





2023







#OHBetterTogether

ords

Encouragement

# **MAKING GAINS**





Oak Hills Local Schools earned four stars on **The Ohio School Report Card** 

National Recognition from the College Board One National Merit Finalist Three National African American Recognition Awards One National Hispanic Recognition Award

Oak Hills High School named to the College Board's AP Honor Roll for increasing access to AP courses

Oak Hills Local Schools named a finalist in the Cincinnati Enquirer's 'Best of the Best 2023' for Best Public Schools

# \$24,102,912

in financial aid offered to the Class of 2023

# 137

OHHS students earned National Community Service Awards from the United Nations Association

### 119

OHHS seniors were named Greater Miami Conference Scholar Athletes



As part of a research project, Children's Hospital Medical Center, UC Medical Center and the OHLSD nursing staff provided expert first-aid training, including Stop the Bleed and CPR, to more than

> 500 Oak Hills elementary and middle-school students.

A District of Readers

A primary focus for the entire Oak Hills Local School District is strengthening early literacy development. The work starts at birth, by encouraging parents to support emerging oral-language skills; moves into playing with sounds and making connections to the written word in preschool; and leads to building phonics and word-recognition skills in the primary grades. The staff has devoted significant time to building background knowledge and skills; identifying best practices; establishing a solid literacy foundation for all students, and targeting support to students who struggle.

# **CHARTING A WISE FINANCIAL COURSE**

# #21 of 23

Hamilton County school districts in per-pupil spending

# #22 of 23

Hamilton County school districts in lowest assessed taxes

# 11

years since the last voter-approved operating levy

# \$2,557,435 in taxpayer savings

from privately funded facility upgrades, including the Frank Shaut Wrestling Center, OHHS front turf field, and Springmyer Sparky Park playground

# \$335,000

in federal grant funding for security upgrades, including cameras, fingerprint readers, and securing entrances to schools

# A YEAR OF GAINS



### **Gaining Access**

Oak Hills High School hosted its first-ever girls wrestling team in 2022-23. Two members – Lexi Grant and Bri Graves – placed sixth in their weight class at the OHSAA Girls State Championship tournament.



#### **Gaining Ground**

OHLSD is grateful to Dr. David Argo, the Christ Hospital, Green Township and Beacon Orthopaedics for funding the new turf field at Oak Hills High School. Their support meant no district tax funds were used for this project.

#### A Leader in the Fine Arts Rich Opportunities for Service, Self-Expression and Enrichment

Art for everyone: Oak Hills students begin performing and creating art almost as soon as they enter elementary school. For the next 12 years, they have the opportunity to take part in musicals, enjoy field trips to regional arts venues like the Aronoff Center, take in performances at the Cincinnati Children's Theatre, compete at Kings Island, and perform at the Reds Opening Day Parade and Disney World. Students can cap off their arts studies by choosing among the 56 art and music courses offered at Oak Hills High School, including sculpture, music tech, piano, and AP Music Theory.

- Top arts honors in 2022-23:
  - Two national Silver Medalists and, regionally, 7 Gold Key Winners, 11 Silver Key Winners and 18 Honorable Mentions in the Scholastic Art Awards.
  - OHHS Marching Band first-ever Top 5 finish at MSBA Marching Band Championships
  - One All-State Band selection, one All-State Jazz Band selection, and 14 District-14 Honor Band selections.
  - All Superior ratings for OHHS choirs at the Festival of Music Concert Festival at Kings Island.
  - In separate Music in the Parks competitions, Bridgetown and Delhi middle school choirs earned Best Junior High Choir honors, and Rapid Run earned Best Overall Orchestra.
- Art as service: Oak Hills students and staff use art to raise awareness, encourage kindness and raise funds for good causes, both local and international. Efforts include The Memory Project, in which OHHS students create portraits of youth facing poverty, neglect or abuse throughout the world; Save the Local Waters rain barrel-painting project; middle-school and high-school performances at senior citizens centers and Veterans Day events; and instrumental peer tutoring programs at Bridgetown and Delhi middle schools.
  - OHLSD staff as art professionals: OHLSD art and music instructors produce art, perform, and hold leadership roles in the arts community. OHHS art instructor Jamie Schorsch has exhibited in more than 80 solo and group exhibitions and created eight community murals. Instrumental music director Alex Moore is director of the Northern Kentucky Youth Symphony Orchestra and a violinist in the Mason Symphony. DMS instrumental music teacher Theresa McKnight plays in the Westside Community Band and has served in leadership roles with the American Orff Schulwerk Association. C.O. Harrison music teacher Janell Eschenbrenner is the Instrumental Scholarship Chair for the Cincinnati Arts Association.

# **GAINING MOMENTUM**



### **Proud Moments**

The district-wide One Heart, One Hope fundraiser raised \$20,000 in 2023 and \$120,000 over the last 12 years for Oak Hills families experiencing hardship.

Instrumental music director Alex Moore was named the winner of the Manilow Music Project Teacher Contest, earning a \$5,000 cash award and \$5,000 to purchase musical instruments for his school.

Alumni Alex Kiphart and Tessa Shaw were engaged in Room 5 at Springmyer Elementary – where they met in first grade.

OHLSD coaches Jackie Cornelius, Justin Roden and Kevin Spraul were named GMC Coaches of the Year.

Bus driver Tom Ledonne continued his tradition of presenting bouquets to senior members of the girls basketball team, whom he transports to games.

### Opportunities for Our Students

26 Advanced Placement courses

> **48** Honors courses

### 22

College Credit courses (In 2023, OHHS students earned 1,623 college credits.)

> **44** clubs and activities

**32** different sports, fielding **58** teams



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### A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIORS

Oak Hills Local Schools is pleased to offer local residents age 65 or older, along with their spouses, free admission to all home athletic events at Oak Hills High School, and Bridgetown, Delhi and Rapid Run middle schools. The only exclusion is OHSAA tournament games.

Apply for the Highlander Golden Card at the OHLSD District Office, 6325 Rapid Run Road, or at the Oak Hills High School Athletic Office, 3200 Ebenezer Road.