VISION
To create a world-class education today to shape tomorrow’s leaders

MISSION
To provide an education that challenges all students to achieve their maximum potential in academics, arts, and athletics and prepares them to succeed in a global society

SUMMER 2020
Oxford Community Schools strongly believes that there is no one perfect pathway for all students to travel in their quest for education. With an innovative mind-set, a decade ago the district was a pioneer in creating the first accredited online school in Michigan, Oxford Virtual Academy (OVA). This year OVA begins celebrating its TENTH dynamic year of bringing excellent online educational opportunities to students.

Since 2010 it has continued expanding and innovating exceptional ways to take the distance out of distance learning. From OVA's humble beginnings in the lower level of the administration building on S. Washington, it has grown to its current home occupying two storefronts in Oxford with state-of-the-art Learning Labs, teacher mentors, guidance counselors, ancillary staff, an instructional coach, and hundreds of course options from numerous providers. OVA works in partnership with families to provide rigorous academic preparation that is teacher-mentored, parent-directed, and customized to meet students' needs from all academic backgrounds. Some students may be those looking for more rigor, or those that need more individual support. Some could be those with medical needs keeping them away from a traditional classroom or are from families who home school and are seeking unique electives or assistance from certified teachers. Regardless of the scenario, OVA meets students and their families where they are, providing a challenging education and maintaining positive family relationships based on trust and a shared belief that the student always comes first.

Today, Oxford Virtual Academy has one of the highest completion rates of any virtual or cyber school. Hundreds upon hundreds of students have graduated from OVA going on to achieve their maximum potential in places such as University of Michigan, Michigan State University, West Point, the Olympic trials, playing in Carnegie Hall, becoming successful entrepreneurs and the list goes on and on.

This year we celebrate ten years of virtual education in Oxford and the driven, innovative, and outstanding staff who have contributed to providing OVA's excellent learning options in our district. If you are interested in learning more about Oxford Virtual Academy please see our website at www.oxfordvirtualacademy.org.
ENDING THE SCHOOL YEAR REMOTELY

Adaptability is key to learning and growing. We are so very proud of the successful efforts of our Oxford staff, students, and parents who rose to the challenge, shifting quickly from the brick and mortar classroom setting to remote online learning this spring. As they say, “the proof is in the pudding.” Feedback in our district surveys, the data of the Zoom meetings and Haiku access analytics, along with the kind words in thank you notes and emails, proves our district has so much be proud of during this uncertain time of crisis.

The analytics pulled at the beginning of June showed our teachers and students collectively participated in almost 12K Zoom meetings in March, April, and May. A total of over 50K hours and more than 2M hits were logged on Haiku in those months. As the graph to the left shows, many teachers and students made the educational shift online from the start of the closure keeping in contact and learning in an optional fashion. Once the Continuity of Learning Plan guidelines were released from the state and remote online learning was no longer just optional for students, the volume of Haiku access and Zoom calls increased.

It goes without saying that countless hours were poured into the educational aspects to complete the school year. However, time-honored, year-end traditions and celebrations for our student’s hard work were met with no exception. It is safe to say that creativity, hard work, organization, and a whole lot of care were put into closing the 2020 school year in ways that will forever live on in the memories of Wildcats.

The staff spent tremendous time and effort collecting and organizing students’ belongings to be sure they received everything left in the buildings on that most unexpected last day of school on March 13. Schools throughout the district participated in car parades with fun music, signs, and cheering staff members who enthusiastically passed out locker belongings, awards, art projects, and graduation needs. Signs of graduating seniors were created and displayed along our towns roadways and special sign deliveries were made to our up and coming sixth-graders. When the COVID-19 risk did not diminish enough for traditional events to occur, backup plans were put into motion. Graduation ceremonies still offered that “walk across the stage moment” in beautiful and most memorable commencements, and awards were creatively dispersed through virtual ceremonies or personal front door deliveries.
2020 OXFORD SCHOOLS RETIREES

This year we say good-bye to 17 of our fantastic Oxford team members with a combined 384 years of service as they enter retirement. We thank each and every one of them for their hard work and the positive impact they made in the lives of our staff and students.

LYNN ADOJIAN
25 YEARS

MARTINE BONI
24 YEARS

DONNA BURTON
25 YEARS

KAREN BISSETT
15 YEARS

KAREN FACCA
25 YEARS

DEBORAH GARVIN
32 YEARS

JUDY BOZYNSKI
26 YEARS

TINA BUCHERT
21 YEARS

CHRISTOPHER CARD
13 YEARS

MARSHA CHAPMAN
43 YEARS

SANDRA FRISCH
19 YEARS

DEBORAH GARVIN
32 YEARS

KAREN LABNEAR
20 YEARS

LISA SABO
12 YEARS

CINDY SCHIFFMAN
21 YEARS

PATSY GEBARA
4 YEARS

LYNN ADOJIAN
25 YEARS

THOMAS WAGNER
25 YEARS

Thank you for your service and dedication!

OXFORD Early Learning Center’s Jyl Murray was honored with the HighScope Hero award this May. Murray is an Early Childhood Education teacher at Oxford Early Learning Center and has more than 20 years of experience in the field. She is a HighScope certified teacher and is the lead teacher in Oxford’s state-funded Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for preschoolers.

Jyl’s philosophy is, “The classroom is a place for connection, where children can express their individuality while celebrating their differences and similarities.” She utilizes many HighScope principles around conflict resolution and active learning to create a space for exploration. Students are encouraged to make choices, share ideas, solve problems, and play with intention. For example, she decorates her classroom walls with photos of art and architectural landmarks to inspire students to draw and build their own playful shapes and designs using colorful Magna Tiles, chenille stems, paper, and other hands-on materials. “When they make choices, that’s when the magic happens,” Jyl explains. “Children gain confidence and become independent thinkers when they are given the chance to come up with their own solutions. It’s amazing to see this in action.”

Congratulations Jyl Murray! We are proud to have you a part of the Oxford Team.

GENTLE GIANT- SCHRAUT WILL BE MISSED

On June 24, 2020, Oxford High School Track and Field Coach George Schraut unexpectedly passed away. He was a mentor and friend for so many Oxford athletes and staff during his 38 years coaching shot and discus for the district. Coach George, whom many referred to as the “gentle giant,” was a great man with a huge heart. Schraut had tremendous success in coaching discus and shot put. He held students to high expectations and they rose to his challenges to meet them. He coached 25 all-state athletes and was an assistant coach for 17 league championships. He was generous, kind, full of integrity, and strong in his faith. George Schraut touched the lives of so many with whom his legacy of love will carry on forever.
**BOND UPDATE**

Significant progress has been made on this summer’s second series bond projects. With bids coming in under the original estimations, there was enough in the budget to update ALL elementary playgrounds. Parking lots for Daniel Axford, Oxford Elementary, and Clear Lake are close to being completed. At Oxford High School, the natatorium (pool) has received an extensive amount of work. The heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system (HVAC) was replaced and the pool has received a new interior lining. Flooring throughout the high school has also been updated.

Fire alarm upgrades are being made at Oxford Elementary, Daniel Axford and OMS. Additionally, the OMS domestic water, sanitary, and heating & cooling pipes have been replaced where needed. All schools (aside from the high school) are receiving exterior lighting improvements this summer as well. New blinds are being installed at Oxford Elementary School, the middle and the high school. Finally, the transportation building is gaining much-needed upgrades to their drivers’ lounge and new bathrooms along with a new roof.

As a reminder, all bond money may only be spent on school capital improvements. Thank you again for your support in voting for the passage of the 2017 bond. All bond updates and information can be found on our website at https://www.oxfordschools.org/departments/business_operations/2017_bond_and_sinking_fund_information/bond_sinking_fund_progress_info_post-election.

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**DISTRICT’S FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Oxford’s outstanding Nutrition Services Department, with the great help of wonderful community volunteers, packaged and distributed over 100,000 meals to students in need from March 16 through June 30 via the Oxford Community Schools Covid-19 School Closure Free Food program. Without missing a beat, Oxford’s annual Free Summer Feeding Program seamlessly began the following week on Wednesday, July 1. Due to the current Covid-19 risk, the program had to be implemented differently than it has in past summers. Free breakfast and lunch meals were provided; however, not in the daily sit down manner as it has been in the past. Instead, a week’s worth of breakfast and lunch meals are packaged to take home and distributed each Wednesday morning in the north entrance bus drop off circle at Oxford High School between 9:00 am - 10:30 am through August 19. This free program was open to anyone and was first come first serve. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep our community well-nourished during these uncertain times.

A special note of gratitude to the tireless work of our newly retired Director of Nutrition Services, Karen Bissett. She certainly closed her 15-year career at Oxford Community Schools in the most unexpected way. We wish her the very best in a well-deserved retirement and are thankful for her endless contributions to the district!

We welcome Patty Silorey as our new Director of Nutrition Services. Silorey has been serving the district for the past 21 years, most recently as the Central Kitchen Manager. Silorey shared, “I am looking forward to taking this program to the next level and continuing to build strong relationships throughout the district and community.”

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**DO YOU HAVE THE DISTRICT APP YET?**

Have you uploaded the free Oxford Community Schools phone app yet? The app is accessible through the iOS App Store for Apple devices or the Google Play Store for Android devices. It can be found by searching “Oxford CS” in either of the app stores. The app allows easy access to district information from a mobile device. Information such as the district’s daily event calendars, the staff directory, including direct email links, important SchoolMessenger notifications, and our District Facebook feed can be found on the front page. There are also direct links to our most utilized online information such as Nutrislice, the district website, the athletics website, Powerschool, Haiku, and Send Money to School.
A Class to Remember

The class of 2020 will be uniquely remembered as the class to graduate amid a global pandemic. These seniors did not share their last months walking the halls together. Prom, the senior carnival, and the senior all night party could not take place. Athletes last spring season did not happen, there would be no trips to state and national competition for extra-curricular organizations. Their high school careers would end far differently than anyone would have ever expected.

In the hopes reality would return to normal, commencements were postponed from May until the end of June. In the meantime, administration and staff did their very best to honor these deserving graduates despite the global crisis. When OHS students came to pick up their caps, gowns, and awards at the high school turn-around, they were met with individual outdoor yard signs lining the road honoring each graduate. Staff turned the pick-up into a unique clap out celebration with music, well-wishing signs, and lots of cheering. OVA administration lined Glaspie St. with signs of their graduates and Bridges staff hand-delivered signs to their graduates right to the front yards of their homes. On May 21, the Wildcat Stadium scoreboard was set and ran for 20 minutes and 20 seconds, beginning at 8:20 pm to honor all graduates.

Executive Orders still shuttered performance venues due to Covid-19 safety concerns as the postponed graduation dates approached. Our staff worked tirelessly on new plans to give Oxford graduates a most memorable “walk across the stage moment”, while abiding by the governor’s social distancing and gathering limitations. Five separate, but like, ceremonies were held throughout the day at Wildcat Stadium on bright and sunny June 30 for OHS and OVA graduates. The Bridges High School graduation ceremony was held at Lake Point Church on July 16, and OSEC fifth-year students celebrated their capstone achievements on June 25 at Lake Point Church as well.

In all of these ceremonies, each graduate was able to experience the traditional milestone event of walking across the stage to be handed their hard-earned diploma, a memorable moment that will be cherished by Wildcat families forever.
Distinguished 2020 Graduates

Valedictorian
Madison Cutler

Salutatorian
Trevor Wallace

Oxford Cup Winners
Dane VonAllmen
Sarah Tyrrell

OVA Mentor Award
Emily Miller

Most Outstanding Athletes
George A. Prince Memorial Award - Trey Townsend
Helen Smith Award - Sarah Tyrrell

Senior Scholar-Athletes Of the Year
Samantha Malinich
Scott Masterson

Congratulations, Class of 2020!!
Oxford Community Schools is proud to be the only International Baccalaureate (IB) school district in the state of Michigan. From elementary through high school, we are committed to the development of our students according to the IB learner profile. The coronavirus has given us all the opportunity to be REFLECTIVE. When Oxford Middle School students were asked what they thought they would remember most about the pandemic ten years from now, here were their responses:

“Not being able to go to school and not being able to interact with others.”
Sierra Owens

“Not being able to go to friends houses and my grandparents.”
Evelyn Myers

“It was the first time that I got a decent amount of sleep during the school year.”
Connor Pawlowski

“The boring zoom meetings!”
Katelyn Barlow

“On my birthday, my friend dropped off a “potato cat” during a drive-by.”
Wyatt Milkovie

“I was worried I would get sick and die and wouldn’t see everyone again.”
Camryn Budzik

Creativity and out of the box thinking was rampant as staff thought of ways to celebrate the achievements and milestones attained by students. From yard signs, to special guests making socially distanced front door visits, to video making- the ideas were ever-flowing. To honor every student at the end of this year, our Transportation Department took their idea up in the air with an aerial photo and some fancy bus parking in our Wildcat Stadium lot. Check out the front cover for the awesome result of that ingenuity.

The Oxford Fire Department was enlisted to help high school Principal Wolf and our very own Wildcat make personal front door surprise visits to this year’s valedictorian and salutatorian recipients. The giant Oxford Cup went on the road this year! Oxford Cup Awards were presented for the first time in the award’s 90 year history to its winners in the front yard of their homes.

Our Portrait of a Graduate made the rounds with the middle school administration team as they traveled to the homes of the eleven OMS eighth-graders who earned a 4.0 all three years of their middle school career, the winners of the American Essay Contest and the students whose art work was chosen to be kept for the OMS permanent collection. The Portrait of a Graduate was a great visual to remind students of all the characteristics and competencies they are working toward while honoring their current achievements.

Throughout the district, many staff picked up new video making and some impressive editing skills as they created Youtube videos to share the news of DA Elementary’s Paw Ticket Friday winners and Leonard Elementary’s Pride Ticket winners. You can see many of the fun videos created by Team Oxford’s staff by scrolling through the district’s Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/oxfordcommunityschools.
Oxford Schools Early College (OSEC) student Carla Langfeldt married her artistic skill with her desire to help animals in need for her OSEC Capstone project. She chose to raise money for the Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL) by creating and selling custom oil paintings of pets. The demand became so great for her paintings the orders she had to complete extended beyond the time frame for her fund-raiser. Visit her website to learn more about her project and how you can order a painting of your pet at https://petportraitsformarl.weebly.com/.

ATHLETICS DEPT. UPDATE

41 STUDENTS EARN BILITERACY SEAL

This year the Michigan Department of Education awarded the Seal of Biliteracy to 41 Oxford graduates who accomplished language proficiency in English and at least one additional world language. These students were awarded the seal after demonstrating an intermediate to high proficiency in two languages through an approved assessment. Students who complete the Seal of Biliteracy application by November 1 of each school year are considered for the award.

Additionally, earning the Seal of Biliteracy is recognized on students’ transcripts as an endorsement to employers. According to the Michigan Department of Education, “Customers around the world buy Michigan-made goods and services, and foreign-owned companies employ over 200,000 workers in Michigan. Although English is widely used in international trade, the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with colleagues and trade partners who speak other languages is crucial for Michigan’s competitiveness and economic growth. The Michigan Seal of Biliteracy fully aligns with the goal of global competitiveness.”

With much disappointment, the pandemic caused the cancellation of all MHSAA spring sports practices and competitions. The athletic department resumed outdoor athletic conditioning in the middle of June abiding by MHSAA guidelines to prepare for the upcoming fall season. As of the writing of this article, Athletic Director Jordan Ackerman remains optimistic our athletes will safely be able to get on the courts and fields this fall to compete.

BASEBALL TEAM ACHIEVES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Although spring sports were tabled from the playing field this year, Oxford Baseball still made its mark. Coach Dave Herrick’s boys’ varsity baseball team was awarded the Team Academic Excellence Award for the “season that never was” achieving a 3.39 team GPA. Only five teams from Michigan and 146 nationwide received this academic honor. Great job, Wildcats!
2020-2021 School Year Plans

On June 30, 2020, Governor Whitmer released the MI Safe Schools: Michigan’s 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap with requirements and recommendations to safely and effectively educate students this fall. Our committee of educators has worked diligently throughout the summer on our return to school plans using this document as guidance. Additionally, they have also used the data and feedback submitted from the parent, student, and teacher surveys. We thank you for your honest and pertinent opinions. They have provided helpful information in our planning and decision making.

This fall, district families have two options for their students. The first option is in-person instruction five days a week which will include an online component while Oakland County is in Michigan Safe Start Plan phases 4-6. In-person instruction will move to remote at-home learning as necessary and while we are in phases 1-3. The second option is 100% fully online instruction through our Oxford Virtual Academy (OVA). Oxford Community Schools has the great advantage of offering families a full and well established virtual education through OVA.

The health and safety of our students and staff have always been our priority. We are all working towards the same goal, to provide the best education for your student in the safest and most secure environment possible. This will not change as we continue our mission to provide an education that challenges all students to achieve their maximum potential. Oxford’s exceptional staff is preparing to take on whatever challenges lay ahead.

Option 1 - Seated Instruction


In Building for Phases 4-6

- All students return to school, every day
- Curriculum including an online component taught by classroom teachers
- Intervention and specialized supports provided
- Follow state and local health and safety guidelines and regulations to keep students, families, and staff safe during in-person instruction (see page 11 for details)

Remote Learning for Phases 1-3

- Schedules established to prevent overlaps
- Curriculum taught by classroom teachers with an emphasis on increased rigor through a combination of teacher-guided lesson, online work, and independent practice supported with optional community vendor learning experiences
- Provide intervention and specialized supports
- Common Learning Management
- Systems to promote consistency through standard teacher practices
- The district provides technology devices to all students

Please note, depending on the Oakland County Health Department guidelines, the district and/or individual buildings may transition between remote and in-person learning throughout the year.

Option 2 - Virtual Instruction

Oxford Virtual Academy

- Anytime, anywhere, 100% online courses
- Self-paced, flexible schedule
- Curriculum provided through a content vendor and tailored by OVA teachers personalized to fit all learning styles
- Synchronous opportunities available to assist students as needed
- Personalized to fit all learning styles
- Provide intervention and specialized supports
- The district provides technology devices to all students
- Optional learning paths available including Fusion and electives supported with optional community vendor learning experiences
# Health and Safety Protocols for In-Person Instruction

## According to MI Safe Start Plan Phases

### Phase 1-3

If the state is in Michigan Safe Start Plan Phases 1-3 per the Governor’s Executive Order in-person instruction will be shifted to remote learning from home and OVA Learning Labs will be conducted electronically.

### Phase 4 - 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>In-person seated instruction will take place in school buildings five days a week. Virtual instruction through OVA will continue as in phases 1-3 however, in-person Learning Labs will be opened.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | Facial coverings are REQUIRED for:  
  - All staff and DK-12 students in buses, hallways, classrooms, and common areas  
  - Encourage frequent short mask breaks outdoors to allow students time to take their facial coverings off |
| Hygiene                   | We will:  
  - Teach and reinforce frequent handwashing  
  - Provide all classrooms with soap and hand sanitizer |
| Spacing, Movement, and Access | We will:  
  - Prohibit indoor assemblies  
  - Space desks and students as far apart as possible  
  - Limit guests and visitors in the school  
  - Use signage and floor markings to encourage physical distancing  
  - OMS, OHS and Bridges students will not use hallway lockers to discourage congregating in hallways. Secondary students will be allowed carry backpacks to class  
  - Water bottles will be allowed to be carried by all students as water fountains will be turned off (touchless water bottle filling stations will be available) |
| Transportation            | We will:  
  - Place hand sanitizer on each bus. All students are required to use it upon entering the bus  
  - Require facial coverings on the bus by all passengers  
  - Physical distancing will not be possible on the bus |
| Food Services             |  
  - Elementary lunches will be eaten in classrooms and must be pre-ordered each day  
  - Secondary students will have staggered meal times and utilize cafeterias, gymnasiums, and other common areas to ensure social distancing. Students will be allowed to take off their face coverings to eat  
  - Secondary students will use the Nutrislice app to pre-order meals each day |

*When Michigan reaches Phase 6, school day operations will return to pre-covid normal. The complete COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the 2020-2021 school year can be found on our website.*
The Wildcat Review is published for residents and families of the Oxford Community Schools District. All residents receive this publication because of their support for the district through tax payments.

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