

HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation will enhance the achievement, heritage and educational opportunities for Oak Hills students and staff by providing alumni and community resources to promote unity and pride, and build a legacy for a stronger community.



Greetings Highlander alumni,

Welcome Class of 2020 to your final year of high school. What an exciting time for you and your family! This year will be full of planning for your future, whether it is proceeding on to college or pursuing some type of trade or joining the work force or possibly the military. This year will be full of many transitions. In June of 2020, you will no longer be a student at OHHS, but an Alumni of Oak Hills. We hope as you go forward you will look back fondly on your years at Oak Hills and be proud of forever being known as a Highlander.

We, at the Oak Hills Alumni and Educational Foundation are also going through a period of transition. Emily Buckley, Development Officer for the OHLSD for the past 10 years, has moved on to a new endeavor. Emily is well known throughout the entire district and was ever-present at many functions that were funded by the OHAEF. She would always greet you with a smile and had her camera/phone ready to take a few pictures and video clips to spotlight the district's accomplishments. Her dedication to the OHLSD was tremendous and she will be missed. We send a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for her years of outstanding service.

We also have a few transitions on the OHAEF Executive board. Cheryl Sieve has served this board as the President/Chairperson for the past 9 years and has done a tremendous job. She has helped put us into a position of growth with guiding us into developing a strategic plan of growth, awareness and visibility. We hope through this planning to become more available to the staff, administration, and alumni and to increase our ability to really make a difference. "THANK YOU" Cheryl for your commitment to leading this board. Fortunately for us, Cheryl is continuing her service on the board, just not in her role as President. As for the rest of us, I have humbly accepted the position of President, Kim Sims is our Vice President, Katie Stautberg is our Secretary and Lisa Nienaber and Bob Murphy continue in their roles as Treasurer and Governance respectively.

If you did not get to make it to our first-ever Food Truck Frenzy on September 14th, you missed a great party! This truly was an outstanding event spearheaded by Kim Sims and the rest of her hardworking committee. It was a gorgeous day accompanied by great food and beverages, inflatables for the kids, face painting and balloon-making, split the pot, music from the DJ club at OHHS, bagpipes by Michael Buchert, the westside band, "Sullivan Janzen." We are already thinking about how we can make it even better for next year. "Thank you" goes out to all of the volunteers that helped. We could not have done this without you!!

In the month of June our annual golf event sold out for the third year in a row. Sherry Gregor and committee members made this a great success along with all of the golfers. Mark your calendars for June 26th 2020. Let's make it 4 years straight for selling out!

Our Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony in May at the Western Hills Country Club was attended by the the largest number of people ever for this event. The generosity received that evening helped the Sparky Playground Fund for Springmyer Elementary school come closer to its goal.

We hope to continue with quality events such as these. This will help us reach higher for \$\$ that will be given right back to this district to enhance the education of all students. Please update your email address so that we may keep in touch. Stay Highlander Strong!

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joni L. Vest MD".

Joni L. Vest MD '81
President, Oak Hills Alumni and Educational Foundation





The Problem

In March of 1989 the Springmyer Elementary PTA and Oak Hills Local School District partnered to create a play-space for Springmyer students and the community. This playground has served us well for the past 30+ years. Sadly, heavy use and weather have taken their toll. In the past month multiple pieces have needed repair and several pieces have had to be removed because they could not be fixed.

The time has come for a new and safe playground.

Our Plan

A committee of parents and staff members have gathered together and formed a partnership with the Oak Hills Alumni and Educational Foundation to begin the process of building a new play space to support the students of Springmyer and the Springmyer community. We are calling the new playground Sparky Park.

What You Can Do

We are currently accepting donations.
Mail check or money order payable to OHAEF to:

Sparky Park
c/o OHAEF
6325 Rapid Run Road
Cincinnati, OH 45238

You can also send checks to the office at Springmyer Elementary.

Or donate via credit card at sparkypark.ohlsd.org.

Questions? Contact our Playground Committee at TheSparkyPark@gmail.com.



Class Reunion Review

Is your class hosting a class reunion? Contact us at OHHSAlumni@ohlsd.org for a reunion planning checklist, or find it on our website. Your event will be added to the reunion listings on the website as well as the official Alumni Foundation Facebook page and we'll tweet about it! Reunion information will also be included in future issues of the Highlander Highway so be sure to keep us updated on your reunion plans and details. Below are the listings of upcoming reunions. Additional details including ticketing can be found on our website, www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org.

2020

1970: October 9, 2020, Receptions West. Want to help? Contact the reunion committee with questions at ohhsclassof1970reunion@yahoo.com.

If you don't see your class listed here and you are planning a reunion, please let the alumni office know by emailing OHHSAlumni@ohlsd.org.



Highlanders Invade BLINK Cincinnati!



The National Art Honor Society and Advanced AutoCAD students have been busy since the start of the year constructing a 30-foot human-powered illuminated "Nessie" float AND creating lighted lanterns in eyeball and bubble designs alongside Art Club. In total, about 100 OHHS teachers, students, and community members marching with lanterns and about 36 float operators in total that helped make the event magical.

A huge **Thank You** to the Oak Hills Alumni and Educational Foundation for providing NAHS with a grant to help make this all happen!

- Jamie Schorsch, OHHS



Distinguished Alumni & Staff

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation presents yearly awards for Distinguished Oak Hills Alumni and Staff. This recognition honors individuals who have outstanding career, vocational and/or volunteer achievements, and have performed meritorious service in the classroom, school, community or nationally. The awards are the highest honor bestowed upon a graduate and district staff member and will be presented at the annual Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Dinner on May 6.

To nominate a deserving Highlander by January 24 - please visit oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/distinguished-highlanders.

THE CAREER READY HIGHLANDER

by Brady Faust, OHHS Career Counselor

What do you want to be when you grow up? It's a question all of us have been asked since we were little kids, and yet for many students at Oak Hills, choosing a future career seems more like that childhood dream than a reality.

Navigating the complexities of different career fields, understanding the many different educational opportunities after high school, and developing a self-awareness of oneself and their career interests and skills can be an overwhelming task for many high schoolers.



That's where I come in! My name is Brady Faust (Class of '04) and I am in my second year as the Career Counselor for Oak Hills High School. I work with students to leave high school with a purpose, driven by the pursuit of a career they are both interested and skilled to work in. I want each of our students to be equipped with the soft skills to be successful and prepared to navigate a continually changing economy. Each of our students will pursue one of the three E's: upon graduation Enlistment, Education or Employment.

The longer I am in this role, the more I realize how much of a community project this is for our students. Oak Hills students need to be exposed to careers they've never considered, engage unique opportunities to experiment with what they enjoy (or do not!), and experience real life work opportunities that challenges their learning in a unique way. Who better to help students than the vast network of former Highlanders and community partnerships who have the experience and wisdom to help them out! This is where you come in! I would love if you were willing to partner with Oak Hills to provide opportunities for students to gain exposure and experience a wide range of careers and fields. These opportunities could range from Career Visits to Job Shadows to Internships to full time employment. The possibilities are endless!

If you or your business is interested in helping out, just complete this quick survey, and I will reach out to see how we can partner with you and build a relationship with the incredible students that I get to work with every day!

Highlander Food Truck Frenzy!



Thanks to everyone who came out and supported our first ever Highlander Food Truck Frenzy! What a party it was!! The day was full of delicious food from 12 different food trucks, suds adult beverages from Heidelberg, March 1st, and West Side Brewery, a fun filled inflatable area for kids, face painting, balloon artists, split the pot, stilt walkers, topped off with a rockin' time by the Sullivan Janszen band and a crazy dancing crowd. Highlanders were having such a roaring time, that the event was held open for an additional hour!

Money raised at this event goes directly back to the students of the Oak Hills Local School District. These funds are awarded to dedicated teachers within the district, so they can provide creative educational opportunities, not funded by taxpayer dollars, for their students. This year's Frenzy raised approximately...drumroll please.... \$25,000! Thank you so much Highlander community! If you missed out on the fun, mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19, 2020 when the fun returns to the parking lot of Oak Hills High School! You won't want to miss it!!



OAK HILLS ATHLETICS Hall of Fame Class of 2019

Oak Hills Athletics is proud to welcome the following individuals to the Oak Hills Hall of Fame Class of 2019:

- John Maher (Achievement Award) Class of 1972
- Steve Oliverio - Class of 1980
- Kathy Mahon-Appiarus - Class of 1987
- Justin Wilcox - Class of 1998
- Jeff Schroeder - Class of 2002
- Ashley Ruberg - Class of 2002
- Justin Ray - Class of 2004





Oak Hills Local School District
6325 Rapid Run Road
Cincinnati, OH 45233
www.ohlsd.us

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If you have received this publication in error, please call the alumni office at 513-574-3200 or email OHHSAlumni@ohlsd.org to remove your address

Calendar of events and activities

2020

- 5/6: OHAEF Annual Dinner
6/26: OHAEF Annual Golf Outing
9/19: OHAEF Food Truck Frenzy



Connect your Kroger Plus card to the Foundation

Visit the Kroger website, <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> to link your Cincinnati Kroger Plus card to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation today! We are #CV794



Connect with us!

"Find us" on the web

www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/
Please visit us to find class reunion dates, grant project summaries and updates, and event information.



Please update your contact information

Visit www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/contact to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



"Watch" us on Vimeo

www.vimeo.com/ohalumniedfoundation
See acceptance speeches from this year's award winners.



"Follow" us on Twitter

www.twitter.com/OHALumniAssoc
Follow us to receive instant updates on events, reunions and grads in the news!



"Like" us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni
Thank you for liking us and spreading our good news. Share your achievements so we can celebrate you!



"Network" with us on LinkedIn

Search group: Official group of Oak Hills High School Alumni
Network with other alumni professionals to connect and share your events, job postings and more.