

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

DISTRICT SAFETY AND SECURITY

Bearing in mind the devastating tragedies that have taken place in schools across the nation, our resolve strengthens even more to ensure that Oxford Community Schools provides a safe environment for our students, staff, and community. **The safety of our students** is **our number one priority.** We want to take this opportunity to share with you our district's current safety and security procedures.

There are numerous changes and improvements the district has made throughout the years to enhance our layers of security to keep our students safe. We have an ongoing Safety Committee comprised of community officials, emergency responders, district personnel, students, parents and community members that meets regularly to identify and implement district safeguards. We have revisited previous protocol to better what we already have in place and have made several new additions as well.

Oxford Community Schools recently contracted with the **ALICE Training Institute** for active shooter training for our district personnel and is working to become an ALICE Certified District. ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training began in late March for all school employees. This program encompasses training through both an online certification course for each staff member and live group instruction for active shooter drills. The live active drill is led by certified ALICE trainers and will allow staff to put their knowledge into action by working through scenarios and drills.

You will see an **increase in the presence of Oakland County Sheriff patrols.** The Oakland County Sheriff has assigned deputies to patrol each school location in the district. These regular, random visits will create a greater police presence and ensure the officers are familiar with our schools.

In the past several months, the district has been installing additional **Aiphone video intercom systems** at each building's main entry points. This system requires guests to be buzzed into the buildings during school hours in an effort to increase building security.

We have re-introduced the **OK2SAY campaign** district-wide. OK-2SAY allows anyone to confidentially report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at Michigan students, school employees, or schools. Since its inception in 2014, OK2SAY has received over 10,000 tips state-wide, preventing multiple tragedies.

The list below indicates areas in which the district has invested to provide the safest and best learning environment. Our team continues to review and enhance these initiatives. However, this work does not end. It is ongoing and ever-changing. With that said, you are one of our most important layers of safety. **Communication is the most powerful tool we can use.**

Keep an open line of communication between you and your child. Please, make sure your child knows they must tell a trusted adult immediately if they feel their school is threatened in any way. Additionally, talk with your child about emergency procedures for home and for school, monitor your child's social media use, and keep all firearms secure.

We need the help of the entire community to keep our schools safe.

Please report any concerning information to your child's school or use the OK2SAY resources: call 1-855-565-2729, text 652729, email ok2say@mi.gov, or visit their website www.mi.gov/ok2say.

OCS District Safety and Security Measures

Building Security

- •Exterior doors secured during school hours with designated building entry point(s)
- •Aiphone video intercom system(s) at all building main entry doors
- ·Alarm systems on all buildings
- ·District issued identification badges for all staff
- ·School Gate Guardian system to check and issue badges for all building visitors
- •NIGHTLOCK interior door security

Emergency Preparedness

- •Emergency drill procedures for lockdown, fire and tornado
- •Crisis/Emergency plans
- •ALICE Training for all staff
- •Door numbering on exterior doors for emergency responders
- ·Safety Committee meetings to assess and plan safety protocol

Student Support in our Schools

- •OK2SAY campaign district-wide
- •IB character education district-wide
- •Bully prevention programming (Olweus) district-wide
- ·Social workers and psychologists district-wide
- Youth Assistance district-wide
- •Counselors middle and high school
- Full-time security officer high school

Oakland County Sheriff

- Assigned site patrols
- •District Police Liaison officer
- Presence at Oxford events



OELC EARNS 5 STARS FROM MDE



Oxford Early Learning Center (OELC) programs achieved the highest fivestar rating across the board in all elementary schools from the Michigan Department of Education's Great Start to Quality.

This achievement is an excellent indicator of the top-notch programming Oxford offers. OELC provides childcare for infants through pre-kindergarteners, the Great Start Readiness Program (a state-funded pre-kindergarten program), and an Extended Day Care program at each of the district's five elementary schools.

Great Start to Quality measures the merit of early childhood programs using more than 40 quality indicators in five categories. The categories include staff qualifications and professional development; family and community partnerships; administration and management; environment; and curriculum and instruction.

OELC Director Washea Jackson credits the high rating to the drive toward excellence from her staff, support from the district, the parent advisory committee and a lot of hard work making necessary changes to raise their rating from 4 stars in 2016 to 5 stars today. "OELC desires for children to have the best experience possible offering them the highest quality that will allow our community's children to have great futures," shared OELC Education Coordinator Pat Mueller.

JAN FLYNN AWARDED VFW MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OMS Choir Director Jan Flynn was honored with the State of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Junior High School Teacher of the Year Award presented to her at an awards dinner in Kalamazoo on January 20. She received this distinguished award for her "excellence in promoting citizenship, education and the patriotic principles of the Veterans of Foreign Wars." Each year Flynn has voluntarily organized the annual Americana Concert full of patriotic songs performed by the middle school



choir along with inspiring speeches, video, and special guests. She invites veterans to come into her classroom and share history with her students as they prepare for the concert. She feels it is truly important that students have a sense of history and an understanding of what has gone before them. Expressing this learned knowledge and gratitude through a concert is a beautiful experience for everyone.

Flynn was nominated for the award by VFW Post 334 Commander Jim Hubbard. Since the Michigan award, she has also been nominated to go on to compete at the VFW's national level.

WASMUND NAMED OAKLAND COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Lakeville Elementary fifth grade teacher Ryan Wasmund was named the 2018 Oakland County Outstanding Elementary School Teacher of the Year! Representatives of Oakland Schools and Oxford Community Schools surprised Mr. Wasmund with this distinguished honor in his classroom on the afternoon of March 20, much to the delight of all of his students.

Each year the 28 districts across Oakland County submit nominations for the top three Teacher of the Year awards, one award for each age level: high school, middle school, and elementary school. Candidates are evaluated on their efforts and examples in achieving the highest standards of excellence in their profession. Six areas are judged in consideration for the award: student engagement, meeting individual needs of students, demonstrating knowledge of subject area, classroom management, relating to parents and colleagues, and citizenship and leadership in the school community.

Lakeville's Principal Kristy Gibson-Marshall shared, "Mr. Wasmund cherishes the learning process. He engages the students in activities that allow them to explore and experience the content in a meaningful manner."

Mr. Wasmund's submissions from students overflowed with words such as these, "We love Mr. Wasmund because he makes learning fun! He helps us stay calm by having us check in on the Mood Meter. He helps us calm down when we are in the 'red.' He doesn't tell us we cannot feel the way we feel; he just tries to help us feel like our best selves."

His fellow fifth grade teacher Laura Powers expressed, "Ryan is definitely in this profession for the students. He spends every lunch period working with struggling learners. His gift is in his ability to challenge "at risk" students in a manner that does not break their spirit. He goes above and beyond for the good of our school (students, staff, and parents). He doesn't just work hard, he works innovatively. Ryan has a way of turning ideas into magnificent things that work."

Congratulations Mr. Wasmund on achieving the highest standards of excellence in teaching through your effort and example!



2018 TEACHERS & SUPPORT PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Each year a select number of teachers and support staff in the district are chosen to be honored for their exemplary service.

One teacher from each school in the district is nominated by students, parents, and colleagues for the Teacher of the Year Award. From these teachers, one from each school level is then selected by the district to be honored at the Oakland County Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award Program. This program recognizes teachers who have achieved, through their effort and example, the highest standards of excellence in teaching. This year John Hill, Andrew McDonald, and Ryan Wasmund were chosen to be honored by Oakland County. Ryan Wasmund was then selected by Oakland County officials to be named the 2018 Oakland County Elementary Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Nominees for the Support Person of the Year are members of maintenance, custodial, clerical, transportation, food service, or classroom support who go above and beyond in creating a supportive learning environment. They are active in their schools and their community. Each school is asked to select one person from its building. From those selected, one person is chosen by the district to be the district nominee for the Oakland County Support Person of the Year. This year that individual was Jacqueline Savich.

Daniel Axford Elementary
Tammy Dasbach, Second Grade Teacher
Jessica Blair, Paraprofessional

Oxford Elementary
Shanie Williams, Fourth Grade Teacher

<u>Clear Lake Elementary</u> Jennifer Trombly, Fourth Grade Teacher Kelly Abraham, Administrative Assistant

<u>Lakeville Elementary</u> Ryan Wasmund, Fifth Grade Teacher Jacqueline Savich, Paraprofessional

<u>Leonard Elementary</u> Amanda Carcone, Third Grade Teacher

Oxford Middle School
Andrew McDonald, Sixth Grade Science Teacher
Jane Vickery, Media Specialist

Oxford High School John Hill, Band Teacher Angela Weaver, Administrative Assistant to the Principal

> Oxford Schools Early College/ Oxford Virtual Academy Basia Ostrowski, OVA Mentor

NEW FLAG FOR IAN SMITH GYM

On February 28, Oxford High School dedicated a new American flag for the Ian Smith Gymnasium. Athletic Director Jordan Ackerman spearheaded the project and sought donations to make it happen. Mr. Ackerman shared, "We are thankful for the overwhelming support from the community in purchasing the new flag for the gymnasium. Each time the flag drops for the National Anthem you can see the pride on the faces of our athletes and parents. This is another wonderful addition to Oxford Community Schools.'



Thank you to the following donors for their generous contributions: Wildcat Boosters, Student Leadership, Terry Kelley, Timothy Sherrow, AMVETS - Post 108, Chip and Heather Galley, The Legacy Center, Sharon Martens, Galley Sherrow and the Breitschuh Family.

NEW MOSAIC WELCOMES OELC STUDENTS





OELC recently added a welcoming piece of artwork to their entrance created by Oxford resident artist and OCS Communications Specialist, Dani Stublensky. The colorful mosaic reflects the energy and enthusiasm that the OELC programs embody. The composition is in the form of a hand found in the OELC logo, but the palm is a heart shape symbolic of the care that is poured into our littlest Wildcats. Each finger denotes an elementary school symbolizing how our OELC programs extend well beyond the building where the colorful piece of art is mounted.

BOND & SINKING FUND UPDATE



The School Board unanimously approved the purchase of 12 new school buses on January 23, 2018. The approved bid totaling \$973,392 was from Capital City Buses through the Michigan School Business Officials. The bond proceeds will pay for this purchase when the buses are delivered in June 2018.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

Schools all across the District celebrated March is Reading Month motivating students to read and have fun doing it.



Dr. Willoughby, Oxford's K-8 Media Specialist, arranged for 2008 Oxford alumni and NFL free agent fullback Zach Line (Minnesota Vikings 2013-16; New Orleans Saints 2017-2018) to travel throughout the district on March 19 to encourage and inspire our current Wildcats to "Catch onto Reading."

"I wanted to have a speaker that would make an impact. An author is someone students expect to see during March is Reading Month. However, an NFL player speaking during March is Reading Month is something different. Many students aspire to be athletes, I wanted to show them that even athletes need the skill of reading," explained Dr. Willoughby. Zach spoke on how reading is necessary for life, addressing the significance of doing well in school, and the importance of being a person of good character.

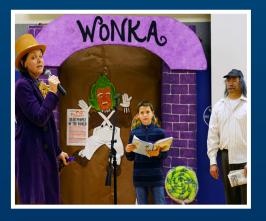




Students also had a chance to ask him questions and learned his favorite book is Where the Wild Things Are, his favorite subject in high school was physics, and of all the football teams he has ever played for, playing in Wildcat stadium for Coach Rowley is still his all-time favorite. Oxford is very thankful to Zach for the gift of his time and positive influence on our students.



During the entire month, students enjoyed special activities and themes to celebrate and encourage reading. Here are a few of the highlights. Superintendent Tim Throne along with staff from the Oxford Schools Administration building visited the classrooms of the Oxford Early Learning Center to be guest readers.

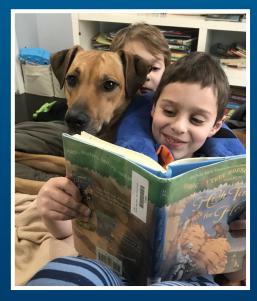


This year Leonard Elementary participated in the One School, One Book, One Community program. The Leonard PTO purchased a copy of the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for each of the employees and students at Leonard to read together. A fun assembly was created by the staff full of skits and songs from the beloved book to kick off the reading adventure at the beginning of March.



Clear Lake Elementary enjoyed a star-studded Lights, Camera, Action reading theme and students began the adventurous month dressing up as their favorite book characters.

With above average snowfall measurements this winter, Daniel Axford Principal Chad Boyd started his reading challenges early and charged his students to be "Snow Day Readers" on the cold and snowy stay at home days.



Reading Support Services teacher Michelle Mumbrue created a win/win reading relationship with Oxford Canine Academy Therapy Dog Class. Every Tuesday in March the furry companions would visit the D.A. classrooms and students would practice their reading skills as the dogs earned their therapy certifications.



WINTERFEST COURT

KING & QUEEN Sergio Borg & Trinity Muñoz

SENIORS

Alex Matczak & Sydney Brzezinski Drew Skikiewicz & Lauren Sharpe Sergio Borg & Trinity Muñoz Dakota Birr & Bridget Grabowski

JUNIORS

Tyler Szczepanski & Kayla Hung Tommy Day & Sam Dunn

SOPHOMORES Hayden Durant & Jenna Adema

FRESHMEN
Joshua Raya & Rachel Smiley

PRINCESS & PRINCE Luke Swack & Luci Delano







TOMORROW'S LEADERS

CTE AUTO TECH BRAKE COMPETITION



Each year, Mr. Balsley's Auto Tech students compete in an annual brake competition. On March 20, his students put their learned skills, craftsmanship, and speed to the test. Two-person teams set out to completely disassemble and reassemble rear drum brakes on two different vehicles in a race against each other and the clock.

This year's first-place winners were Jacob Konarski and Terry Sculley with a combined time between two vehicles of 4.07 minutes! Runners-up Jakob Butterfield and Chase Moore were on the clock with 4.11 and third place went to Jakob Butterfield and Ethan LaRock with a combined time of 4.23. The top three teams won tool sets, tool boxes and t-shirt prizes donated by our generous local sponsors at Oxford McDonald's, Steve's Automotive, Oxford Rotary and Wright Tool Company.

OMS STUDENT AWARDED AT SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITION

Artistically skilled and talented OMS eighth-grade student Luke Farwell had both art pieces he submitted in the 2018 Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition earn honorable mentions on February 5. His two charcoal drawings were on display at the College for Creative Studies Walter B. Ford building at the Ford Campus in Detroit from February 3 through March 3. More than 6,200 individual southeastern Michigan high school and middle school entries and 250 senior portfolios were submitted in 16 different categories this year. From all of the entries, approximately 1,100 individual pieces of work were chosen to receive awards. This was the first year Luke entered his work into this renowned show and was taken by surprise that not one but both of his submissions earned recognition.



LEONARD STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS TO SPACE CAMP



Two fifth grade students from Leonard Elementary with a passion for space have won full scholarships to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama this summer. Sierra and Cody Musial chose to undergo the highly competitive application process for full tuition, room and board valued at \$999 each. There are four scholarship categories available for the Space, Aviation, and Robotics Camps offered on the base in Huntsville.

Students competing for scholarships had to write two essays, send transcripts and state testing results, along with letters of recommendation. They also had to submit an engineering problem using the scientific method and flow charts. Sierra and Cody were selected from a pool of applicants from around the world. Sierra Musial won the Leadership Scholarship to the Robotics Challenge, and Cody won the Academic Achievement Scholarship for the Aviation Challenge.

MUSICIANS ACHIEVE TOP SCORES AT MSBOA

All five music ensembles of the Oxford High School Band and Orchestra programs earned the highest marks possible at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Festival. On March 2-3 at the Performing Arts Center at OHS, musicians from six different school districts competed to achieve top scores based on performance and sight reading. Oxford High School Concert Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band were each adjudicated by four judges and were awarded straight 1's on a scale of 1 to 5, one being defined as "Superior." According to OHS Band Director Jim Gibbons, this is the highest accomplishment the program, as a whole, has ever achieved.

23 DECA STUDENTS ADVANCE TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



Oxford DECA students had great success at the State Championship at COBO Hall in Detroit, March 9-11. In all, 28 students earned medalist honors, and 23 students won their respective section gaining an invitation to compete in the International DECA Competition in Atlanta, Georgia April 20-25.

DECA has proven time and time again to be an excellent extracurricular activity for students participating in the CTE Marketing and Finance classes available at Oxford. The organization helps to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in high schools and colleges around the globe for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

TORC WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Oxford High School robotics team, TORC #2137, left the FIRST Robotics competition in Waterford on March 10 with the Chairman's Award in hand. This award is the most prestigious distinction that can be earned through FIRST and automatically qualifies the team for the state competition. It honors the team that "best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST." The impressive video the team created that helped win this honor can be seen at https://youtu.be/ENiXILJ-B8M.

Out of the 40 teams present at the competition, TORC also won the Pit Safety Award and was home of the competition's Dean's List Award winner Caitlyn Hopman. The students who earn the FIRST Dean's List Award represent a great example of student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for FIRST and its mission. The Oxford Robotics Club builds more than robots!

VARSITY WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Hundreds of Oxford athletes put forth a tremendous effort this winter bringing home hard-earned hardware.



The 2018 Oxford Girls Bowling Team made Wildcat history on March 2, winning the programs first-ever Michigan Bowling State Championship title. Team Head Coach J.R. Lafnear and Assistant Coach Fred Heicheleam led Lady Wildcats Marissa Smith, Megan Armbruster, Savanah Barnes, Deanna Staser, Claire Sandstrom and Jenny Legault to their outstanding victory.



 The wrestling team was crowned the OAA Red Champion, District Champion, and Regional Champion. Eight wrestlers advanced to the Individual State Wrestling Tournament in Detroit. Medal round winners were State Runner-up - Sergio Borg @ 135 lbs; 5th place in the state - Ashton Anderson @ 112 lbs; 6th place in the state



WRESTLING STATE RUNNER-UP

- Trent Myre @ 152 lbs; 7th place in the state - Matthew Curtis @ 103 lbs; 7th place in the state - Liam Hillary @ 119lbs; 7th place in the state - Ryan Miller @ 145 lbs.

- The boys bowling team ended the season as OAA Red Champions and sent three boys to individual state competition. Seniors Tanner Cartner and Christian Cartner finished in 4th and 8th place in the state and sophomore Zach Barrows finishing 30th among the over 600 MHSAA boy bowlers.
- The boys swim team captured the OAA White Championship.

STUDENTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT LIGHT UP THE STAGE



The theater has been alive with the talent of our incredible students this winter. The high school presented Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella to sold-out crowds for their 2018 musical March 22-25. As always, our Wildcats on-stage, behind the scenes and in the orchestra pit did an outstanding job. In January, the OMS Drama Club performed the fun production of The Fantastic Mr. Fox. Our Leonard Theatre Club delighted the crowd when they brought The Wizard of Oz to life at the Performing Arts Center on February 10.















OSEC CAPSTONE PROJECT BEAUTIFIES LAKEVILLE

The Lakeville fifth grade hallway has been transformed into a colorful passage for the imagination. Oxford Schools Early College student Lauren Miller chose to leave a legacy of art and inspiration for her OSEC capstone project. She



assembled a group of four Lakeville student volunteers to help her paint 83 lockers to look like the spines of much-loved books such as Magic Tree House, Charlotte's Web, and the Cat in the Hat. Lakeville fourth-graders Olivia Bristow, Kaitlyn McFadden and Alex De La Fuente; along with fifth-grader Freddie Shepherd helped Lauren with the locker transformation. These students can now take pride and ownership of using their time and talents to beautify their school making a positive impact on others. Lauren will graduate from OSEC this spring and plans to attend the College for Creative Studies in the fall to study illustration. Beautiful job, Wildcats!

HOSA HOSTS DOC MCSTUFFINS FUN



The members of HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) at Oxford High School, held their annual Doc McStuffins fundraising event on March 10. HOSA students planning to go into the medical field became "Toyologists" for

the day. Using their learned medical skills, the Toyologists got to have some fun practicing on kids favorite stuffed friends. The event was geared toward easing the fears kids may have of going to the doctor or hospital, teaching kids healthy habits, and having fun.

ATHLETES SIGN ON TO NEXT LEVEL

On February 7, four Oxford athletes officially signed on to play at the collegiate level for next fall: Sarah Liford - Rochester College (Cheer); Matthew Mielnicki - Niagara University (Soccer); Lauren Yankee - Adrian College (Golf); Shae Walters- Madonna University (Baseball). Additionally, Hannah Vachon signed a letter of intent on March 16 to play softball at University of St. Francis.



LEADERSHIP STUDENTS SHINE AT STATES

OHS Leadership students represented Oxford with pride at the Michigan Student Leadership State Conference March 24-26 in Grand Rapids. Our students achieved the Award of Excellence. This is the most significant honor that can be earned and is awarded



to groups who exemplify the highest standards of organization, member development, community-minded service and goal-oriented vision for their program. The Oxford Leadership program also walked away with the STAR School Award for their dedicated efforts to the student body as well as the Exceptional Service Project Award for their Valentine's Day project at OHS. The service project award was earned for the organization and implementation of every OHS student receiving a personalized, handwritten card from a staff member on Valentine's Day with the goal being that every child knows they matter, they are noticed, and they are cared about. Leadership students, in turn, surprised each OHS teaching staff member with a personalized, handwritten card as well. Student Alyssa Donovan was celebrated with the Unsung Hero Award for her humility in serving her fellow students, and Trinity Muñoz was nominated as the Student of the Year for her involvement and dedication to Oxford Leadership.



OMS STUDENT WRITES APP FOR TORC



The Oxford Robotics Club TORC #2137 is typically comprised of high school students, except for this year. Middle school student Andrew Haselton has been a vital part of the team in its scouting department. Earlier in the year, Andrew created an app for the middle school team, TOWR 5291, to help them gath-

er data to use in strategizing their game. When the middle school season ended in December, Andrew chose to take on the challenge of writing an app for the high school game. Andrew used JAVA programming to write the app, and it is compatible with Android operating systems. The app helps the scouting team members track the strengths and weaknesses of the robots while the robots are in play on the field. This data helps the team identify how to better their own robot as well as know the other teams' strengths and weaknesses for alliance and competition purposes.

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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.

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