

QUALITY PROFILE



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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 | 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

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