

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

# AROUND these HILLS

SUMMER 2023



## Grateful for our graduates!

Caps and confetti fly as seniors  
prepare to leave the nest

Inside this issue:

District finance update

Arts alive in "The Hills"

Green Bears give back



### REGIONAL CHAMPS!

Boys' varsity baseball team  
crowned regional champs;  
played in final four



**Ottawa Hills**  
Local Schools

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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**CONTACT:** Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation  
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Class of 2023 gathers one last time as students of Ottawa Hills High School.

## DISTRICT LETTER

# As our school year ends, our gratitude continues!

As I stood on the commencement stage June 1 and soaked in this exciting moment, I couldn't help but think that all of us there – especially the members of the Class of 2023 – felt so much gratitude for the many amazing things that have happened throughout this school year and in our cumulative time in Green Bear Nation.

This school year's theme was based around gratitude, and it rings strongly through what I call the "magic formula" that we continue to celebrate and appreciate here in Ottawa Hills Local Schools. This formula has four main components to making it successful. First, we are extremely grateful for our top-notch teachers and staff who work tirelessly making sure our kids have the best experiences possible in and out of our classrooms. Second, we are grateful for our parents who make education a priority at home and send their children to school prepared to learn. Third, we are grateful for our students who come to school every day – excited and craving to learn. Last, but not least, we are grateful for our outstanding community that centers itself around our school district.



This formula, along with the support we receive from alumni and community partners, remains so important as we move forward in the future. Along with feelings of gratitude, there is a growing feeling of hope for our future. Due to the success of our school district over the past few years, our student enrollment has hit an all time high. With 160 new students joining our schools over the past four years, there was a financial impact on the district. Coming out of COVID, there are different and growing academic needs and new challenges with social-emotional health. We know that in the near future, in order to meet our growth and preserve our success, we will need to ask for additional funding to keep our district Green Bear strong, and at the level of service our students deserve. We will do our best to be transparent about this need, provide important information to our community, and prove that this need is real.

To our 96 seniors and to the entire OH educational community: Congratulations on a job well done, and for completing a big milestone. May everyone's summer be full of good times and continued gratitude for all the blessings bestowed upon our wonderful community!

*With the completion of our 2022 financial audit, Ottawa Hills Local School District has earned the Outstanding Achievement Award in Open and Transparent Government, designated by the Auditor of State.*



*Adam Fineske*

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske  
afineske@ohschools.org



# INSIDE SUMMER 2023



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## THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC 'MAMMA MIA!'

The Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association's spring musical packed the house and wowed audiences with the hits of ABBA.



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## GREEN BEARS SPORTS MAKE TITLE RUNS

Riley Nixon takes 2nd in state for 1600m, Green Bear Baseball competes in the final four, and boys' Lacrosse and Tennis teams make school history.



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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR FUNDING

This past spring, the Ottawa Hills Board of Education hosted two "open conversations" with the community to discuss district finances.

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AROUND  
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## AN AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT



Learn more about our awards at [ohschools.org/honors](https://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](mailto:info@ohschools.org).

### ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTS:

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## Correction

Correction to the Winter 2023 issue (page 19): Mr. Jim White, Jr. is the former Chairman of the Management Committee at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, and currently serves as Counsel to the firm. Mr. White did not serve on the Toledo Museum of Art Board of Directors. The White Family Companies, Inc. represent about 40 automobile/truck franchises from 28 dealership locations.



The Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association's spring musical, 'Mamma Mia,' sold out all four performances. The music, the singing, the dancing, the acting, and the costumes all wowed audiences. This production had the Village of Ottawa Hills singing ABBA songs for weeks. Thank you, Yarko Kuk of the *Village Voice of Ottawa Hills*, for the photos.



Emerson DeMilt as Donna Sheridan and Ella Douglas as Sophie Sheridan

## The Art of the Marathon

The Toledo Roadrunners Club Mercy Health Glass City Marathon partnered with race route schools this year to create the "Art of the Marathon." Throughout March, students in Mrs. Bodziak's elementary art classes created artwork representing their impression of fitness. The artwork was displayed at the Glass City Marathon Expo and all K-6 students received free entry to participate in the kids' races. Congratulations to the over 40 young Green Bears that participated.





# Putting the 'A' in STEAM

with Artist-in-Residence

Kacey McCreery, our March artist-in-residence, visited both buildings to share her love for glass art. Ms. McCreery is a Community Engagement Glass Artist at the Toledo Museum of Art and helped students create their own glass masterpieces. Student art was fired using TMA's glass kilns.



## Art appreciation

OH students have diverse ways to explore their talents



Art Fair Breakfast

Mrs. Bodziak, OHSPA Art Fair Chair Elizabeth Leeds, and Dr. Bauer with student volunteers at the annual Art Fair Breakfast themed "Sunny-side up with Seurat."



Artwork on loan to Curriculum Office

Each year, Dr. Bill Miller, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction selects works from the elementary school Art Fair that sparks joy. The art is framed and hung in Dr. Miller's office for a year before being returned to the students.



CELLu(ART)

Deborah Gumucio, biologist and BioArtography Project Program Director from the University of Michigan, was invited to speak to art teacher Caitlin Shawaker's ('01) graphic design class. Using high resolution microscopic imagery of cells, Professor Gumucio works with other cellular biologists to create greater understanding of cell structure, development, and communication.

## Living art: The Schuyler sisters make an appearance at the annual 5th-Grade Living Wax Museum.

In addition to selecting and researching a person who has been influential and had a positive impact in the Western hemisphere, 5th graders were also tasked with representing that individual as part of the annual Living Wax Museum. Students dressed the part and had prepared first person summaries of their achievements and contributions. In addition to the famous Angelica, Eliza, and Peggy Schuyler, Alexander Hamilton, John Lennon, Nikola Tesla, Bob Ross, Katherine Johnson, and many more were in attendance. (Left to right) Tegan Dillon, Anayimi Momoh, and Liza Perozek



# Green Bears giving back



Coin drive delivers books locally

The 2023 Spring Scholastic Book Fair partnered with student council for a coin drive week benefitting the “All for Books,” a Scholastic-matched giving program that provides books to kids in need. Using those funds, literacy and innovation specialist

Amanda Sanderson was able to donate \$2,250 of books from Ottawa Hills Local Schools to Toledo Public elementary schools and a Toledo Hospital Family Room.

‘Hoops for a Cause’

The boys’ and girls’ varsity basketball teams presented a check for \$3,500 to “Catching Up With Jack,” this year’s “Hoops for a Cause” service project. Athletes from both teams participated in fundraising with 100% of the proceeds supporting finding a cure for pediatric brain cancer.

The Ottawa Hills High School boys’ soccer team helped collect and package gently used soccer gear for children in Gambia. Local group “Soccer Gear for Gambia” has shipped more than 20,000 soccer shirts, shoes, socks, shin guards, balls, water bottles, cones, and other sports gear over the past six years. Chris Mackey, village resident and parent to Carson (’23) and Vaughn (Class of 2025), has played an active role in the Toledo-based organization, and encourages anyone wanting to get involved to reach out to [soccergearforgambia@gmail.com](mailto:soccergearforgambia@gmail.com).

Soccer Gear for Gambia



Getting the word out on hearing loss

Elise Ansberg (’23) partnered with The Ability Center to do a live “Hear This!” podcast from The Foundry in May. Local radio personality Eric Chase interviewed Elise on her efforts to help those with hearing loss. Through her work with HearAide, she has raised over \$45,000 and established two clinics in Jordan refugee camps. Elise’s personal journey of being born with bilateral hearing loss fueled her passion for making a difference in the world of hearing impaired individuals.





Helping Kenyan children

Karibu Project Rafiki! (Welcome Project Friend!) This year's Project Rafiki team raised over \$20,000 to positively impact the lives of 1,000 Kenyan children in schools where Ottawa Hills Local Schools students have taught for over 10 years. Previously, elementary students studied three to a desk. In 2023, 200 new desks designed for a single student, with a fold up top and personal storage space below, were purchased. The project also funded the construction of a new 7th grade classroom at Gitinga Primary School. The former classroom had dirt floors, rough lumber walls, and rusted corrugated iron sheets for a roof. Now, these 7th grade students have a comfortable and positive learning environment.

The 6th Grade Class's annual ice cream sale was a huge success. By selling ice cream to their fellow elementary school students during lunch periods in May, the Class of 2029 raised over \$5,000. They will be using part of those funds to gift a new microscope to Mr. Siebenaler's 6th grade science room. In keeping with tradition, the remainder of the funds will go towards saving for the class's junior year After Prom.

Here's the scoop on a new scope



'Food For Thought'



Members of junior/senior high school health and physical education classes volunteered at "Food For Thought" in April. "Food For Thought" strives to help those that are hungry for food, respect, and belonging.



Invasive species cleanup

Brittany Furlong from the Nature Conservancy and the Green Ribbon Initiative, along with Zoe (Class of 2024) and Caitlin (Class of 2026) McCarthy, led a group of Green Bears and others in an invasive species cleanup near the Ottawa River on Sunday. The group removed hundreds of honeysuckle and garlic mustard plants to allow native species a chance to flourish. Zoe and Caitlin are part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Conservation Teen Advisory Council and have organized other cleanups as well as participated in the introduction of sturgeon to the Maumee River and Lake Erie.



Mr. Lindsay and his junior high students with their RightTrak completion certificates.

## The next iteration of business education at Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Mr. John Lindsay retired this year after teaching business education at the junior/senior high school for 28 years. “I truly loved my time as a Green Bear educator,” says Mr. Lindsay. I’ve been able to work with outstanding students and share my passion for finance and business, to equip students with the tools necessary to exercise sound judgment in financial matters, to live prosperously, and give generously.”

The business education curriculum has seen many changes throughout the years. Our junior high school students have been fortunate to receive a complimentary digital financial education course that more than meets the state standards. The “RightTrak” program consists of 15 individual learning lessons focusing on budgeting, banking, debit cards, insurance, investing, taxes, wealth management, and more. RightTrak was developed by Maumee-based TDC Investment Advisory, a registered investment advisory firm, with the goal of providing financial literacy to students and young adults early in life to form lifelong healthy financial habits and do it in a fun and engaging way. “We are thrilled Ottawa Hills Local Schools has adopted our financial education program,” says Jesse MacDonald, director of marketing for TDC. “We believe by helping students learn important financial lessons today and having them apply them to their everyday life, we can also help them achieve financial independence and success tomorrow.”

Mr. Lindsay is passing the baton of business education to Randall Johnson, an Ottawa Hills alumni ('18). Mr. Johnson returned to the village after attending Duke University and graduating from the University of Toledo. He has been a student, staff, and an integral

part of programming, tutoring, and student support in The Foundry. Mr. Johnson will teach entrepreneurship, professional networking and communications, personal finance, career exploration, and accounting. Many of his classes will incorporate the new Frankel Family STEAM Café to provide students with an authentic learning experience.

“My inspiration for pursuing this position was the courses I took at Ottawa Hills and UT in economics, business, and finance that gave me the most tangible real-world applications,” says Mr. Johnson. “I wanted to return to the place that gave me so much and give those same experiences to our students.”

<b>The Foundry</b> impact igniting 	<b>40,000+</b> Hours students spent in study halls	<b>62</b> Structured learning assistance sessions
	<b>3,000+</b> Student visits to testing room	<b>450+</b> Hours of use in the 360-degree immersion room

### Attention alumni:

Do you have an inspiring business story you want to share with students? Email [rjohnson@ohschools.org](mailto:rjohnson@ohschools.org)



## STEM is bigger in Texas

The world’s largest pre-college STEM competition is the International Science & Engineering Fair and, for the second time in school history, a Green Bear qualified to compete there. Senior Max Chandar-Kouba traveled to the ISEF in Dallas, Texas, in May with Jeremy Nixon, high school science teacher. With help from

Mr. Nixon, as well as University of Toledo professor Eli Visbal and postdoc Mihir Kulkarni, Max shared his research on quasars with data he used from the James Webb Space Telescope. Mr. Nixon, together with University of Toledo professor Dr. Visbal, assisted Max with his

science project. Max explained his project as running a large-scale simulation of matter in early universe conditions.

“We are so proud of our collegiate level science research class students who, as of this year, are working and studying daily in our new state of the art Gupta Family Science and Research Corridor,” said Superintendent Dr. Fineske. Max is headed to Carnegie Mellon University to study physics this fall.



## Building confidence in Math

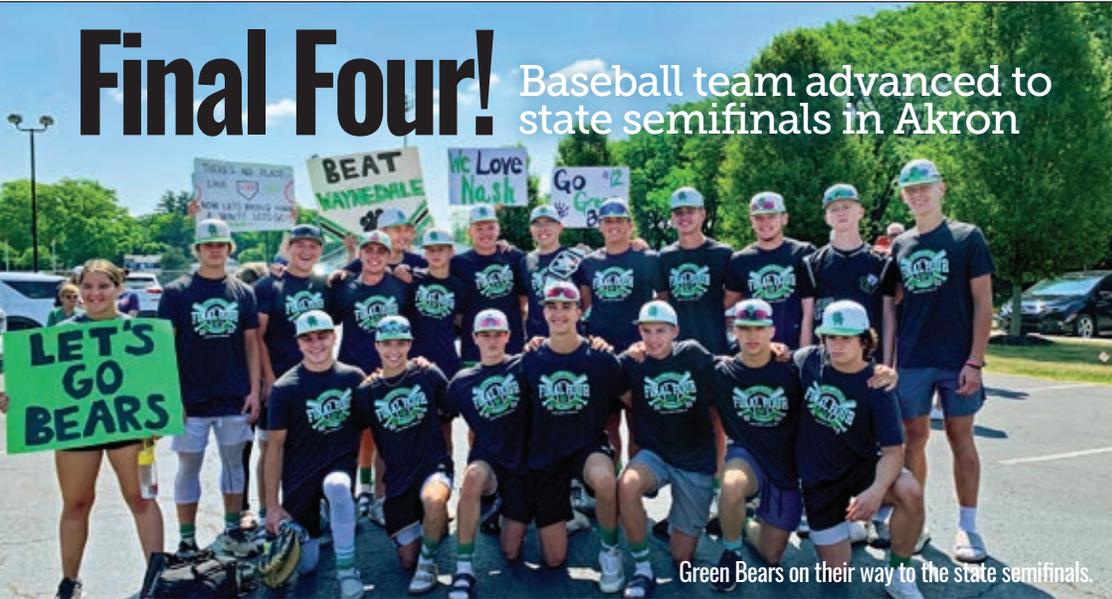


Our students love coming to The Foundry for Math Lab, even at 7 in the morning. According to Joan Keckler, math department chair for 19 years, “The Foundry has broken the stigma of Math Lab being only for struggling students. It is now a comfortable and welcoming place that serves students of all levels on a daily basis, and also provides support and guidance to groups of students preparing for upcoming assessments.”



## Final Four!

Baseball team advanced to state semifinals in Akron



Green Bears on their way to the state semifinals.

The boys' baseball team made it to the final four for the first time in over a decade. The Green bears toppled Milan Edison in the regional finals to make it to the state semi final game at Canal Park in Akron. They faced the Waynedale Golden Bears, reigning state champions, and lost 2-6. Congratulations to Coach Hardman and the team on a fantastic season.

Read the latest on the boys' varsity golf team. Page 26



## Track at States

Members of the high school track team competed at the Ohio State Championships at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in June. The boys' 4x800 meter relay team took 2nd place at state with runners: Sage Egan, Thomas Franklin, Carson Mackey, and Riley Nixon. The relay team finished with a time of 7:57.22, setting a new school record. The girls' 4x800 meter relay team had a time of 9:56.12, taking 11th place, with runners: Anna Ellingson, Audrey Nixon, Elanora Smith, and Erin Wilmore.



### Other track state competition highlights:

#### 1600m

Riley Nixon, 2nd place, 4:14.42.

#### New school record

Elanora Smith, 9th place, 5:13.72

Thomas Franklin, 15th, 4:27.66

#### 800m

Carson Mackey, 8th place, 1:56.17.

#### New school record

#### 3200m

Michael Kelley, 8th place, 9:40.6

Riley Nixon, 10th place, 9:56.65



The boys' lacrosse team finished their regular season at 17-0 for the first time in school history. The team was seeded 2nd in the region when they were defeated in the third round of the state tournament. Reece Hill set a new single season goal record with 92 and is already the career leader in goals heading into his senior year.





Congratulations to these seven student athletes celebrated at Signing Day:

- **Nat Jun**, University of Indianapolis, Lacrosse
- **AJ George**, Columbia University, Football
- **Brady Larson**, Siena Heights University, Baseball
- **Emilio Duran**, University of Toledo, Football
- **Thomas Franklin**, Washington and Lee University, Cross Country and Track
- **Elanora Smith**, Wesleyan University, Cross Country and Track
- **Sage Egan**, Baldwin Wallace University, Cross Country and Track

Tennis team sends four to states

The boys' team was represented by singles athletes freshman Jack Kayse and junior Savith Vijendra, and doubles team Darwin Posta and Charlie Estes. Boys' tennis competed at states at Ty Tucker Tennis Center on The Ohio State campus May 25.



Dance Team

Congratulations to the dance team for making their way to the state competition for nine years in a row. The team finished 3rd in Pom and 4th in Jazz.



# State Jacket Ceremony

The OH Boosters and Athletic Administrator Tammy Talmage presented all athletes who qualified for States in the Fall of 2022 with their State Jacket or a 2022 patch if they previously received a jacket. Congratulations to this amazing group of athletes.

## Congratulations to jacket recipients:

### Tennis: Finished top 4

Catherine Rhegness (patch)

### Dance Team: 3rd in Pom, 4th in Jazz

Lena Bazzoli (patch)  
Gracyn Connelly (jacket)  
Emma Friedman (jacket)  
Elyssa Grimm (jacket)  
Ava Jesse (patch)  
Isabella Leonardi (jacket)  
Sydney Mack (patch)  
Eleanor McQueen (jacket)  
Sarah Stone (patch)  
Gabrielle Suhy (patch)

Julia Vicente (jacket)  
Ashley Wang (patch)

### Cross Country: Boys' state runner up

Maxwell Chandar-Kouba (patch)  
Kaed Egan (jacket)  
Sage Egan (patch)  
Anna Ellingson (patch)  
Thomas Franklin (patch)  
JoAnna Kelley (patch)  
Michael Kelley (patch)  
Elsa Klaas (jacket)  
Freya Klaas (jacket)  
Carson Mackey (jacket)  
Joe Mayer-Heckathorn (jacket)  
Audrey Nixon (jacket)

Riley Nixon (patch)  
Elanora Smith (patch)  
Emily Timmerman (jacket)  
Erin Wilmore (jacket)

### Boys golf team: Finished 7th

Anthony Adduci (patch)  
Eddie Griffin (patch)  
Jack Jorgensen (patch)  
Charlie Merrill (patch)  
Anthony Packo (patch)  
Will Swigart (patch)

### Boys' soccer: State runner up

Danny Assi (patch)

Adam Ayad (patch)  
Alex Duran (jacket)  
Hutch Carter (jacket)  
Emilio Duran (patch)  
Houssam Hajar (patch)  
Avi Hanusz (jacket)  
Julian Jaume (patch)  
Brandon Lingo (jacket)  
Carson Mackey (patch)  
Vaugh Mackey (patch)  
Akash Parikh (patch)  
Maddock Robson (jacket)  
Ali Sediqe (patch)  
Elijah Shetterly (patch)  
Liam Silk (patch)  
Harley Talbott (patch)  
Micah Walker (jacket)  
Evan West (jacket)



# Track teams sweep TAAC

All four track teams (boys' and girls' high school and boys' and girls' junior high) were crowned champions of the Toledo Area Athletic Conference.

# Graduation 2023:



## A Salute to the Seniors



Rockets, Bulldogs, Buckeyes, Commodores, Lions, Wildcats, Wolverines... no matter where these amazing individuals head to college, they will always be Green Bears. Congratulations, Class of 2023!



**Inside coverage:**

**Pages 14-15:**  
Awards & Recognitions

**Pages 16-17:**  
Where the Class of 2023 is headed



The week of Commencement provided OH students, their families, and the community, an opportunity to celebrate this special milestone together.



Commencement was a little different for members of the boys' varsity baseball team. After every attempt to move the state tournament game was made by school leadership, parents and the administration decided instead to have a special graduation ceremony postgame. Following their 3-1 win over Columbus Academy, the eight seniors on the team had their very own commencement under the lights at Neidermeier Stadium.



Senior class president Ella Berenzweig and other class officers presented the class of '23 gift that will enhance Green Bear spirit at the stadium.

## A Recognition of Excellence

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

**To honor the individuals and groups who established these honors, *Around These Hills* presents the 2023 recipients of those awards and scholarships.**

### **Don Fontaine French Award**

This award is presented to an advanced French student who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in the languages and knowledge about the French-speaking people. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

**Maxwell Chandar-Kouba**

### **Georgetown University Alumni Award**

This award, chosen by the social studies department, is presented in the field of social sciences to a junior or senior recognized for intellectual curiosity and academic achievement in the social sciences; commitment to civic responsibility; the courage to question established ideas and explore new ideas; and the fortitude to accept the responsibility for initiating constructive social change.

**Alexander Mian**

### **Kristjan Gislason Award**

This award is given to the senior who has given unselfishly of his/her time and talents and who possesses a positive attitude for the benefit of Ottawa Hills High School. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school. The award was started by Kristjan's father for the family's deep appreciation for the school's friendship to his son when he was an AFS student from Iceland from 1973-74.

**Elle Hopkins**

### **The Steve Gordon Memorial Scholarship**

This award was established in memory of Steve Gordon, a 1957 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School. This scholarship is awarded to a senior who possesses oral

and written acuity, eclectic and intense exploration of the literary genre, stylistic sophistication, and intellectual curiosity.

**Lilian Richardson**

### **Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award**

This award, named for two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin, is presented each year to a male and female student who have been outstanding in their efforts to promote sportsmanship in their school and community. The Athletic Administrator chooses this award.

**AJ George, Elle Hopkins**

### **Brian Nicholas Hoeflinger Memorial Scholarship Award**

This award was established in 2019 in the memory of Brian Hoeflinger. This scholarship is given to a senior who best exemplifies the characteristics of Brian: strong work ethic, academic excellence, optimism, kindness, and quirky sense of humor. This award is presented to a graduate who leads by example rather than by recognition, is well-liked and respected by peers, and strives to achieve academic excellence.

**Sean Brandt**

### **Nancy and Tom Kabat Scholarship Award**

This monetary award is presented to a graduating senior who is known to be an uplifting person, who makes a positive contribution to their class, and is well respected by fellow classmates. The honored senior demonstrates leadership, a good work ethic, high academic achievement, and community and school volunteer service. This award was established in 2003.

**Matthias Weaver, Antonia Bazzoli**

### **Karen Klein Music Award**

Karen Klein, a member of the Class of 1958, was a talented soprano in the Ottawa Hills High School choir. She died shortly after a rehearsal, preparing for the annual spring concert. She is fondly remembered for her leadership, character, and musicianship. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the music room.

**Elle Hopkins**

### **Fred Kreutzfeld CheMystery Magic Award**

This award is given each year in memory of Mr. Kreutzfeld, former chemistry teacher and principal at Ottawa Hills High School. Mr. Kreutzfeld worked a special magic on all the lives he touched. The award goes to a current chemistry student who also works magic on the lives he or she touches. A student who, though not necessarily at the top of the class, most clearly understands the mystery in chemistry and rejoices in the magic that understanding brings. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

**Ethan Green**

### **The David M. Larabee Memorial Scholarship**

This award was established in 2008 in memory of David M. Larabee, mathematics and science teacher at Ottawa Hills Local Schools. This scholarship is presented to a graduating senior who demonstrates a passion for learning and talent in mathematics, science, and/or conservation-related fields. Special consideration will be given to a student who also demonstrates an interest in the fine arts and represents the qualities of Dave Larabee as a "Renaissance person."

**Maxwell Chandar-Kouba**

### **The Chad Layne Foreign Language Award**

This award is presented to the senior who exhibits a unique appreciation of foreign language study and has excelled in both French and Spanish. The recipient demonstrates an outstanding curiosity, enthusiasm, and diligence for the languages.

**Adam Ayad, Danny Assi**

### **The Lori Warner Levy Memorial Award**

This award was established in 1999 in memory of Lori Warner Levy, who was an intensely creative businesswoman and mother, an accomplished musician, and a promising artist. This award honors a graduating senior for outstanding creativity in the fine and performing arts.

**Miles Weaver**

### **The Phillip W. Longenecker Science Award**

This award is selected by the science department and presented to a senior excelling in the field of science. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school. Longenecker graduated in 1947.

**Maxwell Chandar-Kouba**

### **The National Choral Award**

This award is selected by the vocal music teacher and is presented to the senior who has been a member of the high school concert choir for at least one year and has had at least three years of experience in the Choraliers. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

**William Sherman**

## **OHSAA Award of Excellence**

This is awarded to a student who has exhibited qualities that embody good citizenship, good moral character, and good sporting behavior.

**Danny Assi, Elanora Smith**

## **Ohio High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Award**

This is awarded to a student athlete with high academic excellence.

**Adam Ayad, Elizabeth Lathrop**

## **The Ottawa Hills Education Association Scholarship**

The OHEA award was established in memory of elementary school teacher Bob George. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who clearly articulates his or her calling toward the teaching profession and demonstrates an appreciation for life-long learning.

**Gage Shultz**

## **The James Petas Memorial Scholarship**

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

**Claire Sigler**

## **Principal's Choice Award**

This award is presented to a graduating senior who exhibits achievement and effort in his/her academic pursuits, is a good citizen of the school and community, has profoundly impacted the school climate, and is respected and appreciated by his/her peers and teachers.

**Adam Ayad, Ella Berenzweig**

## **The Dion Raftopoulos Award**

This award is a music-based scholarship granted annually to the college-bound graduating senior who most represents the lofty ideals of musical accomplishment, scholarly attainment, and moral integrity as exemplified by the life of Dion Raftopoulos.

**Cassie Davis**

## **Robert Repp Social Studies Scholarship Award**

This award, honoring the professional career of Mr. Bob Repp, is awarded annually to a senior who understands the qualities of a good citizen, has excelled over four years in the social studies, and plans to continue those studies on the college level. The recipient should show the potential to actively pursue leadership roles in American society. Members of the Ottawa Hills Social Studies Department provide this financial award.

**Gage Shultz**

## **The Kathryn H. Saxby Memorial**

This award is awarded to a graduating senior based on the following criteria: academic excellence, GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT scores, a demonstrated interest in music, involvement in school activities, and community and school volunteer service.

**Maxwell Chandar-Kouba**

## **The John Phillip Sousa Band Award**

This award is selected by the instrumental music teacher and is awarded to the outstanding senior band person. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

**Brandon Dolsey**

## **The Peggy Thomas Memorial Scholarship Award**

This award is a financial scholarship given to the senior who best exemplifies the characteristics of Peggy: affability, happiness, enthusiasm for life, as well as being an individual who puts forth a determined effort toward his/her school work.

**Cassie Davis**

## **The Toledo Spain Award**

This award is presented to an advanced Spanish senior who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in the language and knowledge about the Spanish-speaking people. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

**Elanora Smith**

## **Ross Treuhaft Memorial Scholarship**

This award was established in 2012, with contributions from the Treuhaft family, in memory of Ross Treuhaft an energetic, enthusiastic, and compassionate person with a great sense of humor. This award honors a graduating senior who exhibits some or all of the following: welcomes diversity; understands and has compassion towards students with special needs, students who are different from the norm; has an interest in special education; demonstrates a desire to include others different from themselves; possesses kindness and joy.

**Gabrielle Suhy**

## **Donna Tozer Wipfli Choralier Award**

This award, established in 2020, is given annually to a graduating Choralier member who aspires to the passions and artistic goals of Donna Tozer Wipfli, Ottawa Hills Elementary and Junior/Senior High School Vocal Music teacher from 1990-2020:

- Believing in the enduring value of singing together with purpose
- Embracing the impact of communicating ideas through words and music
- Uniting the school and community through music
- Sustaining the highest levels of commitment and musicianship
- Discovering profound meaning and passion in singing

This scholarship award is chosen and managed by the vocal music teacher and the recipient's name will be engraved on a plaque displayed in the music room.

**Antonia Bazzoli**

## **The Mayor Jean Youngen Leadership Award**

The candidate selected for this honor exemplifies the traits of Mayor Jean Youngen, former Mayor of Ottawa Hills. The recipient has shown a history of interest in issues to improve the quality of life in our community and specific examples of action related to these areas of interest. Like Mayor Youngen, they have "walked the walk." The honoree has also displayed an ability to engage a cross section of our student body and greater community. Above all, the award winner has displayed the courage to advance points of view that may not always be widely accepted and has done so with positive energy, tact, and enthusiasm.

**Danny Assi, Elanora Smith**

## **Connections Award Annelise Evans**

**Jon S. Davis Striving to Achieve Scholarship  
Maria Williams**

**Tom Docis Phenomenal Physics Award  
Danny Assi**

**Nanci Effler Memorial Scholarship  
Niki Malekpour**

**OHSAA Award of Excellence  
Danny Assi, Elanora Smith**

**Outstanding Male Athlete  
Sam McCaffery**

**Outstanding Female Athlete  
Ella Berenzweig**

**Arrowhead Leadership and Innovative Journalism Award  
Miles Weaver, Niki Malekpour**

**Mesasa Editor-in-Chief  
Lilian Richardson**

**OH News Producer  
Carson Mackey**

**I Make a Difference  
Elanora Smith, Danny Assi**



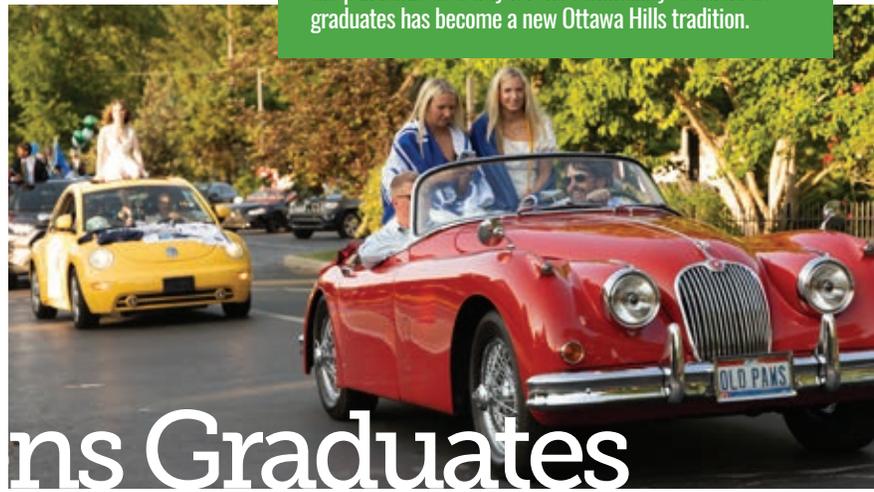
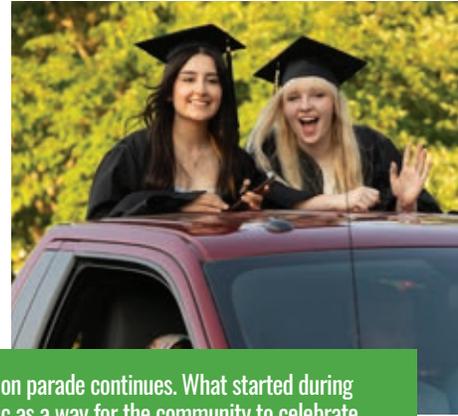
# GRADUATION WEEK



Another tradition at Ottawa Hills is kicking off graduation day with the seniors going back to where it all started and walking the halls of the elementary school.



The graduation parade continues. What started during the pandemic as a way for the community to celebrate graduates has become a new Ottawa Hills tradition.



## Congratulations Graduates

**Anthony Adduci**

University of Kentucky

**Rayyan Alvi**

The University of Toledo

**Cole Anderson**

The Ohio State University

**Elise Ansberg**

Pepperdine University

**Danny Assi**

Yale University

**Adam Ayad**

Vanderbilt University

**Avalon Ayres**

George Washington University

**Logan Bagby**

The University of Toledo

**Nash Barnes**

The Ohio State University

**Antonia Bazzoli**

Xavier University

**Ella Berenzweig**

University of Michigan

**Margaret Bode**

The University of Toledo

**Sean Brandt**

The Ohio State University

**Lyndsay Breitner**

Miami University (Oxford)

**Findlay Brookman**

Bowling Green State University

**Dante Bullano**

Gap Year Experience

**Maxwell Chandar-Kouba**

Carnegie Mellon University

**Cooper Conlan**

Ohio University

**Riley Cummins**

School of Visual Arts

**AJ D'Amore**

Electrical Apprenticeship

**Cassie Davis**

Ohio University

**Olivia Densmore**

Miami University (Oxford)

**Brandon Dolsey**

Michigan State University

**Barrett Downing**

Savannah College of Art and Design

**Emilio Duran**

The University of Toledo

**Sage Egan**

Baldwin Wallace University

**Jack Eidenier**

Miami University (Oxford)

**Lea EL Sayyad**

The University of Toledo

**Adam El-Zawahry**

The University of Toledo

**Jonas Ellis**

The University of Toledo

**Charles Estes**

Miami University (Oxford)

**Marcos Estrada**

The University of Toledo

**Annelise Evans**

Butler University

**Thomas Franklin**

Washington and Lee University

**Anna Frey**

University of Kentucky

**Ava Frey**

University of Kentucky

**AJ George**

Columbia University

**Eli Gottman**

University of Vermont

**Eddie Griffin**

Miami University (Oxford)

**Elyssa Grimm**

University of Georgia

**Guillermo Guardia**

The University of Toledo

**Libby Hagenbuch**

Indiana University

**Ingrid Harmon**

The University of Toledo

**Elle Hopkins**

The Ohio State University

**Miles Jacob**

The Ohio State University

**Camey Jay**

The University of Toledo

**Devin Jessee**

The Ohio State University

**Nathanael Jun**

University Of Indianapolis

**Myles Kaiser**

Bowling Green State University

**Jasmine Karakas**

Make-Up Designory (MUD) Los Angeles

**Brady Larson**

Siena Heights University

**Garrett Larson**

Xavier University

## BY THE NUMBERS

3

National Merit Finalists

7

National Merit Commended Scholars

16

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

9

Magna Cum Laude Graduates

15

Cum Laude Graduates

60

Honors Diplomas

38

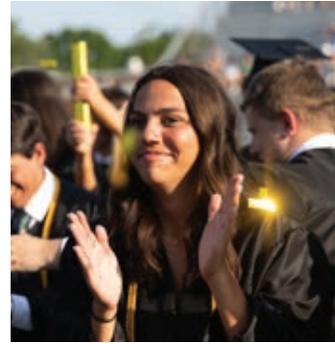
President's Awards for Educational Excellence

37

National Honor Society Members

96

Graduates



**Alexander Laser**  
Louisiana State University

**Elizabeth Lathrop**  
Case Western Reserve University

**Gene Lin**  
Purdue University

**Samantha Lorenzen**  
Ohio University

**Kenan Maaieh**  
The University of Toledo

**Sydney Mack**  
The Ohio State University

**Carson Mackey**  
Ohio University

**Niki Malekpour**  
The Ohio State University

**Samuel McCaffery**  
Ohio University

**Braeden McCague**  
University of Cincinnati

**Delaney McCullough**  
Ohio University

**William McCullough**  
Bowling Green State University

**Charles Merrill**  
Miami University (Oxford)

**Alexander Mian**  
The Ohio State University

**Abigail Morgan**  
University of Kentucky

**Annika Padhye**  
The Ohio State University

**Caroline Perz**  
The University of Toledo

**Olivia Peterson**  
University of Mississippi

**Darwin Posta**  
The Ohio State University

**Gavin Pucak**  
University of Cincinnati

**Anastasia Rea**  
George Mason University

**Lily Richardson**  
The Ohio State University

**Alex Rose**  
The Ohio State University

**Bre Rotterdam**  
University of Kentucky

**Sofie Rumman**  
University of Michigan

**Karsyn Ruth**  
Ohio University

**Reyan Shariff**  
Duke University

**Will Sherman**  
Ithaca College

**Elijah Shetterly**  
Miami University (Oxford)

**Emma Shimborske**  
Ohio University

**Gage Shultz**  
The University of Toledo

**Claire Sigler**  
University of Kentucky

**Liam Silk**  
Elon University

**Elanora Smith**  
Wesleyan University

**Sam Smithberger**  
University of Cincinnati

**Gabrielle Suh**  
The Ohio State University

**Joseph Sweeney**  
University of Cincinnati

**Harley Talbott**  
The Ohio State University

**Samuel Wallace**  
The University of Toledo

**Matthias Weaver**  
Ohio University

**Miles Weaver**  
Ohio University

**Benjamin Williams**  
Missouri University of Science & Technology

**Maria Williams**  
The University of Toledo

**Keelie Wimmers**  
The University of Toledo



Value of Scholarships Awarded  
**\$16,019,281**

# District Finance Update

Stay informed on our current district finances as our school district grows...

The ongoing success of our school district, as seen in this publication and past *Around These Hills* issues, has led to some unique challenges. Enrollment in the district increased far more than predicted in the past five years. Despite significant budget cuts, the district is again struggling to maintain small class sizes and high levels of student services that our district is known for, and the community has come to expect. Without additional funding through an increase in property taxes, we will not be able to keep pace with our growing student population. Even though our community is thriving, our district does not receive more tax dollars to support the increase in enrollment.

This past spring, the Ottawa Hills Board of Education hosted two “open conversations” with the community to discuss district finances, gather feedback from community members, and plan the district’s financial future. These meetings, held in March and April, were highly publicized and covered by local media. The following is a summary of the information shared by the district and answers to frequently asked questions.

## How are Ohio Public School Districts Funded?

- Federal Funding
- State Funding from the Ohio Department of Education and Lottery Profits
- Local Funding from locally levied property taxes.

## Are there other funding sources for our school district?

- The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation was formed after the 2013 bond/permanent improvement levy was not passed. The Foundation provides a vehicle for private donations to be used to fund major capital improvements such as the Kadens Family Fitness Center, The Foundry, and The Wondry. The Foundation also supports programs that go above and beyond the traditional experiences in our classrooms that benefit students.
- Ottawa Hills Schools Parents Association provides needed funding for teacher wish lists and many student programs.
- OH Boosters provides funds that help support the athletic programs.

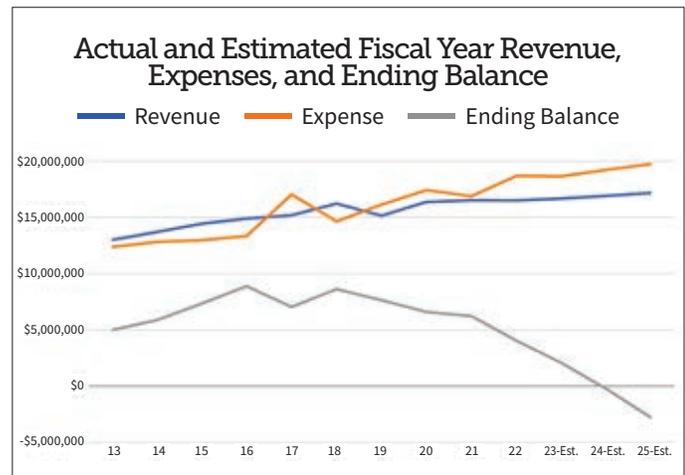
- Ottawa Hills Music and Theatre Association provides funds that help support the music theater programs.
- Safety and Technology Grants have been applied for and awarded to the district.
- Tuition rates are set by the State of Ohio Department of Education. For the 2022-2023 school year the district had 15 tuition students (students who reside outside of the district, approved by the Board of Education on a case-by-case basis) paying \$12,588.77 per student per year.

## Why doesn't the district get more funding when enrollment increases?

- Student enrollment growth does not generate additional state funding in our district.
- Ohio House Bill 920 adjusts property taxes so that no more tax than the originally voted on amount is collected overall. Property taxes in the Village of Ottawa Hills are adjusted so the district receives the same amount overall, even if you see your tax bill change.
- Capped school districts, like ours, have a limit or cap in the state funding formula. Because of the financial profile of our district and having less than 1% of our students living in poverty, we receive no additional funds per pupil.

## Why does the district need more funding now?

- Ottawa Hills excellence, and our success educating in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic, led to an unexpected increase in enrollment.
- Enrollment for 2022-2023 school year ended with 1,089 students. For reference: in 2016 we had 901 students enrolled in the district.
- More students enrolling, and many with higher academic and social emotional needs, require more teaching staff and, with being a capped district and continued cuts in state funding, we are struggling to maintain small class sizes for the 2023-2024 school year.



## Why did we build The Foundry and why are we currently building The Wondry if we don't have enough funding to keep current staffing levels?

- Renovations to The Wondry, as well as updating the art room and 6th grade science classroom, are fully funded through donations to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. The improvements will support STEAM education, in a similar fashion to the new supports put into place at the junior/senior high school. Projects will be completed this fall of 2023 to begin the school year.
- The building of the learning commons, now called The Foundry, was funded by a bond issue approved by voters in 2020. Additional funds were raised by the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation from donors to provide enhancements beyond the structural renovation of the space. These enhancements were provided to: The Foundry, Frankel Family STEAM Café, Gupta Family Science and Research Corridor, and the Sue and Jim White Jr. Family Art Studio.
- Funding from support organizations, permanent improvement dollars, and approved bonds are separate from, and cannot be used for, paying operational expenses such as staffing, maintenance, and utilities.

## What cost saving measures has the district implemented already to help support the budget and financial future of the district?

### 2022-2023 school year

- Securing grants- school safety and security (\$120,000), facility and technology (\$400,000)
- Administrative pay cut, retire/rehire of assistant principal at junior/senior high school and elimination of all travel and conferences for administrative staff and the Board of Education (-\$73,000)
- Eliminated administrative position of a full-time communications director (-\$85,000)
- Eliminated 1 gifted intervention teacher (-\$55,000)
- 10% budget cuts in all district budgets (-\$225,000)
- Delayed new English language arts curriculum adoption (-\$240,000)

### 2023-2024 school year

- Eliminated the consumer science program and teacher (-\$160,000)
- Attrition of an English teacher at junior/senior high school (-\$145,000)
- Eliminated 1 school nurse (COVID related hire) (-\$42,000)
- Eliminated 1/2 world language position (retire/rehire savings) (-\$62,000)
- Replacement cost savings due to three teacher retirements (-\$144,000)
- Physical education program changes-allowing for 1/2 time PE position cut (-\$23,000)

## What will happen if the district continues its current fiscal path?

- Without increased funding, the State Board of Education will place us in “fiscal caution” which will, among other things, give more control over financial decisions in our district to the state.
- We will be forced to increase class sizes especially at the elementary level where

we have always purposefully maintained class size numbers far below the state requirement.

- Faculty, staff, and program cuts will have to be made to both academic and extracurricular programs.
- Student fees will increase, including athletic “pay-to-play” fees for all sports.

## The Board of Education is considering asking for additional funding to support operating expenses. How would that affect Ottawa Hills homeowners?

- For each \$100,000 in home fair market value, a new 10-mill levy would add approximately \$29 a month in property taxes.
- For example, a new 10-mill levy would generate \$1.8 million in new funds for operational expenses in the school district annually.
- Approximately 70% of your total property taxes go directly to supporting the school district.
- We highly encourage village residents to see the levy and fund distribution breakdown on your property taxes at <http://co.lucas.oh.us> using the Lucas County Auditor AREIS Online feature.

## How does the district plan to increase revenue in other ways?

The Board of Education will:

- Continue to work with school leadership to ensure we are making the best use of every dollar;
- Lean heavier on our support organizations to continue to provide our students with the best learning experiences and facility enhancements;
- Work harder to secure grant opportunities for funding specific needs; and
- Explore opportunities for bringing in revenue in other ways (renting facilities, exploring a preschool, etc.).

## Comparable tuition PER STUDENT for a year of private school education in our area (without fees included)

- \$27,000 Maumee Valley
- \$16,000 St. Johns
- \$14,500 Notre Dame
- \$13,600 St. Ursula
- \$13,200 St. Francis

**\$12,589 Ottawa Hills** (non-resident tuition as set for public schools by the Ohio Dept. of Education)

## Comparable Per Pupil Spending to similar public school districts

### 2022

- \$25,447 Orange
- \$22,423 Beachwood
- \$19,330 Indian Hill
- \$17,927 Ottawa Hills**
- \$17,848 Chagrin Falls
- \$17,658 Bexley
- \$14,793 Wyoming
- \$14,324 Oakwood
- \$13,475 Madeira

### 2021

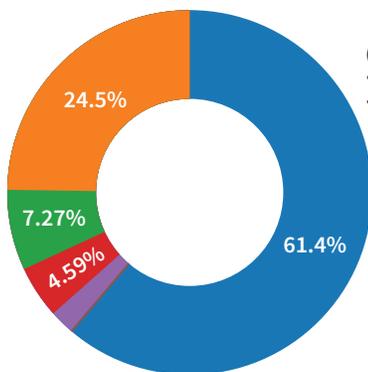
- \$24,291 Orange
- \$21,122 Beachwood
- \$17,200 Indian Hill
- \$16,802 Bexley
- \$16,745 Chagrin Falls
- \$16,185 Ottawa Hills**
- \$14,129 Wyoming
- \$13,760 Oakwood
- \$13,405 Madeira

### 2020

- \$24,854 Orange
- \$20,272 Beachwood
- \$17,126 Indian Hill
- \$16,315 Chagrin Falls
- \$15,741 Ottawa Hills**
- \$15,588 Bexley
- \$13,710 Wyoming
- \$13,284 Oakwood
- \$12,618 Madeira

Historically, the community of Ottawa Hills passed a levy about every three years dating back to the 1970s. The most recent levy passed by voters was in 2020, for a 4.9-mill operating levy to: maintain small class sizes, add a math teacher at the junior/senior high school, hire a full-time counselor, and offset increasing cuts in state funding. Voters also approved in 2020 a 2.6-mill Bond Issue to: renovate the junior/senior high school, including improving the HVAC systems, and building a learning commons, now known as The Foundry.

## General Fund Current Year Expenses by Object



- Salaries and Wages (100)
- Benefits (200)
- Purchased Services (400)
- Supplies (500)
- Capital Outlay (600)
- Other (800-900)

## FOUNDATION LETTER

### Class of 2023: the Graduates the world needs

To the Class of 2023: Your time at Ottawa Hills Local Schools was full of innovative learning experiences, friendships that will last a lifetime, and moments big and small (Agora, Homecoming, OHbreathe) that became favorite memories.

You have made connections with your classmates, teachers, and coaches.

You have traveled the world, visited capitals, won state and national tournaments, participated in civic engagement, internships, service and leadership projects, researched global issues, and mentored our youngest Green Bears.

You were always ready to champion each other and the students who follow in your footsteps.

As graduates of Ottawa Hills Local Schools, the relationships and connections you have will stay with you throughout your lives. We are excited to watch you continue to grow and embrace the world around you. And remember, you always have a home here in Green Bear Nation.

We salute you, Class of 2023. You are the graduates the world needs.



**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.



## The Wondry Naming Announcements

The MacMillan Family  
Golden Sycamore Tree

The Jim Yark Family  
STEAM Center

The Lawrence and Christine Spetka  
6th Grade Science Research Lab

The Claire ('10) and Caroline ('12) Arnos  
ARTLab

The Imam Family  
Meadow

The Family of Sam and Alec Carson  
Learning Hill

The Shall Family  
Cub Reading Nook

The Molly Zraik and Brown Boys  
Makerspace

### Naming opportunities are available for:

The Hills Multi-Media Display

The Den

Cub Reading Nooks (3 available)

## Construction Update



"Superintendent for the morning," Aminah Algendy (4th grade) visits The Wondry with Superintendent Dr. Fineske to check on renovation progress in May. The new space will be completed in time for the start of school this fall.



William Lincoln MacMillan

## MacMillan Family tree continues to grow deep roots in Ottawa Hills



Jeff, Julie, Jim, Jean, Bill, and Jamie MacMillan

Outside the elementary school, near the playground, is a giant Sycamore tree that has stood for generations. The MacMillan family has also been at the elementary school for generations. Bill ('60) and Jim ('63) MacMillan were raised here by William Lincoln and Alice MacMillan, who moved to Pembroke Road with his family in 1949. Jim went on to marry Jean who taught 2nd-4th grade at Ottawa Hills Elementary from 1968-1972. Their children Jamie ('90) and Jeff ('93) were also raised in the village and were part of the "Kindergarten Club" along with their father, Jim. Jeff and his wife, Julie, now have a third generation of the MacMillan family in Ottawa Hills Local Schools with their daughter, Whitney (Class of 2034).

Education has always been very important to the MacMillan family. "Long after his children graduated from Ottawa Hills, my grandfather always fought for the school levies and promoted any and all upgrades to the school system," said Jeff. "Our family's support of the Foundation and The Wondry is a continuation of my grandfather's belief in investing in education."

The MacMillan Family Golden Sycamore Tree will be at the heart of the new Wondry being constructed inside Ottawa Hills Elementary School. Thanks to generous donors like the MacMillan family, the Foundation will be able to provide much needed spaces for: STEAM education, reading intervention, individual study, collaborative learning, as well as provide upgrades to the art room and 6th grade science classroom. Whitney and her fellow Green Bears will soon gather beneath the Golden Sycamore tree where they will share the joy of reading and wonder about what they might become.



Julie and Jeff MacMillan with their daughter, Whitney

## STEAM Center: Driven by Yark

The Yark family has a long history in Ottawa Hills, with all six Yark children growing up in the Village. Now, with a third generation entering the school district, the family is excited to have state-of-the-art science, technology, engineering, arts, and math facilities available to future generations of Green Bears. The Jim Yark Family STEAM Center, located within the

new Wondry, will provide a dedicated space for elementary students to design, program, build, and test their creative concepts.

The late Jim Yark, patriarch of the family and founder of Yark Automotive Group, was always a strong supporter of Ottawa Hills Local Schools. "Yark Automotive Group and our family are proud to follow our dad in supporting Ottawa Hills and as many local

schools as we can reach." Billy Yark said. The STEAM Center will rev up students' creative minds and drive collaborative learning in areas such as robotics, coding, and digital literacy. The space will also allow students that participate in STEAM-focused extracurricular activities to have everything STEAM clubs need right here on our campus.



Members of the Yark family at the wedding of DJ and Emily (Servais) Yark in 2022.

### The Foundation would like to thank ...

- Susie Poll ('72)
- Emily Reny (Yark) ('06)\*
- Billy Yark ('03)\*
- Dan Yark ('01)\*
- DJ Yark III ('99)\*
- Jack Yark ('18)
- Jamie Yark ('21)
- Nellie Yark ('38)
- Sloan Yark ('40)
- Tenley Yark (Jamieson) ('04)
- Web Yark ('35)

\*attended K-8



The Wondry project is fully funded by private donations to the OHSF. We thank you for your support.

## Wisdom Begins in Wonder

– Socrates

Help students achieve their next level of success by purchasing a Giving Tree Legacy Leaf that will be prominently displayed on the donor wall inside The Wondry. Honor your student's time or an inspirational teacher at Ottawa Hills Elementary School.

**Leave a Legacy and join the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign.**

Giving Tree Legacy Leaf Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Giving Leaves: \_\_\_\_\_ Size:  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$500

Check enclosed (Made out to **Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation**) Charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ V-code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form to:  
**Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 4035 W. Central Ave, Ottawa Hills, OH 43606**  
 Questions, contact Erica Silk at 419-214-4838 or [esilk@ohschools.org](mailto:esilk@ohschools.org).

The Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign will update the elementary school art room, the 6th grade science lab, and renovate the Library Media Center into "The Wondry."

### What will students find inside The Wondry?

- STEAM Center (digital literacy and robotics)
- Makerspace (accessible area with STEAM materials and 3D printers)
- 2 Reading Intervention Rooms
- 4 Cub Nooks (for quiet individual learning)
- Flexible Use Room (for LEAP, math intervention, and small group work)
- Current library of over 16,000 books
- Den (collaborative learning space modeled on The Foundry)
- Meadow, Learning Hill, and Golden Sycamore Tree (welcoming group spaces)

# Granted! Grants like these help enhance, extend excellence in Ottawa Hills

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has awarded over 30 grants covering a range of faculty and staff requests both inside and outside the classroom.

**Project: Art on display**  
**Fund: Talmage Family General Fund**

Students in junior/senior high school art classes have new showcases to display their amazing works in the Sue and Jim White Jr. Family Art Studio. Formal displays add sophistication and elegance to works, resulting in students feeling a strong sense of pride and satisfaction in their artwork. The enhanced glass showcases were utilized during the annual smART Show.



Artwork by students in Kristin Johnson’s stained glass art classes, inspired by the works of artists like Frank Lloyd Wright and Tiffany and Co., on display in the Art Studio. Kacey McCreery, Community Engagement Artist at the Toledo Museum of Art, with junior/senior high school art teacher Mrs. Johnson, in front of the new glass display cases.



**Project: Andrea Cardona**  
**Fund: Kadens Family Leadership Series**

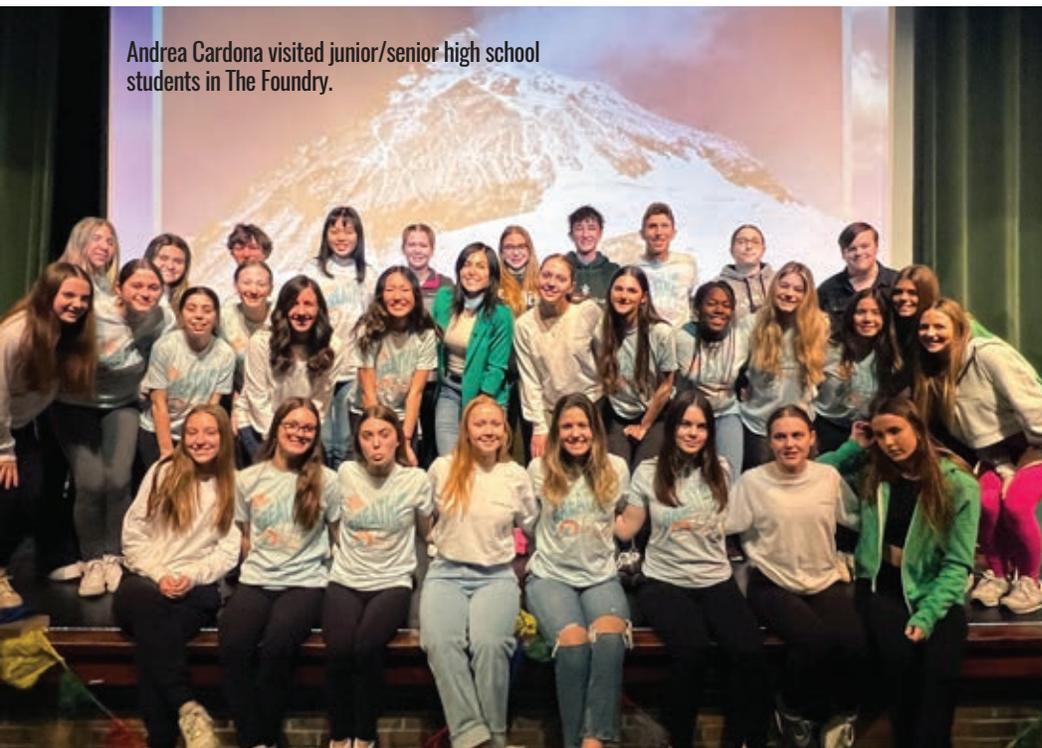
Climb your Everest. Guatemalan adventurer and entrepreneur, Andrea Cardona, visited junior/senior high school students in The Foundry and the 6th-grade class. She shared her experiences

as a world-renowned mountaineer. “The journey is not about getting to the summit; that’s only half-way and not the most important part of the adventure,” she shared. When setting out to accomplish anything, she encouraged students to identify positive and supportive mentors, get the right people on your team, learn about your natural strengths so you can add value to your team in an

authentic way, and commit to the right training and preparation.

Cardona was emphatic that, “Through action, you can find your passion and purpose!” Cardona is the founder and CEO of The Altitude Company, which focuses on health and wellness. She is also a nominee for the “Heroes in Education” prize for Funsepa Guatemala, and volunteers with “La Alianza.”

Andrea Cardona visited junior/senior high school students in The Foundry.



Andrea Cardona

# Granted! (Cont.)

## Project: “Home to Home” visits the windy city

### Fund: Kadens Family Leadership Series

The Bulldogs and the Green Bears traveled to Chicago together for a weekend as part of the “Home to Home” partnership between Ottawa Hills High School and Toledo Public School’s Scott High School. This partnership is part of an effort to continue building connections outside of the district while providing students with transformative learning experiences. The kids learned about leadership, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and community engagement through experience and collaboration.

## Project: Fire and ice

### Fund: Talmage Family General Fund

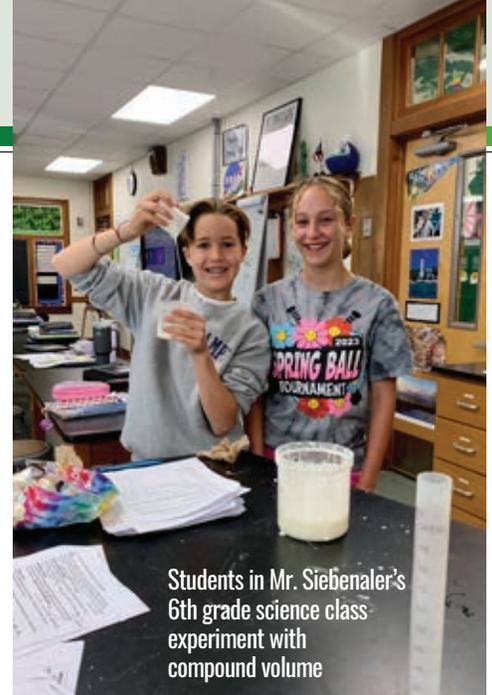
As part of the renovation to the 6th grade science lab, additional equipment will be added to improve the learning experience for students. Frequently, labs

are conducted multiple times throughout the year involving “fire” (heating elements) and “ice” (cooling elements). The Foundation will provide two tabletop ice machines and two new microwaves. By having these updated heating and cooling elements in the classroom, students will be able to efficiently run their labs and also with the convenience of having equipment readily available without having to wait for long periods of time or travel elsewhere in the building. All students in 6th grade will use this equipment throughout the year, and for years to come, as well as science teachers from other grade levels for their lab experiments.

## Project: Raku redox reactions

### Fund: STEM Fund

Cross curricular STEAM at its best. Students in ceramics and chemistry classes created an object to fire using the Raku technique. The technique includes taking glazed ceramics from a kiln while they are still glowing red hot and are then placed in a material that would be able to catch fire, such as sawdust or newspaper. This technique starves the metal glazed ceramic of oxygen, which creates a myriad of colors within the glaze.



Students in Mr. Siebenaler’s 6th grade science class experiment with compound volume

Art is a powerful medium for exploring the deeper meaning of scientific endeavors. Collaboration between science and art merge these STEAM fields in fresh and exciting ways. Scientists and artists recognize that creative partnerships can deepen understanding, leading to cross-cultural knowledge that spans one’s lifetime.



Mr. Johnson and Mr. Broadway with students in the STEAM business lab.

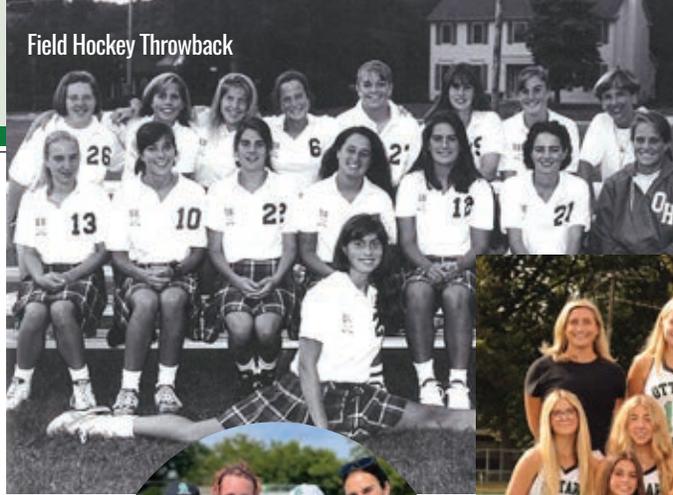
## Project: STEAM Café Business Operations

### Fund: Billy Ciralsky Entrepreneurial Fund

Students in business entrepreneurship classes will continue to engage in hands-on business development skill building in the Frankel Family STEAM Café. Multiple courses at the junior/senior high school will incorporate the STEAM Café as a centerpiece of curriculum to provide an authentic learning experience for students.



Scott High School Bulldogs and the Green Bears traveled to Chicago



**Project: Indiana field hockey summer camp**  
**Fund: Mindel Family Athletic Fund**

Ottawa Hills Local Schools has always focused on building a well-rounded student. Technical skills aside, team athletics contributes to the well-rounded student by teaching them how to work as part of a team — when to lead and when to follow, how to stand up for oneself and others, how to dig deeper and push through hardship, how to encourage others through words and example.

This camp will offer the Ottawa Hills Field Hockey team the ability to further their skills individually and as a team, and for the athletes to get into a cohesive unit ahead of the season.

**Project: Football bonding day trip**  
**Fund: Mindel Family Athletic Fund**

The football team will participate in a day of team bonding this summer with a trip to the National Football Hall of Fame in Canton, followed by a stop in Berea, for the Cleveland Browns training camp. Traveling with the team will be the new head football coach, Brandon Carter. This day of team bonding will inspire and motivate players to be the best they can be.



Left, co-coaches Summer Vanni, Jordi Crooks, and Brooke Rasmus with player Barrett Downing

**Project: “Acting Out!”**  
**Fund: Eleanor Seifried Fund**

The Foundation continues to partner with other Ottawa Hills Local School support organizations to give our students the best possible experiences. One of these partnerships is with the Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association for the Acting Out! program. Hundreds of students in grades 4-12 participate in this program that provides acting training and leadership development.

**Project: Staff and faculty professional development**  
**Fund: The Heldreth Family Student Services and Support Fund**

A cohort of English language arts teachers from the elementary school

attended the Smekens CompCON Reading Comprehension Conference this school year. Smekens methodical approach is highly effective at making complex ELA concepts concrete for students.

**Project: Honors scientific research class**  
**Fund: STEM Fund**

In May, Mr. Nixon’s class hosted the annual Celebration of Science Research. Students shared their findings with the community and presented their magazine, *Ursidae*, which contains 15 articles about the research done this year and written by students in the class. The Foundation is proud to support academic excellence for our students in this honors research class in partnership with the University of Toledo, ProMedica, and OHSPA.



Mr. Nixon’s class hosted the annual Celebration of Science Research



## Big news for Green Bear golf

Ottawa Hills boys' varsity golf has a long history of success, dating back to the first year of competition in 1943, when the team placed in the district tournament and played in the state meet. Since then, the boys' varsity golf team has had 16 total appearances in the state team championships, 3 state team championship wins, and 2 individual state championships. To further secure the future of the golf program at Ottawa Hills, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the new Swigart Family Golf Fund.

The Swigart Family Golf Fund will provide a stable and sustained source of revenue to the golf program and will help build on the tradition of success. "Golf has had such a positive impact on our lives. We want to secure the tradition of golf excellence at Ottawa Hills for future generations," said John Swigart. John ('96) and Shanie Swigart are excited to share their passion for golf and make a positive impact on the legacy of golf at Ottawa Hills. John played golf for Ottawa Hills and went to states once with the team and twice as an individual. The Swigart sons also play

golf: Will (Class of 2024), is entering his senior year playing his fourth year on the varsity golf team, and Charlie (Class of 2028) plays in the Toledo Junior Golf Association.

Another person with a strong passion for golf is the new varsity boys' golf head coach, Justin Kruse ('01). The golf program is in excellent hands with Justin, who won the Division III State Championship as an individual athlete from Ottawa Hills in 2000. He also serves on the Northern Ohio Golf Association and the Toledo Junior Golf Association Boards of Directors, and previously served on the First Tee of Lake Erie Board of Directors. Justin is looking forward to utilizing the new fund to ensure athletes have access to more preparedness and opportunities.



Justin Kruse

To learn more or to donate to the fund contact Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Erica Silk, at [esilk@ohschools.org](mailto:esilk@ohschools.org).



Returning varsity letter winners: Anthony Packo, Jack Jorgensen, Will Swigart, and (not pictured) Trace Douglas



First yearbook photo of the golf team in 1944

GOLF

Tom Webb, Bob Lumm, Bob Keiser, Mr. Richetts, Dan Schausten, Harold Fitkin, Frank Bailay.

### Boys' varsity golf 2023 schedule highlights

- Sept. 9:** Ottawa Hills Invitational at Inverness
- Sept. 14:** Columbus Academy Shootout at Turtle Lake Golf Club
- Sept. 23:** Van Buren Black Knight Invitational at Sycamore Springs
- Sept. 26:** University School Invitational at Windmill Lakes



## Green Bears & wedding bells

Congratulations to alumni Kirsten (Bergman) and Ben Dayton. They were married in May with many Green Bears in attendance. Pictured left to right:

Nate Dewire ('13)  
Aidan McMurray ('16)  
RJ Coil ('14)  
Caroline Dayton ('19)  
Tom McCarthy, teacher  
Kirsten (Bergman) Dayton ('14)

Ben Dayton ('14)  
Andy Dayton ('16)  
Peter Brown ('14)  
Samantha Lorenzen ('23)  
Ben McMurray, principal  
Abigail Morgan ('23)  
Noreen Hanlon, teacher

Bre Rotterdam ('23)  
Lauren Miller ('14)  
Spencer Bergman ('17)  
Jon Miller ('74)  
Kathy Miller, parent  
Tommy Coil ('19) *(Not pictured)*

## Supporting hearing health care



Tracy Tunis

Tracy Tunis ('88) traveled with the Hear Aide organization to the Middle East to support hearing health care for those in need. Tracy was joined by Green Bear Elise Ansborg ('23) in Jordan where they were able to help everyone from small children living in refugee camps, to cancer patients, to orphans, and the elderly to evaluate and treat those with hearing difficulties.

## MEMORIAMs

**Deborah Anne Brauer ('72)** passed away February 2023. Deborah was the daughter of the late Calvin and Margot Brauer of Toledo, Ohio, and graduated from Scripps College in Claremont, CA in 1976.

**Robert "Bob" G. Hoag ('80)** passed away May 2023 at the age of 61. Bob was born



Hoag

to parents Clyde and Joanne (Knott) Hoag. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Toledo and was an avid golfer at Whiteford Valley Golf Club. Bob enjoyed walking his dog and bird watching at the Toledo Metroparks. He leaves behind a loving family.

**Justice G. "Judd" Johnson, Jr. ('57)** passed away March 2023. A graduate of the University of Michigan law school (1961), Justice Johnson was a member of the legal community for nearly six decades and a longtime partner at Toledo-based Marshall & Melhorn, LLC. Judd was a community leader having served as chairman of the YMCA in Toledo, president of the Ottawa Hills Board of Education, president of the Boys Club of Toledo, board member of the Toledo Sister Cities International Board of Trustees, and Toledo Symphony Orchestra.



Johnson

**Nancy Jean Harris Sarazen ('48)** passed away February 2023, at the age of 92. Nancy spoke frequently of her years at



Harris Sarazen

Ottawa Hills. The excellent academic preparation at Ottawa Hills and her own studious nature earned her admission to Duke University (A.B. 1952) where she met her husband, Jack Sarazen. An avid

reader, bridge player, crossword puzzle master, and Jeopardy watcher, Nancy stayed knowledgeable and interested in current events, harkening back to her political science major.

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



# Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road  
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TOLEDO, OHIO  
PERMIT #311

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### August

Wednesday  
**9**

Green Bear Day:  
Junior/Senior High  
School schedule  
pick up

Monday  
**14**

Elementary School  
Open House

Tuesday  
**15**

First Day of Instruction

Friday  
**18**

**BOOSTERS**  
OH Booster's BBQ  
& First Used Sports  
Equipment Sale

Sunday  
**20**

Back to School  
5K & 1 mile



Sunday  
**27**

This is OH  
Community  
Picnic

### September

Monday  
**4**

Labor Day – No School

Wednesday  
**6**

Junior/Senior High  
School Open House

Tuesday  
**19**

District Late Start –  
school begins at  
10 a.m.

Friday  
**22**

Distinguished Alumni  
and Athletic Hall of  
Fame Dinner



### October

Wednesday  
**4**

National Walk  
and Roll to  
School Day



Friday  
**13**

Village Life  
Parade &  
Homecoming



Saturday  
**14**

Homecoming Dance

Sunday  
**15**

Fall Collage Concert

Monday  
**16**

Choraliers  
Collaborative Concert

Thursday-  
Friday  
**26-27**

Parent/Teacher  
Conferences –  
No School

Follow all events at [ohschools.org/calendar](https://ohschools.org/calendar)