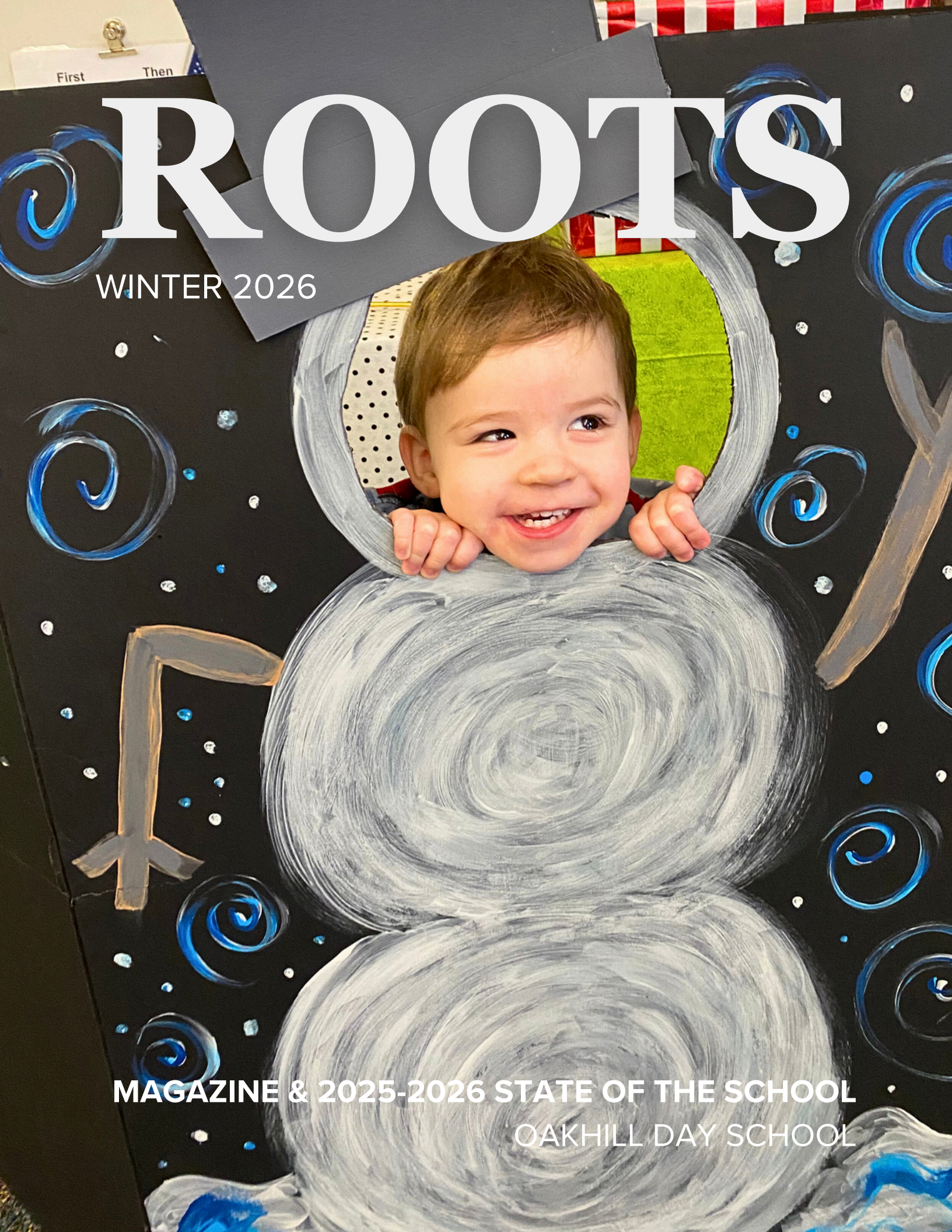


ROOTS

WINTER 2026

MAGAZINE & 2025-2026 STATE OF THE SCHOOL

OAKHILL DAY SCHOOL









WHAT'S INSIDE

03 Letter from the Head of School

05 Inside the Classroom: PE Every Day

07 Alumni Updates

10 Assessments that Support Learning

14 Middle School Expansion

15 Board of Trustees State of School Message

17 Mid-year Enrollment Snapshot

19 Partnership and Parent Education

21 Mid-year Financial Outlook

23 Mighty Oak Fund Donor Roster Review

26 2026 Auction Preview: ODS In Bloom

27 Semester Snapshots

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Cash, Check, Credit Card in person or by mailing to:
Oakhill Day School | 7019 N Cherry Street, Gladstone, MO 64118

Online at oakhilldayschool.org/support/give-online

Gifts of stocks, planned gifts, and charitable contribution donations are accepted.

Your time as a volunteer is always appreciated.

Support any Oakhill event by attending, sponsoring, or donating your time, talents and resources.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

A message from Suzanne McCanles

Dear Oakhill Community,
As we reflect on the semester behind us and look ahead to what is to come for the remainder of the school year, I am reminded that schools—like nature—move through seasons. Each season brings its own challenges, beauty, and opportunities. This year at Oakhill, we find ourselves firmly in a season of growth—one shaped by thoughtful planning, strong stewardship, and, most importantly, our people.

Founded in 1947, Oakhill has been shaped by nearly eight decades of purpose, resilience, and care. Today, we are proud to be thriving, serving 380 students and looking to grow with a strong re-enrollment season. This stability and forward momentum reflect the confidence families place in Oakhill and the strength of our mission, which remains our compass—guiding decisions, anchoring our values, and shaping our future.

As with any meaningful journey, strategic planning serves as our roadmap. Over the past year, we have been intentional in aligning our resources, goals, and aspirations to ensure Oakhill's continued strength and sustainability. A well-managed annual budget, paired with strategic debt service planning, has positioned the school to meet the needs of today while preparing confidently for tomorrow.

An essential part of this preparation is philanthropy. Fundraising is woven into the fabric of independent schools, and at Oakhill, it reflects a shared belief that investing in education is investing in the future. I am deeply grateful to share that our community has raised over $534,000 through the Mighty Oak Fund and major gifts campaign, aligning our Annual Fund more similar to other independent schools of our size and makeup. Additionally, the Welcome Project—now underway—has raised approximately $554,000 through the initial capital campaign, along with over $72,000 through the 12 Days of Giving campaign, to construct a new gym lobby and 13 restrooms on the north side of the existing gym, significantly improving access, functionality, and the overall experience for our community.

This season of growth has been visible across many areas of school life. Our social media presence now offers an authentic glimpse into everyday life at Oakhill, sharing the joy, rigor, and connection that define our school. The Guatemala Student Exchange Program was a meaningful success this fall, enriching our students' global perspectives and strengthening cross-cultural relationships. Community spirit was also on full display at our Golf Tournament at Excelsior Springs Golf Club, where families past and present, alumni, and friends came together in support of Oakhill—reminding us that our reach extends far beyond campus.

Most importantly, this year has been a season of student growth and achievement. Improved i-Ready scores and strong PreACT results reflect academic progress, while engaged Student Ambassadors and an active Student Council demonstrate leadership in action. Our athletic teams, musical performances, and choir concerts have been consistent sources of pride, showcasing discipline, creativity, and collaboration. Across all areas, our students continue to model character, integrity, and respect.

Looking ahead, there is much to anticipate. On April 11th, we will gather for our annual auction, Oakhill In Bloom, a celebration of community and generosity. We are excited about the expansion of our middle school physical space–taking over additional space on our second floor, which will create additional classrooms and enhance the overall learning environment.

Through every season—planning, growth, construction, and celebration—the most important piece of the Oakhill puzzle is, and always will be, our people. Our dedicated faculty and staff, engaged families, generous donors, alumni, and remarkable students are the heart of this school. It is their passion, care, and belief in Oakhill that make growth possible in every season.



As we continue forward, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. Guided by our mission and strengthened by our community, Oakhill is well positioned for a vibrant and purposeful future.

Thank you for being part of the Oakhill story.

With appreciation,

Suzanne





At Oakhill, It Happens Daily!

Think back to your own school experience. Most likely, physical education was one of those special classes that happened on a rotating basis, once or twice a week. These days, special classes like PE happen even less often in many schools, while some have gotten rid of them altogether. Special classes have become a casualty in the effort to place more of an emphasis on academics.

But in a world where kids need more movement, not less, Oakhill Day School does something refreshingly simple and surprisingly uncommon. Beginning in kindergarten and through eighth grade, students attend PE class every single day.

And it's not an accident. It's purposefully scheduled and a priority. There are so many benefits to not only a child's physical development, but social and emotional as well.

Movement Isn't a Break, It's Brain Fuel

One of the most persistent myths in education is that time spent moving takes away from academics. National schedules reflect it: according to the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, only a fraction of elementary schools nationwide offer daily PE. Most offer it two or three times a week, and many middle schools offer even less.

At Oakhill, teachers see the opposite in real time.

When students run, jump, stretch, and push themselves physically, oxygen and blood flow to the brain increase, neural pathways activate, and focus sharpens. Students walk back into classrooms more alert, more ready to engage, and more capable of retaining information.

Daily PE at Oakhill doesn't take away from learning. In fact, it's a powerful tool that supports learning.

Healthy Habits Form in Childhood

Committing to an exercise routine as an adult can be hard! It takes time and discipline to get going, stay motivated and continue the habit for the long haul. Kids, however, are forming patterns and habits that hopefully will continue with them into adulthood.

Daily physical education normalizes exercise. It teaches young learners that moving their bodies is just part of being human. It's not seen as a chore or something to check off of a to-do list, not something reserved for athletes, and not something you "earn" after sitting still long enough. Physical activity and exercise become just a normal part of life.

Confidence Grows With Repetition

One of the best outcomes of Oakhill's commitment to daily PE classes is that it provides a space for kids to grow and learn new skills. Students don't just get one chance a week to try a new skill, learn a sport, or challenge themselves. They get a chance every day.

A student might be introduced to volleyball on Monday and they don't have to wait a week to practice their skills. By Friday they might be perfecting their serve! Daily warmups allow students to work on balance and coordination. This daily practice and reinforcement builds confidence for all students, not just those that are naturally more athletically inclined. It lets them see that while they might not be the best, they are learning and having fun.

A Balanced Day Makes Better Learners

Modern classrooms pack so much into a day: math problems, novel studies and nonfiction, science labs, discussions, projects, writing, note-taking, technology integration, etc.. It's a rich and full academic experience.

But the truth we all know is that children aren't meant to sit still for long stretches of time.

They need chances to reset their minds, stretch their legs, and release energy that bubbles up.

Learning at Oakhill isn't confined to textbooks and tests. It happens while playing pickleball, running a lap, learning proper push up form, breaking into teams, cheering for classmates, and discovering a sport they never knew they loved.

Because the goal isn't raising students who are only academically successful. We strive to raise students who are well-rounded, confident, healthy, and joyful.





Life After Oakhill: Updates from Our Graduates

Olivia DiGerlamo (‘18)



Olivia DiGerlamo, Class of 2018, graduated this past December from Rockhurst University with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Not only did Olivia graduate college in 3.5 years, she was on the Rockhurst Dance Squad for her entire college career and a captain for 2 years, where they earned several top awards. The team is coached by another Oakhill alumni Bailey (Ferrara) Graceffa, ODS Class of 2013.

Just like her fellow Oakhill alumni, Olivia was motivated to be a well-rounded part of her school. Not only did she dance and take classes, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and was the Pharmacology Supplemental Instructor (SI) where she hosted her own class sessions weekly for the past year.

She already has two jobs lined up! Olivia will be working on a surgical intermediate unit at St. Luke's on the Plaza, as well as, working/training to become a Scolio-Pilates instructor. Olivia was diagnosed with scoliosis at a very young age and has been using Pilates since she was 10 years old.

We wish only the best for Olivia and we are so proud of all she has accomplished. We can't wait to see what her future holds!

Reilly Nash (‘17)

Reilly Nash, Class of 2017, graduated from Purdue University in May with a B.S. in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering with a minor in Math. Before graduation, in November 2024, he presented his research on combusting flows in diesel engines at the American Physical Society's Division of Fluid Dynamics annual meeting.

After graduation, he returned back to Kansas City to finish training for his private pilot's license, flying Cessna 172s. One of his goals was to find a job in flight test engineering or another aviation-related engineering position. His dreams are coming true. In February he will start at Boeing in St. Louis as an F-22 Test and Analysis Engineer.

In Reilly’s spare time, he continues to play both piano and violin, recently performing as part of the Kansas City Symphony’s ProAm event at the Kauffman Center. He composes music, including several piano pieces and a sonata for cello and piano.



Reilly’s research abstract offers a snapshot of the meaningful work he’s pursuing.

Second Generation Families at Oakhill

By Lola Heintz

There is something especially meaningful about welcoming alumni back to Oakhill, not as students, but as parents. Our Second Generation families represent the enduring impact of an Oakhill education and the deep sense of connection that continues long after graduation. In this feature, we are proud to highlight two alumni families who have returned to Oakhill, now getting to watch their own children grow, learn, and thrive in the same community they once called home.

The Koon Family

Returning to Oakhill has been a true full-circle moment for the Koon family. Denton and his brother, Derek, both attended Oakhill from 1992 to 1998, and the strong sense of community they experienced as students remains one of Denton's fondest memories of being an Oakhill Panther.

Today, Denton runs a fuel marketing company originally founded by his grandfather. Managing day-to-day operations and customer relationships, he is proud to continue a family legacy that mirrors the values of connection, responsibility, and honesty that were nurtured during his time at Oakhill.

As a family, the Koons enjoy staying active and exploring places all over Kansas City. Some of their favorite activities include the Zoo, Wonderscope, and Science City. The family also just enjoys spending time outside riding bikes, playing games in their backyard, and simply just being together.

When it came time to choose a school for their children, Oakhill felt like the logical choice. The Koons are deeply supportive of the school's commitment to early childhood education, and believe these formative years play a crucial role in a child's academic journey. They value Oakhill's intentional approach, strong infrastructure, and personalized engagement that help create a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

"Oakhill does an exceptional job of introducing children to the realities and rigor of an academic career at a young age," Denton shares. "But I think it is equally important the value the school places on the enjoyment of this process."

Some of Denton's favorite memories from his time at Oakhill include the close-knit community and the many extracurricular experiences that brought families together. Concerts, field trips, and shared moments beyond the classroom stand out as reminders that education is most meaningful when it's experienced together.

Now, watching Gentree and Willa walk the same halls is both nostalgic and exciting for the Koon family. It brings a deep sense of gratitude and anticipation as they guide their children through their own Oakhill journey, both as students and as individuals.



While much of Oakhill feels comfortingly familiar, Denton has also noticed signs of continued growth and development. One such moment was seeing the updated music room, a space that was once a school library, serving as a small but meaningful reminder that Oakhill continues to grow and adapt while staying true to its roots. of this process."



Second generation ODS Panthers - Gentree Koon, Prekindergarten and Willa Koon, Toddler

The Myers Family

For the Myers family, Oakhill has been a part of their story for decades. Taylor attended Oakhill from Early Learners through fifth grade (which at the time, was the highest grade Oakhill offered) alongside her siblings Jack and Avery Spooner. Today, that legacy continues as Taylor's daughter, Elsie, experiences Oakhill as a Preschool student, adding a new chapter to their family story.

Now an attorney, Taylor followed in the footsteps of her parents and grandfather, building a career grounded in dedication and service. When asked about what led their family to choose Oakhill, Taylor said "Oakhill has always felt like home to me, so choosing it for our children felt natural". The school's emphasis on strong academics, character development, and a close-knit community aligned naturally with their values. Returning to campus now brings joy in a familiar way, especially getting to watch teachers and students of all ages stop in the hallways to greet Elsie by name.

As a family, the Myers enjoy traveling and discovering new places together, in addition to spending quality time with family and friends. Shared experiences and meaningful connections are central to their family life.

Some of Taylor's most cherished Oakhill memories highlight the school's creativity and warmth. One such memory was a rainforest unit that transformed her third grade classroom into a full immersive environment, with lessons that took place under tree canopies beside life-size animals. Taylor describes this as a moment that made learning truly come alive! Simpler joys, like classroom lunch deliveries and beloved McDonald's Wednesdays and Pizza Hut Fridays, also remain favorite memories from her time as a student.

One particularly meaningful influence was Mrs. Wills, a teacher whose connection to the family ran deep. From being the first visitor outside of family to meet Taylor when she was born, to teaching her cursive, posture, and confidence, Mrs. Wills exemplified the personal relationships that define the Oakhill experience.

To the Myers, being a multi-generational Oakhill family brings a profound sense of continuity and belonging. Sharing stories, pointing out former classrooms, and connecting past experiences with present moments allows Taylor and her family to feel tied to both Oakhill's history and its future.



Second generation ODS Panther - Elsie Myers, Preschool with Taylor (Spooner) Myers, Attended 1993–2002



How Assessment Supports Learning at Oakhill

By Delaney Dowd and Kristin Forsen

In today's educational landscape, the word assessment often carries weight. For families, it can bring questions about pressure, comparison, or labels. At Oakhill, however, assessment is rooted in a different purpose, one grounded in reflection, growth, and thoughtful instructional design.

Standardized assessments at Oakhill are not used to define students. Instead, they serve as tools that help educators understand learning patterns, identify strengths, and continually refine curriculum to meet the needs of a diverse student body. When paired with daily classroom observations, project-based learning, and student voice, assessment data becomes one piece of a much larger picture.

Oakhill intentionally uses a purposeful set of assessments. Each was selected because it aligns with our curriculum needs and provides meaningful insight that supports instructional decision-making. Our goal is not to test more, but to test better, ensuring that every assessment serves a clear purpose.

Currently, Oakhill utilizes three primary standardized assessments across different grade levels: i-Ready, ERB CTP Testing, and PreACT 8/9. Together, these tools allow us to examine both individual growth and broader trends across classrooms and grade levels.

i-Ready: Measuring Growth Over Time

Administered in grades kindergarten through 8th grade, i-Ready is a diagnostic assessment used in both reading and mathematics. Students typically complete the assessment multiple times throughout the year, allowing teachers to measure growth rather than rely on a single snapshot.





i-Ready helps educators identify where a student is developmentally within a skill progression.

For example, a student may demonstrate strong comprehension skills while still developing foundational decoding strategies, or show advanced number sense while needing support with multi-step problem-solving. This information allows teachers to tailor instruction, provide targeted support, and differentiate learning experiences within the classroom.

Most importantly, i-Ready emphasizes growth. Teachers analyze progress over time to celebrate improvement, set instructional goals, and adjust teaching strategies. Results are shared and discussed within grade-level teams and with the Student Support Services department to ensure alignment between classroom instruction, additional support, and enrichment.

ERB CTP Testing: Understanding Reasoning and Application

In grades 3 through 8, students participate in ERB Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP) assessments. ERB assessments are widely used by independent schools and are designed to measure critical thinking, reasoning, comprehension, and the application of knowledge rather than rote memorization.

The ERB CTP provides insight into how students think across content areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary, verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and mathematics. These assessments help educators see how students apply skills in unfamiliar contexts, a critical component of deep learning.

ERB data is particularly valuable when reviewed across multiple years. By looking at trends within a grade level or cohort, faculty can identify areas of consistent strength and areas that may benefit from curricular refinement. These conversations often lead to instructional shifts, new resources, or enhanced professional development, ensuring that Oakhill's curriculum continues to evolve alongside student needs.

PreACT 8/9: Preparing for the Transition to High School

For 8th grade students, the PreACT 8/9 assessment offers an early look at college- and career-readiness skills.

While students are not expected to have mastered all tested content, the assessment provides helpful insight into academic strengths and areas for continued growth before entering high school.

PreACT data supports conversations around skill development, academic planning, and instructional focus during the middle school years. It also allows educators to identify trends that inform curriculum alignment and readiness for the demands of high school coursework.

Rather than serving as a high-stakes measure, PreACT results are used as a planning tool, guiding instructional decisions and helping students develop an awareness of their learning profile to prepare for their future endeavors.

How Assessment Data Is Used

At Oakhill, assessment data leads to action. Teachers and administrators engage in collaborative data discussions throughout the year to ensure results are used responsibly and thoughtfully. These conversations help inform:

- Curriculum planning and revision
- Instructional strategies and differentiation
- Intervention and enrichment opportunities
- Professional development priorities
- Student goal-setting and reflection

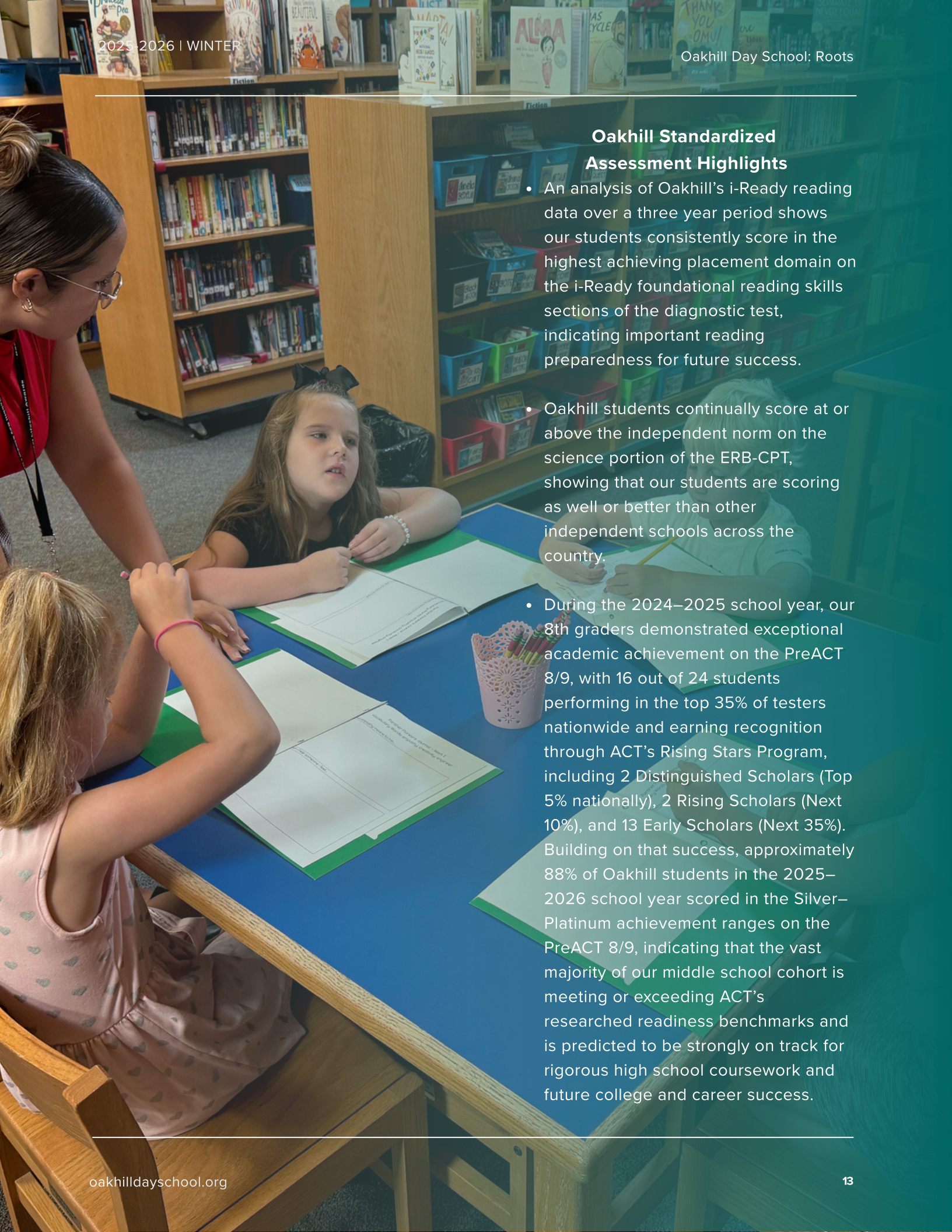
Data is never reviewed in isolation. Instead, it is considered alongside classroom performance, teacher observations, student work, and social-emotional development. This holistic approach ensures that decisions are grounded in the whole child.

Assessment at Oakhill supports a culture of continuous improvement. For students, it encourages reflection and goal-setting. For educators, it provides an opportunity to refine instruction and deepen collaboration. For families, it offers transparency and insight into how learning is supported across grade levels.

By grounding assessment practices in purpose and care, Oakhill ensures that data serves learning, not the other way around. Our commitment remains steadfast; to meet students where they are, support their growth, and help them develop the skills and confidence needed to thrive both academically and beyond.

At Oakhill, assessment is not an endpoint, it is part of the journey.





Oakhill Standardized Assessment Highlights

- An analysis of Oakhill's i-Ready reading data over a three year period shows our students consistently score in the highest achieving placement domain on the i-Ready foundational reading skills sections of the diagnostic test, indicating important reading preparedness for future success.

- Oakhill students continually score at or above the independent norm on the science portion of the ERB-CPT, showing that our students are scoring as well or better than other independent schools across the country.

- During the 2024–2025 school year, our 8th graders demonstrated exceptional academic achievement on the PreACT 8/9, with 16 out of 24 students performing in the top 35% of testers nationwide and earning recognition through ACT's Rising Stars Program, including 2 Distinguished Scholars (Top 5% nationally), 2 Rising Scholars (Next 10%), and 13 Early Scholars (Next 35%). Building on that success, approximately 88% of Oakhill students in the 2025–2026 school year scored in the Silver–Platinum achievement ranges on the PreACT 8/9, indicating that the vast majority of our middle school cohort is meeting or exceeding ACT's researched readiness benchmarks and is predicted to be strongly on track for rigorous high school coursework and future college and career success.

Middle School Expansion

FULL STEAM AHEAD!

This Spring, Oakhill is fully embracing the season of growth. Not only is the Welcome Project nearing completion, but an expansion is underway in the South Building as well. With continued enrollment growth, the need for more space for Middle School has become evident. In order to provide this space, Oakhill will be renovating and moving into more of the second floor area. The door on the north side will be removed to accommodate this expansion and is expected to be ready for the 2026-27 school year.

The new, yet-to-be-named space will have a large, open area where students can learn, work and collaborate with one another and hands-on materials. Think STEM, but on steroids. This personalized, designed and built just-for-Oakhill area will be an innovative area for all middle school learners. The nature of this project also lends itself to opportunities to pursue grants that support STEM-focused learning and innovation. We are excited to share that Oakhill has already been awarded a grant through Inventionland Education to support this work and further enhance hands-on, creative problem-solving experiences for our students. Students will be involved in the process, from sharing feedback on what they'd like to see to helping name the area, this space will be constructed with student involvement.

Included in this new space will be a larger, dedicated area for the Learning Lab. Mrs. Delaney Dowd, Director of Student Support Services, and her student services team will have a home base in the South Building, an area specifically designed for working with small groups of students. Having a much-needed place allows for this department to expand along with our enrollment, ensuring that we are able to support all students, from those needing extra support to those needing an extra challenge.

It's an exciting time to be an Oakhill Panther!





Board of Trustees State of the School Message



Hi Oakhill families!

As you read this, the Welcome Center should be nearing completion. This project has been funded entirely through donations without taking on additional debt—a visible reminder of what this community can accomplish together. It also provides a strong statement about Oakhill's financial health and our collective commitment to the school's future. To the families, grandparents, and friends who made this possible: Thank You.

That generosity creates momentum beyond the Welcome Center itself. Prospective families will experience Oakhill's warmth from first contact, along with when they first walk into our Campus. Current families see tangible proof that their investment matters. Completing a debt-free project positions us to move forward on expanding classroom space in the south building—adding square footage for teaching and learning as well as expanding staff to fill this space. This expansion is about creating space for innovation and growth as Oakhill continues to evolve, made possible because of the stability you're providing right now.

As we head toward spring, there are a couple of ways to sustain this momentum:

- **April Auction:** This event funds programs and enhancements that tuition alone does not cover. Whether you are able to donate items or attend and bid, your participation directly impacts what Oakhill can offer our full student body**.**
- **Sharing Oakhill's Story**: Word-of-mouth from current families is our most powerful recruitment tool. When you share what makes Oakhill special—on social media, with neighbors, among friends—you help ensure we attract families who will strengthen our community.

We're building momentum together—financial strength, facility improvements, committed enrollment. All of these position Oakhill to maintain and grow excellence. Our teachers focus on teaching. Our students benefit from enhanced facilities and programs. Our community deepens as families choose to invest year after year.

Thank you for choosing Oakhill, thank you for supporting the school this year, and thank you for continuing to build something remarkable together.



Josh Smith

Josh Smith, President
Oakhill Board of Trustees


www.oakhilldayschool.org



Enrollment Snapshot: Where We Are and Where We're Going

Dear Oakhill Families,
As we reach the midpoint of the 2025–2026 school year, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to each of you for the role you play in shaping the Oakhill community.

Our continued success is a direct reflection of you — our families, alumni, and supporters. From alumni who proudly share their stories and enroll the next generation, parents who raise remarkable students who fill our hallways, and families who champion our mission... your commitment has helped us achieve record enrollment. We truly could not have done this without you!

Re-enrollment for the coming school year is now underway, and we are excited to finish this year strong while beginning the next with the potential for continued growth. There is always room to welcome new students into our community, and we are grateful when our families share with others—great families truly know great families. Enrollment for new Panthers is now open!

During this season of growth, we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing support. Looking ahead, our two signature fundraising events — the Annual Auction and the Helen Wills Golf Tournament — will continue to directly support Tuition Assistance for our families. We remain committed to building and sustaining a Tuition Assistance Endowment through the generosity of our community, alumni, and friends - former, present, and future.

We are grateful to be on this journey with you. Your family is an important part of our school, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you as you write your educational story with Oakhill!

With continued gratitude,

Dorothy Beckham

Dorothy Beckham
Director of Admissions & Enrollment

Honoring our past, shaping our future!
Legacy Impact: 9 children of alumni enrolled

Admissions Highlights - By the Numbers

Enrollment By Gender

Boys	171
Girls	209

Enrollment By Division

Early Childhood	122
Lower School	118
Intermediate	56
Middle School	84

Enrollment By Geographic Reach

Zip Codes Represented	28
KS Residents	6
MO Residents	374

380 Students
Our largest enrollment yet!

71 Students
Newly enrolled for the 2025-2026 School Year

5
Merit Scholarships awarded in its 5th year!

256
Total Number of Families

18.95%
Student Diversity

25.78%
Families Awarded Assistance



Partnership and Parent Education

By Abby Pavlisin

In a world that is constantly evolving, we find ourselves surrounded by so much information that it can be overwhelming. This information overload, like many things in life, can be especially challenging for parents. While parenting is one of the greatest joys we experience, it is also one of the greatest responsibilities we face. Parenting today is not that same as parenting 10, 15, 20 years ago. How do we ensure that our children grow up to be kind, responsible, respectful, and happy humans?

At Oakhill, we believe strongly in the school-to-home partnership. Our teachers, support teams, and leadership collaborate with parents and students every day to provide the educational experience that each student needs to be successful. A large component of that partnership is providing families with information and resources that put students and their families on the path to success. While this partnership can be felt through daily teacher communication, parent-teacher conferences, and division newsletters, it can also be found in our monthly Acorn articles, the ISACS Parent Webinar Series, and in-house parent education sessions. Each avenue of parent education at Oakhill is important as they each offer varying types of information.

One of the most valuable platforms for parent education that we offer is through the ISACS Parent Webinar Series. ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) has several webinars each year with guest speakers presenting on topics relevant to our parents. The first two sessions of the ISACS parent series covered, *School Skills: Setting Kids Up for Success* and *How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Impacted Everything + What We Can Do About It.* These webinars are free to Oakhill families and provide valuable information and tools to help children grow into happy, successful, and functioning adults. Parents can register for these webinars up until a week before the next session. If you can't listen live, the recording of the session is provided to registrants! Each webinar is recapped the following month in the Acorn, however they are a must listen!



Remaining ISACS sessions for 2025-2026:

- **Tuesday, February 10** - *10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People* David Yeager, University of Texas at Austin, Psychologist & Author
- **Wednesday, April 15** - *Happier Parenting: Evidence-based Strategies for Improving Parent Happiness* Laurie Santos, Yale University
- **Wednesday, May 6** - *Conscious Parenting: Raising Resilient, Self-aware & Connected Children* Dr. Shefali Tsabary, Clinical Psychologist & Author

Another opportunity for parent education is our in-house Parent Ed events. Last year, our Wellness Counselor and Tech Teacher collaborated to provide in-person “Tech Talks” for parents. These sessions provided resources and information to keep children safe online and ways to maintain a positive relationship with them as they navigate tech and cell phones for the first time. While the information provided is valuable, our in-person sessions also provide parents the opportunity to have open conversations with other parents in our community. We often forget the power of connection with those around us … Every family is experiencing a new phase of the parenting journey so, strengthening the connections we already have is one of the best parts about coming together to learn more.



This year, our in-person parent education events will continue, adding in guest speakers who are experts in our community. The speakers will focus on the impacts of screen time on the developing brain as well as information on early childhood milestones and development. Parent participation in these events are what help our students and our community grow. We are excited to find ways to continue to strengthen our partnership and ensure that our students are challenged, known, valued, and inspired to be their best self.



State of the School: >>>>> Financial Outlook (Mid-Year)

At the midpoint of the school year, Oakhill remains on solid financial footing. Steady enrollment, thoughtful planning, and active Board oversight continue to support a strong and sustainable financial position. This stability allows the school to invest intentionally in the people, programs, and spaces that define the Oakhill experience—while keeping an eye firmly on the future.

Mid-year financial reviews confirm that the school is operating in line with its approved budget. No significant financial disruptions have emerged, and careful stewardship continues to guide day-to-day decisions. This position provides confidence not only in the current year, but also as planning begins for the year ahead.

How School Resources Support Students and Faculty

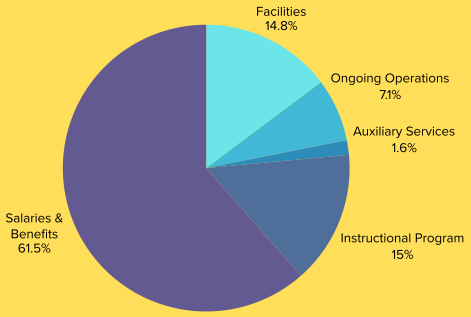
To provide a clear and meaningful picture of how resources are used, the school is sharing a streamlined snapshot that highlights where investments most directly support students, faculty, and daily school operations.

A Balanced Model: Mid-Year Financial Snapshot

Operating In Line With Budget	Enrollment Supports Financial Plan	Board Oversight Ongoing	Planning Underway for Next Year

Oakhill's operating revenue is primarily supported by tuition, with additional support from philanthropy and auxiliary programs. Enrollment remains strong, providing stability and allowing the school to operate in line with its financial plan. We are grateful to families, alumni, and friends whose generosity through fundraising strengthens school programs, expands access through tuition assistance, and supports long-term priorities. The Board of Trustees provides ongoing oversight, reviewing financial reports throughout the year to ensure responsible stewardship, transparency, and accountability in support of the school's mission.

How School Resources Support Students and Faculty



Salaries & Benefits
Instructional faculty as well as the staff who support students, families, and school operations.

Instructional Program
Curriculum resources, classroom materials, academic technology, and program support.

Facilities
Maintenance, safety, accessibility, and care of campus spaces.

Auxiliary Services
Student-centered services such as extended care, tutoring, summer programs, and food service.

Ongoing Operations
Day-to-day systems that support responsible school operations.

Together, these investments reflect a commitment to quality, care, and long-term stewardship.



How Today's Investments Support Our Strategic Plan

The school's financial decisions this year are closely aligned with the two year, 2025–2027 Strategic Plan, particularly the priority of **Preserving the Future**. This work emphasizes thoughtful planning, responsible growth, and investments that strengthen the school over time.

Ongoing campus planning and safety initiatives support welcoming, secure, and accessible learning environments. Multi-year financial planning and annual salary and tuition reviews help ensure competitiveness while maintaining fiscal health. Strategic enrollment efforts and streamlined digital systems strengthen both community experience and operational efficiency. Continued focus on advancement and fundraising supports reserves, long-term priorities, and future opportunities beyond tuition revenue alone.

This alignment ensures that today's financial choices support both immediate needs and the school's long-term vision.



Our Plan in Action



Today's Focus	Strategic Priority
Facilities & Campus care	Campus planning & Safety
Faculty & Staff investment	Fiscal health & Competitiveness
Enrollment & Systems	Strategic Enrollment
Philanthropy & Reserves	Advancement & Fundraising

Looking Ahead

As the school looks toward the remainder of the year and begins planning for the next, priorities remain focused on sustaining enrollment strength, supporting faculty excellence, enhancing campus spaces, and maintaining long-term financial stability. Thoughtful planning today positions Oakhill to continue serving students and families with confidence and purpose in the years ahead.

What Tuition, Auxiliary, and Fundraising Supports at Oakhill

- Exceptional faculty
- Right-sized classes
- Student programs & services
- Safe, welcoming campus
- Long-term sustainability

Tuition, auxiliary income, and fundraising are the foundation of the school's operating budget.

Mighty Oak Fund Donor Roster Review

We are grateful to the many families, alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends whose generosity is recognized in our Donor Roster. This list reflects the collective support that strengthens Oakhill and advances our mission to provide a community where students are challenged, known, valued, and inspired to be their best self.

We invite you to take a moment to review the roster and confirm that your name is listed and spelled as you prefer for inclusion in the annual report. If you notice an error or omission, please contact the Oakhill Advancement team so we can ensure our records are accurate.

Thank you for your continued support and for the role you play in sustaining and strengthening the Oakhill community.

Legacy Society ($50,000 and up)
Michael & Jennifer Boyd
Edward & Kathi Rule

Founders Club ($25,000 - $49,000)
Mark & Karen Mathes

Circle of Excellence ($10,000 - $24,999)
Brian & Collin Lovitt
Mike & Karen Morris
Domnick & Marianne Parretta
Mitesh & Neena Patel
Bob & Susan Selby
Josh & Shannon Smith

Head of School ($5,000 - $9,999)
Ron Gregg & Michelle Dew
Heddy Gagne & James Bradley
Christopher & David Hemingway-Turner
An Le & Tan Nguyen
Smith & Elizabeth Manion
Bobbie Mathes
Papa & Grandma Morris
Chris Onik & Molly Rothove
Drew & Krystal Pittenger
Kevin & Michelle Shekleton
Joe & Ashley Stephens
Lambert Tomeldan & Maria Nguyen
Tammy Wright & Christopher Jay



Did you know?
Mighty Oak Fund Donors have contributed **$365,199** to date, and this total continues to grow.

Trailblazers ($2,500- $4,999)
Jeff & Janessa Hurst
Chris & Allie King
McConnell & Associates
Wayne & Lindsay Morris
Thomas & Robyn Vaughan
Nick & Carissa Wegner
Sara & Julia Weindruch

Pride Pack ($1,000 - $2,499)
Dave & Kathryn Barone
Taylor & Kaylyn Clevenger
Joe & Liz Edmondson
The Fernandez & Moss Families
Bill & Sandy Fenner
Doug & Gayle Grego
Jerry Hurst
Tim & Jenny Julian
Barry and Melinda Kadel
John Kingsley & Ashleigh LaDue
Jake & Stephanie Kleyh
Daniel & Elizabeth Lindgren
Jared & Mary Mathes
Justin & Laurel Mathes
Brady McCanles & Eliza Stevens
Kevin & Suzanne McCanles
Ryan & Bridgette Mitchell
Joshua & Rebecca Mourot
Aaron & Jessica Myers
Zane & Taylor Myers
Kevin Ong & Amanda Lam
Mike & Abby Pavlisin
Kent & Heeok Peterson

Nate Poundstone
Ima Rahter
Ty & Margaret Sarver
Elaine Scheidecker
David & Jamie Travaglione
Josh Wood

1947 Club ($500 - $999)
Joseph Banks & Kristi Kinder
Chris & Dorothy Beckham
Jared & Pamela Cohen
Ron & Sandy Diven
Richard & Kathryn Dodson
David & Marcy Driskill
Justin & Nicole Fallein
Madison Fitzgerald
Adam & Sadie Fletcher
Brad & Kristin Forsen
Rhonda Forsen
Robert & Gail Haar
Chris & Jenny Henry
Rich Kerber
Kit & Angie Lacy
Ryan & Nicole Langemach
Hoang Le & Khanh Tran
Meierotto Jewelers
Mike & Jackie Meilink
Terry & Sherry Mitchell
Ben & Cassie Musfeldt
Jeff & Audra Olson
Jason Parson
David & Martha Perkins
David Pittenger
Susan Saunders
Ben & Andrea Saverino
Ryan & Laura Schmidt
Bob & Irene Siedler
Joel & Sara Verwers

Teal and White ($250 - $499)
Liz Bartow
Scott & Mara Beaman
Beau & Michelle Cameron
Kathy Clark
Anna Amelia Clemmons
Chris & Jaci Ebert
Fast Enterprises
Terri Ferris
Mick & Kelly Freyermuth
Ronald & Carol Giddens
Matthew & Haley Haar
Amy Hood
Robert & Joy Jackson
Zachary & Nichole James
Stewart & Lisa Johnson
Bob & Gola MacDonald
Trent & Alison Mordhorst
Dr. Jan & Patricia Onik
Greg & Tiara Palmer
Shelby Robinson
Mary Sue Smith
Micah & Sarah Tenner
Kathy Trager
Huy Tran & Nghi Ta
Philip & Maria Vollenweider
Domenic Zappia & Kerrie Curtin
Tim & Hayley Ziegler

Friends of Oakhill ($1 - $249)
Anonymous Donors
Hamid & Kelle Akrami
Eyob & Mallory Alemayehu
Brian & Amanda Baldwin
Michael Bennett & Rachel Barth
Alex & Michelle Boyd
Elise Burkett
Beau & Michelle Cameron
Shaun & Bridget Capilitan
Larry & Sharon Chambers
Dave & Sandra Clarkson
Martin & Becky Clemis
Lily Clevenger
Robert & Lori Cohen
Jared & Michele Cole
Quentin & Dena Cole
Johnathan & Angela Compton
Summer Craven
Natalie & Tricia Cygan
Wilma Davis
Drew & Delaney Dowd
Jim & Cindy Dunlap
Nathan & Jodi Egbert
Steve & Barb Ely
Andrea Fontana
Tom & Kathleen Fraher
Erin Frank

Jeff & Sherri Gannon
Greg Greenberg & Stephanie Phillips
April Gunderson
Sam & Melaina Hagan
Matthew & Lola Heintz
Nancy Hill
Mike & Janet Holloway
Jeff Holmes & Cody WalkerHolmes
Kelby & Launa Hopkins
Heidi Hulé
Jay & Marta Kimball
Matt & Alyssa Kimbrough
Julie Knight
Helen Krause
Josh & Megan Krueger
Kyle & Ashley Lackey
Jeremy & Stephanie Lafferty
RD & Toni Mallams
Lisa Manley
Don & Deana Mason
Robert & Robin Mata
Bev Maupin
Calan & Sarah McConkey
Farrah McGuire
Jerry & Rebecca Myers
Peter & Maggie Newhouse
Jeff & Meghan Nichols
Laura Pearce
Don & Sharon Phillips
Ron & Ann Ramseyer
Dale & Amie Robertson
John & Polly Roe
Darro Rusk
Eric & Ashley Seaton
Daniel & Kristin Smith
Charles & Barb Smith
Randy & Molly Spoon
Lori Stallman
Chris & Amanda Surber
Glenn & Nancy Surber
George & Esther Taylor
Myra Taylor
TCB Cares
Thomas & Kathryn Theiss
Ken & Amy Thompson
Paul & Jean Tyson
Cheryl Vaughan
Nick Verwers
Wayne & Vicki Wacker
Andrew Wert & Michelle McDaniel
Mary-Kathryn Wert
Luke & Chelsea Whittaker
Kevin & Nicole White
Jordan & Makenzie Wheeler
William & Patricia Wood
Anna Wutich
William Young & Jill Arganbright
The Youngblood Family



Auction Preview:

In Bloom — What to Know Before You Bid

Spring is just around the corner, and so is one of Oakhill's most anticipated community events. Get ready to watch generosity bloom at Oakhill Day School's Annual Auction: In Bloom, proudly sponsored by Corner Cafe. This signature evening brings together great company, exciting bids, and meaningful impact—all in support of our students.

Here's what to know as we look ahead:

Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, April 11, 2026
Oakhill Day School
7019 North Cherry Street, Gladstone, Missouri

Choose Your Arrival Time

- VIP Pre-Party: 5:30 PM
- General Admission Doors Open: 6:30 PM

Dress the Part... or Don't!
Spring best, school spirit, or your favorite go-to outfit—wear whatever feels right and gets you ready to bid, celebrate, and enjoy the night.

Expect a Full Evening of Fun!
While auction items are still blooming behind the scenes, guests can look forward to a thoughtfully curated evening featuring delicious dining, exciting auction moments, and plenty of opportunities to support Oakhill.

Why It Matters
Proceeds from the auction support Tuition Assistance and Scholarships, helping ensure every child's potential has the opportunity to take root and flourish at Oakhill.

Stay Tuned
More details—including auction highlights—will be shared as the event approaches. For now, save the date, gather your friends, and get ready for a night where community and generosity take center stage.

VIP Experience — $2,500 (Table for 10)
An elevated night with exclusive perks, including:

- Private reception
- Early access to auction games
- Champagne welcome
- Preview of auction items
- Special VIP gift
- Fast-lane bar service
- Table-side checkout for a seamless departure

General Admission — $100
Includes access to the full event and all auction activities. Every ticket helps us work toward our fundraising goal while enjoying a memorable night with the Oakhill community.

Staff & Alumni (Ages 21–30) Ticket — $75
A special rate for members of our extended Oakhill family, with full event access and a chance to stay connected while giving back.

Oakhill in Bloom AUCTION 2026

Thank You Sponsor!

CORNER CAFE

Semester Snapshots











As the seasons change, so does learning—marked by curiosity, discovery, and the joy of growth that defines the Oakhill experience.

OAKHILL DAY SCHOOL

OUR VISION

Our vision is to inspire through scholarship, achieved by empowering compassionate learners to contribute through adaptability, resilience, and service.

Oakhill Day School | 7019 North Cherry Street, Gladstone, MO 64118 | oakhilldayschool.org