



NORTHERN OZAUKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall/Winter 2024

# WARRIOR CONNECTION



720

Highest number of students since 2018



123

Open Enrolled-In Students from 9 different school districts

32

Tech Ed classes



71%

of all OHS students enrolled in 1 or more Career & Technical Education classes



623

College credits earned for class of 2024 prior to graduation

VISIT [www.nosd.edu](http://www.nosd.edu) for more information



## Greetings Northern Ozaukee School District Community!

I wanted to take this opportunity to again thank the NOSD Community for passing our Fall 2024 Operational Referendum. This referendum was another example of our staff members, parents, board members, and community members coming together to do what is best for our students. On behalf of our District, we are sincerely grateful to the NOSD community for your support and approval of this referendum.

Recently, we had an opportunity to celebrate many Veterans in our community. The Veterans Parade has become an awesome tradition where all of our students and staff at NOSD honor and cheer on the Veterans as they make their way through the District parking lot. We are forever grateful for the service and sacrifice of these brave heroes!

In this edition of the Warrior Connection, we will provide a glimpse of the many great things happening in our schools. Some of the highlights in this edition include: NOSD's student volunteers in our community, growing student enrollment, a District financial update, updates from our Principals, and our Warrior Path highlights.

Thank you for your outstanding support of our students, staff, and schools!



Sincerely,

*Dave Karrels*

Dave Karrels  
Superintendent



# STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

### How Northern Ozaukee School District Student Volunteers Are Shaping Their School and Community

At the Northern Ozaukee School District, student volunteers continue to make an impact within our District and throughout the greater community. Their contributions, driven by a sense of responsibility, compassion, and a desire to make a positive impact, are not only enriching the lives of others but also providing the students with valuable experiences that foster personal growth and leadership. These young individuals are demonstrating that no effort is too small when it comes to building a better future.

#### Building a Stronger School Community

Within the school walls, student volunteers are involved in numerous activities and events that enhance the learning environment for their peers and students as young as 4K. From mentoring younger students to assisting teachers in classroom activities, they are stepping up to create a more supportive school culture at NOSD.

One example of peer mentoring at NOSD is during the 7th grade Camp experience. Annually, OHS students volunteer three days to lead various activities during the camp experience with Mr. Kirmse. This opportunity is something



Above: OHS student volunteers and their siblings enjoy the annual Field Day activities.

Right: Paige Kurlinski ('25) working with an OES student during recess.

OHS Juniors and Seniors look forward to each year. This relationship benefits both parties: mentors gain leadership skills, while Mr. Kirmse and the 7th-grade class receive the support they need to thrive academically in the outdoor learning environment.

Student volunteers are also involved in organizing school events and provide the support needed to have larger OES events a success. These events include spirit weeks, clothing drives, supporting OES Field Day, and Warriors Dashing. Their involvement ensures that these activities run smoothly and that students of all ages can participate and feel



## 500 HOURS Since 2024

Since April 2024 alone, students in the OHS chapter for the National Honor Society have recorded over 500 hours of service hours. The practice of serving the community will be something that will last a lifetime for these students.

Siblings Dylan Budzisz ('26) and Grace Dixon ('30) pose for a quick photo during some free time at 7th Grade Camp. Ozaukee has many unique opportunities for older siblings to engage in mentor/mentee roles.

connected to the NOSD Community. By taking ownership of these initiatives, students are cultivating a vibrant school community.

### Reaching Out to the Community

The impact of these student volunteers extends far beyond the school's walls. Many students at Northern Ozaukee School District are involved in community service projects that address local needs and promote the well-being of those around them. Whether it's organizing food drives, participating in environmental clean-up efforts, or volunteering at local nursing homes, these students are helping to strengthen the social fabric of their community.

For instance, the Ozaukee Leo Club, led by OHS/OMS students, teamed with the Fredonia Lions Club to help with their Fall Chicken Dinner. Students helped the Fredonia Lions serve over 950 Dinners to people in our community.

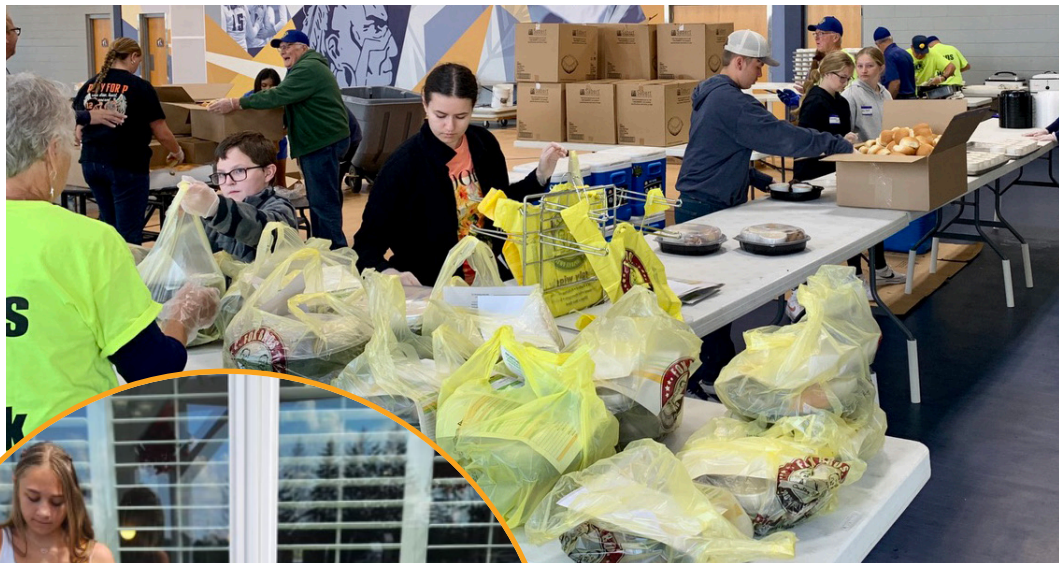
Our students also use their talents to serve in the greater community. Junior, Natalia Marini, regularly gives her time and musical talents to play for residents at Harvest Home in Grafton, WI. When asked about her time at Harvest Home, Marini said, "This experience has brought me joy seeing the

appreciation on the residents' faces when they recognize songs or are enjoying the music by tapping their feet or clapping their hands."

### Gaining Skills for Life

While student volunteers at Northern Ozaukee are undoubtedly making a difference in the lives of others, they are also gaining valuable skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. Volunteering fosters critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving, all of which are essential skills for future success. Junior Reese Prom reflected on her volunteering experiences: "Devoting my time to helping others not only benefits those I am helping, but it also benefits me. I have become more mindful of the impact I can make in my community by simply volunteering my time."

The students who volunteer at Northern Ozaukee School District are a testament to the power of youth to drive meaningful change. Through their dedication and passion, they are not only improving their school and community but also laying the foundation for a lifetime of service and leadership. These young changemakers are proving that age is no barrier to making a difference, and their contributions are paving the way for a brighter, more compassionate future.



Above: OMS/OHS Leo Club students helped the Fredonia Lions Club serve approximately 950 chicken dinners during their Fall fundraiser. Left: Natalia Marini ('26) playing her guitar and singing for residents at Harvest Home in Grafton.



**CELEBRATING GROWTH:**

# The Northern Ozaukee School District sees an increase in student enrollment for the 2024-25 School Year

Great things are happening here at the Northern Ozaukee School District. As a result, we are seeing an increase in enrollment and have closed the open enrollment gap. This growth reflects the District's commitment to providing a high-quality education and a supportive environment for our students and families.

At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, enrollment at NOSD was at its highest point since 2018 with 720 students in grades 4K-12th. We are thrilled to see NOSD growing and becoming a school of choice for families in our district and those living in neighboring communities. The mission of NOSD is to educate young men and women to develop strong character and prepare them for the future. By holding this mission at the core of all we do, we recognize not only academic successes but also celebrate the whole well-being of our students. We value a community where every child can succeed based on their skills and talents. This enrollment increase is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers, staff, administration, and board, while at the same time having that hard work recognized by enrolled families.



Ellie Rodgers ('25) guiding 5K students through the school forest during the all-school outdoor scavenger hunt incentive at OES.

# INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT

# WHAT IS DRIVING THE INCREASE?

## Several factors that are contributing to this enrollment increase:

### 1. ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

In the most recent State Report Card, NOSD ranked 57 out of 367 of all K-12 Districts in Wisconsin. In addition, in 2024, NOSD had a graduation rate of 100%. This academic success is a direct reflection of the hardwork and dedication of our students, staff, and families.

### 2. INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING:

Innovative Programming: NOSD strives to continue to offer innovative programming despite being a relatively small school district. One example of this is that in the past two years, the Tech Ed Department has expanded with offering Autos classes. Mr. Kornely teaches both Autos 1 and 2. The District and Riveredge Nature Center have had a partnership to support our scientist-in-residence, Rachel Race. Rachel works directly with teachers and students to embrace outdoor learning and continues to help make this a priority at NOSD. Some additional examples include classes like learning to lead and learning to succeed, 7th grade camp, 8th grade seminar projects, Ozaukee Youth Apprenticeship opportunities, extensive clubs and extracurricular opportunities.

### 3. STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

We are fortunate to have such a supportive community. In the last year alone we have many examples of generous community support. The Ozaukee High School Alumni Class of 1964 contributed \$11,000 to purchase a second automotive lift to expand our new class offerings. In the summer of 2024, the Boys Basketball Club donated \$17,500 and the Booster Club donated \$10,000 to help offset costs to remodel a locker room in the high school. This Fall, the NOSD PTR donated \$18,500 to help offset the costs of the new sensory area in the NOSD Backyard. The Northern Ozaukee Schools Scholarship Foundation awarded approximately \$180,000 to the Class of 2024. Additionally, the Bruce Krier Charitable Foundation awarded NOSD another grant in the amount \$90,000 to enhance a collaborative workspace. While there are several key organizations and groups highlighted above, there are so many groups, businesses, and individuals that have stepped up to continue to make NOSD a great place to excel.

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We are grateful to every family who has chosen our District, and we look forward to continuing to grow together. This increase in enrollment is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of so many awesome students and families, outstanding staff members, and a supportive community. Thank you!

-Dave Karrels, NOSD Superintendent

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## District Financial Snapshot:

In October, the District's 2024-25 annual budget was approved, and the tax levy was set. The school board approved a total tax levy of \$7.56 million, the same amount as the prior year. This tax levy aligned with the school board's commitment to keeping the school portion of the tax bills the same. With tax bills being processed by early December, community members will be able to verify this information on the Northern Ozaukee School District line on their real estate tax bills.

As we look to future budgets, detailed planning of the 2025-26 budget will begin in early 2025. The District is very appreciative of our community supporting the recent operational question, allowing the district to utilize up to \$1.1 million for general operational expenses each of the next four years. This year alone, 96 of the 421 school districts across the State of Wisconsin passed an operational referendum to help fund operational needs. With NOSD's approval, the District is able to meet current needs and maintain an adequate level of reserves to operate our schools. The additional funds approved will be utilized to maintain our current operations by filling a structural budget deficit and addressing the current needs to improve classroom sizes for students within our 2nd-grade, 4th-grade, and 7th-grade classrooms. During the budget process, the Finance Committee and staff will remain steadfastly focused on analyzing the effects of decisions both in the short-term and long-term, while maintaining the priority of student learning, attracting and retaining an excellent staff, and the long-term maintenance of our facilities.

We are very proud of being well-positioned financially as a District and grateful for the support of our community to continue down this strategic and financially stable path into the future.



Joshua McDaniel, CPA  
Director of  
Business Services

## From the Principals



### Elementary School - LYNN KUCHARSKI



Ozaukee Elementary School is committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where every student can learn and thrive. We believe in the importance of building strong relationships within the school community and encouraging open communication between teachers, families, and students. This year, we have welcomed 70 new students in 4K through fifth grade! Our elementary school enrollment started the year at 350 students, which is the highest it has been in several years. Together, we are preparing students for a bright future, one where they are not only academically prepared but also equipped with the social and emotional skills to navigate their world. Our students focus on a positive character trait every month, which kicks off with a school-wide morning assembly. I am proud to serve as principal and work alongside an inspiring and dedicated group of individuals at OES. We are One Ozaukee.

### High School - Matt Zavada



Ozaukee High School has made a commitment to creating a strong Education for Employment program with the use of several academic and career planning services for our students. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight these incredible options.

Directed by the "Warrior Path", our students will engage in collaborative connections in school and the community, attain academic and career credentials and milestones, develop and demonstrate personal agency, and enhance their world and themselves through reflective service learning. The academic and career planning programming here at Ozaukee High School ensures that every student is given opportunities to be prepared for life after high school, no matter what path they plan to take. This is made possible through our offerings in career and technical education courses, college-level coursework (Start College Now, Early College Credit program, Advanced Placement, CAPP, and CCIHS courses), career-based learning experiences (Ozaukee Youth Apprenticeship and Certified Work-Based Learning), industry and organizational-level learning (industry-recognized certifications and career & technical student organizations), and career pathways.

My goal as Principal of Ozaukee High School is for our students to become happy, healthy, successful adults. Our program offerings allow our students to set on that path, and we are proud of the many options our school is able to provide. We truly have something for everyone. Please contact us if you would like to know more about any of the programs we offer. Go Warriors!



### Middle School - CHARLIE SCHWARTZ

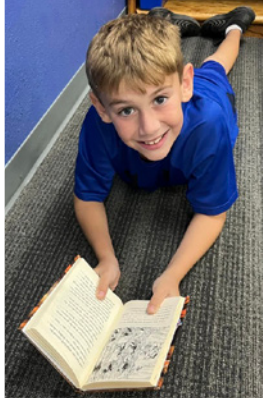


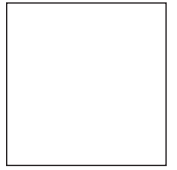
As we reflect on a successful completion to the first quarter of the 2024-25 school year, I want to share a few key highlights. First we have a very engaging and influential staff that are dedicated to our middle school students. A few of these recent examples highlighting our students include:

- Five students from Mr. Hornickel's art classes were recognized by Fredonia Lions for their Peace Posters.
- One of our students designed the "I Voted" stickers for our Village Board contest.
- Mr. Luedtke and the CAMS Class have written, produced, and edited video presentations for our viewing pleasure. This allows us to celebrate student of the months and student news.
- Ms. McBride completed mock voting for our students. The students also made "I Voted" buttons.
- Mrs. Henke for all the ways she supports our students and staff, as well as answers families questions.

I am truly appreciative of the wonderful people I work with. Thank you to all for a great first quarter.

# - PATH OF A - WARRIOR





### MISSION (our core purpose)

Educate young men and women to develop strong character and prepare them for the future

### VISION (our future)

To pursue excellence at all levels of our district



## UPCOMING DATES

- Dec 23-Jan 1:** No School
- Jan 17:** Records Day-No Students
- Feb 7:** Preschool Screening
- Feb 12:** OES Parent Teacher Conferences by appointment
- Feb 14:** No School
- March 6:** OMS Parent Teacher Conferences by appointment
- March 13:** District Fine Arts Night (community welcome)
- March 19:** OHS Parent Teacher Conferences by appointment
- March 24-31:** No School
- April 10:** 3rd-5th Spring Concert
- April 12:** NOSSF Fundraiser- Billy Joel Tribute
- April 18:** No School
- May 5:** OMS/OHS Spring Band Concert
- May 20:** OMS/OHS Spring Choir Concert
- May 21:** Senior Awards Night
- May 26:** No School
- May 27:** Tractor Day
- May 30:** Senior Parade
- June 1:** OHS Graduation
- June 4:** Last day of school- ½ Day

### 2024-2025 NOSD School Board



**From Left to Right Front Row:**

Dan Large (Vice President), Suzanne Miller (Secretary), Jennifer Clark (Treasurer), Stephen Burmesch (Member)

**From Left to Right Back Row:**

Kevin Klas (Member), Jeff Decker (Member), Hal Steffen (Member), Rick Hamm (Member), Brent Neis (President)



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