

A publication of Ottawa Hills Local Schools for alumni, families, and Villagers

AROUND these HILLS

SUMMER 2021



It's Full STEAM Ahead!

New capital campaign reinvents student learning

Inside this issue:

Strategic planning: Imagining our future

COVID-19: We made it! Now what?



**GRADUATION
WEEK** Celebrating the
Class of 2021



Photo courtesy of the Toledo Humane Society

CREATURE COMFORTS

With support from the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, students in OHbreathe workshops purchased supplies to undertake a heartwarming service project: making blankets for animals waiting to be adopted at the Toledo Humane Society.

For those dogs and cats, every nap now comes with a Green Bear hug.



OTTAWA HILLS SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

ohschoolsfoundation.org



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COMMUNITY DRIVES REVIEW OF NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Every five years, the district analyzes its past and future. That process begins again this fall as a Strategic Plan Advisory Committee charts a course through 2027.



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CLASS OF 2021 READY FOR ITS NEXT CHALLENGE

In a most unusual year, 78 seniors bravely supported each other to conquer COVID-19 and finish on top. Find out where they are headed and the honors they received.



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CAMPAIGN TRANSFORMS BUILDINGS, STUDENT LEARNING

Building on community levy support and decades of academic excellence, a \$2.2 million fundraising campaign will reinvent how students in every grade learn and develop as leaders.

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AN AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT



Learn more about our awards at 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.

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTS:

Around These Hills, 3600 Indian Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43060

On the cover

Taking part in the June 2 groundbreaking ceremony were (from left) Dr. Anjali Gupta ('99), campaign co-chair; Erica Silk, director of development and alumni relations; George Lathrop, president of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation; 9th grader Rose Hajjar; Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske; and campaign honorary chairs Jim White ('58) and John Swigart ('96). See Page 22.



Ottawa Hills
Local Schools

Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Rob Gnepper (president), Maara Fink (vice president), Corey Hupp, Kathy Lathrop, Adam Smidi

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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MISSION: 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.

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Among the Green Bears receiving a vaccine shot in May was incoming 6th grader Roman Tavtigian. The district-sponsored clinic was open to students ages 12 and older, their parents, and other Villagers.

DISTRICT LETTER

Remembering the lessons of COVID-19

For many, the first response to the end of the academic year was to rush home, lock the door, close the blinds, and breathe a sigh of relief. The instinct was to escape from the most bizarre and unnerving academic year in history. Good riddance, right?

But before we try to forget the past school year entirely, let's remember the valuable lesson it taught about the curative power of resilience.

Both as a community and school district, we never quit. We kept masks on, socially distant, iPads running and simulcasting in the back of the room, and athletes and musicians performing. Even in the darkest hours of early December, when statewide health concerns forced all school districts to go remote only, we set a date for reopening for in-person instruction. We did not blink.

Want proof of that resilience? There we were in late May, still on our feet to answer the final bell and host three outdoor graduation ceremonies in one week.

Instead of escaping from the world created by COVID-19, we need to keep confronting it.

So pull back those curtains and unlock those doors. It's not a year to be forgotten but one to be remembered for the lessons it taught. A global pandemic attacked our traditions and norms. We bent but did not break.

Years from now, whenever I see my OH face mask, I won't just see a protective covering. I'll see an emblem of unity.

May you and your family and friends enjoy the summer. We all deserve sunshine and time for reflection.



Adam Fineske

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske
afineske@ohschools.org



AdamFineske



fineskeadam



STRATEGIC FUTURE

Community drives review of new plan

Every five years, Ottawa Hills Local Schools reviews its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. That process is about to begin again this fall as a Strategic Plan Advisory Committee will form to chart a course through 2027.

Leading the effort will be a small group of Villagers, who are expected to be named in late June. Working together with Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske, they will identify and appoint other residents, teachers, students, and staff to the Advisory Committee. The research and discussions by that group are expected to be completed by early 2022. Phone interviews, backyard gatherings (similar to those held during last fall's levy campaign), roundtable discussions, and online surveys are expected to be part of the process, too.

Like with the current Long-Range Strategic Plan, the new document will be more of a blueprint and evaluation tool than a day-to-day manual for running the district. The current plan covers the years 2017-2022 and sets five goals, each with its own set of objectives and strategies.

Assisting the district in the upcoming process is the strategic planning division of ProMedica.



ASSESSING COVID-19

With 2020-2021 in the books, fingers crossed for a return to 'normal'

The strangest academic year in Ottawa Hills Local Schools history is over. How close to "normal" will the next one be?

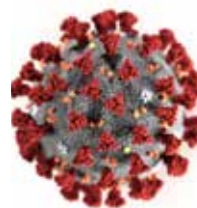
It was a year that saw 65 OH students and teachers test positive for COVID-19, and another 539 cases of quarantine (some students were quarantined multiple times). During the many waves of positive cases being reported, the number of students learning remotely ranged from 6 percent in the final weeks of the school year to 43 percent the week after Thanksgiving. (The district started reporting positive and quarantine cases in early September under a statewide mandate.)

As the number of vaccinated residents increased in Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine and local health leaders lifted many health restrictions. Those changes reached district facilities in early June, as restrictions on masking and social

distancing both indoors and outdoors were lifted (with some exceptions).

"As the academic year comes to a close, please take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished as a school district and community," Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske said. "Keeping our buildings open five days a week for in-person instruction required sacrifice, hard work, and cooperation from everyone. We should all be very proud."

The next major decisions about school operations are likely to take shape in late July or early August. That is when district leaders will meet with officials from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department to discuss start-up strategies for the 2021-2022 school year. Those strategies are expected to be discussed with the OH Coronavirus Response Team, leading to creation of plans for restarting the school year Tuesday, Aug. 17.



NO. 1 IN NORTHWEST OHIO

Ranking places Jr./Sr. High in Top 1 percent

Ottawa Hills High School is once again ranked among the Top 1 percent of high schools nationally for overall performance, according to the latest annual rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*. Among the school's newest honors: ranked No. 1 in Ohio for STEM; No. 1 overall in Northwest Ohio; and No. 2 in Ohio (out of 683 high schools ranked).

The building has been ranked in the Top 5 of all Ohio high schools for three consecutive years.

"This is a tremendous honor and one that many families, students, and teachers share," said Ben McMurray, principal of the Junior/Senior High School. "The rankings reflect a community-wide commitment to our schools and the success of our students."

The April national rankings compared nearly 18,000 high schools and examined six criteria, including graduation rates and AP testing, among students who attended high school in the 2018-2019 school year.

Statewide, the publication examined 707 school districts and 872 high schools.

"Our school has once again proven itself to be one of the nation's best. As proud as we all are with this ranking, it is truly just one way we recognize success," said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske. "There are countless others, including those even more important to me such as what happens in our classrooms, in our hallways, and on our playgrounds."



The district's STEAM programs and services are being advanced further through the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign, which will create and enhance facilities for students.

Jr./Sr. High joins national group focused on STEM advancement

The Junior/Senior High School has been accepted as a member of the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS). The organization is a resource for STEM schools in partnership with educational, corporate, and international organizations; it also provides professional development opportunities for teachers and learning experiences for students.

The group has more than 115 members, ranging from high-performing high schools to colleges, all with similar interests in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The member-review process looked at how well a school is preparing students to be leaders in global innovation "by engaging them in rigorous, relevant, and integrated learning experiences, with a science, technology,

engineering, and mathematics focus and specialization that includes authentic research and/or project-based focus."

"We are very excited to join this national group and exchange ideas with other high schools and universities across the nation," said Ben McMurray, principal of the Junior/Senior High School. "These connections will help us develop even better courses and programs and enrich the academic experiences of our students and faculty."

At the national level, NCSSS contributes to the development of policy decisions related to mathematics, science, and technology teaching and learning.

Admission to the group comes as the Junior/Senior High School is preparing for major renovations to its science labs and classrooms and creation of a Research Lab dedicated for student projects.

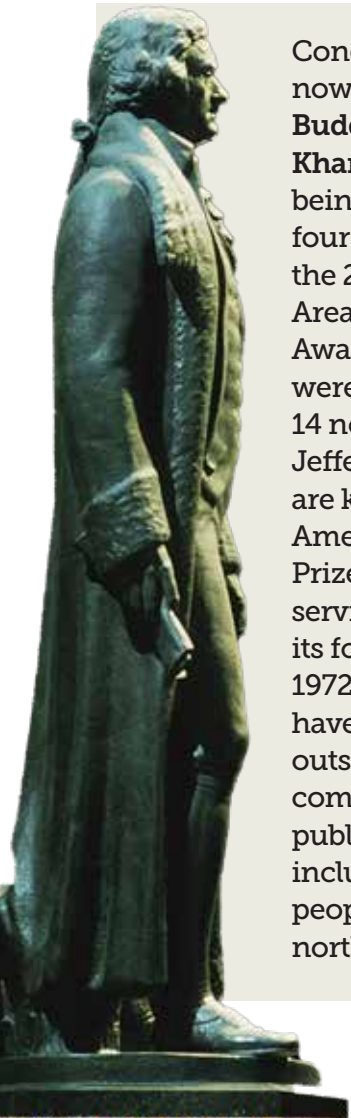


Ottawa Hills Local Schools (briefly) welcomed a new superintendent in May: Kadin Brown. Kadin, a rising 7th grader, earned the right to sit in the big chair for a day after parents Molly Zraik and Marc Brown purchased the "Superintendent for a Day" prize at last February's "Lucky You No-Show Auction." He even signed a proclamation announcing that the school year would soon be over.

Kadin Brown takes the big chair:

Superintendent for a Day

Two students finalists for Jefferson Awards



Congratulations to now-junior **Avalon Budd** and **Ishan Khare** ('21) for being among the four finalists for the 2021 Toledo-Area Jefferson Awards. The four were selected from 14 nominees. The Jefferson Awards are known as "an American Nobel Prize for public service." Since its founding in 1972, the Awards have honored outstanding community and public service, including 86 people from northwest Ohio.

Avalon was nominated for her work and leadership as founder of The Avalon Foundation, a nonprofit that provides support for kids living with rare disease and their families through youth leadership development. She created the organization at age 10 in response to her own challenging journey with a rare disease. It was important to her that the organization was *by kids, for kids*. The programs created by these youth leaders (ages 10-17) have positively impacted the lives of more than 50 families through 100 volunteers in just a few short years. Avalon and her advisory board colleagues advocate locally and nationally and have received international recognition in the rare disease community. Visit the foundation at kidscaringforkids.org.



Ishan was nominated for his work to educate youth, lower-income groups, and minorities about the latest scientific nutrition evidence from peer-reviewed medical journals. His plantpoweredyouth.org website has received more than 10,000 hits from 81 countries. He also is founder of the Healthful Nutrition Club at Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School, which has distributed more than 2,000 informative flyers and counseled hundreds of youth at health and community events, including the Ottawa Hills Back to School 5K, Your Health is Your Wealth Medical Workshop, Glass City Marathon Health Expo, ProMedica Flower Hospital World Stroke Day, and the Festival of India. His resources have even reached medical doctors who now promote his website and information to patients in Toledo and beyond.





Photo courtesy of Yarko Kuk/Village Voice of Ottawa Hills.

Congratulations to the 38 members of the cast and crew who appeared in “Into the Woods.” The spring musical played four shows in late April and early May. The performances were rescheduled twice due to COVID-19 concerns, but perseverance prevailed. Thank you to the Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association for helping to make the show a reality.

NEWSMAKERS

Board appoints Kathy Lathrop

The Ottawa Hills Board of Education in June appointed parent and Villager Kathy Lathrop to fill a vacancy that was created in May with the resignation of Kate Pixler.

“Kathy has unmatched knowledge of and love for our school district and we are excited to have her as a colleague,” said Rob Gnepper, president of the board.

Mrs. Lathrop was among the finalists considered by the board in January when it filled an earlier vacancy among its members. “I am honored to have the board’s support, and am fully committed to engaging with our community and working hard to ensure the



Lathrop

best future for our district and our kids,” Mrs. Lathrop said. She will complete Ms. Pixler’s four-year term, which expires Dec. 31.

Summer Extended Learning Plan returning

Building on success achieved last year, Ottawa Hills Local Schools is bringing back the Summer Learning Plan with a few twists starting June 14. First, it has a new name: the Summer Extended Learning Plan. The new name helps align with a directive from Gov. Mike DeWine, who earlier this year asked Ohio school districts to consider creating “extended learning plans” to address the learning loss of students due to COVID-19 and its impact on schooling.

Second, its focus shifts a bit. While independent activities will still be available to all students, more focus is being given to specific students who would benefit the most from summer instruction. OH

teachers are again taking the lead in creating the course materials, and the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has again stepped forward to help underwrite the costs.

Book Fair generates \$2,660 for library

Thank you to the many readers who helped to make the annual Spring Scholastic Book Fair a success.

The event stretched across 10 days to make sure students had ample time to shop because of restrictions due to COVID-19 and the



Feb. 16 snow day. The Fair had more than \$9,100 in sales (both in person and online), which generated \$2,660 for the Elementary School Library (\$2,160 in “Scholastic Dollars” and \$500 in cash).

Survey: Village No. 1 for families in Ohio!

The Village of Ottawa Hills is the No. 1 place to raise a family in Ohio, thanks in large part to its school system (graded A+), according to national research company Niche. The ranking is out of 728 communities measured across the state. The “Best Places to Raise a Family” ranking examined factors such as the quality of local schools, safety, affordability, and access to family amenities. The company also ranked the Village as the second-best place to live in Ohio.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Villagers join new committee

The Board of Education in March named three Village residents to its new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Representing parents are Dee Dolsey and Kathy Selking. Representing students is senior Faith Seo.

Mrs. Dolsey is the mother of alumnus Jonathan ('21) and Brandon (a junior). She and husband Brian have lived in the Village since 2009. Within the Village, Mrs. Dolsey is a board member of parent-support group OH21, a member of community group Village Equity Alliance, and lunch/vendor coordinator for the Junior/Senior High School. She also is an instructor for the Ohio Aspire program at Owens Community College.

"I am excited to join the committee and to share my experiences and ideas with the Board of Education," Mrs. Dolsey said. "Parental involvement on these issues is extremely important for our school district and our community."

Mrs. Selking is the mother of alumnus Brendan ('21) and Reagan (a 2nd grader). She and her husband Anthony have lived in the Village since 2016. Within the Village, Mrs. Selking is co-chair of community group This Is OH. She has also been a



Dee Dolsey



Kathy Selking



Faith Seo

board member of OH21, a trustee of OH Boosters, and co-coordinator of high school sports concessions. Mrs. Selking is the Director of Development, Affinity and Events at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. In the greater community, she has sat on the boards of Nature's Nursery and the Library Legacy Foundation.

"I am so proud of our school board for creating this new subcommittee. I am committed to partnering with the district to help make our schools more inclusive and equitable, so every child feels he/she/they belong," Mrs. Selking said. "Being a strong community partner and collaborator lies at the heart of the work we have been doing in This Is OH for the past four years. It will take all of us working together to lead change and make a lasting impact. I look forward to working with everyone!

Please don't hesitate to reach out."

Faith Seo is a senior and an active member of the student group OH Stand. Among her interests and activities are art, volleyball, design, and music. Her parents are mother Jisun Hwang and father Youngwoo Seo. Her sister Joan is an 8th grader.

"I'm incredibly honored to be representing the student body and sharing my personal experiences with the committee," Faith said. "I look forward to working with and learning from the other committee members in order to continue making Ottawa Hills a more inclusive school that's open to everyone!"

In addition to these new appointees, the committee consists of Board of Education members Maara Fink and Adam Smidi and Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske.



Students at the Elementary School competed for fun May 27 at the annual Field Day. Activities included cup stacking, sack races, and numerous relays involving a variety of props. The sun was out but the weather was cool. Thank you to the many parent volunteers who served as guides and judges. What a great way to end the school year for our hard-working and well-deserving students in grades K-6.

ART GALLERY

The annual smART Show provided a showcase for the classroom art work of students in grades 7-12. Hundreds of pieces of art, from photographs, jewelry, and ceramics to clothing and paintings were on display April 29 in the Junior/Senior High School. Congratulations to 9th grader Mia Feedback for winning the Junior High “People’s Choice Award” and Rahma Anjum (’21) for winning the Senior High “People’s Choice Award.” In addition, students in Advanced Placement art courses gave artist talks. Congratulations to the community and art teachers Kristin Johnson and Hannah Lehmann for organizing another memorable event.



All's Well That Starts Well

Student fundraisers help provide safe drinking water



Students in 7th Grade spent the last month of school raising money to build a well in Mawambala, Tanzania. The well serves a primary school and the villagers around the school. Students at Mawambala Primary School currently walk several miles a day to access poor-quality water. This well will provide safe drinking water and allow the students more time to focus on their education. By the end of May, OH students had raised \$2,500 toward the original goal of \$2,100. They raised the money by selling \$1 water “droplets” and collecting donations for the “Soak the Staff” dunk tank on May Day. The winner: Darrin Broadway, dean of secondary teaching and learning (pictured, right).



Soaring like an Eagle: Meg Bode's Scouting milestone

Meg Bode made history recently as she joined the first wave of females ever to earn the coveted Eagle Scout rank from Scouts BSA.

Across the country, an estimated 1,000 girls earned the designation this spring, the highest achievement rank attainable in Scouts BSA (formerly called Boy Scouts of America). Only 4 percent of Scouts ever become an Eagle Scout.

Until recently, that honor was reserved for boys and had to be achieved before the 18th birthday. Meg, a rising junior, earned her 21 merit badges and completed her service project in less than two years since Scouts USA opened membership to females in February 2019.

Meg joins older brothers David ('19) and senior Robbie Heuring as Eagle Scouts. Their younger sister Kate, a 10th grader, also plans to pursue the Eagle Scout designation.

"I watched by brothers go through the process, and I told myself, 'Why not go for it?'" she said. "It's a recognized national honor and helps you in life as well."

For her required service project, she built and placed homes for wood ducks along the Ottawa River, which required approval from Village leaders. She began her research nearly a year ago, and met with a wildlife expert about where to best place the structures. She also circulated a petition to homeowners along Brookside Road to gain their input and approval.

The Camping Badge was the hardest to earn, she said, because of the time involved (20 nights of camping with fellow troop members over a two-year period). She received the Eagle Scout good news during a review board Zoom call Feb. 6. She celebrated that night with a trip to KFC. But she has not yet taken part in the "Eagle Court of Honor" ceremony, a mostly symbolic but important event ending the journey.

Meg started as a Girl Scout, but moved into one of the newly formed troops created when Scouts BSA expanded to include girls. The local troop is known as Troop 2197: the number 2 signifies it's a girl troop, 19 is the year it started, and 7 is the number of original girl members. Village resident Brad Johnson is the troop's scout master.

Meg's achievement and those of others pursuing Eagle Scout status was made more difficult because of COVID-19. Troops stopped meeting in person and some merit badges – even among the 13 mandatory ones required of all future Eagle Scouts – were more difficult to achieve due to social-distancing requirements.

Plus, Meg was turning 18 in April, and you cannot receive the Eagle Scout honor if you are older than 18. "It's a good thing she hit the ground running hard," said her mother, Linda Bode.

Meg is active in other ways within Scouting.

She now works under Mr. Johnson as an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 2197. She also is mentoring four females who are pursuing membership in The Order of the Arrow, an honor society within Scouts. (Meg was accepted into that society in 2020 after an election by her peers.) And this year marks her fifth summer working with young Scouts at Camp Miakonda in Sylvania.

For all her achievements, she was nominated for and was selected this year as the "Northwest District Eagle Scout of the Year." "Scouts has been a very good experience for me," Meg said. "I learned a lot of life lessons and I've had a lot of fun with the other girls."



Wood ducks on the Ottawa River have new homes, thanks to Meg Bode.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Ishan Khare named a Coca-Cola Scholar

Congratulations to Ishan Khare ('21) for being named a 2021 Coca-Cola Scholar. He was one of just 150 students selected out of 99,000-plus applicants. The honor comes with a \$20,000 U.S. college or university scholarship and entry into the Coca-Cola Scholars Leadership Development Institute. "I would like to express my gratitude to Ottawa Hills Local Schools for the incredible support I have received the past 13 years, but especially more so during my four high school years," Ishan said.

Quiz Bowl Team ties for 3rd in nation

Congratulations to the Ottawa Hills High School Quiz Bowl for finishing tied for third in the "Very Small School" subdivision and tied for 11th in the "Traditional Public School" division. The team competed at the 2021 NAQT Small School National Championship. Congrats to graduates Ishan Khare, Kavita Parikh, and Hannah Shariff; junior Alex Mian; sophomore Ali Sedique; and coach Tony Torio.

Frueh wins poetry award

Congratulations to rising senior Basil Frueh and his poem "terra incognita" for winning first in the free verse category in the Ohio Poetry Association's "2021 High School Poetry Contest." All winning poems receive monetary awards and publication in an OPA chapbook.

Choraliers receive top marks from judges

Congratulations to the Choraliers for achieving the highest rating possible in recent judging conducted by the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA). During their spring Choir Concert, the Choraliers recorded their live performance of Vivaldi's "Dixit Dominus" and submitted it to be adjudicated by a panel of three OMEA Large Group judges. The Choraliers scored all "Superior" ratings in the Class A category.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Inspiring, empowering Green Bears

Ottawa Hills Local Schools has created a partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), a national nonprofit movement that inspires and empowers youth and high school sports organizations to leverage sports to build character in youths.

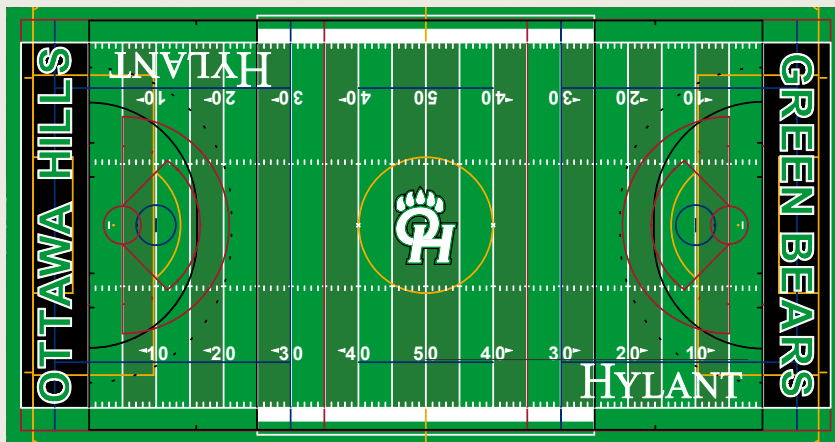
The partnership provides district administrators, coaches, parents, and athletes with access to PCA's research-based training, tools, and resources. Those resources include live interactive workshops, online courses, and books by PCA founder Jim Thompson.

**POSITIVE
COACHING
ALLIANCE**

"I am excited for the opportunity to have our school leaders, coaches, parents, and athletes partner with the Positive Coaching Alliance," said Tammy Talmage, OH athletic administrator. "Personally, I am looking forward to being a part of an experience that can help all of us ensure a positive youth development experience for all of our kids through sports."

PCA has partnered with more than 3,500 schools, districts, conferences, youth sports organizations, and park-and-rec departments. These partnerships are guided by a vision to create a "Development Zone" culture, with a vision that all youth can benefit from a positive and inclusive sports culture that develops social and emotional skills, molds character, and prepares them for competition and for life.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with the Positive Coaching Alliance to enhance our philosophy of teamwork, positivity, and motivation," said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske.



Hylant family supports stadium project

A family with three generations of affection for Ottawa Hills Local Schools is showing that affinity in a very visible way.

Ann and Patrick Hylant, lifelong village residents who sent their children to OH schools, have made a very generous gift in support of Green Bear athletics. The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is acknowledging that generosity by placing the Hylant name on the new synthetic turf being installed at Niedermeier Stadium this summer.

"We are excited by the transformations taking place in the schools," said Mr. Hylant. "Whether it's the Fitness Center, The Foundry, Science Corridor, or athletic field upgrades, the district is entering a renaissance era. Ann and I believe strongly in the district's future."

The Hylant family is the eponymous owner of Hylant Group Inc., among the largest privately held insurance and brokerage service firms in the United States. It has 800 employees and 17 offices across the country; its global headquarters are in Toledo.

Ann (Morehead) Hylant is a 1967 graduate of Ottawa Hills; Mr. Hylant also grew up in the village, and graduated in 1966 from St. Francis de Sales High School. Each had siblings as well as nieces and nephews who attended and graduated from Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

The second generation of Hylants includes Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig, a 1993 OH graduate, and Patrick, Jr., who graduated in 1991 from St. John's Jesuit High School. Mrs. Berenzweig was most recently chair of The Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign, which led to the construction of the Fitness Center and renovations to other parts of the Junior/Senior High School.

She and husband Andrew "Bubba" Berenzweig will have three children at the Junior/Senior High School this coming academic year, who represent the third generation of Hylants to attend OH schools.



Patrick and Ann Hylant

NEWSBRIEFS



The BIG 5-0

Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School hosted its 50th Green Bear Relays May 8. Eleven schools from across Ohio and southeast Michigan brought track and field athletes to participate in one of the biggest track meets in Ohio. Gibsonburg won the girls' portion of the meet; Rossford picked up the victory for the boys. Ottawa Hills finished fourth in both girls and boys.

Title Town

Green Bear athletes and teams picked up this spring where they left off in the fall: winning titles and league honors. The boys' baseball team finished as co-champs of the Toledo Area Athletic Conference and the boys' track and field team won the title outright. Congratulations to rising sophomore JoAnna Kelley on being named the "Female Athlete of the Year." At the TAAC Championships, she finished first in the 1,600-meter run and 3,200-meter run and was part of the winning OH relay team in the 3,200-meter run. She also finished second in the 800-meter run.

And Tyler Fairchild (track and field) and Chris Hardman (baseball) were named "Coaches of the Year" for their sports.

Soccer Coach

Brian Hanudel was named the varsity boys' soccer coach. He replaces Nate Baer, who moved out of the area. Mr. Hanudel has been the team's assistant coach since 2019. He previously was head varsity coach at Central Catholic High School from 2014-2018.



BEAR NECESSITIES



Shop the Bear Cave to show your OH pride and support Green Bear teams and athletes. The store operates with seasonal hours inside the Junior/Senior High School (entrance by the flagpole).

OH-branded athletic shorts from Head. Multiple sizes. \$25

Youth shirts by Jerzees. \$12.

Adult unisex hat by Nike. \$25.

COLLEGE SPORTS



Signing Day Alumni

Six Green Bear athletes signed letters of intent this academic year to continue playing at the collegiate level. Well done, athletes!

**Mallory Carter**

Soccer
Greensboro College
The Pride
Division III

**Grant Davis**

Football
Baldwin Wallace
University
Yellow Jackets
Division III

**Sydney Klein**

Lacrosse
Flagler University
Saints
Division II

**Keefer McClure**

Track and field
cross country
Ohio Northern University
Polar Bears
Division III

**Matt McGee**

Tennis
Baldwin Wallace
University
Yellow Jackets
Division III

**Abbie Westmeyer**

Basketball
Denison University
Big Red
Division III

Ready to soar:

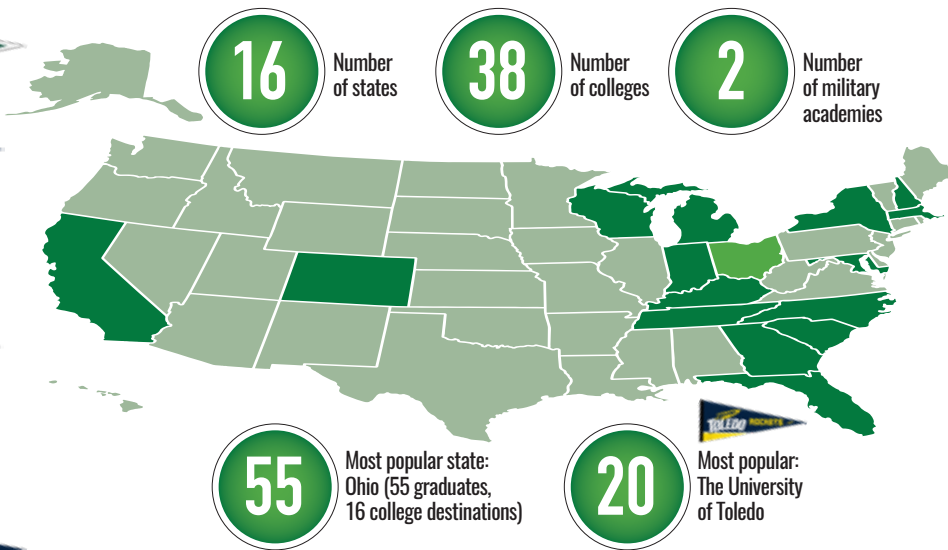
Class of 2021

ready for its next challenge



Seniors celebrate the moment with the traditional tossing of the mortarboard. Opposite page: Officers of the senior class prepare for the dedication ceremony.

Class of 2021



They will be remembered as the first – and hopefully only – class of seniors to spend the most important year of high school wearing a brave smile behind a mask. But this group of 78 students isn't your typical bunch.

They set the example for the district's other students through their character and inspiration over 18 months of COVID-19 protocols and restrictions. By following the rules, improvising when necessary, and working together, the Class of 2021 proved that its members could not be broken or deterred.

With those lessons learned, they are setting off for 16 states, including Ohio, to further their education from California to Rhode Island.

Thanks to dedicated teachers, staff, and parents, they enjoyed modified versions of many cherished OH traditions, including Homecoming and Prom. They even claim bragging rights for creating Winter Fest, an outdoor evening of food, fun, and friendship.

Their first shared tradition as seniors came at the Aug. 19 Senior Breakfast. But COVID-19 kept them from walking ceremoniously into the building together on that first day of school. Exactly 281 days later, their year together ended when the final car pulled away from the celebratory Village Car Parade, capping the evening's Commencement ceremonies. And then, it was on to graduation parties, summer fun, and the next chapters of their lives.

And so, from Agarwal to Zawisza and the other 76 students in between, we salute the class of 2021.





Class of
2021

Celebrating achievement

Attendees at Niedermeier Stadium enjoying Commencement May 27 for the Class of 2021.

The last week of May gave students and the community the chance to honor old traditions such as Senior Walk and the Slow Roll Bike Ride. It also offered opportunities to continue newer ones, such as outdoor graduation ceremonies!

Class of 2021



Seniors and families celebrated for a second straight year outside. They were joined this year by 6th and 8th graders, who cast aside their traditional indoor ceremonies, too, for outdoor events May 24.



Clockwise from top: 6th graders (Class of 2027) stand together one final time for a class portrait at their graduation ceremony; 8th graders (Class of 2025) at their Recognition Ceremony; seniors make a victory lap through Elementary School hallways; Green Bear preparing for his open-air ride as grand marshal for the annual Slow Roll Bike Ride; and senior Sophia Stone ('21) enjoying the Village Car Parade.

GRADUATION WEEK

78

Graduates



CLASS OF 2021

100%

Graduation Rate

Anish Agarwal

The University of Toledo

Jack Aiken

Lorain County Community College

Rahma Anjum

The Ohio State University

Somaia Badr

The University of Toledo

William Becker

The University of Toledo

Malachi Bernal

U.S. Air Force

Katherine Berryman

The Ohio State University

Derek Borsody

The Ohio State University

Mallory Carter

Greensboro College

Kyler Charles

U.S. Navy

Lane Colton

The Ohio State University

Parker Contreras

Terra State Community College

Grant Davis

Baldwin Wallace University

Elijah DeWalt

The University of Toledo

Abby Dewhirst

Michigan State University

Jonathan Dolsey

Morehouse College

Joseph Gears

The University of Toledo

Jacob Geiger

The University of Toledo

Isabelle Gray

The Ohio State University

Carter Hagenbuch

Kent State University

Jackson Hanrehan

University of Cincinnati

Shiraz Hasan

The Ohio State University

Andrew Helgren

Purdue University

Christopher Howard

Bowling Green State University

Clare Isabell

John Carroll University

Hayden Isabell

Owens Community College

Petar Isailovic

University of Central Florida

Cameron Jednak Kasunic

Undecided

Avery Johnson

The University of Toledo

Genevieve Kanarowski

Miami University

Ishan Khare

Stanford University

Alison Kim

The Ohio State University

Kangwon Kim

The Ohio State University

Madison Kim

University of Cincinnati

Sydney Klein

Flagler College

Ella Langenderfer

The Ohio State University

Zakaria Maaieh

Vanderbilt University

Claudia Mancy

Eastern Michigan University

Sahishnu Mannem

The University of Toledo

Keefer McClure

Ohio Northern University



BY THE NUMBERS

4 National Merit Finalists

2 National Merit Commended Scholars

\$8,850,064

Value of scholarships offered



Class of 2021



14 Summa
Cum Laude
Graduates

10 Magna Cum
Laude
Graduates

11 Cum Laude
Graduates

46 Honors
Diplomas

34 President's Awards
for Educational
Excellence

32 National Honor
Society
Members

Conner McCracken
Boston University

Matthew McGee
Baldwin Wallace University

Kellen McGrath
The University of Toledo

Sradhanjali McGrath
The University of Toledo

Emma McLean
College of Wooster

Carol McQueen
Pepperdine University

Thomas Merrill
University of Cincinnati

Caitlin Michels
The University of Toledo

**Yousuf Muhammed
Nasser**
The Ohio State University

Evan Muse
The Ohio State University

Salintip Novak
The University of Toledo

Kavita Parikh
Columbia University

Raisha Patel
The University of Toledo

Riya Patel
The University of Toledo

Claire Petas
Miami University

Lydia Prince
University of South Carolina

Brooke Pucak
Miami University

Meredith Randall
University of Cincinnati

Jordan Reiter
University of Cincinnati

Meghan Rownd
University of Kentucky

Emma Rumman
University of Michigan

Carter Rybarczyk
Michigan Institute of
Aviation & Technology

Deen Sari
The University of Toledo

Hope Schaefer
The University of Toledo

Elizabeth Seifried
Indiana University

Brendan Selking
Miami University

Hannah Shariff
Dartmouth College

Jack Silk
Elon University

Oliver Smirnov
The University of Toledo

Sophia Stone
University of Wisconsin-
Madison

Danielle Sun
Case Western Reserve University

Victor Tavtigian
The University of Toledo

Conner Underwood
Trine University

Elijah VanSlooten
The University of Toledo

Abigail Westmeyer
Denison University

Mattingly Wilson
The Ohio State University

Jamie Yark
Miami University

Chloe Zawisza
The University of Toledo



A Recognition of Excellence

Every spring, Ottawa Hills High School celebrates student achievement at an Honors Assembly. With input from faculty and administrators, deserving students are recognized for their accomplishments in the classroom, in the community, and on athletic fields. Many of these awards and scholarships were created to honor alumni, Village residents, and remarkable teachers.

To honor the individuals and groups who established these honors, *Around These Hills* presents the 2021 recipients of those awards and scholarships.

Sara Devenow Abrams Photography Award

Awarded to a senior to recognize passion, dedication, and accomplishment in visual arts.

Avery Johnson

James Casper I Dare You Leadership Award

Established in 1941 by William H. Danforth, founder of the Ralston Purina Co. He believed a balanced life of mental, physical, social, and spiritual development was the backbone of leadership. Presented to two juniors who exhibit personal integrity, balanced living, and potential for leadership.

**Geneva Howard &
Sophia Heidenreich**

Connections Award

Named for the "Connections Window" at the high school entrance (gift of the Class of 1959). The piece synthesizes their experiences: high expectations; the richness of the curriculum; a close-knit, supportive community; and connections to the world.

Meredith Randall

Jon S. Davis Striving to Achieve Scholarship

Established in honor of class president Jon S. Davis ('61). Award recognizes, nurtures, and encourages hard work, perseverance, sound judgment, and a strong moral compass among students.

Jonathan Dolsey

Tom Docis Phenomenal Physics Award

Established to honor Tom Docis, former chemistry and physics teacher, for his service, practical wisdom, and wry humor. Recipient approached the study of physics as Mr. Docis did: with wonder and enthusiasm.

Andrew Helgren

Nanci Kay Effler Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2008 in memory of Nanci Kay Effler, mother of seven OH graduates, a tireless volunteer for Ottawa Hills Local Schools, and an accomplished artist. Awarded to the senior who demonstrates passion and achievement in visual arts.

Rahma Anjum

Don Fontaine French Award

Awarded to an advanced French student who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in the languages and knowledge about the French-speaking people.

Kavita Parikh

Kristjan Gislason Award

Established by Kristjan's father for the family's deep appreciation for the school's friendship to his son (an AFS student from Iceland in 1973-74). Awarded to the senior who gives time and talents unselfishly and who possesses a positive attitude for the benefit of the high school.

Danielle Sun

Steve Gordon Memorial Scholarship

Established in memory of Steve Gordon ('57). Awarded to a senior who possesses oral and written acuity, eclectic and intense exploration of the literary genre, stylistic sophistication, and intellectual curiosity.

Hannah Shariff

Brian Nicholas Hoefflinger Memorial Scholarship Award

Established in 2019 in the memory of Brian Hoefflinger ('13). Awarded to a senior who best exemplifies his characteristics of strong work ethic, academic excellence, optimism, kindness, and quirky sense of humor. Recipient leads by example rather than by recognition, is well liked and respected by peers, and strives to achieve academic excellence.

Andrew Helgren

Nancy and Tom Kabat Scholarship Award

Established in 2003 by Nancy and Tom Kabat. Awarded to a senior who is uplifting, makes a positive contribution, and is well respected by classmates. Also demonstrates leadership, a good work ethic, academic achievement, and volunteer service.

Kavita Parikh

Karen Klein Music Award

Established to honor Karen Klein ('58), a talented soprano who died shortly after a choir rehearsal preparing for the annual spring concert. She is remembered for her leadership, character, and musicianship.

Madison Kim

Fred Kreutzfeld CheMystery Magic Award

Established in memory of Fred Kreutzfeld, former chemistry teacher and high school principal. He worked a special magic on the lives he touched. Recipient is a chemistry student who, though not necessarily at the top of the class, most clearly understands the "mystery" in chemistry and rejoices in the magic that understanding brings.

Dylan Fall

David M. Larabee Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2008 in memory of David M. Larabee, math and science teacher. Awarded to a senior who demonstrates a passion for learning and talent in mathematics, science, and/or conservation-related fields. Special consideration goes to those with an interest in the fine arts and qualities of being a "Renaissance" person.

Ishan Khare

Chad Layne Foreign Language Award

Awarded to the senior who has an appreciation of foreign language study and excelled in French and Spanish. Recipient demonstrates curiosity, enthusiasm, and diligence for the languages.

Petar Isailovic

Liberty Memorial Award

Presented to a junior who best demonstrates academic achievement in civics, social studies, government, history, and a demonstrated commitment to service in pursuit of a more productive and naturally sustainable world.

Will Berschback

Phillip W. Longenecker Science Award

Established to honor Phillip W. Longenecker ('47). Selected by the science department and presented to a senior excelling in science.

Ishan Khare

The James Petas Memorial Girls Lacrosse Scholarship Award

Established this year in honor of Mr. Petas, the financial scholarship is given to the senior lacrosse player who best exemplifies dedication, enthusiasm, diligent work ethic, self improvement, and an overall positive attitude on and off the field.

Claire Petas

Principal's Choice Award

Awarded to a senior for academic achievement and effort; profoundly impacting the school climate; and being a good citizen and respected and appreciated by peers and teachers.

Sophia Stone & Kavita Parikh

Dion Raftopoulos Award

Awarded to a senior who most represents the lofty ideals of musical accomplishment, scholarly attainment, and moral integrity as exemplified by Dion Raftopoulos.

Danielle Sun

Robert Repp Social Studies Scholarship Award

Established to honor Robert Repp. Awarded to a senior who understands the qualities of a good citizen, excelled over four years in social studies, and plans to continue those studies at college. Recipient shows the potential to actively pursue leadership roles in society. (Members of the social studies department provide this financial award.)

Conner McCracken

Lindy Redmann Sports Award

Established in memory of Linda Beth Redmann ('74). Presented to a junior field hockey player who exemplifies Ms. Redmann's characteristics: a love of all sports, fair play, and team competition; a quiet, persuasive leader; modest and determined; loyal to family and friends; an independent thinker; and a keen sense of humor.

Eva Frost Murnen

Kathryn H. Saxby Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a senior based on academic excellence, GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT scores, a demonstrated interest in music, involvement in school activities, and community and school volunteer service.

Zakariah Maaieh

John Phillip Sousa Band Award

Awarded to the outstanding senior band student (chosen by the instrumental music teacher).

Jonathan Dolsey

Peggy Thomas Memorial Scholarship Award

Awarded to the senior who best exemplifies the characteristics of Mrs. Thomas: affability, happiness, enthusiasm for life, and putting forth a determined effort toward school.

Victor Tavtigin

Ross Treuhaft Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2012 with contributions from the Treuhaft family in memory of Ross Treuhaft. Awarded to a senior who welcomes diversity; understands and has compassion toward students with special needs or who are different from the norm; has an interest in special education; demonstrates a desire to include others different from themselves; and possesses kindness and joy.

Lydia Prince

Lori Warner Levy Memorial Award

Established in 1999 in memory of Lori Warner Levy, an intensely creative businesswoman and mother, an accomplished musician, and promising artist. Awarded to a senior for outstanding creativity in the fine and performing arts.

Mattingly Wilson

Donna Tozer Wipfli Choralier Award

Established in 2020 in honor of vocal music teacher Donna Tozer Wipfli, who taught from 1990-2020 at the Elementary School and Junior/Senior High School. Awarded annually to a senior member of the Choraliers who aspires to the passions and artistic goals of Mrs. Wipfli: Believing in the enduring value of singing together with purpose.

Claire Petas

Mayor Jean Youngen Leadership Award

Established in honor of Jean Youngen, former mayor of Ottawa Hills. Recipient has acted to improve the quality of life in the community; engages with a cross section of society; and advances points of view that may not always be widely accepted and has done so with positive energy, tact, and enthusiasm.

Zakariah Maaieh

The Ottawa Hills Education Association Scholarship

Established in memory of Elementary School teacher Bob George. Awarded to a graduating senior who clearly articulates his or her calling toward the teaching profession and demonstrates an appreciation for lifelong learning.

Brooke Pucak



Reaching new heights

Campaign transforms buildings, student learning

Building on community levy support and decades of academic excellence, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has unveiled a \$2.2 million fundraising campaign to reinvent how students in every grade learn and develop as leaders.

Formally known as the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign, the initiative primarily focuses on adding enhancements to the new academic spaces coming to the Junior/Senior High School: The Foundry, The Science and Research Corridor, and The ARTlab. With the urging of campaign co-chairs Drs. Anjali and Anil Gupta, the project has expanded to include enhancements at the Elementary School. There, the fundraising hopes to create new projects, curriculum, and hands-on student experiences in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).

The June 2 campaign kick-off, coupled with a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new facilities, comes just seven months after Villagers approved a \$8.5 million bond levy. That levy raised the money to build The Foundry (originally known as the Learning Commons) and extensive upgrades to STEAM classrooms. It

also finances the installation of modern heating, cooling, and ventilation systems throughout the building, sections of which opened in 1939.

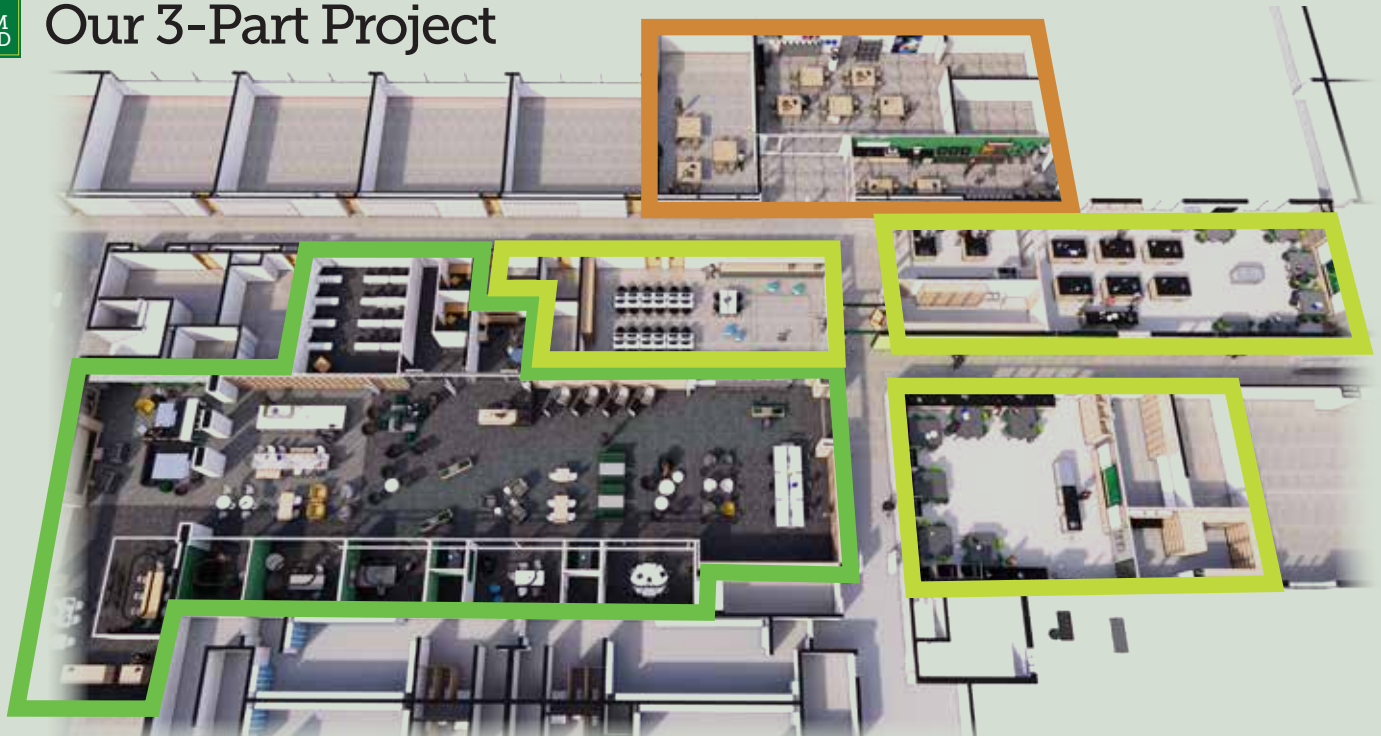
**FULL
STEAM
AHEAD**

“Today’s groundbreaking truly opens the doors to an exciting future for Ottawa Hills Local Schools and begins a process of transformation not only to our buildings and the look of the schools, but a true transformation and growth of student learning,” said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske.

An early believer in the future possibilities of the project was Dr. Anjali Gupta, a 1999 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School. “The teachers, students, and staff throughout Ottawa Hills are what makes the school a leader in the state,” she said. “We’re excited for this campaign because we think it will provide amazing enhancements to the infrastructure that the levy is already providing. It will give the students and staff a better opportunity to showcase just how amazing the school is and provide the tools for all the students to realize their full potential.”

**FULL
STEAM
AHEAD**

Our 3-Part Project



For current and future generations of students, The Foundry is expected to transform how they learn.

"I am excited to have a place to go to before, during, and after school to study and work, where I have support from my teachers and tutors and many different learning tools available," said Rose Hajjar, an incoming 9th grader. "The Foundry will be a place for group projects, meetings, study groups, test preparation, hands-on research or even just a quiet place to think. It can be whatever we need it to be."

Other speakers at the kick-off event included the campaign's honorary chairs: John Swigart ('96) and Jim White ('58). Mr. Swigart and wife Shanie are parents to students in the Classes of 2024 and 2028. Mr. White is a parent to a member of the Class of 1989.

Soon after the ceremony, construction crews began the work of clearing the courtyard and preparing for demolition. Meanwhile, a community advisory team will begin working with the building's academic leaders to develop the



Left: Superintendent Fineske and Principal Ben McMurray. Below: The Campaign Steering Committee shows its eagerness to start the project!



The Foundry



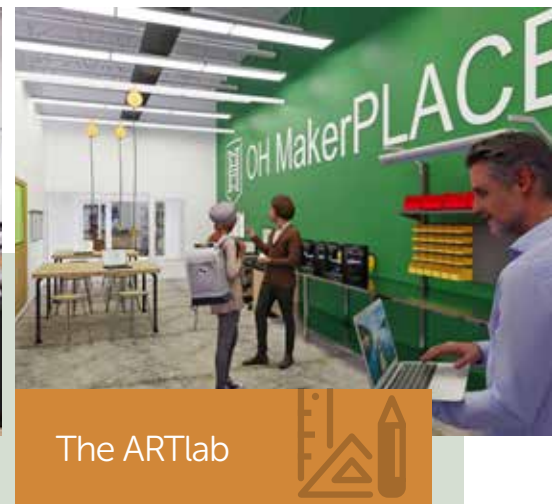
The Foundry, a name suggested and voted for by students, will become the academic heart of the Junior/Senior High School serving students in grades 7-12. It will be a research, technology, and intervention center by transforming the current open courtyard and adjacent interior classrooms. The result: 6,800 feet of unified educational space open to students 13 hours a day during the school year. It 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 and Research Corridor



These tech-centric spaces elevate research and education in four distinct but increasingly interconnected disciplines: biological and physical sciences, technology, rhetoric and composition, and mathematics. The Science and Research Corridor offers a collaborative interdisciplinary research culture with renowned researchers and educators from The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. Serving as the hub connecting these academic locations will be a new Research Lab just for students, equipped with the computer and science equipment they need to pursue their own inquiries.



The ARTlab



Our ARTlab brings together interactive spaces designed to inspire students to experiment, play, and create as they explore the ideas, tools, and techniques of classical, modern, and contemporary art. It will transform the way our art classrooms interact with all disciplines of STEAM curriculum and connect students through exhibitions, studio art, and performance education.

programming and services of The Foundry. Parents/Villagers Lisa Brown and Michelle Walker are leading that effort.

“Being at the top is amazing, but we have to continue to grow and change if we want to remain at the top,” said Dr. Fineske. “In our growing and changing district, we must not lose focus that all students learn differently, they achieve and contribute to society in a variety of ways, and we should celebrate all of these contributions. That is what the heart of our new facilities, the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign, and our goals as a district are all about.”



The Gupta Family: Leading the way

Dr. Anjali Gupta ('99) is part of that special group of students who attended school for 13 consecutive years in Ottawa Hills: The Kindergarten Club.

The positive memories and friendships formed drove her passion to not only move back to the Village, but also to support the district. And that is why she and husband Anil have agreed to serve as the campaign co-chairs for the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign.

“Ottawa Hills is an exemplary school equipped with students with so much promise,” said Dr. Gupta. “We feel strongly that the upgrades afforded by the Full STEAM Ahead Campaign are necessary so our students and staff can best realize their potential.”

The Guptas have two 2nd graders (Maya and Jay) at the Elementary School.

“Ottawa Hills is an exemplary school equipped with students with so much promise. We feel strongly that the upgrades afforded by the Full STEAM Ahead Campaign are necessary so our students and staff can best realize their potential.”

– The Gupta Family: Anjali ('99), Anil, Maya, and Jay.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Meet the Campaign Leadership

CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Anjali ('99) and Anil Gupta

Parents to two members of the Class of 2032

HONORARY CHAIRS

Shanie and John ('96) Swigart

Parents to members of the Classes of 2024 & 2028

Jim White ('58)

Parent to member of the Class of 1989

COMMITTEE

Jackie ('93) and Bubba Berenzweig

Parents to members of the Classes of 2023, 2025 & 2027

Darrin Broadway

Amy and Alap Choksey

Parents to members of the Classes of 2027 & 2032

Adam Fineske

Parent to member of the Class of 2028

Mary ('79) and Jim ('79) Geiger

Parents to members of the Classes of 2007, 2010 & 2013

Chelsey and Sunny ('01) Gupta

Parents to members of the Classes of 2032, 2033, 2036 & 2041

Joy and Elias ('99) Hajjar

Parents to members of the Classes of 2025, 2027 & 2029

George Lathrop

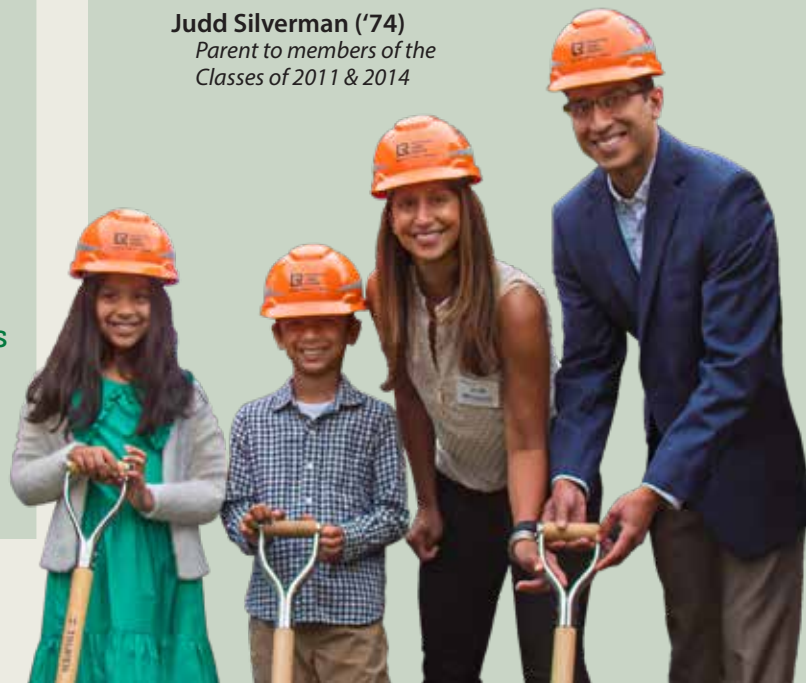
Parent to members of the Classes of 2018, 2023 & 2027 (2)

Erica Silk ('89)

Parent to members of the Classes of 2019, 2021, 2023 & 2024

Judd Silverman ('74)

Parent to members of the Classes of 2011 & 2014





FOUNDATION LETTER

Celebrating our newest alumni ... and a return to a new normal

As the mortarboards lifted into the air at the May 27 Commencement, a transformation occurred: 78 seniors instantly became ... 78 alumni.

Starting together in Kindergarten for 39 of them, these students experienced the district's many traditions. Commencement (and now, the Village Car Parade!) are just the proverbial cherries on top. How many of you remember Kindergarten Kaleidoscope, 1st Grade Circus and the ABCs of December, 3rd Grade City and Culture Fair, 5th Grade Wax Museum, the Elementary School Art Fair, Brown Bag Chorus, Camp Storer, D.C. trip, Agora, May Day, Romantic Idol, Senior Breakfast, smART Show, Senior Walk, and Prom? You get the picture.

Of course, special curricular and extracurricular events don't tell the whole picture. Friendships formed in classrooms, on field trips and athletic fields, on bike rides and over a meal, also bind students to each other and the district.

For these newest alumni and thousands more, we are excited to begin planning for events again as the nation returns to a new normal. The first will be Sept. 9 as we celebrate alumni and other donors to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation at a special evening reception. The second is the following night, as we host a dinner and program to honor the newest recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award and inductees into the Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame.

And in March 2022, we will host a Chicago-area alumni reception, coinciding with performances by the Choraliers in the Windy City.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021. You are now part of a great and powerful nation!

P.S. Experience the power of giving by donating today in support of Ottawa Hills students.



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



Pavicic ('97)



Roadhouse ('62)



Glow ('55)

Alumni honors

Three Ottawa Hills High School graduates – Wendy (Roberts) Pavicic ('97), David Roadhouse ('62), and Dr. David E. Glow ('55) – have been recognized for their high school careers and post-OH achievements. These are their stories of athleticism and leadership.



3X STATE CHAMP

Roberts ('97) won back-to-back titles in 300-meter hurdles

When it comes to state championships, Wendy (Roberts) Pavicic ('97) stands alone among OH athletes. As a freshman in 1993, she scored the winning goal as the girls' field hockey team won the state Division III championship. And as a junior and senior, she won individual state titles in the 300-meter hurdles.

She received natural athletic abilities from father Keith – a standout point guard at Toledo's Devilbiss High School – and mother Linda, a competitive tennis player.

"I had this beautiful balance of parents that supported me and wanted me to pursue athletics," said Mrs. Pavicic, who attended kindergarten through her senior year at Ottawa Hills Local Schools. "But they never pushed me in that direction. They just naturally led me there."

"My dad would take me to the Elementary School and put me on a line on the playground pavement," she recalled. "And he would say 'Ready. Set. Go!' and we would race each other. And I loved it."

The biggest influence in her athletic career came from Junior/Senior High English teacher John Brashear, who also coached the co-ed track and field team.

"The love I have for John runs so deep. He was such an influential person in my life," she said. "He saw potential in me even as a Junior High athlete. He is the one

that pushed me into the hurdles. He knew I had the work ethic and the natural talent of speed. He believed he could hone the 'skill' part of hurdles through coaching."

Together, they chose the 300-meter hurdles as her signature event, an event that requires a combination of speed, endurance, and skill.

They achieved success in 1994 and 1995, as she finished third as a freshman and sixth as a sophomore at States. But as her junior year began, she was diagnosed with a lumbar stress fracture. She spent most of that year in a back brace even while competing during the fall field hockey season.

"My ability to practice and train was very limited," she said. "I didn't race 300 meters that year until it was time to prepare for the Districts. Coach Brashear knew how to train me to avoid all of the pounding that comes with hurdles. He got me prepared even though I was injured. That year took a lot of mental toughness."

She cruised through Districts and Regionals, winning both titles without losing a heat. She won her State heats, too. "I was pretty confident going into the final race, feeling it was mine to lose," she said. As she cleared the eighth and final hurdle at Ohio Stadium (both her titles came inside the OSU "Horseshoe"), she saw no one nearby. Victory was hers by a comfortable .7 seconds.

Retaining her Division III title was more challenging. "In my junior year, I hadn't been running the hurdles until Districts. So I was more off the radar," she said. "In my senior year, everyone knew who I was. I had a target on my back. I was the one to beat and I felt much more pressure."

She again breezed through Districts, Regionals, and the early heats at States. But the competition was greater, and the race was closer; she won by only .06 seconds. "It was very emotional in a different way," she said. "It was literally the last thing I was doing as a student. That race was the culmination of all four years of athletics at a high school that I loved."



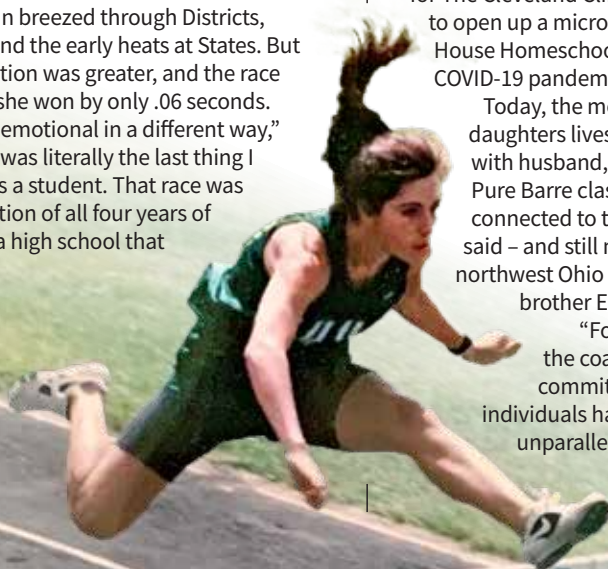
She eventually earned 12 varsity letters: four in track and field, four in field hockey, three in basketball, and one for varsity cheerleading in her senior year. Her number of state championships could have been even greater as the field hockey team returned to the state semifinals for three consecutive years (1994-1996) but was unable to return to the championship game.

While some colleges expressed interest in her as a track athlete, she ultimately accepted an offer from Northwestern University where she played four years of Big 10 field hockey. "As much as I loved track and field, I loved the team aspect of field hockey. It was as much a passion as getting into the starting blocks," she said. She was named the female "Freshman of the Year" – an honor bestowed upon just one athlete among all the university's female varsity sports. She also was named All-Academic Big 10 for four consecutive years and Second Team Big 10 in her senior year.

After graduating from Northwestern in 2001, her athletic interests shifted to competitive distance running. She joined an amateur racing team in the Chicago area; she eventually raced in 17 marathons over the next five years. Her best time was 3 hours, 4 minutes. She also coached a junior high track and field team for three years and worked as a pediatric occupational therapist for The Cleveland Clinic before leaving there to open up a micro school called Hope House Homeschool in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, the mother of three young daughters lives in suburban Cleveland with husband, Edward. She teaches Pure Barre classes – "I've stayed connected to the fitness world," she said – and still makes regular visits to northwest Ohio to visit her parents and brother Eric ('99).

"For such a small school, the coaching talent and commitment that those individuals had for their athletes is unparalleled," she said. "Part of my success was due to really good coaches."



About the Distinguished Alumni Award:

Established in 2017, the Award recognizes former students who have made a meaningful contribution to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills. The award recognizes alumni who have made significant accomplishments in these areas while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character: an outstanding leader in his or her field; service to his or her community and humanity through local, state, national, or international organizations; and/or demonstrated exemplary accomplishments in the arts, education, government, science, business, or public service.



About the Athletic Hall of Fame:

Established in 2019, the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was created to honor the outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of the district's athletic programs. It recognizes individuals who have made exceptional and extraordinary contributions to the OH athletic program; had outstanding statistical achievement in an individual sport or sports; and/or conducted themselves in such a way as to reflect honor on the school and must have exhibited those qualities of character and standards of conduct consistent with their status as a role model to the community.

Friday, Sept. 10 Ceremony:

All three honorees profiled here will be invited to the dinner induction ceremonies Friday, Sept. 10. Also invited will be the six recipients of awards from last year, whose induction ceremonies were canceled due to COVID-19 precautions. The activities include half-time recognition on the football field at that night's varsity football game. With the introduction of Mrs. Pavicic and Mr. Roadhouse, the Athletic Hall of Fame now has eight members.

WATER WIZARD

Roadhouse ('62) earned first (and so far only) swimming title

David Roadhouse ('62) earned his state swimming title without fanfare – or even teammates. As the only member of the OH swimming “team” that year, he even needed to find his own school representative to join him at the state finals in Columbus at the Ohio State University Natatorium.

“Coach (Norm) Niedermeier accompanied me for both of my trips to the state swim meet. He was my designated coach,” Mr. Roadhouse recalled of his sophomore biology teacher. “He still loves to tell that story.”

Mr. Roadhouse’s first-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly in 1962 has earned him acceptance into the Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the 2021 Class of inductees.

And except for two-tenths of a second difference at the 1961 finals in the same event, his title may have been a repeat. (He won the district qualifying events in that event both years.) His senior year performance was remarkable considering he spent a month in bed the previous summer after a pole-vaulting injury while on the high school track team.

Mr. Roadhouse’s love of swimming began at the Sylvania Country Club in Sylvania, where his family was a member. He would go on to compete for the Toledo YMCA and the Glass City Aquatic Club and at Amateur Athletic Union events throughout his young life. But as a teenager, he

wanted to face the best.

“I wanted to compete at the highest level possible, which is how I came to compete at the high school level even though I didn’t have a pool, a team, or a coach,” he said. “It was very thrilling, and I was so happy to have done that for Ottawa Hills and to have competed against other high school swimmers.”

(In order to compete as a high school swimmer at Districts and States, he needed a representative of the school present with him. Without a coach to bring, that’s where Mr. Niedermeier stepped into the picture.)

Mr. Roadhouse’s solo achievement is untouched, as he remains the only Ottawa Hills athlete to ever win a state swimming title. He also was the first athlete ever honored with a varsity letter for swimming. (He was president of the Varsity Club his senior year – a club reserved for those who have earned varsity letters.)

“At graduation, I was given three awards – one for athletics, one for service, and one for leadership. And as I moved on from Ottawa Hills, it was those three values that I took with me – the value of physical fitness, the value of service, the value of leadership,” he said. “I carried those character traits with me and always aspired to exemplify them.”

He continued swimming competitively at the University of Michigan. As a sophomore in 1964, he finished sixth at the Big 10 Championship in the 200-yard butterfly – the only sophomore in the finals. The top three finishers of that race were later members of the U.S. team at the 1964 Summer Olympics.

After earning degrees from U-M (in religious studies) and Princeton



David Ross Roadhouse

Theological Seminary (a master’s of divinity degree), he became an ordained Presbyterian minister. After a few years working as a chaplain and psychotherapist in the Chicago area, he became interested in the teaching of enlightenment and eventually became a Buddhist. He established and still runs a private psychotherapy practice, which celebrates 50 years of operation this year.

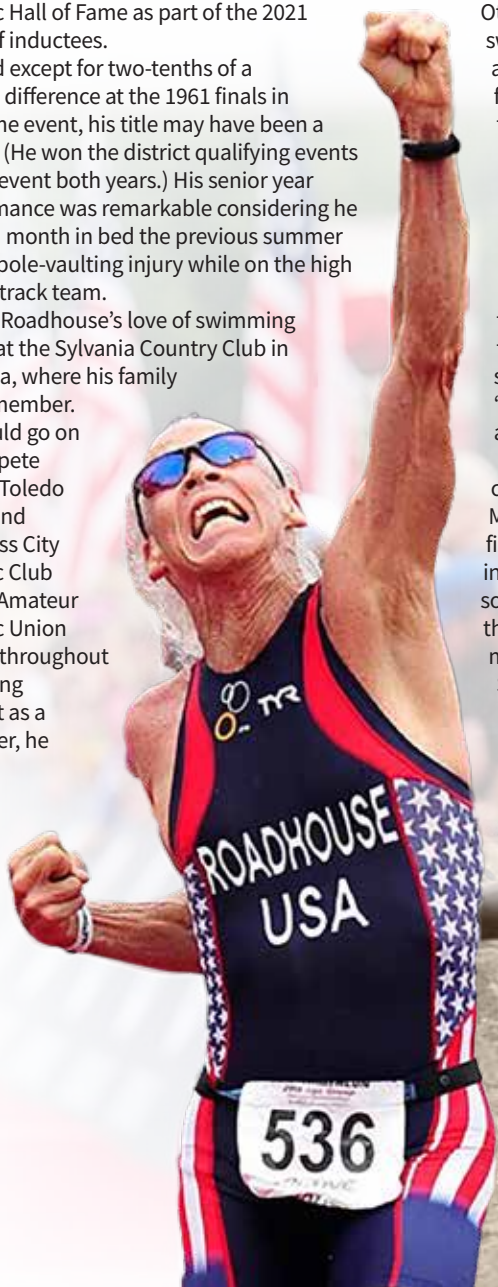
Sometime in the early 1980s, he started running marathons. An injury forced him into aquatic rehab, where he rediscovered his love for swimming.

“I thought there was something to this idea of cross training,” said Mr. Roadhouse, now 76. “So I bought a bike and started training on it and then slowly got back into running.”

He entered his first triathlon in 1986. Over the course of the next 35 years, he would enter more than 100 triathlons. In addition to numerous U.S. titles for his age group, he has held four world triathlon titles under the auspices of the International Triathlon Union: two for the 60-64 age group (won back to back in 2005-2006) and two for the 65-69 group (won back to back in 2009-2010). A triathlon requires a competitor to complete a 1,500-meter swim (about a mile); a 40-kilometer bike ride (about 25 miles); and a 10-kilometer run (about 6.2 miles).

He retired last year from competition but still takes three-mile daily walks. He and wife Ota have been married for 50 years and live in suburban Chicago near Lake Michigan.

“I’m enjoying it immensely,” he said of the new pace of life. “For the first time in over 30 years, I can actually enjoy the environment and nature rather than it whizzing by me.”



MEDICINE MAN

From autopsies to deliveries, Dr. Glow ('55) has seen it all

Reading the resume of Dr. David E. Glow ('55) is like studying the history of medicine in the 20th century. He has done everything a medical provider could do, from delivering babies and conducting autopsies to working in emergency rooms and helping older patients die gracefully. And he's worked at U.S. military bases, Indian reservations, sanitariums, universities – even a one-doctor office he built himself.

His success over that 55-year career is a direct result of the education he received at Ottawa Hills High School. "I don't remember a lot of names of my college or medical school professors. But I remember every name of my high school teachers and how they taught me to study and appreciate education," said Dr. Glow, 84. "I am just so grateful."

"They were great teachers, but they were also human beings. You could talk to them. It was just an unbelievable experience. They taught me how to learn, how to study, and how to apply myself," he added, noting that many classmates remain among his best friends in life. "Before Ottawa Hills, all my teachers were nuns at the Catholic school. So it was quite a change."

For his contributions to the medical field and lifelong service, Dr. Glow was nominated for this year's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Glow was born and raised in Toledo; his parents were Dr. Edmond and Naomi Glow. (His father was a general practitioner who practiced in Toledo's North End.) He attended parochial schools through 8th grade before entering Ottawa Hills. Graduating from Ottawa Hills High School would become a family affair, as his four younger siblings – Tom ('57), Michael ('60), Karen ('63), and Elaine ('66) – all followed him.

In high school, he played football, basketball, baseball, and ran track. He was the starting quarterback his junior year for the Arrows and was named Second Team All Maumee Valley League. But too many concussions forced him to stop playing. In fact, his father would not let him play basketball unless he wore a boxer's helmet to protect

himself from further injuries.

"That posed a lot of heckling from the opposition, needless to say," Dr. Glow added.

He graduated magna cum laude in 1959 from the University of Notre Dame and then entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and joined the U.S. Naval Reserves. "I did really well at Notre Dame and the reason was because of the teachers and coaches I had at Ottawa Hills," said Dr. Glow.

By the time he graduated from medical school in 1963, he was married and had four children. He completed a rotating internship at what was then called Maumee Valley Hospital, a facility owned and operated by Lucas County. The military then assigned him to a hospital at the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

in Winterhaven, Calif. He provided care for members of the Quechan, Papago, and Navajo nations. He was the facility's only medical doctor and also ran its outpatient clinic.

"I had a terrific rotating internship at Maumee Valley and I worked separately in hospitals all through medical school because I had a family to support," Dr. Glow recalled. "So I had a lot of experience. I wasn't totally green."

A year later, he was assigned to a reservation hospital near Clinton, Okla., where he took

care of the Arapaho and Cheyenne nations. He returned to Maumee Valley Hospital for an internship, including serving patients in the adjacent sanitarium and tuberculosis hospitals. "I liked all of medicine. I didn't just like the surgery part," he said. "I was inherently a family physician. I liked to take care of families and kids, men and women, everybody."

A local doctor colleague from Sierra Vista, Ariz., mentioned that the town was short on doctors. "After my internship, I packed up my station wagon and, in the first part of July, we drove through the desert. It was culture and climate shock all together," he said. "But I really loved it. It was great." Arizona would become his adopted home, and is where he and wife Gigi now live in retirement.



In Sierra Vista, he opened his own practice and mentored medical students from the University of Arizona Medical Center. About four years later, his father moved West and joined the practice, which became the largest in Cochise County. "I would do surgeries and provide anesthesia services to other doctors at Sierra Vista Community Hospital. I delivered babies and did my own internal medicine and pediatrics," Dr. Glow said. "I got to practice a full, big range of medicine and I was in seventh heaven. I never had an unlisted number so it was a day-and-night thing."

While in Sierra Vista, he co-founded a child abuse center and served on its board of directors and as medical director. He also served as the medical director for the city's domestic violence shelter. As if he wasn't busy enough, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors appointed him as county coroner. "We didn't have a morgue so I had to do the autopsies in the funeral home," he said. "We didn't have an ambulance so we had to use the hearse from the funeral home as our ambulance."

To augment his income during this time (he then had four children and a wife in college), he started working shifts in emergency rooms, first in Sierra Vista and later in Tucson, Ariz. He later passed his emergency medicine board certification, which led to an offer to become the emergency room director and base state director at Yuma Regional Medical Center in Yuma, Ariz. "It was really jumping. There was no place to go to the doctor from San Diego in one direction to Phoenix in the other," he said.

Seeking cooler weather, he and his wife within a few years moved to Payson, Ariz., where he worked as a senior emergency department physician. He also became active in serving the community's hospice and nursing home patients, which ultimately led him to earn his third medical board certification (in hospice and palliative care).

"I went from taking care of live people ... to coroner ... to taking care of dying people," Dr. Glow said. "I've had to change my thinking from a curative to palliative approach and was able to do so in large part because of the educational foundation I received at Ottawa Hills."



Beach Boys

OH baseball hits home run with Spring Break tradition



As the 1984 baseball practice season started, many OH athletes went on Spring Break vacations with families. But those who did were kept out of the starting lineup for every day they were away from teammates who stayed home to practice. The result: an 0-9 start to the season.

Head Coach Chris Hardman, who inflicted the punishment, learned his lesson. In 1985, he forgot about baseball for a while himself and went on Spring Break – a family trip to Florida. The result: another 0-9 start to the season.

“The lesson I learned is you can’t take 10 days off from baseball and be effective,” Coach Hardman said. “By the fall of 1985, we had had two disastrous starts. I said to the parents, ‘We’ve got to do something different. Let’s combine baseball and Spring Break. There’s got to be a way to do it.’”

Well, turns out there was. And for 33 of the past 36 years, members of the OH baseball program and their families have been going to Sarasota over Spring Break. It’s become a treasured memory for many alumni, including Rod Cooper (’88). He and twin brother Matt (’88) were part of the inaugural Sarasota group in March 1986.

“We were a pretty tight group, and we thought it was going to be fun,” said



Mr. Cooper. “The whole novelty of the idea appealed to us: going to Florida, staying across the street from the beach. And we got to play baseball four hours a day.”

Mr. Cooper’s father, Cary, played an important role as both an advocate for and organizer of the trip. In fact, Sarasota became the base of operations for the annual trips because the principal of Sarasota High School was a fraternity

brother of Mr. Cooper’s at Ohio University.

That initial group of 13 players returned to Ottawa Hills and a few months later, won the state Class A championship. It’s the program’s first – and so far only – state title.

“We already enjoyed playing baseball, but it helped with the camaraderie of the group. It made us closer,” said Mr. Cooper, a Village resident whose children Alex (grade 6) and Zoe (grade 10) go to Ottawa Hills Local Schools. “We played good teams down there. I’m sure we got mauled every time.”

“Everybody thought there was something magical about the trip,” Coach Hardman said. “Believe me, we weren’t really that good. But it was a special group of parents and kids, and some magical things happened in order for us to go on and win the title.”

The tradition is now well established and drawing larger crowds every year. Siblings and grandparents are more abundant than ever; everyone who comes is invited to the annual oceanside potluck. This year marked the first that every eligible athlete on the junior varsity and varsity squads made the trip.

Once the athletes arrive, they pretty much follow the same daily schedule



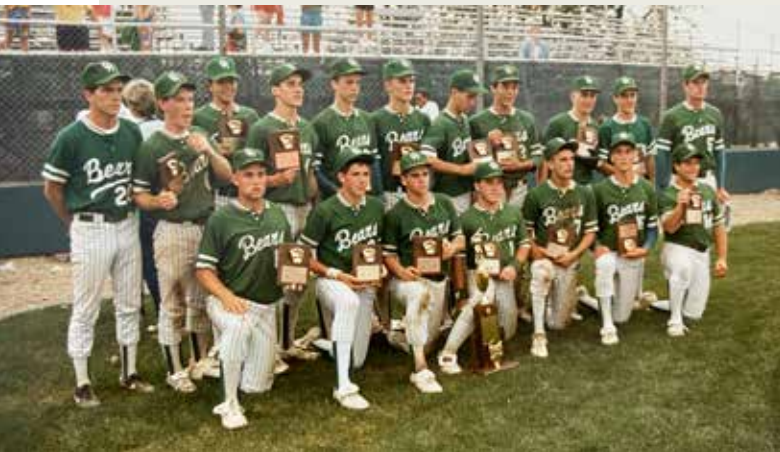
Top: Players on the 1986 state championship team celebrate their final victory. Here, the 2021 Green Bear baseball team gathers with siblings on a beach in Sarasota during Spring Break.

established decades ago: morning warm-ups followed by scrimmages or games and then afternoon family and peer activities. In the past, OH teams have played on fields shared with the Cincinnati Reds and Chicago White Sox during spring training. The day concludes with everyone gathered on Lido Beach for evening remarks from Coach Hardman.

With just three exceptions, the teams have returned to Sarasota every year. The 1989 trip was not scheduled because Coach Hardman then thought the trip should be biennial in hopes of making it more special. "By 1990, there was a clamoring to go back," he said. The second occurred in 1996, when he canceled the trip as punishment for violations that took place during the 1995 trip. And the third was in 2020, when COVID-19 made travel impossible.

"The best thing about Sarasota has nothing to do with baseball. My thrills come from watching the kids have fun and come together," Coach Hardman said. "Or sitting with them at 10:30 out on the beach under the stars, being able to talk to them. The real value of the trip is in those kinds of experiences."

"We can continue to go as long as families want to go," Coach Hardman said. "I hope we can continue it because I've seen the many, many benefits that come from it."



A group of Green (polar?) Bears took to Montana recently for winter adventure and reminiscing. Hitting the slopes in Whitefish were (from left) Craig Niehous ('79), Granger Souder ('78), Greg Hancock ('79), Steve Jenks ('77), Jeff Hancock ('77), and Peter Kaplin (friend and former Villager). (Joining the crew but not pictured was Bruce Friedman ('77).) It was an OH traffic jam on the mountain top, as the group ran into alumni Ben Bogart ('14) and Ben Silverman ('14).

Good food, good friends

Reliving the early 1960s at a recent meal in Toledo at The Beirut restaurant were (from left) Richard Cohen ('61), Gretta (Fleck) Laskey ('63), Doug Smith ('61), and Jim Medeill ('61). The group has stayed in touch over the decades.



The Roberts family and friends shared a meal in April to celebrate a birthday. Enjoying the festivities were (left to right) Jim Roberts ('74), Mary Roberts ('77), Fred Roberts ('79), guest of honor Jim Roberts, Kirk Rudolph ('79), and Nancie Entenmann ('52).



TREASURE HUNT LOCATION

The image shows a section of the cornerstone of the Elementary School, which was laid in 1930. The building was dedicated Nov. 7, 1930, when it began serving students in Kindergarten through 9th Grade.



Bachelorette besties

Bride-to-be Morgan Buckey ('06, third from left) celebrated her May wedding (to Steve Walch) with bachelorette activities that featured Andie Putnam, cousin and bridesmaid Kate Buckey (also a 2006 grad), and Mallory Babel.

Class of 1996 celebrates the Big 2-5!



We were dancing the Macarena, watching "Frasier," and cheering on the U.S. team at the Summer Olympics. The year, of course, was 1996. The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is happy to welcome back alumni from that graduating class Sept. 2

as they celebrate their 25-year reunion. **Are you planning a reunion or just getting together with fellow alumni for a meal? Send the details to Erica Silk in the Alumni Office at esilk@ohschools.org.**

MEMORIAMs

Richard Chester Glowacki ('50) died in April in Naples, Fla. He was very active in Northwest Ohio civic and business circles, including elected service on the Ohio Board of Education and appointed service as chairman of the University of Toledo Board of Trustees. In 1954, he bought the Danberry Insurance Co.; in 1962, he founded Danberry as a real estate company, according to his obituary in *The Blade*.

Charles "Chuck" Edward Racine ('55) died in December 2020. He was an active-duty member of the U.S. Air Force stationed in France and later became a Toledo-based lawyer.

Gary E. Schnitker ('61) passed away in June 2020.

Chris Mann, an AFS student who attended Ottawa Hills High School during the 1966-1967 school year, died in March. He was a poet and university professor known throughout his native home of South Africa. He was a founder of and songwriter for the band Zabalaza, which performed in both English and isiZulu (a language native to that nation).

Frederick M. Lumm ('76) passed away April 6. He earned varsity letters in golf and football and was on the football team that went to the state semifinals.

Tyler Thompson ('07) passed away unexpectedly April 24. He was the administrator for the Village of Georgetown, Ohio. (His mother Alta Richter is the head librarian at the Junior/Senior High School; father Marc was for many years the Village administrator for Ottawa Hills).



Racine



Thompson

If you know of an alumnus who has passed away recently, please let us know. These memoriams are appreciated by fellow former students.



Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43066

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UPCOMING EVENTS



August

Tuesday
17

First day of instruction!

Friday
20

Annual OH Boosters
Pigskin BBQ
5-7 p.m.
Junior/Senior High School



For up-to-the-minute changes, visit ohschools.org to view the district's events calendar. As the Village and state emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, event days and times may change.

September

Friday
10

Distinguished Alumni
and Athletic Hall of Fame
induction ceremonies



Saturday
25

16th Annual Fall Festival &
Marketplace
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Geresy Field



October

Friday
1

Annual Village Life
Parade
Homecoming
Football game



Saturday
2

Homecoming Dance

Sunday
17

Fall Collage Concert

