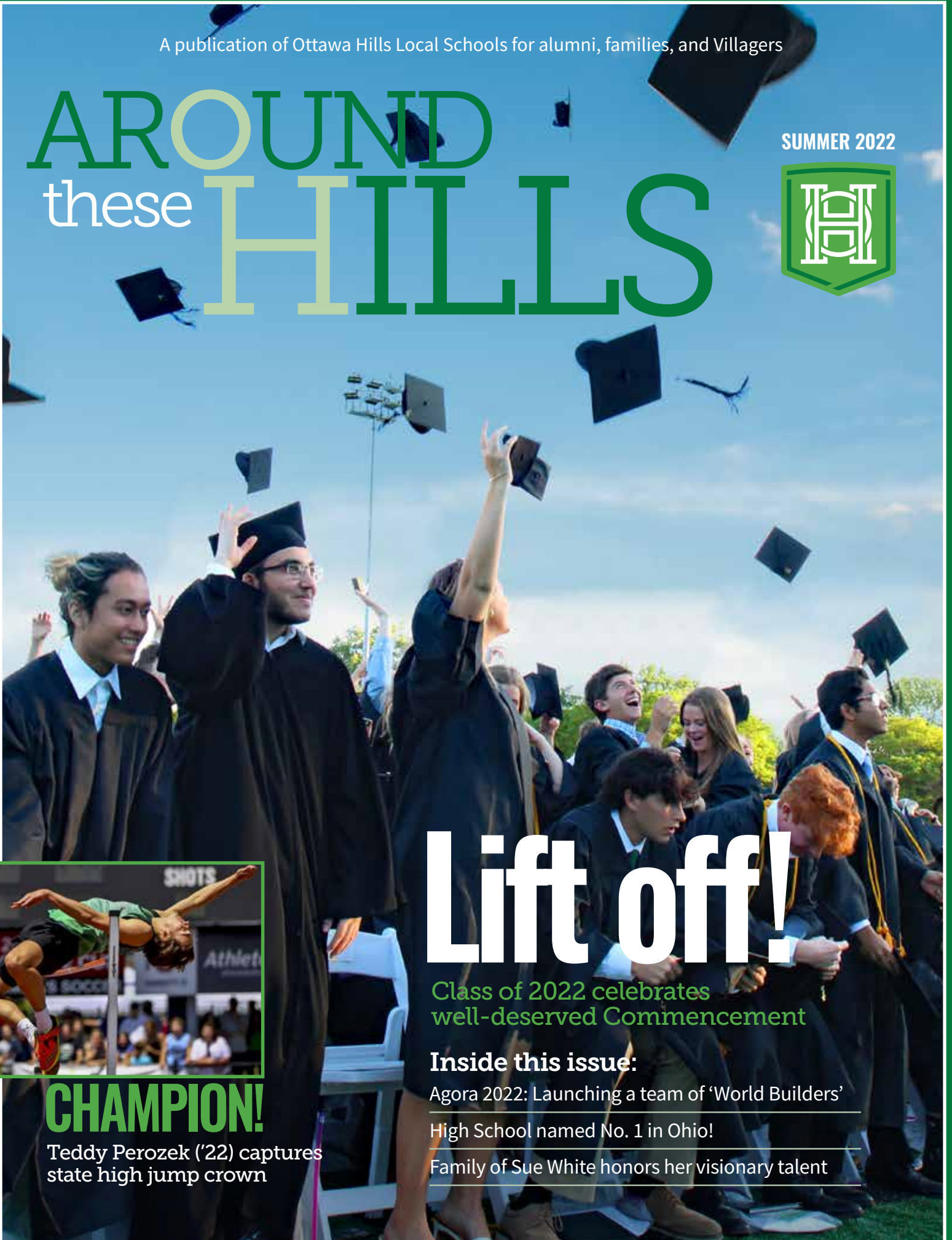


A publication of Ottawa Hills Local Schools for alumni, families, and Villagers

AROUND these HILLS

SUMMER 2022



Lift off!

Class of 2022 celebrates well-deserved Commencement

Inside this issue:

Agora 2022: Launching a team of 'World Builders'

High School named No. 1 in Ohio!

Family of Sue White honors her visionary talent



CHAMPION!

Teddy Perozek ('22) captures state high jump crown



Ottawa Hills
Local Schools

Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

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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.

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Members of the Class of 2022 were remembered for their ability to show gratitude.

DISTRICT LETTER

A journey ends as another begins

As I stood on the Commencement stage June 2 and soaked in the moment, I came to the conclusion that all of us—especially the members of the Class of 2022—were crossing a finish line. Yes, the focus was rightly on a wonderful class of seniors and the lifetime of support they received from their families (as well as the No. 1 high school in Ohio!).

But in that moment, I felt the rest of us were celebrating the completion of a journey, too. It began in the fall with apprehensive steps around masking and quarantine rules, then in January a quickening of our pace as various mandates were lifted, and finally, a mask-optional sprint this spring to the finish line. Normal had appeared on the horizon, and it never looked so good.

We all know the old saying about the experiences gained during a journey mattering more than reaching the final destination. That's definitely true for this group of seniors, who spent three of their four high school years under some form of COVID-19 restriction. They earned their Commencement finish-line moment.

And it's also true for the rest of us. Since January, the OH community has poured its energy—pent up by the pandemic—into reviving cherished traditions. As we did, it seemed our laughs were louder, smiles were brighter, and everyday routines more wondrous and enjoyable than ever before.

Those are good feelings to treasure because we are riding a wave that promises even more positive news ahead. From the openings this fall of The Sue and Jim White, Jr. Family Art Studio and The Foundry at the Junior/Senior High School to STEAM enhancements in 2023 at the Elementary School, we are a district with the sun in our face and wind at our back.

To our 89 seniors and the entire OH educational community: a job well done for completing this latest race and overcoming another year of adversity. May everyone's summer be full of good times and discovery. See you in August!



Adam Fineske

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske
afineske@ohschools.org



AdamFineske



fineskeadam

INSIDE SUMMER 2022



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Nanci Kay Effler's artistic eye and handiwork were well known to her family and many other Villagers. The family has built upon that legacy by creating the Nanci Kay Effler Fund for Visual Arts.

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AN AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT



Learn more about our awards at ohschools.org/honors

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

Around These Hills celebrates the students, faculty, and alumni of Ottawa Hills Local Schools, and the donors making possible many of their achievements. It is published 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.

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On the cover

Members of the Class of 2022 celebrated their well-earned Commencement under a beautiful spring sky June 2. The day included not only speeches from three seniors, performances by the Symphonic Band and the Choraliars, and announcement of the class gift, but also the much-anticipated Senior Car Parade. **Coverage begins on page 14.**

*Commencement image: Laurie Bertke Photography
High jump image: Jeremy Wadsworth/The Blade.
Used with permission*



High School tops in Ohio!

Ottawa Hills High School is once again the top high school in Ohio as well as No. 1 in the state for STEM subjects.

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

The national rankings were announced in April by *U.S. News & World Report* and compared more than 17,800 high schools across six criteria, including graduation rates and AP testing, among students who attended high school during the 2018-2019 school year. Overall, Ottawa Hills ranked No. 131 in the United States.

The building has now been ranked in the Top 5 statewide for four consecutive years and as the top STEM school in Ohio for two consecutive years. The news organization compared 750 high schools across Ohio.

“Our school has again proven itself to be not only Ohio’s best, but one of the nation’s best. As proud as we all are with this ranking, it is just one way we recognize success,” said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske. “There are many others, including those even more important to me, such as what happens daily in our classrooms, in our hallways, and on our playgrounds.”

Here are the six quality indicators *U.S. News* uses to calculate the rankings:

- College readiness, based on the proportions of 12th Graders who took and earned a qualifying score on AP and/or IB exams.
- College curriculum breadth, based on proportions of 12th Graders who took and earned a qualifying score on AP and/or IB exams in multiple content areas.
- Math and reading proficiency, based on student performance on state-required tests.
- Math and reading performance, based on whether performance on state assessments exceeded expectations given the school’s proportion of underserved students.
- Underserved student performance, based on how Black, Hispanic, and low-income students performed on state assessments compared with those who are not underserved in the state.
- Graduation rate, based on the proportion of students who entered ninth grade in 2016-2017 and graduated four years later.



High School earns spot in Challenge Index

The Junior/Senior High School was one of only 300 high schools in the nation to make *The Washington Post’s* 2022 Challenge Index, placing it in the top 2 percent of all high schools in the United States. The Index compares all U.S. private and public schools using a simple ratio: the number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge tests given at a school each year, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year.

In 2021, 150 OH students took 298 exams; they scored 3 or higher on 87 percent of those exams. The high school offers 16 AP courses (some of which are offered in alternating years).

“Our ranking is a by-product of amazing educators like Jennifer Nagy,” said Principal Ben McMurray. Mrs. Nagy is the building’s college guidance counselor, and in that role, organizes AP exams among other duties. “She encourages students to stay focused on academics while leading balanced lives,” Mr. McMurray added. “And her approach to finding the ‘right fit’ for post-high school sets up OH students for success during the next stage of their lives.”

The Index is the oldest high school ranking system in the nation.



State Department honors exchange student support

For its role in hosting an international exchange student, the Junior/Senior High School received special recognition this spring from the U.S. Department of State.

The medallion recognizes the school’s participation in the department’s YES Program, through which OH junior Anan Dabbah, a Palestinian from Israel, was selected. Anan spent the 2021-2022 school year as one of two international students enrolled in the district through the AFS-USA program.

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (also known as the YES Program) builds bridges between Americans and people in countries of strategic importance to the State Department.



Students conduct dissecting experiments in anatomy.

ART GALLERY

Celebrating Creativity

This year's annual smART Show inaugurated the "Ottawa Hills Community Art Award" presented by Deb and Tom Isley. This year's recipient was freshman Abby Pommeranz, whose collection of ceramic pieces was selected from among many other three-dimensional works of ceramic and jewelry. "Deb and I have been Village residents since 2000, and we are well aware of the quality of the school system," Mr. Isley said. "We felt the award was a way to give back to the district and help out a current student." The Isleys are docents at the Toledo Museum of Art, where they have given many tours to OH student groups touring the facility. The winner of the People's Choice Award (open voting available to all) was Faith Seo ('22) for her "Dole™" work. The piece was part of her deep dive into forgotten history as part of her AP Studio Art course. Lorelei Huber ('22) received the Todd and Nancy Kime Sight Award. Ms. Huber's masterfully crafted and designed stained glass piece caught the eyes of the Kimes, who are Village residents and parents of Molly ('12) and Kara ('15).



Deb and Tom Isley



Ceramic pieces by Abby Pommeranz

Stained glass by Lorelei Huber



Faith Seo's "Dole™"



Nicely, Nicely Done!

OH students produced another memorable show when they performed "Guys and Dolls" in early April. The production introduced audiences to a range of characters and the street life of 1950s New York. The 2021-2022 theater season ended with "John Friendly," a horror-genre play written by Natalie Timmerman ('22). The play's scenery allowed for the audiences to be on the stage during performances in close proximity to the actors.

Love the theater and supporting aspiring actors and musicians?



Then consider becoming a patron of the Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association. This parent-support group is led by volunteers, supports arts programming in every grade, and its only benefactor is Ottawa Hills Local Schools. Learn more at ohschools.org/ohmta

Above: Seniors Molly McCracken and Thomas McCarthy; cast of 'Guys and Dolls'



Coming in 2023:

OH Theatre will present the Disney classic 'Frozen' as the 2023 Acting Out! Production. Stay tuned for more details.



Building a Better World

Agora returning with ambitious agenda

For the first time in four years, the educational enrichment program known as Agora is returning to Ottawa Hills. Delayed in 2020 by COVID-19, the experience is coming back more ambitious than ever.

This year's program is Nov. 14-18 and includes inspiring opportunities for students both locally and internationally. For juniors and seniors traveling abroad, destination options include Italy, France, Costa Rica, and Spain. On campus and around northwest Ohio, students will select from many options in the form of weeklong workshops centered around a theme.

"We are extremely proud of the Agora program and the opportunities it provides students to explore classroom connections to the real world," said Principal Ben McMurray. "Whether students are on campus or they go on one of the trips abroad, students will have remarkable experiences and create memories that will last a lifetime."

The 2022 theme is "World Builders" and is intended to recognize and build upon new initiatives such as The Foundry and makerspace. "The theme was selected to illustrate our improved facilities and tools and their capacity to help students learn about and connect with the larger world," said James Kinkaid, leader of the Agora team and an English teacher at the Junior/Senior High School since 1999. Joining him in the planning this year are Jasa George, an intervention specialist who works with Junior/Senior High students, and Karen Fischer, a Junior High English teacher.



Visiting an Italian art museum and creating art locally (below)



At the American Cemetery near the beaches of Normandy, France.





Stay tuned for more information about Agora in the coming months. If you have questions or would like to be involved, please contact James Kinkaid at jkinkaid@ohschools.org. Learn more at jhhs.ohschools.org/agora



Clockwise from top: Campus-based workshops, at Mont-Saint-Michel in northern France, paddling through Costa Rica, and this year's logo.



Enhancing the program

Among the changes coming to the biennial program are experiences for every grade (7-12) at the Junior/Senior High School. That means nearly 500 students will gain a new perspective on learning through activities that organizers call “super-curricular” and which are tied to larger ideas of what it means to be educated.

Another enhancement: Agora’s programming expands by integrating the annual 8th Grade excursion to Washington, D.C. , another longstanding OH tradition. Traditionally presented in May, the trip moves to the fall so that in Agora years, the experience can be better coordinated and planned as part of the Agora experience.

Lastly, the bigger-and-better Agora now has a permanent logo—something that has been missing since it launched. The logo captures the Grecian theme (the word itself is Greek for marketplace) and incorporates three pillars, with each representing a grade cohort and the programming unique to it. The logo will be the visual mainstay of the program, established in the late 1970s, while a new one will be developed every two years to capture that year’s particular theme.

“I view Agora as an experiment in building new ways of seeing ourselves and our roles and responsibilities in this tradition of excellence that is Ottawa Hills,” Mr. Kinkaid said. “It is an opportunity to foster student-focused, hands-on, and self-directed learning.”

Since its founding, Agora has evolved to cover more students, community partners, and educational opportunities. But its core remains unchanged: a belief that OH students become better educated and better able to adapt and contribute to the outside world if they see and experience that world directly.

NEWSMAKERS

Students raise money to keep hearts healthy

Not only did Elementary School students work on keeping their hearts healthy this spring, they and their families raised \$5,511 for the American Heart Association to help in the fight against heart disease. The special focus on heart-related activities and fundraising took place during the annual weeklong “Kids Heart Challenge.” The amount raised is the most ever by the school during the event, said Kevin McKee, the building’s physical education teacher.



Black History Month tribute

OH Stand members honor Black Americans

As part of an ongoing tribute to Black History Month, members of student group OH Stand placed portraits around the Junior/Senior High School to celebrate the lives and achievements of three Americans: Ella Baker, Elijah Cummings, and Robert Small. The works were on loan from artist Robert Vanitvelt’s collection of 60 large-sized portraits of Black American icons, which have been displayed in local museums and libraries. The students also placed small signs next to each piece containing a QR code linking to more information.

Choir students receive highest marks at Ensemble

Congratulations to nine OH choir students for receiving the highest rating possible in April at the Ohio Music Education Association’s Junior High Solo & Ensemble. The students are Nina Clark (8), Quinn Culler (7), Jasmine Hajjar (7), Tommy Hopkins (7), Sam Kapadia (7), Rose Kile (7), Alexa Potts (7), Cora Walker (7), and Nora Weaver (8). To prepare, they spent time learning a vocal solo with the help of Joshua Dufford, the district’s recent vocal music director. Following the performance, judges then provided specific written feedback and an overall score. In this case, each OH student received I-Superior.

Junior High students compete in state Power of the Pen

Congratulations to five Junior High students for joining 500-plus competitors in the state Power of the Pen tournament in May. Representing OH were Nora Brown (7), Nina Clark (8), Josef Duley (8), Rory Norris (7), and Evelyn Parsons (7). The tournament took place at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio. The students took part in creative writing workshops, toured campus buildings, and heard authors discuss their works.

Juniors qualify for national chemistry exam

Juniors (and fellow AP Chemistry classmates) Sofie Rumman and Braeden McCague qualified for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) exam. Sponsored by the American Chemical Society, USNCO is a chemistry competition for high school students to stimulate young people to achieve excellence in chemistry.

Student helps people with hearing loss

Junior Elise Ansberg received The President’s Volunteer Service Award for her efforts to help people with hearing loss. Elise is the junior chairperson of the local nonprofit



Elise Ansberg

HearAide. The organization recently brought audiology devices to people with hearing loss in Jordan.



Tijan Alsultan and Lucie Amonett

Innovative 5th Graders advance to Ohio Invention Convention Honda State Finals

Fifth Graders Tijan Alsultan and Lucie Amonett advanced to the Ohio Invention Convention Honda State Finals. Their

innovation—an individually packaged food nutrient powder named FV Powder—was created to help food-insecure communities get the nutrients they need to survive. Their innovation was presented via Zoom to two judges, five other inventors, and a moderator in June.



Sofie Rumman and Braeden McCague

MathCounts team participates at state tournament

A group of Elementary School students on the MathCounts team were selected to participate at the state tournament. The students (all 6th Graders) were Nathan Cai, Emily Chen, Pranathi Gundabolu, Audrey Kelm, and Shivani Pindiprolu. Congratulations also to 8th Grader Rohan Padhye for advancing to the state tournament, too.



From left: Nathan Cai, Emily Chen, Pranathi Gundabolu, Audrey Kelm, and Shivani Pindiprolu.

Green Bears earn Superior ranking at science day

Nine Green Bears earned a “Superior” rating at the Virtual District Science Day in March and advanced to the State of Ohio Science Day. Individuals advancing were 8th Grader Quinton Smith; juniors Thomas Franklin and Elanora Smith; and seniors Will Berschback and Ava Porter. Group projects advancing were freshmen Mahd Naqvi and Cole Weaver and sophomores Andrew Sturtz and Olga Isailovic.

12 students compete in 23 science events

Twelve members of the OH Science Olympiad Team competed virtually in April at the annual Ohio State Science Olympiad competition. Participants were 8th Grader Quinton Smith; freshman Kori Mensior; sophomores Ethan Green and Ali Sediq; juniors Thomas Franklin, Alex Mian, and Benjamin Williams; and seniors Athena Gong, Summer Moynihan, Tarun Paramasamy, Ava Porter, and Alyssa Rosenberg. The students competed in 23 events that tested their knowledge of science topics from anatomy and physiology to dynamic planet, environmental chemistry, and physics trajectory. They worked through challenging tests, built bridges to hold extreme loads, developed instruments to detect WiFi signals, and created a plane that ran on the elastic potential energy of a rubber band.

Junior High students strike up the band at BGSU

Eleven Junior High students were selected to participate at an all-day BGSU Middle School Honor Band event in May at Bowling Green State University. The students were Mercy Alamina (7), Jasper Allred (8), Gates Begeman (7), Hannah Chow (8), Sam Kapadia (7), Elsa Klaas (8), Freya Klaas (8), Jillian Parsons (7), Sahil Parikh (8), Quinton Smith (8), and Emily Timmerman (8). “In years past, we’ve had only two or three students get accepted and participate,” said Michael Leeds, the district’s band director. “This Junior High Band is a very musical group. I’m very proud of our band students!”

Speech and Debate Team members rank in top third of all state finalists

The OH Speech and Debate Team had a great experience at the Ohio Speech and Debate Association state tournament in March. Representing OH were juniors Avalon Ayres, Thomas Franklin, and Reyan Shariff; sophomores Savith Vijendra, Esther Yang, Ali Sediq, Willah Hoelzle, Zoe Cheema, and Ryaan Bhuiyan; and freshman Zayn Cheema. They qualified out of a Toledo-area district competition. Zoe and Ryaan broke and advanced for Congress and Avalon broke and advanced for Lincoln-Douglas debate, putting her in the top 24 of all Ohio competitors. While not moving further, their accomplishments rank OH students in the top third of all state finalists. Avalon placed first in the national district qualifier tournament earlier this spring and advanced to the national tournament in Louisville, Ky.

Check, please!

Congratulations to the Ottawa Hills Chess Club for winning the Greater Toledo Area High School Chess League for the 2021-2022 season. The season was delayed to spring from its normal fall schedule due to COVID-19. OH had a perfect 8-0 record and earned 29 out of a maximum 32 board points.

The OH Chess Club finished 7th out of 44 teams in April

at the National High School Championships sponsored by the United States Chess Federation. The team competed against schools from across the country. Some OH students had an opportunity to play a “blitz” round with Grand Master Benjamin Finegold, one of the top players in the world. The students enjoyed seminars, speakers, and learning with other students from around the country. Making the trip to Memphis, Tenn., were sophomore Ryaan Bhuiyan and seniors Ra’eed Bhuiyan, Owen Green, Aidan Jones, Finn Jones, David Harding, and Tarun Paramasamy. The “unrated” team consisting of Finn, Aidan, David, and Tarun placed 7th. The U1200 team of Ra’eed, Ryaan, and Owen placed 17th. Individually, Owen placed 19th and Ra’eed 35th in the U1200.



OH chess teams had a record-setting performance in May at Ohio’s Middle School State Championships

in Columbus. Eight students competed in two sections: Reserve (new players and players with ratings under 1,000) and Championship (best players in the state). The Green Bears took first in both sections, the first time a single school has done so at the Middle School State Championships! And 8th Grader Rohan Padhye went 6-0 to be crowned the state’s Middle School champ and moved on to represent Ohio at nationals. Members of the Reserve Section team were Eleza Zaidi (6), Raaghav Gundabolu (4), Jude Martinez (2), and Bobby Chapman (5). Members of the Championship Section team were Rohan, Jeremiah Leeds (8), Nick Thompson (6), and Pranathi Gundabolu (6). Ryan Clayton coached both teams.

A team representing Ottawa Hills Elementary School captured the spring Great Lakes Chess Matches title

after defeating eight other Toledo-area teams. Team members were Kindergartener Samanvita Sivaguru; 1st Graders Arthur Coolidge, Bennett Horen, Liam Kammeyer, and Thomas Lewis; 2nd Graders Akshaya Katangur, Saatvik Sivaguru, and Lucas Trujillo; and 3rd Grader Liam Jones. Bennett took first in the K-2 grade section while Lucas finished second. The students were coached by Ryan Clayton and participated as part of the Chess Club team offered through Village Life.

Glass Acts

Scott, OH students building bonds over glass

Students and their art teachers from Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School and Scott High School in Toledo have joined forces to learn more about the creative process and create custom pieces of art. The artistic collaboration is the latest partnership emerging from the Home to Home program, an initiative launched in 2020 to forge tighter bonds between students and teachers at the schools.

The program is funded through The Kadens Family Leadership Fund within the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. A key partner in the art-creating project is the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA), which is lending facilities and staff time to facilitate the collaboration. Throughout the summer, students are learning about the glassmaking process. Eventually, student teams from each building will create artwork that shares similar themes and which will be displayed in each building.

Special thanks to Kacey McCreery, the TMA community engagement glass artist, for her cooperation with this effort.



Students practice the art of glassmaking inside the Glass Pavilion at the Toledo Museum of Art.



Teams from both schools gathered this spring for their first introduction to the glassmaking art form. Working together, their goal is to create themed works for inside each high school.



NEWSBRIEFS

District website introduces translation tool

To make its website more accessible to non-native English speakers, the district has installed a tool that converts content into different languages in real time. Content is currently accessible in Arabic, traditional Chinese, and Spanish via a widget in the lower right-hand corner. The district is adding two more languages soon and has the ability to offer as many as 116.

District premieres State of the District video

As everyone in Ottawa Hills knows, tradition is a big part of the community and helps to keep the district and Village so special. Earlier this year, Ottawa Hills Local Schools introduced a new tradition: a State of the District video. The 10-minute video celebrated achievements in recent years, with a special focus on 2021. It also presented details about the new Strategic Plan and updates regarding the challenges ahead. Watch at ohschools.org/videos

OHSPA funds \$39K in wish list items

The Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association (OHSPA) made 21 wishes come true in May by agreeing to fund nearly \$39,000 in funding requests from faculty and staff. The group's membership approved seven projects at the Junior/

Senior High School, 13 at the Elementary School, and one districtwide. The requests ranged from new digital cameras and microscopes to wobble stools and sensory bins. The largest item (\$10,000) was for 12 Samsung and 12 Apple TVs at the Elementary School to replace existing whiteboard technology.

Carnival raises nearly \$19K

Through the generosity of local businesses and families, the Elementary School Spring Carnival raised the most in its history: \$18,562. The event is organized annually by the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association as a fundraiser for the district. Thank you to the carnival committee, OHSPA president Jana Kammeyer, and event volunteers. During its virtual auction held in conjunction with the carnival, OHSPA raised an additional \$5,065. The most popular items were reserved parking spots at the Junior/Senior High School and the Elementary School.

The Foundry recruiting tutors, coaches

The Foundry is looking for paid and volunteer academic coaches and tutors to start in August. The roles will help students in grades 7-12 succeed in a variety of academic subjects and personal growth areas. The Foundry Design Team is also looking for volunteers to help staff a range of other programs and services,



Ice cream was a big hit at the 2022 carnival.

from working in the Cafe to serving as panelists for career-related discussions. Visit ohschools.org/foundry to fill out the form. Questions? Contact Darrin Broadway, dean of secondary teaching and learning, at dbroadway@ohschools.org.

Village No. 2 in Ohio for raising families

The Village of Ottawa Hills is the second-best place in Ohio to live and raise a family, according to new rankings released by research company Niche. In both categories, the community finished behind Oakwood, a suburb of Dayton. The "Best Places to Live" ranking examines the overall livability of an area. The "Best Places to Raise a Family" ranking examines factors meaningful for families, such as the quality of local schools, safety, affordability, and access to family amenities.



The Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association made 21 wishes come true.



© Photos by Jeremy Wadsworth/The Blade. Used with permission

Congratulations to Teddy Perozek ('22) for capturing the Division III high jump title with a leap of 6'7" at the State Track and Field Championship in May. It was quite an improvement from 2021, when he placed 12th with a jump of 6 feet. "I came in wanting to win. This year felt good and I knew I was ready," Mr. Perozek said after the event. "There's no better place to take a [personal record] than at States. It's the perfect way to end the season." He is attending The Ohio State University next year.



SPORTSBRIEFS

Track athletes perform well at States

Teddy Perozek ('22) wasn't the only OH athlete getting noticed at the 2022 State Track and Field Championship. The boys' 3200m relay team of juniors Carson Mackey, Sage Egan, and Thomas Franklin and sophomore Riley Nixon set a new school record with a time of 8:01.94 to finish fourth, only eight seconds behind first-place Fort Loramie. The time was five seconds faster than the group's previous best. In other events at States, Riley finished third in the 3200m while teammate Thomas finished eighth; and Carson finished 10th in the 800m.

Green Bears add 3 more TAAC titles

Ottawa Hills athletes added three more Toledo Area Athletic Conference titles this

spring. The boys won the track and field title with 188 points, 30 points ahead of second-place Maumee Valley Country Day School. Other crowns were earned by the boys' varsity baseball team and the Junior High co-ed track and field team.

Boosters' auction raises nearly \$12K

The OH Boosters raised more than \$11,500 from the sale of 15 spectacular baskets at its April online auction. The money benefits each respective team that created and submitted a basket. The highest-price item: the basket from the boys' lacrosse team, which went for just over \$3,000. The event capped a wonderful tailgate party the Boosters organized that same evening. Thank you to all the bidders and winners, and to Boosters president Jessica Smith and

trustee Jackie Berenzweig for organizing the auction and tailgate.

Dance Team shows off moves

Congratulations to the OH Dance Team for earning two Top 10 finishes at States in Columbus. The girls finished ninth in hip hop and eighth in pom. Coach Taylor Bush and the team were proud of their season and appreciated all the support they received from Green Bear Nation. Congratulations to seniors Sophia Heidenreich, Sarah Keil, and Paxson Koury; juniors Sydney Mack and Gigi Suhy; sophomores Ava Jessee and Sarah Stone; and freshmen Lena Bazzoli and Ashley Wang.

Jack Burke advances to States

Senior Jack Burke received a heroic send-off from classmates for advancing to play in the Division II tennis singles championship bracket at States.



The boys' two varsity baseball teams had the privilege of playing a doubleheader May 17 at Fifth Third Field. The Green Bears won both games to complete a perfect afternoon downtown. The event was possible by the generosity of the Effler family of Ottawa Hills (see related photo, story on page 26).

COLLEGE SPORTS



Signing Day Alumni

Ten Green Bear athletes—a new school record—signed letters of intent this spring to continue playing at the collegiate level. Well done, athletes!

**Jack Genzman**

Baseball
Bluffton University
Beavers
Division III

**Blake Gnepper**

Baseball
SUNY Maritime
College Privateers
Division III

**Warren Goik**

Baseball
Rose-Hulman Institute
of Technology Fightin'
Engineers
Division III

**Meredith Greeley**

Soccer
Babson College
Beavers
Division III

**Adam Hamilton**

Baseball
Case Western Reserve
University Spartans
Division III

**Henry Harders**

Tennis
Baldwin Wallace
University
Yellow Jackets
Division III

**Chase Lorenzen**

Soccer
Ohio Northern
University
Polar Bears
Division III

**Alex Nemunaitis**

Baseball
Wittenberg University
Tigers
Division III

**Andy Nemunaitis**

Baseball
Wittenberg University
Tigers
Division III

**Robert Witte**

Track
Ohio Northern
University
Polar Bears
Division III

A Final Salute to OH Seniors



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Where the Class of 2022
is headed

The week of Commencement provided OH students, their families, and the community an opportunity to celebrate a huge milestone together: graduation from high school. This year's event was again held outdoors (thank you, weather!) and, for a third straight year, concluded with the Senior Car Parade through the Village. The special day began with a group photo in front of the Elementary School followed by the Senior Walk through the building's hallways. Members of the Class of 2022 hugged former teachers and slapped high-fives with younger Green Bears cheering them on as part of their special day.

Class of 2022



Images by Impulse Sports and Laurie Bertke Photography



Laurie Bertle Photography

A Recognition of Excellence

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

To honor the individuals and groups who established these honors, *Around These Hills* presents the 2022 recipients of those awards and scholarships.

Sara Devenow Abrams Photography Award

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

Bazil Frueh

James Casper I Dare You Leadership Award

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

**Annie Bazzoli &
Eleanor Smith**

Connections Award

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

Avril Niemann

Jon S. Davis Striving to Achieve Scholarship

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

Daniel Williamson

Tom Docis Phenomenal Physics Award

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

**Liam McCullough-
Campbell**

Nanci Kay Effler Memorial Scholarship

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

Faith Seo

Don Fontaine French Award

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

Lorelei Huber

Kristjan Gislason Award

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

Drake Furey

Steve Gordon Memorial Scholarship

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

Natalie Timmerman

Brian Nicholas Hoefflinger Memorial Scholarship Award

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

**Thomas Walker Kight &
Eleanor Szyperski**

Nancy and Tom Kabat Scholarship Award

Established in 2003 by Nancy and Tom Kabat ('62). Awarded to a senior who is uplifting, makes a positive contribution, and is well respected by classmates. Also demonstrates leadership, a good work ethic, academic achievement, and volunteer service.

Mary Margaret Summers

Karen Klein Music Award

Established to honor Karen Klein ('58), a talented soprano who died shortly after a choir rehearsal preparing for the

annual spring concert. She is remembered for her leadership, character, and musicianship.

Avril Niemann

Fred Kreutzfeld CheMystery Magic Award

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

Sofie Rumman

David M. Larabee Memorial Scholarship

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

Lorelei Huber

Chad Layne Foreign Language Award

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

**Bazil Frueh &
William Truman Talbott**

Liberty Memorial Award

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

Annie Bazzoli

Philip W. Longenecker Science Award

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

Warren Goik

The Ottawa Hills Education Association Scholarship

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

Ava Morgan

The James Petas Memorial Girls Lacrosse Scholarship Award

Established in 2021 in honor of Mr. Petas, the financial

scholarship is given to the senior lacrosse player who best exemplifies dedication, enthusiasm, diligent work ethic, self improvement, and an overall positive attitude on and off the field.

Avery Dale

Principal's Choice Award

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

Reagan Clarke & William Berschback

Dion Raftopoulos Award

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

Natalie Timmerman

Robert Repp Social Studies Scholarship Award

Established to honor Robert Repp. Awarded to a senior who understands the qualities of a good citizen, excelled over four years in social studies,

and plans to continue those studies at college. Recipient shows the potential to actively pursue leadership roles in society. (Members of the social studies department provide this financial award.)

Thomas McCarthy

Lindy Redmann Sports Award

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

Barrett Downing

Kathryn H. Saxby Memorial Scholarship

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

Bazil Frueh

John Philip Sousa Band Award

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

Warren Goik

Peggy Thomas Memorial Scholarship Award

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

William Truman Talbott

Ross Treuhaft Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2012 with contributions from the Treuhaft family in memory of Ross Treuhaft. Awarded to a senior(s) who welcomes

diversity; understands and has compassion toward students with special needs or who are different from the norm; has an interest in special education; demonstrates a desire to include others different from themselves; and possesses kindness and joy.

Eleanor Kieser & Blaise Malczewski

Lori Warner Levy Memorial Award

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

Dylan Fall

Donna Tozer Wipfli Choralier Award

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

Reagan Clarke

Mayor Jean Youngen Leadership Award

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

Avery Dale & Sophia Heidenreich



Laurie Bertke Photography



Congratulations Graduates

Images by Impulse Sports and Laurie Bertke Photography

William Bales
Loyola University Chicago

Zakaria Barudi
University of Cincinnati

Rachel Beevis
Ohio University

Adam Berk
University of Cincinnati

William Berschback
University of Michigan

Mubashshir Bhuiyan
University of Michigan

Samantha Bigioni
University of Toronto

Maahum Bokhari
Bowling Green State University

Jack Burke
Michigan State University

Addison Carter
Bowling Green State University

Reagan Clarke
University of Michigan

Leila Clausen
University of Cincinnati

Joseph Cohn
University of Cincinnati

Stella Cooper
The Ohio State University

Caden Coy
The University of Toledo

Avery Dale
University of Georgia

Elise Denk
The Ohio State University

Ashim Dhakal
The Ohio State University

Eliana Diesen
Purdue University

Dylan Fall
Miami University

Sergei Fedorov
Gap-Year Experience

Eva Frost Murnen
The University of Toledo

Bazil Frueh
Northwestern University

Drake Furey
Bowling Green State University

Jack Genzman
Bluffton University

Blake Gnepper
State University of New York
Maritime College

Warren Goik
Rose-Hulman Institute of
Technology

Athena Gong
The Ohio State University

Meredith Greeley
Babson College

Owen Green
The University of Toledo

Ryan Halbig
University of Cincinnati

Adam Hamilton
Case Western Reserve University

Henry Harders
Baldwin Wallace University

David Harding
Bowling Green State University

Kirstin Harmon
The University of Toledo

Beauregard Harvey
Colorado Mesa University

Sophia Heidenreich
Miami University

Genesis Hendricks
IMTA

Robert Heuring
The University of Toledo

Douglas Hileman
Purdue University

Jonas Hoelzle
Ohio University

Geneva Howard
The Ohio State University

Lorelei Huber
Miami University

Madeline Jacob
The Ohio State University

Aidan Jones
Bowling Green State University

Finnegan Jones
Bowling Green State University

Marisa Kadrovach
The Ohio State University

BY THE NUMBERS

2

National Merit Finalists

4

National Merit Commended Scholars

2

Perfect Score on the ACT

20

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

10

Magna Cum Laude Graduates

10

Cum Laude Graduates

52

Honors Diplomas

46

President's Awards for Educational Excellence

42

National Honor Society Members

89

Graduates



All images by Laurie Bertke Photography

Wesley Keaton

The University of Toledo

Sarah Keil

Ohio University

Eleanor Kieser

Ohio University

Thomas Walker Kight

Indiana University

Elizabeth Koury

University of Colorado Boulder

Chase Lorenzen

Ohio Northern University

Blaise Malczewski

University of Oregon

Margaret Mancy

The Ohio State University

Thomas McCarthy

Miami University

Molly McCracken

The Ohio State University

Liam McCullough-Campbell

Kettering University

Brayden Miller

The Ohio State University

Ava Morgan

Capital University

Ziad Mourad

The University of Toledo

Summer Moynihan

Eastern Michigan University

Ahmed Naqvi

The University of Toledo

Alexander Nemunaitis

Wittenberg University

Andrew Nemunaitis

Wittenberg University

Avril Niemann

Savannah College of Art and Design

Amanda O'Loughlin

Miami University

Tarun Paramasamy

The Ohio State University

Edward Perozek II

The Ohio State University

Ava Porter

University of Michigan

Ariana Pourazady

The University of Toledo

Matthew Radlinski

Toledo Fire Department

Anil Ravani

Ohio Northern University

Alyssa Rosenberg

Miami University

Faith Seo

University of Southern California

Charles Smith

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Mary Margaret Summers

Ohio University

Eleanor Szyperski

West Virginia University

William Truman Talbott

University of Michigan

Isaac Tavtugian

University of Cincinnati

Addison Thom

Ohio Northern University

Natalie Timmerman

University of Michigan

Sarah Wheeler

The University of Toledo

Daniel Williamson

The University of Toledo

Kendal Wilson

University of Cincinnati

Robert Witte

Ohio Northern University

Maxwell Woody

Xavier University

Griffin Wray

University of Cincinnati

Roger Xie

University of Michigan

2022

FOUNDATION LETTER

It's still 'Full STEAM Ahead' as alumni ranks expand

On behalf of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, we welcome the 89 members of the Class of 2022 into a new elite club: alumni of Ottawa Hills High School! These newest graduates are an accomplished group of scholars, athletes, and artists. We hope the friendships you formed here last and sustain you for a lifetime. And don't forget to save this date—June 2, 2072—for your 50th Class Reunion!

Speaking of alumni, we are excited to announce Sept. 16 as the next ceremony to honor a new class of recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award and inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame. This celebration and the fall donor appreciation reception have become the Foundation's signature events. Stay tuned for details on who these honorees are and their remarkable achievements.

Campaign update: We are entering the next phase of the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign, as energies shift to realizing the dramatic enhancements planned at the Elementary School and specifically The Wondry (a playful twist on The Foundry at the Junior/Senior High School). A driving force in shaping these new learning spaces arrives in August with the addition of Amanda Sanderson as the new literacy and innovation specialist at the Elementary School. We are excited to have her join our faculty and contribute her ideas and energy.

The Campaign received fantastic support for its recent "Get Into Gear" initiative during which those with a strong affinity for Ottawa Hills acknowledged that devotion with a financial pledge. Many of those names will be added to donor recognition walls at one or both of the new STEAM spaces (The Foundry and The Wondry).

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

P.S. Thank you to the Effler family for entrusting to the Foundation your mother's legacy by creating the Nanci Kay Effler Fund for Visual Arts (see related story on page 24).



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

Giving for STEAM keeps reaching new heights

Support for enhancements at The Foundry and The Wondry continues to grow as the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign begins its second year.

The drive to raise \$2.2 million began a year ago in June as groundbreaking occurred on new and upgraded spaces at the Junior/Senior High School. To date, nearly 200 individuals, families, and businesses have joined. (Aug. 1 is the deadline for gifts to be made in order to be recognized on giving plaques inside The Foundry in time for the opening ceremonies.)

The Campaign supports initiatives related to the subjects of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Symbolizing this new investment in academic and emotional support is the 6,800-square-foot Foundry being built in the center of the building.

The summer months are bringing two new pieces of the Campaign to fruition: construction of the The Sue and Jim White, Jr. Family Art Studio and major upgrades to two Junior High science classrooms. As those projects are completed, plans are gaining momentum for STEAM enhancements in the Elementary School library and classrooms. Those efforts are being supported by the "Get Into Gear" initiative led by groups of parents representing every grade in the building. Learn more at ohschools.org/fullsteam



Leaders of the Class of 2022 and Principal Ben McMurray celebrated the placing of a time capsule inside The Foundry this spring. As alumni, they will reopen it at their 50th Class Reunion. What's inside? Issues of the *Arrowhead*, a Playbill from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," and a group 6th Grade graduation photo. And a face mask.

SAVE THE DATE

The public is invited to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Foundry on Monday, Aug. 15. The event celebrates the accomplishments of the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign and nearly 15 months of non-stop construction. The event will take place inside the Junior/Senior High School. Stay tuned for more details.

A Lasting Vision

Family of Sue White honors her visionary talent

To appreciate the uncommon scope of Sue White's talent and vision, one needs only to view pictures of the formerly abandoned Hasty House Farm. The historic Village property, once an 82-acre horse farm and stable that produced many famous thoroughbreds of the mid-20th Century, was overgrown with weeds and in disrepair after sitting empty for nearly 20 years.

But Mrs. White, who died unexpectedly in 2018 at age 75, saw majestic beauty in the stable's brickwork and craftsmanship and admired its historical significance. Before the building could be demolished and the land developed into homes, she and husband Jim White, Jr.

(Class of 1958) purchased the stable building and surrounding acreage in December 1997. She then oversaw an

18-month renovation as the project's interior designer and unofficial architect. The result was a 6,000-square-foot showcase residence at 14 Stableside South Rd. that she and Mr. White called home for nearly 20 years.

"The Stable was her stamp of excellence," her husband said in an interview inside her masterpiece. "Sue was a great preservationist and a believer in adaptive reuse."

Her family's great admiration for her entrepreneurial and artistic talents led them to establish a legacy in her honor through the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

Earlier this year, they gave a leadership gift to the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign; as a result, art students at the Junior/Senior High School will develop their own creative talents starting this fall in The Sue and Jim White, Jr. Family Art Studio.

When the Art Studio opens, it will contain not only renovated classrooms, but also a lobby space and adjacent makerspace with 3D printers. Hundreds of OH students will use the Art Studio in a variety of fields, from stained glass and ceramics to digital photography and painting.

It's a fitting tribute to a woman who enjoyed the process of creating art for others to view and experience.

"She was a visual creator and especially loved working with color. She could go into a room and lay it out in about one second," said her daughter Carey Gifford ('89). "She had a very strong visual sense."

Mrs. White's career as a professional designer began in the early 1990s, after her children, including son James White III, graduated

and moved away. She was active in the Ottawa Hills Garden Club and the district's parent-teacher organization. Although she had a teaching degree from The Ohio State University and taught in elementary classrooms, she set that career aside after starting a family. She instead pursued her passion by earning a degree in interior design from Davis College. That training launched her new career, which as both an independent consultant and later as an employee, centered around Betty Rumpf Interiors in Toledo.

"She had a great vision," said Kris Jensen, a longtime colleague at Betty Rumpf who now manages the business. "People had a lot of faith in her and trusted her. She was very good at her job."

In addition to her contributions around the Village, Mrs. White also was a member of the Junior League of Toledo and Toledo Museum of Art's Ambassadors. To celebrate her involvement there, the White family recently funded the Susan ("Sue") Serrott White Memorial Lecture in Decorative Arts and Design History.

The first lecture took place in May, and museum director emeritus Roger Berkowitz offered tribute to her many talents, and especially her work on Hasty House Farm. "This house was permeated with Sue's ingenuity, respect for historic preservation, love of beautiful textiles, just the right object in just the right place, and her particular ability to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere," Mr. Berkowitz wrote in a tribute.

Her interior design projects were almost always large-scale and her clients ranged from homeowners to prestigious private clubs, including three locally: The Toledo Club, Inverness Club, and Stone Oak Country Club. Locations spanned the country, from Vermont and Florida to Texas.

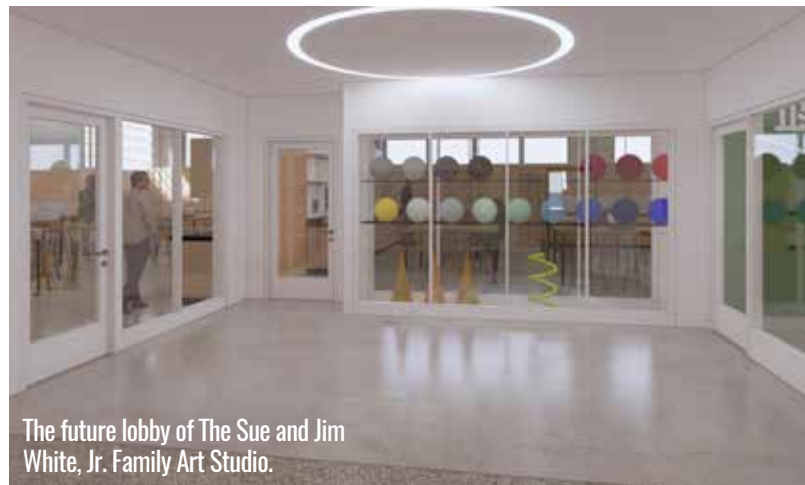
"She had the ability to put color and fabric together as well as a great sense for quality at a very reasonable price," Mr. White said. "She always told clients, 'Don't look at the room until it's done.' And they were always impressed with the results."



Hasty House Farm



Sue and Jim White, Jr.



The future lobby of The Sue and Jim White, Jr. Family Art Studio.

Granted! 14 grants help enhance, extend excellence in Ottawa Hills

Since our last issue, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has awarded 14 grants covering a range of faculty and staff requests both inside and outside the classroom.

Project: A practice round at district course

Fund: The Mindel Family Athletic Fund

The Foundation is picking up a practice round for six members of the boys' golf team at the site of this year's Districts. Last year, the Green Bears finished 7th in Division III and are moving up to Division II this year. The summer outing takes the place of a traditional camp. Coach Tricia Fojtik said she wanted the boys to become more familiar with the course should the team make another run at the state title.

Project: A versatile machine for diamond work

Fund: The Mindel Family Athletic Fund

Nearly 40 players on the OH baseball teams were able to improve their swings and other skills courtesy of the Foundation's Mindel Family Athletic Fund. The fund approved a request from coach Chris Hardman for a Junior Hack Attack pitching machine. While it was used mostly as a pitching machine, the machine has other uses in many areas, such as catcher pop-ups and fungo work.

Project: Building teams with camp experiences

Fund: The Mindel Family Athletic Fund

Foundation grants are helping to cover some costs for the volleyball and boys' and girls' soccer teams to attend summer team-building and skills camps. The volleyball team will use the two-day experience to take the program to the next level, said coach Heather Holly. The team-building takes place at Grace Adventures

in Michigan. The boys' soccer team and coaches will participate in their first-ever overnight team-building camp at Ashland University. It is open to any OH student athlete planning to play soccer this fall. The camp gives the athletes a chance to bond on and off the field as well as experience a collegiate atmosphere, said coach Brian Hanudel. The girls' camp takes place at Bowling Green State University and gives participants an opportunity to increase soccer knowledge and skills and work on team dynamics and chemistry both on and off the field, said coach Jessica Kozy.

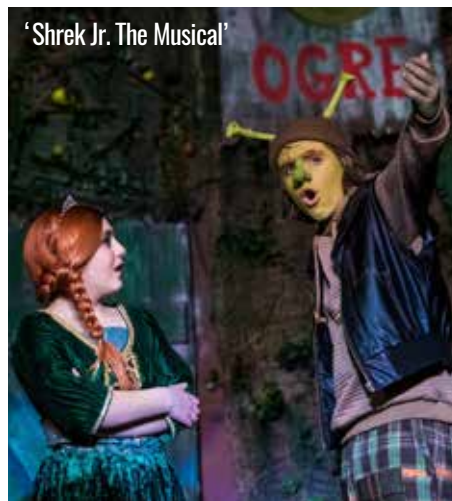


Photo by Yanko Kuk/Village Voice of Ottawa Hills

Project: Lights, camera, ... sponsorship!

Fund: The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts

More than 250 OH actors, actresses, and crew members in grades 4 through 12 are being supported in stage productions through the Foundation. The nonprofit signed on as a title sponsor for the 2022 season, which included productions of "Shrek Jr. The Musical" and "Guys and Dolls."



Project: Keeping the beat through drumming

Fund: The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts

Elementary School music students are taking a deeper dive into their knowledge of time, signatures, rhythms, rudiments, and more with new bucket drums. Bucket drumming is taught as part of the general music curriculum and strengthens the quality of students' musicianship as they prepare to enter the Junior High. The request came from Kimberly Manchur, the building's music teacher.

Project: Furthering STEM literacy

Fund: The STEM Fund

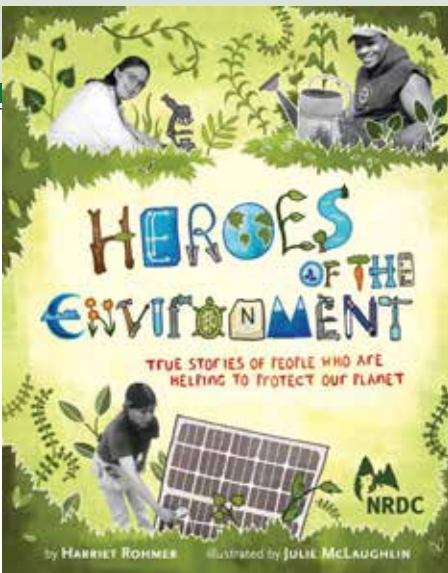
Students in two grades are receiving more chances to learn about science, technology, engineering, and math subjects thanks to Foundation support. In the 1st Grade, every classroom is receiving two Fairy Tales Problem Solving STEM kits, which are fun, hands-on problem-solving activities (such as building a bridge to help Three Billy Goats Gruff or a ladder for Rapunzel.) The 2nd Grade classrooms are receiving a wide variety of STEM material for current and future students. The STEM bins will be filled with items students can use to create, invent, and solve problems using real-world challenges.

Project: Building minds with escape room challenges

Fund: The STEM Fund

Students in the 4th Grade are getting escape room kits from Breakout EDU to challenge their ability to work together to solve a series of puzzle locks. The standards-aligned games challenge players to apply their content knowledge in collaborative ways.





Project: Reading up on saving the planet

Fund: Talmage Family Fund

A cross-curricula unit exploring ways to improve the environment is taking shape thanks to help from the Foundation. Organizers are 7th Grade teachers Nicole Silvers and Karen Fischer as well as Rose Bruno, a gifted intervention specialist for that grade. The grant supports the purchase of 60 copies of *Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who are Helping to Protect our Planet*. Students will learn about new technologies and be encouraged to pursue their own ideas to help sustain renewable resources.

Project: Providing close-up study of Lake Erie

Fund: The STEM Fund

Students in an environmental science course next year at the Junior/Senior High School will have new equipment and the opportunity to visit The Stone Laboratory at The Ohio State Lake Erie Field Station in

Put-in-Bay and Gibraltar Island. Students will get to work on research boats and collect data on areas such as water quality, benthic macroinvertebrates, plankton, and fish. The experience provides them an in-depth, scientific awareness of the unique natural resource that is Lake Erie, said Paul Genzman, the Junior High science teacher who submitted the grant.

Project: Loading up on zebrafish

Fund: Talmage Family Fund

Rising 11th graders Ali Sediqe and Riley Nixon will conduct biology research this coming school year with zebrafish thanks to the Foundation. The students are acquiring four pairs of zebrafish and 30 zebrafish embryos with ADHD genes. The students' work will take place in the Honors Scientific Research Course presented by ProMedica and taught by Jeremy Nixon.

Project: Restocking for new research

Fund: Talmage Family Fund

The biology lab at the Junior/Senior High School now has the chance to raise hundreds of zebrafish, a key research tool in biology research, in a new standalone aquatic system. The rack has a complete filtration system: mechanical, biological, and UV disinfection. The system will allow students to keep zebrafish with many different characteristics and genes in a chemically balanced system, said biology teacher Jeremy Nixon, who submitted the grant. With this system of farming hundreds of fish, students in grades 9-12

enrolled in Honors Biology, AP Biology, and the Honors Scientific Research Course can use the zebrafish as a model of study and research.

Project: Exploring genetic inheritance

Fund: The STEM Fund

Biology students will get the chance to observe firsthand the effects of various environmental factors on genetic inheritance with new equipment funded by the Foundation. In this long-term project, biology students will work to understand the process of inheritance, genetics, photosynthesis, and the cycling of matter. Students will design a genetic experiment to track specific traits over several generations of Wisconsin fast plants. The creation of a genetic experiment will also allow students to use the scientific method and understand the importance of an accurate and reliable experimental design, said biology teacher Liz (Clement) Puskala ('99), who submitted the grant.

Project: Developing positive behaviors

Fund: The Annual Unrestricted Impact Fund

Work on the state-mandated Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative received help with supplies courtesy of the Foundation. The funding facilitated the soft rollout of the program at the Elementary School, which included the introduction of "cub cash" to reward positive choices. The purpose of PBIS is to establish building-wide cultures of positive expectations for students.

Project: Building more confident faculty, staff

Fund: The Heldreth Family Student Services and Support Fund

Five teachers are attending a special summer conference to better understand current and future trends in reading and writing instruction, thanks to the Foundation and one of its newest funds. The request came from the district's Office of Curriculum and Instruction; the two-day conference in Indiana is sponsored by Smekens Education Solutions.



The Stone Laboratory at The Ohio State Lake Erie Field Station

New Effler family fund honors matriarch

She was a painter, crafter, lover of art, and mother to seven children (and OH graduates). Nanci Kay Effler’s artistic eye and handiwork were well known to her family and many other Villagers.

When she died of cancer in 2007, her children and surviving husband David honored her life by creating a memorial scholarship to support the artistic aspirations of a graduating Ottawa Hills senior. The family recently built upon that legacy by creating the Nanci Kay Effler Fund for Visual Arts within the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

The fund’s purpose has expanded beyond the awarding of the annual scholarship to now include support for an array of future innovations within the district’s art programs.

When the original scholarship fund was created, it was placed within the district treasurer’s office (the Foundation did not come into existence until 2016). Its principal grew with annual contributions from family members and friends. Moving it to the Foundation allows for more aggressive investment strategies that hopefully will produce even more interest—and therefore opportunities to award grants.

“We wanted the fund’s purpose to be broad to support objectives down the road that my mom would have been in full support of,” said Rich Effler (’00). “That was a big plus for the family. It goes beyond supporting an individual student every year, which we absolutely want to and will maintain, but to more programmatic initiatives. The fund furthers her legacy in a school system that was incredibly important to her and through which she raised seven kids.”

In addition to Rich, those children are David Jr. (“DJ”) (’96), Devon (’98), Timothy (’01), Daniel (’03), Kelly (’04), and Andrew (’06).

Mr. Effler said his mom’s artistic abilities started with crafting around the home, particularly anything holiday themed. “Every year, she would make a new Christmas Santa Claus ‘something.’ In front of the fireplace, she placed all of her Santas created from the late 1970s until she passed,” he said. “Right after Thanksgiving every year, our house would turn into a Christmas wonderland of handcrafted creations.”

Another artistic project was one she undertook with friend and fellow Villager Nancy Schiciano. They created custom birdhouses as replicas of people’s homes around the Village, with Mrs. Schiciano helping with the design, Mr. (Sal) Schiciano providing the woodworking, and Mrs. Effler the painting. A few still stand around the Village.

Mrs. Effler grew up in Toledo and attended St. Ursula Academy, where she was voted “Most Likely to Succeed.” She graduated from The University of Toledo in 1974, but did not major in art. As the children graduated and moved out of the home, she began taking formal art classes.

That led to more involved projects on canvas with watercolor and oils. Her favorite subject was wildlife, perhaps inspired by her lifelong love of horses. (She boarded and rode one throughout her life.)

As she developed her artistic talents, she gained regional recognition. She eventually became a member of the Toledo Artists’ Club, The Toledo Women’s Art League, and The Northwestern Ohio Water Color Society. In 2006, she was elected a member of the Athena Art Society, a distinct honor bestowed on the region’s distinguished female artists.

“The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is grateful to the Effler family for creating this endowed fund and supporting future students,” said Erica Silk (’89), the district’s director of development and alumni relations. “Mrs. Effler’s legacy will help enhance and extend the unique experience of excellence in our district.”



Nanci Kay Effler

The family recently built upon her legacy by creating the Nanci Kay Effler Fund for Visual Arts within the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.





Alumni gather at Chi-Town Throwdown

Chicago-area alumni received a private concert from the Choraliers in March at a special reception in the Windy City. The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation organized the event in conjunction with the group's performance tour, which included a public recital inside the Great Hall at the Museum of Natural History.



Maria McCall with students



Brett Hoffman

Alumni share insights with students

The welcome mat is always out for alumni wishing to share their insights and experiences with current students. Returning this spring to OH classrooms were Brett Hoffman ('18) and Maria McCall ('15). Mr. Hoffman spoke to students in Tony Torio's AP Statistics course about his first-year medical school experiences and the power of statistics in driving medical progress. Ms. McCall spoke to students in Kristin Johnson's Digital Photography 2 course about the importance of following your creative passions and the impact that has on one's life. Ms. McCall is a registered nurse at ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital and has traveled the world taking breathtaking images of landscapes and wildlife. View her work at mariamccallphotography.smugmug.com

Class of
'62

Class of 1962 celebrates 60th



More than a dozen members of the Class of 1962 celebrated their 60th Reunion in June with a series of events, including a tour of the High School. The group dedicated the reunion to two of their favorite teachers: Elizabeth Steele and Norm Neidermeier. They also took in a museum tour, a round of golf, and a Mud Hens game. Among those attending were (from left): Chris Todd, Denis Stefango, Jay Holden, Barb (Levine) Appel, Lynn (Mehring) Garwood, Dave "L.B." Roadhouse, Jim Zimmerman, Graeme Bell, Sue (Bruhl) Campbell, and Dave Goodwillie.

Celebrating **15** YEARS

for the Class of 2007

Attention, members of the Class of 2007: Your classmates are organizing a 15-year reunion for Saturday, Aug. 13. The class has reserved The Roost at Fifth Third Field for a buffet dinner (cash bar) and to watch a Mud Hens game. Get more details at ohschools.org/alumni. Questions? Contact class president Betsy Lewis at enlewis1616@gmail.com.

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022

Come out and cheer on the Hens!



The Effler family of Ottawa Hills showed their love of the Village and baseball by underwriting a doubleheader appearance by the Green Bears at Fifth Third Field May 17. The OH baseball teams won both games. Four Effler sons—David Jr. ("DJ") ('96), Rich ('00), Daniel ('03), and Andrew ('06)—all played on teams coached by Chris Hardman. Celebrating the occasion were (from left): Ross Longhorne, son Jack, and Kelly (Effler) Longhorne ('04); Rich Effler (with sons Ben and Noah behind him); Theresa and husband Dan Effler ('03); Shannon McCain with siblings Erin and Will behind her; patriarch David Effler, Sr. and wife Kathryn; and Devon (Effler) McCain ('98).



Alumni to be honored Sept. 16

Details are being finalized for the annual ceremony celebrating the achievements of Ottawa Hills alumni. The Sept. 16 event honors recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award and new inductees into the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Established in 2019, the Hall of Fame honors outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of the district's athletic programs. Established in 2017, the Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes former students who have made a meaningful contribution to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills. Nominations for 2023 honorees are now being accepted. Send recommendations to Erica Silk ('89) at esilk@ohschools.org.

[Learn about past award honorees at ohschools.org/alumni](https://www.ohschools.org/alumni)

MEMORIAMs

Janell M. MacArthur ('55) passed away in February. She graduated from Centenary College in 1957 and attended Yale School of Drama where she was active in various productions. After college, she worked in New York in television with "Candid Camera," "Naked City," "Car 54," and on the movie sets of "The Hustler," "Lover Come Back," "That Touch of Mink," "Bon Voyage," and "If a Man Answers." She was also a production manager for various educational films. After 25 years in New York,



MacArthur

James Cooper ('63) passed away in February. After graduation, Mr. Cooper enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, served in Vietnam, and was discharged in 1967 with the rank of corporal. During his tenure, he was awarded five service medals and made lifelong friends. He was transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve and later attended Michigan State University. He loved reading, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, old movies, travel, cigars, and his cat.



Cooper

Ms. MacArthur joined a talent agency in Los Angeles as a theatrical agent.

Carl Benetzte Williams, III ('55) passed away in March. He attended Bowling Green State University before pursuing a long and distinguished career in the packaging industry at Chase Bag Co., Union Camp, EXOPACK, and International Paper. Outside of his family and friends, his passions were golf, travel, boating, and sports. He was a longtime member of Inverness Club in Toledo and Royal Palm Golf Club in Naples.



Williams

Connie (Fox) Rose ('56) passed away in May. In high school, she was active in several clubs and organizations, acted in several plays, and wrote for the school newspaper. She graduated with a teaching degree from Northwestern University and taught junior high and high school English and speech. She later moved to Kansas City, where she established Connie Rose Weight Management, Inc. She had a rewarding 25-year career doing what she loved most: teaching, counseling, and motivating while helping hundreds of Kansas Citians to achieve successful weight loss, improved health, and self-esteem.



Rose



Bregman

Madeline Julia (Gunderson) Bregman ('64) passed away in May. She worked as a special education teacher's assistant for 20 years and her students were loved like they were her own. She was an avid genealogist and loved sharing family history with others.

Henry Cox Rudy II ('56) passed away in March. He continued to keep up with his high school friends by attending reunions regularly

until recently. Mr. Rudy graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton. He was an outstanding pilot who worked at Tony Barnum Flight School, where he flew countless clients on private excursions throughout the Midwest and Canada. He later worked as a brokerage trader for major corporations, including Merrill Lynch and PaineWebber.



Rudy

Robert Scott Shern ('89) passed away in May. After graduation, he attended the University of Cincinnati before returning to the Toledo area to go into business with his father. They founded The Pretzel Stop and the Fiesta Cantina at Franklin Park Mall and The World Tea Company. Mr. Shern later joined his family members at VASKO Company, Inc., in purchasing. He enjoyed playing golf and was a car and watch buff.



Shern

Sterling Helmel Cole ('59) passed away in May. She attended Northwestern University, where she majored in theater and was active in the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Her love for the theater, drama, musicals, gardening, and cooking were deep roots of her life. Birthing the first Lamaze baby in Indiana led her on the path of being a Lamaze childbirth educator and early innovator of progressive birthing practices. She taught and coached the mothers and supporters of more than 2,000 babies.



Cole

If you know of an alumnus who has passed away recently, please let us know via email at info@ohschools.org. These memoriams are appreciated by fellow former students.



Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

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UPCOMING EVENTS



August

Monday
15

Ribbon-cutting for
The Foundry



Tuesday
16

First day of school
for the 2022-2023
academic year; annual
Senior Breakfast, this
year celebrating the
Class of 2023

Sunday
21

Back to School 5K



Friday
26

OH Boosters hosts
its annual barbeque
fundraiser

Sunday
28

Community Picnic
hosted by This is OH at
the Elementary School

September

Wednesday
7

Open house at the
Junior/Senior High
School (7-9 p.m.)

Friday
16

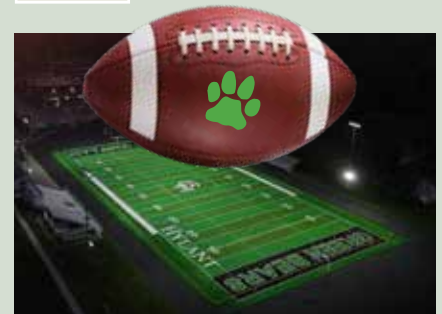
Ceremony for the
recipients of the
Distinguished Alumni
Award, Athletic Hall of
Fame induction



October

Friday
21

Village Life Parade;
Homecoming
football game



Saturday
22

Homecoming Dance

Keep up with the Green Bears!

It's easier than ever to follow
Green Bear teams. The district's website
(ohschools.org/sports) gives access to
sports schedules and Twitter feeds from
the OH Boosters and Athletic Department
make it easy to follow the action.

**Stay connected by following
@GreenBearSports and @OH_Boosters.**

Follow all events at ohschools.org/calendar