among students, staff, and community, and I am honored to be part of that tradition, not only as a parent, but as a leader committed to continuing the Osakis legacy and supporting opportunities for all students to succeed."

Secondary Update

Brad Hoffarth, Secondary Principal



The 2025 - 2026 school year has flown by and the last few weeks of the school year will go even faster. Please use the information below to help recognize and prepare for all that will take place during the last few weeks of the 2025 - 2026 school year and in preparation for the 2026 - 2027 school year. Your ongoing support of our students and staff is appreciated. I hope everyone is able to spend extra time with family and friends this summer.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross conducted a blood drive at Osakis High School on Friday, May 1. This is the seventh year that the student-organized event has taken place at our school. The blood drive provides staff, as well as students who meet age and parent permission requirements, with a way to help others by donating blood. This is an important event for our student leaders, and it allows all students and staff to see the direct connection between school and community.

Community Pride

Our students, staff, and community members have been working together to prepare our community for a busy summer. Plans are in place to have staff and students from the senior class work with community members to complete a variety of projects around the city of Osakis on Monday, May 11. We are excited and proud of the opportunity for community stakeholders and students to work side by side in an effort to better the community. Projects will range from routine spring clean-up and maintenance projects to help prepare our community for summer.

Graduation

You are invited to recognize the class of 2026 during the week of May 17. Baccalaureate will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, in the Auditorium. Senior Awards Night will take place on Monday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, and our graduation ceremony will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, at the football field. The graduation ceremony

will be followed by a parade around our community, allowing graduates and their families to be recognized by those not able to attend the graduation ceremony. In the event of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will take place in the High School Gym.

Summer School

Students in grades 7 - 11 who are credit deficient will have the opportunity to attend local summer school. Programming will be course-specific and will take place June 1 - 18 from 8:30 - 12:00. Students and families will receive direct communication from the high school office with specific details, including registration information.

Junior High Orientation

Orientation for students entering 7th and 8th grades for the 2026 - 2027 school year will take place on Monday, August 17. 7th grade orientation will take place at 6:30 in the auditorium, and 8th grade orientation will take place at 7:30 in the auditorium. Orientation will consist of both student and parent-specific information. Students will get their schedules and will have the opportunity to find their classrooms and practice using their combination locks. Parents will have opportunities to view day-to-day policies and resources that assist with making school productive and safe for our youth.

Back To School Open House

An open house for the 2026 - 2027 school year is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 26 from 4:00 - 7:00. There will be opportunities for students to meet school staff, access community resources and participate in fun activities. All students and families are encouraged to attend to help kick off the school year.

Be prepared to keep a close eye on the school district webpage and school district social media accounts as new developments and updates containing the latest information about our students, staff, and school will continue to be posted.

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

Elementary Update

Shad Schmidt, Elem. Principal



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Osakis Community,
As our school year nears the end, I want to sincerely thank you for entrusting us with your child(ren). We are glad they are here.

Yours in education,
Shad Schmidt - Elementary Principal

Important Dates to Remember

- May 25: No School / Memorial Day
- May 28: Last Day of School / Early dismissal at 1:00 pm

Classroom Highlights

- **Pre-School:** Students are learning about life cycles of plants and our earth.
- **Silverstreak Academy:** Students are learning to count by 10s as well as rhyming words.
- **Kindergarten:** Students are learning to write narratives and completing their portfolios.
- **1st Grade:** Students are learning to write "how-to" narratives.
- **2nd Grade:** Students are learning fractions and about suffixes.
- **3rd Grade:** Students are learning about climate, weather, and geometry.
- **5th Grade:** Students are learning about poetry and doing a novel study.
- **6th Grade:** Students are learning about poetry and preparing to become 7th graders.

May's Featured Teachers:

This month, we are proud to recognize all of our staff for completing another amazing school year. Our teachers work so hard behind the scenes to maintain structure and provide a welcoming learning environment for all students. The commitment and dedication to our students and school is second to none!

Students of the Month:

Kindergarten and 6th Grade

Our kindergarteners grew so much and gained a lot of knowledge this year. We are excited to celebrate them graduating from kindergarten.
Our 6th grade students for maturing, graduating to junior high, and becoming 7th graders.

Upcoming Events this Spring

- **May 12:** Kindergarten field trip to Hemker Zoo
- **May 15:** 4th grade wax museum
- **May 20:** Kindergarten graduation
- **May 21:** Kindergarten Alexandria City Park
- **May 21 and 22:** Preschool graduation/celebration
- **May 26:** 5th grade field trip to Antique Village
- **May 27:** Elementary Field Day
- **May 27:** 4th grade field trip to Brophy Park
- **May 27:** 3rd grade field trip to Glenwood
- **May 28:** 1st and 2nd grade picnic in Long Prairie

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

High School Activities

Pat Kalpin, Activities Director



At Osakis Public School, we are incredibly fortunate to have a veteran coaching staff whose dedication is the backbone of our success. With a combined (unofficial) 128 years of experience, these leaders invest countless hours into both athletic excellence and character building. Their ultimate goal goes far beyond the scoreboard; it's about preparing

our student-athletes for life after graduation and seeing them succeed long after they leave our halls.

For many of our students, the field, court, and track are where they learn their most valuable life lessons. Whether you are experienced or simply someone who loves the game and wants to give back, coaching at any level—from elementary youth programs to varsity athletics—offers rewards that stay with you long after the final buzzer.

Coaching isn't just about the scoreboard; it's about what lessons you help teach in a young person's life.

- **Be the "Coach Who Cares":** Surveys show that one in three students plays sports specifically because of a coach who cares about them. You have the chance to be a primary role model, shaping their ideas on ethics, responsibility, and initiative.
- **Build a Second Family:** Coaching allows you to build lifelong friendships and a sense of community with players, parents, and fellow staff.
- **Stay Young at Heart:** Engaging with younger generations keeps you current, active, and offers fresh perspectives on both sport and life.
- **Communication & Emotional Intelligence:** You'll learn to tailor your message to different personalities, learning how to motivate a discouraged 10-year-old or provide tactical analysis to a competitive teen.
- **Leadership & Problem-Solving:** From managing practice plans to navigating real-time challenges during a game, coaching pushes you to think creatively and lead by example.
- **Organization:** You will master the art of balancing schedules, equipment, and player development, skills that are directly transferable to any professional career.

As most districts do, Osakis views sports as an extension of the classroom. As a coach, you use the game as an avenue to teach the "life-long lessons."

- **Resilience:** Helping a player bounce back after a mistake or a tough loss.
- **Teamwork:** Teaching individuals to sacrifice personal gain for the betterment of the group.
- **Integrity:** Emphasizing that how you win—or lose—matters more than the score.

Next time you see an opportunity to coach, ask yourself if you are ready to make a lasting difference in students' lives. If so, we want to hear from you here at Osakis Public School. No matter the level, your presence will help ensure every student-athlete has the chance to succeed.

Nurse Notes

Angie Baker-Milhausen



Health Office Newsletter – End of School Year Update

As we approach the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to thank our students, families, and staff for helping keep our school community safe and healthy. It has been a privilege to care for your children and support their well-being throughout the year.

With summer just around the corner, I encourage families to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season. As you prepare for the upcoming school year, we'd like to share a few important reminders:

Immunizations

Minnesota state law requires that all students be up to date on their immunizations or have appropriate documentation on file. Please review your child's immunization records over the summer and schedule any needed vaccinations with your healthcare provider. Updated records can be submitted to the Health Office before the start of the new school year. Please note that there are immunization requirements for Kindergarten, 7th grade and also after the age of 16, but before 12th grade. If you are opposed to immunizations either for medical or personal reasons, there would also need to be a new Conscientious Objection form notarized and on file at the start of Kindergarten and 7th grade to be in compliance with Minnesota Immunization laws.

Health Updates

If your child experiences any changes in their health status over the summer—such as new diagnoses, medications, allergies, or medical conditions—please notify the Health Office as soon as possible. This ensures we can provide proper care and support during the school day.

Medications at School

If your child will need medication during school hours next year, new medication authorization forms from the doctor that includes medication name, dose and time along with parent signature must be completed each year. This includes inhalers and epi pens even if the doctor gives the student permission to self-carry; the health office needs to have a copy of the updated orders each year. Please plan to obtain updated provider orders and bring medications in their original containers. This can be taken care of at Open House or the first day of school.

Looking Ahead

We are already preparing for a safe and healthy start to the next school year. Keeping open communication between families and the Health Office helps us best support every student's success.

If you have any questions over the summer or need to submit health documentation, please feel free to contact me via email at abaker-milhausen@osakis.k12.mn.us or you are welcome to leave a message on the phone at 320-859-2191 option 4, just be aware that I am usually not in the office during the summer months, but I will come in periodically to check messages.

Media Center News

Jennifer Otremba, District Media,
Innovation & Design Specialist



Hello from the Media Center! As summer approaches we want to provide a few resources to keep students reading all summer long. Reading helps prevent summer learning loss and takes kids on great adventures without ever leaving home!

How to Get a Library Card if you live in Douglas County
Library cards through the Viking Library System are available to anyone 5 years of age and older. You can apply for one at the Douglas County Library in Alexandria or at any other branch of the Viking Library system. All a student needs to get a library card is a form completed by a parent/guardian. You'll be asked to present a driver's license or other photo ID with a current address or a picture ID and a piece of recently posted mail with your current address.

How to Get a Library Card if you live in Todd County
Library cards through the Great River Regional Library are available to anyone 5 years of age and older and can be obtained at the Long Prairie Library or at any other branch of the Great River Regional Library system. All a student needs to get a library card is a form completed by a parent/guardian. You'll be asked to present a driver's license or other photo ID with a current address or a picture ID and a piece of recently posted mail with your current address.

Why get a library card?

A library card can be used in any library in MN, at the local bookmobile, as well as to access online books at the apps below. Your child will never run out of books to read!

Bookmobile

The Viking Library System bookmobile visits stops in the area regularly throughout the school year and summer. You can access their schedule at <https://www.viking.lib.mn.us/bookmobile>.

Online eBooks

There are lots of great ways to access books online, which means your child will never run out of things to read over the summer, even if you aren't able to make it to the library. Books (even graphic novels and picture books!) can be accessed using an app on a phone, tablet, or computer. Here are some great apps to access eBooks for free:

- **Hoopla:** Just plug in your library card number and you can check out a few eBooks per month. This app even has a "kids mode" to help find age-appropriate materials.
- **Libby:** There are no limits on how many books you can check out each month on the Libby app and you can read these books on Kindle, if preferred.
- **eBooks Minnesota:** This resource is accessed via web browser and has lots of free content available to MN readers. Visit <https://ebooksmn.org> to access content.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful summer! As always, if you have any questions about the Media Center, don't hesitate to reach out.

I can be reached at: jotremba@osakis.k12.mn.us.



4th Grade Math Masters



Congratulations to the 4th grade Math Masters team for a successful competition on April 22 in Fergus Falls! For the Fact Drill, **Sebastian Meehl** (middle front) earned 11th place out of 105 students. In the individual rounds, Sebastian earned 1st place out of 105 students. In the Team rounds, the team earned 2nd place out of 25 teams. Great job everyone!

5th Grade Math Masters



Congratulations to the 5th grade Math Masters team on their competition in Alexandria on April 24! For the individual rounds, **Travis Miller** (far right) earned 14th place out of 132 students. As a team, they placed 9th out of 26 teams. Great job everyone!

School Resource Officer Update

Deputy Nicole Swanson



As this chapter comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past two years serving as your School Resource Officer at Osakis Public School.

When I first arrived, I was not entirely sure what this role would become. What I quickly discovered, however, was a community deeply committed to its students, staff, and one another. That commitment made it possible to build something meaningful together, something I believe will continue to support safety and connection within the school for years to come.

Building a Safer School Community

Over the past two years, we focused on strengthening safety not just through procedures and planning, but through relationships, trust, and communication. Safety is most effective when it becomes part of a school's culture and that has been a shared effort across students, staff, and community partners.

Some key initiatives and improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Implementation of a **Threat Assessment Process**
- Development and ongoing updates to the **Emergency Operations Plan**
- Daily **door checks** and secured building practices
- Updated **emergency exit plans** and classroom emergency folders
- Launch of an **anonymous tip line**
- Completion of the **Minnesota School Safety Center Audit**
- **School Emergency Management and Crisis Management Trainings**
- **Active shooter training** with multiple agencies
- Completion of **Reunification Training** (I Love U Guys Foundation)
- Creation of **communication templates** and improved PA communication
- Quarterly **K9 school safety searches**
- Establishment of an **After-Action Review Process**

Supporting Student Well-Being

Safety also means supporting the overall well-being of students. Several initiatives focused on education, prevention, and positive engagement:

- Addressing **vaping, aggression, and tampering detection**
- Implementation of a **vaping device collection system** in partnership with local organizations
- Collaboration with **Horizon Public Health** on annual

awareness topics

- **“Breathe Easy”** campaign promoting healthy choices
- Creation of the **GRIT Group** (Growth, Resilience, Integrity, Trust)
- Digital safety education in partnership with MN BCA
- Ongoing support and involvement in **Mental Health Team** providing student support
- Working closely with outside departments and agencies support Osakis' students and families
- Involvement in **Power of One** ensuring individual connections between law enforcement and at-risk students

Building Partnerships

Strong partnerships have been essential to the success of this role:

- Internship program with the **Douglas County Sheriff's Office**
- Collaboration with public health and community organizations
- Continued engagement with students, families, and staff
- Collaboration with outside agencies, departments and organization to provide a **wraparound approach** in supporting students, community members and families

This school community is truly unique. I have had the privilege of working alongside individuals who lead with heart, serve with purpose, and care deeply about one another.

To the students, thank you for the conversations, the lessons, and the impact you have had on me.

To the staff and leadership, thank you for your trust, collaboration, and commitment.

To the Osakis community, thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to serve.

While my time in this role is coming to an end, the foundation we have built together will continue to grow. The systems, relationships, and culture established here are designed to last and I am confident in the continued success of this program.

Thank you for an incredible two years. It has been an honor to serve as your School Resource Officer. Have an amazing and safe summer break!

Deputy Nicole

Baccalaureate

Sunday, May 17 - 6:00 PM

Senior Awards Night

Monday, May 18 - 7:00 PM

Graduation

Friday, May 22 - 6:00 PM

MENTAL HEALTH

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



As the 2025-2026 school year comes to an end we are looking ahead to summer, in which we will again be offering Silverstreak Summer Supports through grant funding from the Douglas County Mental Health Collaborative. This summer Mikayla Johnson, Lindsey Hinnenkamp, and Mike Steinbeisser will be at school from 8:30-3:00 on seven Wednesdays throughout the summer. The dates include June 10, 17, 24, July 15, 22, 29, and August 5.

There will be two separate groups focusing on this year's 6th graders who will be transitioning to 7th Grade. These are offered on June 10, and August 5. The focus will be on covering expectations in 7th grade, touring the building, and answering questions students may have.

There will be groups on Developing Empathy and Kindness on June 17 and July 29. These groups will offer students the opportunity to volunteer at the Senior Center during a meal service.

The Ways to Grow (Growth Mindset and Growing Plants) group will be making a return this summer, as well, with these groups offered on June 24 and July 15. Students will be planting something and comparing plant life cycles to having a growth mindset.

New this year is a Summer Social Skills Buddy Group. This will be offered on all seven Wednesdays of Silverstreak Summer Supports. This is a partnership with LEAD and NHS students from the High School, as they will be partnered with participating elementary students.

Beyond the groups mentioned above, Silverstreak Summer Supports will offer drop-in time and time for scheduled check-ins with students that are interested in maintaining connections throughout the summer. For more information or to sign up for any of the groups, please go to the school website and sign up via the community education page, questions can be directed to Mikayla Johnson, Mike Steinbeisser or Lindsey Hinnenkamp.

Additionally, we are grateful to the Villard Legion for their generous \$1,500 donation in support of our students. Their contribution helped provide haircuts for students, snacks for those unable to bring their own, and mental health resource bags filled with supportive materials. This thoughtful donation is making a meaningful difference by helping meet students' basic needs while also supporting their well-being and success. We sincerely appreciate the Villard Legion's commitment to our students and school community.

DARE Graduation



After 12 weeks of learning, discussion, and personal growth, 5th grade students proudly celebrated their D.A.R.E. graduation. The program, designed to help students make safe and responsible choices, guided them through important real-life topics they are beginning to face.

Throughout the course, students learned how to respond to peer pressure by practicing ways to say no and stand up for their values. They also explored the importance of reporting bullying and being an upstander—someone who helps others and speaks up when something is wrong. Lessons on internet safety taught students how to protect their personal information, recognize unsafe situations online, and make smart digital decisions.

A major focus of the program was understanding the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body and brain. Students gained knowledge about how these substances can impact health, decision-making, and future goals, helping them build the confidence to make healthy choices.

The D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony was a celebration of all they have learned and accomplished. Students reflected on their growth, shared their commitments to staying safe and responsible, and were recognized for their hard work. This milestone marks an important step as they continue to develop the skills needed to make positive choices in their lives.

D.A.R.E. presenters included Lincoln Massmann, Brayden Head, and Madeline Steele.

Pictured right: **Brayden Head**, with DARE certificate, presented during the graduation ceremony.

Additional photos on page 10



Counselor's Corner

Lindsay Kugel



May is a very busy month. This time of year brings out a lot of emotion, especially for our seniors and the parents of seniors. It is a time for celebration and it is also a time where anxiety sets in when thinking about the new chapter in their lives that is about to begin. Enjoy all of the activities that are coming up.

You have earned it and I am so proud of you! There are some important dates to keep in mind as we wrap up the 2025-2026 school year.

Important Dates

May 11- Community Clean Up in the morning and Senior cap and gown pictures in the afternoon in the high school gym.

May 17-Baccalaureate at 6pm in the auditorium.

May 18 - Senior Awards Night will take place at 7pm. All seniors and their families are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments and hard work of these students.

May 19-Seniors' last day of school. They will have graduation practice and a final walk-through parade in the afternoon.

May 22 - Graduation at 6pm on the football field. There will be a parade through town to follow.

MCA Testing

MCA testing went well for grades 3-11. Official scores will be shared with families once they are allowed to be shared publicly.

NHS

The National Honor Society hosted Easter Days this year. This year's event was moved to the Osakis Community Center due to cold and snowy weather conditions. Thank you to everyone that contributed to making this event a success!

President Brooklyn Dropik applied for a grant and we were awarded \$1,000 to allow us to work together with the Osakis Beautification Team to purchase lifejackets and a picnic table for the beach.

Financial Aid (FAFSA)

Many students are starting to receive information regarding the FAFSA. If you have questions, the financial aid office at the college you are attending is your best resource. They will have the most accurate information for you. If you still need to complete your FAFSA and would like help, please contact me and I will be happy to set up a time to meet with you.

Transcripts

Once final college grades are posted for seniors, seniors will need to request OFFICIAL transcripts from all college campuses where credits have been earned. Students will receive information during their senior checkout with directions for requesting transcripts.

I will send official high school transcripts once all final grades are posted. Seniors will need to provide me the most current information regarding their future plans to ensure the correct colleges receive their transcripts.

2026-2027 Registration

Registration for next school year is wrapping up. You will be able to view it on Skyward soon. Once you have access to your schedule, please take time to look over your schedule. If you have questions or need to make changes, you will be able to set up appointments with me this summer to do so. I will send my summer availability via email as soon as I have it planned. If you would like to meet with me, you can contact me to schedule a time to meet.

Credit Recovery

If your student is in need of credit recovery or summer school, please contact me to arrange this. Letters have been sent out for those in jeopardy of needing summer school services and official communication will happen once it is confirmed if a student will be credit deficient. Summer school will run from June 1 through June 18 from 8:30am until 12:00pm, Monday through Thursday. Attendance is required to earn the credit.



Above: **Lincoln Massmann** and **Madeline Steele** pictured with their DARE certificates





There are still some openings in our 1/2-day classes:

MWF (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) mornings or afternoons
This is geared for those kids that are already 4 or young 5 year olds by August 31

TT (Tuesday/Thursday) mornings
This is geared for those kids that are already 3 or young 4-year-olds by August 31
They must be potty-trained
Registration is all done on-line. Go to the Osakis School Website and click on the menu tab, and then underneath the Elementary section is the Early Childhood tab. Then follow the prompts to fill out the registration and payment section.



SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Contact Shari Klukken, Elementary Secretary 320-859-2191 x 1195 to schedule your child's screening.

****ALL INCOMING KINDERGARTENERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SCREENING DONE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.**

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

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

Managing Editor/Layout and Design: Timothy Larson

Kindergarten Registration is Open

Osakis Public School is now accepting
registrations for incoming kindergarteners.

Visit osakis.k12.mn.us and click on **REGISTRATION**

If you have already completed the online registration previously, please log in to make sure that your contact information, including address, is up to date.

All incoming kindergarteners need to have the following ~

- *Early Childhood Screening if not already screened.
- *Birth Certificate
- *Proof of Immunizations or Legal Exemption Form

Please contact
Shari Klukken
Elementary Secretary
320-859-2191 x 1195
sklukken@osakis.k12.mn.us
for information.

