



WILDCAT REVIEW

OXFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

... in the classroom.

Champions...

Academics, Arts, Athletics

... on the lane.

... on the court.

... on the stage.

SPRING 2019

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

BOND UPDATE



As June is drawing near, the district has been feverishly planning for all of the work that will be done in the buildings during the summer recess. All elementary buildings will be active construction zones with extremely limited accessibility throughout the entire summer. Every classroom will be affected as air conditioning units, carpeting, lighting, and new ceilings will be installed.

At Oxford High School, the east academic wing will not be accessible with the new roof installation and necessary carpeting and lighting replacements. Summer school classes will meet at the OVA Lab at 176 S. Washington. The west side of the high school will be open for limited use for athletics and approved facility users. For safety purposes, this area will ONLY be accessible through the front (north) entrance with parking solely in the north lot. The OHS south (pool) entrance and parking lot will be exclusively for construction personnel and equipment.

This summer, the middle school will not be under construction, therefore, it will house OELC's summer child-care program (developmental kindergarten through sixth grade), the Summer Feeding Program, and the Oxford Parks and Recreation Fun in the Sun Camp. We will not be able to accommodate infant, toddler and pre-k summer care due to the space we have available and the state licensing requirements for those age groups.

We realize that families may be inconvenienced by the construction happening throughout the district; however, it is unavoidable to complete the much-needed work promised with the passage of the bond. At this time, we plan for all summer programming to return to regularly scheduled locations in 2020. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

DISTRICT ADDS PREPLANLIVE

In continued efforts to enhance our emergency preparedness, Oxford Community Schools has been working with Michigan-based immersive technology company PrePlanLive. PrePlanLive has developed an innovative way to communicate vital information efficiently to first responders and school administration during emergency situations to ultimately save lives. We are the first district in the country to use this technology.

The PrePlanLive team is comprised of first responders, education professionals, and threat and vulnerability mitigation specialists with extensive experience in handling the worst possible public safety scenarios. We are fortunate that PrePlanLive Founder/CEO Dan Flanders and COO Craig LaPine have children in our district, making their mission for both emergency planning and incident response for Oxford Schools very personal.

PrePlanLive utilizes interactive 3D mapping technology and has currently mapped every building in our district. Their technology also works together with our building security cameras to allow for live viewing during a crisis. In an emergency situation, every second counts. These maps will give key emergency personnel and school administration the ability to see inside classrooms and hallways, understand the lock-down procedures the students and teachers would be using, and help emergency responders establish the best points for entry.



Classroom trauma kits that include special panic buttons and first aid items are also available through PrePlanLive. The panic buttons work with the PrePlanLive technology to alert both emergency responders and school administration simultaneously of when and precisely where in a building an emergency is taking place to enable the quickest response time. The kit also includes an easy to use universal tourniquet that can fit and be applied by both children and adults. The district was recently awarded the 2019 Competitive School Safety Grant which will be used to purchase these kits for all of our classrooms.

Additionally, PreplanLive is in the process of creating a phone app that will eventually be accessible by our staff. The secure app would include each building's Emergency Operations Plan and a way for the emergency team to communicate with teachers and staff to keep them notified of pertinent information and provide support in the midst of a crisis.

ARMBRUSTER WINS STATE BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Twelfth grade Oxford Schools Early College student Megan Armbruster made Oxford athletics history on March 2, when she was crowned the Girl's Individual State Bowling Champion. She is the first Oxford student to ever achieve this title. In her final games that earned her the championship, Armbruster bowled scores of 223 and 193. Armbruster was a key player in assisting the Girl's Bowling team in securing the OAA Red League title, their third straight regional title, and fifth place in the state this season.

CHOIR PERFORMS IN IRELAND



In February, forty members of the Oxford High School Choirs represented Michigan and the United States by performing in the 2019 American Celebration of Music in Ireland Concert Series. The Oxford Choir received the invitation to sing in Ireland based on their growing national and international reputation for excellence. The group performed at St. Mary's Church in Killarney, The Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas in Galway and at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

While on the eight-day tour of Ireland, the student vocalists took in the amazing vistas of Ireland and learned much of the ancient history by touring numerous castles and towns. Some of their exciting experiences outside of their performances included kissing the Blarney stone at Blarney Castle, visiting sixth century St. Kevin's Monastic Settlement, taking in the incredible sights along the Ring of Kerry, and experiencing workshops in both Irish Tin Whistle music and traditional Irish Dancing. It was an unforgettable experience of a lifetime for these Wildcats.



A NIGHT ON THE ROOF WATCHED AROUND THE GLOBE

On January 17, dedicated and compassionate Oxford Middle School teachers Josh Smokovitz and Jason Cady pulled an all-nighter on the uncomfortable school rooftop as the consequence of a bet to raise money for suicide awareness. They broadcast their experience on Youtube, and it went viral reaching over 125,000 people all over the world.

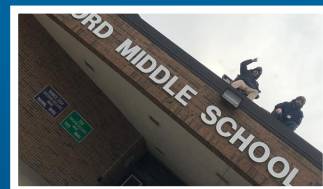
These teachers were inspired to think outside of the box for ways to generate donations for the OMS Giving Week Penny Drive



to support the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. They bet their advisory classes that if the combined funds raised by their two classrooms were

more than any other class alliance in the building, they would camp out on the roof together for a night. The bet got so big that it spread beyond OMS, and donations were coming in from all over the school community. District bus drivers were even collecting change on their routes to give to the teachers. Almost \$1,900 was raised between the two classes in the four-day Penny War of the total \$8,823.59 collected by the entire school.

Thankfully, the planned night on the roof was just before the polar vortex hit Michigan and the weather only dipped to a chilly 22 degrees. Cady and Smokovitz were encouraged by hundreds of visitors from around the community. Many came bearing gifts of warm drinks and snacks that the two hauled up in a milk crate rigged with a rope pulley.



The duo decided to broadcast from the rooftop online via YouTube to share their experience with their students and continue promoting the students' cause that is very dear to their own hearts. Much to their surprise, the teachers had people tune in to encourage them from places around the world such as New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, and Croatia. Their story was shared on BuzzFeed and Reddit, popular worldwide online news and entertainment sites. The map below was generated by Reddit; each light blue dot represents a place where the "Roof!"



YouTube stream had been viewed that night. People were engaging with the online stream continuously with comments such as, "Tuned in from Reddit! I am from Northern Ireland. Great job guys. Struggled with suicide myself, keep it up!"

"They shared our Giving Week story, and most importantly told everyone how much our school community loves our students and that we'd do anything for them, including spending a night in January on the roof to fulfill a promise," said OMS Principal Dacia Beazley.

OMS STUDENT STUDYING ABROAD

WELCOME, NEW STAFF!

JOAN COURETAS

OVA Curriculum Development
Education: B.S. Elementary Education,
Oakland University

KIM DETTLOFF

OELC Teacher

BRIAN GOHS

Maintenance Technician

EMILY KALOHN

OELC Assistant Teacher

SARAH LUMLEY

Clear Lake & DA Technology Specialist

BROOKE NICHOLS

DA Resource Room Teacher
Education: B.A. in Elementary Education,
Baker College; M.A. in Special
Education, Oakland University

GIANNA MROZEK

OVA Assistant Principal
Education: B.A. in English, Oakland
University; M.A. in Education, University
of Michigan; Ed.S. in Educational
Leadership, Oakland University

MELISSA RAINWATER

Special Education Teacher Consultant
Education: B.S. in Elementary Education,
Oakland University; M.A. in Special
Education and Learning Disabilities,
University of Michigan; Education
Specialist, Wayne State University

CHRISTINE RUSSELL

MTSS Coordinator/ General Psychologist
Education: B.A. in Psychology, Grand
Valley State University; M.A. in
Psychology, Ed.S. in School Psychology,
Ed.D. in Special Education and Literacy
Studies, Western Michigan University

KAREN SPEZIA

OVA Data and Systems Support

CHRIS VASOVSKI

District Technician

ALEX WHEELER

OVA Data and Systems Support Specialist



Sophia Ziegler in Ludwigsburg, Germany

Oxford Middle School eighth-grader Sophia Ziegler is spending this semester as a foreign exchange student in Germany. She will return this coming fall in time to enter Oxford High School as a freshman. OMS Principal Dacia Beazley worked with OVA, OHS, and the Ziegler family this year to ensure a smooth transition. Sophia is enjoying her experience abroad tremendously and is keeping in touch with middle school staff. The photo to the left is Sophia in downtown Ludwigsburg nearby her school. According to Principal Beazley, "The partnership with OVA was important. I'm not sure Sophia would be in this position without that opportunity. We are experiencing personalized learning in action!"

STUDENTS ACHIEVE SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards began in 1923 and have become the longest-running, most prestigious program for creative teens in the U.S. and the nation's largest source of scholarships for creative young artists and writers. More than 6,200 pieces of art created by south-eastern Michigan seventh through twelfth-grade students were entered into the competition this year. From these entries, approximately 1,100 individual pieces of work were chosen to receive awards. Fifteen Oxford students submitted artwork to the 2019 competition and five students earned a total of 13 awards for their outstanding work:

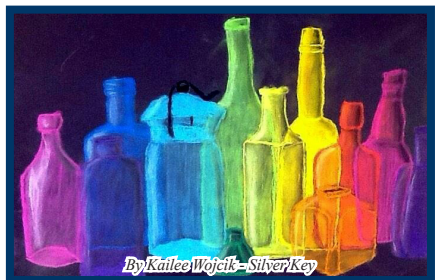
Luke Farwell (OSEC) - 1 Gold Key, 3 Silver Keys, 4 Honorable Mentions
Anna Coronado-Rinke (OMS) - Gold Key
Kailee Wojcik (OMS) - 2 Silver Keys
Ethan Felax (OMS) - Honorable Mention
Reina St. Juliana (OMS) - Honorable Mention

Students work was on public exhibition at the College of Creative Studies Walter B. Ford II building at the Ford Campus in Detroit from February 11 through March 1. Luke Farwell and Anna Coronado-Rinke both had pieces earn the top honor of a Gold Key award. All Gold Key pieces are automatically sent on to New York for national adjudication.

Luke Farwell also won a \$1000 scholarship from Atlier Art Studio and \$250 scholarship from Blick Art Supply in Royal Oak. His watercolor painting "The Blues" has also been chosen as this year's Oxford High School yearbook cover.



"Uncle Randy" by Luke Farwell - Gold Key



By Kailee Wojcik - Silver Key



"The Blues" by Luke Farwell - Honorable Mention & OHS Yearbook Cover



By Anna Coronado-Rinke - Gold Key



By Kailee Wojcik - Silver Key

BRIDGES SERVES UP A LUNCHTIME HISTORY LESSON

On February 15, Oxford Bridges High School students engaged in a "shoebox lunch" to celebrate and nurture an understanding and appreciation of African-American history during Black History month. Students experienced, first hand, the answer black people created for themselves to combat the discrimination that once affected them when they traveled by train.

From the 1890s until 1965, Jim Crow laws legitimized segregating black people in America, isolating them from the mainstream community. While traveling by train, only white people were allowed to eat in the dining car, leaving people of color to go hungry. To make matters worse, when the train stopped most restaurants and facilities along the way would not offer services to black travelers either.



In response, the "shoebox lunch" became black travelers answer to combat their lack of equal access to food. Black travelers began taking old shoeboxes and packing them with foods that traveled well such as fried chicken, sweet potato pie, boiled egg, and a fruit or vegetable.

ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Nine athletes signed letters of intent on Friday, February 8 to continue achieving their maximum potential at the collegiate level. This year, Oxford had two athletes commit to Division 1 schools. Evan Brunning has signed on to become a Spartan, playing for Michigan State University and Oxford's record-setting diver Keira Veltgian will become a part of the Eastern Michigan University Diving Team.

Division 1

Evan Brunning- Michigan State University, Football
Keira Veltgian- Eastern Michigan University, Dive

Division 2

Austin Schlicht- Michigan Tech, Football
Keaton Cleland Northwood University, Golf
Chloe Allen- Northwood University, Softball

Division 3

Sam Barrott- Hope College, Football
Caitlin Hill- Marietta College, Lacrosse
Marcus Hufnagel- Sienna Heights University, Football
Karson Ulatowski- Hope College, Baseball

Athletic Director Jordan Ackerman heartfully encouraged these athletes, "Please remember as you move forward that you are now among an elite group of student-athletes, and you will be held to a higher standard. Please be sure to make positive choices by leading with integrity and always doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching."



2019 TEACHERS & SUPPORT PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Every year, a teacher and a support person from each building in the district can be nominated by colleagues, students and district parents for their exemplary service and named the Teacher of the Year and the Support Person of the Year. From those nominations, one teacher from each school level and one Support Person from the district is selected to be honored at the Oakland County Outstanding Teacher of the Year award and the Oakland County Support Person of the Year award.

This year, Wayne Haney from Haney Farm Bureau Insurance generously sweetened this honor by gifting a \$500 cash prize to each of the four outstanding staff members chosen to advance. The 2019 district winners submitted to Oakland County and winners of the monetary prizes were high school teacher Nicole Barnett, middle school teacher Josh Smokovitz, elementary teacher Jennifer Kontry, and OMS custodian Kristin Squires.

Daniel Axford Elementary

★ Jennifer Kontry
Kindergarten Teacher
Jennifer Moore
Paraprofessional

Oxford Elementary

Jodie Vivano
Fifth Grade Teacher

Kathy Marchione
Food Services

Clear Lake Elementary

Lisa Brennan
Fifth Grade Teacher

K.C. Orr
Food Services

Lakeville Elementary

Nora Krol
Spanish Teacher

Lori Smith
Paraprofessional

Leonard Elementary

Chelsea Schlak
Third Grade Teacher

Kathleen Gilbertson
Paraprofessional



Oxford Middle School

★ Josh Smokovitz
Special Education Teacher

★ Kristin Squires
Custodian

Oxford High School

★ Nicole Barnett
Math Teacher

Dawn Sterner
Paraprofessional

OSEC / OVA

Jared Ostrom
9-12 Social Studies Content Teacher

Mary Dean
Operations Specialist

Administration Office

Debbie Fox
Technology Support

★ Denotes Oakland County Nominee



Kristin Squires, Josh Smokovitz, Wayne Haney, Jennifer Kontry and Nicole Barnett



THESIS FOR THE WIN



J.J. Bagans & Jillian Beall

Aaron Angelo & Gabriella Salas
Josie Kane & Andrew Romano
Cara Smith & Grant Kornburger

Emma Van Loon & John Keller
Kate Wozniak & Johnny
Carmichael

Emma Jenks & Cole Bukoski

Ella Murray & Cayden St. John



TO THE SWEET SIXTEEN



HISTORIC WILDCAT BASKETBALL SEASON

Oxford Varsity Boys Basketball worked their way to a historic season on the court. The Wildcats finished the year with a 23-2 record. As the victories continued to pile up, so did the titles. The team first captured the OAA Blue Division 1 crown with a record of 19 – 1, losing only to Ferndale during season play. They next advanced to pull out an exciting 39 – 32 win over Lake Orion, achieving the school's first district title since 1993.

The district victory placed the Wildcats into the State Championship Tournament brackets. The first game was against Midland where they went on to beat them 59 - 38, achieving Oxford's first regional semifinal win since 1948.

As a magical part of the last "Sweet Sixteen" teams playing for the State Championship title, Oxford moved on to play Howell at Howell High School in the regional final on March 7. Wildcat fans turned out in droves to cheer on their team and represent their home town with class and pride. The Athletic Department supplied Wildcat fans with matching yellow t-shirts and lined up fan buses to make the journey to Howell.

Although the night ended with a disappointing loss for Oxford (42-37), these Wildcats have nothing to hang their heads about. They finished a historic season with loyal and spirited fans supporting them all the way and memories to last a lifetime.



Special thanks to Skip Townsend for many of the photos in this spread capturing our Wildcat spirit, pride, and hard work. Please visit his website at TZRSports.com to see more.

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

LAKEVILLE LITERACY CLUB

The new third-grade reading law instituted in 2016 requires all students to score *proficient* on the third-grade state assessment to move on to fourth grade. Two years ago, Firmly Rooted Ministries of Oxford approached Lakeville Elementary administration with the idea to begin a Literacy Club to help at-risk students outside of the school day accomplish this benchmark. Each Tuesday and Wednesday after school for an hour, volunteer mentors connect one-on-one in the media center with students recommended to the Literacy Club by their teachers. Time is spent reading together and playing classic board games such as Jenga, checkers, and chess to stimulate problem-solving. At the end of the hour, students are sent home with a healthy snack.

According to Principal Kristin Guinn, "As a result of the Literacy Club, students who might struggle with reading are actually excited to stay after school and do more reading! Students know that they are supported and that their reading mentors truly care. They are encouraged to give their best even when text becomes challenging, and this has helped to increase our students' motivation to read during their daily routine." One student excitedly told her mentor, "I love Literacy Club! I now read books to my dollies every night."

Kimberly Donnelly who spearheaded the club recently took things one step further. Knowing many of these children do not have many reading resources of their own at home, she recently applied for and received a monetary grant for the club. The funds allowed the mentors to take each child shopping with a \$20 allowance for new books at the Lakeville book fair. The Literacy Club is always welcoming new mentors. If you are interested, please contact Kimberly Donnelly at kimberlyd96@gmail.com.



Literacy Club book fair shopping with a mentor

OMS CYBERSECURITY TEAM CROWNED STATE CHAMPION

The Oxford Middle School Cybersecurity teams ended their first year with outstanding success. The OMS Iron Crabs took the state championship and advanced to the national semi-finals, and the OMS Walruses (previously called the Narwhals) finished third in the state. The program had their first meeting this past October and, weeks later, the Oxford teams dove head first into six hour-long CyberPatriot competitions. During the competitions, the teams were tasked with solving problems in programs such as Cisco Packet Tracer. This program alone is considered to be equivalent to college level in difficulty. Facilitator Natalie Daversa is beyond impressed with the dedication, passion, and success of the students on her teams especially considering CyberPatriot recommends new teams simply just learn the ropes in their first year of forming and not even attempt to compete until year two.

OHS HOSTS FIRST MODEL UN CONFERENCE



On January 26, Oxford High School hosted its first ever Model United Nations conference, OxMUN19. This was the first event hosted by our school's team and the first event ever held in Northern Oakland County. Seventy-five students attended from various high schools to discuss important global issues such as international access to the internet, regulation of artificial intelligence, and alternative energy sources. Senior student Brady Wyniemko designed, organized, and executed OxMUN19 with the help of seniors Alyssa Schefke, Will Guthrie, and Seth Grove. This event also served as Brady's senior CAS project for the completion of his IB diploma.

Oxford's Model UN organization was recently honored at the Michigan State competition in March with *The Spirit of Sparta* award. This accolade is a congeniality award that acknowledges our students as those who best embodied what it means to be a well-rounded UN delegate and a good sport.

MAKAYLA HAYWOOD AWARDED

\$120K SCHOLARSHIP

Oxford High School senior Makayla Haywood set her sights on winning the Western Golf Association's Chick Evans Scholarship since she began caddying when she was 13 years old. In fact, it was the scholarship opportunity itself that led her to be a golf caddy. Five years later, her foresight, outstanding character, and hard work – on the golf course and in the classroom– has paid off. She was one of 23 Michigan caddies awarded a full tuition and housing scholarship

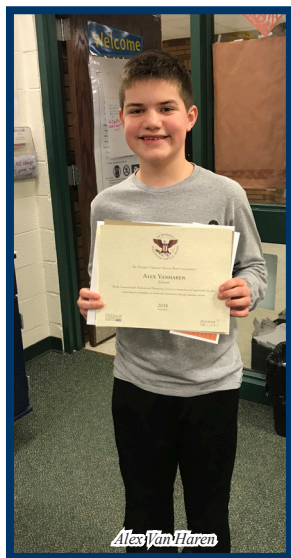
valued at \$120,000 over four years. Makayla plans to use the scholarship at Michigan State University where she plans to major in animal science and ultimately become a large animal veterinarian. Although Makayla does golf a “little bit” her first love is horses, and she has been apart of the Oxford Equestrian team since she was in sixth grade, helping them win back to back state championships in 2016 and 2017.



Makayla Haywood

SEVENTH-GRADER RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL LEVEL FOR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

The work that young philanthropist Alex VanHaren has accomplished to help those in need has recently been recognized at the state and national level. Alex was selected to receive an engraved bronze Distinguished Finalist medallion in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for his outstanding volunteer work. The seventh-grade Oxford Middle School student was nominated by principal Dacia Beazley in the fall and is one of ten students in Michigan to be recognized. Since Alex completed over 100 hours of community service over a twelve month period of time, he also qualified to receive the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award. A letter from President Trump accompanied the award thanking Alex for his dedicated service to improving the lives of others and for modeling the American spirit.



Alex VanHaren

In 2016, with the help of his mom, Nicole VanHaren, Alex founded a charity called Scarves 4 Cozy Kids which has since donated over 4,000 hats, gloves, and scarves for local children who might not otherwise have access to these items at home. Boxes of the winter wear are distributed to dozens of schools in southeastern Michigan for children to take what they need to stay warm. Alex has expanded his charitable efforts beyond the winter season as well and chooses a different cause each month to collect donations for such as school supplies, eye glasses, and food for the needy just to name a few. You can see his charity's Facebook page for more information on how to help Alex serve others at Scarves 4 Cozy Kids.



WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

This winter, Oxford student-athletes excelled in and outside of the athletic arenas shattering school records with their achievements. Here are some of this season's outstanding highlights:

BOYS BASKETBALL

OAA Blue League Champions
District Champions

Advanced to the sweet sixteen regional finals
Played first regional final game since 1948

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Finished season 11 - 3 in league play

Coach Jessica Bryer awarded the OAA White Coach of the Year

BOYS BOWLING

OAA Red League Champions

Finished second place in the state championships

Luke Acton finished ninth in the Boy's Individual State Championship

GIRLS BOWLING

Megan Armbruster was crowned Individual State Champion

OAA Red League Champions

Regional Champions

Finished fifth place in the state championships

COMPETITIVE CHEER

OAA White League Champions

Advanced to regionals finishing 10th

Set new school record with a high score of 747.2

SKI

Mackenzie Nichols placed 21st overall in Girls Varsity Giant Slalom
and 17th place overall in Girls Varsity Slalom

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

Broke five school records throughout the season

Carson Wolf placed 15th in the 200 IM at the state meet and holds
new school records for 200 Medley and 400 Free Relay

Zach Beatty earned League Champion and
All-League in the 200 Freestyle

WRESTLING

Individual State Wrestling Tournament medal round winners:

Darren McLeod placed 5th in the state at 112 lbs

Trent Myre placing 8th in the state at 152 lbs

Austin Schlicht placing 6th in the state at 215 lbs



2019 State Ranked Bowling Teams



2019 Wrestling Individual State Medal Winners

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The *hills were alive* in Oxford from March 21- 24 when more than a hundred district students of all ages came together to perform six shows of Rodger and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*. The months of preparations by staff, volunteers and students on stage, behind the scenes, and in the orchestra pit, did not disappoint the more than 3,000 people who turned out to watch the production.

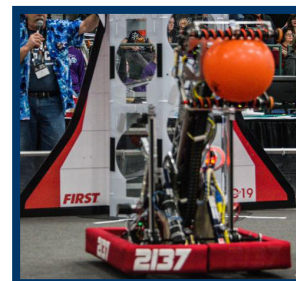


TORC ACHIEVES PRESTIGIOUS CHAIRMAN'S AWARD



The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award that can be earned by teams at FIRST Robotics Competitions. It honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate, best embodying the mission of FIRST "to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership."

Oxford High School's robotics team TORC 2137 took this outstanding award home from the Belleville competition on March 8-9. In order to be eligible for this award, teams have to submit an executive summary, long essay, video, and a presentation by three students to a panel of judges. Winning the Chairman's Award qualified TORC 2137 to compete at the state competition in April.



The team continued in their success, taking first with their robot in the Alpena District competition as well as earning the Excellence in Engineering award for building an elegant and advantageous robot. Oxford is one of only two teams in the state to have qualified to attend the FIRST Championship in Detroit before April through their win of the Engineering Inspiration Award at last year's championship.

PREPARING FOR EXHIBITION

Fifth-graders across the district are intently preparing for their IB Exhibition presentations that will take place at the end of the school year. Exhibition is the culminating project for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme which challenges Oxford students to think for themselves and take responsibility for their learning through an inquiry led approach.

Students choose a real life issue that they are passionate about to investigate, collaborate in small groups, and ultimately create and implement an action plan to make a positive difference on the topic in our community. This project deepens the level of growth in communication, thinking, and learning skills in our students. Students learn that they have the power to make our world a better place. They hope to inspire our parents and community members to make a positive shift in their life. Exhibition is a learning experience for our students, but it is also a time for all of us to reflect on who we are and how we are contributing to our global society. Student Exhibition presentations are open to anyone who would like to attend. Visit the elementary website calendars at www.oxfordschools.org for dates and times.

OMS ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM AT STATES

For the first time ever, the Oxford Middle School Orchestra program will be participating at the State Band and Orchestra Festival this May. The musicians had to score the highest rating at District Festival to be invited to play at this next level. The music program also had a fantastic opportunity in March when *The Moxie Strings*, a Michigan based string duo, taught each orchestra class from fourth grade through high school. *The Moxie Strings* talked about being professional musicians, demonstrated alternative styles of string music and developed students' creativity. After working with each class over a two day period, the students performed music alongside *The Moxie Strings* at a special concert in the evening.

OHS LEADERSHIP EARNS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Oxford Leadership students hosted the 2019 MASC Regional Leadership Conference for hundreds of area leadership students in Frankenmuth on March 4. The Wildcats creatively used the Wizard of Oz theme to help demonstrate to the conference attendees how to search for leadership traits necessary to succeed in bettering their school and community such as empathy, creativity, attentiveness, and an outgoing nature. March 16-18 more than two dozen Oxford Leadership students attended the state MASC/MAHS Michigan Student Leadership conference in Grand Rapids. Our organization was honored with the highest award bestowed at the conference, the *Award of Excellence*. Groups that achieve this award exemplify the highest standard of organization, member development, community-minded service and goal-oriented vision for their programs. Oxford Leadership scored the highest amount of points in school history this year, earning 218 of 230 possible points.



SCIENCE IS ALIVE AT DA

A *Science Alive* biologist along with several animals came to Mrs. Ribant's kindergarten class at Daniel Axford Elementary on February 7. Every child had an opportunity to get an "up close and personal" animal encounter. Students explored how scientists study living things and had the chance to observe, touch and ask questions about a variety of animals.



ONCE A WILDCAT,
ALWAYS A WILDCAT.

CATCHING UP WITH AN OXFORD ALUM...

Oxford Alumnus Nicole Bell graduated in 2013 after completing her senior year online through Oxford Virtual Academy. She attended Oxford High School until the end of her junior year when she was offered a position to train at the prestigious Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. After training intensively for a year in Pittsburgh, she was offered a traineeship with North Carolina Dance Theatre in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2015, after auditioning at various ballet companies throughout the country, Nicole was offered her first professional position at Missouri Contemporary Ballet in Columbia, Missouri. Thrilled to have succeeded at turning her love and passion for dance into a career, Nicole accepted the offer and has been dancing with the company ever since.

"Growing up in Oxford is something that I will cherish forever. The guidance and support I have received from my peers and mentors alike have encouraged me to always work hard and continue to chase my dreams. Without the love and encouragement of my family and friends throughout my journey, I would not be where I am today.

Being a professional ballet dancer is physically and mentally demanding, but it has been my goal for as long as I can remember. My favorite moments are when I am up on stage, able to share the art form with the world. Missouri Contemporary Ballet has five major performance weekends each year and about once a year we take a show on tour-most recently to Chickasa, Oklahoma. My favorite ballet that I have performed in so far has been Cinderella, however I love the challenges and thrills each new work presents. Dancing is an amazing form of expression, and whether it is professional or not, I believe that everyone should find the chance to dance every now and then!

I spend my evenings teaching at the ballet school connected with the professional company and at another local dance school. I love being able to share my knowledge and passion with the next generation of dancers. I thank my former teachers at Oxford Schools for providing me with insight on how to be an effective and encouraging teacher and leader. There are many times when I look back and incorporate the advice and techniques my teachers and mentors provided me. I also thank the ballet teachers I had growing up, who are responsible for fueling my passion for dance and pushing me to be the best that I can be.

My advice for current Wildcats is to never settle in your ambitions. It may seem crazy to move across the country for a job or to go to college in a town you never pictured yourself living. However, it is okay to be a small fish in a big pond sometimes! Take risks and meet new people- you never know where it will lead. Challenge yourself and always work hard - with consistency and perseverance I bet you will surprise yourself with what goals you can achieve."

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tom Donnelly Jr.	President
Dan D'Alessandro	Vice-President
Korey Bailey	Treasurer
Heather Shafer	Secretary
Erick Foster	Trustee
Chad Griffith	Trustee
Mary Hanser	Trustee

ADMINISTRATION

Tim Throne	Superintendent
Ken Weaver	Deputy Superintendent of Instruction & Curriculum
Sam Barna	Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations
David Pass	Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Denise Sweat	Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 38
OXFORD, MI

ECRWSS

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE PROCESS

POSTAL PATRON
RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS
OXFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

10 N. WASHINGTON, OXFORD, MI 48371 | WWW.OXFORDSCHOOLS.ORG

 facebook.com/oxfordcommunityschools
www.oxfordschools.org



Member
FDIC

OXFORD BANK

oxfordbank.com

NEW TECHNOLOGY. NEW HOURS. NEW WAY OF BANKING

TRY OUR INTERACTIVE TELLER MACHINES . . .

. . . OPEN SUNRISE TO SUNSET



7 AM TO 8 PM, MONDAY - FRIDAY

7 AM TO 5 PM, SATURDAYS



Delivering value. For life.

Non-Discrimination Clause: Oxford Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (sexual orientation or gender), disability, age, height, weight, marital status or any other legally protected characteristic, in its programs, services or activities, including employment opportunities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: David Pass, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 10 North Washington Street, Oxford, MI 48371, (248) 969-5004.