

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

# AROUND these HILLS

SUMMER 2024



## Class of 2024 is ready to soar!



**Celebrating  
50 years of  
Coach Hardman**

**Inside this issue:**

Green Bears bring home  
State Championships

Choraliers go to Cleveland

Checking in with youngest ever  
OHHS grad, Daniel Liu ('19)



Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:** Maara Fink (president), Kathy Lathrop (vice president), Rob Gnepper, Jennifer Kielczewski, Katie Timmers

**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.

**CONTACT:** Ottawa Hills Local Schools  
4035 W. Central Ave., Ottawa Hills, OH 43606  
ohschools.org | 419-536-6371  
info@ohschools.org

**EDITOR:** Katie Cho

**CONTRIBUTOR:** Ben McMurray



**FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Judd Silverman ('74) chairman; Austin Irving ('02) vice chairman; Anjali Gupta ('99) secretary; Mike McCullough ('93) treasurer; Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig ('93) past chairwoman

**FOUNDATION TRUSTEES:** Dr. Jeremy Bauer ('93), R. L. Berry ('76), Andy Dale, Dr. Adam Fineske, Maara Fink, Rob Gnepper ('91), Joel Jerger, George Lathrop, Ben McMurray, Liz Puskala ('99), John Roemer ('99)

**MISSION:** The mission of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is to permanently enhance and extend the unique experience of excellence that defines Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

**CONTACT:** Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation  
4035 W. Central Ave., Ottawa Hills, OH 43606  
esilk@ohschools.org | 419-214-4838



**DISTRICT LETTER**

# Appreciation for our OH community

Members of the Ottawa Hills Community, Parents, and Alumni,

The past year has been a testament to the resilience and strength of our community, and it is with immense appreciation that I write this.

Throughout this school year, we have faced many times of uncertainty. We were uncertain if the much-needed operating levy would be supported by voters. We were uncertain about what programs and staffing we would be able to provide our students for the 2024-2025 school year. Living in a state of the unknown is never a comfortable place to be, but this district and our community showed resilience, stayed strong, and pulled together.

“Needs versus wants,” a phrase focused on more than ever this year, led our district leadership to take a hard look at what we absolutely need to continue to give our students the best education and opportunities to become well-rounded individuals. We were able to cut costs, find staffing efficiencies, and work within a new reality to prove to our community that if we were going to ask for new dollars, our financial state is a top priority. Thankfully, voters approved the operating levy at the March 2024 election, ensuring that many of the things that make Ottawa Hills Local School District special remain in place including: smaller class sizes, a wide variety of AP classes, and keeping many extracurricular activities available for our students. On behalf of the entire school district, I want to thank our amazing Ottawa Hills Villagers for this support.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our exceptional teachers and staff members, whose tireless efforts ensure that our students receive the highest quality education possible. Their dedication in the face of so many uncertainties is what made our 2023-2024 school year a success.

Thank you to our parents and guardians, who play a pivotal role in shaping the educational journey of our children. Your unwavering support and commitment to prioritizing education at home have laid the foundation for our students’ success.

To our alumni, I extend my sincerest appreciation for your continued engagement and support. Your contributions to our community, both past and present, serve as a testament to the enduring legacy of Ottawa Hills.

To our 2024 graduates, I send you congratulations on this momentous occasion. Your journey into uncertainty is just beginning, and I have every confidence that you will rise to meet whatever challenges come your way. As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, know that the entire Ottawa Hills community stands behind you, cheering you on every step of the way.

And to our students, thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to learning. Your passion for knowledge inspires us all.

As we look ahead to the future, I am filled with a sense of hope and optimism, but know that our work to continue to improve is not done. Despite the challenges we have faced, I am grateful that our community remains steadfast in its commitment to providing our students with the best possible education. However, we recognize that the road ahead may present new and unknown challenges, and we must be prepared to meet them head-on.

In embracing the uncertainty that lies ahead, we are presented with an opportunity for growth and innovation. It is through confronting the unknown that we discover our true strength and resilience as a community. Together, we will navigate these uncertain times with courage and determination.



Ottawa Hills Local School District received 5-stars, the highest rating possible, on the Ohio State Report Card for the 2022-2023 school year. This rating was only granted to 12% of school districts statewide.



Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske  
afineske@ohschools.org

AdamFineske fineskeadam



**6**

## CREATIONS ON CAMPUS: smART SHOW BRINGS ARTS ALIVE

The annual smART show invited the Ottawa Hills community to stroll the halls of the junior/senior high for an evening of artistic expression. Hundreds of artworks covered the walls and interactive displays took place throughout the building, showcasing our students' art smarts.



**12**

## MAKING GREEN BEAR ATHLETICS HISTORY

Signing Day made school history with ten student athletes representing eight sports signed to compete at the college level this fall, seven of which will play at the Division 1 level. This is the largest group of graduates committed to play collegiate level athletics in the history of Ottawa Hills High School.



**22**

## ENTIRE CAMPUS CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2024

Since 2016, the graduating seniors have paraded through the halls of the elementary school, walking down what is known as the "green mile" hallway. The youngest Green Bears were eager to high-five and congratulate the seniors.

### DEPARTMENTS

2 District Letter

6 Campus News

AROUND  
these  
HILLS

14 Development News

20 Alumni News

4 District News

10 Athletics News

18 OHS Foundation Donors

22 Graduation Week

### AN AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT



### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

Throughout this magazine, we welcome you to explore what is happening at Ottawa Hills Local District. Around These Hills is published twice per year through our communications office, in collaboration with the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, to showcase campus events, highlight athletic accomplishments, share vital district updates, and offer insights into the Foundation's impact on student experiences. Whether you're an alum, a member of the community, a donor, an educator, a volunteer, or a student, we hope to keep you connected to the district in part through this publication.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Around These Hills welcomes letters from readers at [info@ohschools.org](mailto:info@ohschools.org).

### ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTS:

Around These Hills, 4035 W. Central Ave., Ottawa Hills, OH 43606



For any questions or concerns regarding the district's finances, please do not hesitate to contact Treasurer/CFO Mr. Siloy at [TSiloy@ohschools.org](mailto:TSiloy@ohschools.org).

## The treasurer's trajectory

### Advocating for fair funding

District leadership has met with our local House and Senate representatives to advocate for more fair funding for our one-of-a-kind district. District Treasurer/CFO Mr. Siloy has had in-person meetings with influential members of the Ohio General Assembly including:

- Ohio Senate President
- Chair of Senate Finance Committee
- Senate Finance Committee Members
- Senate Chair of Property Tax Review and Reform Committee
- Senate Education Committee Members
- House Finance Committee Members
- Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee
- House Ways and Means Committee Members
- as well as congressional members that were integrally involved in the writing of the Fair School Funding Plan

Mr. Siloy has also personally contacted all 99 members of the Ohio House of Representative and all 33 members of the Ohio State Senate laying out the case for why the current Fair School Funding Plan in Ohio does not work for OHLS. Ottawa Hills has the highest effective millage rate across the entire state. Even though our valuation is high, due to the confined area that our district encompasses, the amount of revenue that a mill generates is far less than our peer and surrounding districts. In Ottawa Hills, 98.4% of all property taxes are paid by residents. We have a very small share of commercial real estate. This puts an enormous tax burden on our residents.

In addition to having the highest millage rate in the state, our district has the 8th highest median income in Ohio. Why does this matter? The two main factors that determine the state share of state funding are property valuation and income. We have seen a decrease in per pupil funding from the State, while our peer districts have seen over a 9% increase. Our taxpayers are paying a much larger share of state income tax (which funds the Fair School

Funding Plan) than other districts, but we are not seeing the direct benefit to our state revenue share into the operating budget.

### Where we are now

The fiscal years 2025-2027 are projected to end with revenue surpluses; directly due to the 12.9 mill levy that was passed by Ottawa Hills voters in March. Spending for the current fiscal year has decreased by nearly 11%. As of May 31, 2024, OHLS district has reduced its general fund/operating expenditures by \$1.85 million compared to the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

### Strategic staffing

The district delayed posting any vacant positions due to retirements and resignations until after the March election. With the passage of the levy, district leadership has assessed each open position, taking into consideration student and class needs, and if savings can be gained through attrition. District leadership is committed to continuing the mindset of carefully evaluating expenses to ensure we make the best use of our budget.

### A look into the future

Looking ahead, we must continue to maintain a balanced budget and try to get back to an acceptable day's cash on hand.

Days cash on hand is vital to the financial health of our district because it ensures we have funds reserved for unforeseen expenses. Below is a chart illustrating the forecasted benefits of returning to a routine levy cycle. Although this process will take time, it will ultimately contribute to financial stability in the long run. The district will always need additional levies as we do not receive much in other revenue streams. Ottawa Hills is an exception to the Fair School Funding Formula and does not conform to the typical model observed in most schools. This fight for more state funding will be an uphill battle and could take many years for it to come to fruition, but that will not stop our efforts in doing what is right for our community and taxpayers.

The importance of staying fiscally responsible and conservative is a top priority for the district. We will continue to look at the financial impact of every decision with great consideration.

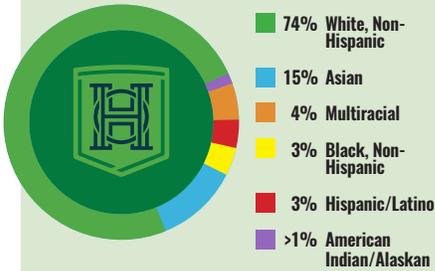


# District Quality 2023 Profile snapshot -24

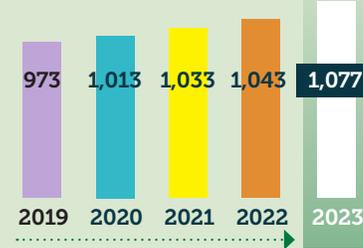
## OHLS by the numbers

- 23 varsity sports
- 77% faculty with a master's degree
- 81 number of full time faculty
- 27 clubs and activities at JHHS
- 20 average years of faculty experience
- 71% percent of OH students at accelerated, advanced, and advanced plus levels on state tests

## STUDENT BODY PROFILE



## ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT



## The 4 Focus Areas

Every decision in the district is made using the Strategic Plan as a guide.

### Nurture a Joyful Pursuit of Learning

Focusing on the act of learning as a joyful process allows the unique potential of each student to contribute to the best of student outcomes.



### Create a Lifelong Sense of Belonging

Instilling self-confidence and empathy will create an inclusive school culture where each person feels welcomed and where ideas can be researched and debated respectfully.



### Leverage Partnerships for Transformative Experiences

Collaborating at every level of the community expands opportunities, enhances student preparedness, and offers diverse pathways to successful futures.

### Support a Comprehensive Approach to Modernization

Coordinating our use of space, time, resources, and technology will maximize our educational effectiveness, efficiency, and level of innovation.

# Retirements

## Congratulations to our retiring teachers

Junior/senior high school teachers Dr. Lauren Hurst (English), Señor Tim Hood (Spanish) and Señora Ingrid Mendez (Spanish) celebrated their retirement with colleagues at Registry Bistro in the Glass City Center downtown in May. These educators have more than 80 years of combined service at Ottawa Hills Local Schools and over 100 years of combined teaching.

Beloved elementary school teacher Ms. Judy Haudan also celebrated her retirement in May after teaching at Ottawa Hills for over 35 years. “Ms. Haudan always had the best stories,” said former 4th grade student Austin Cho, “She is the GOATT (greatest of all time teacher).”

Congratulations to these amazing teachers; the district thanks you for your service and dedication to our schools and students and wishes you a very happy well-deserved retirement.



# District seeking volunteers

## Big futures, big careers



The “Big Futures” series is part of the career and college readiness programming within The Foundry and brings local professionals to share their expertise with students. Pictured is Rich Effler ('00) of Valle Homes speaking with students interested in building and design careers. Community members Mark Pawlaczkyk, Todd Kime, and Rob Weaver also provided information on career opportunities in architecture, construction, plumbing, project management, 3D rendering and modeling, and master carpentry. Students will have the opportunity to job shadow in these fields over the summer.

As The Foundry team prepares for the Big Futures events for the 2024-2025 school year, they are seeking community members who would like to help our students explore career opportunities in education, health care, real estate, STEM, business, arts, environment, and law. Email Darrin Broadway at [DBroadway@ohschools.org](mailto:DBroadway@ohschools.org) for more information.

## The Foundry seeking tutors

The Foundry is seeking dedicated community volunteers to support our students in various subjects, including pre-algebra, algebra I, geometry, and chemistry. During the 2024-2025 school year, we need

volunteer tutors from 8-10 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. at the junior/senior high school. For more information, email [Darrin Broadway at DBroadway@ohschools.org](mailto:DarrinBroadway@ohschools.org).



## Celebrate your culture



Students learn about Mexican culture through song and dance.

Ms. Marinelli and Mrs. Currens invite community members to share their cultural heritage with enthusiastic kindergarten students as part of the World Culture Program. To get involved, contact elementary teacher Ms. Marinelli at [LMarinelli@ohschools.org](mailto:LMarinelli@ohschools.org).



## Chicago brings ‘all that jazz’ to OH stage

The spring musical *Chicago* was next-level amazing, with a small live band performing on stage alongside more than 50 students. The high-energy musical had everything from stellar vocals, toe-tapping dances, humor, drama, and pizzazz. Thank you, *Village Voice of Ottawa Hills* for the photos.



## Model UN participates in MAHSC and MAMUN

Model United Nations high school students participated in the Mid-American Historical Security Council (MAHSC) in Toledo and the Mid-American Model United Nations (MAMUN) in Kalamazoo, MI. Quinton Smith (representing Turkey) and Ashley Wang (representing the USSR) received Highest Honors for their work. Advisor Tom McCarthy praised the entire delegation for their excellent representation through debate and collaboration.

At MAMUN, twelve Ottawa Hills High School students joined over 400 students from 20 high schools. Zoe Cheema received Second Honors for her work in the Legal Committee, and Ashley Wang received Second Honors for her work on the Security Council. Both were invited to the Secretary General’s Honors Crisis Simulation. The entire Russian delegation received Highest Honors for a General Assembly Delegation.



Russian Federation delegation members Quinton Smith, Ashley Wang, Zoe Cheema, Elizabeth Alamina, Jasper Allred

## Honors scientific research students present at National Symposium

Annie Bahar, an 11th grader from Mr. Nixon’s honors scientific research class, was selected to present at the 62nd National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May. The National JSHS brings together 245 high school students who qualified through regional competitions across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and DoD Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific. Ranking military and DoD civilians attend as judges, speakers, and volunteers to encourage future scientists and engineers and celebrate student achievements in STEM.



# 821

That’s the number of Principal Pennies Dr. Bauer awarded to elementary students during the 2023-24 school year. These paper pennies are given to students to reinforce positive behavior and are embellished before being returned to decorate the walls of the principal’s office. Fun fact: Dr. Bauer knows that every Principal Penny is special and unique, so he saves them in a special box at the end of every school year.



## JHHS students join in Honors Band



Over 370 band students from NW Ohio and SE Michigan came together for a day of intense musical immersion at the BGSU Middle School Honors Band. The all-day musical event began with some of the finest middle school band students receiving six brand-new pieces of music they had never seen before. They were then placed into four different ensembles (Falcon Band, Brown Band, White Band, and Orange Band) and worked with guest conductors from around the U.S., culminating in a concert for parents.

Pictured: JHHS band students from Ottawa Hills who were accepted and made wonderful music at Kobacker Hall: George Kile (trombone), Nathan Cai (trombone), Miles Wharry (trumpet), Cristian Grossi (trumpet), Evelyn Sandretto (bass clarinet), Pranathi Gundabolu (percussion), and Eleza Zaidi (clarinet). Special thanks to JHHS music teacher Mr. Leeds for sharing this story and giving these students this amazing opportunity.



## Break time with Boots

OHbreathe holds monthly workshops and activities for junior/senior high school students that cover a broad range of topics and interests including: yoga, meditation, PE games, board games, trivia, nature hiking, chess, reading, ceramics, leisure reading, basketball, visits with a therapy dog, and more. OHbreathe is a student-led initiative to address student wellness. Pictured, students take a break with Boots the goat.

## 'Fun'draiser has kids crazy for the carnival

The annual elementary school Spring Carnival, organized by the Ottawa Hills Schools Parents Association (OHSPA), brought together the entire school community for a beautiful evening of fun and games. Many JHHS students volunteered at the carnival, and pre-K-6th grade students enjoyed carnival games, face painting, strolling magic, inflatables, and more. Many thanks to all the volunteers and especially OHSPA for continuing to put the "fun" in fundraising.



## Field day: A rainbow of activities

Elementary students gather in what has become a new OHES tradition of a K-6 photo in field day colors. Teams work together to compete in a variety of activities to celebrate the last day of school.

## Strong finish for Quiz Bowl at State Championship

The OHHS Quiz Bowl Team competed at the NAQT Small School State Championship in Upper Sandusky (pictured). The team placed in the top ten with a sixth-place finish. However, Ottawa Hills gave Miami Valley, the new state champs, their only loss during the competition. Ali Sediqe received 1st Team All Ohio, and both Sahil Parikh and Rohan Padye were recognized as All Ohio Honorable Mention. The Quiz Bowl Team also competed earlier in the semester in the Jesse Brown Small School Showcase in Glasgow, KY. According to advisor Tony Torio, "The tournament is a BIG deal - it's an invitation-only small school showcase, and every team is incredibly competitive. I couldn't be prouder of our team and their performance. We even knocked off the defending national champs in round 1!" Representing OHHS were Olga Isailovic, Ali Sediqe, Akash Parikh, and Savith Vjendra. The team finished 5-4 in the showcase.



## AP chemistry meets real-world science: the thermodynamics of MREs

Students in Dr. Gloria Kreischer-Gajewicz's AP Chemistry class learned about the thermodynamics of a flameless ration heater to prepare a Meal Ready-to-Eat (MRE). They were visited by SSG Jurry Taalib-Deen, an Ohio National Guard Career Counselor, who also discussed the opportunities available through the Ohio National Guard.



## Oh say, did you see?

### Brown Bag Chorus sings National Anthem at Walleye game

The elementary Brown Bag Chorus was invited to sing the National Anthem at a Walleye game in the Huntington Center this spring. Over 70 students in 5th and 6th grade are members of the Brown Bag Chorus, so named because they practice with music teacher Mrs. Manchur during their lunchtime.



## Best day ever

The annual Ottawa Hills Elementary School Talent Show featured over 60 students performing acts at the 'Barbie' themed event. While the students' performances ranged from singing, dancing, and playing instruments to gymnastics and even stand-up comedy, the real showstopper was the choreographed dance to the song 'Dance the Night,' featuring various Barbies portrayed by teachers (pictured). The teachers dressed as different versions of Barbie because, well, Barbie can be anything.



## Chess champs!

The OH chess team clinched the Greater Toledo Area High School Chess League championship.

## Spotlight on art: celebrating the 2024 smART Show

The annual smART show invited the Ottawa Hills community to stroll the halls of the junior/senior high for an evening of artistic expression. Hundreds of artworks covered the walls and interactive displays took place throughout the building including in the Immersion 360 room, showcasing our students' art smarts. Hundreds of pieces of art were displayed, showing the talent of junior/high students' technique, and creativity throughout the school. The art department extends a big congratulations to the award winners from the 2024 smART show: First place: Vaughn Mackey, second place: Bella Drouillard, and third place: Max Nichols!



**Professional networking and communication class brings together students, community professionals**

The professional networking and communication class celebrated with teacher Ms. Eisenbaum at the end of the school year. In addition to coursework, students are paired up with area professionals and participate in off-campus learning experiences over the course of the year. In attendance were dozens of community partner professionals. Students will have the opportunity to continue working with our community partners through "shadowships" this summer. We are incredibly grateful to the professionals who provided our students with powerful experiences, career and college guidance, and valuable insights about the job market.

## Choraliers in Cleveland

The Choraliers had an exceptional overnight trip to Cleveland last semester. They participated in a choral clinic led by Dr. Dirk Garner, a professor of conducting and choral studies at Baldwin Wallace University. The Choraliers were immersed in musical culture all weekend, from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to the touring production of *Funny Girl*. Lastly, the Choraliers sincerely enjoyed spending time with each other outside of rehearsal and getting to know all of their fellow singers as they explored the Cleveland Museum of Art, the West Side Market, Little Italy, and the Corner Alley Bowling Lanes. Thank you to vocal music teacher Miss Hayley Hoss for sharing this story.



## Students make an impact at Mom's House

Teacher Stacy Richards and students from her health classes volunteered at Mom's House. They cooked lunch, did yard work, and played with the younger children. "The impact our students have on the children by giving them individual attention is priceless. What a great day!" shared Mrs. Richards.



## 10 Green Bears headed to play collegiate sports

Signing Day made school history with ten student athletes representing eight sports signed to compete at the college level this fall, seven of which will play at the Division 1 level. This is the largest group of graduates committed to play collegiate level athletics in the history of Ottawa Hills High School.

**Congratulations to these outstanding student athletes (pictured at the Signing Day ceremony):**

- Brandon Lingo**, Owens Community College (soccer)
- Will Swigart**, Austin Peay State University (golf)
- Sebastian Stevens**, University of Findlay (baseball)
- Luke Gnepper**, Princeton University (football)
- Jack Perozek**, Davidson College (football)
- Jack Vicente**, DePauw University (football)
- Cat Rhegness**, The University of Toledo (tennis)
- Riley Nixon**, Indiana University of Indianapolis (XC)
- Joanna Kelley**, Central Michigan University (XC and track)
- Colleen Kelley**, Saint Marys College (LAX)



## Slice to States

Three members of the boys' tennis team competed at States: Jack Kayse (singles), and Chris Thompson and Savith Vijendra (doubles). At districts Kayse earned first place and Vjendra and Thompson placed fourth, earning their doubles team fourth seed at the State Competition. The team also had three additional athletes qualify for matches at the district level: Akash Parikh (singles), Micah Walker and Sahil Parikh (doubles). Overall the boys' tennis team finished the season in 10th in Division II.





## High schools boys' and girls' track and field teams celebrate their TAAC Championship

Senior Riley Nixon is the State Champion after his first place finish in the 1600 meter run at the 2024 OHSAA Division III State Track & Field competition in Dayton. He broke the school record with his time of 4:12.70 in the 1600 meter, and took 5th place at State in the 3200 meter run. Nixon was also the regional champion in both the 1600 meter and 3200 meter races. Senior JoAnna Kelly also qualified to compete at the State competition in the 3200 meter race and took 3rd place at regionals in the same race. The 4x800 relay team of Joe Mayer-Heckathorn, Ian Jones, Michael Kelley, and Riley Nixon also qualified to compete at State.

The girls' track and field team finished the season as TAAC Champions, with many athletes competing at regionals. The boys' track and field team finished the season 3rd in the TAAC, 3rd in Districts, 5th in Regionals, and 14th in State. The boys' team had several athletes compete at regionals, with the 4x800 meter relay team taking 2nd place.



Riley Nixon



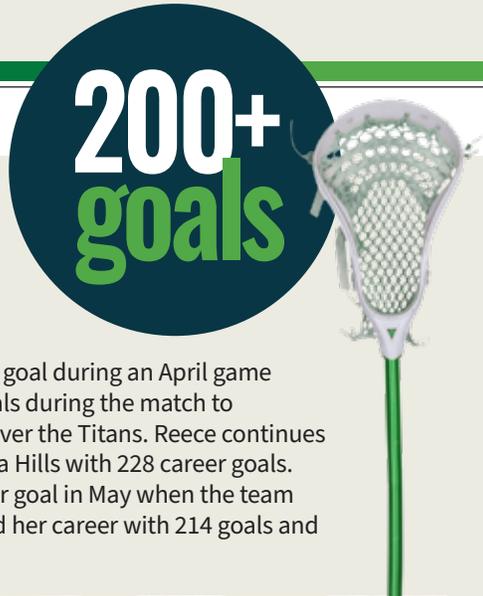
## Dance team celebrates record year at States

The Ottawa Hills High School Dance Team achieved remarkable success at the State Competition earlier this year, securing 3rd place in Pom and 10th place in Hip Hop; the best performance the Dance Team has ever achieved at the OASSA State Competition. Congratulations to team members Lena Bazzoli, Emma Friedman, Ava Jessee, Sarah Stone, Gracyn Connelly, Andrew Stutz, Alice Denney, Ashley Wang, and Isabella Leonardi-Wilkins, as well as Coach Sophie Heidenreich.



## Making a splash at States

Freshman Thomas Lathrop placed 8th in the 200 IM and 6th in the 500 free at the state championship earlier this year. Thomas, only the second boy to represent Ottawa Hills at the state swimming meet since David Roadhouse in 1962, was the only freshman in the state to advance to the finals competition. Thomas also broke two school records (his own!) in the 200 IM and 500 free. The 400 free relay team, consisting of Audrey Nixon, Zoe McCarthy, Caitlin McCarthy, Mary Lathrop, and Warren Lampowski-Sowle (alternate), also competed at the state competition for the first time in school history, gaining valuable experience and significant time improvements.



## Smashing school LAX records

Senior Reece Hill scored his 200th career goal during an April game against St. John's Jesuit. Hill scored four goals during the match to contribute to the Green Bears' 10-5 victory over the Titans. Reece continues to hold the all-time scoring record for Ottawa Hills with 228 career goals.

Senior Skylar Silk scored her 200th career goal in May when the team faced off against Central Catholic. She ended her career with 214 goals and holds the school career goal record.



## Upset at St. Ursula

The girls' lacrosse team bested longtime rival the St. Ursula Academy Arrows. The team finished the season strong with a 15-1 record and advanced to the second round of playoffs. Multiple school records were broken this season with Skylar Silk scoring her 200th career goal, Colleen Kelley recording her 300th save and Emme DeMilt recording her 300th point and setting single season school records for goals (71) and assists (40). Skylar and Colleen finished the season as leaders in goals and saves, respectively, and Emme finished the season as the career leaders in assists and ground balls.



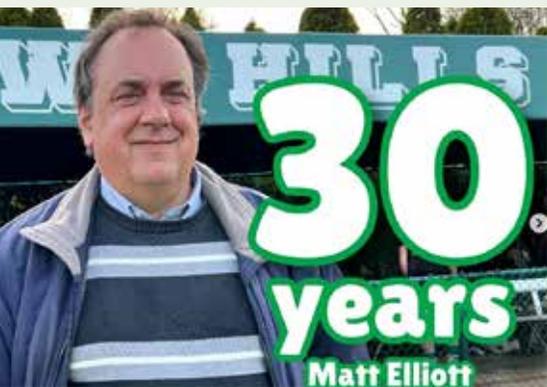
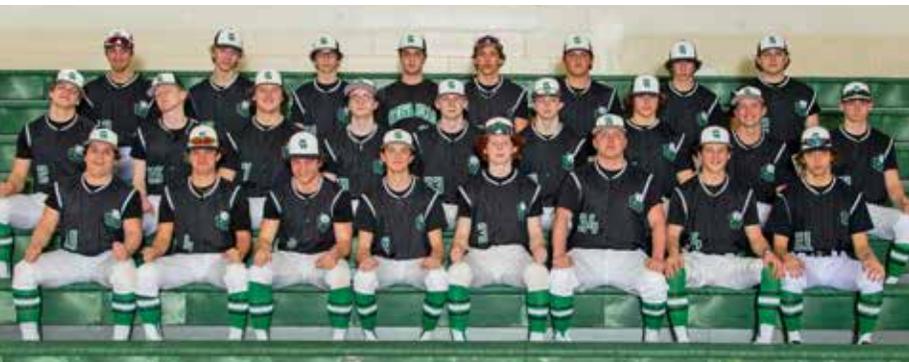
## Boys' LAX reach 3rd round

The boys' lacrosse team reached the 3rd round of the State Tournament, finishing the season with an overall record of 13-7.



# Baseball TAAC Champs

The Green Bears varsity baseball team wrapped up the season as TAAC champions with an 8-0 record. They went on to play in the district finals. This year was a very special year for head varsity baseball coach, Chris Hardman, who celebrated his 700th win this year. Read more about Coach Hardman on page 15.



Matt Elliott was honored for 30 years of service to OHHS athletics and Green Bear Nation as a statistician for the baseball and football programs. Matt was presented with a proclamation from Mayor Marc Thompson and a commemorative plaque from OHHS Boosters.

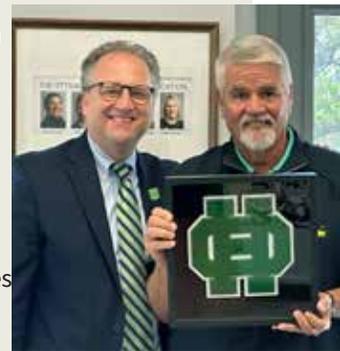
# Celebrating Coach Mercer

Parents and athletes gathered to celebrate Coach Sean Mercer on his 23 years coaching Green Bear girls' basketball. In his honor, parents, students, alumni, and colleagues create the Sean Mercer Sportsmanship Award to be presented to a member of the girls' basketball team who demonstrates hard-work, commitment, mentorship, volunteerism, and respect. Coach Mercer was also honored this year with the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association prestigious Bob Arnzen Award.



# Thank you, Rick Kaifas!

District leadership presented Rick Kaifas' with an honorary OHHS varsity letter for serving as interim Athletic Director for most of the 2023-2024 school year (pictured, Principal, Mr. McMurray with Mr. Kaifas). Mr. McMurray said of Rick, "His wisdom, integrity, dedication, impeccable reputation, and strong skill set ensured that our students had enriching experiences, remarkable opportunities, and memories that will endure a lifetime. Our players, coaches, and teams received the support they needed to excel as formidable competitors in the numerous competitions held during his tenure at Ottawa Hills. His contributions to our school and community will not be forgotten. We appreciate Rick stepping out of retirement and generously offering his time and energy when we needed it most."



# OHLS gains collegiate-level leadership in new AD

Ryan Wronkovicz was hired as the new Athletic Director following a comprehensive search conducted by the hiring committee, comprising members of the school board of education, district leadership, as well as representatives from the community, student body, and coaching staff. Mr. Wronkovicz joins Ottawa Hills Local Schools after spending 24 years in athletic leadership roles, including his most recent experience creating and developing the collegiate athletic programs at Lourdes University. Mr. Wronkovicz holds a Master's Degree in Sport Administration from Valparaiso University and a Bachelor's Degree in Sport Management from Bowling Green State University.



## FOUNDATION LETTER

Dear Ottawa Hills Community and Class of 2024,

It is with tremendous gratitude and pride that we share the remarkable news of our supporters' contributions this year. Through their generosity, more than \$698,000 in philanthropic investment has been made in our district. These gifts have been instrumental in supporting the new Wondry, Foundry, and over 26 classroom grants this year that have positively impacted every student at Ottawa Hills.

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation exemplifies how our community comes together in service and generosity to enhance our district. We honor our mission by deepening relationships within and beyond Ottawa Hills, and we look forward to continuing our momentum this summer. A highlight will be celebrating Coach Hardman's 50 years of dedicated service to OHLS.

To the Class of 2024, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on your graduation. You have achieved a significant milestone, and your accomplishments have greatly contributed to the intellectual foundation on which you will build your future. You now share a common bond with all Ottawa Hills graduates. As time passes, you will find that your memories of Ottawa Hills will grow more meaningful. The friendships, learning experiences, joys, and challenges you encountered here will become cherished parts of your life, forever connecting you to Green Bear Nation.

Throughout your time as Green Bears, you have demonstrated grit and determination, achieving success and reaching your goals. As you move forward, we hope the challenges of recent years have fostered a deeper sense of compassion, resilience, and resolve. Our world needs the leadership, skills, values, and compassion of this generation to guide us forward.

Today, you join the largest family we have at Ottawa Hills – our alumni. We are proud of all you have accomplished and excited for what lies ahead.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Judd Silverman  
Board Chair

Erica Silk  
Director of Development



**Judd Silverman ('74)** is chairman of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. **Erica (Gatchel) Silk ('89)** is Director of Development, Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

## 1 Year in The Wondry

Last year, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation completed the final phase of the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign, raising 100% of the privately funded renovations to create The Wondry inside the former library and media center at the elementary school.

The time that used to be spent as specials area in the library is now known as STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). The vision and purpose of STREAM is to provide students with a dynamic learning environment that integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics with literacy skills. The Wondry serves as a hub for exploration, creativity, and critical thinking, fostering a love for learning and preparing students for the challenges of the future. Through STREAM education in The Wondry, students are encouraged to engage in hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and inquiry-based learning. They will explore various subjects, discover their interests, and develop essential skills such as problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. By incorporating literacy into STREAM, students enhance their reading comprehension, information literacy, and communication abilities, enabling them to effectively navigate and contribute to a knowledge-driven society.

STREAM aligns with the larger goal of nurturing well-rounded individuals who can thrive in a rapidly changing world. OHLS aims to empower students to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed academically and beyond. Ultimately,

The Wondry serves as a catalyst for fostering a passion for learning, inspiring curiosity, and laying a solid foundation for future academic and professional endeavors.



Featured inside The Wondry: 3rd grade girls and 6th grade boys learned about architectural structures and tried their hands at model building during STREAM. 2nd graders created wind-up cars during a lesson in partnership with Emily Yark from Yark Automotive Group; they also learned about the different careers and aspects of STEAM within the automotive industry.





# Celebrating 50 Years of Coach Hardman

Chris Hardman was working in Bowling Green when he noticed a job posting on a wall for an open position at Ottawa Hills. He applied, and the rest is history. "I've been the lucky one. When I started in August of 1974, I didn't know that Ottawa Hills would become my life's work," says Hardman. He spent the next three decades working at Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School.

Hardman retired from his teaching position at OHHS in 2013/2014. Anyone who knows Chris wouldn't be surprised to hear that, despite retiring, he continued teaching youth. Recognizing the opportunity to share his life experiences, Hardman became a motivational speaker, drawing from his 40 years of experience in education. He recently

volunteered as a speaker for 5th and 6th grade Green Bears. These "Conversations with Coach Hardman" focus on peer relationships, decision-making, and leadership by example. "We are surrounded by a terrific community here. People move here for the schools and the sense of community. There is no other place like it," says Hardman. "I've never not wanted to come to work; and that is such a good thing to be able to say."

In recent years, Hardman also took on the role of substitute

teacher. When the elementary school started seeing larger enrollment, Hardman stepped in as an additional elementary physical education teacher. Towards the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Hardman became a paraprofessional at the elementary school, filling in when the district faced staffing shortages.

Transitioning from working with older youth to younger ones at the elementary school has brought Hardman newfound joy. "Our teachers at the elementary school are off the charts excellent, and our kids are so fortunate to have them." While he misses the relationships he formed with high school students, he continues to work with older students as a coach.

Mentorship and leading by example are fundamental aspects of coaching, beliefs that Hardman holds dear. Mentoring has always been crucial to him. "My father, a teacher and coach, taught me the value of mentoring." Hardman encourages younger players, including some of his seven grandchildren in the district, to volunteer as helpers on the junior varsity and varsity teams, allowing older athletes to mentor younger ones.

Hardman has coached for decades and his dedication to Green Bear Athletics is felt deeply in the Ottawa Hills community. In 2014 the baseball field was renamed Hardman Field in his honor. On April 10, 2024, at Hardman Field, the Varsity Baseball team defeated Whiteford 2-1, giving Coach Hardman his 700th win. In addition to baseball, Hardman has coached various other teams and sports. 2024 commemorates his 50th year of coaching Ottawa Hills athletics.



*The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation invites you to join us in celebrating Coach Hardman's 50th year of coaching by contributing to the renovation of Hardman Field. Hardman envisions ambitious plans for Green Bear baseball, honoring the past while propelling the program forward. Renovations to this Village-owned property will be funded through donations to the Hardman Field Fund managed by the Ottawa Hills School Foundation.*

## Naming Recognition for Hardman Field Renovations

**Home Dugout** (\$100,000) reserved  
**Visitor Dugout** (\$75,000)  
**Warm-up Wall** (\$50,000)  
**Bullpen** (\$25,000)  
**Batting Cage** (\$25,000)

*All donors contributing \$500 or more will be recognized on the donor wall at Hardman Field.*

Questions? Contact Erica Silk at [esilk@ohschools.org](mailto:esilk@ohschools.org).

**Hear from Coach Hardman and others on the growth and legacy of the Ottawa Hills Baseball program.**



**SEE the VIDEO**

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



Commission Board member. They hope the mural will be an inspiration to the greater Toledo community to live out Dr. King’s legacy. The mural was inspired by the words of Amanda Gorman and the illustrations from Loren Long in the book *Change Sings*. Although still unfinished, the Change Wall is nearly complete and can be viewed from the church’s parking lot off Glenwood Avenue near the Toledo Art Museum.

Students spent an evening with Will Lucas, founder of Tolhouse, and Reverend John Jones from Hope Toledo. Their messages to students were filled with important insights about how to make a positive impact in the community through compassion, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and vision.

**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: Home to Home Fund: Kadens Family Leadership Series**

Home to Home is a partnership between Scott High School and Ottawa Hills High School that strives to establish connections. The mission of the partnership is to gather Scott High School and the Ottawa Hills High School communities in intentional, safe, and honest platforms focused on fostering relationships, developing leadership, and strengthening understanding.

This year, students from Home to Home made stops at Glenwood Lutheran, the site of the new MLK Jr. mural (pictured), and Tolhouse, a community hub of culture, music, innovation, and networking. They also hosted a car wash to raise funds for

Hope Toledo, whose mission is: “to support and ensure high-quality education, from preschool to postsecondary and trade school, for every young person in the city of Toledo, to create generational economic change for the betterment of our families and community.”

At Glenwood Lutheran, students learned about the Change Wall, a collaborative mural project created by Pastor Chris Hanley, artist and muralist Dean Davis, and John Eikost, Toledo Arts



**Project: Intervention Library Fund: Heldreth Family Fund and Annual Impact Fund**

The Intervention Library project provided reading and decoding materials for the intervention libraries in elementary and junior/senior high schools, including supplements to the 7th grade classroom reading library. Intervention libraries provide students with academic and other learning difficulties with research-based tools to meet their specific needs.



**Project: Football Team Building**  
**Fund: Mindel Family Athletic Fund**

This summer, the OHHS football team will travel to Detroit to attend the Detroit Lions training camp. This camp promotes team building and enhances skills. The Ottawa Hills Football program is committed to cultivating a solid foundation centered on teamwork and mentorship. Pictured are high school football players meeting with rising 7th graders to share their experiences playing on the team.

**Project: Professional Development**  
**Fund: Bill and Anne Lathrop Fund for Educational Innovation and Talmage Family Fund**

Professional development allows teachers and staff to improve their skills, become more effective educators, and stay current with innovations in education. This fund registered four intervention and reading specialists for a structured literacy and science of reading conference to enhance their Wilson certification.

**Project: 2024 Agora Programming**  
**Fund: Talmage Family Fund and Kadens Family Leadership Series**

Agora provides programming for junior/senior high students who stay on campus during Agora week in the fall of 2024. Programming will focus on team building and problem-solving activities



at Camp Miakonda, as well as engaging other professional experts.

**Project: Summer Learning Program**  
**Fund: Heldreth Family Fund and Talmage Family Fund**

The Summer Learning Program provides students with opportunities for knowledge retention and closing achievement gaps in various subject areas. It offers summer learning assistance, including math tutors, to support students' academic progress during the break.



**Project: Timing System for Track and Cross Country**  
**Fund: Mindel Family Athletic Fund**

This project provides an official timing system for track and cross country, enabling the teams to participate in and host tournaments to prepare for State competitions. In May 2024, Ottawa Hills hosted the 53rd annual Green Bear Invitational (formerly known as the Green Bear Relays). Ten teams competed in this now invitational event on our campus.

WATCH THE VIDEO



It's the little things that make a big difference in the lives of our students. As long time coach Chris Hardman says, every donation, every dollar, adds up to a major impact and is changing lives and creating a bright future for Ottawa Hills students. Watch the video, narrated by Chris, by scanning the QR code above to see first-hand how the student experience is strong because of the OHS Foundation.



**Grants Committee partnership**

Erica Silk, director of development, and Dr. Bill Miller, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, teamed up to create a new Grants Committee. This committee is dedicated to obtaining external funding to address various needs within the district. Its primary objective is to lower district expenses by actively pursuing and securing grants from both public and private sources. Already, the Grants Committee has secured funding for several essential needs, including Panorama software for tracking student performance and safety enhancements in both school buildings.



Every year, donors are making possible numerous grants by the Foundation to support student activities and programs. Thank you to these individuals and organizations for their 2023 Annual Gifts and contributions to the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign



Making possible  
**WORLDS OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Through the generosity of OH families, alumni, and others, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation continues to make a positive impact on students' lives. The Foundation wants to honor those supporters for helping the organization pursue its mission. Those contributions in 2023 and to the Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign are enriching the lives of students in every grade and making the district a positive force in their lives.

## LEADERSHIP

(\$500,000 and above)

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

## VALEDICTORIAN

(\$250,000 and above)

The MacMillan Family  
Jim ('63) and Jean MacMillan  
Jamie MacMillan ('90)  
Jeff ('93), Julie, and Whitney ('34) MacMillan

## SALUTATORIAN

(\$100,000 and above)

Bubba and Jackie ('93)  
Berenzweig  
Chris and Aparna Brown  
Jon and Niki Frankel  
Pat and Ann ('67) Hylant  
John ('96) and Shanie Swigart  
Steve ('66) and Mickey Swigart  
The University of Toledo  
The Sue and Jim White, Jr. Family

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE

(\$50,000 and above)

The Kadens Family Foundation  
The Lathrop Family  
*in memory of Bill and Anne ('59) Lathrop*  
The Yark Families  
Billy and Tenley (Jamieson) Yark  
DJ and Emily Yark  
Adam and Emily (Yark) Reney  
Yark Automotive Group

## MAGNA CUM LAUDE

(\$25,000 and above)

Claire ('10) and Caroline ('12) Arnos  
Molly Zraik and the Brown Boys  
Family of Sam and Alec Carson  
Kevin and Meredith ('94) Friedman  
James ('79) and Mary ('79) Geiger  
Troy and Wendy Greeley  
Elias ('99) and Joy Hajjar  
Tony and Kim Heldreth  
Imam Family  
KeyBank  
The Lewis Family  
The McCracken Family  
The O'Neill Family

David Roemer ('98)  
David and Lisa Shall  
Signature Bank, N.A.  
Lawrence and Christine Spetka  
Alta Richter, Marc Thompson, and Tess Thompson ('09)  
*in memory of Tyler Thompson ('07)*  
Waterford Bank, N.A.

## DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL

(\$10,000 and above)

Michael and Anna Bennett  
R. L. ('76) and Karen Berry  
Tom and Betsy ('64) (Carson) Brady  
Joel and Cecily ('93) (Straub) Denny  
The Estes Family  
Fifth Third Bank  
Craig and Amy Findley  
Hylant Family Foundation  
Dee and Zac Isaac  
Steve and Neerja Jindal  
Brad and Allison Johnson  
Ian ('95) and Christina Katz  
Kevin, Kathleen, Thomas ('21), and Charles ('23) Merrill  
Geoff ('62) and Molly Meyers  
Owens Corning  
Bill and Laura Rudolph  
The Rudolph Libbe Group

Steve and Mary Saddemi  
Tehmina Malik and Nauman Shahid  
Robert ('68) and Cappy Shopneck  
The Staelin Family  
*in memory of Tiffany Staelin ('91)*  
Dr. Michelle and Nathan Walker  
David ('67) and Heidi ('68) Waterman

## FOUNDERS

(\$5,000 and above)

The Backoff Family  
Tom, Kate ('77), Brad ('06), Jennie ('08), and Leslie ('10)  
The Bardi Family  
Alap and Amy Choksey  
Class of 2018  
Class of 2022  
Commerce Bank, Will Tunis  
DJ Effler ('96)  
The Fineske Family  
Paul Goldner '64  
Lauren and Josh Green  
Tom '62 and Nancy Kabat  
Oscar Kasch ('19)  
Dhaval and Mona Parikh  
Brent Riggie ('99)  
David Roadhouse ('62)  
Todd ('85) and Jenny Seifried  
Erica ('89) and Jim Silk  
Kay and Jim Silk

Adam and Rana Smidi  
Law Firm of Spengler Nathanson  
Mark ('90), Merideth, Mickey, and  
Taylor Wagoner

## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

(\$1,000 and above)

In celebration of  
Elise Ansberg ('23)  
Natalie and Scott Aubry  
The Ballard Family  
Amy Buckey and Family  
Jeremy ('93) and Alyssa ('96)  
Bauer  
Dr. Karl Borsody and Dr. Jaleh  
Eslami  
The Buckley Family  
Bill, Jean, Mike, Jamie and Kate  
Canberra Corp  
David and Jeni Carter  
The Cho Family  
Class of 2007  
*in memory of Greg Orgel ('07)*  
Class of 2007  
*in memory of Tyler Thompson  
( '07)*  
Class of 2021  
Judy and Jeff Cohen  
Cary R. Cooper  
Charles Dewey Cole, Jr. ('70)  
Paul and Anita Daverio  
Brian and Chrissy Deiger  
Daniel H ('03) Effler  
David Effler  
Richard ('00) and Ally Effler  
Effler Schmitt Co  
Amy Fitzenrider and Steve DeMaio  
and Family  
Janelle and Nathan Franckowiak  
Paul and Melissa Gagacki  
Barbara and Bob Gatchel  
The Gehling Family  
Penny Rogers - Geresy  
2023 Girl Scout Troop #1110  
Paul Goldner  
Nasser Hajar and Diala Elhalabi  
Maara Fink and Chris Hamilton  
and Family  
Christina and Jay Hammerling  
Noreen Hanlon and Ben McMurray  
Brynn and Tate Harr  
Huntington  
Jason and Heather Huntley  
Becky and Tom Hauck  
Austin ('02) and Chelsea Irving  
and Family  
James, Marci, Jack, and Taylor  
Kayse

Sandeep Singh and Pravleen Kaur  
*in memory of Harvinder Kaur  
and Brijinder Kaur*  
David Kelley and Julia McArthur  
The Kidner Family  
Owais Khawaja  
Lisa Kolbe  
Chad ('00) and Alison Kripke  
Matt and Jill Kripke  
Elizabeth Lang ('97)  
Craig and Kym Lemieux  
Gordon and Marla Levine  
John and Hilary Lindsay  
John and Delia Longthorne  
Marathon  
Mike ('93) and Kelly McCullough  
The McKenney Family  
James Medill and Lynn Jones  
Steve and Jenny ('86) Mitchell  
The Naddaf Family  
Mark, Erika, Samuel, Jonathan  
and Emily  
Jim and Blair Nooney  
The Rasmus Family  
Brent Riggle ('99)  
Todd and Barbara Riggs  
David and Leslie Risley  
The John ('99) and Sara Roemer  
Family  
Glenn Rudy ('62)  
Melinda Mewhorn Rupp ('56)  
State Farm  
Heidi Schultz  
Aaron and Nicole Shetterly  
The Shimborske Family  
Judd ('74) and Lisa Silverman  
Ed ('82) and Tima Simon  
Jim and Diane ('70) Snyder  
The Stancati Family  
Spencer and Christy Stone  
The Su Family  
Tamara Talmage ('82)  
TDC Investment Advisory –  
Brady Fineske  
Lamont and Heather Thurston  
Trust Company Family Offices  
Universal Marble & Granite, LLC  
Welltower  
Rob and Elizabeth Weaver  
Valerie Wiley  
Celeste Williams  
Peter Williamson  
*in honor of Daniel Williamson*  
Amy ('83) and Bill Wolff  
Bruce and Gail Yacko  
The Zimmerman Family

## ADDITIONAL GIFTS

Bennet and Paula Alsher  
The Archer Family  
Pamela Arnos

Gayle Austin  
Jim Bailey  
Eric Barnum  
Harriet Baron  
Bernard and Susan Barrow  
Jeremy and Alyssa Bauer  
William Phillip Beans  
Roger Bell  
Neil and Paula Best  
Timothy Bosserman  
James and Sandra Brown  
Sandy Brown  
Willis Brown  
John and Mary Ellen Brunner  
Class of 1963  
Kelly Ann Coleman  
Schuyler Cone  
Ronald Cooperman  
Bob and Charlotte Cryan  
Mark Davenport  
James Davis  
Mary Davis  
Annabel and Bruce DeBoer  
Steve ('67) and Debbie Dolgin  
Lynne and Michael Doyle  
Benjamin and Katrina (Drowatzky)  
DuBose  
Carolyn Duncan  
Aaron and Susan Eidenier  
Byron and Janet Moser  
The Ferreira Family  
Dorothy and Rex Figy  
Gretchen Fineske  
Ruth Ann Fleck  
Paul and Melissa Gagacki  
Nate and Sue Geisler  
Jeffrey Gerber  
Mary Pat Gilsdorf  
George and Maurine Glasser  
James Goalder  
Sandra and Bruce Goldstein  
Bob, Kristin, and Jackson Grande  
Amber Gresh and James Knapp  
Jennifer and Jason Griffin  
Robert Groh  
Joan Haigh  
*in memory of  
John A. Galbraith ('41)*  
Ahmed Abdel Halim  
Cathleen Heidelberg  
Raymond and Betty Heitger  
Marsha and John Hinsch  
Joe Holtzman ('59)  
Stephen Van Hooser ('94)  
Robin and Mike Hurtt  
Joel Hutton  
Eugene and Jennifer Izsak  
Carol Janney  
Joel and Casey Jerger  
Jagadish and Leena  
Jhunjhunwala  
Jay Khetani  
Nick and Mary Lou Kozimor

Jane Kuta  
Lauren and Francis Krieger  
Mark and Susan Kruse  
Barbara Larsen  
Gretta Laskey ('63)  
Carolyn Zanville-Lemieux  
Patricia & Morgan Levey  
Marc Levin  
Aaron and Marayart Li  
Shahid Mahmood  
Jay McGiveran  
*in honor of Class of 1958*  
George McKisson  
The Meeks Family Foundation  
Jill Moreau ('79)  
Adit Mukherjee ('17)  
Beverly J Newcomer  
Keith Nicholson  
Nancy Nicholson  
Dan Noonan  
David and Rachael Novak  
The Packo Family  
The Pfeiffer Family  
Margot and Steven Parker  
Marc and Julie Paulenich  
John and Beth Pfeiffer  
Ann Poore  
Jack and Sarah Puffenberger  
Kimberly Ramey  
Jason Rand  
Margaret Reichert  
Edward Reinstein  
Dixie and James Riehm  
Robert and Donna Repp  
Nancie Howe Entenmann  
Roberts ('52)  
Gretchen Rohm  
Tory and Carl Schaffer  
Salvatore Schiciano  
Carol and Scott Schwab  
Marcus and Colleen Seigar  
Tom Seiple ('63)  
Mary Selleck  
Steve and Debbe Skutch  
Andy ('08) and Alex Stancati  
Joe and Diane Stancati  
Emily Stark  
Daniel N Steinberg  
Phil Stichter ('56)  
Spencer and Prudy Stone  
Kristin Strobel  
Walter Thieman ('64)  
Dr. Russell J. Tibbetts ('72)  
Donna and Steve Tozer Wipfli  
Fred and Julie Treuhaft  
Christine Vischer  
James and Julie Vitale  
Dave Walker  
Catherine Webb ('66)  
Eric Wilson  
Susan and Gary Wilson  
Gary Woodbury  
Susan Young



## Daniel Liu (Class of '19) graduates from the University of Michigan

Congratulations to Daniel Liu ('19) on his graduation from the University of Michigan this spring with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and bachelor's degrees in Computer Science and Chemistry. Celebrating with Daniel at his college commencement were his parents, science teacher Mr. Nixon, friend Riley Nixon ('24), math teacher Mr. Torio, and math and science teacher Mr. Adkins.

Daniel was the youngest recipient ever to win the Chemical Educational Foundation's "You Be the Chemist" challenge at age 10 (pictured). He went viral in 2016 when, at age 11 and enrolled in an organic chemistry class at the University of Toledo, a classmate tweeted, "This kid is 11 and in my organic chemistry class...he said if we have questions to just email him." He was subsequently featured in Teen Vogue and has gone on to be featured in dozens of "wiz kid" stories. Not only has Daniel been the subject of many publications, he has published quite a bit himself, including multiple studies he co-authored, one of which is published in the prestigious

*Journal of the American Chemical Society.*

Daniel said, "For me, the rigorous analytical thinking combined with creative thinking I learned at Ottawa Hills prepared me extremely well for both my college studies as well as my career. I'd especially like to thank the teachers, advisors, and mentors I've had along the way for helping me develop these skills throughout my high school journey." Daniel will soon be relocating to Cupertino, California to begin his new job with Apple working with the Safari team on security.



## Wedding bells!

Congratulations to former Ottawa Hills teachers Claudia Evans Roadruck and Michael Roadruck on their wedding in May. Celebrating with them were many former teachers, staff members, and administrators from Ottawa Hills High School from the 1980s through the 2010s.



## Green Bears at Big Ben

The Class of 1987 reunited in London. Pictured: Tenley (Talmage) Granito, Halley (McCormack) Williams, Carolyn Zanville-Lemieux, Teri (Burns) Hagemeyer, Tonya Brownhill

# Celebrating Alumni Achievement

2024 INDUCTION CEREMONY

We invite you to purchase tickets to celebrate our 2024 Alumni Achievement Awards. Tickets to attend the reception, dinner, and induction ceremony are \$75.

RSVP to Erica Silk at [esilk@ohschools.org](mailto:esilk@ohschools.org) by August 1, 2024.

If you would like to sponsor the event, please contact Erica Silk, director of development for information.

**Thursday, September 19, 2024, 5 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$75.** Reception, dinner, and induction ceremony at Inverness Club, 4601 Dorr St., Toledo, Ohio

**Friday, September 20, 2024, 7 p.m.**

OHHS home football game where honorees will be introduced at halftime.



### Distinguished Alumni Award Nominees:

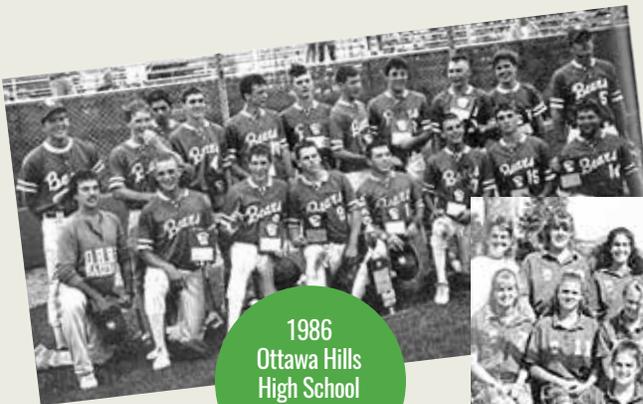
Steve Staelin '63  
Penny Staelin '63

Brad Rubini '79  
Amy Kadens '99

### Athletic Hall of Fame Nominees:

Coach Chris Hardman  
Jeff Ghering '61  
Andy Lott '88  
Jack Loy '77  
Lindy Redmann '74  
Kim (Kos) Southall '93

1986 Baseball Team  
1992/93 Field Hockey Team  
1993/94 Field Hockey Team



1986  
Ottawa Hills  
High School  
baseball team

1992-  
1993 Ottawa  
Hills High School  
varsity field  
hockey team



1993-  
1994 Ottawa  
Hill High School  
varsity field  
hockey team

## Upcoming Reunions

Get in Touch!



- 1965** contact Cathy Melhorn: [clemhorn@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:clemhorn@mtholyoke.edu)
- 1967** contact Richard Preston: [rtpmap@buckeye-express.com](mailto:rtpmap@buckeye-express.com)
- 1974** contact Sandra Hylant: [Hylant@midlandtoledo.com](mailto:Hylant@midlandtoledo.com)
- 1979** contact Mary and Jim Geiger: [marylgeiger@yahoo.com](mailto:marylgeiger@yahoo.com)
- 1986** contact Tracy Burns Morse: [tracy.morse@promedica.org](mailto:tracy.morse@promedica.org)
- 2004** contact Tenley Yark: [tenley.yark@gmail.com](mailto:tenley.yark@gmail.com)
- 2013** contact Robie Mitchell: [rmitchell377@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:rmitchell377@gwmail.gwu.edu) or Colleen Levy: [colleenlevy@gmail.com](mailto:colleenlevy@gmail.com)
- 2018** contact Ismael Assi: [assiiz@mail.uc.edu](mailto:assiiz@mail.uc.edu)

# Graduation 2024

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



Commencement speaker Emerson DeMilt told her classmates to embrace failures and learn to be resilient. Emerson will be attending the University of Miami this fall.



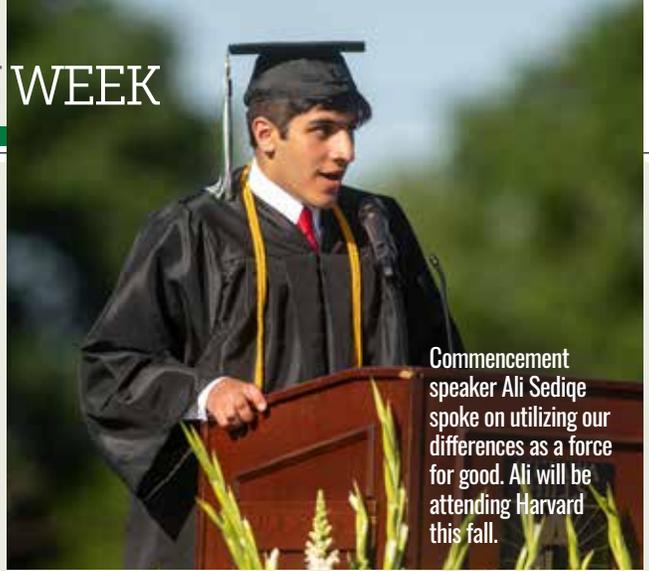


The Class of 2024's theme this year was "Ready to Soar." We know these outstanding students will achieve great heights as they soar into their futures.



MENTARY SCHOOL





Commencement speaker Ali Sediqe spoke on utilizing our differences as a force for good. Ali will be attending Harvard this fall.

## 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 2024 recipients of those awards and scholarships.**

### 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.

### Olga Isailovic

### 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.

### Ren Berryman

### 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.

### Ethan Green

### 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.

### Maxwell Nichols

### 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.

### Ava Jessee

### Georgetown University Alumni

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.

### Zoe McCarthy

### 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.

### Zoe McCarthy

### 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.

### Zoe McCarthy

### 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.

### Luke Gnepper

### Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award

### Sadie Dale

### Brian Nicholas Hoeflinger Memorial 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.

### Michael Kelley

### Brian Nicholas Hoeflinger Memorial Award

### Nash Malczewski

### Nancy and Tom Kabat Scholarship

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.

### Graydon Begeman

### 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.

### Alice Denny

### 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."

### Emerson DeMilt

### 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.

### Olga Isailovic

### 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.

## Seamus O'Brien

### 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.

## Ali Sediqe

### 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.

## Ella Douglas

### OHSAA Award of Excellence

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

## Reece Hill

### OHSAA Award of Excellence

## Catherine Rhegness

### OHSAA Scholar Athlete Award

Awarded to a student athlete with high academic excellence.

## Riley Nixon

### OHSAA Scholar Athlete Award

## Erin Wilmore

### 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.

## Kamira Norton

### James Petas Girls Lacrosse Scholarship Award

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.

## Emerson DeMilt

### Principal's Choice

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.

## Ali Sediqe

### 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.

## Zoe McCarthy

### The Kathryn H. Saxby Memorial Award

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.

## Ren Berryman

### 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.

## Anthony Packo

### 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.

## Seamus O'Brien

### Peggy Thomas Memorial 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.

## Ethan Green

### 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.

## Ali Sediqe

### The 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.

## Ava Jessee

### Donna Tozer Wipfli Choraliers 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. 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.

## Emerson DeMilt

### 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.

## Noah Hamilton

### Outstanding Male Athlete

## Jack Perozek

### Outstanding Female Athlete

## JoAnna Kelley

### Arrowhead Leadership and Innovative Journalism Award

## Nash Malczewski

### Mesasa Editor-in-Chief

## Elizabeth Alamina

### OH News Producer

## Riley Nixon

### 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.

## Savith Vijendra

### I Make a Difference

## Ali Sediqe

### 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.

## Abby Pommeranz

### OHSAA Courageous Athlete

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

## Sophia Clausen

### 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

## Eliana O'Rourke

### John Buckey Scholarship

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.

## Skylar Silk

### Reagan Leadership Medal

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.

## Ali Sediqe



## Congratulations Graduates

**Elizabeth Alamina**  
The University of Toledo

**Kathryn Allen**  
Eastern Kentucky University

**Gabriel Allos**  
The Ohio State University

**Iman Badr**  
The University of Toledo

**Graydon Begeman**  
University of California San Diego

**Ren Berryman**  
The Ohio State University

**Griffin Best**  
Purdue University

**Mashrafi Bhuiyan**  
University of Michigan

**Kate Bode**  
The University of Toledo

**Benjamin Burke**  
The Ohio State University

**Zoe Cheema**  
The Ohio State University

**Leo Chow**  
University of Cincinnati

**Sophia Clausen**  
University of Cincinnati

**Zoe Cooper**  
Ohio University

**Chance Coy**  
Owens Community College

**Sadie Dale**  
University of Tennessee

**Emerson DeMilt**  
University of Miami

**Alice Denny**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Ella Douglas**  
The Ohio State University

**Emily Drummonds**  
University of Cincinnati

**Anna Ellingson**  
Denison University

**Anthony Esparza**  
The Ohio State University

**Luke Gnepper**  
Princeton University

**Ethan Green**  
University of Michigan

**Noah Hamilton**  
Indiana University Bloomington

**Jacob Hartung**  
Owens Community College

**Genevieve Heidenreich**  
Elon University

**Katherine Heldreth**  
Auburn University

**Nicolas Hendricks**  
The Ohio State University

**Reece Hill**  
The University of Toledo

**Willah Hoelzle**  
The Ohio State University

**Olga Isailović**  
Bowdoin College

**Jovan Jacobs**  
Owens Community College

**Julian Jaume**  
The Ohio State University

**Ava Jessee**  
The Ohio State University

**Kiera Keaton**  
Owens Community College

**Hannah Keil**  
Ohio University

**Colleen Kelley**  
Saint Marys College

**JoAnna Kelley**  
Central Michigan University

**Michael Kelley**  
Purdue University

**Ava Lenahan**  
University of South Carolina

**Michael Lin**  
The Ohio State University

**Brandon Lingo**  
Owens Community College

**Emily Mack**  
The Ohio State University

**Nash Malczewski**  
University of Michigan

**Isabella Marzano**  
Purdue University

## BY THE NUMBERS

3

National Merit Finalists

5

National Merit Commended Scholars

19

Summa Cum Laude Graduates

8

Magna Cum Laude Graduates

13

Cum Laude Graduates

52

Honors Diplomas

40

President's Awards for Educational Excellence

40

National Honor Society Members

80

Graduates



Commencement speaker Mashrafi Bhuiyan urged his classmates not to be afraid to try things they are bad at. Mashrafi will be attending the University of Michigan this fall.

### Shahd Mashali

The Ohio State University

### Zoe McCarthy

University of Calgary

### Mia McCullough

University of Mississippi

### Sevar Mian

Bowling Green State University

### Katie Milam

Miami University

### Maxwell Nichols

Ohio University

### Riley Nixon

Indiana University of Indianapolis

### Kamira Norton

The Ohio State University

### Seamus O'Brien

DePaul University

### Eliana O'Rourke

The Ohio State University

### Anthony Packo

UNC Chapel Hill

### Akash Parikh

University of Southern California

### Ashley Parsons

Feng Chia University

### John (Jack) Perozek

Davidson College

### Samuel Petro

Miami University

### Caelan Rea

Virginia Tech

### Catherine Rhegness

The University of Toledo

### James Schaefer

The University of Toledo

### Ali Sedige

Harvard University

### Gabriella Shetterly

College of Charleston

### Skylar Silk

Elon University

### Lila Smith

The Ohio State University

### Maddox Smith

Undecided

### Sebastian Stevens

University of Findlay

### Sarah Stone

Miami University

### Stella Stout

University of Tennessee

### Andrew Sturtz

Case Western Reserve

### Will Swigart

Austin Peay State University

### Pearl Thurston

University of Florida Honors College

### Jack Vicente

Depauw University

### Savith Vijendra

University of Michigan

### Evan West

Kent State University

### Erin Wilmore

University of Hawaii at Manoa

### Evan Yang

Bowling Green State University



Value of  
Scholarships Awarded  
**\$12,252,336**





# Ottawa Hills Local Schools

3600 Indian Road  
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### August

Tuesday  
**14** JHHS Green Bear Day

Monday  
**19** OHES Open House

Tuesday  
**20** First Day of School



### September

Monday  
**2** Labor Day: No School

Wednesday  
**4** JHHS Open House

Friday  
**6** **BOOSTERS**  
OH Boosters BBQ

Wednesday  
**18** Late Start:  
School begins at  
10 a.m.

Thursday  
**19** Distinguished Alumni  
and Athletic Hall of  
Fame Dinner



### October

Friday  
**4** Village Life  
Parade and  
Homecoming



Thursday-  
Friday  
**24-25** Parent/Teacher  
Conferences:  
No School

### November

Friday  
**1** Late Start:  
School begins at  
10 a.m.

Tuesday  
**5** Professional  
Development Day:  
No school for students

Monday-  
Friday  
**18-22** Agora



Wednesday-  
Friday  
**27-29** Thanksgiving Break:  
No school

Visit [ohschools.org/calendar](https://ohschools.org/calendar) in case  
of event date changes