

OKOBOJI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



OKOBOJI

PROUD TO BE ONE

One School. One Team. One Goal.

Congratulations to the OHS Jazz Band for winning the 2018 Class 2A State Jazz Band Championship. This marks the band's 24th consecutive appearance at the Iowa Jazz Championships and the 5th state championship in school history (1999, 2000, 2010, 2011, 2018).

OUR MISSION STATEMENT *We will prepare each learner with the knowledge and skills necessary for a productive life in a changing world.*

PROUD TO BE ONE

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



The Okoboji School District extends its appreciation to the Okoboji Community for supporting the referendum that passed on April 3, 2018. The passage of the bond referendum will make a significant difference by creating learning experiences for every student.

The school district extends its thanks to many

individuals from our community whose tireless efforts and passion helped pass this referendum in which every vote counted. Special thank you goes out to the Okoboji School Board of Directors and the Building For Our Future Committee for their support and endorsement of the passage of the referendum.

Classroom in the Ballpark

May 16th Okoboji Middle School 7th and 8th grade students attended "Classroom in the Ballpark" at Target Field in conjunction with the Minnesota Twins game vs. St. Louis Cardinals.

Students left at 7 am and returned home around 9 pm on charter buses from Southwest Coaches. The 7th and 8th grade teaching team thought that this would be an ideal trip



The Okoboji School District has a long tradition of providing a high-quality education for Pioneering Pathways for Every Student. We look forward to constructing pathways of success for our students and community. Thank you for your support of the Okoboji School District.

- Todd Abrahamson - Team Okoboji

to focus on team building and collaboration along with rewarding the students with their outstanding Iowa Assessment scores. With 80 degree weather and smiles on their faces this was a day to be remembered! Many students have never been to a professional game and were so thankful for the experience. We had countless conversations about the rules of baseball and the little life lessons that come with being responsible at these large events. As a teaching team we reflect back on this experience and realize it was worth all the extra time and hard work to plan; when we saw the smiles and gratitude in our students returning back to Okoboji Middle School Wednesday night. A big thank you to the Okoboji Community School Foundation for giving us this opportunity and experience to reward our students.



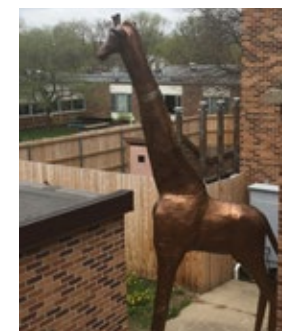
Mrs. Moore

This spring we said good bye to Okoboji icon Wynette Moore. Wynette is retiring after 40 years in education, the last 36 spent as the OHS media/library coordinator. During this time Wynette has been the heart and soul of OHS. When asked about her time at OHS, Wynette responded "I am thankful for the opportunities I've been given to spend 36 years with the finest professionals anywhere and hard working dedicated students. I am grateful my children went through this district. I am grateful for the recognition I've received over the last few weeks. It's been an honor and a privilege to work here and I am humbled by all the kind words."

As word of her retirement spread, current and former coworkers and students flooded social media with examples of how her love, compassion and actions positively impacted their lives. As one student put it "You taught me how to be a good person and I will forever be in your debt. Anyone that was ever graced by your presence is simply a better person for it." Everyone in the OHS community will miss Wynette's presence next year but we all wish her a long and happy retirement.

OES Nature Nook

Welcome to OES, Penny! The staff and students at Okoboji Elementary recently welcomed a new friend who has made her home the Nature Nook! Thanks to the generosity of Jared and Jacqui (Wells) Penne (pronounced, penny), the beautiful



copper 20-foot tall giraffe was donated to Okoboji Elementary. On Thursday, March 29th, Penny was lifted by crane over the building and into her new home in the Nature Nook. Jared and Jacqui's advice to the students of OES is, "Aim high, stand tall, and get spotted!"



Dave Vonk

Greetings! Until we have a chance to meet in person, allow me to introduce myself. I am David Vonk, the new Elementary Principal for the Okoboji School District and one of the newest members to Team Okoboji! My family and I are very excited to be a part of the Okoboji school community! We are proud to be a part of one school, one team, and one goal. We are Proud to be PiONEers!

My wife, Tricia, and I both grew up in Rock Valley, Iowa. We have 3 children that are also excited to be a part of this school and community! Camden will be in 4th grade and loves to be outside and play sports! Pacey will be in 2nd grade and she loves music, being outside, and playing with her friends! Aria will be in pre-school and she loves to play anything she can with anyone she can, especially with her big sister! As a family, we love to go to our school athletic and fine arts events, go camping, hang out with friends, or really do any sort of activity!

I have had a variety of professional experiences throughout my career. I have taught 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and spent a year as an instructional coach. I have even spent a couple of years in the private sector working for a local family business owned by my father. All of these experiences have given me a unique perspective that allows me to see school through a fresh set of eyes. I truly believe that my career thus far has prepared me to serve the students, staff, and community of Okoboji!

I encourage you to contact me (dvonk@okobojischools.org) as I love to meet with students, teachers, parents, and all community members! I truly believe that a well rounded education is rooted in a partnership between the school, parents, and the community! So, let's get together and work together to enhance our student experience by Pioneering Pathways and keep our community great!

Did you know?

Seattle Sweeney will be living in Scheessel, Germany next school year as an exchange student. "I will go sometime at the very beginning of August because school starts on August 8th. I will have to bike to school every morning, and classes will start at 7:30AM and go until about 1 or 2:00. To help with my language I will also take classes in Rotenburg, Germany which I will have to take a train to."

GREATNESS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.



JAZZ Band Takes First Place at State

Congratulations to the OHS Jazz Band for winning the 2018 Class 2A State Jazz Band Championship. This marks the band's 24th consecutive appearance at the Iowa Jazz Championships and the 5th state championship in school history (1999, 2000, 2010, 2011, 2018). Carley Wells earned one of the four outstanding performance awards at IJC. The OHS Jazz Band, under the direction of Ryan Middleton, placed first at all of the festivals they participated in this year - Morningside College Jazz Festival, SE Polk Jazz Festival, Lewis and Clark Jazz Festival, Northwest Iowa District Jazz Festival, and USD Coyote Jazz Festival. The band also played for comments/clinic at the UNI Tallcorn Jazz Festival and the IHSMA Jazz Festival. Other soloists to receive recognition throughout the year were Luke Thompson, Chae Schweers, Laura Nielsen, and Kaia Johnson. In addition to their success at festivals, the band gave several other performances in the community including the KIWANIS soup and pie lunch, Evening of Jazz at Emerald Hills Golf Course, and several concerts at OHS. In total they performed 19 different pieces of music and 14 of the 20 members played improvised solos. Luke Thompson, Chae Schweers, Carley Wells, and Samuel Heikens represented Okoboji in the 20 member 1A/2A All-State Jazz Band. Mr. Middleton would like to thank all of the members of the band for their hard work and perseverance, and for always striving to elevate their playing to the "next level" (there is always another level). Thank you in particular to the five seniors - Luke Thompson, Ethan Tanner, Laura Nielsen, Chae Schweers, and Kaia Johnson for the incredible leadership they exhibited this year. They were true role models in every way. 2017-18 was certainly a very special year for the OHS Jazz Band!



Did You Know?

Congratulations to Youth in Philanthropy who raised a record \$68,160 for the lakes community! Youth in Philanthropy teaches the next generation about the importance of community giving. Okoboji and Spirit Lake high school students meet October through May to learn about the Okoboji Foundation's lasting positive impact and to raise funds to make grants steered by student decision. The YIP has raised over \$270,000 since 2010. Making a Lasting Positive IMPACT in the Lakes Area! 2017-2018 Participants:

Front row (l to r): Camry Jones, Hannah Butler, Annika Stecker, Annie Lux, Kourtney Delperdang, Samantha Vos, Ally Morreim, Emma Hamm and Madyson Bergendahl.
Middle row: Grace Eckard, Lindsay Kujanson, Emerson Latham, Brady Clausen, Maddie Vierkant, Nancy Lynn Maris, Adam Skopec, Ryer Donkersloot, Abigail Stucker
Back row: Jacob Lamb, Jamison Helmers, Logan Abrahamson, Tyler Adams, Ian Brandt, Nick Christensen, Bradenn Droegmiller, Connor Jensen. Not pictured Brooke Harrington.

OMS Mock Trial Heads to State

The 7th/8th grade Mock Trial team had a fabulous season! Middle School Mock Trial students won third place at regional competition in Clear Lake, Iowa. They competed against 18 other teams and advanced to the state competition. At State, the students competed three times against teams from across the state, 34 teams, including this year's Middle School Mock Trial State Champions. Eighth grader, Haley Harms commented, "Mock Trial was an amazing opportunity for us to step out of our comfort zones and do something that we would not be able to do otherwise." They gained valuable experience and rich, inspiring memories that are fueling a desire to compete next year. Thank you to Barry Sackett, the team's attorney coach, for all his help this season.



Participating students: 8th grade - Lexi Duffy, Carter Lambert, Sydni Powell, Haley Harms
7th grade - Connor Cunningham, Ellie Albertoni, Chayse Packebush, Grace Downing, Paul Conover
Teacher coach: Carry Miller Attorney coach: Barry Sackett

Underwater Drone

This spring the Okoboji Community School District became one of the first schools in the country to possess an underwater drone for educational use. The Trident ROV was purchased to create authentic learning opportunities for students and allow them to experience the area's lakes in a completely new way. The drone is used for underwater exploration and recording video. It has onboard sensors which can monitor water temperature and depth. The Trident drone has a 328



foot dive depth and travels at a max speed of 4.47mph. High school students have met with the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory to discuss ways to utilize the drone to aid their work in ways such as examining trash levels, creating temperature and depth maps, assessing plant growth, and observing fish nests. They also hope to create learning partnerships with the DNR, are utilities, and the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery. The OCSD is excited for the learning opportunities this new technology will offer our students.

Job Fair

This year marked the second annual Okoboji Summer Job and Career Fair. This event, organized by Julie Andres from Mau Marine, connects Okoboji 8-12th graders with local companies looking for summer help. It also serves as a chance for local employers to share opportunities for future careers right here in the Okoboji area. The conversation about summer employment and future career options at an early age is critical. The lakes area provides unique opportunities for students entering the world of work that do not exist in many other small towns or larger metropolitan areas. We look forward to continuing and expanding this wonderful opportunity which benefits our students, families, businesses and our entire community!

National Honor Society

2018 Inductees

SENIORS

SPY BURNS

BRITTNEY SEASTRAND

JACKSON FISHER

JUNIORS

DAVID ALEXANDER

JADYN BAUMANN

HANNAH BUTLER

LAURA CLARK

KEITRA CABINBOY

DRAKE DITSWORTH

BRADEN DROEGMILLER

GRACE ECKARD

KENDAL GREEN

ALLI HARMS

MORGAN JENSEN

JORDAN KOENCK

MARIA MEYER

HEATHER NASE

EMILY NAATJES

BLAKE PETER

CATHERINE ROBERT

TAYLOR SIMINGTON

TAYLOR TITTERINGTON

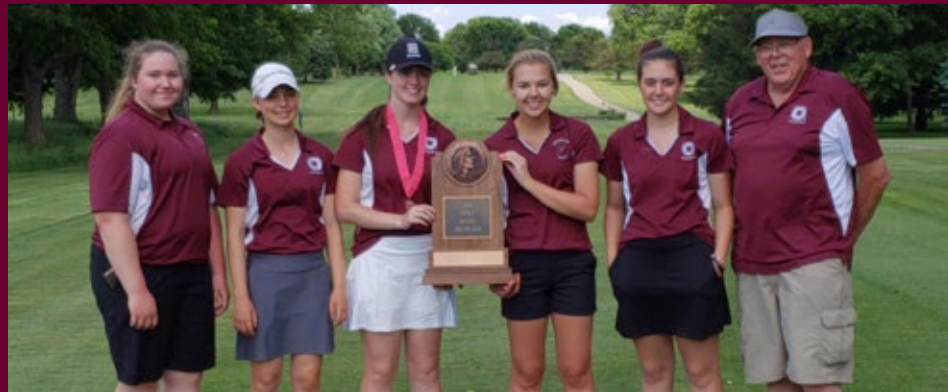
MACKENZIE VOS

ALLISON WELLENDORF

Did You Know?

Did you know our students average 2-3 years above grade level in science on Iowa Assessments in all grades assessed (3-12). Science Rocks!

PROUD TO BE ONE
GREATNESS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Girls Golf

3rd place finish at State, Siouxland Conference champions (first conf. championship since 1996)

1st team all-conference: Hannah Butler, Grace Butler, Martha Stein

2nd team all-conference: Olivia Smith.



Boys Track

Ethan Albright was **State Runner-Up** in the 400 Meter hurdles. 5 state qualifying events (4x200m, 4x400m, 100m, 200m, and 400m hurdles) 2 conference championship events

1st team all-conference: Isaac Rohret, Ethan Albright

Girls Track

4 state qualifying events (4x800m, 1500m, Distance Medley, High Jump) 4 conference championship events

1st team all-conference: Elle Olthoff, Ali Goehring, Kallyn Stumbo, Magan Christopherson, Mari Stein, Mia Meyer.

Boys Golf

1st team all-conference: Ian Brandt

2nd team all-conference: Jamison Helmers

Girls Tennis

State qualifiers, Cassie Barba - doubles qualifier for State

Middle School Track

75 kids on the team this year. 7th grade girls won top spot with 102 points for the Siouxland Conference Large School Meet and 8th grade girls won second spot in the 8th grade division with 100 points.

7th grader Makenna Helmers broke the 100M Hurdles OMS record with a time of 17.22 and 8th grader Montana Wilson broke the OMS shotput record with a throw of 32' 11".

Basketball

1st team all-region: Kallyn Stumbo (girls basketball 2nd place in the Siouxland Conference)

1st team all-conference: Kallyn Stumbo (unanimous selection) , Magan Christopherson

3rd team all-conference: Camry Jones

Honorable Mention all-conference: Logan Abrahamson, Grace Wintz

Academic all-state: Laura Nielsen

Academic all-conference: Elle Olthoff, Laura Nielsen, Ali Goehring, Logan Abrahamson, Jackson Ahrens

Wrestling

2nd team all-conference: Hunter Abrahamson, Blake Abrahamson.

State qualifiers: Hunter Abrahamson, Blake Abrahamson.

Wrestling Cheerleading - Academic all-conference: Kaia Johnson, Kiana Svoboda, Lindsay Kujanson

Okoboji students excelling outside of class

Boys Tennis

Sub-state qualifiers

PROUD TO BE ONE
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Olivia Huseman



Dr. Olivia Huseman was selected as Okoboji High School's commencement speaker for its graduation ceremony that was held on Sunday, May 20, 2018. A 2007 graduate of Okoboji High School, Huseman attended Northwestern College in Orange City, IA for a year where she earned NAIA All-American honors in cross country and track. Huseman continued her studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI and worked as a summer intern at Williams & Co. in Spencer and subsequently at KPMG in Minneapolis, MN. Named a captain of the cross country and track teams at Marquette, Huseman qualified for the NCAA Division I West Preliminary Championships in the 1500-meter run and was named a CoSIDA 1st-team Academic All-American. The 2011 senior recipient of Marquette's College of Business Golden Key Award, Huseman completed her Master's in Accountancy at Marquette in 2012, and then began her Ph.D. studies in Accounting at the University of Iowa. While a graduate student at Iowa, Huseman was one of 20 university-wide recipients of the Council of Teaching's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and selected by the accounting faculty for the Mary L. Collins Doctoral Research Fellowship. In addition, the Tippie College of Business selected her as the sole recipient of the Graduate Teaching Award of Excellence in 2017. Huseman graduated with her doctorate in May 2017 and accepted a tenure-track position at Chapman University in Orange County, CA as a professor, where she conducts empirical research on voluntary disclosure behavior within capital markets and teaches Managerial Accounting in the MBA program. In her free time, Olivia is often found running, cycling and spending time with her husband, Taylor.

Okoboji Community School Foundation

"In its third year, the Special Projects Committee of the Okoboji Community School Foundation has raised enough funds to support several trips during the school year. The 3rd grade took a field trip to the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, SD for hands-on science activities and saw a performance of "How I Become a Pirate." The 4th grade took a trip to the Omaha Zoo where they learned about various ecosystems. The 6th grade ended their Iowa history instruction with a trip to the Grotto of the Redemption and the Iowa State Capital. Funds were also provided to several high school classes for both J-term and general curriculum and to assist with the junior high trip of "Classroom in the Ballpark" at the Twins game this Spring. In addition to field trips, the Marvin & Garnette Anderson Explore Labs opened at OES and OMS in October, 2017. And through a partnership between the school district, the Foundation, and RDI of Milford, the school has purchased Google Expedition which allows for virtual field trips and instruction that is being used in all three buildings in the District. Funding for these opportunities would not be possible without the great support of the parents and community. We want to thank you all for your support as we continue to grow opportunities for our students. We are excited to announce that all grades TK-6th grade will have a field trip in the 2018-2019 school year plus various classes at the high school. Plans continue to develop for the junior high students. Please consider donations for these trips and more.

Okoboji Community School Foundation – Special Projects Committee

Abby Walleck – Chair

Ann Ditsworth, Trish Ferguson, Jeremy Helmers, Juli Johnson, and Laurie Simington



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PIONEERING PATHWAYS SPOTLIGHT



Haley Harms

During the Spring Midmester session at OMS, 8th grade student, Haley Harms, got to work on Pioneering her Pathway by team-teaching a midmester course for 5th and 6th grade students. Haley showed a passion and talent in the area of sign language throughout her middle school career, which was evident in some of the midmester courses she took. This spring, when teacher Beth Duvall developed a sign language midmester course titled Here's My Sign, the idea was brought up to have Haley team-teach the class with Mrs. Duvall. This all came to be a

reality with the help of OMS teacher leader, Erin Frerichs. During Haley's sign language team-teaching experience, she taught large group lessons, worked with small groups, and she even worked one-on-one with an OMS student to develop a video project that incorporated teaching sign language. The project included Haley teaching the student some signs that went along with a song, and once the student learned the signs, they signed along with the song to make a very touching video.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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