

# AROUND these HILLS

WINTER 2021



## Let the future begin!



**Learning Commons, science labs,  
research center to advance academic  
excellence of all students**

### **Inside this issue:**

Fall sports: A dominant performance

Scott, OH students seek common ground

Foundation grants support young scientists

Quality Profile captures year of challenges,  
triumphs



Photo courtesy of Yarko Kuk/Village Voice of Ottawa Hills

## Achieving Mental Goals!

The Foundation is proud to have helped OH soccer athletes further their mental toughness by sponsoring their participation in the online Dan Abrahams Soccer Academy. The investment paid off this fall. Both the girls' and boys' programs defended their TAAC titles and the boys advanced to the Division III Final Four.

Now that's teamwork!



Support athletes at Ottawa Hills by donating to the Mindel Family Athletic Fund at [ohschoolsfoundation.org](https://ohschoolsfoundation.org)

# insidewinter2021



**Ottawa Hills**  
Local Schools



**5**

## HOME TO HOME CONNECTS SCOTT, OH HIGH SCHOOLS

Separated by about four miles of Bancroft Street, students at Scott and Ottawa Hills high schools are looking for ways to bridge geographic and other differences.

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## KEEPING SCIENCE PROJECTS POSSIBLE DURING COVID-19

Three students are carrying out scientific research usually conducted in university labs thanks to grant support from the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

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## A FALL TO REMEMBER FOR GREEN BEAR SPORTS

The Green Bears plowed their way through the Toledo Area Athletic Conference this fall. OH teams shared or captured six TAAC titles; six athletes earned MVPs.

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## AN AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT



Learn more about our awards at [ohschools.org/honors](https://ohschools.org/honors)

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

*Around These Hills* celebrates the students, faculty, and alumni of Ottawa Hills Local Schools, and the donors making possible many of their achievements. It is published four times a year by the district's Office of Communications in partnership with the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. It is mailed to all homes and businesses in the Village, alumni, and donors to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

*Around These Hills* welcomes letters from readers at [info@ohschools.org](mailto:info@ohschools.org).

### ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTS:

*Around These Hills*, 3600 Indian Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

## On the cover

When voters approved two school ballot issues Nov. 3, they set in motion a new future in academic and social-emotional programming at the Junior/Senior High School. Anchoring that transformation will be the new Learning Commons. See Page 8

### LOOKING AHEAD: SPRING 2021

Our next issue will take a look at the Class of 2021 and their plans for the future after Commencement.



**Ottawa Hills**  
Local Schools

*Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:** Rob Gnepper (president), Maara Fink (vice president), Lisa Brown, Corey Hupp, Kate Pixler

**MISSION:** In partnership with our community, Ottawa Hills Local Schools will challenge and inspire each student to realize his or her unique potential; to embrace learning as a lifelong process; and to become an active, responsible citizen.

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## DISTRICT LETTER

# A list to top a most unique year

I am an early bird. I love getting a start on the day before dawn. Late nights for me are those past 10 p.m. That said, in the past I have watched David Letterman present his “Top 10 Lists” on his “Late Show” program many times back in the day.

I’m not as funny as Dave, but as a former teacher, I know a good learning tool when I see one. As I complete my first full calendar year as superintendent, I want to share my own list of memorable moments. And so, from the home office on Indian Road, I present my **Top 10 List for 2020:**

**10.** Welcoming our newest teachers and staff during opening-day ceremonies in August (conducted virtually, of course).

**9.** Dressing up as Green Bear and attempting to stop soccer balls kicked at me during the “Kicks for a Cure” fundraiser. Wait: Did I say I was Green Bear? That really was Green Bear! ; )

**8.** After COVID-19 shut down in-person instruction last spring, being able to share the news this fall that in-person instruction would return in September.

**7.** Dressing as Chewbacca for the 2020 Halloween Parade at the Elementary School.

**6.** Tuning in to Instagram to watch Drake Furey and Truman Talbott broadcast OH sporting events this fall. (Seriously, they are both great!)

**5.** Leading workshops with students, parents, and teachers to build ideas and programs for what will become our new Learning Commons.

**4.** Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony in January for The Kadens Family Fitness Center.

**3.** Watching our teachers create remote-learning content on the fly last spring and then again to launch our first-ever Summer Learning Plan.

**2.** Celebrating with levy campaign co-chairs Joy Hajjar and Kathy Lathrop on Nov. 3 as election results came in and it became clear both district ballot issues would pass.

**And No. 1 ...**

**1.** Attending the most spectacular outdoor commencement ceremony ever in the history of the world. (Prove me wrong!)

There are times when the past 12 months have felt like 12 years. We all want a fresh start and closure on the year that brought us COVID-19. But as my list shows, the year was not without high points and triumphs. More than anything else, those moments are what I will recall when I remember 2020.

Here’s hoping for an accumulation of snow and my first-ever go down the sledding hill. Happy Holidays, Ottawa Hills, and Happy New Year!



*Adam Fineske*

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske  
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AdamFineske



fineskeadam

# campusnews

## BUILDING BRIDGES

### New program links Scott, OH

**T**HEIR CAMPUSES ARE IN DIFFERENT communities separated by a four-mile stretch of Bancroft Street. But through an emerging partnership, students at Scott High School and Ottawa Hills High School want to bridge differences and build a common future.





About 10 students from each school met virtually in November to start “Home To Home”—a program aimed at helping each school community learn more about the other. Scott’s enrollment in grades 9-12 is 598 and almost entirely African-American; Ottawa Hills’ enrollment in grades 9-12 is 349, of which 76 percent is white.

The program’s spark came from OH alumnus Pete Kadens (’96). “Bringing the students from Scott and Ottawa Hills together is about establishing common facts and understandings that advance Toledo and our society by allowing them to learn from one another and have authentic empathy for one another,” Mr. Kadens said.

His love of young people and education are well known to students at both buildings. In 2018, he donated \$500,000 to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation to begin construction of a fitness center and to fund a Leadership Development Series. Earlier this year, he made a pledge to pay college tuition, room, board, and fees for Scott graduates who want to attend a university or trade school.

At the inaugural meeting, students introduced themselves, talked about



<b>TPS Proud!</b>	Romules Durant (’94) Waite High School		Adam Fineske (’95) Bowsher High School	
<b>9-12 enrollment</b>	598		397	
<b>Year opened</b>	1913		1939	
<b>School colors</b>	Maroon and White		Green and White	
<b>Mascot</b>	Bulldogs		Green Bears	
<b>Yearbook</b>	Scottonian		Mesasa	
<b>Newspaper</b>	The Thistle		The Arrowhead	

surviving COVID-19, and shared their favorite musical artist. They will continue meeting bi-weekly and have started a GroupMe to stay in contact.

“The Home To Home project provides OH and greater Toledo students alike the opportunity to uncover their similitude,” said OH senior Sophia Stone. “Proving that we all share common ground regardless of our physical or social qualities, this project serves as the catalyst for unification and integration.”

#### PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Among the ideas discussed for future projects: a common book read, a community service project, a documentary, or co-presenting during 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities. (They also talked about sharing meals, watching a movie together, or organizing a soccer game.)

Facilitating the exchange were two University of Toledo professors: Robert Salem, associate dean for diversity and inclusion and a clinical professor of law; and Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion and vice provost.

The students’ joint projects will

receive support through The Kadens Family Leadership Series fund managed by the Foundation. Mr. Kadens said he also wants to bring in nationally known speakers as part of the program.

#### UNIVERSAL SUPPORT

The program is endorsed by the superintendents of both districts (OH’s Dr. Adam Fineske and TPS’ Dr. Romules Durant) as well as principals of both buildings (OH’s Ben McMurray and Scott’s Dr. Carnel Smith).

“I am truly happy that the students of Scott High School and Ottawa Hills are forming a partnership in order to promote leadership, understanding, and cultural competency for both schools,” said Dr. Smith. “This is an opportunity for students from both schools to grow and assist them in their maturation into adulthood. We are incredibly grateful for what Mr. Pete Kadens has done.”

“This has long been a dream of mine,” Mr. Kadens said. “To unite our country and reduce poverty and the wealth disparity, we need to hear each other and learn from one another.”

## BEST AGAIN

### High school, district top survey

**FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR,**

Ottawa Hills Local Schools is the No. 1 school district in the Toledo area and Lucas County, according to research company Niche. In addition, Ottawa Hills High School this year has been named the No. 1 high school for the same areas. The building received an overall grade of A+.

Niche calculated its 2021 “Best School” rankings using dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews. Factors used in its K-12 rankings include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, and public school district ratings.

In addition to its overall No. 1 ranking in the area, the high school also earned the No. 1 ranking in three other categories: “Best Public High School Teachers,” “Best College Prep Public High School,” and “Best High Schools for STEM.” (It ranked No. 10 in the “Best High Schools for Athletes” category.)

In state rankings, it placed No. 7 for “Best Public High Schools” and No. 10 for “Best College Prep Public High Schools.”

#### TREASURE HUNT



How good is your Ottawa Hills IQ? Do you know what this image shows and where on campus it is located?  
(Answer on page 10)



From left: Derek Borsody, Emma McLean, and Clare Isabell.

## SCIENTIFIC MINDS

### Grants enable student research

**THREE STUDENTS ARE CARRYING OUT** scientific research usually conducted in university labs thanks to grant support from the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

The students are enrolled in the year-long “Honors Scientific Research in Partnership with ProMedica” class at the Junior/Senior High School. In a normal year, students in the class spend the fall in University of Toledo labs working with professors and researchers.

The goal is to learn lab techniques in professional settings and possibly earn authorship on a scientific paper.

But this year, COVID-19 made that impossible. Instead, with support from their teacher Jeremy Nixon, seniors Derek Borsody, Clare Isabell, and Emma McLean wrote and submitted grants to the Foundation. (Research projects by the class’s other students carried little or no expense.) “Without being able to go to labs, we’ve had to be creative and stretch ourselves,”

Mr. Nixon said. “However, they are still developing good lab techniques.”

Clare and Emma are exploring reactions of the organism *C. elegans* to different stimuli: alcohol and natural antidepressant drugs, respectively. The grant funded the purchase of two forensic toxicology kits, which allow them to alter environments and measure the behavioral response of the transparent organism (1mm in length).

Derek’s grant is helping him explore the 3D printing process for making organic material models for making tissue. The grant funded the purchase of many items, including a dissolved oxygen sensor, glucose concentration monitor, and parts to build his own methyl acrylamide gelatin extruder to be used with the 3D printer. Eventually, Derek hopes to study the diffusion process of live cells within his 3D gelatin model.

The Foundation grants were made possible through its STEM Fund.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**District adopts all-remote instruction through Jan. 8**

After a valiant effort at sustaining a dual option for instruction, the district temporarily shifted to all-remote as COVID-19 cases increased and a new Toledo-Lucas County Health Department order went into effect. Hopefully, students can return to in-person instruction starting Jan. 11. Earlier, the district launched “Early Release Wednesdays” to provide teachers extra time to develop lessons for both options.

**Students help food shelter**

The Elementary School Student Council organized a successful canned food drive in November. Students in grades K-6 and their families brought in 2,635 canned goods and non-perishable items. The items were donated to the Hospitality Kitchen at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

**Drive aids homeless vets**

Jr./Sr. High School students raised \$1,762 for Cardboard 2 Headboard, which helps move homeless veterans

from the streets and into warm, safe housing. The students created video messages to create interest as well as public service announcements for the daily OH News broadcast.

**Project donates dyslexia books**

Decoding Dyslexia Ottawa Hills teamed with the district to buy books about dyslexia written for both students and professionals to enhance resources on the subject. The group and district worked together to pick the titles.

**System tracks building visitors**

A new electronic visitor management safety system has been installed districtwide. The system instantly screens for and “red flags” sex offenders, custody issues, and banned visitors. The district will always know who is in a building and that individual’s reason for being there.

**COVID-19 claims ‘Proof’**

COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the district’s much-anticipated fall play “Proof.” Plans call for the production to be presented again in late January.

**DATABANK**

**Two thumbs up**

Voters in Ottawa Hills passed both school levies Nov. 3 by big margins.

**Issue 15**

2.6-mill bond levy (1,939-1,089)

64%

36%

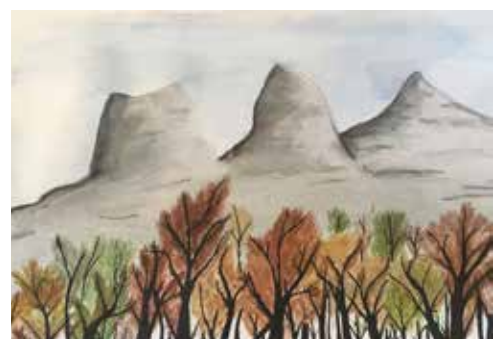


**Issue 16**

4.9-mill operating levy (1,849-1,173)

61%

39%



**ART GALLERY**

Our focus shifts to Junior/Senior High School artwork this issue. (Thanks to art teachers Kristin Johnson and Hannah Lehmann for their curation skills.) Clockwise from top left: Junior Faith Seo’s “Yellow” (gouache); untitled piece by senior Katherine Berryman (acrylic paint with Posca paint markers); 7th grader Caitlin McCarthy’s “Mountainscape” (watercolors); and 7th grader Max Peters’ “Beach Sunset” (watercolors).



An aerial rendering offers a glimpse at the historic changes coming to the building.

# Game-changing investment

## Levy approvals reshape support of students

By KEVIN MERRILL

**A** NEW ERA IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE HAS STARTED AT the Junior/Senior High School, thanks to voters in Ottawa Hills.

Those voters overwhelmingly approved a bond levy Nov. 3 that raises \$8.5 million for three major projects: construction of a Learning Commons, extensive upgrades to science labs and equipment, and installation of modern heating, cooling, and ventilation systems. (In addition to that 2.6-mill bond levy, voters also approved a 4.9-mill operating levy.)

With the bond levy victory secured, project planning is now accelerating. Construction crews will be on site almost immediately after the final day of school (May 27); the work will be done in phases with final completion slated for the opening day of school in 2022 (see timeline, page 9).

“The vote of confidence in our students, teachers, and plan cannot be overstated,” said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske. “The money from this levy will reshape how we educate and support all of our students for decades to come.”

### THE LEARNING COMMONS

Perhaps the best known component of the levies was the educational vision behind a Learning Commons. It had been discussed for more than a year as a way to respond to emerging changes in learning, such as greater use of technology and collaboration. The concept also was a response to meeting the growing social and emotional needs of students. The common theme to both: innovation in service of all students.

Now, the vision can become reality.

The Learning Commons will become the academic heart of the Junior/Senior High School, which serves students in grades 7-12. It will become a research, technology, and intervention center by transforming the current open courtyard and adjacent interior classrooms. The result: 6,800 feet of unified educational space open to students 13 hours a day during the school year that includes active and passive learning environments, a library, tutoring spaces, and huddle and testing rooms.

“As our student community grows in size and our world continues to change, we look to embrace new environments that inspire education,” said Darrin Broadway, the dean of secondary teaching and learning. “The Learning Commons will be the center for collaborative work and serve as a learning laboratory where innovation, experimentation, and learning strategies are developed, and action research is employed.”



## THE SCIENCE CAMPUS

As important as the Learning Commons was to the levy, the investments in science labs and facilities may end up stealing the show. Eventually, the building will be home to a phenomenal science corridor that connects an expanded STEM classroom with relocated and modernized biology and chemistry classrooms. Adjacent to these will be the physics and anatomy classrooms. Serving as the hub connecting these academic locations will be a new Research Lab just for students, equipped with the computers and science equipment they need to pursue their own inquiries.

“The lab advances one of our long-term goals for the high school science program: to help students do their own research in a real research lab on our campus with the hope that students could be co-authors on published research articles before they even graduate,” said Jeremy Nixon, a biology teacher and leader of the building’s science research program. “The changes will create a concentration of scientific equipment and facilities similar to what you would see on the campus of a small college or university.”

“Voters have rewarded the efforts of our students and faculty with a game-changing investment in facilities,” said Ben McMurray, principal of the Junior/Senior High School. “The community will look back on this moment and realize this was a pivotal moment for our school and for our science curriculum.”

The voters’ trust in the construction projects recognizes the many achievements

and honors earned by students and teachers at the high school in recent years, including:

- Named the No. 1 high school in Ohio by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Ranked the No. 1 high school in the Toledo area for two consecutive years by research company Niche. In that analysis, the high school also received the No. 1 local ranking in these categories: Best Teachers, Best College Prep (Public), and Best High School for STEM.
- Received The Governor’s Thomas Edison Award recognizing excellence in STEM education and student research. Ottawa Hills was the only northwest Ohio high school selected for the honor.
- Received the Harold C. Shaw Memorial School Award, the highest achievement possible for high schools competing at Ohio’s State Science Day. Ottawa Hills has received the honor for two consecutive years.

It’s been 22 years since a renovation of this scale took place at the Junior/Senior High School. While the construction of The Kadens Family Fitness Center was significant, it was considered new construction. The largest previous project took place in 1998, when the gymnasium doubled in size. Before that, other major enhancements were additions: the Multi Purpose Room and adjacent new classroom wing in 1955 and the auditorium and junior high classroom wing in 1961.

**ONLINE:** More details at [ohschools.org/commons](https://ohschools.org/commons)

## PROJECT TIMELINES

**FALL 2020:** Rudolph Libbe, Inc. hired as the construction management at risk firm for the Learning Commons project. The Board of Education authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount not to exceed \$8.5 million for all the projects.

**LATE MAY 2021:** Construction teams mobilize at the site.

**AUGUST 2021:** Structural steel erection completed.

**MID-AUGUST 2021:** Phase 1 of science lab project complete.

**LATE OCTOBER 2021:** Interior finish for Learning Commons begins.

**MARCH 2022:** Substantial completion/final inspections for Learning Commons.

**EARLY AUGUST 2022:** Substantial completion/final inspections for Phase 2 of science labs.



## Move over, ESPN!

To help Green Bear fans who could not watch football in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, two OH juniors this fall started a live broadcast delivered through social media. The ingenuity of Truman Talbott and Drake Furey and their



Truman (left), Drake in action

“Inside Edge” broadcast on Instagram helped hundreds weekly in Green Bear nation. It also caught the attention of local journalists at WTOL and BCSN, who reported stories on the weekly show. The duo started with football, but expanded to cover boys’ and girls’ soccer and volleyball as well. Next up was basketball.

Watch past, future coverage at [instagram.com/oh\\_inside\\_edge/](https://www.instagram.com/oh_inside_edge/)

## TREASURE HUNT ANSWER

The image is from the wall mural in the music and art wing of the Elementary School. In 2010, the building’s 6th graders raised money for an art commission, which it awarded to art teacher Cindy Bodziak. She painted the vivid mural using artistic and musical themes and iconography over that summer.



Clockwise from top left: Boys’ golf, boys’ soccer, girls’ soccer, volleyball, boys’ cross-country, and girls’ cross-country.

## FALL CLASSICS Green Bears dominate TAAC

**THERE ARE GOOD FALL SPORTS SEASONS. AND THEN THERE ARE** great ones. The Green Bears plowed their way through the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC) this fall. Our athletes shared or captured outright six TAAC titles: boys’ and girls’ soccer, boys’ and girls’ cross-country, boys’ golf, and volleyball.

In addition, six athletes were named “Athletes of the Year”: senior Jack Silk (soccer), junior Meredith Greeley (soccer), sophomore Eddie Griffin (golf), senior Emma Rumman (volleyball), freshman JoAnna Kelley (cross-country), and freshman Riley Nixon (cross-country).

In addition, two coaches—Jack Kauffman in volleyball and Tricia Fojtik in boys’ golf—were named “Coach of the Year.”

Among the season’s more notable achievements: the volleyball title (shared) was the first ever for the program; the girls’ tennis team, which competes independently outside of the TAAC, made it to the Final Four in tennis (its first such appearance since 1995); the girls’ cross-country team made its first-ever appearance at the state tournament; and the boys’ soccer team made it to the Final Four in Division III.

Well done, athletes and coaches!

**WINTER SPORTS UPDATE:** If the fall sports season was an exclamation point, the winter one so far is a question mark. To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has prohibited all indoor practices and games for grades 7-12 from Dec. 4 through Jan 11. How this health order affects the entire season of winter sports—basketball and swimming—remains to be seen. Stay tuned at [ohschools.org/sports](https://ohschools.org/sports).

## BOOSTED

### Expanded playbook aids athletes

#### UNDETERRED BY COVID-19, THE

OH Boosters added a few pages to its playbook this fall. The nonprofit parent group relies on membership and concession sales each fall for a large portion of its annual revenue to help support Green Bear athletes. To compensate for fewer fans this year, they organized “Food Truck Frenzy” events with partial proceeds coming back to the Boosters.

Participating vendors were The Beirut Street Kitchen, Shorty’s Back Forty, Rosie’s Italian Grille, Smashdawgz, and Kickback Toledo Drinks & Pastries.

In addition, the Boosters organized a gift basket raffle with donated items exceeding \$3,100 in value (including a six-person family lifetime membership). Lastly, they expanded hours at the Booster-managed Bear Cave to satisfy Green Bear fans.

Last year, the group donated more than \$60,000 to support sports at the Jr./Sr. High School. (The district now has 20 varsity teams.)

“In this most unusual season, we want to make sure we’re doing everything possible to support our athletes,” said Casey Talbott, president of the OH Boosters. “Our community is responding and for that, we thank them.”

**ONLINE:** Find more details at [ohschools.org/boosters](https://ohschools.org/boosters)

# QUALITY PROFILE



ACADEMICS  
ARTS  
STUDENT SERVICES  
PARENT & COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT  
STUDENT LEADERSHIP  
& ACTIVITIES  
FISCAL STEWARDSHIP  
2020 AWARDS

# 2020: A remarkable journey 🦠 (🦠Thanks, COVID-19 ....)



**How do you create an annual report for such an unconventional school year? Fortunately, the answer is ...quite easily.**

Despite the unprecedented disruptions caused by COVID-19, Ottawa Hills Local Schools accomplished so much in the past 12 months. There were awards won and honors received, athletic and artistic achievements, and displays of support from alumni and Villagers. Simply put, the year brought out the best in everyone associated with our school district.

To record those collaborations and milestones, we present this annual report (more formally known as the Quality Profile). As a member of the Alliance for High Quality Education, the district uses guidance from that group by adopting six categories to measure progress: Academics, Arts, Student Services, Student Leadership & Activities, Fiscal Stewardship, and Parent & Community Involvement.

Before this format was adopted seven years ago, annual successes were presented in a physical calendar, mailed to every school family at the beginning of the school year. When the current Quality Profile format was adopted in 2013, September was retained as the publication date. Doing so allowed the results of the state's Report Card (the second week of September) to be shared in a timely way. With this issue, the Quality Profile changes to a calendar-year format.

**We hope you will enjoy this summary and join in celebrating a year unlike any other....**

## ABOUT THE QUALITY PROFILE

Our Quality Profile is part of a coordinated effort by members of the Ohio-based Alliance for High Quality Education (AHQE). The advocacy group represents a coalition of high-performing school districts that share philosophies about K-12 education. Online: [ahqe.org](http://ahqe.org) | [ohschools.org/QP](http://ohschools.org/QP)

# ACADEMICS

Innovation and achievement in our classrooms and curriculum

**While many OH students and teachers earned individual and group awards for academic excellence, the overarching achievement in 2020 was our ability to adapt traditional learning models in response to the pandemic. The results: a spring remote-learning plan that allowed the 2019-2020 school year to be completed; a Summer Learning Plan that gave students and families an opportunity to assess skills and knowledge in anticipation of the coming school year; and a fall hybrid plan that offered in-person instruction and a “live broadcast” model for students who chose to stay home.**

Academics also took center stage in the Nov. 3 election, as Village voters approved a 2.6-mill bond issue to make major improvements at the Junior/Senior High School: upgrading science labs and equipment; improving heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; and constructing a Learning Commons (pictured below). Voters also approved a new 4.9-mill operating levy, part of which will help keep class sizes small. Academics also benefited from the creation of a new position—dean of secondary learning and instruction—and its focus on instruction, intervention, and innovation.



- Biology teacher Jeremy Nixon (pictured) received the 2020 George F. Leist Distinguished Teacher Award. The Ohio Junior Science and Humanities Symposium presents the award annually to a teacher who has provided outstanding help and inspiration to his or her students.
- Ninth-grader Willah Hoelzle finished first at the Northwest Ohio District 1 Power of the Pen tournament. She had the best-ranking paper in all three writing rounds.
- The Science Olympiad team finished in the top 10 at regionals.
- The Elementary School hosted (virtually) its annual “Science Expo,” which is devoted to explorations of science, from chemistry shows and rocket demonstrations to exhibits prepared by 6th graders.
- The Junior High MathCounts team won first out of 15 teams in chapter competition and advanced to states. The 6th Grade MathCounts team also competed at a tournament.
- Seventy Junior/Senior High students participated in the district’s Science Fair—the most ever for the annual event. Combined, their 44 projects were assessed by 15 university scientists and professors who served as judges.
- Science projects from 10 students earned a “superior” rating at the Northwest Ohio District 2 Science Day and advanced to State Science Day. In addition to earning a spot at the State Science Day by virtue of their “superior” scores, seniors Kavita Parikh and Ishan Khare earned spots at the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair.
- Using virtual-reality software to present data and findings, 16 5th graders took home the “Best Use of Technology” award at the regional Student Watershed Summit.
- Seven OH seniors were honored this fall as part of the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition. Named among the 16,000 U.S. Semifinalists were Shiraz Hasan, Petar Isailovic, Ishan Khare, Danielle Sun, and Mattingly S. Wilson. Named among the 34,000 Commended students were Kavita Parikh and Hannah Shariff.



# ARTS

Inspiring creativity through performing and visual arts

**The year 2020 will be remembered as a phenomenal one for arts. The Choraliers made a repeat trip to New York’s Carnegie Hall and the OH Symphonic Band performed for Canadian audiences during a first-of-its-kind road trip. The year also saw the presentation of “Aladdin Jr.,” which featured students in grades 4-8 and thrilled audiences over four shows in February.**

Thankfully, those three events took place within 48 days of each other—narrowly missing the window of forced closings brought about because of COVID-19.

Still, the pandemic’s impact could be felt in many canceled artistic traditions, from the Brown Bag Chorus and theatrical productions of “Scorch” and “Mamma Mia” to the annual smART Show and spring concerts.

The year in arts resumed this fall with the Marching Band taking the field at home football games and the annual Fall Collage Concert taking on a virtual format. Also this fall, Joshua Dufford began his role as vocal music director, replacing Donna Wipfli who had spent 30 years as a music teacher at Ottawa Hills Local Schools.



Photo courtesy of Yarko Kuk/Village Voice of Ottawa Hills

- Led by instrumental music director Michael Leeds, the 56-member Ottawa Hills Symphonic Band made a historic trip to Toronto where they performed in several venues.
- For the second time in four years, the Choraliers performed at New York’s Carnegie Hall. The 38-member group spent four days in NYC capped by a performance at the Big Apple landmark. They were part of a mass choir of professionals and college and high school singers.
- Twelve high school singers participated in 13 events at the District 1 Solo and Ensemble. OH students did extremely well, with five receiving an excellent rating and eight earning a superior (highest) rating.
- The annual Elementary School Variety Show and its Oscar-themed decor featured 43 acts, from singers and magicians to dancers and gymnasts. The 90-minute show was performed before a large crowd of teachers, classmates, and family members.
- The Elementary School Art Fair offered the community a week-long celebration of artistic exploration. Art from hundreds of students adorned hallways and exhibits inside the gym. Family-focused breakfasts paid homage to French artist Georges Seurat via the theme “Sunny-Side Up with Seurat!”



## ON THE ROAD:

*Marching Band does some sightseeing while in Toronto; Choraliers on stage at Carnegie Hall*

# STUDENT SERVICES

Preparing every student to achieve his/her full potential

**The COVID-19 pandemic created stress in everyone’s lives. The district responded with a series of new initiatives and programs. Among those was the creation of the district’s Social Emotional Response Team. It worked throughout 2020 on activities to address the emotional support needs of students, teachers, and staff. One such activity was a “Stress Relief Basket” program, organized in partnership with parent-support groups OH21 and the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association, to show support and spread cheer among teachers and staff. The two groups also teamed up to seek donations to purchase additional classroom safety supplies.**

Social-emotional support is a focus of the new dean position at the Junior/Senior High School. Also, the support of students’ social and emotional needs took center stage during the Nov. 3 election in Ottawa Hills. Voters approved a new operating levy, some proceeds from which are to add staff for academic intervention and support of students’ social-emotional wellness.



- A new program launched this fall to bring parents and guardians together to hear questions and provide resources on a range of topics. The first “Parent Dialogue Night” focused on the subject of improving student study habits. A second examined how to improve student habits specifically on math.
- Students in both buildings organized activities in October to raise awareness for drug-abuse prevention as part of Red Ribbon Week activities.
- Decoding Dyslexia Ottawa Hills organized a month of activities in October to celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- The OH High School Gay-Straight Alliance and This is OH hosted a Village celebration of “National Coming Out Day” in October.
- In partnership with OH21, the district presented a public forum to help launch the inaugural series of “How to talk to your kids ....” The event included a panel discussion on how to talk to your child about challenging situations. Later programs in the series focused on topics such as “Race and Racial Slurs” and “Drugs and Alcohol.”
- To help Elementary School students and teachers improve their mental focus, a “Thoughtful Thursday” podcast launched to share mindfulness activities.
- To show support for teachers and staff, the community made and delivered baskets in recognition of their hard work in creating a safe return for students this fall. Parent-support group OH21 organized the goodwill activity in collaboration with the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association and the district’s Social Emotional Response Team.
- OH21 hosted an “Operation Street Smart” session, a drug-awareness program that helps parents identify those behaviors and prevent addiction. OH21 and its volunteer supporters also created homemade face masks and sold them as a fundraiser to enrich student support programs.
- The Junior/Senior High School welcomed Hanna Fotsch as its new student assistance coordinator. In her position, she provides substance abuse-prevention programming to students and parents and collaborates with parent-support group OH21 to provide parenting programs during the school year.
- OHbreathe, a student-led initiative to address student wellness, delivered programming to help students stay calm and relax, particularly around exams. The group also launched a new website.
- Intervention services was the central focus of the teachers’ November in-service day, as they heard national consultant Margaret Searle discuss “Strength-Based Approach to Intervention to our Student Concerns.” Previously, 25 teachers received the latest training on Response to Intervention (RTI) techniques. RTI is the process of identifying and supporting students with learning and/or behavioral needs.

# PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Supporting our mission through volunteers, fundraising, and programs

**The positive impact of parent and community involvement can be measured daily in numerous ways. Those contributions have become even more visible and essential since COVID-19 entered the community. From the flexibility of families in altering schedules to a supportive community embracing changing norms, our progress could not have occurred without cooperation from thousands.**

Among the ways that commitment was evident: alumni volunteering to speak virtually with our students about careers; community groups organizing events regarding racial justice; and numerous fundraisers that enriched student lives in many ways.

Finally, that support was displayed Nov. 3, as Village voters passed two ballot issues to help secure the district's long-term commitment to excellence.



- The Kadens Family Fitness Center became a reality in January when a ribbon-cutting (pictured above) officially started a new era in student health and wellness. The campaign started in October 2018 when Pete ('96) and Amy (Robbins) ('99) Kadens announced their leadership gift to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. More than \$1.5 million was raised for it and associated wellness projects through The Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign.
- Thanks to community involvement, many traditions were kept alive in 2020, including the Back to School 5K, which was held "virtually" to raise money for After Prom. The Pancake Dinner in January also raised money for After Prom.
- A new organization—Village Equity Alliance—formed with a commitment to building a democratic, inclusive, and equitable future and to promote discussions within schools and across Ottawa Hills on issues of racial justice.
- With concession operations curtailed, the OH Boosters continued to feed the masses by inaugurating "Food Truck Frenzy." The event brought food trucks to the Junior/Senior High School before home sporting events to help raise money for the district's athletic programs.
- The Annual Community Rummage Sale raised nearly \$8,800 to support district international and band programs.
- The Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association (OHMTA) organized its annual poinsettia sale this fall to help support instrumental, vocal, and theater programs. It also coordinated the "Carols for Hire" fundraiser that made available the voices of the Choraliars for private concerts.
- Despite its cancellation due to COVID-19, "Community Wait Night" raised money for OHMTA and the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association (OHSPA). After fees, each group received just over \$3,700.
- The "Lucky You, It's a No-Show Auction" raised \$8,900 (after fees and expenses) for the OH Boosters in support of Green Bear athletics.
- Nearly 20 alumni offered students insights into their professions and advice on finding the right career in a series of online chats in April and May. The Alumni Video Career Series program was a response to COVID-19 and the inability to hold in-person career talks.
- The annual Culture Fair at the Elementary School gave 3rd graders insight into other cultural traditions. Parents representing Lebanon, Poland, and South Korea shared traditions from their ancestral homes.
- The district's annual Diversity Weekend brought 10 high school students studying locally from other nations to speak to Ottawa Hills classes.
- OHSPA organized its annual Spring Flower Sale and Teacher Appreciation event.
- The community participated in a survey to help collect data on district improvement priorities and communication tools and preferences. Among the insights: the district received an average score of 9.7 out of 10 on the question of whether the schools are an asset to the Village.
- Families spent more than \$12,800 at the Spring Scholastic Book Fair. The sales generated nearly \$5,700 in cash and "Scholastic Dollars" to support programs at the Elementary School's Library Media Center.
- This is OH organized a Community Reads event and a "Rally for Racial Justice" (following national events earlier this year). The community donated hundreds of books (right) by African-American authors or about African-American characters to the district's libraries following an appeal after the June rally.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Examples of excellence, teamwork, and compassion



**The state-ordered closing in March of our buildings interrupted activities and student lives in numerous ways. Cut short were sports seasons and other extracurricular activities, such as the 8th grade field trip to Washington, D.C. Another casualty came this fall, when the biennial Agora student-enrichment experience was canceled.**

Still, through creativity and perseverance, the Class of 2020 was able to experience a Commencement that likely will be the first and last of its kind. And groups of students in both buildings raised more than \$70,000 for nonprofit charities.

Returning students this fall, masked and practicing social distancing, moved forward together to reclaim traditions. Even Homecoming and the “Celebration of Village Life Parade,” with a few modifications, were restored.



**Since January, student-driven fundraisers generated nearly \$70,000 for nonprofit groups.**

- Through a “Go. Fight. Cure.” fundraiser in January, the boys’ basketball program raised \$2,606 for the American Brain Tumor Association.
- “Hoops for a Cause” in February, organized by the girls’ basketball program, raised \$4,571 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation with designation for metastatic breast cancers.
- Elementary School students through their “Coin Challenge” fundraiser (conducted during the Spring Scholastic Book Fair) raised \$2,370 to buy books for Austin’s Book Club, a local nonprofit that helps place books in the neonatal intensive care unit at ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children’s Hospital.
- Juniors Eleanor Szyperski, Sophie Heidenreich, and Reagan Clarke raised more than \$50,000 during a seven-week spring fundraising challenge to benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- Elementary School students raised \$2,342 for the American Heart Association from the spring Kids Heart Challenge.
- “Volley for the Cause” in September, organized by the girls’ volleyball program, raised more than \$4,000 to benefit METAvivor.
- “Kicks for a Cure” in October, organized by the boys’ and girls’ soccer programs, raised more than \$4,000 to benefit Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio.

- Elementary School students launched a weekly news program titled “Monday Morning.”
- Juniors Truman Talbott and Drake Furey (pictured above) teamed to broadcast sporting events on an Instagram channel to help fans see and hear games during the pandemic.
- Senior Ella Langenderfer’s video about product safety and labeling won the National Poison Prevention Week video contest for her age group. She also later won the Ohio Turnpike’s “#W82TEXT High School Video Contest,” which promotes safe driving habits.
- The “Misfit Mechanical Mages!,” a team of 5th and 6th graders, earned a trip to Japan after receiving a top award at a state robotics tournament.
- The Ottawa Hills Chess Club retained its Greater Toledo Area High School Chess League title. The Green Bears went 6-0-0 in the playoffs.
- The Junior/Senior High School Student Council collected hundreds of books and other school supplies and donated them to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo.
- For the third consecutive year, Ottawa Hills Local Schools won the All Sports Cup as the best varsity athletic program in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC). The trophy is awarded to the TAAC member whose fall, winter, and sports teams collectively performed the best.
- The pursuit for a fourth straight All Sports Cup is off to a good start as fall varsity programs won outright or shared six titles: boys’ golf, boys’ soccer, girls’ soccer, girls’ volleyball, boys’ cross-country, and girls’ cross-country.
- The Elementary School Student Council organized a successful holiday food drive in November. Students in grades K-6 and their families donated 2,635 non-perishable items.
- The OH Dance Team in the spring had three Top 10 finishes at the 28th Annual State Cheer & Dance Championships: Hip Hop (3rd), Pom (4th), and Jazz (9th).
- Members of the OH National Honor Society this fall helped clean up a section of the Ottawa River, collecting more than 30 pounds of trash.





# FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

State honors district with auditing award

Ottawa Hills Local Schools received a state award in February for how well it kept financial records and accounted for public money for the 2019 fiscal year (ended June 30, 2019). “The Auditor of State Award” is given to less than 8 percent of the approximate 5,900 entities across Ohio that spend taxpayer money. The audit of the district did not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Uniform Guidance (Single Audit) findings, or questioned costs.



## FY 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)

### REVENUE

Property tax	\$10,569,341.00
Personal property	\$301,933.00
Unrestricted grants in aid	\$2,497,115.00
Restricted grants in aid	\$5,901.00
Property tax allocation	\$1,455,204.00
Other operating revenue	\$1,208,868.00
Advances in, other financing sources	\$332,375.00
	\$16,370,737.00

### EXPENSES

Personnel services	\$9,262,763.00
Employee benefits	\$3,436,567.00
Purchased services	\$2,394,261.00
Supplies and materials	\$718,078.00
Capital outlay	\$67,701.00
Other	\$255,260.00
Operating transfers out	\$1,283,869.00
	\$17,418,499.00

Cash balance July 1, 2019	\$7,621,467.00
Cash balance June 30, 2020	\$6,573,704.00



## 2020 AWARDS

- APRIL: Ottawa Hills High School named No. 1 in Ohio in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. The survey placed the high school as the 92nd best in the United States (out of nearly 18,000 ranked).
- JULY: Ottawa Hills High School was one of only 14 high schools to earn the Harold C. Shaw Memorial School Award, the highest achievement possible for schools competing at Ohio's State Science Day.
- AUGUST: Sixteen teachers and staff at the Junior/Senior High School received The Governor's Thomas Edison Award, which recognizes excellence in STEM education and student research during the prior school year.
- OCTOBER: Ottawa Hills Local Schools named the No. 1 district in the Toledo area by national research company Niche. This is the second consecutive year Ottawa Hills has been ranked No. 1.
- NO REPORT CARD GRADE THIS YEAR: The Ohio Department of Education in September released its 2020 School Report Cards but without assigning districts an overall grade (due to the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on spring state testing). For the previous five years, Ottawa Hills Local Schools received an "A" for each of six components on the report card as well as an overall grade of "A."

## THOMAS EDISON AWARDS

SPONSORED BY: **Ohio** Development Services Agency



# foundationnews

## RECENT GRANTS

### SOCCER PROGRAMS

## Developing mindsets

To give soccer athletes a mental edge, the Foundation sponsored their participation in the Dan Abrahams Soccer Academy. The online platform uses sport psychology techniques to help student-athletes think, train, and play like the best soccer players. The subscription spans this and next season; this year, it covered 48 boys and girls and six coaches. The grant came from the Mindel Family Athletic Fund.

### CHORALIERS

## Lifting holiday voices

A Foundation grant enabled the Choraliers to be heard this holiday season. It covered the cost of professional video and sound recording of a scheduled Dec. 14 performance at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo. Travel and health restrictions prevented the Choraliers from making their usual holiday rounds to raise money and spread cheer. Instead, the Cathedral recording will help people celebrate and support them this season. The grant came from the Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts.

### HOCO 2020

## Honoring tradition

The HOCO 2020 event took place over Homecoming Weekend with help from the Foundation. A grant enabled the Class of 2023 (organizers of the event) to rent a tent so portions of the celebration could take place outside. Funding came from the Annual Unrestricted Impact Fund.

**STILL THANKFUL:** In our last issue, we omitted these friends from the list of supporters to The Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign:

Steve ('67) and Debbie Dolgin  
Jack and Sarah Puffenberger.

## FOUNDATION LETTER



## The season of giving arrives

**T**he holiday season—a universal time of kindness and hope—is upon us. If any year in recent memory demands more of each from everyone, it is 2020.

As the year began, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation hoped to honor tradition by reconnecting alumni via reunions, enriching students' lives through grants, introducing current students with alumni, and celebrating those who give in support of our district.

Thankfully, we did so ... but not in the traditional sense. Our hopes were achieved instead by being versatile (and virtual) and working together to meet adversity head on. The result: newer and stronger ways to celebrate excellence and tradition.

Perhaps more than most, this year brought out the best and most creative in all of us. The beneficiaries were our students and teachers whether inside or outside the classroom. Your support gave them the encouragement to carry on.

The COVID-19 crisis has made everyone rethink the meaning of familiar words, such as quarantine, remote, virtual, isolation, and distancing. It also reminded us all of the comforting meaning of others, such as family, health, compassion, fortitude, and compassion.

In this most unusual year, we also rediscovered two words whose meaning never changes: **Thank you.**



**George Lathrop** is president of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. **Erica (Gatchel) Silk ('89)** is the district's director of development and alumni relations.



May the holiday season inspire you to believe in the greater good and make a gift in support of students and teachers at Ottawa Hills Local Schools. Learn more about our initiatives at [ohschoolsfoundation.org](https://ohschoolsfoundation.org).

## Founders' Society: Initial Seed of Support

Through belief and action from a core group of believers, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation was able to plant itself in our community. Today, the Foundation and its endowment are transforming students' lives. In May 2016, the "Founders' Society Wall" at the Jr./Sr. High School was unveiled to honor those individuals. We do so again here in great tribute to their vision and support.

### 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 Kieley, 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, 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 ('88)  
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  
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  
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



## alumninews

### Class of 1990

Members of the Class of 1990 (above) did not allow COVID-19 to stop them from sharing memories, at least virtually. The class organized a virtual reunion in October. Attending were: **Steve Birndorf, Brad Nicholson, Jenny (Ferris) Moshea, Scott Haag, Todd Schlender, Seamus Ragan, Mark Wagoner, William Butler, Nate Bohl, Sarah (Monoky) Bloomquist, William (Bill) Wiley, John Campbell, Sumesh Sood, Brad Sherman, Stacey Rapino, Bill McNichols, Justin (Judd) Albring, Lauren (Hunt) Stapleton, Cherie Schneider, Allison (Mehring) Fischer, Stacy (Cohen) Cochran, and John (Mac) McIntyre.**

### Sharing advice

Thank you to alumni and Village residents who met virtually with 7th graders in October to talk about careers and answer questions: **Jessica Baron ('63)**, vice president, executive search at Centennial; **Dewey Cole ('70)**, a trial and appellate lawyer, instructor, and noted authority on the federal courts; **Sara Kuehnle Crifasi ('06)**, an associate attorney covering telecommunications and technology law with Levine, Blaszak, Block & Boothby, LLP; **Nick Gore ('10)**, a legislative assistant for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur; **Joel Gottlieb ('80)**, a senior pre-sales analyst at D-Wave Systems, Inc.; **Troy Greeley**, a financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors; **Harrison Leinweber ('14)**, a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army; **Erin Mattingly ('99)**, senior manager at ERPI in Washington, D.C.; **Dan Steinberg ('76)**, a financial advisor with Vantage Financial Group; **Mickey Schwab ('08)**, a site reliability engineer at Indeed.com; **Spencer Stone, Jr.**, a senior vice president-wealth management with UBS; **Will Tunis**, vice president-commercial banking with Farmers & Merchants State Bank; and **Richard (Dick) Wolff ('73)**, a litigator and corporate attorney with Toledo-based Spengler Nathanson P.L.L.

Recent alumni shared insights with seniors on ways to prepare for college: **Priya Bhatt ('20)**, **Paulina Mendez ('17)**, **James Schwann ('19)**, and **Reed Silverman ('11)**.



# Ottawa Hills Local Schools

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# Ottawa Hills, Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!



## BEAR NECESSITIES

### Being *Bear-y* kind is always in style

Whatever the season, you don't need a reason to support OH athletics! Shopping at **The Bear Cave** is the best way to share Green Bear pride and support our sports teams and athletes. (The Cave is inside the Junior/Senior High School by the Arrowhead entrance.)

