



~The~  
O'Rourke Observer  
Winter of 2023-2024

# New Teacher Feature★

## Mrs. Jacobson

- Teaches all levels of seventh grade math.
- Went to Marquette University and University of Nebraska.
- Enjoys teaching math because there is always an answer.

## Ms. Dolan

- Teaches sixth grade art.
- Went to Skidmore College and RPI.
- Used to work in editing at Marvel.
- Dream is to teach young kids to change the future.

By Gwen

A photograph of a classroom. In the background, there is a whiteboard, several maps on the wall, and various posters. An American flag is visible on the right side. The room has a drop ceiling with fluorescent lights. In the foreground, there are several black plastic chairs and a light-colored table. On the table, there are some colorful, hand-drawn or cut-out items, possibly related to a lesson.

# ★Teacher Feature★

Starring Mrs.Hills

By Emily

Mrs. Hills is another one of the amazing teachers here at O'Rourke. She currently teaching 6th grade English, Social Studies, and Literature! She enjoys reading, watching movies, and of course, working with kids! Lets just say that if you missed listening to *Ancient Mesopotamia by Mr. Nicky* at full volume in her classroom, I suggest you go back to sixth grade, my fellow seventh and eighth graders! Mrs. Hills is a wonderful and highly respected teacher who also is the advisor for Junior Honor Society. We are all so fortunate that she is one of best teachers at OMS!

# Teachers and Their Pets

Let's take a look at some of our teachers and their furry friends.



Mrs. Kibler  
Charlie



Mr. Long  
Bailey & Lola



Ms. Carpenter  
Barkly



Mrs. Bokor  
Truffle & Cheddar



Mrs. McCarthy  
Katie

*By Lamar  
Hekal*

*Fun Facts About*  
*The Aurora Borealis*  
*By Emily*

- The Aurora Borealis, AKA the Northern Lights, is most commonly known to be seen in polar regions like Alaska, but there have been rare sightings of them in Canada, and quite recently, just this past November!
- Although the Aurora is most commonly known for being blue, green, and purple - it can also be yellow, orange, and even red!
- The Aurora Borealis was studied by ancient Roman and Greek astronomers! The phenomenon was named after the Roman goddess of the dawn, by the name of Aurora, and the Greek god of the north wind, by the name of Boreas.

# O'Rourke Gives Back

Over the last few months, O'Rourke raised \$4,070 for Toys for Tots, and donated SO many cans and other food items for the Food Drive! Congratulations and a BIG THANK YOU for all the students and families who helped make the holidays a little brighter for many children in our community!

# A Happy Holiday in the Library

The library now has some new books! One of the librarian's favorite fresh titles includes *The Impossible Escape*. Every month new books arrive in the library ranging from graphic novels to historical fiction. Check out the New Books shelf in the library to explore the newest novels that everyone's obsessed with.

By: Addie G.

# The Green Boutique



The Green Boutique is run by the Go Green Club. The Go Green Club works to save the earth in small ways.

The Green Boutique was started last year. The Green Boutique is a mini thrift shop. People donate gently used or new clothes to the boutique and then they can browse through the boutique and find something to take home. The point of the Green Boutique is to reduce the amount of wasted clothes. Consider donating any clean clothes that you no longer wear!



**Sources** - Mrs. Chila, Riley, & Gianna

**By Gwen with the  
assistance of Emily**



# The Happy Horse Club!

**When** - Usually they meet one Thursday a month

**Where** - Mrs. Duell's room (104)

**Who** - Open to anyone who loves horses

## **What They Do**

1. Barn Tours/Fun Activities
2. Learn About Horses
3. Fundraisers for Rescue Horse Farms
4. Take Field Trips!!!

**The Happy Horse Club is run by Sophia Seabolt & Adalyn Goetz. For more information feel free to contact them!**



## 6th grade Intramurals

The 6th grade Intramurals are a new thing here at O'Rourke Middle School. They happen most Tuesdays at the gym, and are run by our very own P.E. teachers.

If you are in Intramurals you will experience a unique bunch of games. Recently, intramurals has played Jailbreak, Challenge Soccer, Kevada ball, Gaga Ball, and More!





# Drama Club Crew



Mr. Cintula started with stage crew because it reminded him of the time when he was a child and worked backstage during plays that were put on while he was a middle schooler and high school student.

Mr. Cintula has done great work here at O'Rourke.

Mr. Cintula always wanted to be a reliable resource and support for the kids who wanted to do the hard work of working backstage. While Mr. Cintula had always wanted to be an actor on Broadway, he decided to stay local and support the arts in Burnt Hills.

By: Gracynn Moore





# Drama Club Cast

Mr Sorcelli decided to do cast because he knew the previous worker that had done it for 20 years. He wanted the club to go on and when no one volunteered he decided to step up and take action.

He had participated in drama club in high school and helps the high school now.

By Gracynn Moore





# O'Rourke's Opinion - Tests & Quizzes



Recently, a survey was sent out to all of the middle school on student's opinions on tests and quizzes. Here are the results.

33.1% of students get stressed out over tests/quizzes. 18.2% of students don't get stressed out over tests/quizzes. The other 48.7% of students only sometimes get stressed out.

There were quite a few different responses for how long students spend studying, but the most common response was 30 minutes of studying with 20 minutes and more than 40 minutes close behind.

More than 50% of students said that their least favorite subject to take a test or quiz in was math. More than 25% of students said that their favorite subject to take a test or quiz in was social studies with language test and quizzes in close behind.

In conclusion, O'Rourke has many different opinions on tests and quizzes based off of what grade they're in and what subjects they have.



Next edition coming in May...