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
This summer, the third and final series of 2017 bond projects are being tackled throughout the district. It is a bustling summer on our campuses as eight million dollars worth of work will be completed in a short 60-day time span.

The largest and most lengthy projects are the removal and replacement of sidewalks and parking lots at OMS, OHS, Leonard, Lakeville, and the Transportation building including, Wildcat Drive. Demolition began immediately the day after school was dismissed for the summer on June 12 because of the scope of work to be done. Crews are working six days a week to get everything accomplished before school resumes in August. Access to any of these buildings is extremely restricted due to the nature of the construction this summer. OES is housing the elementary summer school and OELC Summer Camp. OES is also the pickup location for the Free Summer Food Program. Clear Lake is home to secondary summer school.

Outdoor exterior lighting on Lakeville, Leonard, OMS, and OHS buildings will be replaced with new fixtures and energy-efficient LED bulbs. Each of these locations will receive new parking lot light poles as well. The hardware and door replacements needed for all district school buildings are also slated to be done this summer. An air handling unit will also be installed for the Ian Smith gymnasium at Oxford High School. The OHS baseball diamonds will receive a new parking area, dugouts, and sidewalks.

In August, we had no idea how long we would be able to offer in-person learning; we just knew we needed to start that way. At the same time, our well-established virtual academy doubled in size, which posed its own exciting challenges. Here we are: we made it through a pandemic to the end of the school year with great success! We were one of only two school districts of the 28 districts in our county to offer face-to-face instruction all year, and we provided a virtual education to over 2,600 students.

Although there were a few short periods throughout the school year where instruction was preemptively moved to a hybrid or a remote schedule, in-person instruction in our buildings and OVA labs were offered for the vast majority of the year. Administrators, teachers, and students worked through challenging and ever-changing quarantines, adapted and created new ways to learn, teach, and interact. It was hard work. It took patience, grace, perseverance, countless extra hours of work, and diligence by everyone.

As this year wrapped up, the restrictions loosened, performances moved back to having audiences, year-end milestones such as IB Exhibitions, senior clap-out, and fifth grade IB PYP graduations looked similar to our traditional events but many occurred outside as a safeguard against possible COVID-19 spread. The very last week of school, our district COVID-19 update finished with zero quarantines and zero cases. Very welcome news, indeed. This summer, the district is offering more options for academic growth than usual to help students who need assistance to be better positioned when school resumes this fall.

It took ALL of us, together, every day to make this happen. We could not be more proud of our staff, students, and parents. This year, we certainly all had ample opportunities to grow in the Portrait of a Graduate characteristics and competencies!
We are proud to announce a partnership with EmergeSkilled to make career connections easier for students. EmergeSkilled is an online platform designed to connect students to career opportunities while providing resources to explore career pathways and prepare students for their post-secondary plans. Oxford students will have access to connect to verified companies that can provide students with opportunities for job shadows, work-based learning, part-time, seasonal, and full-time jobs. Director of Career-Focused Education, Lisa Butts shared, “We are very excited to roll out this amazing platform by piloting it in our Automotive Technology CTE program first. Joe Bamberger of EmergeSkilled realizes the need to provide our students with a variety of paths in learning the skills one needs to be successful. This technology will allow our students to match with employers based on their skills, background, and preferences. We are so fortunate to have this platform for our students.”

Congratulations to OHS Individuals and Society teacher Lauren Jasinski for being awarded the Michigan History Teacher of the Year along with a $5,000 prize by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are “vibrant, active women who are passionate about community service, preserving history, educating children, as well as honoring those that serve our nation.” (www.dar.org) Each chapter selects a social studies teacher to nominate and support throughout the year. Lauren was nominated by the Ezra Parker Chapter. All nominees then submit a portfolio to the state DAR organization and Ms. Jasinski was chosen over all of the nominees in the state as the Michigan History Teacher of the Year. According to DAR regent Laurie Huber, “Lauren is a walking example of all the criteria for this award. We were especially moved by her compassion and innovation to help students cope during the COVID 19 pandemic.” Jasinski worked with fellow teachers and staff to create Wildcats Connect, a mental health resource for students and teachers which the district adopted as part of its larger social and emotional learning plan for the school year.” Jasinski has been an educator for nine years teaching world history, U.S. civics, and AP comparative government and politics and is incredibly active in numerous extra-curricular clubs and organizations with the OHS student body.

The Oxford Schools Early College Program graduated 48 students this year, earning a total of 2,885 college credits. Additionally, these students collectively accepted over $600,000 in college scholarship money as well. The OSEC program requires a capstone project for each completing fifth-year student to benefit a non-profit, community organization, or business. This year, more than $20,000 was raised through the students’ capstone projects, impacting thousands of people at local, state, national, and global levels.

District Athletic Trainer Andrew McDonald received a most prestigious award on June 17, 2021. On behalf of the Michigan Athletic Trainers’ Society (MATS), he was selected as Michigan’s 2021 Distinguished Athletic Trainer. According to Claire Coates, the Chair of the MATS Honors and Awards Committee, Andrew received the award because he is “a role model in our profession” and because of his “contributions to the field of athletic training.” McDonald has devoted over twenty years to the Oxford athletes as a trainer for the district covering all of the districts 89 teams. Additionally, he is a beloved sixth grade science teacher at Oxford Middle School. The award was presented to Mr. McDonald at the Hall of Fame Reception following the MATS Carrier Classic Golf Outing at the Calderone Golf Club in Grass Lake, Michigan.

*Special thanks and photo credit to teacher Kylee Ribant for the photos used in the front cover design.
Oxford wished well 22 fantastic staff members with over 458 years of experience between the summer of 2020 and 2021. Along with the unprecedented year came some unusual times for our retirees to bid farewell. Below are the twelve members of our team who have most recently retired or who have not yet been honored in our publication this past year for their retirement. We are so grateful for their dedication and service to the growth and education of our students.

Cindy Arancio
4 years of service

Eudoria Darocha
15 years of service

Tammy Dasbach
23 years of service

Diana Eldridge
24 years of service

Melissa Flanagan
26 years of service

Mary Guzik
20 years of service

Peggy Mueller
27 years of service

Dave Okasinski
24 years of service

Jill Powers
21 years of service

Mary Ann Powers
14 years of service

Jean Precour
11 years of service

Dee Thiele
30 years of service

There is an old saying, “One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.” In the March 9 Oxford School Board meeting, board members passed a 6-0 vote to purchase property at 775 West Drahner Rd., which previously served as the Dominican Sisters’ retreat center. In June, the sale was finalized after a 90-day due diligence period. It includes a 32-acre campus with seven buildings on two parcels with a 57,860 sq. ft. Motherhouse and a 16,862 sq. ft. retreat house. The purchase agreement was $2.5 million. Although there is no immediate timeline to move into the property, eventually the Administrative Offices currently located in Downtown Oxford will move to the main building on the property (at which time the 10 N. Washington property, owned by the district, will be sold). Additionally, district programs such as LOFT (currently in OHS), and Bridges High School (currently in OMS) will move to the property. According to the 2019 Township of Oxford Master Plan, the Oxford Community is projected to continue its pattern of growth well in to the future. Now is the time to be proactive and plan for that growth in our classrooms as well as potential new programming and set our next generation up for success.

FREE SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

The weekly free food distribution is happening again this summer. It is serving as both the annual Free Summer Food Program and the weekly free food distribution which has been in place this past year due to COVID-19. There are some changes to the program, however. Those wishing to pick up food must pre-order their needed meals every Friday before noon by emailing Nutrition Services Director Patty Silorey at patty.silorey@oxfordschools.org. The email needs to include the name of the person picking up the order and the number of children being fed. Pick-up for pre-ordered meals will be on Mondays through August 16 at Oxford Elementary School located at 109 Pontiac Street in the north parking lot from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nutrition Services at 248-969-5167.
This year every staff member should be recognized as it took a true team effort to make this year the success it has been. Although Oakland County did not run their annual Teacher and Support Person of the Year campaigns, we chose to do so at the district level. Again this year, Wayne Haney from Farm Bureau Insurance has partnered with us to help recognize and award a monetary gift of $500 to one teacher at each level along with the Support Person of the Year chosen for the district. The 2021 district winners of the monetary prizes were high school teacher Katie Blaszczyk, middle school teacher Jessica Rowe, elementary teacher Peggy Mueller, and Brenda Bamfield in Nutrition Services at Leonard Elementary.

**Daniel Axford Elementary**
- Katie Francis
  Developmental Kindergarten Teacher
- Jennifer Matteson
  Secretary

**Oxford Elementary**
- ★ Peggy Mueller
  Music Teacher
- Michelle Anderson
  Secretary

**Clear Lake Elementary**
- Peggy Mueller
  Music Teacher
- Alicia Bebout
  Secretary

**Lakeville Elementary**
- Laura Powers
  Fifth Grade Teacher
- Jennifer Raab
  Secretary

**Leonard Elementary**
- Shawn Crosby
  Fourth Grade Teacher
- ★ Brenda Bamfield
  Nutrition Services

**Oxford Middle School**
- ★ Jessica Rowe
  Physical Education & Health Teacher
- Becky Barkman
  Secretary

**Bridges High School**
- Nicholas Cost
  Math & Science Teacher

**Oxford High School**
- ★ Katie Blaszczyk
  Individuals and Society Teacher
- Jason French
  John Ward
  Technology Specialists

**OSEC / OVA**
- Leigh Ann Huller
  Special Education Teacher
- Brian Collins
  Lead Data Specialist

**Administration Office**
- Danielle Stublensky
  Communications Specialist

**Go, Wildcats!**

The Athletics Department graces some exciting and new spirited looks these days! After years of planning and fundraising, this spring a giant, inflatable Wildcat head and tunnel made its debut in the district at Wildcat Stadium. Its reality is thanks to a collaborative effort between the Oxford Wildcat Booster Club, the Oxford Junior Wildcats (football and cheer), and the Oxford Athletics Department. The majority of the funds came from the Oxford Wildcat Booster Club who raises money through fundraising, concessions, and merchandise sales throughout the year. The club raises money to support Oxford high school and middle school students, not only in sports but also in clubs and other school activities. The new exciting addition has already become a spirited backdrop for team awards and is expected to appear for various games at the stadium as well as inside events in the Ian Smith Gym. Additionally, the Oxford High School south entrance received a new look over Spring Break. Oxford Wildcat graphics now welcome staff, students, and guests at the south entrance of the high school. The project was printed and installed entirely in-house by the Director of Marketing and Communications, Matt Johnson.

**Grad Alliance**

Four years ago, Oxford Community Schools created Graduation Alliance. This program is targeted to help previous students, 21 years or younger, that did not complete the requirements to graduate earn a high school diploma. It is an online program taught by a network of teachers, coaches, tutors, and advocates tailored to each individual’s own pace and unique schedule. This program is state-funded and entirely free to eligible participants including a free, internet-enabled laptop that allows students to work on classes whenever and wherever. Since the implementation of this program at Oxford, we are overjoyed to report that 27 young adults have earned their high school diplomas as of June 2021.

If you or anyone you know has been considering completing their diploma, please contact Jill Lemond, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, at (248) 969-5166 or jill.lemond@oxfordschools.org. No matter what has prevented success in the past, Graduation Alliance is a fresh start to a better future.
The class of 2021 graduates will forever be known as overcomers. They spent their final years of high school in the midst of chaos and the unknown as the world battled the COVID-19 pandemic. Commencement ceremonies took place just as the restrictions were beginning to lift and we were starting to see life slowly resemble what was once known as normal. The OHS graduation was the first event to take place at the DTE Music Theater since the lockdowns 14 months earlier. The Bridges and OVA ceremonies were among the first in-person events to be held in the Oxford Community Schools Performing Arts Center.

Special thanks and photo credit to Johnston Photography for all OVA graduation photos.
Distinguished 2021 Graduates

Valedictorian
Lauren Schiller

Salutatorian
Clare Decker

Senior Class Speaker
Emma LaBarge

Oxford Cup Winners
Jordan Hung & Trent Brown

OVA Mentor Award
Hayley Thayer

Most Outstanding Athletes
George A. Prince Memorial Award - Zachary Townsend
Helen Smith Award - Mackenzie Methner

Senior Scholar Athletes Of the Year
Lauren Schiller and Nolan Kutchey

It is not what you become but WHO you become that matters most.

Bridges Graduates
IN THE WORDS
OF OUR WILDCATS!

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. In this edition, Oxford Elementary fifth graders answer the question, “What does it mean to be OPEN-MINDED?”

“Open-minded means to be open to new ideas or games. For example, you do the same thing at every recess and a friend has a new game. If you don’t listen to their idea, you’re not being open-minded. Being open-minded is a mix of being a risk-taker, being kind, and being respectful.”

- Kaitlyn Blankenship

“To me being open-minded means to give other people’s ideas a try. Also, to allow different people to have different opinions than you.”

- Kacey Bartlo

“Open-minded means that you are open to others ideas, thoughts, opinions etc. For example, if you’re doing a project with a group of people, and you’re not listening to anyone’s thoughts and opinions, you are not being open-minded. But, if you’re listening to everyone’s ideas, then you are being open-minded.”

- Athena Daversa

“Open-minded means you will listen to others’ ideas and questions and never say their idea is bad before they say why they think their idea is good.”

- Landon Johnson

INAUGURAL EMT PROGRAM GRADS

On May 6, 2021 the inaugural class of Oxford High School Emergency Medical Technicians completed their course requirements. After 270 hours of class time, 36 hours of ambulance ride-alongs, and eight hours of working in the emergency room at McClaren Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, eleven Oxford students were deemed ready to take the National Registry Exam to become licensed EMT in Michigan. The EMT Educational Program is part of the Health Science Career and Technical Education Program at Oxford High School and is a partnership between Oxford Community Schools, the Oxford Fire Department, and the Addison Township Fire Department. Classes were held at the Oxford Fire Station #1 and taught by fire personnel licensed by the state to teach EMT level education. The first group of EMT students included Audrey Bauer, Alexis Beemer, Abigail Cherian, Logan Edwards, Alexis Johnson, Amelia Knotts, Julianna Miller, Amanda Richardson, Faith Sawdon, Ava Torres and Mitchell Travis.

ATHLETES SIGN ON TO PLAY AT COLLEGIATE LEVEL

In total this school year, 27 Wildcat athletes have signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level. Congratulations to all of these athletes for their drive, determination and hard work required to play at this elite level. Below are those who have most recently signed and have not yet been recognized in this year’s Wildcat Review publications:

Tristan Bennett- Mars Hill University, soccer
Julia Blair- California University of Pennsylvania, volleyball
Catherine Dobies- Trine University, volleyball
Hutton Gordon- Lawrence Tech University, soccer (pictured, top)
Meghan Lupu- Adrian College, Softball
Nolan May- University of Indianapolis, swim (pictured, bottom)
Emma Morris- Lake Erie College, softball
Nick Soukup- Lawrence Technical University, lacrosse
Alexis Stoll- Albion College, softball

Photo Credits: C.J. Carnacchio
SPRING ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly COVID-19 tests for athletes and unexpected quarantines were commonplace in school athletics this season, but students and coaches alike were happy to have an opportunity to compete, all things considered. What a great season it was for our Wildcats with numerous school records broken! Check out the season highlights below:

BASEBALL
- Set new school record: Most Single Season Wins: 30
- Coach Herrick celebrated his 100th career win
- All-OAA: Ethan Burdua, Brady Carpenter, Sean Cooper, Nolan Kutchey, Brendan Moore
- All-District: Ethan Burdua, Brady Carpenter, Tony Hatzigeorgiou, Nolan Kutchey
- Academic All-District: Eddie Bieniasz, Jack Butzu, Tony Hatzigeorgiou, Nolan Kutchey
- Academic All-State: Jack Butzu, Nolan Kutchey

GOLF
- OAA All-League and State Qualifier: Chasten Maier

SOCCER- GIRLS
- OAA First Team: Mackenzie Methner, Ella Boyd, Carly Boyd, Brianna Barrows, Sabrina Bucci
- All-District Team: Mackenzie Methner, Carly Boyd, Brianna Barrows, Sabrina Bucci
- Set new school records:

SOFTBALL
- District Champions
- All-Conference: Alexis Stoll, Alexis Cardona, Caroline Marsh
- All-District: Alexis Stoll, Alexis Cardona, Maddy Lovins, Meghan Lupu, Caroline Marsh

TRACK - GIRLS
- All-State: Federica Stella
- All-Region: Olivia Drobnich, Federica Stella, Payton Fitzpatrick
- All-Conference: Clara Stee, Avery Feekey, Liz Rice, Eriana Hubbard, Payton Fitzpatrick, Natalie Schiller, Federica Stella, Ella Szymanski, Olivia Drobnich, Josie Stoffan, Braydee Elling, Jordyn Beebe, Brooke Berney, Caprice Fields, Lauren Schiller, Ellie DiMalanta, Jessa Chapin, Mikayla Corrion, Addison Lester, Jessie Johnson
- School Record: Federica Stella - 7th in High Jump: 5’5”

TRACK - BOYS
- All-Region & All-County: Zach Patterson
- All-Conference: Jack Bauman, Cass Feekey, Logan Blankenship, Logan Hollingsworth, Zach Patterson, Dylan Stone, Colin Demos, Elijah Tabert

TENNIS - GIRLS
All OAA Team: Olivia Thaler, Ashley Murphy, Mia Cejka, Sydney Arnold
To hold the musical theater production of Little Women live and in-person at our Performing Arts Center was a breath of fresh air this spring! It had been over two years since we had a live theatrical performance on the Performing Arts Center stage, and Oxford High School Theater did not disappoint. The performance was outstanding and the music from the orchestra pit was incredible. Although tickets were limited due to social distancing requirements, at the time, if you did not get to see the production is now also available to be seen online. A professional videography company filmed the show in high resolution with multiple camera angles and edited it together for a terrific final product. You can purchase tickets for the On-Demand version of our musical at: https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/50041. Once you begin your viewing, you will have 48 hours to complete watching it.

OHS THEATER BACK ON STAGE!

This was the fifteenth year, Team 2137- The Oxford Robocats, competed in the FIRST Robotics competitive season. Competition looked different this year and occurred virtually for the first time ever due to the pandemic. This season they competed in the Infinite Recharge at Home game. They submitted videos of the robot doing five specific challenge activities and delivered a virtual presentation to judges. The OHS Robocats won the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Iron Division Skills Challenge and the Quality Award. Teacher Adviser to the team, Craig Trombly shared, “I am extremely proud of our team, not only for the way the team competed in the robot challenges, but for showing grit in a season that was unprecedented.” He added, “Our robot was robust and had an accurate shooter that ranked amongst the best in the world,” placing them 27th overall out of 1412 teams that competed globally in the skills challenges.

The pandemic affected many aspects of the team, but they still found creative ways to learn and practice new skills. During a brief shut down period where students were not able to meet in person, they developed a system to work at home by dividing the effort and passing parts from one student’s house to another. “I think our team did extremely well, especially given the unique circumstances we were in,” said Andrew Haselton, Student Programming Captain. Students were still able to learn and incorporate new technologies, including their first development of an advanced type of chassis called a swerve drive and new sensor programming techniques to improve the performance of the robot. “From being able to explore new technologies to integrating those and winning our division, I think our season was extremely successful,” added Haselton. To see more about what they did this season check out their YouTube channel for videos they have submitted for this year’s competition. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Ip5JmXplppYXp1DMq1HQ.

OXS ELEMENTARY GREEN TEAM MAKING AN IMPACT

Oxford Elementary Green Team took action this spring to make an impact. One initiative was to help preserve the habitat of the struggling gorilla population in Central Africa by collecting old cell phones. The students participated in the “Gorillas on the Line” cellphone recycling program through the Detroit Zoological Society. The program collects electronics so the Coltan can be harvested and recycled. Coltan is a rare, valuable mineral used to make small electronics and cell phones. According to the Detroit Zoological Society, “Eighty percent of the world’s supply of Coltan is found in Central Africa, which is prime gorilla habitat. Their habitat is becoming logged and dug up so the miners can reach the Coltan, and people are bringing in diseases, which the gorillas can easily contract.” Secondly, the group was able to get an OES garden designated as a schoolyard habitat by the National Wildlife Federation!
Each year, art teachers from across Michigan are invited to enter five pieces of student artwork to the Michigan Art Education Association’s Young @Art Regional Art Show. This year, the artwork and the artist’s statements were submitted virtually. OMS Art Teacher Laura Wilson submitted five pieces from 6-8 graders. She received the exciting news that all of the work was selected from the regional show to move onto the state show and Jack Dysarz’s piece called Monochromatic Me was selected in the Top 18.

HOSA INTERNATIONAL FINALISTS

Congratulations to OHS Michigan HOSA International Finalists. These high school students advanced onto the HOSA International virtual competition June 23-26 in their respective categories:

EMT
Abigail Cherian
Amanda Richardson

MEDICAL INNOVATION
Kiera Steketee
Lauren Farris

SPORTS MEDICINE
Jenna Hickey

CLINICAL SPECIALITY
Gina Bitkowski
Annabelle Murray

VETERINARY SCIENCE
Kennedy Konkle
Megan Griffith
Gillian Yocum

“...My experience in the four years as an Oxford Wildcat was genuinely some of my best years. It’s where I created some of my favorite memories. I truly felt every staff member had a passion for teaching...you could tell your time there, as a student, was important to them. I was able to graduate top of my class in the Honors Society and I owe that to the teachers who helped me along the way. On top of amazing academies, their sports program is outstanding. I played JV basketball as a freshmen and was on the varsity basketball team for three years. Talk about amazing memories. I loved basketball! My teammates and I had so much fun during the season. Once I graduated I attended Saginaw Valley State University and obtained my Bachelors in Science of Nursing. My first RN job was on a medsurig floor at Royal Oak Beaumont. I was there for a year before I moved on to being a Neonatal ICU nurse for six years. After that my husband and I moved to Grand Rapids where we currently live. I currently work part-time at a pediatricians office and have two kids, a three year old son and a one year old daughter, of my own.

My advice to any high schooler would be to ENJOY your time in high school. It really does go by fast. Do whatever makes you happy while also being the best version of yourself you can be and helping those beside you. High school is a vital stepping stone in becoming who you are! Your life is truly just starting. Work hard but also remember to have fun while doing it.”

ATTN. SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Are you a Meemic Foundation Club Member yet? It’s Free! All school employees can register to join The Meemic Foundation Club for a fun and easy way to win BIG each month. Simply go to MeemicFoundation.org to register and learn more about great Meemic opportunities. Meemic opportunities are also listed on our district website at www.oxfordschools.org under the “For Staff” tab.
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.

Communications Specialist, Danielle Stublensky - danielle.stublensky@oxfordschools.org

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