



Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

WINTER 2019

AROUND THESE HILLS

A publication for alumni and friends of **Ottawa Hills Local Schools**



HOME-COURT ADVANTAGE: COURT NAMING HONORS COACH JOHN LINDSAY

» Full story on page 6

Grant enables fifth graders to help river

» Full story on page 7

Reunions celebrate alumni friendships

» See photos, pages 4-5

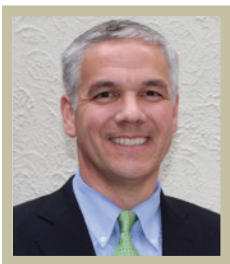
Faithful FOUNDERS *set an example for all*

At crucial times in the district's history, our schools benefited from the selfless acts of residents with vision. When others doubted the possible, these individuals instead leaped into the future. And we collectively have benefited for nearly 100 years. Examples abound, such as in **September 1925** when residents formed and opened our first school, **November 1930** when our first building (the oldest section of today's elementary school) was dedicated, or **September 1939** when the high school opened. Each milestone required leaders to pledge financially and emotionally.

Now, add to that list of leaders the members of the Ottawa Hills Local Schools' Founders' Society. They opened their hearts and wallets in 2013 – well before the idea of a school-focused foundation was considered possible. Their combined contributions made the "Founders' Society Campaign" a success. More than 120 people pledged over \$620,000.

These cherished supporters are publicly acknowledged on the Founders' Society Wall, unveiled in May 2016 inside the high school lobby. Without their support, we would not have embarked on the follow-up "March to a Million" campaign. Without their trust and example, we would not have launched the Foundation to make it easier to financially support the district's mission.

Six years later, the Founders' Society Wall is proof that our schools remain a treasured asset in our community. Thank you again to the newest generation of leaders who exhibited incredible faith in Ottawa Hills Local Schools by being among the very first contributors to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.



George Lathrop
President
Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation



Erica (Gatchel) Silk '89
Director of Development
and Alumni Relations

Correction: An Annual Campaign gift acknowledgement in the Fall 2018 issue incorrectly identified a gift from Ron & Paula Creed. It was made in memory of Judith Baron LaValle '65. We are sorry for the error.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT

George Lathrop

SECRETARY

Dee Talmage

TREASURER

Scott Estes

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Erica (Gatchel) Silk ('89)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig ('93)

R. L. Berry ('76)

Paul Bishop

Maara Fink

Brad Johnson

Kevin Miller

Phillip Mintun

Jeremy Nixon

Judd Silverman ('74)

Mark Wagoner ('90)

Andrew Westmeyer ('87)

The mission of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is to permanently enhance and extend the unique experience of excellence that defines Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

**SUPPORTING THE OHS
FOUNDATION IS EASY!**

Visit the Foundation's website at
ohschoolsfoundation.org
to contribute online or use
the attached giving envelope.



TODD SEIFRIED ('85) AND DEE AND DR. LANCE TALMAGE CEREMONIOUSLY PULL BACK THE CURTAIN TO OFFICIALLY UNVEIL THE FOUNDERS' SOCIETY WALL.

Founders' Society

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FUTURE

Three years after the seed was planted, the idea for a new source of support for our schools bore fruit with the creation of the "Founders' Society Wall."

The Wall publicly acknowledges those individuals whose expression of faith in the district paved the way for the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. The May 24, 2016, dedication honored current and former residents, as well as many other supporters. Next time you are in the junior/senior high school, view the plaque inside the building's lobby. (A similar plaque also hangs inside the elementary school.)

FOUNDERS' SOCIETY

VALEDICTORIAN – \$100,000 and above
Dr. Lance and Mrs. Dee Talmage

SUMMA CUM LAUDE – \$50,000 and above

The Hylant Family Foundation:

Pat and Ann ('67) Hylant, Sandra Hylant ('74), Jeannie Hylant ('75), Mike ('78) and Tina Hylant, Richard and Clare ('80) Hylant, The Berenzweig Family (Jackie '93)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE – \$25,000 and above

The Estes Family

Troy and Wendy Greeley
Judy McCracken and Family

David Roadhouse ('62)

Jenny and Todd ('85) Seifried

The Swigart Family:

Stephen ('66) and Mickey Swigart,
John ('96) and Shanie Swigart,
Maggie ('99) and Tyson Marlow

DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL – \$10,000 and above

The Backoff Family:

Tom and Kate ('77), Brad ('06),
Jennie ('08), and Leslie ('10)

Brad and Allison Johnson

George and Kathy Lathrop
Letitia Marth and Paul Bishop

The Mintun Family

Andy ('87) and Heather Westmeyer and Family

District Faculty and Staff:

Sharon Abendroth ('80), Kathy Benecke,
Stephen Bobak, Cynthia Bodziak, Julie Boesel ('85), Darrin Broadway, Darcy Browne, Tina Cambal, Wendi Danzeisen, Christine Dever, Patricia Dowd, Paul Genzman, Jennifer Griffin, Mary Kate

Hafemann, Noreen Hanlon, Judy Haudan, Tim Hood, Lauren Hurst, Kate Hunyor, Melissa Jankowski, Kristin Johnson, Rita Johnston, Laurie Keating, Joan Keckler, Jordan Kieilty, James Kinkaid, Teresa Leinweber, Karen Mayfield, Tom McCarthy, Rebecca McLean, Ingrid Mendez, Sean Mercer, Sally Morel, Greg Neuendorf, Jeremy Nixon, Mark Nusbaum, Heidi O'Connor, Angela Parker, Jenny Powers, Kristin Prevette, Sarah Puffenberger, Karen Schoenberger, Carole Sendi, Erica Silk ('89), Nicolle Smith, Brooks Spiess, Donnie Stevens, Kristie Stevens, Rose Stevens, Jessica Temple, Susan Wilson, Donna Wipfli, Amy Wolff ('83)

FOUNDERS' SOCIETY – \$5,000 and above

R. L. ('76) and Karen Berry

Annette Levis Boice ('49)

Tom and Betsy '64 Brady

Rick ('79) and Jenny Brunner

The Buckley Family:

Bill and Jean, Mike ('93), Jamie ('96), and Kate ('99)

Dr. E. Tomas and Yoli Calderon

Russell L. Carson ('61)

Sam Carson, Jr. ('68)

George and Leslie Chapman and

Elise Ansberg

Leo T. Clark ('68)

The Duran Family – In Memory

of Skip and Lee Freeman

Craig and Amy Findley

The Geiger Family:

James ('79), Mary ('79), Jennifer ('07),
Catherine ('10), and Michael ('13)

Kevin Gilmore

Dr. Sunny Gupta ('01) and Family
Becky and Tom Hauck

The Hupp Family

Steve and Neerja Jindal

Julie and Tod Kowalczyk

Anne ('59) and Bill Lathrop

John and Hilary Lindsay

John ('72) and Delia Longthorne

Elizabeth Souder Louis ('80)

Joe ('93) and Courtney ('93) Magliochetti

Matthew and Sally McQueen

Dr. Kevin and Mrs. Carla Miller

The Mitchell Family:

Steve and Jenny ('86), Robie ('13),

Becca ('15), and Maggie ('18) Mitchell

David ('74) and Katherine O'Connell

District Administrators:

Bradley Browne, Timothy Erickson, Tracy

& Chris Hertz, Kori Kawczynski, Rosalice

Manlove, Benjamin S. McMurray, Drs.

William D. Miller and Arthur N. Samel, The

Patacca Family, Jackie Patterson

Mary Ellen Pisanelli, Eleni ('02), and Lia ('07)

Judd ('74) and Lisa Silverman

Joe Ochoa and Christi Smith

Granger ('78) and Kathi Souder

The Dan Steinberg ('76) Family

Spencer and Christy, Sophia, and Sarah Stone

Casey and Katie ('89) Talbott

Mark ('90) and Merideth Wagoner

The Walter Family: Jim, Kim, Keven ('10),

and Julie ('12)

Peter ('96) and Sofia Westmeyer

Sue and Jim White, Jr. ('58), Jim White III,

and Carey White Gifford ('89)

Bill and Amy ('83) Wolff

Class of 1953

The Class of 1953 gathered at Ottawa Hills High School for a reunion tour in August and continued the celebration all weekend. Among those attending were Barbara Schlatter and Mimi Riddle and Helen and John Williams.



BARBARA SCHLATTER AND MIMI RIDDLE



HELEN AND JOHN WILLIAMS

Class of 1954

Alumni gathered in Sausalito, California, in May to reminisce about their high school days. They had a wonderful time recalling the Green Arrows and the impact OH had on each of them. They get together every few years to enjoy lifelong friendships that continue to run deep today. OH alumnus Larry Mindel ('55) hosted the group for a weekend of fun.



PICTURED HAVING A MEAL WITH THEIR FAVORITE SHIRTS ON ARE KIM (HIETT) JORDAN, JANET (HAUNSTEIN) BARWIG, MARY (HILL) LIZ KING, LARRY MINDEL, SUE (YORK) STEWARD, JOAN (BLACK) DAVIDSON, AND CAROLYN (MINDEL) HERMAN.

Class of 1955

Who celebrates a 62nd or 63rd high school reunion? The unconventional OHHS Class of 1955, that's who. By 2005, these classmates had held only a 20th and 50th reunion. Since then, the alumni have sprung into action and celebrated their 62nd reunion in Orlando in February 2017 and 63rd in Sausalito in June. The 62nd reunion in Florida was so successful that no one wanted the gathering to end. "We looked around at each other and decided that maybe we should meet every year," a candid alumnus commented.



PICTURED HAVING DINNER AT POGGIO TRATTORIA ARE TOD ROEMER, DAVE GLOW, BUD MARSHALL, COURT SLAYTON, JOHN HART, LARRY MINDEL, CHARLES HEYDT, ROA LYNN, BILL WILLIAMS, CHUCK RACINE, AND SPENCER STONE.



Alumni Soccer Game

The boys' soccer team took on alumni at the annual Alumni Soccer game at Niedermeier Stadium in July. Alumni gave the team a run for their money, but today's students edged out a 3-2 win. Alumni were coached by Francis Stephens.

ALUMNI ATTENDING ARE DONOVAN DEMILT, KEVIN HOEFLINGER, EMERSON SAUM, NATE BAIRD, WILLIAM TUNIS, SAM ASSI, JAN DURST, NOAH DEWHIRST, AHMED HALIM, SAM RUMPH, JACK SADDEMI, AUSTIN PATERWICH, KEVIN KALNAS, REED GLOSSER, LOGAN GLOSSER, CORY STEIN, DOUG STOCKSTON, AND SAM BROCHIN.

Class of 1963

The class had a wonderful event meeting at the Dorr Street Cafe this summer, attending a Mud Hens game Friday, sharing dinner and boat rides at Tom and Brenda Seiple's home Saturday at The Quarry in Maumee, and brunching at Gretta (Fleck) Laskey's home in Ottawa Hills Sunday. Around 24 alumni attended the full and busy four-day event with friends and classmates. The Class of 1963 was the first to use the new kindergarten room at the elementary school and also the first to graduate in the new auditorium at the high school.



TAKING IN THE MUD HENS: MARILYN (MENSING) JENSEN, MARIANNE (FLECK) GEHRING, GRETTA (FLECK) LASKEY, JEFF GEHRING, BRUCE TRUMM, BOB REICHERT, AND EMILY HUNTINGTON.



SUNDAY BRUNCH ATTENDEES: TOM ROEMER, JOHN NEUHAUS, JIM ASHLEY, CRAIG PENNER, MARILYN (MENSING) JENSEN, BOB REICHERT, PAM (PETERS) LEDUC, GRETTA (FLECK) LASKEY, MARIANNE (FLECK) GEHRING, AND EMILY HUNTINGTON.

Class of 1977

Members of the class gathered at the Ottawa Hills' home of Lori M. Dixon in August for a backyard party and to celebrate their 40th reunion.



Class of 1988



SHOWING SCHOOL SPIRIT ARE KATIE (WALSH) LLOYD AND PETE R. CASEY

About 36 members of the Class of 1988 returned to Ottawa Hills High School for their 30th reunion. They started the weekend by attending the Homecoming football game and visiting with their former coach, Chris Hardman. They

shopped in the Bear Cave and toured the school Saturday. Many went to Tony Packo's and The Beirut for a late afternoon lunch.

They gathered Saturday at the home of Rod and Lauri Cooper, who hosted a dinner party catered by Shorty's. Tracy Tunis said: "It was amazing getting back together with so many wonderful classmates. I enjoyed hearing about everyone's adventures and successes over the last 30 years. People came from all over the country: California, Seattle, New York, and Florida. The connections we created 30 years ago remain strong today."



KING OF THE COURT

Dedication honors John Lindsay



The Ottawa Hills Board of Education has honored two decades of success by teacher, coach, and mentor John Lindsay by naming the district's main court in his honor.

The dedication ceremony of the "John Lindsay Court" is Saturday, February 9. The court is used for both curricular and extracurricular activities throughout the day and evening.

Mr. Lindsay was a volunteer assistant varsity coach with the district in 1993-94. He joined the district in the fall of 1994 as a high school business teacher and coach of the junior varsity team. In 1995, he became coach of the varsity team. Since then, his teams have won nearly a dozen Toledo Area Athletic Conference titles, plus many additional sectional, district, and regional championships. His 2010 team made it to the state semifinals.

Many former players and coaches are expected to participate in the dedication, including Pete Kadens ('96), who was basketball team captain in his senior year. "Next to my parents, there isn't a single person who has been more critical to my development as a human being than Coach Lindsay," Mr. Kadens said.

The board's action honored a request by Pete and Amy Kadens ('99), who recently made a generous donation to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. The Kadens requested the court be named as a tribute to Mr. Lindsay for the impact he had on Mr. Kadens' life.

Dedication schedule:

12-1 p.m. Dedication ceremony, public welcome.

1-3 p.m. Ottawa Hills Alumni Basketball Game. If you would like to play in the alumni basketball game, please RSVP to Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org.

7:30 p.m. Ottawa Hills vs. Liberty-Benton varsity basketball game.

After the game:

The celebration of Coach Lindsay continues after the varsity game at Shorty's Back Forty, 5215 Monroe St., Toledo.

NEWS BRIEFS

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEVIN S. MILLER WAS HONORED IN DECEMBER WITH THE "SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD" from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. More than 700 individuals across the state are eligible annually for the award. "I am honored to receive this award, especially since it is voted upon by my peers," said Dr. Miller, who became the district's superintendent in June 2010. "The recognition is truly shared by everyone who contributes every day to making Ottawa Hills the top school district in Ohio."

OTTAWA HILLS LOCAL SCHOOLS RECEIVED THE "OVERALL A AWARD" FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. The award recognizes districts that are "demonstrating high academic performance and building bright futures for students of every background and ability level." Ottawa Hills was the only Lucas County district and one of only two in the state to earn A's in all categories of the state's 2018 Local Report Card. In addition, Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School received a building "Overall A Award," which are similar to those issued for districts but recognize exemplary achievement at one facility.



Backyard scientists

FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS FIFTH GRADERS

Packing scientific instruments, bamboo cutters, and seine nets, nearly 80 Ottawa Hills fifth graders recently traveled the banks and explored the depths of the Ottawa River.

Their destination was a hard-to-reach section behind Epworth Church on Central Avenue. They conducted experiments to better understand food webs, symbiotic relationships in nature, and human impacts on ecosystems. Making their excursion possible was a \$1,500 grant from the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

"I feel I learn better when I'm interacting," said Ella McQueen. Added fellow explorer Quinton Smith: "It was more fun than you would think!"

From this class exercise, about 25 students were chosen to present their scientific findings at the Student Watershed Summit in November, which brought together students from districts in the Maumee River region.



LIANNE GENZMAN

Teacher Lianne Genzman, who applied for the Foundation grant, coordinates the district's fifth-grade science curriculum. Life sciences is a required subject in Ohio and interactions with the ecosystem is a topic within the life sciences. So it was natural for Mrs. Genzman to look

to the Ottawa River when seeking ways to bring that topic to life. "What better way to do that than to use their own backyard," said Mrs. Genzman. "The objective of the lesson was to show students how you make a positive impact on the area around you."

With the grant, she purchased 200 native plants; test tubes, testing kits, and scientific equipment; and the seine nets, which were used to collect crayfish, snails, and native and non-native clams. As they did, students had a close-up look at other creatures calling the river home, which their classroom videos and worksheets were not able to provide. "I learned a lot about the many parts of the food web," said Quinton, easily remembering the three types of symbiotic relationships: mutualism, commensalism, parasitism.

The students planted 50 each of four species native to Ohio, including the *Blue Lobelia*, which can filter nitrates and phosphates from entering waterways. OH juniors Hannah Shariff and Claire Denk have been studying the plant for more than three years, beginning with their eighth-grade "Citizen Science Project."

Local staff with The Nature Conservancy, a national nonprofit organization, helped to plan the day's schedule and were present to help students, parents, and teachers. (Thank you, Nature Conservancy!)

Once at the site, students used kits to conduct water-quality testing and studied parameters such as temperature, turbidity (how much material is suspended in the water), and dissolved oxygen and pH levels. Students also collected samples from stream bottoms to look for macroinvertebrates (organisms that do not have a backbone but yet can be seen with the naked eye). The results of both tests produced indicators of the water's overall health.

As they studied the data, they drew preliminary conclusions about water quality and ecosystem health. "Because of this project, I actually think more of what pollution will do and its impacts – and why it's bad," Quinton added.

In addition to the data collection and planting, students collected garbage and removed bamboo and other non-native plant species. "It was fun making tunnels as we cut down the bamboo," said Emma Friedman.

Among the 20 parent volunteers that afternoon were two adult "scientists" from the University of Toledo: professors Randall Ellingson (physics and astronomy) and Christine Mayer (environmental sciences), both of whom have children in the fifth grade.

Back in the classroom, students created a document to catalog their findings, list of plantings, and biotic and abiotic data collected. The document will be shared with future fifth-graders and other OH classes working on the Ottawa River – including members of the high school Eclipse Club who have spent three years researching the *Blue Lobelia*.



Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TOLEDO, OH
PERMIT #311

Don't forget to
share the OH News!

To join the mailing list, OH friends
and alumni should contact Erica
(Gatchel) Silk '89.

esilk@ohschools.org | 419-214-4838

ALUMNI CAN ALSO REGISTER ONLINE AT:
ottawahillsschools.org/content2/ohalumni



Like Us On Facebook
Ottawa Hills Local Schools
Alumni Association



The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Ottawa Hills Local Schools' attendees

who have made a meaningful
contribution to society, and whose
accomplishments, affiliations, and
careers have honored the tradition

of excellence at Ottawa Hills. **Nominees will have:**

- **Made significant accomplishments** while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character;
- **Exhibited outstanding leadership** in his or her field;
- **Been of service** to his or her community and humanity through local, state, national, or international organizations; and/or
- **Demonstrated exemplary accomplishments** in the following areas: arts, education, government, science, business, or public service.

If you would like to nominate yourself or an individual, complete the application at: ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.php.

Recipients will be recognized Friday, September 20, 2019, at a dinner reception and during the half-time ceremonies of the home football game that evening. Nominations may be emailed to Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or mailed to Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 3600 Indian Road, Ottawa Hills, OH 43606. **Applications deadline: Feb. 15, 2019.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beauty and the Beast

Feb. 8-10: The classic story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. The Broadway show ran 13 years and received nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. **Tickets are on sale now.** (Rated G)

Legacy Luncheon

April 12: All Village of Ottawa Hills residents and alumni are invited to attend the Legacy Luncheon to celebrate the community's support of our students and school. The free event gives students and staff the opportunity to honor Village residents for establishing and supporting a legacy of excellence in our district. **RSVP to Karen Mayfield at kmayfield@ohschools.org or by calling 419-536-6371.** The luncheon is sponsored by a variety of OH organizations.

Open for MORE NEWS from

AROUND THESE HILLS!