

## **Onamia Academy Principal Board Report February 2025**

- We celebrated Paraprofessional Appreciation week in January with a treat each day for the paras, a special lunch, and cake. We are so appreciative of all the paras at Onamia Academy - they are pulled in many directions from helping hand out PBIS tickets, working one-on-one with students on academics and behaviors, documenting student behaviors, and helping regulate student behaviors with breaks and interventions. Thank you to all the OA paras for everything you do everyday!
- This semester we have partnered with Garrett Lancaster, Voc/Rec Manager for Nexus, to offer an Industrial Arts class to the students as an elective class. Garrett is teaching the students about woodworking, welding, and automotive skills. This hands-on class has been a great addition to our schedule. The first project the students worked on was making a wooden spatula. We are so thankful for our relationship with Nexus so that we could offer this class, as we don't have the resources within our own staffing to provide such a class. Thank you Garrett!
- We kicked off our I Love to Read month activities on January 31 with a Reading Carnival. The event included cotton candy, tattoos, face painting, ring toss, sack races, karaoke, book trivia, putt putt golf, basketball, and a special grandstand appearance by Joan Jett herself (Teresa Lueck dressed up)! It was a great way to kick off I Love to Read month! Throughout the month of February, students are encouraged to read and turn in summaries of what they have read for great prizes. At the end of the month, all students who have met the reading goal will earn a prize.
- On February 7, Onamia Police Chief Amy and Mille Lacs County Deputy Michael Boser visited the Academy to talk to the seniors. The discussion included: Careers in law enforcement, the current job market, types of schooling, and a question and answer session. The officers were well received by the students, as they had many questions to ask them about their experiences in law enforcement. Thank you to Chief Amy and Deputy Boser!
- In the last 6 weeks, we have gotten 10 new students at the Academy, so it has been a very busy winter for us. Each new student gets a one-on-one orientation with Anna to go over the student handbook, point sheet, and level system. I go over their credits to discuss if they are on track for graduation or if they need credit recovery. Karly works with them on taking their reading and math diagnostic testing. Our current enrollment is at 41 students, up 4 students since we started the school year. With being down 3 teachers since we started the school year and a paraprofessional, we are feeling the fullness in our classes as the number of students goes up. A big shout out to all the OA staff for stepping in to cover and help out with our staffing shortage. They all deserve to be recognized for going above and beyond to help out each day to cover and help with whatever is needed with missing so many staff.