

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

AROUND these HILLS

WINTER 2023



The Wondry

Sparking curiosity
with the magic of STEAM

Inside this issue:

Gabe Gault mural unveiled

Boys' Varsity Soccer runner up for state champs

Frankel Family STEAM Café open in The Foundry

Celebrating alumni achievement



Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

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

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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DISTRICT LETTER

A year centered around gratitude...

Gratitude: the quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for, and to return kindness.

As the 2022-2023 Ottawa Hills Local school year began in August, with one of the strongest enrollment of students (1085 total) in district history, and as we reflect on the mid-way point of the school year, the meaning of “gratitude” is prevalent in so many ways. I am most grateful for the day-to-day interactions with our top-notch teachers and staff; working with our outstanding students who come to school ready and excited to learn; partnering with our active and involved parents; and witnessing the many ways in which our community wraps its arms around our school district everyday. Ottawa Hills is truly a magical place to live, learn, and raise a family.

Our school district continues to make our community proud and, thanks to the community support and involvement, we have been able to accomplish a great deal. Our gratitude continues for the passage of our 2020 bond levy that led to the opening of many new facilities and provided much needed upgrades to our junior/senior high school this year. The Foundry, the Sue and Jim White Jr. Family Art Studio, the Swigart Family MakerPLACE, the Gupta Family Science and Research Corridor, and the Frankel Family STEAM Café officially opened this year and are providing many opportunities for our students to excel and learn in ways they never have before. The building also received full HVAC upgrades, and has a brand new heating and cooling system that is now fully operational. Woohoo!

The excitement continues at the elementary school where we are grateful for the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. As part of the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign, the Foundation extended their fundraising goals for the renovation of our library/media center into what will be called “The Wondry.” They will also be contributing funds to upgrade our 6th grade science labs and our elementary art classroom. We are excited for this project, which is set to be completed in the fall of 2023.

Our new community-designed five-year Strategic Plan is in full effect this school year and goals for leading us on our journey to unparalleled academic excellence are underway. Our community spoke and we listened. Our district is grateful for the goals which nurture a joyful pursuit of learning; create a lifelong sense of belonging; leverage partnerships for transformative experiences; and support a comprehensive approach to modernization so that our students will reach even higher levels of success.

Lastly, we are forever grateful for our partnership with the Village of Ottawa Hills and our Ottawa Hills Police Department. With the unfortunate junior/senior high school safety event in January, we averted a potential crisis, and are grateful for the abundant support we received from local law enforcement. We learned so much on that terrifying day and came out stronger than before. It illustrated how everyone is “Green Bear Strong”!

I count my blessings each day for being able to partner with such a strong school board, staff, and community to help lead Ottawa Hills Local Schools. Gratitude has filled the Village, our school buildings, and my heart in many ways this year; and this feeling of thankfulness will continue to guide us as we grow and evolve in Green Bear Nation!



Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske
afineske@ohschools.org





7

KADENS FAMILY LEADERSHIP SERIES

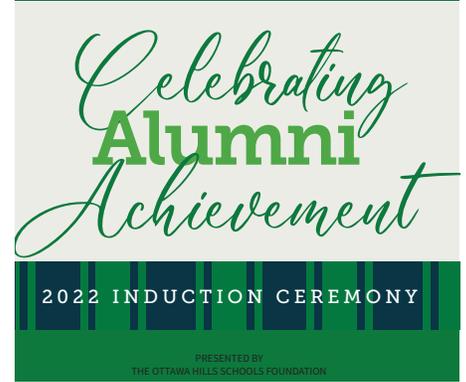
The Kadens Family Leadership Series, in partnership with the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, has brought several amazing speakers to our campus.



15

THE FOUNDRY IS READY FOR STUDENTS

To say the impact of The Foundry on students, faculty, staff, and the community has been immense, would be an understatement.



18

CELEBRATING ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Last fall, our Ottawa Hills community gathered to honor the Class of 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients and Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 District Letter
- 4 Campus News

- 6 Newsmakers
- 8 Sports

AROUND
these HILLS

- 17 Alumni News

- 28 Foundation News

- 30 Donors

- 32 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 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

Following the opening of The Foundry, the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign set its focus on doing something similar at the elementary school. The biggest project will be the transformation and renovation of the library/media center, which currently consists of the library, computer lab, and spaces for reading intervention, into "The Wondry." **Story starts on page 12.**



Gabe Gault creates mural to reflect diversity and inclusion

Renowned artist Gabe Gault visited Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School in January to complete his mural that was originally scheduled for Agora week last fall. Mr. Gault is the artist behind the design of the Glass City River Wall in Toledo, the largest mural of its kind in the United States. Ottawa Hills Local Schools is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating diversity and inclusion, and this new mural in the junior/senior high sunroom is meant to reflect our diverse student body and community. Mr. Gault said each child is looking ahead in a different direction to symbolize the different paths that lay ahead for each youth. Thank you to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation and private donors who made Mr. Gault's visit possible.



Gabe Gault mural completed in junior/senior high school

Agora returns with **WORLD BUILDERS**

Students at the junior/senior high school became world builders with the highly anticipated return of Agora last fall! This special week occurs biennially and allows students to have transformative experiences, both abroad and locally. Agora is a longstanding tradition at Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School. Named for the Greek marketplace where people would meet to exchange goods and ideas, Agora provides a forum for students to experience ideas outside the traditional classroom.

World builders in grades 11 and 12 had the opportunity to travel to Italy, Costa Rica, France, and Spain, while 8th-grade students traveled to Washington D.C. to learn about world builders of the U.S. A wide variety of workshops, projects, guest speakers, and other experiences were available for the remaining students to participate, with both on and off campus sites. Junior/senior high school principal Mr. Ben McMurray shared, "Agora gave students at home and abroad powerful and meaningful experiences."

None of this would be possible without the dedication of Mr. James Kinkaid, English teacher at the junior/senior high school and Agora coordinator. Dr. Fineske and then school board president, Mr. Rob Gnepper, presented Mr. Kinkaid with a commissioned art piece showcasing his Agora themes over the past two decades. Many thanks to the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, and the many people who made monetary donations or volunteered their time. Without their support, Agora would not have been possible.



James Kinkaid



Agora students in Rome.



Agora students in Costa Rica.



Agora students in France with principal Mr. McMurray and Madame Hanlon





OHLS receives school safety grant

Last November, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced 708 schools will receive grants to pay for security upgrades that will enhance student and staff safety. This is part of a \$100 million Ohio School Safety Program for K-12 schools. Ottawa Hills Local Schools was awarded \$100,000 following a competitive grant process. These funds will be split evenly between the elementary and junior/senior high school buildings and will cover expenses related to physical security enhancements. Seeking out and utilizing other funding sources, such as this grant, is one way the district continues to practice fiscal responsibility in line with our strategic plan.



Niche recognizes Ottawa Hills as #1 school district

Niche.com released their 2023 rankings for best schools in northwest Ohio and Ottawa Hills Local Schools swept the #1 spot. Not only did Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School rank #1 – as we have for several years – but Ottawa Hills Elementary School and the district overall were also ranked #1, and each earned an A+ rating. Congratulations to our top-notch teachers, awesome students, amazing parents, and supportive community.



OHMTA wows with Frozen Jr. production

The Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association wowed audiences with their *Frozen Jr.* production. Over 200 Green Bears participated in the production with either lead roles, ensembles, or helping behind the scenes as stage crew! Congratulations to: Dahlia Hajjar as Anna; Jasmine Hajjar as Elsa; Tommy Hopkins as Kristoff; Kadin Brown as Hans; Evelyn Sandretto as Olaf; Nicholas Fineske as King Agnarr; Ashleigh Speakman as Queen Iduna; Cora Walker as Bulda; P.J. Vanni as Pabbie; Finn Douglas as Duke of Weselton; and Max Kuhn as Oaken; as well as the rest of the cast and crew for outstanding performances.

We want to give a big green bear shout out to Mrs. Erica Kelm, for heading up the costume department! With her team of volunteers, over 400 costumes were made for the production of *Frozen Jr.*



NEWSMAKERS

Green Bear takes #1 at National Chess Championships

Rohan Padhye traveled to Maryland to compete in the U.S. Chess Federation National K-12 Grade Level Championships, and earned the top spot for 9th grade in the country.



Seventh grade team takes home Energy Award at robotics competition

Three teams from the Ottawa Hills Robotics Club attended the Dan Spak Memorial VRC Blended Robotics Competition in Akron last fall. There were 64 teams in attendance from all over the state. The 7th-grade team won the Energy Award for extraordinary enthusiasm. The students had a great time fixing and rebuilding their robots on the fly.



Fourth-grade classes “see stars” for generosity

Throughout November, the elementary student council hosted a canned food drive and collected over 4,600 items for Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality Kitchen. As a special reward for bringing in the most non-perishable items (1,160), the 4th-grade class took a field trip to the University of Toledo Ritter Planetarium. This was a perfect connection to their studies of fossils in science class earlier in the year.

Little Green Bear wins big recognition

Bismann Singh was recognized by the Sikh Youth Alliance of North America for achievements in extramural activities, community service, and intercultural understanding. He delivered speeches at the International Sikh Youth Symposium and won the local and regional rounds, advancing to the national rounds and receiving the international distinguished speaker award. Bismann, a 4th-grade student, and his family, were also featured on a “Feel Good Friday” segment with Sashem Brey and 13 ABC News.



Ottawa River Restoration provides hands-on service learning

The section of the Ottawa River that flows through the village was cleaned up by the junior high school Environmental Eclipse



Club, led by science teacher Mr. Genzman. The club removed more than 1,000 pieces of trash and debris to help protect the watershed’s ecosystem. The group coordinates its efforts through the Village of Ottawa Hills and Partners for Clean Streams. Mrs. Genzman, 5th-grade science teacher, also had her students take part in the restoration project by sampling the water, removing invasive species, and learning about the importance of the watershed. Students then brought their water samples back into the lab to see what organisms live in the river.



“Home to Home” is a partnership between Ottawa Hills High School and Scott High School that brings students together for a variety of experiences throughout the school year. This partnership is directly in line in our strategic plan goal of collaborating beyond the district. In the fall, students attended the Global Salesian Leadership Symposium together and were exposed to a wide range of speakers that encouraged them to be better versions of themselves. In December, the two schools also met in The Foundry to discuss mission, vision, and plans for the future.

Kadens Family Leadership Series

The Kadens Family Leadership Series, in partnership with the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, has brought several amazing speakers to campus.



The importance of words and actions

Mr. Chester “Chet” Trail spoke to 6th graders about an important topic he is well versed in: diversity. Mr. Trail is the director of diversity at Sylvania City School District and he spoke about the importance of words and actions, and how students can foster positive connections with one another. Mr. Trail spent seven years playing professional baseball for the Yankees and was one of the first African Americans to play major league baseball. Students swarmed him hoping for autographs following his engaging presentation.



Chet Trail

Creating space and building skills for mentoring others

Mr. Jon Schoonmaker came to the junior/senior high school during Agora week and led youth empowerment sessions. Mr. Schoonmaker, who owns Omega Youth Empowerment in Adrian, MI, and is the founder of Wolakota Youth Programs, is a licensed professional counselor. His message to students focused on empowering youth to discover, step into, and become “their most beautiful self.”



Jon Schoonmaker



Yemi Akinyemi Dele



Jesse Israel

Yemi Akinyemi Dele shares thoughts about the future of creativity

“Leveraging Partnerships to provide Transformative Experiences for our kids”... one of the 4 focus areas of our new Strategic Plan, truly came alive for our students at the junior/senior high school when Yemi came to speak. Yemi, an amazing motivational speaker known around the world, talked about the future of creativity. His story of how he went from poverty to being one of the top 20 people currently being considered to travel to the moon had our student body mesmerized. Yemi provided our students with meaningful conceptual frameworks to get in touch with their inner passion and creativity. He challenged the students to seek out ways to find creative solutions to some of the most important issues facing our world today. He also encouraged students to apply for the Moonshot Award, an opportunity to win \$10,000-\$50,000 in scholarships to fund students’ ideas and action plans.

A ‘big quiet’ in Ottawa Hills

Mindfulness and meditation advocate Jesse Israel visited Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School and kicked off OHbreathe’s speaker series this school year with a presentation to the entire student body and faculty and staff. Jesse shared his personal journey as a student at NYU who hit it big with the formation of a record label representing MGMT, one of the hottest bands at the time, as well as his segue into providing performers, athletes, and audiences with ways to cope with stress and anxiety through practices of mindfulness and meditation. Jesse was originally scheduled to come in the spring of 2020, but the pandemic caused a cancellation. The feedback from Jesse’s presentation was incredibly positive. The student body was invited to participate in a collective moment of quiet to practice mindfulness together.



The 2022 fall sports season was like no other for Green Bear Nation!

State Runner Up



Boys' Soccer
TAAC champs,
14 years

Ottawa Hills athletics received widespread local coverage of teams and individual athletes, but the biggest story last fall was Ottawa Hills boys' soccer team. The team finished the regular season with a record of 12-4-1, went on to win the TAAC championship with a 3-0 record, and were runner up for the state championship.

Toledo Area Athletic Conference Champion Teams Fall 2022

Boys' Junior High and High School Cross Country

Girls' Junior High and High School Cross Country

Football

Boys' Golf

Boys' Soccer

Girls' Soccer

Coach of the year goes to:

Tyler Fairchild – Boys' and Girls' Cross Country

Tricia Fojtik – Golf

Jessica Kozy – Girls' Soccer

Cross country teams run away with TAAC titles

This has been a year like no other for Green Bear Cross Country. The boys and girls junior high and high school cross country teams each took home first place titles in the TAAC. The boys' cross country team ended the season as regional champions and state runner up. The girls' cross country team qualified for the state meet for the second time.



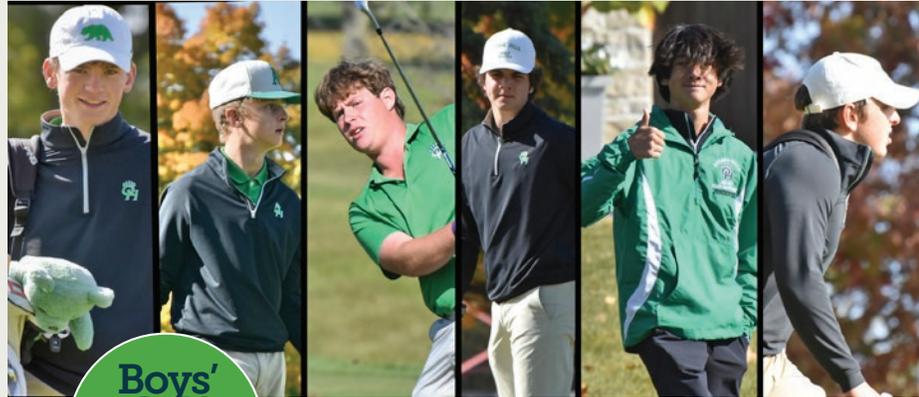
Boys' Cross Country
State runner up



Girls' Cross Country
2nd time to states

Swinging to states!

For the second year in a row the boys' golf team swung all the way to state. This year, the journey was even more challenging with a jump from Division III to Division II. Coach Tricia Fojtik credits the bond shared by players and their individual commitment to the sport for the team's success. The team finished sixth this year at state.



Boys' Golf
Back to back at states

Will Swigart, Anthony Adduci, Eddie Griffin, Anthony Packo, Jack Jorgensen, Charlie Merrill

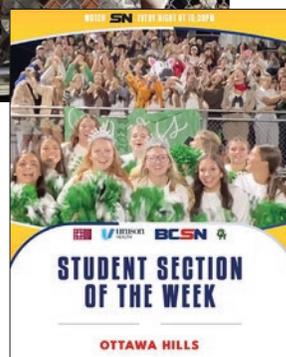
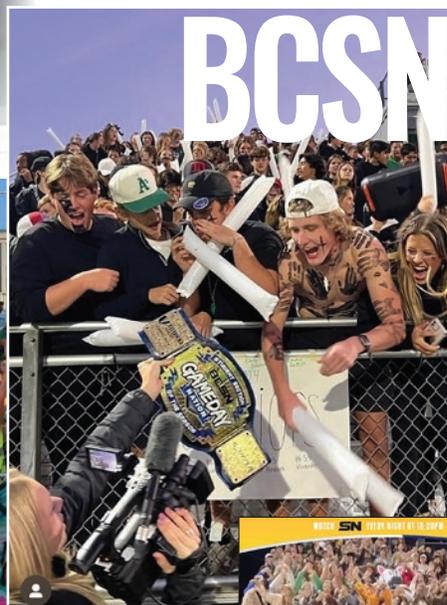
Third time at states for junior Catherine 'Cat' Rhegness

Junior Catherine "Cat" Rhegness traveled to the OHSAA girls' tennis state tournament for the third time, winning multiple matches this year to finish fourth. Congratulations to Cat on another hard-earned and well-deserved competition at the state's highest level.



Student section of the week

Brit Del Barba from BCSN presented the Green Bears with the "GameDay Nation Belt" at the homecoming football game. Senior Nash Barnes worked hard to bring this honor to Green Bear Nation for the first time. Nash credits assistant principal Mrs. Darcy Browne with helping coordinate efforts to pump up the student body and cheer on our team. Describing Ottawa Hills as "gritty," Nash told BCSN Sports on the night the belt was awarded, "It's been amazing bringing the belt to Ottawa Hills!" Senior Eddie Griffin was also interviewed by BCSN and said, "It's a pretty cool honor. Showing up every game and packing our student sections. It was a goal of ours all season to bring the belt to Ottawa Hills. The student section is always loud, we're always bringing the energy. It's just an honor to receive the belt."



For the sixth year in a row, the girls' soccer team won the TAAC championship, and for the fifth time went on to play in the Division III district championships. The girls finished the regular season undefeated and took the TAAC title with a 6-0 record.

The Ottawa Hills football team won the Toledo Area Athletic Conference championship 4-0. This is the first TAAC football championship since 2017 for the Green Bears.



New school record set by senior Emilio Duran

At the Sept. 16 football game against Hilltop, the 48-yard field goal record held by John Spengler ('77), pictured right, and tied by Michael Geiger ('13), was broken after a successful 50-yard field goal by senior Emilio Duran (pictured left). Spengler and Duran were able to connect and share their kicking experiences and Michael, upon hearing the news via Facetime, was happy for Emilio whom he had helped get his start at kicking years ago.



Senior Emilio Duran with John Spengler

NEW athlete of the month award!

Athletes Adam Ayad, Riley Nixon, and Sadie Dale were among the first Green Bears to receive this new award. The athlete of the month is selected by athletic director Tammy Talmage and fitness center coordinator Michael Yuschak. The recipient is chosen for their sportsmanship, commitment and leadership, and presented with an award at the monthly Board of Education meeting.

Ottawa Hills Local Schools Student Plan



Riley Nixon with fitness coordinator Michael Yuschak



Sadie Dale with athletic director Tammy Talmage

League and above individual honors fall athletics 2022-2023

BOYS' SOCCER

TAAC 1st Team

Adam Ayad (Player of the Year)
Alex Duran
Julian Jaume
Elijah Shetterly
Evan West

TAAC 2nd Team

Danny Assi
Brandon Lingo
Carson Mackey
Harley Talbott

TAAC Honorable Mention

Vaughn Mackey
Liam Silk

NWOSSCA All District Awards 1st Team

Adam Ayad (District Player of the Year)
Alex Duran

NWOSSCA All District Awards 2nd Team

Julian Jaume
Evan West

NWOSSCA Scholarship Award Winners

Adam Ayad

All State 1st Team

Adam Ayad

All State 2nd Team

Alex Duran

GIRLS' SOCCER

TAAC 1st Team

Annie Bazzoli
Ella Berenzweig
Sadie Dale (Player of the Year)
Abby Speakman

TAAC 2nd Team

Sophia Clausen
Annika Padhye
Olivia Peterson
Erin Wilmore

TAAC Honorable Mention

Liz Lathrop
Lily Richardson

TAAC Coach of the Year

Jessica Kozy

District 1st Team

Sadie Dale

District 2nd Team

Abby Speakman

District Honorable Mention

Annie Bazzoli
Ella Berenzweig

State 2nd Team

Sadie Dale

GIRLS' TENNIS

District 1st Team

Catherine Rhegness

District Honorable Mention

Elise Ansberg
Bre Rotterdam

State 1st Team

Catherine Rhegness

CROSS COUNTRY

TAAC 1st Team

Maxwell Chandar-Kouba
Sage Egan
Anna Ellingson
Thomas Franklin
JoAnna Kelley (Girls' Runner of the Year)
Michael Kelley
Carson Mackey
Joe Mayer-Heckathorn
Audrey Nixon
Riley Nixon (Boys' Runner of the Year)
Elanora Smith
Emily Timmerman

TAAC 2nd Team

Kaed Egan
Elsa Klaas
Freya Klaas
Quinton Smith
Erin Wilmore

District 1st Team

Thomas Franklin
JoAnna Kelley
Audrey Nixon
Riley Nixon (District Champ)
Elanora Smith

District 2nd Team

Maxwell Chandar-Kouba

Sage Egan

Michael Kelley
Freya Klaas
Carson Mackey
Joe Mayer-Heckathorn

Regionals 1st Team

Thomas Franklin
Riley Nixon

Regionals 2nd Team

JoAnna Kelley

All Ohio

Thomas Franklin
Riley Nixon

FOOTBALL

TAAC Offensive Player of the Year

Sam McCaffery

TAAC Special Teams Player of the Year

Emilio Duran

TAAC 1st Team Offense

Luke Gnepper
Sam McCaffery
Jack Vicente

TAAC 1st Team Defense

Cole Anderson
AJ D'Amore
AJ George
Sam McCaffery
Jack Perozek
Jack Vicente

TAAC 1st Team Special Teams

Emilio Duran

TAAC 2nd Team Offense

AJ George
Chase Miller

TAAC Honorable Mention

Sean Brandt
Reddik Pillarelli
Rocco Pillarelli
Teddy Szyperski

District 1st Team Defense

Sam McCaffery

District 1st Team Punter

Emilio Duran

District 2nd Team Defense

AJ George
Jack Perozek

District 2nd Team Offense

Jack Vicente

All Blade Team Special Mention

Emilio Duran
AJ George
Sam McCaffery
Jack Perozek
Jack Vicente

GOLF

TAAC 1st Team

Anthony Adduci
Eddie Griffin (Player of the Year)
Will Swigart

TAAC 2nd Team

Charlie Merrill
Anthony Packo

TAAC Honorable Mention

Jack Jorgensen

District 1st Team

Will Swigart

District 2nd Team

Eddie Griffin

District Honorable Mention

Anthony Adduci
Charlie Merrill

VOLLEYBALL

TAAC 1st Team

Elle Hopkins
Sami Lorenzen
Sofie Rumman

TAAC 2nd Team

Lily Berenzweig

TAAC Honorable Mention

Sydney Snyder

District Honorable Mention

Elle Hopkins
Sami Lorenzen
Sofie Rumman

FIELD HOCKEY

NE Ohio Field Hockey League 2nd Team

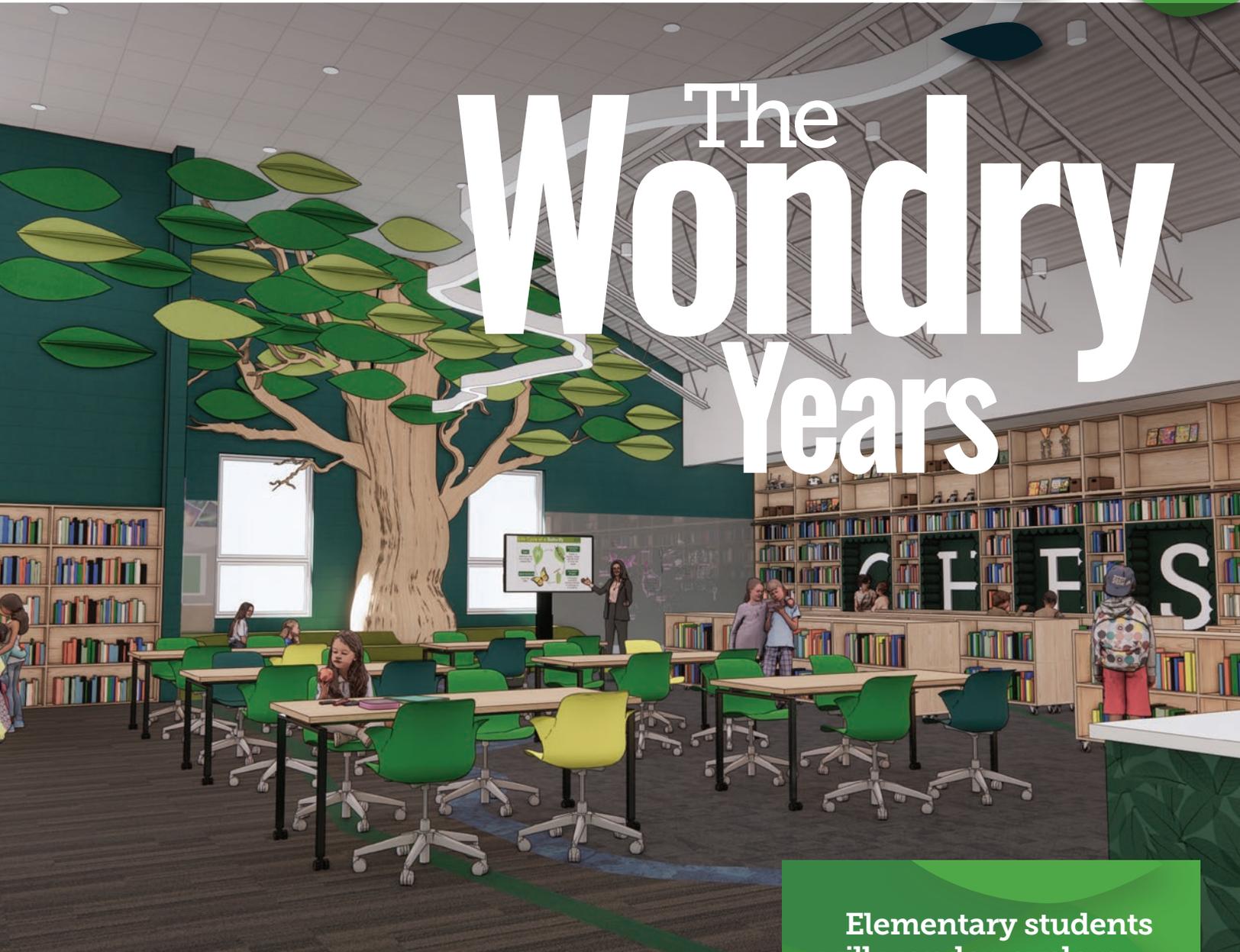
Barrett Downing

NE Ohio Field Hockey League Honorable Mention

Addie Marshall
Skylar Silk



The Wondry Years



Elementary students will wonder, explore, and journey to new places with immersive experiences, thanks to the transformation and renovation of the library/media center. The Wondry will spark curiosity with the magic of STEAM.



Rendering of Makerspace and STEAM Center

Following the opening of The Foundry, Frankel Family STEAM Café, Sue and Jim White Jr. Family Art Studio, Swigart Family MakerPLACE and the Gupta Family Science and Research Corridor at the junior/senior high school, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation focused their Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign on doing something similar at the elementary school. The Foundation is now working on updating the elementary art room, 6th grade science lab, and library/media center. The biggest project will be the transformation and renovation of the library/media center, which currently consists of the library, computer lab, and space for reading intervention, into “The Wondry.”

The Wondry will allow students to wonder, explore, and journey to new places with immersive experiences. This will be a space where children can begin to reach for the stars and spark their curiosity.

Inside The Wondry will be the new STEAM Center, Makerspace, two reading intervention rooms, and a flexible use room for LEAP, math intervention, and small group work. The over 16,000 books currently in the library will stay, and the circulation desk will be eliminated in favor of a mobile check out cart.

The first thing students will notice when they enter The Wondry will be the Golden Sycamore Tree on the south wall. The tree will provide a space where curiosity and imagination inspire children to explore endless possibilities and wonder what they can become. The tree pays homage to the actual sycamore tree that has stood near the elementary school playground for decades. A miniature version of the Ottawa River, that meanders through the village, will lead students from the entrance to the Meadow and the Learning Hill. These will be welcoming places in which students can sit under the Golden Sycamore Tree to build their literacy skills, and gain the background knowledge needed for comprehension.

A feature modeled off the individual rooms in The Foundry, the Den will be a collaborative, glassed-in learning space in which students work to understand multiple perspectives, explore alternative solutions, and thoughtfully solve problems. The Makerspace will support STEAM, entrepreneurship, and project-based learning through hands-on, interactive activities. The space will support innovation, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communications skills for all students. Lastly, The Wondry will include four Cub reading nooks to provide individual, quiet learning spaces for students.

The current computer lab will be transformed into the STEAM Center. Programming will include K-6 technology standards for kids to design, program, build, and test their creative concepts. The goal is to expand programming for robotics and coding, allowing students to develop skills that prepare them for fully utilizing The Foundry when they transition to junior/senior high school. When students were learning from home during

the Covid pandemic, our reliance on technology became more apparent than ever before.

Within the new STEAM Center, Mrs. Peete, elementary computer education teacher, will be better equipped to continue teaching students digital literacy, online safety, using safe sources, and increasing research and citation skills. This new space and technology will also allow students, who currently participate in STEAM-focused extracurricular activities outside of the district, to have everything STEAM clubs need right here on our campus.

The Makerspace, which currently is a tower of totes, will be a dedicated area that is much more accessible to teachers and students. Reusable supplies such as Lego® products, building materials, STEAM materials and tools, as well as consumable arts and crafts supplies, will be stocked in the Makerspace. The two 3-D printers we now have at the elementary school will be much more accessible in the Makerspace. The Wondry team consulted with the Ohio STEM Learning Network on age-appropriate tools, such as child safe hot glue guns and cardboard cutters, to ensure the Makerspace has the supplies most often needed for STEM projects. Grade level teachers at the elementary school will be able to



Rendering of The Wondry

regularly use the Makerspace in scheduled blocks of time to allow classes to work on individual and unit projects.

This next phase of the Foundation’s Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign will also provide upgrades to the science research lab in Mr. Siebenaler’s 6th-grade classroom. This tech-centric science lab will offer and emphasize a collaborative research environment. Mrs. Bodziak’s art room will also undergo renovations to include the ARTLab: an interactive space where students can experiment, play, and create as they explore the ideals, tools, and techniques of classical, modern, and contemporary art.

While much of the design of The Wondry is planned, some aspects are budget dependent. There is hope that there will be enough funds for better book storage, such as mobile shelves, that will allow books to be moved so the room can be used for functions that require more floor space. Other soft cost items include hands-on STEAM tech, such as 3-D pens that directly

THE WONDRY

connect to the technology currently available in The Foundry. To date, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has raised \$700,000 towards the \$1 million capital campaign goal for The Wondry. Naming opportunities are still available for the Hills Multi-Media Display, the STEAM Center, the Den, and Cub reading nooks. In addition to naming opportunities, all donors of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on the donor recognition wall within The Wondry. The Foundation is excited to announce donor partners for these elementary school projects in June.



Rendering of The Wondry Makerspace.



Naming opportunities are still available

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has raised \$700,000 towards the \$1 million capital campaign goal for The Wondry. Naming opportunities are still available, and all donors of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on the donor recognition wall within The Wondry. Help us to raise the remaining \$300,000 to make these projects a reality. Join the campaign today: www.ohschoolsfoundation.org/givetoday.

Donor Recognition

Naming Opportunity	Description	Giving Level
The Wondry Golden Sycamore Tree	A space where curiosity and imagination inspire children to explore endless possibilities and wonder what they can become.	RESERVED \$250,000
The Hills Multi-Media Display	Interactive Multi-Media Display showcasing technology and inspiring every kind of student to learn, to create, and define their success.	\$100,000
The STEAM Center	A dedicated zone for kids to design, program, build, and test their creative concepts.	\$50,000
The Makerspace	Makerspaces are taking over the educational world. Our space will support STEAM, entrepreneurship, and project based learning through hands-on, interactive activities. The space will support innovation, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication skills in our students.	RESERVED \$25,000
The Science Research Lab	This tech-centric 6th grade science lab elevates research and education. The research lab offers a collaborative interdisciplinary research culture.	RESERVED \$25,000
The ARTLab	Our ARTLab is an interactive space where students experiment, play, and create as they explore the ideas, tools, and techniques of classical, modern, and contemporary art.	RESERVED \$25,000
The Meadow	A welcoming place for students to sit under the Golden Sycamore Tree and build their literacy skills and the background knowledge needed for comprehension.	RESERVED \$25,000
The Learning Hill	A welcoming place for students to sit under the Golden Sycamore Tree and build their literacy skills and the background knowledge needed for comprehension.	RESERVED \$25,000
The Den	This collaborative glassed-in huddle learning space empowers students to work with each other and to assume multiple perspectives, explore alternative solutions, and thoughtfully solve problems.	\$25,000
Cub Reading Nook (4 available)	Individual quiet spaces for students to build their literacy skills and the background knowledge needed for comprehension.	\$20,000 each

- Donor naming with the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign will be made for a 20-year period.
- All donors of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on the donor recognition wall within The Wondry.

Meet Mrs. Sanderson



Leading the way within The Wondry will be Mrs. Amanda Sanderson. Mrs. Sanderson joined the Ottawa Hills Elementary School staff in August of 2022 as the new Literacy and Innovation Specialist. She has quickly become a respected member of the faculty by students and colleagues. Long-time elementary school library/media specialist, Mrs. Rebecca McLean, transitioned to a new role at the junior/senior high school's Foundry as the Lead Tutor & Tutor/Coach Coordinator. In line with the district's strategic plan, the position within the elementary library and media center has grown to support a comprehensive approach to modernization.

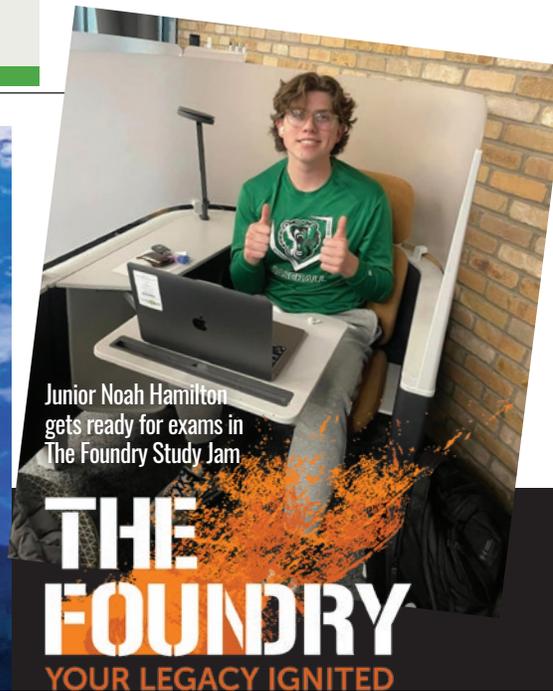
Mrs. Sanderson, who came to us from Sylvania City Schools, received her masters in reading and a bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green State University. In addition to nine years of classroom teaching experience, Mrs. Sanderson has taught as an online adjunct professor at Lourdes University, and served as the 21st Century Learning Leader for five years in Sylvania City Schools. Her values align with the district's strategic plan of developing the whole child and nurturing a joyful pursuit of learning.

As literacy and innovation specialist, Mrs. Sanderson is responsible for coordinating and promoting STEAM, curating the library/media collection and services, and helping lead all student learning within a space where they can thrive. To accomplish this, she works with a team of gifted intervention specialists and faculty to develop innovative lessons and experiences that build literacy and STEAM skills at all elementary grade levels.

Amanda's husband Scott is a biology and life sciences teacher at Toledo Technology Academy. They have two children, Grant and Zoey, and an adorable dog named Hank.

An Immense Impact and beyond...

Fifth graders explore space in the 360 Immersion Room



New space fosters STEAM, ignites ideas, and launches student potential

The Foundry has had an immense impact in the Ottawa Hills community since its opening for the 2022-2023 school year. Staffed by tutors, coaches, faculty, and community volunteers, The Foundry is utilized by over 300 students daily. In addition to facilitating student support, The Foundry provides a gathering space for faculty and staff, support organizations or visiting partners often use The Foundry to meet with students and share or discuss ideas. Study rooms are also utilized for make-up and individualized testing, as well as for ACT and PSAT preparation.

On a typical school day, The Foundry comes to life around 7 a.m. with students arriving before regular classes start for tutoring and quiet study. Throughout the school day tutors provide students with targeted support to help them achieve their academic goals. Structured learning assistance gives student coaches the opportunity to teach mini lessons to peers within the glass enclosed meeting rooms lining The Foundry. Special guest speakers or visiting partners often use The Foundry to meet with students and share or discuss ideas. Study rooms are also utilized for make-up and individualized testing, as well as for ACT and PSAT preparation.

Technology enhances nearly every aspect of The Foundry. During quiet study

hours, the sound system plays music that promotes concentration, and the large projection screen occasionally displays a soothing fireplace video. Meeting rooms are equipped to allow students to mirror their laptops onto larger screens, prompting collaboration between study groups. Best practice of technology is also promoted, including encouraging students to use cell phone lockers to minimize distractions while studying or working on group projects.

Technology within The Foundry is not limited to benefitting junior/senior high school students. Elementary school students have made the walk over for immersive experiences related to units they are studying. Students in Mrs. Genzman's 5th grade science classes were able to utilize the 360-immersion room during their unit on space exploration. The large room and surround screens allowed the students to get a big picture look at our galaxy traveling aboard a virtual International Space Station, and zoom in and break open planets to discuss planets' moons, masses, composition, and more. The class was "wowed" by a virtual roller coaster ride on the surface of Mars. Leveraging this

technology at the junior/senior high school helped these elementary students prepare for their mission to Mars at the Challenger Learning Center.

After school The Foundry continues to impact students and the community with study groups and tutoring. For junior/senior high school students in need of extra support, regular weekend "Foundry Fusion" sessions provide academic, executive, and social-emotional support. Dean of secondary teaching and learning, Mr. Darrin Broadway, has also taught several weekend organization workshops. Before December finals, The Foundry hosted "study jam" sessions that provided over 345 students with exam preparation assistance.

Support organizations such as Decoding Dyslexia and This is OH use the gathering space for meetings. Parents of students in grades 7-12 were able to attend a grade-level meeting where issues and interests pertaining to each grade were discussed with teachers and faculty.

The new space has also hosted several speakers, career and college readiness meetings, and professional development days for faculty and staff.



In the first month of operation, the STEAM Café sold...

262

smoothies



343

bagels



418

lattes



Frankel Family STEAM Café is Open! Dean of secondary teaching and learning, Darrin Broadway, enjoys STEAM Café drinks with students.

THE FOUNDRY

The Foundry was the meeting space for the very first “open conversation” with members of the Board of Education last November. Over 50 attendees gathered and participated in open dialogue focused on the Strategic Plan goal: creating a lifelong sense of belonging. The open space, comfortable seating, and large projection screen provided the perfect format for open and honest conversations between parents, community members, and the Board of Education. Most recently, Superintendent Dr. Fineske presented his annual State of the District to the public from The Foundry. The new STEAM Café was even open for attendees to grab coffee or a smoothie before settling in to hear the latest district updates.

Speaking of the STEAM Café... The Frankel Family STEAM Café officially opened for business on Nov. 1, 2022. Since opening, it has been a key component in expanding the use of The Foundry outside of school hours. Students can now comfortably come earlier and stay longer to study with the option of getting coffee, a smoothie, or a snack from the STEAM Café, which operates with a similar model used by Boosters concession stands.

Brew Coffee Bar has been brought on as a consultant for one year to advise and train students, staff, and parents on the operation of a café. This also provides a unique hands-on opportunity for entrepreneurial students, special education students, and many others. OHSPA stepped in as an administrative and financial oversight partner for the STEAM Café for the 2022-2023 school year.

None of this would be possible without the careful thought and planning that the volunteer design team put into ensuring The Foundry can be used to its full potential. The district is forever thankful to design team co-chairs Michelle Walker and Lisa Brown, and the entire design team, for their countless hours, challenging conversations, dedication to the student body, and expertise that brought this space to life. Faculty and staff in The Foundry continue to collect data on usage and work towards implementing more than 100 goals that will further assist students, and help ignite their legacies.



Above, 5th-grade students in the 360-immersion study the solar system and take a virtual roller coaster ride on Mars.



Some members of The Foundry design team celebrate STEAM Café opening.



Students experience immersive learning with VR headsets.

Thankful for your support and trust

Being good financial stewards is a top priority for the district. In 2020 voters supported both the operating levy and bond issues. We are so thankful for the support the community voted to provide, and grateful to be trusted as good financial stewards.

Our goal is to continue to practice fiscal responsibility and transparency as outlined in the Strategic Plan. In the coming months, the community can expect to hear more from Superintendent Dr. Fineske, Treasurer and CFO Brad Browne, and the Board of Education, on maintaining fiscal integrity and transparency in future financial requests to the community.

Issues Approved by Ottawa Hills Voters in 2020

4.9-mill Operating Levy

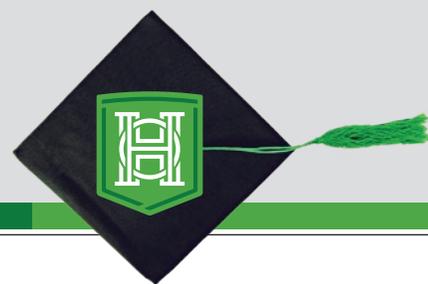
- Helped maintain small class sizes
- Added a Math teacher at the Junior/Senior HS
- Allowed for hiring of new full time school counselor
- Helped offset increasing cuts in state funding

2.6-mill Bond Issue

- Renovated: Chemistry, Biology, Research Lab, Anatomy, Junior High Science, STEM, Art and Maker Space Rooms
- HVAC Improvements to Junior/Senior High School.
- Building of the Learnings Commons, now called The Foundry

Other Funding Sources

Funding for the enhancements to The Foundry, science classrooms, and art classrooms was provided by the Ottawa Schools Hills Foundation and OHLS support organizations.



Reunions!

The Class of 2002 came back strong for a full weekend of festivities including a school tour and dinner at local hotspot, Hannon's Block, owned by Mike Stancati ('03) and Brittany (Thomas) Stancati ('01).



The Class of 1956 kicked off the summer with a special tour of the high school and lots of laughs reminiscing about former teachers and classmates.



The Class of 2017 had nearly two dozen members gathered at Blarney's Irish Pub on the Friday after Thanksgiving to reconnect and catch-up. Since graduating, many alumni have completed their undergraduate degrees and are enrolled in graduate programs, while others are working in jobs across the country.



Soccer unites alumni! Soccer alumni returned Aug. 6 to get some kicks in with current players. It was another great matchup, with the students winning 10 to 7 over the alumni.

Thanksgiving: Alumni tour The Foundry, Sue and Jim White Jr. Family Art Studio, Swigart Family MakerPLACE and the Gupta Family Science and Research Corridor. Nearly 50 OHHS alumni stopped by the school during the Thanksgiving holiday to get a look at the new renovations and hear a school news update.



Former AFS student Kristjan Gislason ('74) visits campus, seen here outside the MakerPLACE and Art Studio with his installation of photographs from his travels.

Attention classes of 1972 & 1973

Attention, members of the Classes of 1972 and 1973: Your classmates are organizing a reunion weekend for Sept. 8-10, 2023. Form more information contact Kevin Davis ('72) at skdavis1040@hotmail.com or Dick Wolff ('73) at rwolff@snlaw.com



Geiger weddings three-peat!

It was a "three-peat" of weddings for the Geiger Family this past summer. Photo: Michael ('13) and Brianna's wedding in Cleveland, Ohio. Left to right are Jim ('79), Mary ('79), Brianna, Michael, Jenny ('07) and Christie Pierce, Catherine ('10) and Petr Prchlik. Other Geiger weddings last summer were June 4, in Carmel, CA (Jenny) and August 6, in Toledo, Ohio (Catherine).

MEMORIAMs

John Buckey ('70) passed away January, 2023. John graduated from Duke University ('74) and was a varsity tennis player. As a CPA, he earned his law degree from Emory University. John had a strong entrepreneurial spirit, combining legal and accounting skills in real estate development, and later, as a business leader, officer, and counsel across a broad corporate spectrum. His greatest joy was spending time with his family and friends, especially at Epworth Heights on Lake Michigan.



Buckey

enjoyed vacationing with his wife, Cindy, in the Upper Peninsula region in Michigan.

Scott Ronick ('76) passed away September, 2022. His hunting and fishing trips to New Zealand, Montana, and adventurous cruises supplemented the family's annual spring break on Captiva Island. Scott adored fly tying, great food and wine, and enjoyed cooking.



Ronick



White

John White ('75) passed away September, 2022. He loved his family and was extremely proud to be a father and grandfather. John could always be found building a car, heading out to car shows with his eldest son, or teaching new things to his grandson.

Virginia E. Ryan passed away September, 2022. Known as "Ginger" to her family, she was a graduate of both Scott High School and the University of Toledo. She began her career at the former LaSalle's Department Store where she was employed for thirteen years before deciding to change her career teaching 4th and 5th grade at Ottawa Hills Elementary School where she retired in 1986 after thirty-three years of service.



Ryan

Emily Huntington ('63) passed away July, 2022 on the Isle of Jersey, Channel Islands, United Kingdom. Emily graduated from Indiana University. After graduation she moved to Boston to pursue her career in Interior Design.



Huntington

Rob Freeman ('69) passed away December, 2022. Growing up, he was a proud member of the Ottawa Hills community. He graduated from Ohio University ('73) where he was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity. His family was his biggest passion. He



Freeman



The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2017 to recognize Ottawa Hills Local Schools' attendees who have made a meaningful contribution to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills.



The Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2019 to formally honor the memory and contributions of the many outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of our athletic programs. The Hall of Fame serves as a symbol of our appreciation of the excellence, honor, and devotion displayed by these celebrated individuals and teams.

The following nine pages honor **the Class of 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients and Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees.**



Jim White, Jr. ('58)

Star quarterback, business and civic leader

No other quarterback in Ottawa Hills history has traveled the highs and lows of football more than Jim White, Jr. He started as a freshman in 1954, the first year Ohio allowed 9th graders to play at the varsity level. The team went 0-8. The sophomore campaign started poorly, with three losses in the first four games. But then fortunes changed.

UNDEFEATED 1957



LLP, a prestigious Toledo-based law firm with 340 lawyers and offices in five states. (He earned his law degree in 1965 from OSU, where he was president of his senior class. He also earned a master of law degree in taxation from New York University in 1967.)

He has served on every major regional private and public board, from the Toledo Museum of Art and Toledo Symphony

Orchestra to the Port Authority of Toledo and ProMedica. Mr. White was widely heralded as the driving force behind the successful \$35 million campaign that restored the historic Valentine Theater in downtown Toledo. And he's been a part owner of three Toledo hockey teams: the Hornets, Goaldiggers, and The Storm.

"I believe in giving back, as did my father. Support the community and the people that supported you," he said. "That's the best way to do business."

The family name is best known through its affiliation with a car dealership empire that spans four states. The business began with the opening of the first dealership by grandfather Hugh White in Zansville, Ohio, where Mr. White was born, and was carried on and expanded by Jim White, Sr. Mr. White continues to serve on the board of directors of The White Family Companies, Inc., which today has nearly 40 dealerships.

His family – mother Nelda, father Jim Sr., and brothers Dave ('55) and Tim – moved from Sylvania to Ottawa Hills in 1951. His parents were among the Villagers who raised money for construction of the concession stand at the football stadium. He and late wife Sue later established residency in the Village where they raised daughter Carey ('89) and James III (St. John's Jesuit High School graduate).



The 1955 team won its final four games, and the 1956 and 1957 teams – both with White under center – went undefeated. That's 21 wins in a row by an average score of 34-5, including 11 shutouts. And they were the 1956 Class B state champions. (No such calculation or honor was made after the 1957 season, but it's possible the team would have won back-to-back state titles, giving its signature wins and margins of victory.)

The streak's most notable win came in 1957 in a 21-20 victory against St. Francis de Sales High School, a true David vs. Goliath showdown. The game drew an estimated 5,000 fans to Devilbiss High School, which hosted the contest.

"It's fair to say they underestimated us," recalled Mr. White, who at 6-foot-1, 210 pounds, played nearly every snap in the game (either at quarterback or nose tackle). "They took great delight in calling us 'Cake Eaters,' 'Cadillac Kids,' or the 'Gold Doorknob Boys' because we were from Ottawa Hills. They used to make all sorts of fun of us."

As a student, Mr. White also played four years of varsity baseball (first base, relief pitcher) and basketball (point guard). He even earned a varsity letter in track his senior year by throwing the shot put. "We would play day and night if we had the weather. We all loved playing sports," he said of his classmates. "We lived and died for sports when you were my age."

His football abilities earned recruiting offers from The Ohio State University (OSU), University of Michigan, and Northwestern University. Mr. White continued playing football at Princeton University before an injury, and a desire to focus more on academics, forced him to hang up his cleats after his junior year. He graduated in 1962.

Mr. White would carry his competitive passions and belief in teamwork from sports into the worlds of business and civic engagement. His achievements are so significant that he is the first alumnus to simultaneously be honored with both the Distinguished Alumni Award and induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Today, he is a successful businessman and investor as well as managing partner of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick,





Carl Heiles ('57)

Noted astrophysicist and mentor

Born and raised in the Village, Carl Heiles developed an interest in science among a small group of friends, including older brother William ('54). That curiosity was further kindled by William Fulgum, the junior high science teacher who had a telescope in his classroom that students could check out. Dr. Heiles remembers taking the telescope home and looking up into the Toledo night sky and wondering about the objects he observed.

Dr. Heiles took that passion for knowledge and discovery and created a celebrated 50-year academic career in astrophysics at the University of California, Berkeley. He is best known internationally for co-authoring a model – the Hénon-Heiles system – that presented a theory to explain how objects move through space.

“It’s my most widely quoted paper and what I’m most known for,” Dr. Heiles recalled. “But the rest of my life was spent doing observational astronomy, which is a pretty far cry from the theoretical physics models that do not use data obtained from telescopes.”

Dr. Heiles was a promising doctoral student at Princeton University. Dr. Michel Hénon, a French mathematician, was there to conduct post-doctoral research. Dr. Heiles was one of the few students who could program a computer, a skill he developed while an undergraduate at Cornell University working on a project related to what would become the Apollo program.

“He was a brilliant guy. And the only reason I was on that paper was that while I was at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, I learned to program computers. That was rare in those days,” Dr. Heiles recalled of the 1964 article published in *Astronomical Journal*. “I was one of the few people fortunate enough to be exposed to computers just as they were coming into

importance. So that’s how I got onto that paper.”

Before Princeton and the publishing of the famous model, he was at Cornell. He selected it, in part, due to the encouragement of fellow 1957 classmate Alan Dybvig. “I entered planning to major in electrical engineering. When I actually started taking classes, my eyes were opened to the vastness of the intellectual world – all the fundamental things we know little about,” he recalled. “So I decided I wanted something broader than double EE. And they offered this engineering physics package, which I thought was the perfect mix of practicality and intellectual abstraction.”



It was at Cornell that he got to work on a project with noted professor Tommy Gold, who had a contract with the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) to study the density of the surface of the moon. “The question was how deep did the dust go,” Dr. Heiles said. “Was there a possibility that if someone walked on the surface, they would sink down into the dust and never be seen again?”

As part of that project, he spent a summer in West Virginia collecting and analyzing data from the moon about thermal radiation.

After earning his doctoral degree from Princeton in 1966, Dr. Heiles immediately joined the astronomy department at Berkeley. Among his more notable professional achievements are receiving the Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics in 1989, and being accepted into the National Academy of Science in 1990.

In spite of his awards and recognition, he feels his greatest contribution was as a teacher and mentor. In 2002, Berkeley awarded him the Donald Sterling Noyce Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Students in his undergraduate radio astronomy course constructed and operated their own radio telescope to measure our galaxy’s speed of rotation.

“A lot of the students were turned on by that lab course. There was a lot of one-on-one teaching. I taught them how to troubleshoot,” he said. “The National Academy and Heineman Prize are nice, but that’s much more important to me.”

He retired in 2015 but continues to collect and analyze data. “I’m still doing a lot of research with collaborators in Europe, China, and the United States,” he said. “I still spend most of my days going over data.”





Phil Mattingly ('02)

White House correspondent for CNN

When it came time to choose between writing for the OH student newspaper or yearbook, Phil Mattingly made the obvious choice. "I chose *Mesasa* because it had the cooler break room," he said dryly.

Thankfully for the world of journalism, Mr. Mattingly – who today is the White House correspondent for CNN – became inspired to develop his writing skills in the classroom of English teacher Darrin Broadway.

"Mr. Broadway made me fall in love with writing. It was the first time I genuinely looked forward to going to class every day," he said. "I loved every minute of it and every minute of trying to get better."

It's easy to forget that in the early part of his 14-year career—before his presence became a common sight on *Bloomberg Television* and then CNN – Mr. Mattingly was an accomplished print reporter. Years before he started to travel the world with President Biden, he worked news sources on Capitol Hill for multiple publications and news websites.

Mr. Mattingly and his family arrived in Ottawa Hills in 1994 after moving frequently during his father's military career. "Ottawa Hills became our first full-time, long-term home,"

he said. (His sister Erin is a 1999 graduate.) He played baseball and was on the 2001 team that lost in the state finals. His play was good enough to earn a scholarship to The Ohio State University, where he moved from shortstop to third base. But a knee injury as a sophomore prematurely ended his career. He stuck with English as a major and started writing for *The Lantern*, OSU's student newspaper.

After graduating in 2006 and without the writing clips needed to win a job, he asked around the Village for help. Everyone pointed him in one direction: Christine Brennan ('76), an internationally known sports reporter. Her advice: Go to graduate school and get more clips.



He enrolled at Boston University (BU) in the fall of 2006. During his first summer in the master's program, he sent 114 letters to newspapers asking for an internship. Only *The Lima News* in Lima, Ohio, made an offer, but it was unpaid. Mr. Mattingly quickly accepted. "I wrote every single day," he said. "It was the luckiest break ever I got."

Another break occurred in his final semester, when he got a months-long internship with the *Cape Cod Times* that placed him in Washington, D.C. "At that point, I was basically a full-time reporter looking for stories through a local lens," he said. "And that's when I fell in love with D.C."

After graduating from BU in 2008, he was offered a full-time reporting position by *Congressional Quarterly* to cover the banking industry and economy. "They said nothing ever happens in this beat and we'll switch you over in about a year to cover military affairs," Mr. Mattingly recalled about the offer. "And I said, 'Great, I got a D in my econ class in college.'" But by fall, the Great Recession had begun.

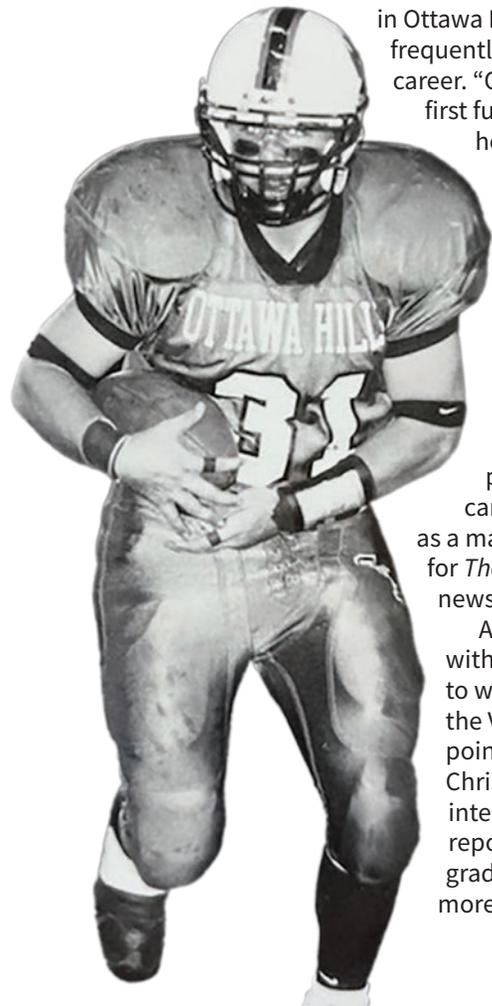
"It was pretty advantageous for a young journalist to be covering those issues," he said. "I was in a really good position, almost by chance, to break news and make a name for myself far earlier than I probably would have otherwise."

Bloomberg News later hired him to cover the same beats. In late 2013, his employer asked him to start appearing on camera on *Bloomberg Television* – his first regular taste of TV reporting. Impressed with his abilities, he was named White House correspondent covering President Obama. CNN recruited him away as a New York-based correspondent in late 2015. He spent 2016 on the campaign trail covering presidential candidates Chris Christie, John Kasich, and Donald Trump.

He then covered Congress for four years, including the events of Jan. 6, 2021. He transitioned to covering President Biden after the swearing-in ceremony. "We follow his rhythm and tempo," he said of his fellow White House correspondents. "That's our day to day job."

All that air time has made him a celebrity of sorts. You know you're famous when *People* publishes an online exclusive about the birth of your fourth child. Or when *Men's Health* publishes a workout feature on you about how to tame stress. Or when the President of the United States calls you out by name at an international press conference and says, "I watch you on TV a lot."

His parents and sister now live nearby in Washington, but all are planning to return for the Sept. 16 induction ceremony. "Ottawa Hills is getting the full Mattingly treatment," he said.





Cleveland O'Neal, III ('74)

Award-winning, multi-media entrepreneur

Dream. Believe. Achieve. This is the inspiring advice Cleveland O'Neal, III would give today's Ottawa Hills students. It was these three words, along with hard work, focus and dedication, that propelled Cleveland from Ottawa Hills student to an award-winning, multi-media entrepreneur who recently acquired the Fortune 100 digital media company, "Moviefone," formerly owned by AOL/Verizon.

As Creator & Executive Producer of the Emmy-nominated, nationally syndicated TV series franchise "Made In Hollywood," in its 18th season airing on CBS, FOX, ABC and CW affiliate stations in over 94 percent of the U.S., Cleveland was able to realize his strategic plan for a perfect marriage of entertainment brands combining the digital/mobile/social "Moviefone" assets with the TV/video assets of "Made In Hollywood."

"Firsts" has been a familiar theme for the O'Neal family. Cleveland O'Neal, Jr. was one of the first African-American rocket scientists hired by NASA. And, Cleveland, III has had an impressive list of his own "firsts" beginning as a young man in Ottawa Hills Local Schools – he was the first African-American to score a touchdown, to star in a school musical, and to graduate from Ottawa Hills High School ('74).

During his time at Ottawa Hills, Cleveland was involved in sports such as tennis and football, but was drawn to theater. He earned



starring roles in all of the Ottawa Hills high school productions including "Carousel," "Bye Bye Birdie," and "Oklahoma." He fondly remembers Vance McCarter, drama teacher and director of musicals. "Mr. McCarter was great, and I appreciated his fair, open and forward thinking approach," he said. "It was the early 70s and right on the heels of the civil rights movement and I was the only African-American

in the cast. There was always a buzz if I had a kissing scene. We would always sell out those shows."

After graduating from Ottawa Hills, Cleveland attended Boston University to pursue his love of acting. As a young college student, Cleveland performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in "Hamlet" with an all-star cast including John Lithgow and Sam Waterston. Then he got an agent and went on to Broadway to pursue his dream, and in doing so learned an important lesson. "I realized being in the theater is a lot like a lottery – some win and some don't – so I changed course and became a TV reporter for the NBC affiliate in Boston." He added, "This path would allow me to 'perform' in front of the camera and write and produce segments while learning more about media's business side."

Cleveland continued to learn about all aspects of media as a radio sales manager in Boston. He eventually moved across country to Los Angeles where he became a radio station executive while continuing his acting career, working on shows such as *Married with Children* and *Dynasty*.

The extensive network Cleveland built through his acting and media careers were keys used to build his production, distribution, and talent management company Connection III Entertainment Corp. "I wanted to connect

three things – music, TV, and motion pictures – and create, develop, and produce projects for these platforms."

Another "first" for Cleveland was he got his first big break with "What About Your Friends," the first African-American *Afterschool Special* in network television history. "We produced the project and from a business standpoint it was key that we owned it as well." He further explained, "By owning the intellectual property library and building it, we control the trajectory of the work. This is how to build a successful company."

"The control factor, the ability to control the company's destiny, is gold," Cleveland adds. "It's how I built my 'bootstrap business' from the ground up without having to rely on investors or venture capital. It took discipline and many years of focus and sacrifice, but the reward is the true freedom of business ownership."

When asked what advice he would give today's Ottawa Hills students, Cleveland's repeated a word – dream. Pursue your dreams. Dream big. Dream unlimited. Dream and follow up with a written plan. Keep the focus so your dreams come to fruition. Dream. Believe. Achieve. This philosophy certainly worked for Cleveland – his dream came true!





Dr. Jessica Ciralsky

Ophthalmologist and gifted clinical educator

Dr. Jessica Ciralsky grew up in the village enjoying many friendships, youth activities, and sibling fun with sisters Meredith ('94) and Schuyler ('99). She also was uniquely talented as a pianist, so much so that she dreamed of playing professionally. She and her parents, William and Nancy, decided her senior year would be spent at the



Interlochen Center for the Arts in northern Michigan instead of Ottawa Hills.

“My parents and I agreed that before I made the commitment to pursue those studies in college and ultimately, professionally, I

should immerse myself in music to confirm that choice,” said Dr. Ciralsky. “What I came to understand through my experience at Interlochen is that while I loved playing and learning music, it was more of a passion than a vocation.”

While she still enjoys playing the piano, that decision in the spring of 1996 set her on another path of professional achievement and fame. Today, she is a successful and well-known ophthalmologist, with a thriving private practice on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Her practice interests include corneal diseases and corneal surgery, advanced cataract surgery, and ocular surface disorders. *New York Magazine* has named her a “Top Doctor” for six consecutive years; she has also earned the “Top Doctors New York Metro Area” honor for six consecutive years.

In addition, she is an associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medicine, teaching classes, conducting research, and mentoring the next generation of ophthalmologists.

After graduating from Interlochen, she enrolled at Brown University still unsure of a career path. While there, she volunteered at a local children’s hospital, and that experience helped her decide about a career in medicine. “I came away so impressed and moved by the level of care and interactions between patients and the health care providers,” she said.

Upon graduating magna cum laude from Brown in 2000, she received the Anne Crosby Emery Fellowship, which is given to only two graduating seniors in recognition of their scholarly ability and excellence of character. She then enrolled at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and earned her doctor of medicine degree in 2004.

While at Johns Hopkins, she was drawn to the field of ophthalmology in part because of the delicate hand-eye coordination required of its practitioners. “I spent so many years developing my hand and finger dexterity as a pianist

that I knew I wanted to apply those abilities as I set out to choose a specialty,” she said.

After Johns Hopkins, she completed an ophthalmology residency and cornea fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital and a world-renowned research center. While there, she was elected chief clinical fellow of the Cornea Service, earned a Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Fellowship in 2008, and was named “Fellow of the Year” in 2009 by its residents for her dedication and contribution to their education.

“I love being able to share my passion and experience with aspiring physicians,” Dr. Ciralsky said, which she continues to do through her teaching and research duties at Weill Cornell Medicine. “It gives me great pride to earn their trust and help them as a mentor. I had great mentors throughout my career and their guidance was invaluable.”

She has served on numerous ophthalmology boards and participated in many professional conferences and summits, both within the United States and across the world. “Collaborations, through consulting and clinical research, help keep me on the cutting edge,” she said.

“I have such fond memories of my time at Ottawa Hills. The community is truly like an extended family. Everyone was so supportive and nurturing,” she said.

Those feelings and memories help explain why in the spring of 2020, the Ciralsky sisters created a fund through the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation in memory of their father, who passed away in 2018: the “Billy Ciralsky Entrepreneurial Endowment Fund” which enhances student entrepreneurial initiatives and projects.

“My class was full of amazing people. Many of my classmates have gone on to have really interesting careers helping the world become a better place in so many different ways,” Dr. Ciralsky said. “I love the education I received at Ottawa Hills High School and will always cherish the times I had there.”





Paula (Wagoner) Conway ('94)

Multi-sport athlete and field hockey leader



Paula Wagoner Conway ('94) earned 16 varsity letters at Ottawa Hills. But it was her extraordinary abilities in field hockey that made her famous locally and established her national reputation in the sport.

She was the center midfielder on OH teams that made it to three consecutive state title games from 1992-1994. The Green Bears won the championship in 1993 and 1994.

"Both wins were memorable, but the senior year was special because not every high school athlete gets to play their final game by winning a championship," she said. "To celebrate that way, in my final game at Ottawa Hills, was amazing."

She also played four years of basketball and track and cheered varsity for four years. In her senior year, she was editor of *The Arrowhead* and was crowned Homecoming Queen.

Mrs. Conway said her love of sports and competitiveness was fueled in part by her brothers Greg ('93) and Mark ('90). "A lot of my success came from my brothers being great athletes. They really paved the way," she said. In fact, all three siblings won the high school's "Athlete of the Year" honor as seniors.

She also credits her late father Mark "Mick" Wagoner, Sr., who was active in Village athletic circles and coached many youth and OH teams. "Our lives really revolved around Ottawa Hills athletics and being the best teammate, player, and representative of the school that we could be," she said. "His core values really taught us to give back and be a part of the community."

Her dominance in field hockey continued at Providence College, a Division I university in the Big East Conference. She was named an All-American and All-Big East three times; she also earned both "Rookie of the Year" (1994) and "Offensive Player of the Year" (1998) honors. She graduated in 1998 with a degree in elementary and special education.

From 1998 to 2006, Mrs. Conway achieved great success as an assistant coach at three Division I programs: Georgetown University, Kent State University, and Boston College. During three years at Kent State, her teams won two Mid-American Conference championships and appeared in three consecutive NCAA tournaments. In her final season there, she led the planning and organizing for the 2001 NCAA Field Hockey Championship hosted by Kent State.

During this time, Mrs. Conway was active within the United States Field Hockey Association by serving as a head coach in the Futures Development Program and as a Super Camp Instructor.

In 2006, she and husband Nick moved to California, after the Team USA field hockey program relocated its Olympic training center from Virginia to the San Diego area. Mr. Conway had earned three national titles while a coach with the girls' team at the University of North Carolina and was head coach

of the men's national field hockey team for six years.

A year later, Mrs. Conway joined La Jolla High School in the San Diego Unified School District as an English teacher. She later taught physical education and began coaching the girls' field hockey team. In 2013, she became the school's first-ever female athletic director. Two years later, she was named "Rookie Athletic Director of the Year" by the California State Athletic Directors Association. In 2021, she became athletic director at The Bishop School, a prestigious private school in the San Diego area.

"As a professional, I've taken so much from my time at Ottawa Hills, especially about being a multi-sport athlete and being involved in different activities," she said. "I always encourage student athletes to try multiple sports. OH is such a special place because it's small.

The teachers there were like family with me. I always felt most at home when I was on campus."



Sandy Osterman

Sports pioneer and beloved coach



As the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Title IX this year and the sports equity it made possible, few women can appreciate its significance more than Sandy Osterman. First as a student in high school and college and later as a teacher and coach in Ottawa Hills, she lived the inequities first-hand.

No access to team buses. Tape on gym shirts to create make-shift uniforms. No referees. Equipment borrowed from gym class. No varsity letters awarded.

But what endeared “Miss O,” as she was affectionately called, to OH students and athletes over a 27-year career was her infectious smile and love of sports. In those early years, she organized and coached as many as six sports a year. She often capped those unofficial matchups with local schools with a post-game buffet of milk and cookies.

“I wouldn’t give up anything I did. It was a different time, but there was a real closeness,” said Ms. Osterman, who retired from teaching and Ottawa Hills in 1998. “It was a wonderful thing, but it’s a wonderful thing now, too. The girls’ opportunities now are beyond me.”

For female athletes today, the world before passage of the federal law known as Title IX seems as foreign as the days of horse and buggy. But it was the only one known by female athletes such as Ms. Osterman. Born in Toledo, she graduated from Whitmer High School in 1964 and then Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in 1968. For all that playing time (particularly field hockey and basketball), she never earned a varsity letter or played for a championship of any kind.

Sports for females at the junior high and school levels operated for decades under the national umbrella of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA). The organization’s purpose was as much about creating social networks and opportunities for physical activity as learning skills and strategy for a particular sport. “We would have ‘play’ dates and invite other schools to play. Sometimes we had officials, but we usually refereed our own games,” she said. “This was the real beginning of the girls’ sports.”

Ms. Osterman started teaching at Ottawa Hills in the fall of 1968, shortly after graduating from BGSU. She entered college, in part, through the encouragement of her Whitmer physical education teacher, Sally Craden. In addition to teaching health and physical education, Ms. Osterman coached all the GAA sports offered at Ottawa Hills: field hockey, basketball, softball, track and field, volleyball, and tennis. She taught in Florida and Michigan over the next two years before returning to Ottawa Hills in the fall of 1971.

Even after Title IX became law in 1972, she still had to make requests and sometimes argue for better funding for girls’ sports – all while often coaching both junior varsity and varsity teams. “For eight years, I established the girls’ competitive sports program at Ottawa Hills,” she recalled. “I had to fight like heck to get anything out of the budget.”

Today, Ottawa Hills offers 10 varsity sports for girls (including the co-ed teams of swimming and track and field).

Her career as a coach reached its pinnacle in the fall of 1979, as she led the OH field hockey team into Ohio’s first-ever sanctioned championship tournament for that sport. The Green Bears lost in the state semifinals. But it was the start of a sports dynasty, one in which OH field hockey teams would win three state titles over the next 20 years. She coached through the spring of 1980, and then focused her energies on teaching.

Her support of students and love of sports was best captured by international sports journalist Christine Brennan (’76), who contributed a chapter dedicated to Ms. Osterman to the 2011 book titled *Coach: 25 Writers Reflect on People Who Made a Difference*.

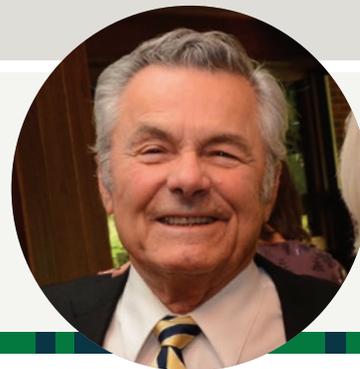
“Were it not for my experiences playing sports at Ottawa Hills, being encouraged every step of the way by my parents, my siblings, and Miss O, I am certain I would not have taken the path I did in my life,” Ms. Brennan wrote.

“For me as a teacher, OH was where I belonged,” Ms. Osterman said. “I felt appreciated. I loved the kids and I think they loved me back.”



Norm Niedermeier

Teacher, coach, AD, and friend



Biology teacher, football coach, tennis coach, basketball coach, athletic director, dean of students. Norm Niedermeier wore many hats during his 40 years at Ottawa Hills Schools – and he impacted many lives.

Coach Niedermeier retired in 1997 and has stayed connected with Ottawa Hills and his former students over the years. For example, there was an informal gathering of graduates that was tabbed “Dinner with Norm.” Fifteen or 20 friends would get together at the Beirut every other year and shoot the breeze for hours. It’s a great group of kids and everyone has done well. They’re all retired now. Some have moved south, but they still would come back for “Dinner with Norm.”

After his retirement, Coach Niedermeier spent his time “going wherever I felt like going, any time I felt like going.” He and his wife, Mary Ann, enjoyed traveling together until her passing several years ago. He then traveled alone, enjoying a trip to Italy as well as driving trips throughout the southern United States. He explained, “A lot of times I drove so I could stop and see some of my old players and students. Every few years, I would go through Nashville on my way back from Florida to see Jamie O’Hara. I considered him the best athlete to ever graduate from Ottawa Hills. But in high school, he was also in the choir, and he became a professional songwriter, singer and

entertainer so his whole career was in the music business, not sports.”

Topping Coach’s list of favorite things to do is spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who are scattered around the country.

Regardless of the number of years he’s been away from Ottawa Hills, he’s still “Coach” or “Mr. Niedermeier” to his former students. “I would always tell them, ‘You can call me Norm. We have no connection but friendship now.’” But most have told him, “I just can’t do it!”

A fond memory Coach Niedermeier shared was of Jim White, who was the senior quarterback of the football team in 1957, his first year at Ottawa Hills. Coach noted Jim was a great athlete in all sports. “Jim and I were walking out of a funeral a several years ago,” he recalled. “Jim said, ‘You know, Coach, when you coached us you were only four or five years older than us.’” Coach reminded him, “You know what, Jim, I’m still only four or five years older than you!”

Norm Niedermeier has only fond memories of his years at Ottawa Hills. “I always told people it’s one of the best school systems in the country, and I spent my whole life there. I would talk Ottawa Hills up wherever I go. The people are great, the faculty is great, and the kids are great. It’s a wonderful place. I wouldn’t trade the 40 years I was at Ottawa Hills for anything.”





John Spengler ('77)

All-around athlete and kicking star



John Spengler ('77) is a rarity among OH high school athletes: He earned varsity letters in five sports. He was a member of two undefeated varsity football teams and the 1974 golf team that won the Ohio State Championships and, with partner Keith Buckey, lost in the State Semifinals in doubles tennis in May 1977. He also played basketball for three years and started at second base as a freshman and sophomore.

But it was his success as a kicker that defined his high school career. He was the first student who kicked soccer style – the then-emerging way of driving through the ball and getting better distance and accuracy. He kicked extra points, kickoffs, and field goals on varsity for four years. He also has the distinction of kicking the first extra point in OH Junior High history (teams would always go for two points prior to that).

Mr. Spengler was introduced to the soccer-style approach while living abroad in England with his family.

(His dad William was a senior executive for Owens-Illinois, Inc. and was assigned to company facility there for three years.) “They play a lot of soccer or, as they called it, football,” he said. “You get a break, you played soccer. After school, you played soccer. There’s always a soccer ball nearby that people are always kicking around.”

The family moved to the Village upon their return to the United States, and four Spenglers would graduate from Ottawa Hills: William ('73), John ('77), Mary ('75), and Caroline ('79).

As a senior, Mr. Spengler was named Second Team in football, more for his play as quarterback and defense back than for kicking. At that time, no athlete was named as kicker to the All-Michigan-Ohio Border Conference (MOBC) teams. He also was named First Team All-MOBC in golf.

One of his fondest sports memories came in the fall of 1975, as the golf team had again made it to States. But he and teammates Richard Berry ('76) and Fred Lumm ('76) also played football. So they played the first round of States on Friday in Columbus, boarded a private plane owned by a Villager, flew into Toledo, and drove back to Ottawa Hills in time to take the field.

“Then after the football game, we flew back to Columbus, slept, and played the second round of states. Only in Ottawa Hills,” he said. “That’s a great memory.”

After OH graduation, he and his father made tapes of his golf and football plays and circulated them to college coaches. His intent was to play two sports if he could. To further develop his son’s skills, that summer, his father arranged a private coaching session with a sorority brother. That person was Lou “The Toe” Groza, the Hall of Fame kicker of the great Cleveland Brown teams of the 1950s.

Mr. Spengler continued to kick (and play golf) in college, becoming the first Bowling Green State University athlete to be named All-Mid-American Conference in football and golf in the same year. He was named the All-MAC kicker in both his junior and senior years, kicking a then school-record 13 straight field goals as a junior. He also completed his collegiate career by kicking 71 consecutive extra points.

In golf, Mr. Spengler lettered as a freshman on BGSU’s 1978 MAC Championship team. As a junior, he earned First-Team MAC honors by finishing seventh at the MAC Championship. In his senior year, he was the team’s captain and scoring leader.

After college, he had a summer tryout with the Detroit Lions in 1981. After hiring an agent in 1982, he was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs. In a preseason game against the New Orleans Saints in the Superdome, Mr. Spengler came in to try a 39-yard field goal as the first half ended.

The kick went wide right, just brushing the goal post. “In the locker room at halftime, (Coach) Marv Levy came up to me and said, ‘Sorry, son. I just got the call from Lamar Hunt. You’re out,’” Mr. Spengler said. Mr. Hunt owned the team. “I was married at the time and I said, ‘I can’t keep messing around with this.’ Life is beginning. Go get a real job.”

Today, he is a partner with Venture Visionary Partners where he develops wealth management strategies to assist clients in pursuing their financial goals. He now has earned entry into three athletic hall of fames: The Bowling Green Athletic Hall of Fame, the Toledo Golf Hall of Fame, and the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame.



FOUNDATION LETTER

Thank you for providing the spark

On behalf of the trustees of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, we would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all our individual donors and corporate partners who made Phase I of the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign a success. The renovations for the junior/senior high school's Foundry, Gupta Family Science and Research Corridor, Sue and Jim White Jr. Family Art Studio, Swigart Family MakerPLACE, and the Frankel Family STEAM Café spark imagination and collaboration beyond our wildest dreams. We hope you feel that we were good stewards of your generous contributions to this capital campaign.

We are now entering Phase II of the campaign, with enhancements at the elementary school: The Wondry, 6th Grade Science Lab, and Art Studio. We want to let our youngest learners immerse themselves in the magic of STEAM with reimagined spaces that will spark their imagination and creativity. They will have their own Maker Space, robotics arena, conduct advanced science experiments, and continue their academic pursuits when they cross the field and transition to junior high. We are proud and grateful to share that we have raised over \$700,000 for these projects but – as with all campaigns – the more we raise, the more we can do. We have a goal to raise an additional \$300,000 by April 2023 to truly transform our elementary school, provide the resources needed for our students to realize their greatest potential, and create a pathway that will become another defining tradition of what it means to receive an Ottawa Hills education.

We are excited to announce and welcome two new foundation trustees: village residents Anjali Gupta ('93) and Joel Jerger. Anjali and Anil Gupta are parents to twins, Jay and Maya (3rd grade). Joel and Casey Jerger are parents to Dawson (6th grade) and Whitney (3rd grade).

Finally, we extend our gratitude to two retiring trustees: village residents Phillip Mintun and Mark Wagoner ('90). Both joined the Foundation board at its inception in 2013. They have been an integral part of the incredible growth of the Foundation and helped to raise over \$5 million in support of our schools. We are grateful to Phil and Mark for their service and selfless support of our mission.

Our board is a powerful force for good in Ottawa Hills. We thank its members and we thank all of you for your trust and support.

Sincerely,
Jackie and Erica



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.

New Trustees

Anjali Gupta said she believes Ottawa Hills Local Schools gave her a good foundation with STEM, leading to her success as a former emergency room physician, and ultimately creating a lifelong passion for education with a STEM focus. She said, "We are blessed to live in a community that is so giving, and the Foundation is a great vehicle to direct gifts so they are used in the best way possible." Anjali will sit on the strategic initiatives committee that oversees annual grants, and also on the development committee.

Joel Jerger brings his wealth of experience in finance and banking to the Foundation. He and his family were drawn to Ottawa Hills Local Schools, in part, because of the smaller class sizes and excellent district performance. Joel will serve on the finance committee and is looking forward to helping maintain the legacy and continued success of the schools through the Foundation.

Thank you to both Anjali and Joel for lending their time, talent, and expertise to help the Foundation make a difference for Ottawa Hills Local Schools students.



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



Students from the Environmental Science classes.

Project: Providing close-up study of Lake Erie

Fund: The STEM Fund

Thanks to the generosity of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, nearly 50 students from the Environmental Science classes visited Ohio State University's Lake Erie Field Station, F. T. Stone Laboratory. One of the most unique campuses in the world, the research facility is located on Gibraltar Island near Put-in-Bay, Ohio. While there, students collected data aboard research boats, learned about the environmental success story of the Lake Erie Water Snake, in addition to the impact of several invasive species. Senior Gigi Suhy commented, "The entire experience at Stone lab and getting to explore the island was truly eye opening to see how close we are to the greatest of Great Lakes. Getting to do hands-on activities and learn how we can better the environment by taking care of species that indirectly aid to the ecosystem was something I will always remember."



Stem Center over three different week-long sessions. The students are participating in a program called "Engineering in the Classroom," which is designed to provide the students with hands-on learning. In these classes students have time to explore foundational elements of robotics. They build materials incorporating programmable motors and sensors. Students will be defining problems, designing, building, testing, and redesigning. These exercises will engage students to become life-long problem solvers and give students the ideal environment to learn how to handle making mistakes.

Project: 'Math in Focus'

Fund: The Heldreth Family Student Services and Support Fund

"Math in Focus" meets the needs of individual learners with hands-on learning and visual models that support and optimize learning. The models used in the elementary classrooms help students develop the ability to visualize mathematical situations, which is key to becoming a successful problem solver. This program empowers students to develop the critical-thinking skills, positive attitudes, and confidence needed to set the stage for achievement.

Project: Second grade 'Engineering in the Classroom'

Fund: The STEM Fund

During the 2022-2023 school year the 2nd-grade students at Ottawa Hills Elementary had the opportunity to learn from Sylvania

Project: Smekens Conference Fund: The Heldreth Family Student Services and Support Fund

Five teachers from the junior/senior high school English department attended a special weekend conference in February to better understand current and future trends in writing instruction, thanks to the Foundation and one of its newest funds. The one day conference is provided by Smekens Education Solutions, which has energized our teachers in other grade levels by helping them to make complex learning tasks concrete and manageable for all students. During this event, teachers learned how to build lifelong writers by providing students with standards-based instruction that marries reading and writing, and prepares students for success on standardized tests and in life.

Project: Third grade literacy Fund: The STEM Fund

Piloting a literacy program during the 2022-2023 school year, the 3rd-grade team will share 10 iPads throughout the grade level that will be utilized during small group reading instruction. The iPads will introduce digital differentiated books, assist in building vocabulary, and enhance comprehension. Students will gain exposure and confidence by reading excerpts on the screens and answering correlating questions. This will also help prepare for state testing.





Every year, donors are making possible numerous grants by the Foundation to support student activities and programs. Thank you to these individuals and organizations for their annual gifts and contributions to the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign



Making possible
WORLDS OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Through the generosity of OH families, alumni, and others, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation continues to make a positive impact on students' lives. The Foundation wants to honor those supporters for helping the organization pursue its mission. Those contributions during the 2021-2022 year are enriching the lives of students in every grade and making the district a positive force in their lives.

LEADERSHIP

(\$500,000 and above)

- The Gupta Families
Manju and Kul Gupta
Anil and Anjali ('99) Gupta
Sunny ('01) and Chelsey Gupta
Ryan and Sapna O'Connell
- ProMedica

VALEDICTORIAN

(\$100,000 and above)

- Bubba and Jackie ('93) Berenzweig
- Chris and Aparna Brown
- Jon and Niki Frankel
- Pat and Ann ('67) Hylant
- The MacMillan Families
Jim ('63) and Jean MacMillan
Jamie MacMillan ('90)
Jeff ('93), Julie, and Whitney ('34) MacMillan
- John ('96) and Shanie Swigart
- Steve ('66) and Mickey Swigart
- The University of Toledo
- The Sue and Jim White, Jr. Family

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

(\$50,000 and above)

- The Lathrop Family
in memory of Bill and Anne Lathrop ('59)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

(\$25,000 and above)

- Claire Arnos ('10) and Caroline Arnos ('12)
- Molly Zraik and Marc Brown

- Family of Sam and Alec Carson
- Kevin and Meredith ('94) Friedman
- James ('79) and Mary ('79) Geiger
- Troy and Wendy Greeley
- Elias ('99) and Joy Hajjar
- Imam Family
- KeyBank
- The Lewis Family
- The McCracken Family
- The O'Neill Family
- David Roemer ('98)
- Signature Bank, N.A.
- Lawrence and Christine Spetka
- Alta Richter, Marc Thompson, and
Tess Thompson ('09)
in memory of Tyler Thompson ('07)
- Waterford Bank, N.A.

DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL

(\$10,000 and above)

- R. L. ('76) and Karen Berry
- Tom and Betsy ('64) (Carson) Brady
- The Estes Family
- Fifth Third Bank
- Craig and Amy Findley
- Dee and Zac Isaac
- Steve and Neerja Jindal
- Brad and Allison Johnson
- The Kadens Family Foundation
- Ian ('95) and Christina Katz
- Kevin, Kathleen, Thomas ('21), and
Charles ('23) Merrill

Geoff ('62) and Molly Meyers
Owens Corning
Bill and Laura Rudolph
The Rudolph Libbe Group
Steve and Mary Saddemi
Tehmina Malik and Nauman Shahid
The Staelin Family
in memory of Tiffany Staelin ('91)
Dr. Michelle and Nathan Walker
David ('67) and Heidi ('68) Waterman

FOUNDERS

(\$5,000 and above)

The Backoff Family
Tom, Kate ('77), Brad ('06), Jennie ('08),
and Leslie ('10)
The Bardi Family
Alap and Amy Choksey
Class of 2018
The Fineske Family
Paul Goldner ('64)
Lauren and Josh Green
Tom ('62) and Nancy Kabat
Oscar Kasch ('19)
Dhaval and Mona Parikh
David Roadhouse ('62)
The Shall Family
Robert ('68) and Cappy Shopneck
The Silk Family
Adam and Rana Smidi
Law Firm of Spengler Nathanson
Mark ('90), Merideth, Mickey, and
Taylor Wagoner

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

(\$1,000 and above)

In celebration of Elise Ansberg ('23)
The Ballard Family
Jeremy ('93) and Alyssa ('96) Bauer
The Bennett Family
Dr. Karl Borsody and Dr. Jaleh Eslami
The Buckley Family
Bill, Jean, Mike, Jamie and Kate
Canberra Corp
David and Jeni Carter
The Cho Family
Class of 2007
in memory of Greg Orgel ('07)

Class of 2007
in memory of Tyler Thompson ('07)
Class of 2021
Class of 2022
Charles Dewey Cole, Jr. ('70)
Paul and Anita Daverio
Rich ('00) and Ally Effler
Kristie Feeback and Family
Paul and Melissa Gagacki
Barbara and Bob Gatchel
The Gehling Family
Nasser Hajar and Diala Elhalabi
Maara Fink and Chris Hamilton and Family
Noreen Hanlon and Ben McMurray
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Huntington
Becky and Tom Hauck
Austin ('02) and Chelsea Irving and Family
James, Marci, Jack, and Taylor Kayse
Sandeep Singh and Pravleen Kaur
*in memory of Harvinder Kaur and
Brijinder Kaur*
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Owais Khawaja
Elizabeth Lang ('97)
Craig and Kym Lemieux
Jeff ('93), Julie, and Whitney ('34)
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The McKenney Family
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and Emily
Jim and Blair Nooney
The Rasmus Family
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TDC Investment Advisory – Brady Fineske
Lamont and Heather Thurston
Trust Company Family Offices

Rob and Elizabeth Weaver
Valerie Wiley
Peter Williamson
in honor of Daniel Williamson ('22)
Bruce and Gail Yacko
The Zimmerman Family

ADDITIONAL GIFTS

Jim Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce A. DeBoer
Benjamin and Katrina (Drowatzky)
DuBose
The Ferreira Family
Dorothy and Rex Figy
Bob, Kristin, and Jackson Grande
Jennifer Griffin
Joan Haigh
in memory of John A. Galbraith ('41)
Ray "Mad Dog" Heitger
Joe Holtzman ('59)
Stephen Van Hooser ('94)
Jason, Heather, and Aidan Huntley
Eugene and Jennifer Izsak
Joel and Casey Jerger
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Jay Khetani
Lauren and Francis Krieger
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Hannah Lehmann
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in honor of Class of 1958
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Nancie Howe Entenmann Roberts ('52)
Tory and Carl Schaffer
Tom Seiple ('63)
Mary Selleck
Andy and Alex Stancati
Phil Stichter ('56)
Walter Thieman ('64)
Dr. Russell J. Tibbetts ('72)
Catherine L. Webb ('66)
Susan and Gary Wilson



Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

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UPCOMING EVENTS



March

Tuesday
7 Open Conversation with
the Board of Education
7 p.m. The Foundry

Monday
6-10 Pedestrian Safety
Week: "Walk With,
Bike Against."



Friday
10 K-6 Little
Green Bear Ball

Sunday
12 JHHS Spring Band
Concert

Monday
13 JHHS
Spring Choir
Concert

Wednesday
15 Brown Bag Chorus

Friday
17 Dr. Huntley and Irish
Dancers performing
outside OHES 7:45 a.m.



Saturday
25 TAAC Quiz Bowl
Championships

April

Friday
14-16 OHMTA Spring Musical
MAMMA MIA!

Sunday
23 Glass City Marathon

Thursday
27 smART Show

Friday
28 OHES Talent Show

May

Friday
5 3rd Grade City

Thursday
11 Kindergarten
Kaleidoscope

Saturday
13 Prom/After Prom

May (cont.)

Tuesday
16 All District Band
Concert

Wednesday
17 JHHS Choir Concert

Thursday
18 JHHS Piano Recital

Friday
19 OHSPA Spring Carnival

Friday
26-28 OHMTA Off Broadway
Production

June

Thursday
1 Commencement

Tuesday
6-7 Kindergarten Screening



Follow all events at ohschools.org/calendar