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
Concerning the current state of our district, it is evident that the health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of utmost importance. Despite the various challenges posed by the pandemic, our district has managed to maintain a high level of safety and academic achievement.

More than ten months since the pandemic began to affect our country, it continues to impact our daily lives. Overall, our overwhelmingly supportive Oxford staff, students, and families have done their very best to adhere to safety measures and protocols the past five months. This has allowed our district to be one of the few in the state to offer in-person learning for the vast majority of the school year thus far. In August, we were unsure how long we would be able to continue face-to-face, we truly hoped for any time at all to be able to establish the important teacher/student relationships. Thankfully, the district as a whole was fortunate to have remained open for twelve straight weeks before schedules needed to shift to remote and hybrid learning.

In early November, administration made plans to adjust the learning schedules for the district around the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Remote and hybrid learning was incorporated for additional precautions with probable upcoming family gatherings. However, the COVID-19 and quarantine cases rose within the district enough to pose operational difficulties by mid-November, and it was prudent to move all of our schools to remote learning slightly earlier than planned.

Just days after our announced schedule change, the governor mandated all Michigan high schools to cease in-person learning and move to remote instruction beginning on November 18. The order was later extended until December 21. Additionally, Michigan high school fall sports tournaments were placed on pause, and as of the writing of this article, have not yet resumed. Oxford elementary and middle schools did get the opportunity to safely return for some face-to-face learning between Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, however.

Through it all, our community has proven to be resilient, adaptable, and compassionate. All of our staff, not just our teachers and administrators, but our bus drivers, our nutrition service staff, our custodians, technology specialists, secretaries, our security team, and our paraprofessionals have worked hard to have processes in place to ensure students have a learning environment that is as safe as possible. We continue to keep updated on Oakland County Health Division’s most current “best” practices. Staff and students (along with their parents) have been quick to closely monitor any symptoms and act accordingly. Administration has worked tirelessly to identify students who have been exposed to COVID-19 and communicate with their families as soon as possible to keep transmission from occurring within the school buildings. Our students crave the meaningful connections that being in-person offers, and our amazing educators and school community have been determined to provide them this opportunity. We could not be more grateful.
The Oxford School Board passed a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for life-long Wildcat Marilyn Benner on December 8 declaring January 5 Marilyn Benner Day throughout the district. Marilyn once walked the halls of Oxford Schools as a student, graduating in 1962 with 84 fellow Wildcats. Since then she has devoted her life’s work to serving, supporting, and caring for Oxford students and staff throughout their own educational journeys.

Over the years, Marilyn has worked in five different school buildings, under seventeen principals and seven different superintendents. When asked what has drawn her to work for this district for so long, the question was met with a gentle smile and a pause. Her thoughtful response brought her mind to reminiscent memories, “The school district was so good to me, and I worked with THE best.” She spoke of cherished co-workers like Dawn Maguire whom she worked so fluidly with for 17 years without one disagreement, and participating in a donkey basketball game- yes, you read that right- donkey. She laughed while retelling the story of riding a donkey in the Lakeville gymnasium while trying to put a basketball through the hoop as part of a school fund-raiser. Her most touching memory that she holds dear to her heart, though, is the friendship she made while working at Daniel Axford with a shy and withdrawn child who would spend her recesses alone on the edge of the playground. “I will never forget the day, after weeks of trying to make a connection with her (and refusing to give up), when this little one finally smiled at me and grasped my hand on the playground. She was so quiet and seemed so sad and lonely. Her family moved shortly after that. I have often wondered whatever has happened to her.”

Everyone watching the virtual Oxford School Board meeting on December 8 witnessed Marilyn’s humble and genuine surprise as she was presented with the Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation. “I was so touched, I expected my leaving to be low key. Maybe a cake...I certainly never expected this!” We are tremendously grateful to one of Oxford’s most loyal and loving cheerleaders, both as a student and a staff member, for all she has given to the legacy of Oxford Schools. As the resolution reads, Marilyn Benner was “committed to the mission of the district,” and “we extend our utmost appreciation for the work she has done to make education an exciting and joyous experience for students.” Tuesday, January 5, 2021, was Marilyn’s official retirement date and was thereby declared “Marilyn Benner Day in Oxford Community Schools.”

We are honored to have Marilyn as our Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat alumna writer in this newsletter edition. Read more about her experiences in Oxford and her advice for current Wildcats on page 11.
WELCOME, NEW STAFF!

**JAMIE ADAMS**
OVA Hybrid Program Specialist

**VIRGINIA AUSTIN**
OMS Paraprofessional

**DIANNA BEASLEY**
OVA Teacher

**MOISES CORTEZ**
OHS Paraprofessional

**ERICA FAIRCHILD**
Lakeville Paraprofessional

**TABITHA GARON**
OHS/Teacher

**BAMBI GORDON**
Clear Lake Paraprofessional

**REBECCA GRACE**
OVA Teacher

**MICHELLE HAY**
Nutrition Services

**KELSEA KNIGHT**
Lakeville Elementary Teacher

**VICTORIA KLOPP**
OVA Secretary

**JOHN LE**
OVA Counselor

**BRIANNA OVERHOLT**
DA/OES Family School Liaison

**BRADLEY PASSMORE**
OHS Teacher

**ANDREA SCHERMERHORN**
OVA Reading Specialist

**STEPHANIE SHEFCYK**
OHS Attendance Secretary

**DAVID SCOVIC**
OVA Data Systems & Support Specialist

**AARON SPEZIA**
Lakeville Technology Specialist

**ALANNA WEBER**
OHS Counseling Secretary

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WINTER 2020-21 RETIREES

After an amazing 38 years of service in public education, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Denise Sweat is retiring from Oxford Community Schools. Her last day serving the district is January 31, 2021. Denise worked in Oxford from 1995-2001 as a Teacher Consultant and Child Find Coordinator and from 2008-2021 as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. She has held a variety of positions within the field of Special Education throughout her career and has made significant contributions within Oxford.

During her time in Oxford, Denise implemented numerous programs aimed at providing exemplary support for our students. These include a Birth to Three program, a Therapeutic Intervention Classroom, and all of our categorical programs throughout the district including Crossroads Day School. During her tenure in Oxford, Denise has managed a department that has grown exponentially while always focusing on the needs of her students.

“I want to share my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for helping to create great memories that I will take with me. I am confident that I am leaving the district in excellent hands,” shared Denise with her district colleagues. “Instead of signing off with a ‘goodbye’ or a ‘see you later’ I would like to sign off with a Thank You! Thank you for allowing me to learn from you and thank you for the opportunities, collaboration and friendship.”

We are grateful for Denise’s service to the Oxford community and wish her the best in her retirement!

---

**Marilyn Benner**
43 years

**William Lowe**
7 years

**Deanna Marginet**
21 years

**Chris Morey**
5 years

**Denise Sweat**
18 years

This winter we congratulate these fantastic Oxford team members on their well-earned retirement. We thank each and every one of them for their hard work and the positive impact they have made in the lives of our staff and students.
Oxford staff members are constantly on the lookout for grants to apply for to help our students, staff, and the bottom line in any way possible. Here are a few that we have been awarded recently.

Water Station Grant
Oxford Community Schools is the proud recipient of the Oakland County 2020/2021 School Drinking Water Station Program grant. The district has been gifted 21 Elkay drinking water filling stations valued at over $50,000. Each station will be the Elkay EZH2O Model LZ08WSLK Drinking Water Filling Station, equipped with the Elkay 51300C Filters and Brady 23300D Lockout units. Due to COVID, the Lockout unit is required for each machine as it allows the bottle-filling portion to remain operational while locking out the drinking fountain portion. The stations also chill the water and allow for touchless filling. Each is also equipped with The Green Ticker, which informs users of the number of 20-ounce plastic water bottles that have been saved from waste. The stations will be installed throughout every school building in the district.

Technology Grant
At the beginning of December, Oxford Community Schools was awarded a $5,000 L & L Educational Foundation Technology Grant. This grant is to be used toward technology during pandemic learning.

Michigan 10 Cents A Meal Grant
The district was awarded $1,000 for the 2020-2021 Section 31j - Michigan 10 cents A Meal Grant. This grant is a matching grant that rewards our district for purchasing locally grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes.

Building Healthy Communities Grant
Leonard Elementary Teacher Marcie Bensmen applied for the Building Healthy Communities Grant program last spring and was delighted to receive it for the start of the school year. This grant provides Leonard staff and students tools to support healthy living habits through activities and education. Physical education equipment was provided along with lessons for the teachers to share. Each day a healthy tip is shared over the announcements, and a bulletin board of healthy information and banners remind students what healthy eating and exercise looks like. The concept is to surround students with healthy lifestyle choices throughout their day ultimately building a culture of healthy living. According to the Blue Cross Blue Shield website the program has an extensive history of measurable impact on improving the health of Michigan’s children, such as a significant reduction in obesity, a 40 percent increase in fruit and vegetables consumed above the national average, an increase in daily physical movement and a reduction of screen time each day. In fact, 74 percent of students who have participated in this program report that it was easier to pay attention in class. The grant is overseen by Wayne State University in partnership with BCBS Blue Care Network, United Dairy Industry/Milk Means More, Michigan Fitness Foundation and the Center for Health and Community Impact at WSU.

Clark Construction solicited bids before the holiday break and are in the process of making recommendations to the School Board for approval. Once recommendations are approved, contracts, material acquisition and scheduling will begin as soon as possible.

USDA EXTENDS FREE MEALS
The USDA has extended the free school meals offered to students until the end of the 2020-2021 school year. All in-person students are able to receive both a breakfast and a lunch meal free of charge in our school cafeterias. All virtual students remain able to pick-up seven days worth of free pre-packed meals each Wednesday from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at the north high school bus turnaround. Additionally, seated students make pickup weekend meals at the Wednesday Free Food Pickup as well to provide food assistance through the weekend.

On that note, the Michigan Department of Education gave Oxford Community Schools special recognition for stepping up during the pandemic, working so hard to provide food for children in need. In total from March 16 through August 19 our Nutrition Services department, with the help of community volunteers, packaged and distributed 194,028 meals.
OELC PROVIDES CHRISTMAS FOR 12 FAMILIES

Each year Oxford Schools Early Learning Center Preschool Coordinator Shari Baker-Burns organizes the OELC Giving Tree to provide help for struggling district families so their children can experience the joy of waking up on Christmas morning to gifts under the tree. This year she found the need to be greater than ever before but so was the generosity of our school community. In December, Shari helped arrange for 12 families, more families than ever before, to be provided with joy-bringing Christmas gifts. Families also received necessities such as cleaning products, hygiene items and even a bunk bed complete with mattresses and bedding for two of our little Wildcats that did not have beds of their own. She and her colleagues connect with families on their needs and wants and then hope for people to want to help. Contributions from OELC families and staff made so much of this possible along with the American Legion Post 108 who provided for seven families alone. Area businesses purchased gifts such as Health Loft Chiropractic and American Axel. Residents of Lake Ridge subdivision hand made a beautiful dollhouse for one little girl, Acts 4:33 Church sponsored a family and Thomas Methodists Church graciously gave a generous gift card as well.

All of the gifts are brought in unwrapped and typically the staff spends time after hours wrapping them all together. During the year of COVID-19, wrapping took on a new look as the big gathering could not happen. OELC Director Ann Robb, Program Director Sue Roerger, Infant/Toddler Coordinator Pat Brauer and Shari did the majority of the wrapping with staff joining in during their covered breaks to help keep distance between one another at a maximum. The team then loaded up the gifts in their personal vehicles to deliver to the families. Tears of gratitude never ceased to flow from not only our families on the receiving end but also our staff who were given the gift to help deliver. Truly, nothing connects us more than when we come together to help those in need.

OVA STUDENT ASSEMBLES FOOD DRIVE FOR LIGHTHOUSE OF PONTIAC

At just 4 years old, OVA student Hazel Nicosia saw a homeless person on the side of the road and her heart immediately wanted to help. This year, the small but mighty humanitarian, (with mom and dad’s help) organized a food drive. The results were astounding. Her mom Holly put the opportunity to donate out on Facebook to friends and classmates. People dropped off food to the Nicosia’s porch or Hazel and her parents offered front door service to pick up donations from people’s homes. “We were shocked when everyone just kept bringing more and more bags…I ran out of boxes, ran out of tape, we were trying to scrounge around and find boxes but we made it work.” said Holly. The donations were given to the very grateful Lighthouse organization who has been overwhelmed with those in need due to COVID-19 related job loss. Hazel is a true inspiration.
COVID-19 may have limited the size and scope of Oxford Gives Back this fall but it could not cancel it. On November 7, Oxford Schools Early College students helped elderly residents get their yards put to sleep for the winter. The hard working volunteers filled 150 bags of yard waste!

The collection time was a brief yet effective and powerful total of 16 hours. Three school buses were used as collection points throughout the district. One bus parked in the Oxford High School lot, one in the Oxford Middle School lot and one roved amongst the elementary schools. NHS students even provided a porch pick-up service for donations to help with the collection. On Friday, December 18, not just three buses but FIVE Oxford Community Schools buses pulled into the FISH Food Pantry parking lot to unload a total of 11,128 items for donation, surpassing the district goal! Oxford High School donated 5,162 cans; OMS; gave 1,934 items, and the elementary schools donated 4,032 cans, collectively. Thank you to all who gave and especially to our Transportation department for their time and organization efforts to help make this can drive happen.

Leonard Elementary students painted rocks with messages of love and kindness this November. They then took their creations and placed them in the community to bring joy, hope, and a smile to whomever comes across them. So on your next walk keep on the lookout, you may just find a beautiful surprise.
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, IB Coordinator Rita Flynn asked Daniel Axford Elementary second grade students in a lesson on being BALANCED what they were grateful for in their balanced lives. Here are some of the students’ responses:

“Grateful for my family taking care of me, helping me, and being kind to me. Grateful for my friends being fun and caring. Grateful for myself being loving. Grateful for my teachers at my school.”

*Megan Smith*

“Grateful for learning in school. Grateful for my family giving me a home. Grateful for my friends being nice to me. Grateful for my creativity.”

*Ben Richardson*

“Grateful that I am can run fast. Grateful that my family loves me. Grateful that my friends like playing with me. Grateful that my teachers teach me to be safe.”

*Taylor Curtis*

“Grateful that I am helpful. Grateful that my family bought me a dog. Grateful that my friends are nice and fun. Grateful that my school has a playground.”

*Brady Bailey*

OHS MENTORSHIP COLLABORATES WITH NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

The pandemic has caused the Oxford High School Mentorship class to think outside of the box and creatively on how to bring together the student body while not being able to do so physically. With so many safety limitations, many of traditional school activities are not able to take place, yet the need for a strong morale amongst the school community is more important than ever these days. Since all athletic competitions and many extra-curricular activities have been paused Oxford, Lake Orion, and Clarkston mentorship and leadership students came together to create a collective Instagram account called CLOXStrong- combining the initials for each school. The site is “run by students for students” and is a collaborative page supporting all three school communities through interactive posts and challenges. The main goal of starting this collaboration was to help address the mental health of our teens during such a difficult time. CLOXStrong is also coordinated with OHS Connects to provide mental health resources and strategies to our students. The mentorship and leadership students have created fun online competitions between the three schools such as cutest pet photos, video clips of the best sports fails, and the principal’s ugliest sweater competition, which Mr. Wolf won and you can see his very creative entry that includes a photo shopped cat with laser beam eyes below this article. Competition winners are awarded nominal gift certificates to local businesses.

Holiday spirit shined whether learning in-person or remotely...
This fall, Oxford student-athletes persevered through pandemic protocol, uncertainty, quarantines, and cancellations. Thankful to have had a season at all, we are so proud of our student athletes and the hard work they put in this fall. Congratulations to the 123 athletes receiving academic recognition by achieving more than a 3.5 GPA during their fall sports season. As of the printing of this edition, the MHSAA tournaments for Swim and Dive, Volleyball and Football have not yet taken place due to the governor’s pause on sporting events from rising COVID-19 cases in the state. Here are some of the teams’ season highlights:

**CROSS COUNTRY - BOYS**
- Zach Patterson placed 33rd in the state final meet

**FOOTBALL**
- OAA All-League: Johnny Valvo, Jack Wandrie, Tate Myre, Carter Gilbert, Brennan Mielnicki and Gavin Green

**GOLF - GIRLS**
- All-State Academic Team earning a team GPA of 3.908
- OAA All-League: Janelle Grech, Kiera Billis

**SOCCER - BOYS**
- All-State Team; All-Regional Team; All-District Team: Zach Townsend, Tristan Bennett

**SWIM & DIVE - GIRLS**
- 2020 State Qualifiers: Amelia Knotts, Grace Charnstrom, Caylee Beebe, and Jenna Fistler
- OAA All-League: Caylee Beebe, Jenna Fistler, Amelia Knotts and Grace Charnstrom

**TEENNIS -BOYS**
- OAA All-State Academic Team
- OAA Blue Division League Champions
- OAA Blue Division Tournament Champions
- OAA All-League: Silas VonAllemen, Nolan Kutchey, and Chaise Maier

**VOLLEYBALL**
- MIVCA Team Academic All-State
- MIVCA Individual Academic All-State: Emma LaBarge, Catherine Dobies, and Brooke Zieter
- All-State Honorable Mention: Emma LaBarge
- All-Region: Molly Miller
- OAA Red Division All-League First Team: Molly Miller, Cat Dobies, and Emma LaBarge
- OAA Red Division Honorable Mentions: Gabby Comito, Julia Blair, and Rachel Townsend

On the night of December 23, you may have had the lucky pleasure to hear the festive sounds of Christmas played in neighborhoods around our community. Oxford High School junior and band member Ben Hepp wanted to spread joy and goodwill just before the holiday while raising funds for charity. He organized a caroling event for any and all musicians interested in participating on the evening of December 23. More than two dozen kindhearted musicians showed up at Oxford High School all bundled up and with their instrument of choice ready to play. The group played inside Meijer, in the produce section and the pharmacy to surprise last minute Christmas shoppers. Then they traveled neighborhoods throughout Oxford including Independence Village going door-to-door delighting residents with well-known Christmas carols. During their travels the groups also used the opportunity to collect funds for Haven, a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. This beautiful event brought about many smiles, and warmed hearts, and even brought tears of joy to many eyes. $725 was raised for Haven.

Oxford Elementary students have been eagerly and excitedly designing and building their own video games through a new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program called BLOXELS. The program is supported by Oakland County Schools who supply the iPads and licenses for BLOXELS for our students to use. The opportunities for students to learn on this new platform are well rounded in scope. They create their own characters, art, stories, and strategies to build computer games to play and share with other classmates. Principal Jeff Brown and his staff look at this as another avenue of introducing students to potential career paths. BLOXELS exposes students to the Arts and Communication, Business Management, Marketing, and Technology Career Zones, just to name a few.
VISION SCREENING FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTNERS

If you have an incoming kindergartner, Michigan Law (Public Health Code – Act 368 of 1978 and the 1995 Revised School Code, Act 291) mandates vision screening before kindergarten entry. The goal of the law is early identification and treatment of vision problems that can affect a child’s ability to learn. Vision Screening that is done in preschool by a health department technician or doctor’s office fulfills this requirement. Oakland County Health Division offers free vision screening by appointment for all county children who will enter kindergarten. Please call 248-424-7070 to set up an appointment. If you have any questions, contact Oakland County Hearing and Vision Program Coordinator Dianne Ferber at 248-424-7071.

FEBRUARY IS DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT MONTH!

• All Day, Every Day
• Age-Appropriate Instruction
• Pre K-12 IB World School District
• Fifth Core™ World Language & Culture Program • Language Arts • Science • Math
• Physical Education • Music • Art
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• Technology Enhanced Classrooms
• Certified Teachers • Childcare Options

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The following documents are required to complete online enrollment:
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MICHIGAN’S NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PRE-K PROGRAM IS FREE FOR ALL QUALIFYING FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

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TWO NEW “LITTLE LIBRARIES”

Over the past few years, “free little libraries” have begun to pop-up around our community to promote book sharing and reading. Thanks to Oxford High School senior Gregory “G” Cook, both Clear Lake and Oxford Elementary Schools now have their very own little libraries. G took on building and stocking the little, cupboard-like bookshelves as his Eagle Scout community service project. He believes strongly in the importance of reading, especially at a young age. He wanted to help provide an additional and fun way for students to engage in the important skill and chose to make them for both the elementary he attended (OES) as well as Clear Lake Elementary.

Initially, G planned to reach out to Oxford Township for monetary donations but once he started to plan out the project he realized it was not going to be that great of an expense so his immediate family was able to completely fund the project. With the help of fellow scouts and classmates Andrew Cobble and Matt Shinavier, along with his dad and Eagle Scout mentor Rob Charlton, both little libraries were constructed, painted, and installed over a one-month span. G shared, “I learned several things during the course of this project, such as having plenty of patience, being more open to other people’s suggestions, and realizing that not everyone has the same skills as one another.”

G reached out to the community for book donations to help initially stock the libraries and was pleasantly overwhelmed at the response. He had more books than the little libraries could hold. G donated the extra books to the OES library. Now that the libraries are installed, it is up to each school to designate someone to maintain them. The concept is that it will always be full of books. If someone takes a book to read, the hope is that they will return it or replace it with another book. G shared, “I enjoyed working on this Eagle Project a lot. It was really fun to work with my dad and learn new skills. My mentor was a great influence for me, and my friends were really helpful and fun to be around. I am proud of how the libraries turned out. It makes me happy knowing that I played a part in contributing to the Oxford community, and I look forward to having these little libraries around for years to come.”
ONCE A WILDCAT, ALWAYS A WILDCAT.

CATCHING UP WITH AN OXFORD ALUMNA...

This edition’s Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat spotlight is on 1962 graduate Marilyn Benner. She truly is the epitome of a lifelong Oxford Wildcat! After attending school in Oxford she returned to spend her career working for the school district for nearly half a century. If you ever have an opportunity to see Marilyn out and about, ask to hear some of her favorite Wildcat memories. I promise, you won’t be disappointed. Enjoy her story and advice for current Wildcats:

“Growing up in small town Oxford years ago, I attended my elementary school years at Daniel Axford School. This was a K thru 6 school at the time. I began my seventh grade at the Washington Street School. This was both a junior high school and high school (grades 7 thru 12). Many former students, myself included, have a lot of fond memories of this old school. This was when I first came to know what it was to be a Wildcat. There was a lot of school spirit at that time: pep assemblies, football games, and all the sports activities.

One fall day, the newly built school on Pontiac street, was ready to accommodate the students in grades 9 thru 12 and become our high school. Students were instructed to carry their school books and walk from the Washington School to the new high school on Pontiac street. We were excited to be in a new school and still be a Wildcat.

After graduation, came marriage and two children. Ten years later, I applied for a position at the old Washington School, where years before I had been a student. This began my years of working for the Oxford Community School District.

Now, 43 years later, having worked in 5 different schools, under 17 different principals and 7 different superintendents, I will retire. Parting from the school district will be difficult, as I have had 55 years both attending and working within Oxford’s school walls. I am grateful for the time I’ve had with so many wonderful, teachers, parents, students and staff. I will miss those connections. But a new journey in life is beginning for me. Time for activities I did not have time for when I was working: travel and some work on home improvement projects. More meetings with former classmates for dinner at a local restaurant (as soon as we are able) and more quality time to visit with family and friends.

Wildcats, be enthusiastic and positive as you consider your goals as an Oxford high school student. Keep a good spirit as you go through a rapidly confusing world. You will always benefit from the learning environment you have in Oxford’s schools, from friends you’ve made, teachers who have mentored you, to the staff who have assisted you.”

OXFORD LEADER HIRES STUDENT JOURNALISTS

Our community’s long-standing newspaper, The Oxford Leader, has hired two new student journalists. OVA student Amanda Wayne and OHS International Diploma Program Candidate Lauren Schiller are now contributing authors for the publication.

Amanda Wayne took on the role of the publication’s new Student Contributor in November. Amanda plans to pursue higher education in journalism and neuropsychology after she graduates. She is looking forward to how this experience may impact her future.

Lauren Schiller who is also the president of the OHS National Honor Society chapter aims to improve her journalistic skills through this opportunity. She hopes to study Communications and Media. Lauren shared, “From a young age, I have been interested in storytelling and connecting the world through the power of words. I am grateful for this chance to gain real world reporting experience and to get my feet wet in the world of journalism.” Look for their bylines in the Oxford Leader!

ALUMNI TREY TOWNSEND DEBUTS WITH OAKLAND BASKETBALL

A little over 7% of high school athletes move up to the collegiate playing level. Of that number, the vast majority of athletes spend their first year or two seeing minimal if any playing time in actual competition. This has not been the case for Oxford’s 2020 graduate Trey Townsend. As a freshman on the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies basketball team, Townsend debuted on the court in the season opener on November 25 and has seen a tremendous amount of game time ever since. Trey is humbled for the amount of playing time he has received and is thankful to continue at the next level in a game he loves while earning his degree. Although COVID-19 restrictions keep the stands empty, fans can watch Trey and the Golden Grizzlies play on Detroit Channel 20 or ESPN where many of their games are televised. The schedule can be found at https://goldengrizzlies.com/sports/mens-basketball/schedule/2020-21.
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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