

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

AROUND these HILLS

SPRING 2022



**THE
FOUNDRY**
YOUR LEGACY IGNITED

Igniting Legacies

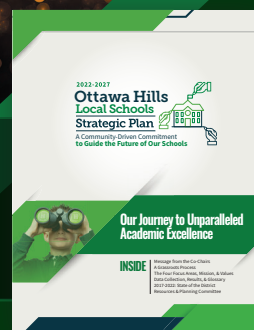
Community-led Design Team
shapes The Foundry's future

Inside this issue:

Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign hits next gear

Project Rafiki connects Ohio, Kenya

Presenting the
new 2022-2027
Strategic Plan





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 inspire, challenge, and support each student to realize their unique and full potential; to embrace the joy of learning as a lifelong process; and to become an empathetic, responsible citizen.

CONTACT: Ottawa Hills Local Schools
3600 Indian Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43006
ohschools.org | 419-536-6371

EDITOR: Kevin Merrill



ohschools



ohschools



OTTAWA HILLS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig ('93), president; Dee Talmage, secretary; Scott Estes, treasurer

TRUSTEES: R. L. Berry ('76), Dr. Adam Fineske, Maara Fink, Rob Gnepper ('91), Jennifer Griffin, Austin Irving ('02), George Lathrop, Mike McCullough ('93), Ben McMurray, Phillip Mintun, John Roemer ('99), Judd Silverman ('74), Mark Wagoner ('90)

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.

CONTACT: Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation
3600 Indian Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43006
ohschoolsfoundation.org | 419-214-4838



ohsfoundation



ohsfoundation



Community groups, alumni are seeing The Foundry firsthand via tours.

DISTRICT LETTER

2022: Here's to new beginnings

Even though 2022 is two months old, it's still an appropriate time to reflect on the year's excitement and possibilities. My biggest hope is for a return to "normalcy" after two years of COVID-19 uncertainty. Our district has proven itself adept at collecting data and trends and making policy adjustments. But the pandemic remains a major distraction from our prime mission: educating and supporting students.

I had similar hopes at the start of 2021 when the vaccine appeared imminent and masking and social distancing allowed us to deliver in-person instruction every day. Can there be a bigger collective resolution this year than to turn the page on COVID-19?

Despite that looming challenge, I believe 2022 will be the most positive year in recent district history. Here's why:

Launching of the Strategic Plan: The 2022-2027 plan was so well conceived and constructed that its success seems a foregone conclusion. But achieving that success requires both hard work and teamwork. The four Focus Areas, which emerged from our grassroots process, will be the compass points guiding our way over the next 60 months. It's a great plan for a great district. (Read for yourself starting on page 13)

Opening of The Foundry: The community-led Design Team (our cover story!) is putting the final touches on everything from future programs to furniture layout. The transformation of the former interior courtyard and adjacent classrooms has been miraculous. In my opinion, The Foundry's opening in August will be the most significant academic event in district history. And it would not have happened without support from Villagers and alumni, including those who have and continue to give to the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign.

There is another significant event planned this fall: Agora at the Junior/Senior High School. This biennial week of explorations outside the classroom last occurred in November 2018. It's the one OH tradition I have yet to experience since becoming superintendent. I know planners are busy working out the details. Fingers crossed.

Across the Village and within our district, my hope is that 2022 is remembered as one of the best years of our lives.

Go Green Bears!



Adam Fineske

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske
afineske@ohschools.org



AdamFineske



fineskeadam



9

PROJECT RAFIKI CONNECTING VILLAGES IN OHIO, KENYA

Inspired by time in a service-learning project as tutors and ambassadors, OH students are raising \$40,000 to fix classrooms and buy uniforms for their former students in Kenya.



13

PRESENTING THE NEW 2022-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

The district's five-year future is now being guided by four Focus Areas in a new Strategic Plan, adopted in February and produced by a community-led team of parents and other Villagers.



32

SUPPORTING YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND THEIR PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

A Foundation grant is helping three students with the equipment they need to conduct science projects while working with experts from the University of Toledo.

DEPARTMENTS

AROUND
these HILLS

- 2 District Letter
- 4 Campus News

- 5 Art Gallery
- 10 Sports

- 30 Foundation News
- 34 Alumni News
- 36 Calendar

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 three 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 43606

On the cover

Guided by a 43-member Design Team of parents and other Villagers, The Foundry is evolving into more than a one-stop location for students' academic and social-emotional support. The months-long process that is shaping the space is emerging as the blueprint for future projects to tap into community expertise and passions. **See story on page 27.**



The Shows Must Go On!

The 2021-2022 theater season is off to a great start, thanks to two well-performed and well-received musicals. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" wowed audiences in early December. "Shrek Jr. The Musical," which featured more than 100 students in grades 4-9, did the same in mid-February. The shows were milestones not only in the quality of their productions, but in marking the first time since spring 2020 that capacity seating was allowed. Next up: "Guys and Dolls" April 1-3. Stay tuned for ticketing information.

Elementary School gains needed space

The Elementary School will gain new space for classrooms and intervention services with the summer move of the district's administrative offices.

The Board of Education in December gave the go-ahead for the district to pursue a lease agreement in order to move offices into The Village Green, a commercial office building located in the Village at 4035 W. Central Ave.

Elementary School enrollment has risen steadily in recent years, from 455 K-6 students in 2015 to 521 this year. During the rest of this school year, Principal Jeremy Bauer and the building's faculty and staff will review options on how to best use the new additional space.

The district offices moving are Superintendent, Treasurer, Student Services, Curriculum and Instruction, and Communications. All but Communications are currently housed in the lower level of the library addition, which opened in 1998. In all, nine employees are relocating.

Entry to the new Central Avenue offices for parents, guardians, and other visitors will be in the back of the building, which is where the parking spaces are located. The Village Green building is owned and managed by Hardale Properties, LLC.



From left: Corey Hupp, Maara Fink, Rob Gnepper, Adam Smidi, and Kathy Lathrop

Voters return board

Village voters returned all five incumbent board members at November's election. Because of resignations, the election was a first in district history: all five positions were open at the same time. Usually only two or three positions are open, depending upon the year. At its organizational meeting in January, members re-elected Mr. Gnepper as president and Ms. Fink as vice president.

District reaches new milestone against COVID-19

Ottawa Hills Local Schools entered 2022 on a positive note regarding its two-year co-existence with COVID-19. As the number of weekly positive cases declined, masking became optional in both buildings (although still strongly recommended).

While optional masking had been available at the Junior/Senior High at different times this school year, the new policy marks the first time it was extended to both buildings since the pandemic started.

"That is a significant milestone. For the first time since March 2020, all of our students, teachers, and staff can enter our buildings without being required to wear a mask," said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske. "It seems like forever ago that this was, in fact, the norm."

The district continues to constantly track cases and report findings weekly to parents and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. The new policy could be changed if positive cases spike. But for now, the change is a welcome sign.



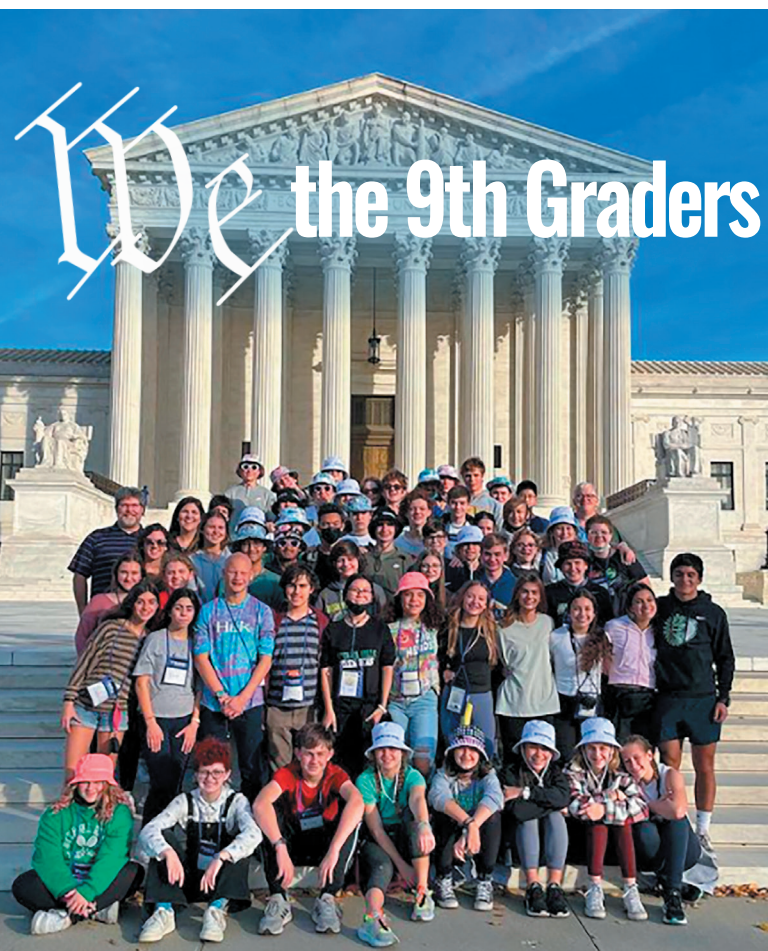
For more on the district's COVID-19 policies and tracking data, visit ohschools.org/COVID



ART GALLERY

Animal Kingdom

As part of a recent monthlong unit in ceramics, Elementary School students learned to make a unique creation from wet clay, fire it in a kiln, and then glaze and refire the artwork. Each grade created items by theme, from coiled pots and ionic columns to swans and mugs. The inspiration for 2nd Grade students: animals. They first rolled and molded a slab of wet clay and then added texture and details. The assignment introduced techniques such as scoring, wedging, coiling, and glazing. For days, the art room was overrun with rhinos, elephants, unicorns, dogs, cats, and even dinosaurs. Oh my!



We the 9th Graders of the United States...



Perseverance paid off in November for members of the Class of 2025, who finally were able to take their 8th Grade trip to Washington, D.C., albeit a few months into their freshmen year. The students were soaking in history and enjoying each other's company while visiting many of the capital's most important landmarks.

NEWSMAKERS

Two seniors earn perfect ACT scores

Congratulations to seniors Mubashshir Bhuiyan and Warren Goik for achieving perfect scores on the ACT standardized test.

Each received a score of 36. Based upon a recent analysis of scores, less than one-third of 1 percent of U.S. students earn a perfect score. The average national composite score in 2020 was 20.6.



8th Grader wins four photography awards

Congratulations to 8th Grader Jayden Kang who participated in the Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Nature Photography contest as part of his quarterly participation project in Paul Genzman's science class. To celebrate National Wildlife Refuges, the Refuge invited photographers to enter its 22nd Annual Nature Photography Contest. All photos must have been captured on federally managed public lands. Jayden had four top awards: Birds (2nd place), Landscape and Plants (1st place), People Enjoying Nature (1st place), and Wildlife Other than Birds (3rd place).

Students win big at state chess tournament

Two OH students won individual state titles in Cincinnati at the 2021 Ohio Grade Level Chess Championship. Sophomore Michael Lin went 5-0 to win first for all 10th graders in Ohio. Rohan Padhye also went 5-0 to win first for all 8th Graders. Ottawa Hills took home the 3rd-place team trophy for 8th Grade. Along with Rohan's perfect record, teammate Jeremiah Leeds went 2-3 to help secure the trophy.



Six Choraliers join elite regional choir

Six OH Choraliers joined an elite group of singers to perform a concert with peers from across the region. The students were selected for the Honors Choir, organized annually by the Ohio Music Education Association (District 1). The students are seniors Basil Frueh, Ava Morgan (alternate), Avril Niemann, and Anil Ravani; and juniors Ellie Evans and Anna Frey. More than 260 high school students from northwest Ohio auditioned. The Honor Choir performed Jan. 30 at the Stranahan Theater for the Honors Festival.

Artist's work a finalist in contest

Junior Maria Williams's artistic interpretation of a toilet was a finalist in a local contest by Waterhouse Bath & Kitchen Studio as part of the United Nations' World Toilet Day in November. The event draws awareness to the billions who do not have access to daily clean sanitation. Maria competed against students from the fine arts program at the University of Toledo and Perrysburg High School.



Students' writing earns regional honors

Seniors Basil Frueh and Natalie Timmerman and 8th Grader Emily Timmerman were honored by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program. Students from the Northeast Indiana/Northwest Ohio region (covering 41 counties) submitted more than 800 works. Of those, 270 received either a Gold Key, Silver Key, or Honorable Mention. For a second consecutive year, Natalie was selected as the region's "American Voices Nominee" for "M. Test," one of her submissions in the personal essay and memoir category.

From left: Ellie Evans, Basil Frueh, Anna Frey, Anil Ravani, Ava Morgan, and Avril Niemann.

Principal Hollie sits in the big chair for a morning

4th Grader Nathaniel Hollie served as "OHES Principal for the Morning" at the Elementary School in January. His mother, UT Professor Dr. Dana Hollie, won the opportunity at last spring's fundraiser sponsored by the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association. Under the direction of Principal Jeremy Bauer, Nathaniel helped direct morning drop-off traffic, read the morning announcements, and passed out "Principal Pennies."



Student play to be presented on OH stage

Congratulations to senior Natalie Timmerman, whose horror-genre play "John Friendly" will be presented at the Junior/Senior High School around Memorial Day. It's the first time in 14 years that an OH student's play or musical is being brought to life by OH Theatre. Casting for the show (with between five and seven student actors) began in late February. Actual dates and times for the show are still being determined.



6th Graders equate math with fun

The 6th Grade MathCounts team competed in January at the University of Toledo. Pranathi Gundabolu had the fourth-highest score and Nathan Cai the seventh highest out of approximately 50 competitors in grades 6 through 8. Other OH 6th Graders at the event were Eleza Zaidi, Ruth Mezo, Sofia Elfituri, Shivani Pindiprolu, Audrey Kelm, Emily Chen, and Catelin Hawkins.



Celebrating Science



Students taking part in the "Extreme Chemistry Show" courtesy of staff from Imagination Station



Evelyn Sandretto (left) and Emily Chen conducted experiments examining voltage and vegetable-powered batteries.

Students in 6th Grade presented 69 science projects during the annual Science Expo. Students wore matching T-shirts as they walked guests through their posterboards and demonstrations.

DATABANK

GREEN with envy

It might be the longest elementary school hallway in America (prove us wrong!). Affectionately known as "The Green Mile," it's the creation of three conjoined construction projects: The original 1939 building and expansions in 1955 and 1965. The result: a 10-foot-wide continuous expanse of green flooring. The landmark now has its own interior signage, too. How does our landmark measure against notable green competitors?

Jolly Green Giant



55.5
FEET



37.2
FEET



???
FEET

(See answer below)

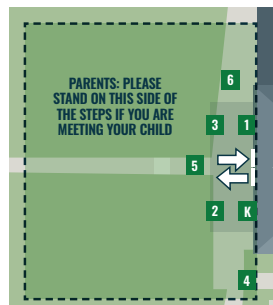
Goodbye Circle, hello Loading Den

To limit the number of doors used for entry and exit and to increase safety before and after school, the Elementary School reconfigured traffic flow around the building starting Nov. 30. For years, the "Circle" was the place where parents dropped off or picked up children. Now, that area has shifted to "The Loading Den," which is closer to Indian Road (see map). It's a concentrated, centralized location with plenty of staff to ensure traffic moves freely and kids get safely onto school properly. The lead conductor each morning and afternoon is Principal Jeremy Bauer, who can be found in a fluorescent vest and megaphone in hand. "We received a lot of feedback, and we've made changes to make it as efficient as possible," said Principal Bauer. "I'm grateful to everyone who did their part to make this change possible."



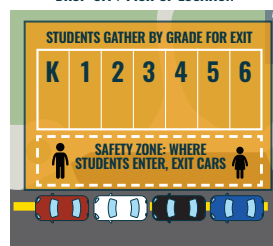
Green Bear Plaza

ALL STUDENTS ENTER IN / DISMISS FROM THE PILLARS ENTRANCE



The Loading Den

DROP-OFF / PICK-UP LOCATION



New Elementary School Drop-Off, Pick-Up Map



DATABANK Answer: The Green Mile is 472 feet!

Serving Others

Helping others is a central tenet of the student ethos at Ottawa Hills. Engagement beyond the classroom is also one of the four Focus Areas of the new 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. For generations, Green Bears have been raising money, collecting donated items, or getting their hands dirty to make the world a better place. Here are the latest examples:

Elementary School students raised money in January and February through a “coin challenge” to provide a group donation to All For Books. The charity is run by Scholastic Books, the same organization that partners twice a year with the Elementary School to present the Book Fair. Even though the fundraising week was shortened by two days because of the winter storm, students and their families were still able to raise \$1,630 from their pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

The Environmental (Eclipse) Club at the Junior/Senior High School spent a Saturday morning joining others around the world in cleaning local waterways. OH students

removed more than three full bags of garbage from the Ottawa River. Advisor and science teacher Paul Genzman worked with Partners for Clean Streams and consulted with Village manager John Wenzlick to identify an area of need on the river within the Village.

The Student Council at the Junior/Senior High School hosted a Book/School Supplies Drive in late October. The books were donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo.



Elementary School students and their families raised \$1,228 in late October for ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children's Hospital. The friendly fundraising competition pitted class vs. class and grade vs. grade. The top fundraiser: Jennifer Griffin's 6th Grade classroom. The money was donated to ProMedica's “When We Give Together, We Grow Together” campaign, which is raising

awareness of and support for the role of Ebeid Children's Hospital in serving children and families across northwest Ohio.

Youth to Youth and Challenge Crew organized efforts during Red Ribbon Week Oct. 25-29 to encourage fellow Junior/Senior High School students to take a visible stand against drugs. Using daily themes, the week raised awareness about drug use and encouraged everyone to adopt healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

When is a tie a great achievement? When the beneficiary is an area food bank. After a two-week contest, students in grades K-3 and 4-6 brought in the same number of items (1,392) during the Elementary School's Annual Canned Food Drive. The donated items were given to Toledo's Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality Kitchen. The 2,784 items broke last year's record of 2,635. Thank you to the Elementary School Student Council and Gráinne Kulka, 4th Grade teacher and council advisor, for another successful campaign. The following week, the National Honor Society and Volunteer Focus club at the Junior/Senior High School began their own canned and non-perishable food drive for Toledo's Food for Thought. It generated 1,012 pounds of items.



The boys' basketball program in February raised money for and awareness about pediatric cancer as part of its annual “Hoops for a Cure” fundraiser. This year's beneficiary was “Catching Up With Jack,” a local charity founded by the family of Jack Fineske, who died at a young age from brain cancer. The boys raised more than \$1,200 by selling T-shirts during the lunch hour and also raised money during a 50-50 raffle and halftime shooting contests.



TREASURE HUNT

How good is your Ottawa Hills IQ? Do you know what this image shows and where on campus it is located? (Answer on page 12)





PROJECT RAFIKI



OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO
NARO MORU, KENYA

**Project Rafiki
connects
villagers in
Kenya,
Ottawa Hills**

The Village of Naro Moru in central Kenya has been a summer home for OH students for nearly a decade. Our students join those from other U.S. high schools to serve two weeks as academic tutors and ambassadors.

Participation in the “Service Learning in Kenya” (SLIK) program has left a lasting impression on its 40-plus Green Bear alumni. To show that appreciation, they launched Project Rafiki this fall to raise \$40,000 to fully renovate six decrepit classrooms and provide school uniforms to as many 1,400 students. (Rafiki means “friend” in Swahili, one of the official languages of Kenya.)

“The rebuilt classrooms and uniforms will have a tremendous impact on these students,” said Fred Roberts (’79), who founded the program in 2005. “These students are hungry learners, but come from very poor villages where financial support for education is extremely limited.”

Mr. Roberts helped OH students identify the buildings needing repair and classrooms for the uniforms. So far, Project

Rafiki has raised more than \$38,000 toward its goal through appeals to family members, other Villagers, local businesses, and fellow students through a series of fundraisers. The project also was the featured charity at the Feb. 1 “Hoops for a Cause” fundraiser organized annually by the girls’ basketball program.

For senior Avery Dale, the desire to help came from the connections she formed with younger students. “I took part in SLIK because I wanted the opportunity to make a difference

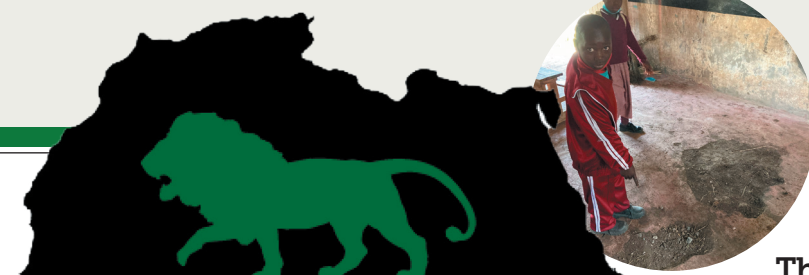
in students’ lives as well as to experience a new culture,” she said. “They changed my life and I want to give back to them.”

She remembers teaching algebra lessons to eager 5th Graders as well as afternoon tours of the countryside with fellow OH students. She also fondly recalls an unscripted cultural exchange moment when she taught students the “whip and nae nae” dance. “Their faces were filled with genuine smiles and laughter that I will never forget,” she said.

For junior Ella Berenzweig, helping to create Project Rafiki evolved from a bond formed with 9-year-old Sharon.

“She came to school in the same uniform—a Knott’s Berry Farm sweatshirt, gray gloves, and a red beanie. She never complained about the holes in the uniform or the ineffective nature of her gloves,” she said. “Instead, she showed me how to play the game of punt-the-ball and chase. She taught me native songs and dances. I may have been her teacher in the classroom, but she taught me more than I could ever teach her.”

To donate, visit hansenfoundationforedu.org/project-rafiki. Donation requests start at \$20, which provides a uniform for one student. A gift of \$400 provides uniforms for an entire class.



Follow the project on
Instagram at @projectrafiki/





Lindsay earns 400th win

Congratulations to John Lindsay for earning his 400th win as head coach of the boys' varsity basketball team. The milestone was reached Dec. 16 in a 51-16 defeat of the Delta Panthers. Appropriately, the achievement occurred on The John Lindsay Court, named in his honor in February 2019.

"I have been blessed to have the opportunity to coach tough, high-character student athletes at Ottawa Hills," said Mr. Lindsay, head coach for the last 26 years. "I've had incredible assistant coaches over the years—including Tim Reiser over the last 10—and unwavering support from a top-notch administration."

His first win came Dec. 1, 1995—a home victory in overtime against the Northwood Rangers, 76-67.

Mr. Lindsay was an OH volunteer assistant varsity coach in 1993-94. He joined the district in the fall of 1994 as a high school business teacher and coach of the junior varsity team. In 1995, he became head coach of the varsity team.

Since then, his teams have won nearly a dozen Toledo Area Athletic Conference titles, including this year, plus many additional Sectional, District, and Regional championships. His 2010 team made it to the State Semifinals.

"Regardless of wins, to have the opportunity to represent this school and this community has been a dream come true for me," Mr. Lindsay added.

Digital History

Kiosk puts OH highlights at your fingertips

A new interactive digital kiosk is allowing Villagers, alumni, and others to search and relive OH history. The OH Boosters provided the funding for the touch-screen platform, which went live in October. It took more than 18 months to find, verify, and enter the more recent historical sports achievements, from season-by-season team records to individual achievements at the local, state, and national level.

The board is in the main Junior/Senior High School hallway across from where concessions are sold. Users can enter a person's name manually or use built-in navigation guides. If you live out of the area, you can still view the data via the Internet. The link can be found at ohschools.org/sports. If you know of a team or individual fact that needs to be added or change, please contact Tammy Talmage, the athletic administrator, at ttalmage@ohschools.org.



Fall Classics

Teams enjoy unprecedented success

If you follow Green Bear sports, then you know this fall was very special. While every sport (with the exception of football) automatically qualifies to participate in state tournaments, at Ottawa Hills multiple teams advanced beyond the first round. That is a remarkable achievement. Several even went on to States; you can view those teams' send-off parades at ohschools.org/videos. Here is a recap of that special season:

- **Girls' cross country:** Individual female competing at States.
- **Boys' cross country:** Team finished 8th at States (Division III); made it to States for the first time in 40 years.
- **Field hockey:** Won first-round game at Regionals (Division I).
- **Football:** Made playoffs (16 teams qualified) for Division VI, Region 22.
- **Boys' golf:** Team finished 7th at States (Division III).
- **Girls' soccer:** Won two tournament games before losing in Districts (Division III).
- **Boys' soccer:** Won Sectionals, Regionals; advanced to State Semifinals (Division III).
- **Girls' tennis:** Two players won two matches each at Districts, advanced to Final 16 at States.
- **Volleyball:** Won first-round match, lost in second round.

Phil Beans ('09) joins TAAC Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Phil Beans ('09) for his induction into the Toledo Area Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. Mr. Beans was the star center of some of the more successful basketball teams in Ottawa Hills history.

At 6-foot-8, he was a dominating presence on the court. He served two years as captain and as a senior was named 2nd Team All-State by the Associated Press. He led the Green Bears to back-to-back TAAC co-championships and three straight Sectional titles. In addition, he was named 1st Team All-TAAC three times and 1st Team All-District 7 twice. In 2009, he was named TAAC Co-Player of the Year and District 7 Player of the Year.

After graduation, he played four years at Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

"You often don't realize the impact certain people or situations are having on you, especially while you are living in the moment," Mr. Beans said. "Then, many years later, you reflect and it hits you. You see how much you've taken from these people and how their relationships have impacted and shaped you into the person you are. Sitting with everyone that night at the awards ceremony, having storytime and feeling that impact, it was special."

After working in sales for seven years with ESPN and The Walt Disney Co., Mr. Beans started his own small business, Phil's Drills. His Chicago-based work helps kids gain confidence and ability through an all-sport coordination development

Athletes, coaches, administrators: OH well represented in HOF

Mr. Beans joins 17 other Hall of Fame inductees from Ottawa Hills. Representing coaches and administrators are **Chris Hardman** (baseball), **James McGill** (golf), **Norm Niedermeier** (football), and former athletic administrator **Tim Erickson**. Athlete inductees are **Christine Brennan** ('76), **Adam Brewer** ('88), **Kevin Crooks** ('92), **Todd Ferris** ('92), **Summer (Hardman) Vanni** ('95), **Bridget B. Kozy** ('99), **Justin Kruse** ('01), **Lauren Kruse** ('03), **Wendy Roberts** ('97), **Kim (Kos) Southall** ('93), **Adam Svala** ('96), **Paula Wagoner** ('94), and **Lee Ann Woodward** ('01). The TAAC established its Hall of Fame in 2000. Its located inside the Glass City Center.

program, ultimately looking to combat youth sedentary lifestyles. He's also a partner at JKLA Renters, which provides captive reinsurance solutions to property-management companies with more than 5,000 units.

"My goal is to make everyone feel good about growing their ability, ultimately achieving what is called 'physical literacy,' which is the ability, confidence, and desire to lead an active life," Mr. Beans said. "I'm still working out models to scale my business, but I'm loving the journey."



Cimone Reid ('11) named head coach at Penn State-Shenango

Congratulations to Cimone Reid ('11) for being named head coach of the women's basketball team at Penn State Shenango. Ms. Reid was a standout athlete on the Green Bear basketball team under Coach Sean Mercer, where she was named 1st Team All-TAAC and 2nd Team All-District.

"I am extremely appreciative of this opportunity to further my coaching career

at the collegiate level," she said. "I had a wonderful experience playing basketball for Ottawa Hills under a great coach, Sean Mercer. I hope to continue learning and growing in the coaching world."

She played collegiately at Thiel College, where she was team captain and one of its top scorers. She previously coached at Sharon Senior High School, which like Penn State Shenango, is in Sharon, Pa. Penn State Shenango competes as part of the Penn State University Athletic Conference, which represents the 14 commonwealth campuses of Pennsylvania State University.

BEAR NECESSITIES

A stitch (back) in time



Meet the newest piece of vintage apparel at the OH Boosters-run Bear Cave: hand-sewn OHHS cotton sweatshirts. The style is reminiscent of those worn by students in the 1980s and 1990s. They come in gray or white for \$65 each. The Cave (at the Junior/Senior High School) is open during the school year every Friday from 3-4 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 9-11 a.m. The Cub Cave (at the Elementary School) is open on the first Friday of the month from 3-4 p.m.



SPORTSBRIEFS

49 athletes, 3 coaches earn fall TAAC honors

Congratulations to the 49 Green Bear athletes who made All-Toledo Area Athletic Conference teams or Honorable Mentions during the fall season. In addition, four athletes earned "Player of the Year" honors: senior Will Berschback (boys' soccer); senior Meredith Greeley (girls' soccer); sophomore JoAnna Kelley (girls' cross country); and sophomore Riley Nixon (boys' cross country). Kudos also to our three coaches who earned TAAC "Coach of the Year" honors: Jessica Kozy (girls' soccer), Brian Hanudel (boys' soccer), and Tyler Fairchild (co-ed cross country). See the full list of honorees at ohschools.org/sports

Wanted: Bigger trophy case

Green Bear teams won nine Toledo Area Conference titles this fall. Landing on top were: boys' golf, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, boys' cross country, girls' cross country, Junior High girls' cross country, Junior High boys' cross country, 7th Grade volleyball, and 8th Grade volleyball. As *Around These Hills* was going to press, four basketball programs added winter titles: 7th Grade girls, 8th Grade girls, 8th Grade boys, and varsity boys.



The image shows one of three original fire-alert pull handles (one on each floor) in the Elementary School, which opened in 1930. Four quick downward thrusts generated the four alarm bells indicating fire.

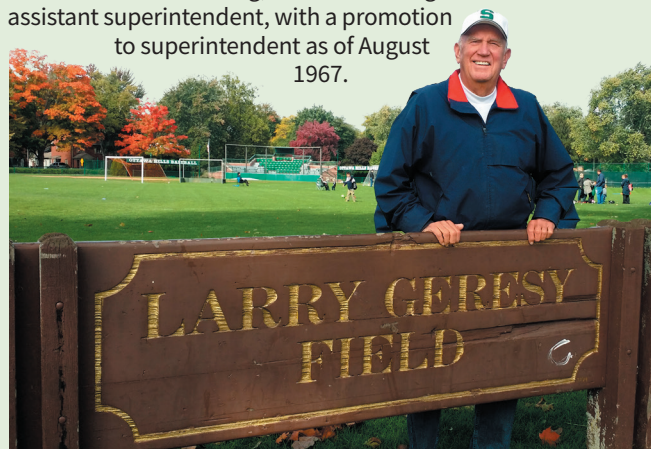
Remembering Larry Geresy and his 'field of dreams'

For nearly 35 years, district athletes and young residents participating in Village Life sports programs have developed their skills and teamwork at Geresy Field. The field received its name in 1988 as a community tribute to Larry Geresy, who retired that spring after 21 years as superintendent.

Sadly, the field lost its namesake in January with the passing of Mr. Geresy, the longest-serving superintendent in the district's 92-year history.

Upon his retirement, he and wife Penny moved to northern Michigan. In a 2018 interview with *Around These Hills*, he called his years in Ottawa Hills special. "I believe that students deserve first-class teachers and first-class guidance. Any student can learn, but they have to have a good teacher to teach them," he said. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to spend so many years there. I'm proud of the teachers, the staff, and the students."

The Board of Education hired him in May 1965 to be the high school principal at the start of the 1965-1966 school year. At a November 1966 meeting, the board also gave him the title of assistant superintendent, with a promotion to superintendent as of August 1967.



2022-2027

Ottawa Hills Local Schools Strategic Plan



A Community-Driven Commitment
to **Guide the Future of Our Schools**



Our Journey to Unparalleled Academic Excellence

INSIDE

Message from the Co-Chairs
A Grassroots Process
The Four Focus Areas, Mission, & Values
Data Collection, Results, & Glossary
2017-2022: State of the District
Resources & Planning Committee

Treasure Hunt answer:

The image shows one of three original fire-alert pull handles (one on each floor) in the Elementary School, which opened in 1930. Four quick downward thrusts generated the four alarm bells indicating fire.

A plan by and for Ottawa Hills

Ottawa Hills Local Schools has been consistently rated one of the top districts in Ohio and the nation. Our district has many diverse strengths: a student body with an amazing breadth of talents and interests; a dedicated, innovative faculty, staff, and district leadership; highly engaged parents; and a community that is deeply invested in its success.

Yet, over the past five years, rapid changes, both global and local, have shifted the landscape of education, altering and expanding the skills our students need for success. The workforce is more globally connected than ever, and technology and a pandemic are transforming job markets. The Village has also changed, with a 15 percent increase in enrollment and an increasingly diverse and international student body that has more nuanced educational needs.

These changes have necessitated a broadening of the district's priorities. In this new Five-Year Strategic Plan, we lay out the mission, core values, and Focus Areas that will serve as a new roadmap for building on the tradition of excellence: "Nurture a Joyful Pursuit of Learning," "Create a Lifelong Sense of Belonging," "Support a Comprehensive Approach to Modernization," and "Leverage Partnerships for Transformative Experiences."

To develop this plan, the district departed from previous practices, initiating an inclusive, grassroots process led by three Village parents. The planning committee included community members and alumni, faculty and staff, district leaders, and students. Through the fall of 2021, the committee worked with hundreds of stakeholders, drawing input through targeted surveys (in six languages), "brainstorming sessions" in our neighbors' backyards, and many in-person and virtual meetings.

We collected an impressive amount of incredibly valuable feedback on both the strengths and challenges within the district—feedback which directly informed the strategic Focus Areas.

We believe the plan you will read on the following pages represents a bold new vision that amplifies many of the district's traditional strengths, challenges us to adapt and modernize, and reflects best practices from current education research.

Working together we can ensure the success of this plan, that each student in the district is nurtured and supported so they thrive, find and pursue their passions, and reach their full potential. It has been our privilege to lead this effort and to introduce the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

As always ... Go Green Bears !

Rupali Chandar, Chelsey Gupta, and Katie Talbott
Co-Chairs, Strategic Plan Community Committee

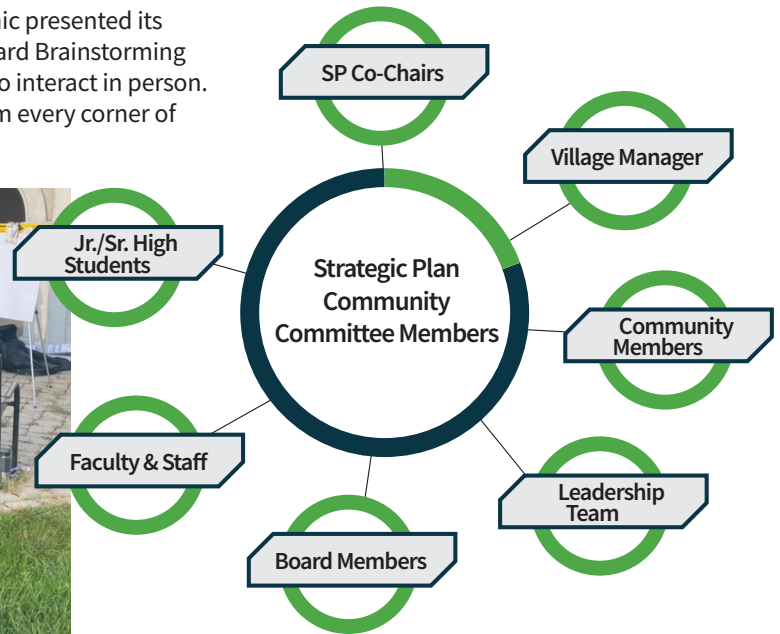
From left: Katie Talbott, Chelsey Gupta,
and Dr. Rupali Chandar



A Grassroots Process

Running a strategic planning process in the middle of a pandemic presented its share of obstacles. But the committee met the challenge. Its Backyard Brainstorming Sessions practiced social distancing and gave neighbors a chance to interact in person.

The Committee was structured to ensure voices were heard from every corner of the academic and Village communities.



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

**JUNE-AUGUST
2021**

DATA COLLECTION & COMMUNITY INPUT

**SEPTEMBER-
OCTOBER 2021**

DATA SYNTHESIS, PLAN DEVELOPMENT

**OCTOBER 2021-
JANUARY 2022**

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

On behalf of the Board of Education, the district is excited to receive and implement this new Five-Year Strategic Plan. As the co-chairs noted, its strength is rooted in how it was constructed: by Villagers, for Villagers.

I want to publicly thank them and all the committee members for their time and talents. The district is entering a period of unmatched growth, energy, and opportunity. And this plan, so passionately and strategically created, will guide and fuel our ambitions for the years ahead.

Lastly, I want to thank Kalen Stanton, managing director at Root Inc., and Brad LaClair, associate vice president in ProMedica's Strategic Planning Division, for their expert guidance and contributions during the planning process.



Adam Fineske

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske
 afineske@ohschools.org

MISSION



In partnership with our community, Ottawa Hills Local Schools will inspire, challenge, and support each student to realize their unique and full potential; to embrace the joy of learning as a lifelong process; and to become an empathetic, responsible citizen.

VALUES



Adaptability, Collaboration, Creativity, Diversity, Empathy, Equity, Excellence, Innovation, Leadership, Tradition

The 4 Focus Areas

Four unified areas will guide our focus, goals, and actions in the coming five years. These Focus Areas represent the intention and vision for the future as defined by our community, faculty, staff, and students.

Our Mission will be fulfilled by focusing on these four strategic Focus Areas.



GOALS

Each Focus Area includes tangible Goals that define and specify our intention.



ACTIONS

Each Goal will be supported by specific Actions. Over time, we will achieve, add, or adapt these Actions to advance our Strategic Plan and respond to changing needs.

Nurture a Joyful Pursuit of Learning

Focusing on the act of learning as a joyful process allows the unique potential of each stakeholder to contribute to the tradition of academic excellence.



Create a Lifelong Sense of Belonging

Instilling self-confidence and empathy will create an inclusive school culture where each person feels celebrated and where ideas can be considered and debated respectfully.



Leverage Partnerships for Transformative Experiences

Collaborating at every level of the community expands opportunities, enhances student preparedness, and offers diverse roadmaps to successful futures.

Support a Comprehensive Approach to Modernization

Coordinating our use of space, time, finances, and technology will maximize our educational effectiveness, efficiency, and level of innovation.

Nurture a Joyful Pursuit of Learning

Focusing on the act of learning as a joyful process allows the unique potential of each stakeholder to contribute to the tradition of academic excellence.

Goals

- **Develop the Whole Child:** Deliver well-rounded content/curriculum that balances academics, social-emotional learning, and critical thinking skills.
- **Strengthen Academic Supports:** Fully implement a multi-tiered system with intention to support every student through a range of needs from intervention to enrichment.
- **Personalize Learning:** Pursue innovative ways to encourage and promote the exploration and learning for which individuals express a passion and drive.
- **Preserve Academic Excellence:** Remain among the top-performing school districts across a balance of educational benchmarks, including the preparation for successful post-secondary opportunities.

Action Items

- Continue our efforts to provide support based on best practices for students who have early literacy challenges and/or dyslexia.
- Invest in intervention programming at every level of student ability.
- Define and authentically integrate age- and grade-level appropriate project-based learning*.
- Identify robust and diverse ways to measure performance, beyond just test scores.



Create a Lifelong Sense of Belonging

Instilling self-confidence and empathy will create an inclusive school culture where each person feels celebrated and where ideas can be considered and debated respectfully.

Goals

- **Champion a Safe Place:** Nurture a school culture in which preventing bullying, promoting responsible digital citizenship, and instilling self-confidence and mutual respect are the expectations.
- **Foster Positive Connections:** Invest in a culture that is welcoming to all, where each student, staff, and family feels safe to express themselves and learn from others.
- **Develop an Equity Blueprint:** Implement a comprehensive, district-wide plan including hiring, training, and curriculum analysis to create an equitable and inclusive culture.

Action Items

- Provide mentors for new students and families and connect them with school and community support groups and other resources.
- Expand resources in support of English Learners* and their families, including making school communications accessible in multiple languages.
- Review and improve each step of the hiring and mentoring process to achieve a more diverse faculty and staff that reflects our student body.
- Support activities and programming that use restorative justice practices* to promote belonging and encourage better understanding and appreciation of individual differences.
- Assess curricula and instructional practices to focus on global cultural literacy.
- Continue our commitment to partnering with the Positive Coaching Alliance* to ensure athletic programs contribute to an inclusive culture.



* Definitions can be found in the glossary on page 11.

Support a Comprehensive Approach to Modernization

Coordinating our use of space, time, finances, and technology will maximize our educational effectiveness, efficiency, and level of innovation.

Goals

- **Practice Fiscal Responsibility:** Maintain fiscal integrity and transparency in future financial requests to the community.
- **Enhance Communications:** Continue to regularly inform and solicit feedback from district stakeholders.
- **Reimagine Space:** Examine and modernize spaces to maximize personalized learning.
- **Optimize Time:** Streamline procedures and align events, activities, and school calendars to efficiently carry out the district's mission.
- **Leverage Technology:** Integrate and use current and future technologies to full capacity.
- **Anticipate Growth:** Explore and plan for campus and building expansion to accommodate growth and evolving academic needs.
- **Promote Equity:** Ensure that equipment, technologies, and physical structures are accessible to all.

Action Items

- Fully align Multi-Tiered Systems of Support* (MTSS) components and integrate ongoing district efforts.
- Complete a facilities audit and prioritize existing needs in terms of space, equipment, and ADA compliance.
- Complete a time audit and set balanced priorities for scheduling instruction and collaboration.
- Provide an annual "State of the District" report to school and community stakeholders.
- Explore alternative funding sources to support district initiatives.
- Fully integrate technology and operations at both Foundries into the curriculum by 2023-2024.



Leverage Partnerships for Transformative Experiences

Collaborating at every level of the community expands opportunities, enhances student preparedness, and offers diverse roadmaps to successful futures.

Goals

- **Collaborate Within the District:** Increase opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate within and between the buildings and grade levels.
- **Collaborate Beyond the District:** Identify local, statewide, national, and global connections for potential collaboration.
- **Increase Global Competence:** Seek additional opportunities to develop adaptability, confidence, and resilience.
- **Expand Service Learning:** Organize opportunities for students to learn from and benefit the community.

Action Items

- Build in more time for faculty and staff to collaborate with one another.
- Plan more events where students have access to alumni and community members.
- Integrate new and existing programming into the Foundries*, science labs, art wings, and makerspaces.
- Increase internship opportunities to provide students insight into potential careers or fields of study.
- Plan local day exchanges* for students and faculty.
- Increase opportunities for students to have educational experiences beyond Ottawa Hills (e.g. Agora, Service Learning In Kenya (SLIK), 6th Grade Camp, Home to Home*, etc.).
- Explore the implementation of service-learning* requirements.



* Definitions can be found in the glossary on page 11.

Data Collection

"We collected an impressive amount of incredibly valuable feedback on both the strengths and challenges within the district—feedback which directly informed the strategic Focus Areas."

- » Meetings with faculty and staff at departmental and building levels
- » Meetings with students at the Junior/Senior High School
- » Five in-person Backyard Brainstorming Sessions hosted by committee members and one online session
- » Solicited feedback from parent-support and community groups
- » Online surveys of faculty and staff, parents and Villagers, alumni of the past 10 years, and students

BY THE NUMBERS

86 Attendance at in-person and online brainstorming sessions

Survey respondents:

52 Alumni

345 Community members

49 Faculty and staff

476 Students in grades 7-12

Top 3 academic priorities



Survey results:

Student-to-teacher ratio

Math and reading proficiency levels

Diversity of course offerings



Respondents chose from multiple options

Top 3 priorities for the next 5 years



Survey results:

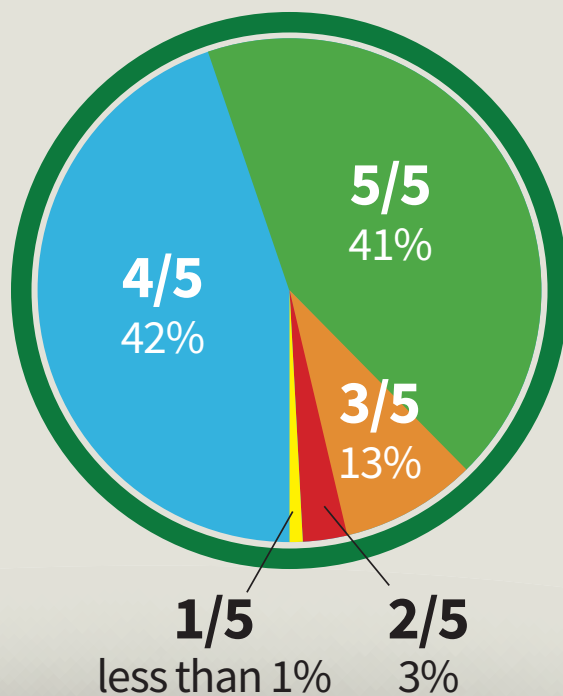
1. Preparing students for post-secondary options (e.g. college, trade school)
2. A school culture that is diverse, inclusive, and welcoming
3. (Tie) Academic support services and cultivating future leaders

“I like the district’s acceptance of all people, and that everyone is open to new ideas.”

“I like the amazing education we get and how much the teachers care about their students.”

Overall satisfaction with the current state of Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Based on 1-5 scale, 5 being the highest



GLOSSARY

English Learners: Students who are identified using state-defined parameters as needing additional instructional support because their first language is not English.

Exchanges: Whether across town or the other side of the planet, exchanges provide students and faculty with opportunities to learn about the world around them from peers. Exchanges provide a forum for sharing and discovering cultural and social differences at both the individual and community level.

Foundries: The student-inspired name (The Foundry) of the new destination that combines a range of current and future academic and support services inside the Junior/Senior High School. The Little Foundry is a companion instructional environment at the Elementary School that supports students’ interest in STEAM activities.

Home to Home: Launched in November 2020, the Home to Home program connects students at Ottawa Hills High School with peers from Scott High School (Toledo Public Schools) in order to help each learn more about the other by bridging differences and building a common future.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): A data-driven, problem-solving framework to improve outcomes for students. It uses three tiers of intervention across academic, social-emotional, and behavior systems to help teachers work together to help students.

Positive Coaching Alliance: A national nonprofit organization that provides online tools, courses, and workshops to assist in giving youth athletes a positive, character-building sports experience.

Project-Based Learning: A teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge.

Restorative Justice Practices: A set of approaches that address disciplinary infractions through mediation. Offenders learn to take responsibility and make restitution with those they have harmed or offended.

Service-learning: A teaching and learning strategy that connects academic curriculum to community problem-solving.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Academic Success

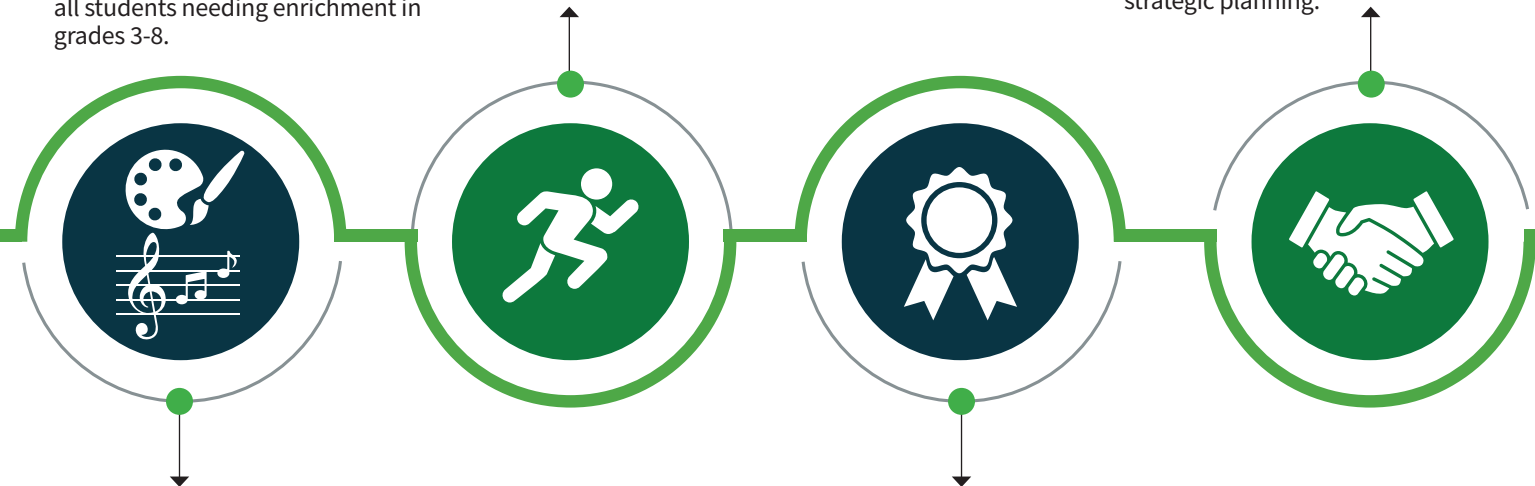
- Maintained small class sizes even as enrollment grew.
- Established a Summer Learning Program in collaboration with the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association and Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation in response to pandemic.
- Enhanced the Advanced Placement program with two additional courses; added a course in American Sign Language.
- Began three-year rollout of new Elementary School math curriculum (Math in Focus).
- Redesigned Junior/High School reading efforts in response to improved assessment of student need.
- Completed six-year transition to a more inclusive gifted education program, serving all students needing enrichment in grades 3-8.

Athletics

- New turf, track, and lighting installed at Niedermeier Stadium.
- Successful fundraising campaign leading to the opening of The Kadens Family Fitness Center.
- Expanded varsity sports (gymnastics and swimming), continued to offer the largest number of sports in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference.
- Began a three-year commitment with the Positive Coaching Alliance to help coaches, parents, and student athletes.
- Four-time consecutive winner of the TAAC All-Sports Trophy for most successful program.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Multiple community-led initiatives (two levy campaigns, Strategic Plan, Coronavirus Response Team, The Foundry Design Team).
- Strengthened working relationship with Village leadership.
- Established partnership with Scott High School via Home to Home program.
- Expanded outreach to alumni via reunions, Distinguished Alumni Awards, Athletic Hall of Fame, Alumni Video Series.
- Jointly funded population, enrollment study with the Village.
- Partnerships with This Is OH and OH Stand (community and student equity organizations) to provide professional development, contributions to strategic planning.



The Arts

- Choraliers performed on stage 14 times since 2017, including twice at Carnegie Hall (2016, 2020).
- More than 130 students in grades 5-12 played a band instrument in 2021.
- Nearly 30 percent of Junior High students played an instrument in 2021 (highest percentage in school history).
- Symphonic Band made its first-ever out-of-state performance trip (Toronto in 2020).
- Theater program continued to present three to four performances per year involving hundreds of students in grades 4-12.
- Art students shined competitively at the smART Show, the Congressional Art Competition (9th District), and the NWO Focus Show.

Awards/Accomplishments

- Overall 'A' grade for five straight years on Ohio's School Report Card.
- Three straight years as No. 1 district in Toledo area, Lucas County (Niche).
- High School ranked in Ohio's Top 5 for three consecutive years (*U.S. News & World Report*).
- Sixteen faculty and staff received The Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research (honored nine times in past 10 years).
- District of Recognition award from International Dyslexia Association-North.
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators' Hall of Fame School.

Facilities

- Districtwide improvements made/planned to climate systems at both buildings.
- Districtwide electrical upgrades to LEDs for interior lighting.
- Modernized learning spaces at the Junior/Senior High with the addition of STEAM classrooms, research labs.
- Adding intervention, classroom space at Elementary School by relocating district offices.
- Enhanced security via keyless entry system, Raptor visitor system, new curtain wall, and exterior doors at both buildings.

Here is a summary of key achievements over the past five years under the prior plan.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Prior state audits issued were “clean” audits with no findings for recovery.
- Received “Auditor of State Award” in 2019 for a clean audit.
- Voters in November 2020 approved a \$8.5 million bond issue for The Foundry, upgrades to classrooms, and HVAC improvements. The levy passed with 64 percent of votes in support.
- Voters in November 2020 approved a 4.9-mill operating levy for day-to-day expenses. The levy passed with 61 percent of votes in support.

Leadership

- Collaborative, engaged school board members who are passionate, transparent, and responsive to the community and students.
- Creation of a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee under the Board of Education.
- Hired dynamic new teachers and administrators to enhance an already strong team.
- Continued development of student leadership capabilities via OHbreathe, OH Stand, and The Studio.



Innovation

- Implemented a live-broadcast model during pandemic to provide learning options to families.
- Re-imagined instruction and extracurricular offerings in response to the pandemic.
- Launched a new course titled “Honors Scientific Research in Partnership with ProMedica.”
- Creation of The Foundry and soon to be Little Foundry at the Elementary School to transform learning and student support.



Student Support

- Affirmed commitment to determining the individual needs of students, responding with appropriate interventions.
- Added full-time guidance counselors and a school nurse.
- Created Social-Emotional Task Force.
- Initiated the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) effort.
- Expanded students-helping-students programs (Teen PEP, GSA, Challenge Crew, OHbreathe).

2021-2022 SNAPSHOT

District data at the launch of the new Strategic Plan

21

Varsity sports (including club)

Percent of faculty with a master's degree

80

81

Number of full-time faculty

Clubs and activities at Junior/Senior High School

27

20

Average years of faculty experience

Percent of OH students at Accelerated, Advanced, or Advanced Plus levels on state tests.

65

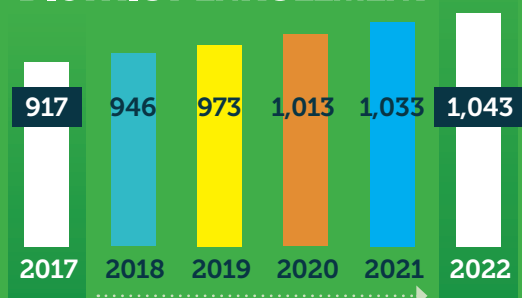
STUDENT BODY PROFILE

Total students:
1,048
 As of Dec. 22, 2021

- Asian: 147 (14%)
- Black, Non-Hispanic: 34 (3%)
- Hispanic/Latino: 34 (3%)
- Multiracial: 55 (5%)
- White, Non-Hispanic: 778 (74%)

Because of rounding, percentages do not equal 100.

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT



RESOURCES

During the strategic planning process, the committee regularly referenced several documents, including:

- The Ohio Department of Education's strategic plan titled *Each Child, Our Future* (the foundational guide for the work of the department)
- *Change by Design, How Design Thinking Transforms Organizations and Inspires Innovation* by Tim Brown
- *The 2017-2022 Strategic Plan*

ONLINE RESOURCES

To view this plan and the past two district strategic plans, visit ohschools.org/strategicplan

Questions?

Contact Ottawa Hills Local Schools at info@ohschools.org

2022-2027

Ottawa Hills Local Schools Strategic Plan

A Community-Driven Commitment
to Guide the Future of Our Schools



Planning Committee

It literally took a Village to plan and create the new Five-Year Strategic Plan. Thank you to all the parents, other Villagers, students, and district employees for contributing their time and talent to the process.

Co-Chairs

Dr. Rupali Chandar, Chelsey Gupta, and Katie Talbott

Community Members

Bethany Dale, Rich Effler, Emery Geosits, Jason Huntley, Teanya Norwood-Ekwenna, Mona Parikh, John Roemer, Angie Schaal, Adrienne Shreve, Kalen Stanton, Elizabeth Weaver, and Sabrina Weaver

School Board Representatives

Kathy Lathrop and Adam Smidi

District Representatives

Dr. Adam Fineske (Superintendent)
Darrin Broadway (Dean of Secondary Teaching and Learning)
Ben McMurray (Junior/Senior High School Principal)
Kevin Merrill (Director of Communications)
Dr. Bill Miller (Director of Curriculum and Instruction)
Brooks Spiess (Technology Coordinator)

Village of Ottawa Hills

John Wenzlick, Village of Ottawa Hills Village Manager and Chief of Police

Students

Via Bridges (9th Grade), Nina Clark (8th Grade), Nash Malczewski (10th Grade), Abby Pommeranz (9th Grade), and Elliot Schaal (8th Grade)

Faculty & Staff

Stephen Bobak, Joan Keckler, Jonathon Siebenaler, Nikki Tolliver, and Tori Norman

Igniting Legacies

Even as walls are built and concrete floors poured, a different kind of construction is occurring within The Foundry. Since fall, parents and other Villagers have worked together to build the framework for how this new space transforms learning and support at the Junior/Senior High School.

The 43 members of The Foundry Design Team (faculty, students, parents, and other Villagers) were recruited and selected based upon professional expertise and interests. They were grouped so their shared experiences could bring greater insight into one or multiple areas crucial to the project's success. Meeting bi-monthly (and more frequently as needed), they are focused on 15 design areas and how each reshapes learning and support inside the 6,800-square-foot space.

They have listened to each other, taken tours of locations in multiple states, and collected data via online surveys of both alumni and students. The process included listening sessions with alumni from 2003 to 2020 to hear ideas and experiences regarding college coaching and the Leadership Academy.

The scope of their task is daunting: build synergies across an array of

Community-led Design Team shapes The Foundry's future

THE FOUNDRY YOUR LEGACY IGNITED

services for more than 520 students in grades 7-12—everything from a testing center and academic tutoring to leadership development. When the new school year begins Aug. 16, The Foundry will be the primary work space for multiple employees across academic, counseling, technical, and student support roles. In recognition of its unique role as the future cultural and academic center of the building, The

Foundry will even have its own impact statement and organizational values.

"Fulfilling the promise of The Foundry would not be possible without the volunteer members of the Design Team," said Darrin Broadway, the Dean of Secondary Teaching and Learning at the Junior/Senior High School and leader of the space and its programming. "When the first phase of our work is complete, we will have envisioned and brought to life the most cutting-edge space and philosophical approach to Junior/Senior High learning in Ohio."



Darrin Broadway

The team's assignment and depth of involvement is without precedent within the district. Working with faculty, staff, and administrators, Design Team members are making suggestions at both conceptual and detailed levels regarding every aspect of a student's educational and support experience. In the end, they will need to develop multiple business plans, decide how tutors



The Café

THE FOUNDRY

will be chosen and paid, set up the new Leadership Academy, and integrate the new 360° Immersion Room into the curriculum. There's also much more, from selecting a menu and staffing strategy for the Café to adopting a logo that brings it all together visually. (The Foundry logo prototypes and subsequent final

renditions were created by Anne Urfer, a parent, Villager, and professional artist and graphic designer.)

Supplementing the Design Team's efforts are many enhancements beyond the brick-and-mortar construction, courtesy of financial donors to the ongoing Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign (see story, page 31).

Guiding the team's work is a process known as "design thinking." It's a people-centric and creative problem-solving approach that helps organizations become more innovative. The term was popularized in the 2009 book by Tim Brown, *Change by Design, How Design Thinking Transforms Organizations and Inspires Innovation*. Mr. Broadway, drawing upon his own research, introduced the concept as the project's organizing philosophy.

Co-chairing The Foundry Design Team are Villagers/parents Lisa Brown and Dr. Michelle Walker. Combined, they have two children who are district alumni and three enrolled at the Junior/Senior High school.

"The diversity of activities in The Foundry means we needed volunteers who had expertise in leadership, communication, coaching, finance, technology, and interior design. They also needed the willingness for an extended time commitment to research, plan, and execute in the 15 different design areas," Dr. Walker said. "We have been extremely impressed with our neighbors' enthusiasm, commitment, and contributions." (See page 29 for list of members)

"The Design Team and its committees are all volunteers, all working in their spare time," said Mrs. Brown. "When putting the team together, our goal was to ensure we recruited members with diverse thinking and an openness for change."

Mrs. Brown was involved about five years ago in activities from which sprang today's Foundry. She and others in the Village formed Decoding Dyslexia Ottawa Hills and started researching what a dedicated space to serve dyslexic students would look like in the district. From that, research expanded to how to improve a wider range of academic and support services, possibly integrated together in a common location.

This approach is used by many private high schools and small colleges. The name attached locally to this concept was The Learning Commons. The name stuck and was used throughout 2020 during a levy campaign for voter approval to borrow money for construction. (In the spring of 2021, Junior/Senior High

students voted on a name change to The Foundry.)

Starting in mid-summer, the co-chairs and Mr. Broadway formed five initial Design Team committees: Communications and Branding, Interior Design, College and Career Coaching, Café, and Academic Tutoring and Coaching (personalized testing prep). In February, five additional committees were launched: Collaboration Spaces, Leadership Academy, Social and Emotional Coaching, 360° Immersion Room, and Professional Development for Educators. The remaining Design teams—Community Colloquy, Data Collection/Analysis, Student Engagement/ Empowerment, Success Goals/Reporting, and TechDoctor—will launch in April. To handle the volume of communications and data-sharing, the co-chairs created an online workspace where members continued to share ideas and collaborate.

"The Foundry is a space for innovation and collaboration where all students will feel welcome," Dr. Walker said. "This space will allow students to study independently, collaborate together on projects, receive tutoring and college/career coaching, solve technology problems, and even grab a snack between activities.

It will also host speakers for parents and the community as well as provide professional development to teachers. It's a one-stop shop to help everyone achieve their best."

"Additionally, students will find information and resources to help navigate college decision-making, career choice, leadership development, and social-emotional issues," Mrs. Brown said. "With personalized resources for each student, we hope to achieve better test scores, improve grades overall, and reduce stress and anxiety."

A key part of design thinking is student involvement. Students visited the Steelcase Learning & Innovation Center in Grand Rapids, Mich., to see the future of creative collaboration spaces. Their input is informing decisions about furnishings and how to configure them for maximum effectiveness. In another example, the space's entryway received an inspiring facelift when senior Faith Seo painted a wall-size mural on the construction entrance. Inspired by her work with the Design Team, Faith borrowed visualization techniques used in the design-thinking process to create the eye-popping mural.

Even after The Foundry opens, the Design Team will remain but its structure likely will change. Its members will be asked to assess the progress made and develop suggestions on how to make ongoing improvements.



Entrance to The Foundry



Ideation Room



360° Immersion Room



Entranceway/Faith Seo Mural

MEET THE FOUNDRY DESIGN TEAM

Sam Abbott, Sharon Abendroth, Darrin Broadway, Chris Brown, Lisa Brown, Darcy Browne, Angelita Cruz Bridges, Maura DeMilt, Dee Dolsey, Sara Eisenbaum, Patty Dowd, Randy Ellingson, Dylan Fall, Adam Fineske, Danielle Fisher-Snyder, Linda Frey, Jim Geiger, Jasa George, Eric Hoelzle, Kristin Johnson, Joy Kight, James Kinkaid, Mary Koury, Julie Kowalczyk, Julia McArthur, Megan McKean, Ben McMurray, Kevin Merrill, Jill Michaelson, Bill Miller, Bret Penrod, Alta Richter, Karen Schoenberger, Von Sigler, Lisa Silverman, Brooks Spiess, Christy Stone, Rich Sweeney, Nikki Tolliver, Anne Urfer, Julie Visser, Jen Wagener, and Michelle Walker



WHAT'S INSIDE THE FOUNDRY?

Quite a lot! It's more than a collection of existing programs and resources. The expanded and reconfigured space allows for a level of innovation and synergy not previously possible. Here's what's inside:

- Personalized learning development
- Structured learning assistance
- Academic tutoring and coaching
- Executive functioning and social-emotional learning and coaching
- Individual/group study and collaborative learning spaces
- Leadership development (covering personal, organizational, and community leadership)
- College and career coaching
- 360° Immersion Room
- Team study tables (for use by sports teams)
- Entrepreneurship opportunities
- Confidence building
- The Café
- SAT/ACT prep
- Professional development for faculty and staff
- Professional development, adult education for Villagers
- Tech Doctor
- Ideation Rooms
- Testing Center

Key Events

2019

March: Launch of The Writing Studio, led by then-senior Oscar Kasch. The approach to peer instruction serves as a model for innovation, inspiration for The Learning Commons.

June: Villagers Elle Cotterman and Julie Kowalczyk present a Green Bear Ball project proposal to the Board of Education focused on renovating the high school library, adding more collaboration space for students

September: School board approves contract with The Collaborative to undertake feasibility study. Initial meeting of internal "Learning Commons" leadership and planning committee

2020

November 2020: Voters approve borrowing \$8.5 million to fund construction of The Foundry as well HVAC and science room improvements

2021

Spring: Students research names and put finalists to a vote. The winner: The Foundry (replacing The Learning Commons used during the levy)

May: Foundry Design Team co-chairs recruited

June: Groundbreaking for The Foundry

June-August: The team member-recruitment process is designed; recruitment begins through informational outreach meetings. Research continues to be collected to share with committees; tour of Steelcase Learning & Innovation Center

September: Kick-off meeting for the Design Team. Design Team leaders, core team, and focus team members are selected.

October-December: Committees meet formally bi-monthly, informally on their own as needed

December: Students visit Steelcase Learning & Innovation Center and attend a design-thinking workshop

2022

January-July: Design Teams continue to meet to finalize plans for all design areas (Café operations, data collection methods, success goals, reporting plans, recruiting and training student coaches and adult tutors, developing Community Colloquy discussions)

**THE
FOUNDRY**
YOUR LEGACY IGNITED

**Aug. 15, 2022:
Grand Opening**

FOUNDATION LETTER

Campaign enhancing possibilities for students

As the new year moves forward, it's a perfect time to share our gratitude for all of you and what we've accomplished together. Whether bringing The Kadens Family Fitness Center to life or supporting innovation through dozens of grants, your support of the Foundation is making a great district even greater.

Our energies now are focused on the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign. It started last June with a groundbreaking ceremony at the Junior/Senior High School. The transformation since then can only be described as magical. To share that excitement, we've recently hosted three open houses to showcase The Foundry and renovated classrooms. Each time, visitor reactions have been the same: This project changes everything.

The campaign traces its roots to the November 2020 election, when Villagers strongly supported a bond issue. That issue funded the drawing of blueprints and the brick-and-mortar construction we see today. With your support, the Foundation is enhancing those new spaces with significant upgrades to equipment and services.

Together, we're making learning and collaboration more exciting and effective. Whether in The Gupta Family Science & Research Corridor or The Susan ("Sue") and James ("Jim") F. White, Jr. Family ArtLab, our district will continue to be a model for classroom engagement and life-changing learning. And now, because of you, those STEAM-related upgrades and enhancements are coming to the Elementary School, too.

The campaign recently surpassed \$2.2 million in support. THANK YOU! But the momentum keeps surging and our dreams keep getting bigger. The more we can invest, the more positive change we create.

The future has never been brighter for our students. Please make it even brighter by joining the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign today.



Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig ('93) is president of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. **Erica (Gatchel) Silk ('89)** is the district's director of development and alumni relations.

The Heldreth family:
Katie, Tony, Kim, and
Patrick



Family establishes fund to promote academic success for all students

Kim and Tony Heldreth of Ottawa Hills have established an endowment fund with the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation to help the district meet the academic needs of students.

The new Heldreth Family Student Services and Support Fund will support current and future district efforts to meet the academic needs of individual students, their educators, and district interventionists. It also will contribute to the educational needs and development of students by providing training and tools teachers need to provide effective support.

"We've always been passionate about helping students who are not typical learners," said Kim Heldreth.

When creating the fund's purpose, the Heldreths wanted teachers and student services staff to also benefit from the endowment.

"Our hope is that the fund will grow and support decades of students and teachers in the district. It's important to us that it has a lasting impact," Mr. Heldreth added.

"The Foundation is very grateful for the creation of this new fund," said Erica Silk, the district's director of development and alumni relations. "Through their generosity, the endowment will enhance learning and student support opportunities for current and future generations of students."

The Heldreths moved to Ottawa Hills in 2015. Kim and Tony have two children: Patrick, a sophomore at St. Bonaventure University and a graduate of St. Francis de Sales School; and Katie, a sophomore at the Junior/Senior High School.

**"Our hope is that the fund will grow and support decades of students and teachers in the district. It's important to us that it has a lasting impact."
—Tony Heldreth**

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

CAMPAIGN READY to hit next 'gear'

TOP: Artist rendering inside The Foundry. BELOW: Visitors tour the unfinished space.



The Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign continues to create excitement while enhancing new and renovated spaces at the Elementary School and Junior/Senior High School.

The campaign recently surpassed \$2.2 million in support for OH courses, facilities, and programs that advance the subjects of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Approximately 120 individuals, families, and businesses have joined the campaign since the June 2021 launch.

To sustain the momentum, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is launching a "Foundry Gear" incentive. Supporters can buy a "gear" at different financial levels to honor a family, a favorite teacher, or their own time as a student in the district. The gears can be purchased to support projects at either building. The donor's name will appear in a special recognition area depending upon which projects are supported. To ensure the incentive's success, the Foundation is recruiting parents and other Villagers as "Class Conductors" to help raise awareness.

Since the start of the year, the Foundation has hosted open houses at the Junior/Senior High School to give parents and other Villagers a chance to see the progress firsthand. The construction and renovation work has been covered by The Blade and TV stations WTVG-13 and WTOL-11.

The campaign is building on commitments made by Village voters in November 2020, when they passed a bond levy to raise \$8.5 million to build The Foundry at the Junior/Senior High school and renovate STEAM classrooms. (The money also will finance HVAC improvements at the building.)



Giving Tuesday a huge success

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation wants to thank everyone who donated to the organization during the national Giving Tuesday fundraiser in November.

The Foundation raised more than \$53,000 for the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign.

"Thanks to a special match donor, and the continued support of alumni and community, the Foundation is able to support current and future students," said Erica Silk, the district's director of development and alumni relations.



Students share hopes in video

To help spread the word and showcase students' excitement about the project, a video was created to showcase the promise behind The Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign. Check it out at ohschools.org/videos

**FULL
STEAM
AHEAD**

For more information, contact Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or visit ohschools.org/fullsteam

Supporting Enrichment

The year 2021 ended with a flurry of grants approved by the Board of Trustees of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. As with all grants, these awards are helping teachers, students, and programs by supporting enrichment opportunities across the district.

Project: Bringing theatrical arts to life

Fund: The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts

The Foundation once again showed its support for the hundreds of students in the district's theater program by agreeing to be a title sponsor. The money helps the parent volunteers involved in the program cover the costs of licensing, set design and construction, and costumes. The grant helps to deliver a full year of productions, which for the 2021-2022 season includes "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Shrek Jr. The Musical," and "Guys and Dolls." An estimated 250 students in grades 4 through 12 participate in the shows.



Project: Supporting outdoor adventure and learning

Fund: The Annual Unrestricted Impact Fund

More Elementary School students were able to attend the annual 6th Grade Camp experience in January thanks to support from the Foundation. The grant covered the transportation costs to get students safely to Camp Michindoh in Hillsdale, Mich. Approximately 70 students participated, along with their teachers and 10 student camp counselors from the Junior/Senior High School.



Project: Advancing student research

Fund: STEM Fund

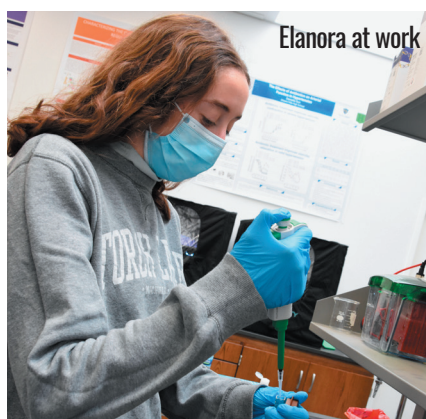
Three student research projects are under way thanks to support from The Foundation. The grants are providing science equipment and key lab materials for sophomore Ali Sedique and juniors Elanora Smith and Kenan Maaieh. They will work on their projects over the next two years and present at science fairs along the way.

The students are working with researchers at the University of Toledo. Also assisting is biology teacher Jeremy Nixon, who teaches the "Honors Scientific Research Course in partnership with ProMedica" course in which the students are enrolled.

Elanora's project involves testing a protein found in bacteria in Lake Erie to see if it breaks down toxins produced by harmful algae in the water. She is working with Dr. Jason Huntley, a Village resident and an associate professor of microbiology at the University of Toledo.

Ali is studying the effects of heat-shock stress on zebrafish to find changes in proteins and the possibility of diseases. He is working with Dr. Frederick E. Williams, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Toledo.

Kenan, who also is working with Dr. Williams, is studying the effects of different chemicals on the onset of Alzheimer's-like brain conditions in zebrafish.



Project: Enriching Elementary School STEAM activities

Fund: The Annual Unrestricted Impact Fund

More STEAM-related art projects are coming to the Elementary School art room. The grant is allowing Cindy Bodziak, the building's art teacher, to develop new STEAM lessons for grades K-6. These cross-curricular units will nurture student growth in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Materials to be purchased range from wire armature sculpting materials and papermaking kits to embroidery hoops and silicone molds. The largest expense is for Gelli Arts' printmaking materials, which will allow for plants and other natural materials to be incorporated into printmaking. The printmaking will soon expand to include cardstock (possibly for covers for book binding) and fabric (T-shirts, pillows, and quilts, possibly for sale at future Green Bear Ball events).

Project: The Choraliers performance trip to Chicago

Fund: The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts

The Choraliers took their voices on the road in a March visit to the Windy City. The three-day trip included participation in two choral clinics and a public performance at the Field Museum of Natural History. They also performed at a private alumni reception. The grant offset the trip's costs for the group's 39 members.





Instagram: @coysdetailing
P: 419-764-4206
ccoy123@outlook.com
coyscleaning.com

Encouraging Entrepreneurs

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation recently awarded the first two grants from the Billy Ciralsky Entrepreneurial Endowment Fund. The family of William “Billy” Ciralsky, a longtime executive in the local steel industry, created the donor fund in 2020 in his memory. The fund exists for the enhancement of student entrepreneurial initiatives and projects at Ottawa Hills Local Schools. Mr. Ciralsky died in November 2018. The fund’s creation was led by his daughters: Meredith (’94), Schuyler (’99), and Jessica, who attended OH through her junior year. Thank you to the Ciralsky family for their support of today’s students.

New gear keeps clients of cleaning business shipshape

A summer job cleaning boats, coupled with a natural inclination toward being neat and tidy, has led senior Caden Coy to become a bona fide entrepreneur. To support his business and dreams, the Foundation recently funded a request from Coy’s Detailing business for an extractor. Part vacuum, part spray wash, an extractor is a key tool for any detailing operation.

The extractor makes Caden’s work on boats and vehicles (a service line he added last year) more efficient. As a result, it has led to more service requests and therefore revenue, some of which he has used to become a paid sponsor of “OH Inside Edge,” a student-run internet broadcasting show covering Green Bear athletics.

He came up with the grant idea while in “Entrepreneurship,” a semester-long course taught by business teacher John Lindsay. (Mr. Lindsay also coaches the varsity basketball team, where Caden is the starting point guard.) Caden created a budget and funding pitch, and then submitted the request. “I have learned so much through both Mr. Lindsay’s Entrepreneurship and finance classes that have made my business so successful,” he said.

To sweeten the proposal, he offered to give away detailing packages to OH faculty at the Junior/Senior High School. He began distributing those gift certificates this year.

Caden plans to study business this fall at the University of Toledo.



A press to impress: Print business expands capacities

Senior Blake Gnepper is taking his business and artistic skills to the next level thanks to a grant from the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

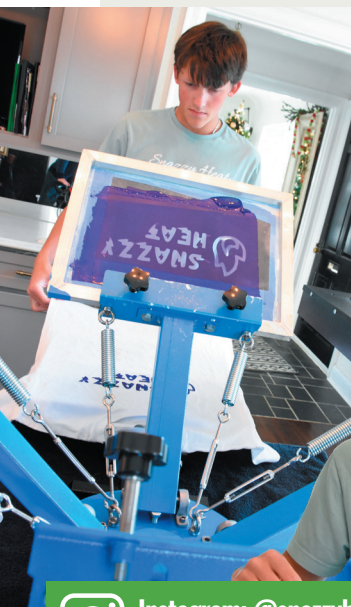
Blake used the money to upgrade equipment needed to grow Snazzy Heat, his custom print and embroidery business that specializes in serving the OH community. What started this fall as a creative way to make a few extra bucks has grown into a business he now plans to keep running after high school.

“I want to thank the Foundation for the grant and how much their help means to me and my small business,” said Blake. To show his appreciation, he plans to give away custom OH shirts as a special feature of the daily school broadcast program, “OH News.”

The grant allowed him to buy a four-color screen printer and drier. Together, they bring more automation to the process and allow him to take on higher-volume projects. (He uses a Cricut cutting machine to design stencils before inserting them into the screen printer.)

Fellow Green Bears are his biggest customers. He’s created custom apparel for the cross-country team’s trip to States, the gymnastics club team, the OHbreathe program, and last year’s May Day event at the Junior/Senior High School. Another customer is the detailing company operated by fellow grant recipient Caden Coy.

In addition to shirts and sweatshirts, Blake can transfer designs to mugs, lanyards, koozies, phone cases, handbags, and other merchandise. His college plans remain in flux, but he hopes to continue playing baseball collegiately. He was 1st Team All-TAAC last year as a catcher.



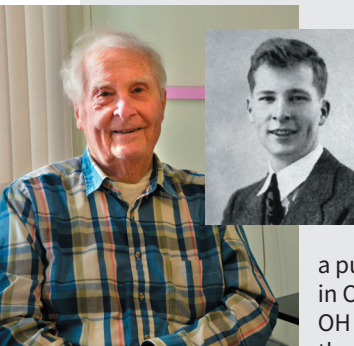
Instagram: @snazzyheat
P: 419-450-5163



SNAZZY
HEAT



Remembering the 'Last of the first'



Green Bear Nation lost a "founding father" with the Dec. 21 death of John A. Galbraith. He was the last surviving member of the Class of 1941, the first to graduate from the then-new high school. In addition, he was in 2nd Grade when the Elementary School opened in 1930.

In addition to these milestones, it was Mr. Galbraith and fellow students who started a public relations campaign to build a high school in Ottawa Hills. Before the campaign started, OH students attended the Indian Road building through 9th Grade and then enrolled at DeVilbiss

High School (then part of Toledo Public Schools).

The students' door-to-door campaign started in the fall of 1937 and helped convince voters to approve a bond issue to fund the construction. Ottawa Hills High School opened Sept. 18, 1939, and Mr. Galbraith was one of 26 students in the 1941 graduation class.

"We had good teachers," Mr. Galbraith said in a 2018 interview with *Around These Hills*. "Knowles Cooke opened the world for me. Robert Bolbach taught us math and science. We became close to these teachers. They got to know us well and we got to know them well."

A Navy veteran and University of Michigan Law School graduate, he is best known locally as representing the area in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1966 to 1986. A memorial service is planned for this spring.

Two siblings, both of whom preceded him in death, also were OH alumni: sister Nina (Galbraith) Crowther ('43) and brother Evan ('46), who served four years as U.S. ambassador to France under President Reagan.

Matriarch of a Green Bear dynasty

Annette (Levis) Boice ('49), who had a child or grandchild in Ottawa Hills Local Schools for 64 consecutive years, passed away in February. Her seven children graduated from OH: John Minns ('68), Marcia (Minns) Drumheller ('69), Sharon (Minns) Newman ('71), Larry Boice ('76), Charlotte (Boice) Perry ('80), Tricia (Boice) Dooley ('82), and Peter Boice ('85). She lost a son, Michael, to leukemia when he was in the 1st Grade. Nine grandchildren also graduated from Ottawa Hills. "Our family has continuously had someone in these school buildings since 1958," she said in a 2017 interview with *Around These Hills*.



The Levis family moved to Ottawa Hills in 1938, and enrolled Annette in 6th Grade. "I have wonderful memories of my time at Ottawa Hills," she said. "I was vice president of the Girls Athletic Association my junior year, president my senior year." She also played field hockey

and was a cheerleader. Her children and grandchildren carried on the tradition of athletic and extracurricular involvement.

A celebration of life at Saint Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church is scheduled May 7 at 11 a.m.

MEMORIAMS

Dr. John L. Kuehn ('47) passed away in April 2021. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1951 from Ohio Wesleyan University and his medical degree from The Ohio State University in 1957. He was a Navy veteran and completed his residency in psychiatry; he also served one summer in the Peace Corps. He later worked at Louisiana State University. He enjoyed playing piano, traveling, sailing, and his many children and grandchildren.



Charles W. Carroll ('48) passed away in January. While in high school, he played on every team sport offered. With the encouragement of his parents, he and his older sisters were regular performers as a musical trio at the Toledo Museum of Art. He graduated from Yale University and later earned a Ph.D. before enjoying a long professional career. He and wife Barbara, who survives him, bred many outstanding AKC boxers on the international level under the name Bentbrook Boxers. He was preceded in death by two sisters, both of whom were alumni: Joan ('44) and Louise ('45).



Robert A. Baron ('57) passed away in October 2021. As a student, he received the prestigious Davenport Award for his leadership, character, and scholarship. He was an Eagle Scout and earned varsity letters in football and baseball. Mr. Baron graduated from The Ohio State University where he served Woody Hayes as manager for the football team. He was a lifelong athlete, running six marathons, including the Boston Marathon twice. While living in Cincinnati, Mr. Baron served on the boards of The Boy Scouts of America, Springer School, the College Conservatory of Music, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. He was preceded in death by three siblings, two of whom were OH alumni: Judith ('65) and William ('69).



Gweneth A. Dietrich ('66), known to many of her friends as Rose May Dance, passed away in December 2021. She earned a degree from New College of California. Ms. Dietrich was an activist for peace and social and environmental justice throughout her life. Her activism led her to pursue a career in public health at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, where she trained a generation of health counselors and outreach workers in "how to reach the hard to reach." Her work as a mentor in the harm-reduction movement led her to launch the San Francisco needle exchange in 1988. The grassroots program revolutionized HIV/AIDS prevention services and became a model for the rest of the country.



William J. "Jeff" Brock ('71) passed away in June 2021. Mr. Brock was an artist that loved music and being around people. He enjoyed building and remodeling furniture and homes. His family recalled that you could always find him helping somebody fix or build something.



Meegan (Phillips) Miller ('78) passed away in January. She studied fashion merchandising at the University of Arizona. She and her late husband Charles had two sons, both of whom are OH alumni: Samuel ('06) and Daniel ('08).



About 30 members of the Class of 2011 gathered over the Thanksgiving holiday to share old memories and make new ones as part of a 10-year reunion. The classmates had dinner and posed for a few pictures at M'Osteria Bar & Lounge in downtown Toledo. As part of the celebration, they toured the Junior/Senior High School to revisit favorite places and experience new ones, including The Kadens Family Fitness Center and renovated science classrooms. Event organizers were Reed Silverman ('11) and Lauren Abendroth ('11).

Wedding becomes reunion

The October wedding of Darcy Phillips ('07) to Matt Willse became a mini Green Bear reunion. Attending the big event in Maine with the bride (foreground, in the white dress!) were (from left) Alex Mitchell, husband to Caroline O'Connell ('07); Abby Browarsky ('07); Greg Von Suskil, Abby's husband; Christie Pierce, fiancé to Jenny Geiger ('07); Caroline O'Connell ('07); Kate Buckley ('06); Jenny Geiger ('07); and Megan Jamieson ('07).



Alumni share career tips with 7th Graders

Five alumni shared time in October with 7th Graders and talked about their experiences in high school, college, and the workplace as part of a Career Explorations Workshop. Participants were Matt Abendroth ('15), account manager at MT Business Technologies; Matt Dewire ('09), co-founder of Valhalla Tickets; Courtney Fung ('14), medical school student at the



University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences; Ben Silverman ('14), client executive at Hylant; and Dan Steinberg ('76), financial advisor with Vantage Financial Group.

Classes combine reunions

Due to COVID-19, the Class of 2015 combined its reunion with the Class of 2016 and met up at The Blarney Irish Pub in downtown Toledo. About 40 alumni attended. Among those attending from 2016 were (pictured) Noah Dewhirst, Andrew Prince, and Courtney Hylant. Event organizers were Luke Dangler ('15), Ms. Hylant, and Aidan McMurray ('16).



Liberty Memorial expands service roll

Let's salute the newest additions to the Liberty Memorial plaque honoring alumni who served in the armed forces: Harrison B. Leinweber ('14), H. Peter Gunderson ('65), Brett F. McCall ('96), Paul Konoff ('17), and Timothy Bosserman ('10). The plaque is part of the flagpole installation in front of the Junior/Senior High School. Get a name added by contacting Principal Ben McMurray at bmcsmurray@ohschools.org.

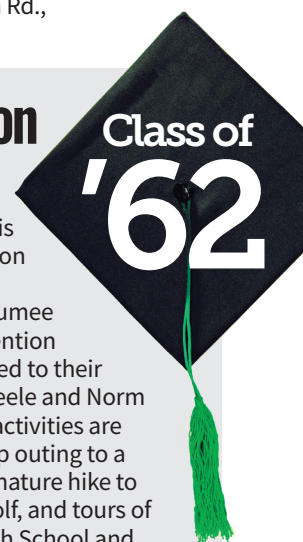
Nominations sought to honor alumni

If you would like to nominate someone for either a Distinguished Alumni Award or Athletic Hall of Fame Award, complete the application at ohschoolsfoundation.org. The submission deadline for the 2022 awards is April 1. Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of OH alumni, faculty, and district officials. Nominations also may be sent to Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or mailed to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 3600 Indian Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43066.

June Reunion Planned

The Class of 1962 is planning a 60th reunion June 7-10. The event takes place at the Maumee Bay Lodge and Convention Center and is dedicated to their teachers Elizabeth Steele and Norm Niedermeier. Lots of activities are planned, from a group outing to a Mud Hens game and nature hike to dinners, a round of golf, and tours of the Junior/Senior High School and Toledo Museum of Art. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate. To receive the discounted rate, make reservations before March 7.

Whether you plan to attend or not, organizers are asking for a brief biography from everyone to include in a printed booklet to be available at the reunion. The group also needs help tracking down more than a dozen classmates (the class had 83 seniors). For more details about the booklet, the reunion, or finding lost classmates, contact James Holden ('62) at jholden@pacific.net.





Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TOLEDO, OHIO
PERMIT #311

UPCOMING EVENTS



March

Thursday
3

Chicago Alumni
Reception

Thursday
3-6

Choraliers' performance
trip to Chicago



Sunday
13

Spring Choir Concert
(3 p.m.) and Band
Concert (7 p.m.)

Wednesday
16

Brown Bag Chorus
(7 p.m.)

Friday
18

Elementary School's
Variety Show (virtual)

Saturday
19-29



April



Friday
1-3

OH Theatre presents
"Guys and Dolls"

Sunday
10

Junior Class Car Wash
fundraiser (hosted by
After Prom Committee)



Thursday
28

Annual smART Show
showing the best from
students in grades
7-12 from a variety of
artistic disciplines
(6-9 p.m.)



May

Tuesday
10-13

D.C. Trip for current
8th Graders

Saturday
14

2022 Prom and
After Prom



Tuesday
17

All District Band
Concert

Wednesday
18

Choir Concert



June
2

Commencement
for Class of 2022,
6-8 p.m.

Follow all events at ohschools.org/calendar