

Principal's Annual Report
Old Rochester Regional High School
2016
Michael Devoll – Principal
J. Michael Parker – Assistant Principal

Our Towns

Our school serves three southeastern Massachusetts towns: Mattapoisett; Marion; and, Rochester. All three towns have maintained their individual charm through careful and thoughtful community planning. Marion and Mattapoisett are quaint, close-knit seaside communities. Rochester has a more rural landscape surrounded by scenic farms, cranberry bogs, pine forests and fresh water ponds. Residents are proud of their school systems and have been very supportive in passing legislation to insure its continued success.

Our School

The 2015-2016 school year featured a student body made up of 777 students, including 62 students attending Old Rochester Regional High School through the School Choice Program. Our student body resides in the communities of the Tri-Town: Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Through the School Choice Program the school was able to welcome residents of the following communities to our school: Acushnet, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Middleboro, New Bedford, Wareham, and Westport. In 2016, ORRHS graduated a class of 183 seniors, which represented a graduation rate of 98%. ORRHS school offers a comprehensive curriculum with a wide selection of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. In 2015, approximately 93% of ORR graduates continued their education at two or four-year colleges.

Our Faculty

Of the 61 faculty members at ORRHS, 78% have their Masters degree and 3% have their Doctoral degree.

This past year, Old Rochester has been named to the College Board's 6th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada that have increased access to AP course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

The DREAMFAR High School Marathon Club has had a successful first year on the Southcoast. Six students from ORR, one student from Dartmouth High School, and one student from City on a Hill New Bedford completed the Providence Marathon in May. The program also included over forty volunteers and mentors from both the schools and the greater community. The program challenges students to reach their full potential--physically, socially, emotionally, and academically--through a mentor-supported marathon training program. Dreamfar mentors run alongside youth and help them train for and complete the Cox Providence Marathon by providing companionship, motivation, and support. This program is entirely funded and run through community support and donations. DREAMFAR Southcoast has already expanded in 2016-2017 due to the success of our first year students. We are looking forward to another successful year for our club.

The School to Career program provides a student with a unique educational experience that joins a structured in-school academic program with a work internship. During the 2016-2017 school year, eighteen seniors participated in the School to Career program at the high school. Placements included Tobey Hospital, Fun 107 Radio Station, Sippican Elementary School, Child Care Center, ORRCTV, Southeastern Massachusetts Education Collaborative, Village Veterinary Hospital, Source North America, Advanced Dental Care, Chase Canopy, Kool Kone, as well as various positions located within the high school.

The English Department ran a new half-year Genealogy elective. As part of their research, students visited the New Bedford Library and New Bedford City Hall where they discovered family documents and learned research techniques. Some of our thirty plus students also visited the Providence Library, where they took part in a taping of Genealogy Roadshow, a national television program (PBS). The English Department Theater Elective performed its 25th show in May. The production, Scenes from Shakespeare II, included our largest cast to date with over forty students! Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors worked together on every aspect of the production for a successful performance.

During 2015-2016 Bulldog TV has covered ORRHS Basketball games, music concerts, Homecoming Week and ORR Superlative Gala

The Old Rochester Regional High School Debate Team had a strong year in 2015-16 within the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League (EMDL). This season the debaters argued the following resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should establish a policy that substantially curtails domestic surveillance. Varsity debaters Ben Bradford graduated, ending a strong four years in the league. Junior debaters: Joshua

Lerman, Jacob Spevack, Colleen Garcia Justin Shay and James Goulart all had strong showings within the league.

In 2016-17 the Debate Team is arguing the following resolution, Resolved: The United States federal government should establish a policy that substantially increases its diplomatic and/or economic engagement with the People's Republic of China.

Across-the-board, the Old Rochester Regional High School proved to be first-class and continued the school's history of excellence. The school also wishes fond farewell to staff members Caitlin Barker, Toby Kyle, Olga Surpless and Barbara Tully. Joining our staff during the 2016-2017 school year were Elizabeth Andrews, Alison Barker, Kate Butler, Diana Carreira, Janet Gauvin, and Rebecca Okolita.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Devoll
Principal

J. Michael Parker
Assistant Principal