2018 OXFORD CUP WINNERS
SERGIO BORG & MICAH DYMOND
Oxford was delighted to host the Director of the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development, Roger Curtis, on May 4. We shared with him the outstanding Career and Technical Education opportunities Oxford offers to our students. His visit included a tour of our CTE classrooms and labs followed by a question and answer session with our students who are, or have been a part of, the Career & Technical Education programs.

Here are a few of Roger Curtis’s own words he sent out on his Twitter regarding our district:

- Amazing tour of Oxford High School Career & Tech Ed. today. From coding to @FRCTeams to mechatronics to marketing & at least two students who own their own businesses this rocked. No misperceptions or stigmas here. Just successful students on way to great careers #GoingPROinMI

- Role reversal! I got to ask students questions today at Oxford High School Career & Tech Ed. One of best answers: I got to explore lots of career options to figure out exactly what classes to take in college and not waste money when I get there #MICareerPathways

- Oxford High School offers four years of Career & Tech Ed. classes for their students allowing for awesome career exploration, ability to obtain multiple industry credentials and even up to two years of college credits (for free). #GoingPROinMI #MICareerPathways #mimarshallplan

Oxford’s mission is to provide an education that challenges all students to achieve their maximum potential in academics, arts, and athletics and prepares them to succeed in a global society. CTE programming offers a plethora of ways to fulfill our mission and work towards our constant vision of creating a world-class education today to shape tomorrow’s leaders. Our CTE Coordinator is Lisa Butts and the department currently has nine instructors teaching ten different CTE programs with 60 different class offerings at the high school level.

### Oxford Community Schools CTE Programs & Instructors

- Automotive Technology – Dan Balsley
- Computer Programming – Julia Lengemann
- Business Management & Administration – Octi Mezin and Julia Lengemann
- Digital MultiMedia & Information Resources – Matt Johnson, Octi Mezin and Julia Lengemann
- Engineering – Dave Okasinski
- Finance – Julia Lengemann
- Health Science – Janelle Lie & Ann Bolton
- Mechatronics – Phil Kimmel
- Marketing – Steve Ruch
- Radio, TV & Broadcast Technology – Chaz Millard

Thank you to all of the members of our outstanding CTE department for all of the fabulous opportunities they provide to our students each day.
The Green Team at Clear Lake Elementary has worked hard over the years to make their school environmentally friendly. The group’s efforts have not only paid off for our environment but also in achieving the 2018 Top Evergreen School Award from the Michigan Green Schools Program on April 26 at Oakland County Schools.

Evergreen status is awarded to schools who complete 15 - 20 specified green school activities during the school year as per the program. Clear Lake accomplished 39 total activities making them the highest achieving school in Oakland County earning Clear Lake Elementary the 2018 Top Evergreen School Award. Only 14 schools in all of Oakland County have succeeded in being a green school through the Michigan Green Schools Program since the program’s inception eleven years ago. Clear Lake is proud to be on this distinguished list.

The new Michigan School Index System fulfills federal requirements under ESSA to identify schools in need of one of three types of support: Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Supports and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATS).

In recent months Michigan began identifying schools using the Michigan School Index System applying data from the 2016-17 school year (the last full year of data collected).

Schools identified for support and interventions will be supported through a combination of state, regional, and local services. Some schools identified for improvement will find that they are facing opportunity gaps in only a few areas, while others will look to affect change on a larger scale. The goal is for the index to point schools in the right direction, and for schools to then use insights from the index, as well as their own local data, to dig deeper and develop programs that will make a true difference for their students.

The new system does not rank schools but scores them which allows the possibility for schools to receive the same scores. The top score is 100. According to the Michigan Department of Education, schools with an index score below 30 will be targeted for improvement. The state average score is 71.89.

You can learn more about the Michigan School Index System and view school index scores for all Michigan public schools at http://www.mischooldata.org.
MUSCIMAINS INVITED TO PERFORM IN EUROPE

Two Oxford musicians have been invited to travel through Europe to play in the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra this summer. Oboe player Selina Langfeldt and Viola player Caterina DiCosmo, both sophomores, have worked hard to earn this level of achievement. According to Blue Lake International, to be accepted into the program, “Students must show maturity, strong interpersonal skills, artistic ability, and an eagerness to learn about new cultures and countries. The students will act as goodwill ambassadors while touring in Europe, representing their schools, communities, Blue Lake, and the United States.” Approximately 200 students from throughout the United States have been invited to take part in the program this year, making up orchestra, choir, band, and jazz band ensembles.

TRAVEL CLUB EXPLORES ITALY

Every other year during spring break the OHS Travel Club ventures abroad to explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of another culture. This year the destination was Italy. Ten students and two staff chaperones visited many points of interest such as Pompeii, the Roman Forum, Colosseum, Vatican, Stone Beach, Trevi Fountain, and the Uffizi Art Gallery. The group enjoyed authentic dishes such as cannolis, gelato, seafood, and of course pizza.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT HAS STELLAR YEAR

Oxford’s music department continues to grow in its excellence this year. After all five of the high school bands and orchestras earned superior marks at District Festival in March, the Wind Ensemble continued on to compete in the State Festival. Although the Wind Ensemble has qualified for State Festival for several years, they have not participated in the past. This year, Band Director Jim Gibbons decided the Wind Ensemble needed a bigger challenge and that they were going to attend the State Festival. They rose to that challenge and received straight first division ratings.

In addition to great achievement by the band and orchestra groups, several students were chosen to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival (MYAF). Students are chosen based on outstanding performance at State Solo and Ensemble Festival. They work with a nationally recognized conductor and perform a concert of collegiate-level repertoire with the MYAF Band or Orchestra. This year the Oxford music program had its largest number ever selected to play at the festival: Hayden Franke, oboe; Selina Langfeldt, oboe; Trent Evans, clarinet; Luke Sittard, guitar; Zachariah Smith, bass; Nadia Smith, violin. Additionally, Paige Palmer was invited to audition for the MYAF’s Instrumental Soloist Competition. Furthermore, congratulations go out to Trent Edwards for being awarded the John Philip Sousa Award and to Hayden Franke and Kaylie Seeling for earning the Marine Corp Semper Fidelis Music Award.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROM MAKES CHERISHED MEMORIES

The Oxford High School Mentorship Program hosted an extraordinary prom night for Oxford’s special needs students and those in the L.O.F.T. program (Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow). The event was held on April 24 at Lake Point Community Church in Oxford and made possible with the generous donations of time, talent, and goods from the district and community. The evening was complete for these students with a sit-down dinner, flowers, photography, make-up & hair services, a limo bus and much, much more. Both the high school students and the special needs students made cherished memories of overflowing joy. Thank you to everyone who made this outstanding night happen.
**OCS NAMED USDA TURNIP THE BEET AWARD WINNER**

Oxford Community Schools Nutrition Services received the 2017 Turnip the Beet–Silver Award from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The award recognizes outstanding summer food service programs who work hard to offer high-quality meals that are delicious, nutritious and appealing. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) nominated Oxford for the award. Oxford is among an elite group of 111 sponsors nationwide to receive this award.

**TRUAХ WINS EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION AWARD**

This spring, our Oxford Transportation Department Administrative Assistant Caron Truax was awarded the 2018 Oakland County Excellence in Transportation Award. This award is presented to individuals who embody excellence in providing or supporting the safe transportation of pupils in Oakland County. She was nominated by co-worker Joyce Butterfield, “Caron is very helpful to all of our staff. She is always cheerful and goes out of her way to make things easier for us.”

**AUTO STUDENTS PLACE AT STATE COMPETITION**

Automotive Technology students Kyle Kalbfleisch and Austin Hunter excelled in the state MITES Automotive Advanced Service Technology competition on May 4 at Oakland Community College. Seniors Kyle Kalbfleisch and Austin Hunter put their skills to the test in a lengthy hands-on practical exam. The test covered various areas of skill requiring competitors to test, diagnose, repair, and identify specific automotive components. Kalbfleisch finished ninth overall in the state taking first in brakes, fifth in electrical, sixth in safety inspection and tenth in steering and suspension. Hunter earned first in brakes, second in steering and suspension and fifth in electrical. Both students began in the OHS Automotive program under Mr. Balsley as freshman and plan to pursue careers in the automotive field. Kalbfleisch has already earned many of the same state certifications as technicians employed at dealerships and independent shops. He will attend Macomb Community College and become an automotive technician. Hunter will attend Oakland University to study mechanical engineering.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE**

This year we have many wonderful and dedicated Oxford staff retiring. We thank each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication through the years. The difference and impact they made in our district will forever be appreciated.
Wise words to reflect on shared by our 2018 graduation speakers...

“Never stop learning because life never stops teaching.”
-Unknown

“Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words; they become actions; Watch your actions; they become habits; Watch your habits; they become your character; Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.”
-Frank Outlaw

“You are loved, valued and created for a purpose.”
-Micah Dymond
Change is the only constant in life.

—Heraclitis

Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect.

—Alan Cohen

Fear is temporary, regret is forever.

—Unknown

Failing is not falling down, but the refusal to get up.

—Chinese proverb

Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat...

—Helen Smith

Distinguished 2018 Graduates

Valedictorian
Micah Dymond

Salutatorian
Aaron Reynolds

Oxford Cup Winners
Micah Dymond & Sergio Borg

Most Outstanding Athletes
George A. Prince Memorial Award- Sergio Borg
Helen Smith Award- Kaitlyn Bean

Senior Scholar Athletes Of the Year
Micah Dymond & Brennan Burrows

OXFORD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
TOMORROW’S LEADERS

OMS STUDENT WINS IN STATEWIDE ESSAY CONTEST

Carleigh Rodriguez traveled a road most children never have to consider when she was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma at 20 months old. Now, she is an OMS eighth grader, cancer free, and is the third place winner in the state of Michigan in the Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan’s annual America & Me essay contest. More than 6,000 students from over 350 schools throughout the state competed for the top 10 winning places in the competition. This year’s theme for the essay was “My Personal Michigan Hero.” Carleigh chose to write about Maggie Varney, founder and CEO of Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids. During the several years Carleigh fought cancer, from chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Maggie gifted her with a wig which helped Carleigh tremendously during a time when she was feeling so down. In her winning essay Carleigh writes, “It looked like I had real hair again, it didn’t fall off my head and I could curl it, straighten it, and even braid it. I truly had “hair” again. I finally gained back my confidence and self-esteem thanks to Mrs. Maggie. I wore my wig everywhere and every day.”

Carleigh and the other nine winning students were honored in Lansing on May 15 attending multiple receptions that day at the Capitol, the Treasury Building, the Lugnuts game and on the Michigan Princess Riverboat. Carleigh also received $1000 prize for her thoughtful essay.

Each year, OMS teachers have their students submit an essay to this competition. This is the first year an Oxford student has achieved this honor. Carleigh has put Oxford “On the Map.”

CLEAR LAKE FIFTH-GRADERS PLANT BUTTERFLY HABITAT ALONG TRAIL

This spring, over 100 Clear Lake fifth-graders took action along the Polly Ann Trail in Oxford as part of their Sharing the Planet unit of inquiry. IB Coordinator Stephanie Niemi brought each class to the Polly Ann Trail on May 4, and under the direction of Trail Manager Linda Moran, they planted a garden of native Michigan wildflowers and grasses that will be used to help attract monarch butterflies back to the Oxford area. Conservation organizations, Pheasants Forever and Monarch Watch, partnered with the students in their mission to protect and provide natural habitats for wildlife and educate people on the necessary role pollinators play in our environment. The supplies for the garden including seeds, topsoil, and hay (to prevent the seeds from being eaten by birds) were provided by Pheasants Forever. Monarch Watch will be introducing monarch butterflies, chrysalis and larvae once the plants begin to grow.

Clear Lake fifth-graders plant wildflower seeds along the Polly Ann Trail.

This essay content is accurate and relevant.
This year the Oxford High School FIRST robotics team, T.O.R.C. #2137, qualified to compete at the FIRST World Championship at COBO Hall in Detroit April 26–28. Although the team finished 24th of the 68 teams on its qualification field, not advancing to the elimination rounds, it was chosen as one of six teams from the total 3,647 FIRST teams worldwide to earn the esteemed Engineering Inspiration Award. This award celebrates a team for their success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team’s school and community and awards a $5,000 grant from NASA for next year’s registration fees. T.O.R.C. created and mentored the Oxford FIRST Feeder system which gets elementary students involved in engineering and keeps them involved through high school. This year they hosted the Robo-cat Rumble, a FIRST LEGO League, and Jr. FIRST LEGO League event for students in elementary school. In the community, T.O.R.C. is dedicated to making a positive impact through humanitarian efforts such as donating toiletries for participants in the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure, sending international aid packages, volunteering in soup kitchens, and collecting canned food for the hungry.

MULHOLLAND WINS
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT

Congressman Mike Bishop presented Oxford High School senior Kalli Mulholland with the Congressional Medal of Merit in Lansing on May 11. Kalli was nominated by OHS administration and counselors for her exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Kalli graduated with a 4.1 GPA, was the president of the National Honors Society, Captain of Oxford Varsity Dance Team, Captain of Oxford Varsity Volleyball Team and participated in DECA, Forming Friendships Charity, Bully Busters and Race for Autism. She will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall to study business and finance.

OXFORD SPRING
SPORTS HIGH LIGHTS

- Sophomore Shane Ross finished 6th in the MHSAA State Track and Field Division 1 Lower Peninsula 300 m hurdle event with a time and personal record of 38.98. The Oxford Track and Field team had six athletes who qualified and competed at the state competition:
  - Antonia Vackaro- 400 m run
  - Shane Ross- 300 m hurdles
  - Dominic Bruce- 2 mile run
  - Sam Murray- pole vault
  - Trey Townsend- high jump
  - Ben Krause- discus

- Oxford boys varsity golf team was crowned league champions with undefeated league play. The team had an excellent year setting many new school records out on the greens.

- This season the Oxford’s girls varsity softball team ranked within the top ten teams in the state of Michigan.

- Caroline Miller, member of the Oxford girls varsity lacrosse team made the MHSAA record books scoring 7 goals in one game on April 27 against Fenton.

- Oxford girls varsity tennis team won the league championship.

- On May 31, Oxford Middle School girls track 4 x 400 relay team (Alyssa Kuhl, Olivia Makarewicz, Addison Lester and Olivia Drobnich) broke the county record at the Oakland County Middle School Track and Field Championship with a time of 4:16.78. Additionally, the OMS track and field team finished the season breaking a total of 7 school records.

- A total of 19 Wildcats have signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level next year:
  - Alexandria Dryps- Adrian College, Soccer
  - Allison Robilliard- Rochester College, Cheer
  - Amber Soukup- Sienna Heights University, Lacrosse
  - Bridget Cusick- Saginaw Valley State University, Cross Country
  - Cameron Marshall- Rochester College, Baseball
  - Carson Lewis- University of Dubuque, Wrestling
  - Christian Cartner- University of Northwestern Ohio, Bowling
  - Dominic Bruce- DePaul University, Cross Country
  - Garrett Warren- Notre Dame College, Swimming
  - Hannah Vachon- University of St. Francis, Softball
  - Kaitlyn Bean- Central Michigan University, Softball
  - Lauren Donaldson- Rochester College, Softball
  - Lauren Yankee- Adrian College, Golf
  - Matt Mielnicki- Niagara University, Soccer
  - Rachel Commons- Calvin College, Swimming
  - Rebekah Sewell- Rochester College, Lacrosse
  - Sarah Liford- Rochester College, Cheer
  - Shae Walters- Madonna University, Baseball
  - Ulises Rodriguez- Wayne State University, Cross Country
By the time the evening of April 29th arrived, 600 volunteers had completed spring yard clean up for 70 area homes of ill and elderly community members. The third annual Oxford Gives Back Spring Clean-up was nothing short of successful once again as Oxford students, staff, parents, and community members stepped up to give their time and effort to help others on April 28 and 29. This year, groups raked, mulched, weeded, bagged and burned yard waste, planted flowers. Light outside deck and picnic table repairs were also made so they were safe for homeowners to enjoy once again. This year’s OGB planning committee consisted of nine OSEC students:

- Madison Sparks
- Caitlyn Geda
- Riley Fritsche
- Victoria McClenaghan
- Katie Main
- Gavin Shampine
- Emily McClean
- Vanessa Kasiukiewicz
- Lily Kilgore

Photo credit: CJ Carnacchio

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE OXFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION?

There are four-four year term positions beginning January 1, 2019 for the Oxford Community Schools District Board of Education. Information below is provided by the Oakland County Elections Division.

WHEN TO FILE
Interested Local School District Board Member candidates must file their petition with the Oakland County Elections Division no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

QUALIFICATIONS
Each candidate must be a citizen of the United States, and a qualified and registered elector of the school district he/she seeks to represent by the filing deadline.

WHAT TO FILE
All candidates must submit an Affidavit of Identity when filing for office which can be obtained online at https://www.oakgov.com/clerkrod/elections/Pages/candidates.aspx or at the Oakland County Elections Division at 1200 North Telegraph Rd. Dept. 417. Under Public Act 394 of 1984, a candidate who fails to file an Affidavit of Identity as required cannot be placed on the ballot.

NOMINATING PETITION OR FILING FEE
A minimum of 40 signatures are required on the nominating petition; maximum of 100 signatures from qualified and registered electors of the school district OR a $100.00 non-refundable filing fee.

Candidates must use the School District Nominating Petition if filing nominating petition signatures in lieu of the $100.00 non-refundable filing fee. Nominating petitions are available at the Clerk’s Office for Oakland County or at central office.

FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES
A candidate who wishes to seek election as a Local School District Board Member with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate filing official no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2018.

QUESTIONS?
If you have questions regarding the election of Local School District Board Members, please do not hesitate to contact:
Oakland County Elections Division
1200 North Telegraph Rd., Dept. 417
Pontiac, MI 48341-0417
Phone: (248) 858-0564   Email: elections@oakgov.com
Oxford had 23 students from OES, Clear Lake, and OMS prepare and participate in monthly tournaments for the Academic Games Leagues of America this year. In Academic Games, students try to outthink each other in the areas of mathematics, language arts, and social studies. Thirteen of the students advanced on to the Super Tournaments in Grand Rapids. From those students Oxford’s team Ketchup 2 Us moved on to compete at the national level competition in Knoxville, TN April 27-30. We are proud to share that students Owen Pavlock (CL), Max Lovins (OES), Jenna Duong (CL), Luke Diegel (OES), Derek Kopec (OES) represented Oxford in an outstanding manner placing nationally in many categories:

Equations (mathematics) – 2nd place in their division, honorable mention medal, 7th place overall
WFF (symbolic logic) – 3rd place in their division, 6th place overall
On-Sets (the mathematics of set theory) – 3rd place in their division, 9th place overall
Linguistik (applied grammar, vocabulary and writing skills) – 3rd place in their division, 14th place overall

OMS student Michael Duong played as an individual and placed a respectable 75th out of 272 for overall performance. A special congratulations to Jenna Duong for earning an undefeated medal in Equations. In addition, Coach Connie Ginste represented Oxford in an outstanding manner placing nationally in many categories:

LAKEVILLE WINS BATTLE

This year’s Battle of the Books was quite the battle! A total of 19 teams from all of the elementary schools in Oxford competed on April 10 at the OHS Performing Arts Center. The teams each read five books to prepare for the competition and then the teams were asked to answer comprehension questions about the books during the competition. It took six tie-breaker questions before the Lakeville Elementary Bookworms were awarded the winner’s trophy. Additional awards went to the Fire Reading Dragons from Oxford Elementary for the Best Name and to the Liberty Belles of Leonard Elementary for the Best Costumes.

CATCHING UP WITH AN OXFORD ALUM...

Oxford Alum Megan (Kirtland) Meganck was our 1997 valedictorian and is currently the co-owner of White Pine Coffee, a specialty coffee roasting company in Lake Orion, with her husband Bryan. While she was at OHS, she was the President of Student Council, and a member of National Honor Society. During her senior year she worked with middle school teacher, Mr. Kelly (current Boys Varsity Golf Coach) to start the first OHS girls golf team. Prior to that she played as the only female on the Oxford (boys) team.

Megan attended Arizona State University graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Nutrition and Food Science. She returned to Michigan and started her first company called Kind Foods, which provided nutrition consultation, meal plans, as well as preparing and delivering foods to clients. Two of her clients worked in the local film industry and recommended she would be great working in Craft Services. This led Megan as well as her husband to their first joint company, Kind Services. She spent years in this fast-paced industry working on hundreds of commercials, music videos, television shows, and finally both independent and major motion pictures. It was in this industry that she and her husband became intimately involved with coffee. As they saw the feature film work waning in Michigan they decided to put their energies fully into developing their own small-batch, specialty coffee roasting company. We asked Megan to share with us her experiences at Oxford and her advice for our current Wildcats.

“My time as a Wildcat was certainly fun but I also took school seriously. I always worked hard at school and did my best to help other students, especially underclassmen. I recall some seniors in student council taking me under their wing while I was a freshman. That was a confidence booster and stuck with me. It motivated me to do the same when I was a junior and senior.

Exploring a variety of activities throughout your high school years is something I highly recommend. Whether it’s sports, student government, music or volunteer work, spend some time doing things other than schoolwork. You’ll meet new people and may discover an untapped talent or passion. I had a great experience and am truly grateful to so many of the staff for encouraging me to think big and never settle. In particular, Mr. Agar because his classes were tough and I liked the challenge, not to mention I LOVE chemistry. Also, Ms. Demerly because she taught me something outside the classroom that has been integral to my success and even forms the basis for all my “Kind” companies and philosophy. She told me one of the greatest things I could do on a daily basis is practice a “random act of kindness.” I believe we need more sincere kindness in our world. You would be amazed at how you can brighten a person’s entire attitude by a kind word or act. My advice to current and future Wildcats is to strive to do your personal best, whatever that may be. In the “real” world it is so important to be flexible and adaptable. The road is never easy, but it’s certainly less bumpy when you can roll with the unexpected.”
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