

Connections Award

The Ottawa Hills Connection Award is named for the Connections Window that is installed above the front entrance of the high school building, a gift of the Ottawa Hills High School Class of 1959. The window was created by OHHS Alumna Emily Finkel (Class of 2000), designed by current students, and facilitated by high school art teacher, Steven Tozer Wipfli. It serves as a tribute from the Class of 1959 to the synthesis of their experiences; the high expectations, the richness of the curriculum, the close-knit, supportive community and the ultimate connections they have made to the world since their graduation.

This award also honors the creative spirit and the many contributions made to our school and community by Mr. Steven Tozer Wipfli. The award honors a student who, throughout his or her high school career, has reflected the characteristics for which Steve has been valued: elevating subjects and experiences beyond the ordinary; promoting the value of arts experiences as part of the education of the whole person; using creativity to enhance learning and the school culture; welcoming collaboration, at school and beyond; engaging personally in learning and experiences; and intuiting connections.

The Jon S. Davis Striving to Achieve Scholarship

This monetary award is intended to recognize, nurture and encourage hard work, perseverance, sound judgment and a strong moral compass in students so they can improve their own lives and also serve to improve the lives of others. The honored recipient may have (i) shown unusual inner strength in striving for a goal while overcoming obstacles (personal or otherwise) or (ii) may have upheld a moral or ethical position when it was difficult or unpopular to do so or (iii) may have exhibited extraordinary effort for the benefit of others without any expectation of recognition or reward. Mr. Davis was a 1961 graduate of OH and president of his class. The name of the recipient of this scholarship will be engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

Tom Docis Phenomenal Physics Award

This award is given to commemorate the many years of dedicated service, practical wisdom, and wry humor which Tom Docis, former chemistry and physics teacher at OHHS, brought to this school, its faculty, staff, administration, and students. The award is presented to the student who best approached the study of physics as Mr. Docis did with wonder and enthusiasm. The name of the recipient is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the physics laboratory.

Nanci Kay Effler Memorial Scholarship

This award was established in 2008 in memory of Nanci Kay Effler, mother of seven Ottawa Hills' graduates, a tireless volunteer in the Ottawa Hills Schools, and an accomplished artist. This scholarship is awarded annually to the graduating senior who demonstrates passion and achievement in the world of visual arts.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Director chooses this award.

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.

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 his or her 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.

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.

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. 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."

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.

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 diligence for the languages. This award honors a graduating senior for outstanding creativity in the fine and performing arts.

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.

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.

OHSAA Award of Excellence

A student who has exhibited qualities that embody good citizenship, good moral character, and good sporting behavior.

OHSAA Scholar Athlete Award

Awarded to a student athlete with high academic excellence.

The Ottawa Hills Education Association Scholarship

The OEA 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.

The James Petas Memorial Girls' Lacrosse 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 schoolwork.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sara Devenow Abrams Photography Award

This award is given each year to a graduating senior to recognize passion, dedication, and accomplishment in the world of visual arts of Ottawa Hills High School.

OHSAA Courageous Athlete Award

A student who has been involved in or supportive of, the interscholastic athletic program, and who deserves recognition for courage.

I Make a Difference

The I Make a Difference event honors teachers who play a significant role in a scholar's academic success. Two of the top scholars in the graduating class are selected to nominate a teacher. Students and teachers are honored at a recognition ceremony hosted by the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West.

Sean Mercer Girls' Basketball Sportsmanship Award

This award is presented to a member of the girls basketball team who has demonstrated the following:

- Hard work on and off the court
- Dedication and commitment to team
- Mentored younger players
- Showed respect to players, coaches, referees, fans, and opponents
- Given back to the community
- Participated in girls basketball at Ottawa Hills for multiple seasons

John Buckey Scholarship Award

This award gives special consideration to a scholar athlete who demonstrates leadership with a strong moral compass, exemplifying the power of community, hard work, and unwavering dedication to one's interests and passions. This student is supportive of one's peers, setting a positive example with humility, respect, and an easy-going nature.

Reagan Leadership Medal (Senior & Junior)

This prestigious award is presented to a high school junior and senior who best exemplify the following characteristics: Drive, Humility, and Service Before Self. This award recognizes outstanding high school students whose drive, integrity, and citizenship qualities are emblematic of our nation's 40th President. Each nominated student will receive an exclusive medallion and a letter of recognition from Dr. Richard Schroeder, Chief Education Program Officer of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.

Lindy Redmann Sports Award

This financial award in memory of 1974 graduate, Linda Beth Redmann, is presented to a junior female field hockey player who exemplifies Lindy's characteristics: love for all sports; the enjoyment of team competition; a quiet, persuasive leader; modest; strong feelings for fair play; loyal to family and friends; an independent thinker; determined; and possessing a keen sense of humor. The recipient's name will be engraved on a plaque that hangs in the school hall.

Bowdoin Book Award

This award is presented to a junior who has demonstrated extraordinary service to the common good and an unusual passion for inquiry, discovery, and innovative thinking. The importance of public service – of putting one's education to work for the betterment of society – has been on the minds of Bowdoin students ever since President Joseph McKeen's admonition to eight members of the first entering class in September 1802: "to cooperate with others for common ends." Generations of Bowdoin students have felt a kinship with this ideal, exemplified by the large number of students who volunteer in the local community and in the serious commitment of several student organizations to the environment. Many students also cite "the Common Good" as a powerful force behind their decisions to enter public service, to teach, to pursue the study of medicine, or simply as an ideal that affects decisions they make in their everyday lives.

Dartmouth Alumni Club Award

Awarded to a junior in the top 10% of his or her class, who has demonstrated strong character, has made a positive contribution to the school community, has excelled in at least one nonacademic area and is a candidate to a competitive college or university.

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.

St. Lawrence University Award

In recognition of the value the St. Lawrence community places on service to others, this award is to honor the achievements of a high school junior who has displayed a significant commitment to community service. Should the recipient apply to St. Lawrence, he/she will be considered for a merit scholarship per year.

Liberty Memorial Award

The Liberty Memorial Award is presented to a Junior who best demonstrates academic achievement in civics, social studies, government, history, and a demonstrated commitment to service for the larger community that pursues a more productive and naturally sustainable world.

Rensselaer Mathematics and Science Award

This award is given to an outstanding junior student in mathematics and science as selected by the math department chair and chemistry teacher.

James Casper / *Dare You* Leadership Award

This award is presented to two juniors who exhibit personal integrity, balanced living, and potential for leadership. The late William H. Danforth, founder of the Ralston Purina Company, first offered the award in 1941. Mr. Danforth believed that a balanced life of mental, physical, social, and spiritual development is the backbone of leadership. He challenged young people to achieve their highest potential and to influence others through lives of leadership and service.

According to Mr. Danforth, "You have a four-fold life to live: a body, a brain, a heart, and a soul—these are your living tools. To use and develop them is not a task. It is a golden opportunity."

In 2007, the award was renamed the *James Casper / Dare You Leadership Award*, in honor of James Casper, Principal of Ottawa Hills Junior-Senior High School, from 1968-1992. The names of the recipients are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the main hall of the high school.

Perseverance Award

The Perseverance Award for Self-Improvement was established in the Spring of 2022 with the help of an Ottawa Hills alumnus. The award recognizes a student who has turned his/her life around for the better. The recipient will receive a \$100 gift certificate from the sponsor and have his/her name on a plaque in the main hallway.