

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS

END-OF-YEAR 2022



For more Solon Schools news, visit our website at www.solonschools.org and connect with us on Facebook @SolonCitySchools and Twitter @SolonSchools

SOLON CITY SCHOOLS

Solon High School - Solon Middle School - Orchard Middle School - Parkside Elementary
Roxbury Elementary - Lewis Elementary - Regano Early Learning Center



ACADEMICS, ARTS, ATHLETICS, ACTIVITIES: SOLON STUDENTS DID IT ALL THIS YEAR!



OUR MISSION

Solon City Schools, a diverse collaborative learning community of families, staff and community members, will ensure all students attain the knowledge and skills to succeed and become contributing, ethical citizens in a global society, through our unwavering commitment to inspire every student to achieve personal excellence.

STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

FRED BOLDEN, SUPERINTENDENT



For Solon, every kid every day isn't simply a slogan, it is what we believe and what guides our educational programming. This year challenged us to focus on making the school experience as close to traditional as possible for all our students.

We created ways to ensure students could participate and that all families could cheer on their accomplishments despite the ebb and flow of the pandemic. From sporting events, plays and concerts to clubs, activities and philanthropy, Solon students were engaged and they excelled.

Our students made up for lost time this year, re-establishing connections to their peers and building long-lasting memories. Throughout this issue, you will see many of the ways Solon students are pursuing their interests in academics, athletics and the arts/extracurriculars. We fondly refer to this balance of programming as a three-legged stool that forms the foundation of a well-rounded, high-quality Solon education. The breadth of options and programming is what makes Solon special. We strive to be sure there is something for every student to get involved in at their school.

We are so proud of our students' accomplishments this year and wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

BUSLOADS OF CARING: SOLON STUDENTS COLLECT RELIEF AID FOR UKRAINE REFUGEES

Spearheaded by several student groups at Solon High School, collections took place throughout the district to send emergency humanitarian aid to refugees from war-torn Ukraine. The high school clubs partnered with Brook of Hope Foundation in Parma, which sends the collected items to Europe for distribution where they are needed most.

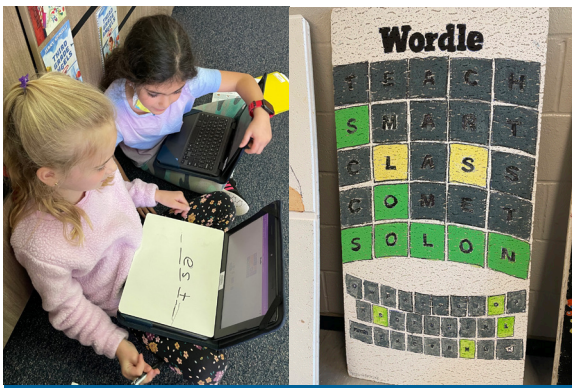
Over the course of several weeks, students at the high school collected clothing, crutches, walkers, bedding and other large items. As the effort expanded to other schools in the district, the collection narrowed to the most urgent needs, including personal care and first aid items.

Students took the first loads to Brook of Hope by car, but as the collection intensified, the final loads were taken by school bus. The students also volunteered at Brook of Hope to sort items and prepare them for transport overseas.

Other student groups made cards of support to accompany the shipments and made blue and yellow ribbon pins to sell to provide financial support to the relief effort. Philanthropic activities such as these illustrate the district's mission of developing contributing, ethical citizens in a global society.



WHAT'S THE WORDLE?



Solon students began using the popular online word game Wordle during their regular word study lessons this year. Each time they played, teachers encouraged the students to focus on vowel teams, blends, digraphs and word endings.

Wordle is a rigorous yet fun way to challenge students through a game activity to use their knowledge of word patterns to solve the daily puzzles. Knowing and understanding letter patterns help students develop their spelling skills.

Some classes work together to solve daily puzzles while others have students work collaboratively in small groups or pairs. Students also chart their daily attempts, creating a graph that connects to their math learning.

#COMETPRIDE

Solon students follow their passions and excel in academics, athletics, activities and the arts. Following are a few Comet highlights from the last quarter:

- Following their state championships, the **Solon Middle School and Solon High School Science Olympiad teams** took 4th and 5th at Nationals. Solon is the only district in the nation to have two teams in the top 5.
- Solon High School Speech & Debate team** earned a state championship and qualified for Nationals. **Dev Ahuja, Michelle Park, Viresh Mittal and Harry Sanjeevan** were individual event state champions and **Vikram Sundaram, Pinak Chitnis, Mira Atwah, Tyler Murray and Abigail Oresanya** were individual event state runners up.
- Solon High School Academic Challenge team** won a state championship and came in 7th and 9th at two national tournaments.
- Solon High School Future Problem Solving team member Janaki Nair** took 1st place at states and followed that with a 2nd place medal in the Senior Division of the 2022 Future Problem Solving International Scenario Writing Competition. Other international qualifiers were **Lucas He, Aditya Kalahasti, Lindsey Maurer and Yane Park** (1st place for Global Issues Problem Solving at states) and **Bram Loveman, Isaac Bai, Joy Fan, Vivian Li and Alana Guo** (2nd place finish at states in Community Problem Solving).
- Solon High School Mock Trial team members Aditya Kalahasti, Eric Liao, Lucas He, Shree Ghosh, Ava Parikh, Andrew Li, Aaron Kaiser, Kyra Pallotta** qualified for States.
- Solon High School Drama Club's spring musical We Will Rock You** won two Dazzle Awards from Playhouse Square for Best Technical Execution and Best Scenic Design.
- Senior Jakob Oldenburg** is a state champion in discus.
- Sophomore Dom Roberto** is a state champion in diving.
- Solon High School boys tennis team (Nicholas Alamir, Aakarsh Garg, Zach Krantz, Eric Liao, Tyler Pollock, Niko Romanov, Aditya Roy and Scott Zhao)** advanced to States for the first time and are Ohio Tennis Coaches Association state runners up.
- Solon High School's 4 x 400 meter relay team (Morgan Blackford, Nia Booker, Jessica Jenkins and Mackenzie Blackford)** are state runners up.
- Senior Jack Whitman** earned top 10 honors in the 2022 National Spring Innovator Competition through the Jacobson Institute at the University of Iowa for his business venture Pullerman Media.
- Solon Middle School 7th grader Zach Krivis** earned top regional honors and is in the top 3 nationally for his entry "Why I am Proud to be an American" in the Fleet Reserve Association essay contest.
- 2022 Ohio State Chinese Essay Contest Gold Award winners were **Megan Hsu, Adina Guo, Jerry He, JJ (Kankanit) Kiratikosolrak, Brady Yuan, Alana Guo, Olivia Liu and Julia Wang**. Silver Awards winners were **Angie Getz, Trevor Kim, Josephine Howard, Isabella Liu, Jianna Josy and Alex McElhaney**.
- Solon High School Courier journalism staff members Hannah Toth, Audrey Lai, Divjot Kaur, Devon Apanasewic, Hannah Levenson, Ethan Dobres, Angeli Thompson, Siyai Perry, Noa Rabkin, Jamie Simmerson, John Wittrup, Belinda Chan and Janae Skanes** won Ohio Scholastic Media Awards.
- Orchard 5th grader Nandan Jayaprakash Narayanan** finished 9th in the nation in the K-5 division at the U.S. Chess Federation national championships.



GOOD LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

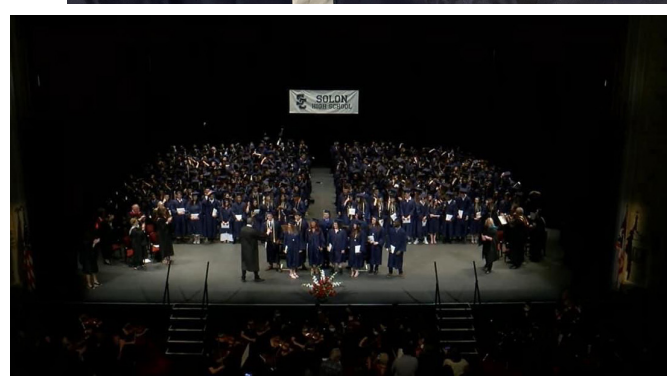
Solon High School graduation 2022 was back on center stage at the State Theatre in Playhouse Square.

This year's graduating seniors left their mark on Solon High School and the Solon Schools in many ways. Class members took full advantage of their final year in person at SHS.

- 33 National Merit Finalists, 1 National Merit Semi-Finalist and 16 National Merit Commended Scholars
- 10 U.S. Presidential Scholar candidates and 2 Semi-Finalists
- 80% of 2022 seniors earned Merit or Honor Roll status
- 51% of 2022 graduates earned Honors Diplomas

Their achievements contributed to the 2022 honors Solon High School and the Solon Schools received, including:

- U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools, including #1 in Northeast Ohio
- U.S. News & World Report Best STEM High Schools in America
- Best Communities for Music Education
- Cleveland Magazine #1 in Education for the 14th consecutive year



OFF THEY GO!

Looking ahead, the Solon High School Class of 2022 graduates are entering college, the military, the workforce as well as taking gap years.



"Be authentic. Be brave. Be fearless. Go forward with an unwavering belief in yourself. Go forward confident in the knowledge you have already overcome obstacles. You have already demonstrated strength and resilience and grit. We have seen in you the power and ability to move mountains. So go forward from today and just BE YOU!"

- Solon High School Principal Erin Short

Solon High School Class of 2022 College Selections

Baldwin Wallace University – 3
Belmont University – 1
Bowling Green State University – 5
Capital University – 1
Case Western Reserve University – 6
Cleveland State University – 10
Colorado School of Mines – 1
Colorado State University - Fort Collins – 2
Columbia University – 2
Cornell University – 2
Culinary Institute of America – 2
Cuyahoga Community College – 9
Duquesne University – 1
Eastern Gateway Community College – 1
Eastern Michigan University – 1
Eckerd College – 1
Emory University – 1
Flathead Valley Community College – 1
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University – 1
Florida Atlantic University – 1
Gap Year – 8
George Mason University – 2
George Washington University – 4
Georgia Institute of Technology – 2
Guilford Technical Community College – 1
Harvard University – 1
Harvey Mudd College – 2
Hofstra University – 1
Indiana University – 5
Jacksonville University – 1
James Madison University – 1
John Carroll University – 3
Johns Hopkins University – 1
Kent State University/Geauga – 3
Kent State University – 26
Kent State University/Twinsburg – 2
Kentucky State University – 1
Lakeland Community College – 1
Lourdes University – 1
Malone University – 1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – 1

Miami University – 11
Michigan State University – 3
Mount St. Joseph University – 1
New York University – 2
Northwestern University – 1
Norwich University – 1
Oakland University – 1
Oberlin College – 2
Ohio University – 16
Ohio Wesleyan University – 1
Penn State University (all campuses) – 3
Potomac State College of West Virginia University – 1
Purdue University – 3
Rice University – 2
Saint Leo University – 1
Seton Hill University – 1
Spire Institute – 1
St. Petersburg College – 1
Stanford University – 2
Syracuse University – 1
The College of Wooster – 3
The New School – 1
The Ohio State University – 67
The Ohio State University/Mansfield – 2
The Ohio State University/Newark – 1
The University of Findlay – 1

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – 1
The University of Tampa – 2
Tufts University – 1
University of Akron – 5
University of California/Davis – 1
University of Cincinnati – 30
University of Colorado/Colorado Springs – 1
University of Dayton – 4
University of Delaware – 1
University of Georgia – 1
University of Kentucky – 2
University of Maryland/College Park – 1
University of Massachusetts/Amherst – 1
University of Miami – 1
University of Michigan – 2
University of Mount Union – 2
University of Northwestern Ohio – 1
University of Pittsburgh – 3
University of South Carolina – 2
University of the Arts/London – 1
University of Toronto – 2
University of Wisconsin/Madison – 1
Ursuline College – 1
Vanderbilt University – 2
Virginia Polytechnic Institute – 1
Wake Forest University – 1
Walsh University – 1
West Virginia University – 1
Wittenberg University – 1
Workforce – 12
Youngstown State University – 1



TOP 10

Ohio State – 70
Kent State – 31
University of Cincinnati – 30
Ohio University – 16
Miami University – 11
Cleveland State University – 10
Cuyahoga Community College – 9
Case Western Reserve University – 6
Bowling Green State University – 5
University of Akron – 5

PAINTING THE PLOWS!

Snow plows clearing the roads next winter will be doing their jobs in technicolor thanks to the artistic talents of Solon Middle School students. SMS is one of several schools that participated in the inaugural Paint the Plow program for the Ohio Department of Transportation's District 12, which includes Cuyahoga County.

ODOT delivered two large plow blades from the state's fleet to SMS and over the course of a few weeks, students designed and painted the blades outside the school. In addition to their art teachers Mary Ann Linek and Lindsay Trutza, the SMS students worked with Solon High School student Shree Ghosh, who was doing her senior project in the art department at the school. Together, they created and executed two original designs: a multi-colored chevron and a field of sunflowers.

The program boosts awareness and visibility of the plows while providing a creative outlet for area students. Solon's SMS art teachers leapt at the chance to participate because it provides an innovative way to showcase students' abilities in a way that is different from a traditional art show.

The student-painted blades will remain on the ODOT trucks through the 2022-23 snowy season. They will also be displayed at county fairs throughout Ohio to highlight the ODOT/school collaboration.

Although they are not looking forward to winter, the students are anxious to see what their artwork looks like in action clearing snow and ice.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can watch Solon Schools concerts, sports and information sessions on demand on Solon Education TV. Just visit setv.viebit.com and search the archive!

BLUE! GOLD! WHITE!



Launched at the start of the school year, the SC Spirit Team Challenge boosts school spirit and gives students in grades 5-12 a place to belong by promoting ways to have fun and engage with their school, friends and classmates. All staff and students in grades 5-12 were randomly assigned to one of three spirit teams: Blue, White or Gold. The students will remain on their spirit teams for their entire tenure at the Solon Schools. All incoming 5th graders and new students to the district will be welcomed to the spirit teams at the start of school in August.

Throughout this school year, students earned points by participating in school clubs and events, attending school events, and many other school-specific activities. Solon High School, Solon Middle School and Orchard Middle School each had unique ways for students to earn points for their spirit teams.

Orchard students logged the most points this year, so the Comet Cup will reside at their school for the next year. The winning team for 2022? White!

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

As part of the district's comprehensive safety plan, the Solon Schools provide the SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE as an anonymous way for students and families to report anything of concern that could pose a possibility of harm to students in our schools. Calls to the Helpline are confidential, anonymous and can be made 24/7.

To use the Helpline, download the SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE app from the App Store or Google Play or text, call or make an online report directly.

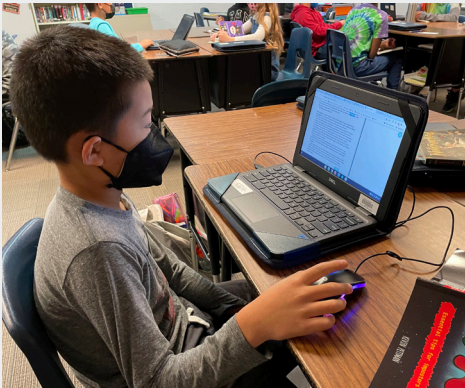
TEXT: 614-426-0240 and type TIPS as the message.

REPORT ONLINE: www.safeschoolhelpline.com

CALL: 800-418-6423, ext. 359

The strength of our community and our response is in the relationships we build. Students, parents and community members are urged to report safety concerns to any school personnel, the police, or use our SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE immediately.

LEARNING TO BE ‘INTERNET AWESOME’



Digital citizenship lessons helped Orchard 5th and 6th grade students better understand and manage their time online.

The students learned about “digital drama” and the impact social media/texting/messaging apps can have on students if they fail to set reasonable boundaries or do not consider potential consequences of their actions. The students reflected on how easily drama can escalate online and identified de-escalation strategies they could use when facing digital drama. They discussed the many ways they use media and how they can create balance between time spent on their digital devices and other non-screen activities.

Additionally, technology resource teacher Jerry Burris helped the Orchard students to more fully comprehend the digital footprint they create online, their responsibility in posting on social media, and how their reputation can be impacted by what they post and what others post about them.

To learn more about navigating the ever-changing landscape of the digital world, check out the Organized Parent Education Network’s recent program “Finding Screen Time Balance: Helping Your Child Understand and Manage Their Time in the Digital World.”

To view the program on Solon Education TV online, use the link on the Health & Wellness Resource Page under “District” on the website at www.solonschools.org/domain/484.

SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

Addressing the social-emotional needs of students has always been a core value in the Solon Schools as a stated belief at the foundation of the district’s Strategic Plan. The strategies and supports vary for age-appropriateness.

For example, Solon High School students have access to a mindfulness room with soft lighting that serves as a place for quiet reflection and respite from the stresses of the day. During daily “Homeroom Huddles” at Orchard Middle School, students engage in activities that help build connections with their peers, as well as provide strategies for improving their responses to challenging or frustrating situations, foster kindness and teach calming breathing techniques. Students in grades K-4 start each week with Mindset Monday activities facilitated by the school counselors, which cover topics such as managing emotions, how to apologize for hurting someone’s feelings and strategies for resolving conflicts.

Through professional development opportunities, staff members have been collaborating within their school-based teams and in consultation with nationally recognized experts to hone their capacity to help students build their skills related to executive function, emotional regulation, response inhibition, stress management, self care, conflict resolution and building resilience.

In grades K-4, teachers, counselors and learning coaches worked together developing resource banks of grade level lessons, activities, materials and interventions that knit together a full scope and sequence of specific executive function skills. This professional development and training enables our school teams to utilize specific tools and strategies with students to help them identify emotions, such as anger, sadness or frustration, and de-escalate their response in real time.

At the end of the year, the entire K-4 team met in cross grade-level and building teams to discuss student needs and share their plans. The vertical articulation among colleagues resulted in powerful dialogue and helped teachers gain a clearer understanding of the needs, skills and expectations for students at each grade level to support their social-emotional growth and development.

Staff members have also been participating in professional development in the Zones of Regulation, a systematic and visual cognitive-behavioral approach for helping students identify their feelings and gain increasing control over their emotions and reactions.

Providing support for student needs beyond academics, especially for students who are struggling, continues to be an important focus in our schools.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS!

Solon's safety forces provide important touchpoints and learning opportunities for students throughout the year.

Solon DARE Officer Billy DiGiovanni conducts safety and decision-making lessons with students throughout the district. For younger students, these include safety lessons on common household items that can look like food items and create dangerous accidental poisonings if ingested. For example, glitter glue tubes can look like sparkle cookie icing tubes. The lesson helps young students to spot the differences in where they are stored (garages and drawers instead of food cabinets and pantries) and packaging clues.

Sgt. Courtenay Perkins spoke with high school health and government classes and covered topics such as due process protections under the Constitution, probable cause, sources of case law that impact how officers are able to carry out their duties, and balancing the rights of individuals with the rights of others and overall public safety. He also met with families and students in a PTA-sponsored program covering summer safety issues.

Solon High School's SADD Club and the Solon Police Department teamed up to promote seat belt safety in late spring through the Click It or Ticket program.

The Solon Fire Department was front and center at the Roxbury last day of school celebration. Students enjoyed climbing inside the fire engine and rescue squad, trying on turnout gear and learning about the tools firefighters use, such as the "jaws of life."



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