patriotism: students will understand the foundations of our country and value our rights, privileges, and responsibilities.

justice  honor  valor

liberty  freedom  allegiance Constitution

WINTER 2019
As the need for cybersecurity around the globe grows, the Michigan Department of Education has offered grant money to all Michigan public school districts to fund cybersecurity teams for the 2018-19 school year. The teams are required to participate in competitions hosted by either the U.S. Air Force’s CyberPatriot program or the Michigan High School Cyber Challenge sponsored by Merit Network, Incorporated. With the grant funds, Oxford School District has formed two new middle school teams and one high school team, all led by coach Natalie Daversa. The teams compete in the CyberPatriot program.

In their first competition in November, the teams spent six hours finding vulnerabilities in computer systems and making the systems safer. The Oxford Middle School team, The Iron Crabs, placed first in Michigan and ranked in the top 23% nationwide, finishing 188 out of 801 teams. Oxford Middle School’s team, The Narwhals, placed second in Michigan and in the top 32% nationwide, ranking 257 out of 801 teams. Out of the 2,300 nationwide teams, the Oxford High School team ranked in the top 40%, placing in the Gold Tier. The season consists of five total competitions concluding with qualifying teams competing at the CyberPatriot National Finals in Baltimore, MD. in April.

Additional good news came for Oxford’s cybersecurity programs on December 4, when L & L Educational Foundation awarded Oxford Community Schools a $6,000 grant to continue support of the OMS and OHS cybersecurity teams.

Oxford Dance Conservatory participated in the Oakland Dance Festival on November 17 at Harrison High School. During this event, colleges with dance programs from across the Midwest came to teach classes to high school level students. Oxford’s Advanced Dance Company is led by instructor Katy Stavropoulos and includes Alexa Mirovsky, Carla Zawadzki, Grace Kitching, Megan Vernier, Allison Zardas, Hannah Valley, Ciara Bell. The team participated in the Performance Evaluation & Feedback session that was judged by college dance professors. The Oxford dancers ranked number one out of the 70 participating dance groups. This award also earned them the opportunity as one of three chosen high school dance groups to perform in the College Showcase Concert that evening.
Audit Results
Each year, Oxford Community Schools undergoes a routine financial audit. One of Michigan’s leading audit firms, Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants conducted the audit for the 2017-18 school fiscal year and presented their findings at the October 30 Oxford School Board meeting. Yeo & Yeo auditor, Jacob Sopczynski, reported Oxford Community School District earned the “Highest Level of Assurance” rating which (if put into letter grade form) equates to earning an “A.” He highlighted that Oxford maintained a healthy fund balance and ended the fiscal year under budget. A few minor improvement suggestions were made along with recognition given to the district for taking last year’s audit suggestions to heart and adjusting practices accordingly.

In Mr. Sopczynski’s final summary, he addressed the school board and audience stating, “Oxford has really interesting programs. I think you guys should be proud of that. It is a pretty interesting district; there is always something exciting going on in Oxford.” Yeo & Yeo services many schools in Michigan and recognizes that our district’s healthy financial state is due to the diverse programming we have created through the years to serve students.

Oxford Schools Programming
As Oxford Schools has kept focus on its mission, the district has had to think outside of the box in building its programming. In light of the economic obstacles school funding has faced over the past 25 years, administration has had to be innovative, open-minded risk-takers to create and deliver diverse pathways of learning that have also helped generate revenue to support the district as a whole.

Some of the programming Mr. Sopczynski referred to includes the International Baccalaureate Programme, Career and Technical Education, Special Education Programming, School of Choice, Oxford Schools Early College, Oxford Virtual Academy, Oxford Dance Conservatory, Oxford International Program, L.O.F.T. program, and Bridges High School. To date, the most successful program has been the birth of the Oxford Virtual Academy in 2011. It has not only offered additional pathways of education to meet students individual needs but has also provided the district with revenue to help fill in the gaps that state and local funding do not meet.

School Funding
School funding can be complicated and difficult to understand. The foundational allowance that Michigan Proposal A set back in 1994 shifted school funding provided by the state from 39% to 80% and local funding from 69% to 20%. Consequently, Oxford Community Schools is currently the second lowest funded school district of the 28 districts in our county. We have not allowed this disadvantage to prohibit the quality of education we offer our students. Oxford currently ranks 9th highest of those 28 districts in proficiency on M-Step scores. This ranking shows that the funding we do receive, along with the revenue our programming generates, is maximized in the education Oxford Community Schools provides students.

According to the School Finance Research Collaborative, the per-pupil base cost (state foundation allowance) to educate a regular education K-12 student in Michigan is $9,590, and $14,155 for preschool students age 3 or 4, which does not include transportation, food service or capital costs. With the Great Recession that began at the end of 2007, our funding was eventually affected and dropped from a state foundation allowance per pupil of $7,557 in 2010 to $7,087 in 2012. It has taken years for it to recover, and we are now allotted $7,871 per full-time student, only $314 more per than, seven years ago. The programming that Mr. Sopczynski spoke of has brought innovative learning opportunities to students as well as provided additional revenue streams to help keep Oxford’s books in the black, unlike so many other districts in the state.

Oxford Schools is committed to striving for excellence in reaching for its vision and fulfilling its mission. If you are interested in learning more about school funding, please visit fundmischools.org or see our website at www.oxfordschools.org. Yeo & Yeо’s complete review of the Oxford Schools audit to our school board can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qazCC1QkQaE.
Very few people can say they have lived 100 years! On November 14, 2018, retired Oxford employee Mary Sue Sutherby celebrated her 100th birthday and joined the elite Centenarian Club. Mary Sue spent 25 years as the head cook at Lakeville and Leonard Elementary Schools before retiring in 1981. Back then, she made all of the meals from scratch and students most enjoyed her pizza and chocolate chip cookies.

To commemorate Mary Sue’s tremendous milestone, Oxford Nutrition Services brought her 200 cookies to share with her friends and staff at McLaren Oakland’s Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Lake Orion where she now resides. Students from Leonard Elementary also sent her birthday cards to help celebrate her birthday. Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat, Mary Sue!

THE SOUND OF MUSIC IS COMING

This year’s spring musical production is the Sound of Music. It is a perennial favorite about a young woman named Maria who becomes the governess in the home of a widowed naval captain with seven children. The show is an endearing love story set in Austria at the dawn of WWII and features some of the most delightful, infectious songs of all time with timeless characters guaranteed to win your heart! Come hear your favorites songs including Edelweiss, Do-Re-Mi and The Sound of Music and see how BIG musicals can be in our small town. It’s an experience you won’t regret!

This musical will grace the OHS stage from March 21-24 at 7:00 p.m. and March 23-24 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.oxfordmusical.com starting March 1.

The Oxford Theater program is completely self-supporting, therefore strives to involve members of the community in as many areas as possible, including set building, painting, sewing, marketing, etc. If you have a talent you can share with the musical community, please contact Director Krista Price at krisha.price@oxfordschools.org.

2019-20 SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE

As part of the Oakland Schools ISD, Oxford School District follows the calendar set by Oakland Schools ISD. In an effort to minimize the challenges for districts related to state-wide mandated spring testing schedules, Oakland Schools ISD has made changes to the school calendar to begin for the 2019-2020 school year. As of next year, spring break will be moved a week earlier, taking place from March 30, 2020 – April 3, 2020.

Spring Break 2019-2020
March 30, 2020 - April 3, 2020
On December 5th, the Wildcat Wrestling team hosted their first assembly dual meet. The team was able to compete in front of their fellow students, a truly great atmosphere for the whole student body to witness. Oxford defeated Airport High School, 48-28. In their second match, Oxford defeated #9 ranked John Glenn High School, 32-31.

Athletic Director Jordan Ackerman shared, “I am extremely grateful to Principal Wolf for allowing us to put this event on today. The student body was amazing and represented us in their typical fashion - with class. Coach Wingert did an excellent job putting his vision into motion, and the student-athletes performed great. This event was another example of why it is great to be an Oxford Wildcat. Having a student body that is All In by showing respect to the opposing teams, officials, other spectators, and themselves allow us to do fun and creative things.”

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**OHS HOSTS FIRST ASSEMBLY DUAL-WRESTLING MEET**

**FIRST PLACE:**
Jordan Jarrett - Clinical Nursing  
Erin Dinan & Ella Nash - EMT

**SECOND PLACE:**
Emma Crampton - Dental Science  
Molly Long - Clinical Nursing  
Alyssa Gilpin & Kendall Losee - EMT  
Jenna Stepek & Sarah Buchan - Health Career Display  
Megan Griffith - Veterinary Science

**THIRD PLACE:**
Rachel Gubesch - Clinical Nursing  
Elsa Clark & Gabrielle Dinges - EMT  
Gillian Yocum - Veterinary Science  
McKenzie Miller, Abigail Wilnamaki & Fiona Corcoran - Public Health  
Amelia Knotts, Abigail Walters, Mackenzie Methner & Jordan Hung - Secondary Health Education

**TOP 10 AND STATE QUALIFIERS:**
Callin Griffith - Nutrition  
Ashley Hershman - Nutrition  
Natalie Morehouse & Frida Lozano - CPR/First AID  
Alexis Beemer & Eryn Petriko - CERT Skills  
Kennedy Konkle - Veterinary Science  
Zanna Sayeau - Veterinary Science  
Grace Charnstrom - Veterinary Science  
Emma Long - Nursing Assisting  
Alexis Johnson - Medical Assisting  
Hanna DeFrayne - Medical Assisting  
Kayla Acton - Dental Science  
Annabelle Murray - Clinical Specialty  
Hannah Watson - Clinical Specialty  
Natalie Konkel - Clinical Specialty  
Alexandra Baker - Clinical Nursing  
HaLaya Cato - Clinical Nursing  
Conlan Houston - Biomedical Laboratory Science  
Grace Brenner - Medical Terminology  
Kaitlyn Ferguson - Transcultural Health Care  
Alex Aguilar - Medical Spelling  
Owen Hillary & Ryan Sharpe - EMT  
Katherine Middleton & Brynn Pierse - EMT  
Zain Khambaty & John Keller - EMT  
Peyton Warren & Olivia Sorgatz - EMT  
Ella Quintus & Hailey Earhart - EMT  
Rachel Parrell & Audrey Brown - EMT  
Nolan Kutchey - Epidemiology  
Shelby Wilmot - Epidemiology  
Marissa Morehouse - Epidemiology  
Alyssa Pernicano - Extemporaneous Writing  
Sam Barrott, Anna Ibarra, Julia James & Garritt Mahoney - Biomedical Debate  
Danny Mitchell, Chloe Tiffin, Josie Kane & Abbey Trbovich - Creative Problem Solving  
Audrey Hermanson & Kailey Zatorski - Secondary Forensic Science  
Abigail Cherian & Mia McMahan - Secondary Forensic Science  
Sam Murray, Audrey Krause & Kayla Hung - Original Medical Innovation

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**Oxford High School’s HOSA team (Health Occupation Students of America) had more students compete than ever before at the Regional HOSA Leadership Conference on December 16 at Rochester High School. Under the leadership of Janelle Lie, Oxford entered 104 team members in the competition. Students were challenged in their knowledge and performance of skills in physical therapy, emergency medicine, nursing, sports medicine, dental science, and veterinary science. The following 74 Oxford HOSA team members have advanced to the state competition at the end of March in Grand Rapids:**

**FIRST PLACE:**
Alexis Johnson - Medical Assisting  
Hanna DeFrayne - Medical Assisting  
Kayla Acton - Dental Science  
Annabelle Murray - Clinical Specialty  
Hannah Watson - Clinical Specialty  
Natalie Konkel - Clinical Specialty  
Alexandra Baker - Clinical Nursing  
HaLaya Cato - Clinical Nursing  
Conlan Houston - Biomedical Laboratory Science  
Grace Brenner - Medical Terminology  
Kaitlyn Ferguson - Transcultural Health Care  
Alex Aguilar - Medical Spelling  
Owen Hillary & Ryan Sharpe - EMT  
Katherine Middleton & Brynn Pierse - EMT  
Zain Khambaty & John Keller - EMT  
Peyton Warren & Olivia Sorgatz - EMT  
Ella Quintus & Hailey Earhart - EMT  
Rachel Parrell & Audrey Brown - EMT  
Nolan Kutchey - Epidemiology  
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Marissa Morehouse - Epidemiology  
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Sam Barrott, Anna Ibarra, Julia James & Garritt Mahoney - Biomedical Debate  
Danny Mitchell, Chloe Tiffin, Josie Kane & Abbey Trbovich - Creative Problem Solving  
Audrey Hermanson & Kailey Zatorski - Secondary Forensic Science  
Abigail Cherian & Mia McMahan - Secondary Forensic Science  
Sam Murray, Audrey Krause & Kayla Hung - Original Medical Innovation
Each November, our district educators use Veterans Day as an opportunity to teach our students to learn from and honor the history of our nation. Teachers have students reflect on the decisions, actions, and sacrifices made by our veterans and how their part in history has affected our country and our freedoms. Students show their gratitude and respect for our American heroes in various ways. Here are some of the highlights:

- At Leonard Elementary, 21 veterans from different divisions and eras were invited to enjoy a complimentary breakfast. After breakfast, the veterans shared their experiences and brought history to life for the students. The Wildcats gave back to our nation’s heroes by reciting poetry they had written in gratitude to them.

- OES teacher Shannon Hay was nominated as the North Oakland County V.F.W. Teacher of the Year and placed first in the 5th District competition on Jan. 6 for the many ways she teaches Americanism to her students and all she does for our veterans far and wide.

- OMS choir students sang their hearts out in patriotism and thanksgiving to a packed audience of veterans and civilians alike at the 16th Annual Americana concert. This year, nationally known music group, Three Men and a Tenor, joined our students on stage singing “America the Beautiful” and “A Hero’s Prayer.”

- The 8th annual Candy Collection for our troops resulted in 900 pounds of Halloween candy brought in by students at our elementary schools, middle school, and Crossroads. This amount is near double that of last year’s collection! The candy was then sent to Desert Angel, Inc. and distributed to our men and women in the United States Military around the world.

- The eighth-grade class bus trip to Washington D.C. took students’ learning to a different level as they traveled to the battlefields of Gettysburg, visited monuments and museums throughout our nation’s capital and ended at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Before the trip, students submitted essays for the opportunity to represent Oxford in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Aiden Bowyer, Gavin Dell, Aubrey Greenfield, and Norah Wright were awarded this honor. In reflection of the trip, Principal Dacia Beazley shared, “We know everyone learned a lot and came home appreciative of the many men and women who paved the way for us.”

- The honor and respect our Wildcat’s show our country’s veterans carry on well after they leave our walls. This year in particular, Oxford alumnus Dallas Pruitt (‘15), who went on to join the United States Navy, was bestowed with the honored privilege of presenting the House of Representative’s ceremonial wreath at the casket of our 41st President George H.W. Bush on December 3 in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.
Oxford Middle School students ended 2018 with a mission to save lives and bring hope. This marked the fourth annual Giving Week Penny War competition held by OMS students and staff. Students researched charities and this year selected to support and raise money for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention (AFSP), an organization which raises suicide awareness, funds scientific research and provides resources and aid to those affected by suicide.

During Penny Wars, classes compete against one another in a strategic game using a positive and negative point structure assigned to pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and bill denominations. The wars take place daily during five minutes of advisory class throughout Giving Week, and teams can win in either the Positive Points category or the Total Donation category. A new twist added to the competition this year allowed two classes to join together and compete as an alliance. Teachers Jason Cady and Josh Smokovitz got creative in their competitive strategy challenging their students that if their alliance won both teachers would camp out on the middle school roof for a night.

On January 17, these dedicated, compassionate teachers braved the uncomfortable cold rooftop for the night as their combined classrooms won first place in the Total Donations category raising $1,889.45. First place winner for the most Positive Points was the Mrs. Monkevich and Ms. Baran alliance with a total of 15,857 points. The total donation for AFSP was an all-time OMS Penny War high of $8,823.59.

The donation was presented to Steve Windom of the Michigan Chapter of AFSP at a school-wide assembly held the last day of classes before the holiday break on December 21, 2018. The theme of the assembly was “Other People Matter.” Principal Beazley kicked off the assembly by reminding students of lessons taught during advisory classes: to identify and appreciate the good in others, cheer for the successes of others, support one another during times of struggle, and understand that words and actions affect others.

Hopeful and heartfelt songs were performed during the celebration by the OMS choir, band, and orchestra. Former OMS students and Oxford High School graduates, Riley Junti and Dylan Koss, shared their experiences growing up in Oxford and the positive impact OMS teachers had on them. The alumni challenged everyone to use social media for good because their Words Matter. Lake Orion magician Anthony Grupido brought messages of perseverance and hope through various illusions and tricks reiterating how powerful our words are to others. He also encouraged students and staff to go to their families and school professionals should they ever need help. Each advisory class created banners of hope and shared them in the Parade of Banners.

Over the past four years during Giving Week, Oxford Middle School has raised nearly $29,000 for student-selected charities. In prior years, $7,444.13 was raised for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, $5,794.67 for the Wounded Warrior Project, and $6,527.37 for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.
This semester, the National Merit Scholarship Program recognized Oxford High School students McKenzie Miller and Paige Palmer as Commended Scholar Students. Both of these students scored in the top 1% of the 1.6 million juniors across the nation who took the SAT last year.

McKenzie Miller attained 1550 of a possible score of 1600 on the SAT. She is an IB Diploma Candidate, her cumulative GPA is above a 4.2. McKenzie is a multi-sport athlete lettering in volleyball and softball. She is the Vice President of the National Honor Society, and a member of HOSA and the Social Justice club.

Paige Palmer achieved a 1460 SAT score and also has a GPA above 4.0. Paige excels at violin accomplishing first chair in the Oakland Youth Orchestra. She has achieved the Girl Scout Gold Award, is a member of the National Honor Society and is very active in her church.

Teachers at Daniel Axford Elementary invited a very special guest to visit their hard working first-grade readers this fall. Students were challenged to complete special word missions with a goal to earn their “Word Detective Badges.” Special Agent Wildcat from the Super Secret Detective Agency came in on November 12 to congratulate the first graders who completed their mission and to encourage students to continue in their reading goals.

This fall Oxford student athletes excelled in and outside of the athletic arenas. Here are some of the season highlights:

VOLLEYBALL
Academic All-State Team earning a team GPA of 3.3 or higher
Academic All-State Individuals earning a minimum grade point average of 3.7: Anna Trbovich, Anna Peruski, McKenzie Miller, and Anna Ibarra
OAA All-League Team: Madelyn Weiss
Daneen Kincaid named Middle School Coach of the Year

BOYS SOCCER
OAA All-District Team: Tristan Bennett, Jesus Escalante, Chris Escalante, Nick Morawski, Brent Bayley, and Cavan Vince
OAA All-League Team: Tristan Bennett, Jesus Escalante, Chris Escalante, and Nick Morawski

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE
All-Conference and League Champions: Ashlee Weltyk (100 Backstroke) and Keira Veltigian (Diving)
Academic All-State Individuals earning a GPA of 3.7 or above: Claire Alexander, Emma DiMalanta, Cailin Griffith, Tate Hamilton, Paige Hodder
2018 State Qualifiers: Cali Schnur, Grace Charnstrom, Jenna Fistler, Ashlee Weltyk, and Keira Veltigian

TENNIS
OAA All-League players: Lauren Opalewski, Trevor Wallace, and Dane VonAllmen & Silas VonAllmen
Academic All-State Team with a collective GPA above 3.5
Lauren Opalewski named 2018 All-State Nominee and signed a letter of intent with Michigan Tech University Women’s Tennis Team

FOOTBALL
District Playoff Qualifier
Coach Bud Rowley named OAA Red Coach of the Year and Regional Coach of the Year
OAA All-League Team: Thomas Wandrie, Drew Carpenter, Evan Brunning, Jerome Roberson, Trent Myre, Sam Barrott, Marcus Hufnagel, and Austin Schlicht
MLive Metro Detroit All-Stars: Linebacker Thomas Wandrie, Running Back Trent Myre, and Coach Bud Rowley

CROSS COUNTRY
Varsity Boys All-County Honors and OAA All-League Team: Hunter Green, JJ Bagans, Scott Masterson
Varsity Girls OAA All-League Team: Alaine Cusick
Varsity State Qualifiers: JJ Bagans and Scott Masterson
Middle school boys team finished season undefeated: Abdullah Ali, Jake Bunting, Jack Dysarz, Kyle DiMalanta, Jack Bauman, Aaron Schiller

GIRLS GOLF
All-State Academic Team earning a team GPA of 3.5 or above: Caitlyn Hopman, Janelle Grech, Elizabeth Grabowski, Kate Dietiker, Olivia Soule
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 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.

Oakland County Hearing and Vision Program Coordinator Dianne Ferber can answer any questions at 248-424-7071.

Oxford Virtual Academy student Matilyn (Mati) Waligora signed her National Letter of Intent to compete for the University of Alabama Gymnastics team next year. Mati is a three-time member of the USA Junior Olympic National Team and in 2017 was the USA Junior Olympic National all-around and floor exercise champion. In addition to her all-around title in 2017, she earned a bronze in the all-around and floor exercise at the 2018 USA Junior Olympics National Championships. She is also a four-time member of the Region 5 All-Star Team.

Mati has been a member of the honor roll maintaining straight A’s. OVA has given her the flexibility and support to excel in her education and her sport. University of Alabama head coach Dana Duckworth said, “Her discipline and focus academically and accomplishments on the competition floor reflect the standard of excellence and legacy of champions that are the pillars of our program.” Way to go, Wildcat!
ONCE A WILDCAT, ALWAYS A WILDCAT.

CATCHING UP WITH AN OXFORD ALUM...

Oxford Alumnus Lt. Col. Brent Curtis graduated in 1997 and immediately joined the Airforce Academy to serve in our country’s military. Curtis has earned three Meritorious Service Medals for his noncombatant service. His most recent medal was awarded for the three years he served with U.S. Airforces in Europe-Air Forces Africa (USAFE- AFAFRICA). USAFE-AFAFRICA is responsible for wartime, humanitarian and peacekeeping operations as well as equipping U.S. Air Force units pledged to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Lt. Col. Curtis is currently stationed at the Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, USA where he is using his extensive knowledge and experience to lead the next generation of USAF pilots. We asked Lt. Col. Curtis to share with you how his Oxford experience has influenced him and to share his advice for current Wildcats.

“I owe much of who I have become to the guidance of my family and my experience at Oxford Schools and in the Oxford community. My family was large, and in very close proximity to Oxford. For example, when my daughter was born, she was the 170th member of the family underneath my Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother. Most all of them lived in Southeast Michigan. My friends were the best. They were all very talented and intelligent people who were willing to cut loose and take some risk. I held two jobs in the community. First, I bused tables at Red Knapp’s. I was one of the first employees hired when they originally opened. Second, I worked as an apprentice electrician for Lhota Electric, a local electrical contractor who taught me how to work hard, in the elements, and take pride in my work. Lastly, sports were a real outlet and an event that taught me teamwork, and the value of competition. I played baseball for three years and was a four-year varsity soccer player. The values I learned about succeeding and failing as a team resonates with me today. Oxford was truly a great community in which to grow and mature as a young man. Right now I live in Mississippi with my incredible wife and two amazing kids. I am fortunate enough to be commanding an Air Force Flying Training Squadron, where I lead 71 Instructor Pilots to produce over 200 pilot graduates annually. Coincidently, I have a student in my squadron who is from Oxford! I am eligible to retire in 2022, and plan to move to the Gulf Coast of Florida and fly for a contract company who performs adversary air for the Air Force and grow my property management business. I have seen so much of the world serving the Air Force having served overseas in the Pacific and European theatres. It is time to set down roots and create something I can pass down to my children.

My advice for current Wildcats is to get after it! Too much pressure is falsely placed on you to pick the right school, get the right job, pursue the right degree, date the right person, etc. I say, find something you find exciting, and go get it! It seems like with social media these days, people’s decisions are influenced too much by what looks good on Instagram, or what their friends think is cool. If you are happy doing what you are doing, you will never feel like you are working a day of your life.”

OXFORD ALL-STATE MUSICIANS

The Oxford Schools music program had two seniors and two middle school students earn placement in the prestigious Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association All-State ensembles this year. Senior Nadia Smith was selected to play viola in the All-State Orchestra, senior Tyler Dulinski was accepted to play trombone in the All-State Band. Middle School student Nora Chapa was invited to play violin in the All-State Middle School Orchestra and band student Nathan Forgaciu was selected to play trumpet in the All-State Middle School Band.

For three days at the end of January, these Oxford musicians were led by nationally recognized conductors and rehearsed with the All-State ensembles. On the final day, the students performed in a concert held at the DeVos Center in Grand Rapids.

Both seniors plan to continue their music careers at the university level. Tyler Dulinski has also received offers to play with the Central Michigan University Honors Band and the District Three Honors Band this year.

BASKETBALL JONES TEACHES KINDNESS

Students at Leonard Elementary received a visit by Jim “Basketball Jones” this November. Using his skillful ball handling tricks while talking about serious topics such as bullying, Jones wove entertainment and education together.

The assembly served as Leonard’s kickoff to this year’s Olweus Bully Prevention Program. Students laughed and giggled non-stop as Jones involved them in his ball spinning antics as he conveyed a message to make kindness the foundation of their character, treat others the way they want to be treated, and to be an “up-stander” rather than a “bystander.”

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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.

Editor, Danielle Stublensky - danielle.stublensky@oxfordschools.org

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