

OEF NEWS

Fall 2021



What's Inside...

- Grants and Programs
- 2021 Commitment to Excellence Banquet
- Update from the Superintendent
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative
- Meet New Administration

40 YEARS OF POSITIVE IMPACT



A Message from
OEF Board Chair
Sue Hallman

For almost 40 years, the Okemos Education Foundation (OEF) has proudly partnered with the community to financially support excellence and innovation in the classroom. Because of your donations, we have been able to positively impact classrooms through various grant opportunities for teachers, as well as provide special programming to enhance the educational experience of our students.

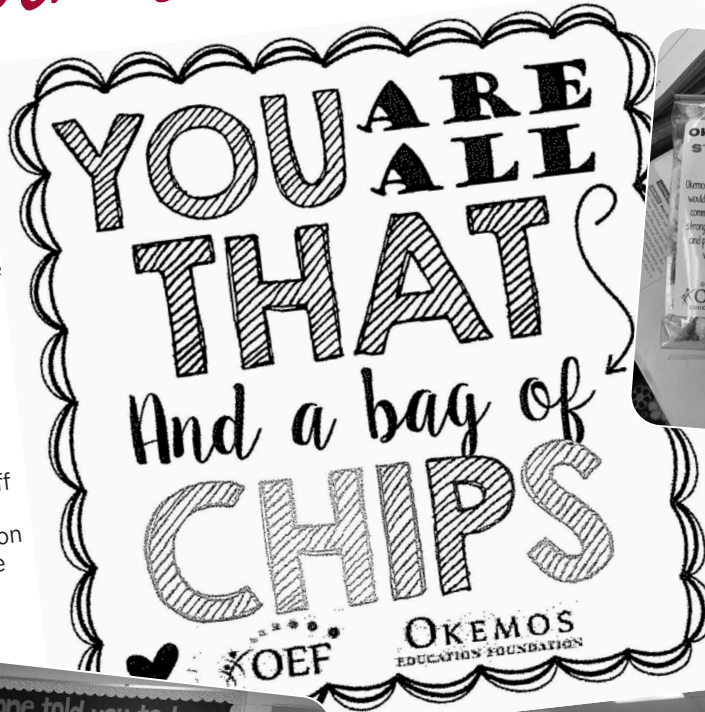
The 20-21 school year presented unique and unprecedented challenges for all of us, including the OEF. As a result of the pandemic and in an effort to keep our students, staff and families safe, our students engaged in learning through a virtual classroom environment. Because of this, traditional needs changed resulting in funding of grants and other programs being paused. This year we are so excited to resume funding for those grants and programs as well as provide additional funding for new projects! Details of current and future initiatives are highlighted throughout.

- In just the first four months of school we have awarded over \$5,000 in teacher grants, almost \$1,000 for a Lee Gerard Professional Development grant, \$6,000 to our six Commitment to Excellence award recipients, and funded a three day field trip to the MSU Children's Garden for all 4th grade students in two schools at a cost of \$1500. In addition, we are very excited to be partnering with the district in support of the diversity, equity and inclusion goals of the district's strategic plan. To that end we have committed \$10,000 for the DEI Initiative (see pg. 14)

THANK YOU Okemos Public Schools Staff

On any given day working in education, in any capacity, comes with a number of challenges. Adding a pandemic to that adds a new and never before experienced challenge. All positions in all schools and departments needed to rethink what their role was in the context of this new way of educating. Flexibility, persistence, patience and innovative thinking has been, and continues to be, required as the district navigates its way through a once in a lifetime event.

In appreciation of the work of the Okemos staff both before the pandemic and as they work their way through it, the OEF provides First Friday (of the month) treats to ALL staff in all schools and all departments, over 550 employees! We are grateful for the dedication of all staff to ensure our students' needs are met! THANK YOU!



Supporting EXCELLENCE In Education Through Our OEF GRANTS!

The OEF focuses on enhancing educational opportunities in the schools by providing grants to staff to support excellence and innovation in their teaching. This fall the OEF has already committed almost \$6,000 in the following grants to OPS teachers.



These picture books are utilized to explore various character traits centered on diversity, equity, inclusion, social emotional learning, and self-awareness.

Character Building *Lindsey Price, Cornell Elementary*

As part of a school-wide character building and behavior management program, Cornell Elementary will be purchasing 45 diverse and age-appropriate picture books highlighting important and desirable character traits of each individual. These picture books will be utilized to explore various character traits centered on diversity, equity, inclusion, social emotional learning, and self-awareness. This \$855 grant will be utilized to help students learn and explore these valuable traits as well as gain exposure to rich and diverse literature. Students will have the opportunity to see themselves as characters, authors, and illustrators of these selected books, as well as their individual differences highlighted, and their diverse identities reflected in the chosen picture books. Students will also have opportunities to hear and share differing and unique voices and perspectives promoting equity and inclusion. Cornell Elementary is so excited to begin this work, and so grateful for the support of the **Okemos Education Foundation** for their help in making this project possible!



Salmon in the Classroom Tank 2 Canister Filter Grant

Paul Hinze, Kinawa

For over 10 years Paul Hinze has been a part of the Salmon in the Classroom program at Kinawa. This program partners with Michigan's DNR, allowing schools to raise Chinook Salmon (King Salmon) in the classroom from egg to fry as part of a hands-on learning opportunity. From November to May 5th grade students learn the life cycle of one of the most popular fisheries in the Great Lakes. Kinawa has integrated salmon in the classroom as a part of their ecology curriculum, learning about predator-prey relationships, invasive species and human conservation and impacts.

Two years ago, David Pruden, another 5th grade teacher at Kinawa, received training in the program adding another licensed teacher. This added license doubled the opportunity for more 5th graders to experience the program and in 2020 Kinawa worked again with Preuss Pets to obtain a 2nd tank. Steve Oberg from Preuss offered an old lobster tank that needed TLC for free and Mr. Hinze put in some sweat equity to take an outdated aquarium and get it ready for the program at Kinawa.



Last year, tank 2 raised 150 salmon fry successfully, but the existing sump filtration system did not clean well and had a loud constant sound like someone was brewing coffee in the classroom. The tank required more maintenance and because it was an "open" system there was always the fear of overflow.

Approval of this \$400 OEF grant upgrades tank 2 with a new canister filtering system. This upgrade will assure a closed system that can't overflow and is cleaner and quieter. Now Kinawa has 2 tanks raising approximately 300 salmon that are very efficient and will give all 5th graders a more hands-on experience learning about Michigan's salmon. Thank you OEF!

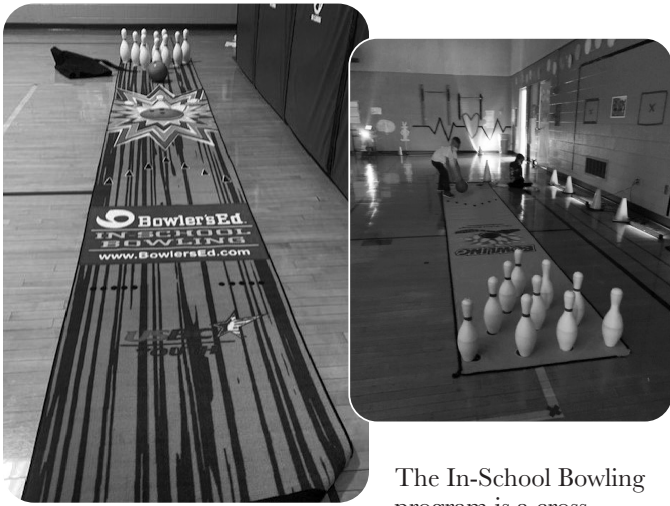
World Language E-lit and Novels

Kim Floyd, OHS

The World Language Department at Chippewa Middle School and Okemos High School received a grant of \$1000 from the OEF towards purchasing e-literature and easy-reader novels for their French, German and Spanish classes. The teachers will use these materials to increase student fluency in the language of study. The e-literature will be particularly helpful for students to practice from home. Both the e-lit and novels are written for students who study language, and use language appropriate to their ability levels. Merci beaucoup, vielen Danke, and ¡muchas gracias!

Elementary PE Teachers In-School Bowling Sets

The Elementary Physical Education Team is very thankful to purchase new sets of bowling lanes! They are excited to purchase their own bowling sets to have on hand which they utilize within each elementary school (Hiawatha, Cornell, OPM at Central Montessori, and Bennett Woods). The bowling set comes with ten pins per lane, a twenty foot carpet mat, a rubber bowling ball, and an extra-large carry bag to support all the equipment.



The In-School Bowling program is a cross

curricular unit that includes mathematics when calculating scores, English skills when reading the signs for traveling amongst the bowler, score keeper, pin setter, and ball returner rotation, as well as Physical Literacy. Bowling improves underhand throwing skills, concentration, focus and target work, math, and computing (when calculating strikes and spares), teamwork and communication. This \$989 grant will greatly enrich our curriculum as we encourage students to be healthy and physically active citizens of society. Thank you again, Okemos Education Foundation, for helping us support our students!

Lee Gerard Grant for Professional Development ASD PFT Training

Jamie DeLong/Abby Showerman, ASD classroom Central

By receiving this \$600 grant Jamie and Abby are able to cover the cost of being trained as teachers who use Practical Functional Analysis in their classroom. The professional development is 45 hours of training focusing on increasing student communication and decreasing aggressive behavior all while continuing to preserve the dignity of the students. They are excited to begin learning and implementing programming for their classrooms. Sharing what has been learned with other pertinent staff is a critical component of receiving the Lee Gerard PD Grant. Once the training has concluded Jamie and Abby will collaborate with other staff to train them on the use of this assessment.

3-D Printer

In March of 2020, teachers in the East Lansing School District called upon neighboring districts with 3D printers to join forces to 3D print masks for healthcare professionals. A team of Okemos teachers organized by then OHS Assistant Principal Andrea Hallead took to action. Teachers Paul Hinze (*Kinawa*), Julie Tomczak (*Kinawa*), Mark Tomczak (*Chippewa*), and Dean Buggia (*OHS*) retrieved their printers from school and started printing masks to aid the effort.

The OEF generously stepped in to offset costs incurred by the project and to offer their assistance for future wear and tear of the machines.

Over the course of a month, the team printed well over a few hundred masks for local healthcare workers and was successful in delivering them to the people in need. This year the OEF purchased a new printer and paid for new parts for another printer. Thank you to the Okemos teachers and to the OEF during this challenging time.

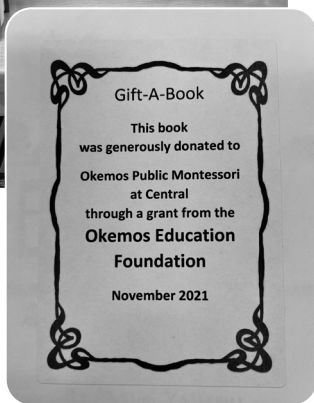
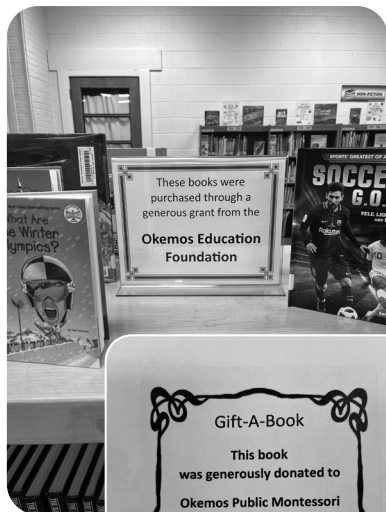




Updating the Elementary Library Collection

Sally Langley, Central Montessori

Okemos Public Montessori is grateful to the OEF for the \$1,000 grant received. With this money new books for the library will be purchased that will include books about countries that are underrepresented in the library as well as books that support the STEM curriculum. Some of the books chosen are ones whose characters are children with multicultural experiences that may differ from the school's student population to help educate and bring awareness to the students about how people live around the world.



The pandemic has had a huge affect on schools' ability to purchase new materials for the library in terms of being unable to hold book fairs, which is an important source of book purchasing. Mrs. Langley says she cannot stress enough how excited she is to be receiving this grant as she continually works to update the library collection so the students have access to the most up-to-date materials for their enjoyment as well as for classroom projects they do.

Animation Art

Marcia Morehead, OPM at Central

Students at Okemos Public Montessori will be using technology to create art and tell stories. The grant that the OEF generously donated will provide students with iPads, green screens, lighting and mannequins to create stop motion animation, cell animation and gifs. Along with art that students are making by hand, they will use iPads to make their hand-made art talk, move and even tell stories! Students are very excited to try out this new way of making art! Thank you so much to the OEF and our wonderful community!



Learn more about the projects and programs made possible by OEF funding at www.oefsite.org/grants

*20-21 Staff Reflections
on Virtual Learning -*

How did you positively connect with your students and what, if anything, surprised you about connecting this way?

- We connected with families and were able to involve the whole family in learning! I enjoyed visiting each family in their driveways during socially distant materials drop offs every few weeks.
- I was completely myself. I sang, laughed at my mistakes, acted silly from time to time, all the things I would do within the four walls of my physical classroom.

*20-21 Staff Reflections
on Virtual Learning -*

What skills did you or your students learn due to remote learning?

- Our students brought stellar technology skills as well as adaptability through the course of the year as we needed to make constant changes based on educational changes/decisions.
- Technology - this was so powerful because my students were so much more engaged with screens than I could have imagined.
- Advocating for themselves and emailing for help! So many students struggle with this and during online learning they really developed this skill :)

Update from the Superintendent

by **John Hood**, Superintendent

Welcome to 2021 - 2022! Despite the challenges of the past year and a half, Okemos continues to move forward in maintaining and expanding upon the excellence it is.

The district has applied for Federal and State of Michigan COVID grant relief funds intending to help offset the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on K-12 learning. Community members were invited to a follow-up town hall meeting regarding COVID relief funds on December 7th to further identify areas for spending.

In a follow-up to the initial OPS facilities and grounds survey sent out last month, the district gathered stakeholder input regarding our current grade level configurations. Community feedback regarding grade level configuration across our facilities will help to inform the district's planning for a potential November 2022 bond.

The OPS Student Mascot Committee received community input on potential names for our new district mascot. In December, a follow up survey will go to the community to further narrow down names shared in the initial survey. The student committee will utilize those results and have the secondary school students provide additional input to inform the selection process which is planned to be completed by February.

We value each of your diverse voices in our processes. Thank you for taking time to share your perspectives and inform our work!





OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our Mission: *Together...educating with excellence, inspiring each learner for life.*

BOND FACTS

The Okemos Public Schools Board of Education is considering a 2022 bond proposal. With continuation of the current millage rate, the district has a significant opportunity to re-imagine the future, to accommodate long-term enrollment increases and the aging building infrastructure.



Why is this Important Now?

While planning for the 2019 bond, it became clear that if enrollments continued to increase, a comprehensive process would need to be taken to review enrollment trends, neighborhood composition and potential solutions to create a longer-term plan. Today, the district has a unique opportunity to generate significant funds for improvements, with no change to the current tax rate.

The 2019 Bond improved significantly the technology, transportation and comfort of the schools, along with some building focused updates. This next bond could focus more on the "bricks and mortar" side of creating modern and equitable places for student learning and growth.

Reinvesting in the district is also aligned to the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Some 15% of respondents to the strategic plan survey indicated that "Aging Facilities" was one of the top 2-3 greatest challenges facing the district in the next 5 years. In response, the plan identified "Priority 10: Provide high quality and equitable facilities and learning environments for students, staff and community."

What is the Timeline?

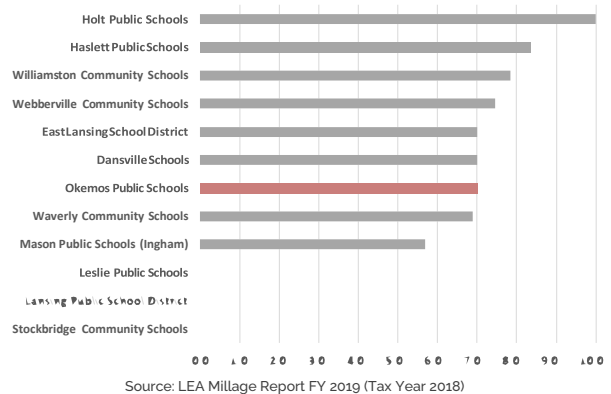
This fall, the district will invite feedback from the community, staff, administrators, and the Board of Education. An update to the facilities assessment as well as best practices in educational environments is also underway. In the winter, we will engage a steering committee of a broad cross-section of district stakeholders. Inputs will include the community survey, facilities study, input from community forums – to be held in the winter and spring—enrollment and budget projections and other resources to develop a recommendation for consideration by the Board. It is anticipated that a bond proposal could be prepared for consideration by the voters on the November 2022 ballot.

Prior Bond Programs

- May 2021 – Building Site and Sinking Fund:** Voters have supported a sinking fund in the district for the past 30 years. In May 2021, voters approved the continuation of a \$1.4 million per year building and site Sinking Fund for use in repairing facilities, making site improvements to school buildings, playgrounds, athletic facilities and other site structure as well as school security and technology improvements.
- May 2021 – Non-Homestead Operating Millage:** Non-homestead funding for district programs has been in place since 1994, following the passage of Proposal A. Voter approval is required periodically to continue that support and was granted once again in May 2021, thereby providing funds to support the operational budget for schools, salaries, textbooks and the like.
- May 2019 – Bond Program:** As bond funds from a 2013 millage were coming to an end, an extensive collaboration process kicked off in 2017 to assess the current technology, security, capital outlay, transportation and facility needs throughout our district. It resulted in a bond proposal that was approved by voters to continue the tax rate of 7.0 mills and generate \$24.9 million. This bond funded "1 to 1" student learning devices, replacement of classroom technology, the purchase of flexible classroom furniture, air-conditioned learning environments district-wide and the purchase of musical instruments, athletic equipment and other improvements to learning facilities.

How Does Our Tax Rate Compare?

At 7.0 mills, the current rate is among the sixth lowest level in Ingham County. The district does not intend to change the current tax rate with the potential 2022 bond program, but rather continue at the current level.



If you have questions about the potential 2022 bond program, we encourage you to visit our website at www.okemosk12.net or email us at bond@okemosk12.net.



Annual Commitment to Excellence Awards Banquet - November 16, 2021

What a wonderful evening at the Kellogg Center! A year late, but with much enthusiasm, we recognized and celebrated six outstanding educators in Okemos Public Schools. These six were: **José Gutiérrez** OHS, **Paul Hinze** Kinawa, **Tyler Hurse** OHS, **Rachel Krier** Central Montessori, **Melissa Samluk** OHS and **Cyndi Webster** Chippewa.

The pandemic presented educational challenges for both families and staff. Recognizing this, the OEF presented parents, both in attendance and who had students in OPS last year during virtual learning, with an **OEF APPLE Award** (*Amazing Parents Partnering in Learning and Excellence*). In addition, all schools and departments were presented with a framed APPLE Certificate (*Amazing Performance in Promoting Learning and Excellence*).

On behalf of the Okemos Education Foundation we recognize and celebrate all of the excellence that exists in the Okemos School District!!



Back Row: José Gutiérrez, Paul Hinze
Front Row: Cyndi Webster, Rachel Krier, Melissa Samluk, Tyler Hurse

Awards Banquet Pictures continued...



MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION



Mr. Stephen Keskes
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Mr. Steve Keskes joins our district from the Clio Area Schools District where he spent the last six years as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. During his time in the central office, he performed curricular and human resource duties, led equity and inclusion work

for building principals and teaching staff, assisted with the implementation of the first successful bond in the district in 47 years, and obtained significant grant funding to support student programs.

Steve was the founding Director of New Pinckney Technical High School, where he worked to implement project-based learning while fostering community and college-level partnerships. Prior to that, Mr. Keskes was an assistant high school principal and English teacher.

Dr. Lara Slee
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Dr. Lara Slee comes to us from Waverly Schools where she was the Director of Teaching and Learning, implementing equity initiatives in the district. Prior to that, Lara served as a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support consultant for Ingham ISD where she supported districts' implementation of systems, with a focus on equity, literacy, and behavior. During that time, Dr. Slee

played a significant role in the implementation of trauma-informed instruction across the county.

In addition, Lara was a culturally responsive positive behavior support systems coach for the Lansing School district and worked with MDE to implement Safe and Supportive Schools grant. While in Lansing, Lara also taught in English in an alternative high school.

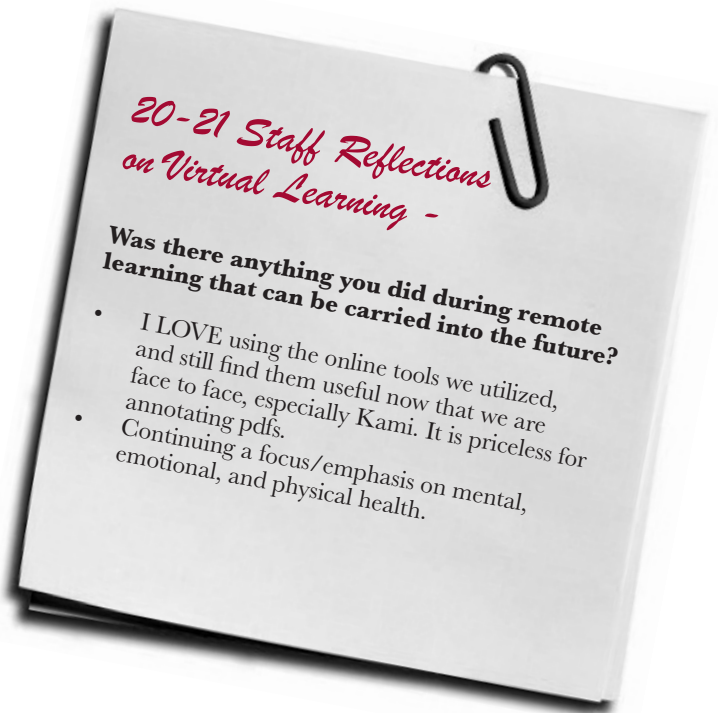
Dr. Slee recently completed her Diversity Equity and Inclusion certification from Eastern Michigan University, has partnered with the Midwest and Plains Equity Center, and started the Good Trouble Coalition of Educators in the Greater Lansing area.



Dr. Nicole Beard
Hiawatha Elementary Principal

Dr. Nicole Beard has served as Elementary Principal in the Lansing School District since 2016. Beard completed the K-12 Doctoral Program through Michigan State University in 2017. She has taught for ten years in 2nd and 4th grade, as well as a

Graduate Instructor for Michigan State University. Dr. Beard has a deep passion for educational equity and a commitment to supporting the needs of all students and staff.





Tempie Brown
Okemos High School Athletic Director

In her seven seasons serving as Assistant Coach at Stanford, the team made two Final Fours, four Elite Eights, and six Sweet Sixteen tournaments. Prior to her time there, Tempie spent four seasons at Michigan State, working to the position of associate head coach helping the Spartans to NCAA

Tournament berths in each of her seasons. As a student-athlete, Tempie is a four-year letterwinner and two-year captain with the Wolverines and ranks among the program's top-15 scorers and in the top-20 in career assists and steals.

Tempie is drawn to the student experience and has facilitated a number of high and middle school-aged clinics and connects strongly with students. Tempie is a hard worker, a relationship builder, a visionary and has incredible organizational skills that will contribute to the success of our athletics program district-wide.



Andrea Hallead
Okemos High School Interim Principal

Andrea Hallead started as a counselor at OHS in 2009 where she served for 6 years. She then served as the assistant principal at Kinawa 5/6 for 3 years before returning to OHS as an assistant principal.



Mrs. Lauren Schefke
Bennett Woods Elementary Principal

Mrs. Schefke comes to the Okemos Public School System from East Lansing Public Schools, where she has taught several elementary grade levels over the past ten years. Her educational experiences at Michigan State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Elementary Education and

a Master's degree in Educational Technology, provide a strong foundation for her leadership of staff and students through a strong passion in educational equity.

She has led committees on equity in the classroom through her service on her building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team.



Mrs. Kelly Sundeen
Principal, Okemos Public Montessori at Central

Mrs. Kelly Sundeen will serve as the principal of Okemos Public Montessori at Central Elementary. Sundeen has served as the Instructional Coach at Leslie Public Schools since 2017, additionally serving as the Title 1 Coordinator for the past two years. Prior to that, she taught for over

15 years at the elementary level and has experience in multi-age classrooms. Mrs. Sundeen brings strong leadership skills in Multi-Tier Support Systems (MTSS) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). She is committed to supporting students and staff in their teaching and learning to ensure they achieve their personal best.

Interim Administrators

Central Office would like to extend gratitude and thanks to those who have stepped up to serve our district, expanding responsibilities outside of their usual roles, including:

Paul Palmer, Allison Cironi, and Andrea Hallead

The skillset and efforts of these fantastic employees continues to make a difference for our students, families, and staff! Thank you!

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Diversity, Equity, and inclusion (DEI) work is all about improving our systems to make sure they are effective for and responsive to each and every one of our students, no matter what identities and characteristics they bring with them to school.

To support the district's equity plan, we must develop equity-oriented educators within our system. Equity-oriented educators are people who possess critical consciousness and are committed to social justice. Critical consciousness is "The willingness and ability to see how power and privilege are at work to systematically advantage some while disadvantaging others" (Radd & Kramer, 2013). Building critical consciousness involves learning how to recognize implicit bias and understanding how power and privilege impact our students, and it will help us create a system that better addresses the needs of all of our students.

The Okemos Education Foundation will be funding two learning opportunities to develop the critical consciousness within our leaders and other staff members:

Eastern Michigan University - Leading for Equity and Justice Certificate - District administrators and directors will take a 36-hour course grounded in social justice and culturally responsive leadership. They'll gain new strategies to build better relationships with students and families, rethink their policies and practices, and examine their mindsets and dispositions that impact student success.

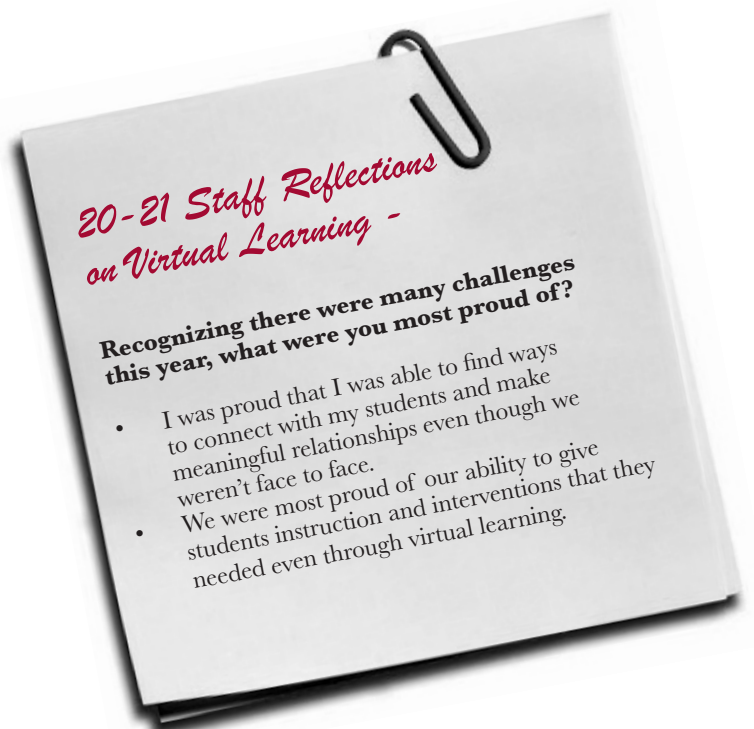
Justice Leaders Collaborative - The Core Course for Educators: An Introduction to Social Justice - Approximately 60 staff members will participate in this intensive 16-hour seminar designed to deepen their understanding of and commitment to equity, inclusion, diversity and social justice along lines of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ability.

In addition to these trainings, here are some of the other DEI initiatives currently underway in the district:

- *The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Coalition held its first meeting to start the process of revising the district's equity plan.*
- *The OHS ACTION & CONNECT groups are mentoring students new to the district.*
- *We have a new interpretation service called Language Line that can support us with 240 languages.*
- *A monthly cultural overview is sent to staff to highlight major holidays and events that are likely to connect with our curriculum.*



- *Students in grades 4-12 experienced a common mascot lesson that explains what a mascot is and why it's important, why we're changing our mascot, and what the steps will be in choosing a new one.*
- *Okemos Public Montessori teachers have been collaborating with Nokomis staff to develop lessons about Native Americans for 3rd and 4th graders.*
- *We are working on developing a common Culturally Responsive Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (CRPBIS) system for grades PreK-4.*
- *We are working on a process and policy for making sure we consistently honor students' pronouns and chosen names.*



Help us Recognize Excellence!

Each year the OEF recognizes excellence and innovation in our instructional staff, support staff, parent volunteers and an OHS alumnus. Staff, parents and guardians are invited to submit a nomination for one of four awards. These nominations are then reviewed, recipients are selected and each is honored at our annual awards banquet. The awards are:

Commitment to Excellence Award

Honors educators and administrators who:

- *Inspire and motivate students*
- *Promote the welfare of students*
- *Implement innovative and/or creative ideas*
- *Provide leadership within the school community*

Special Recognition Award

Support Staff: Administrative assistants, secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, paraprofessionals and aides

- *Honors support staff who embody a commitment to excellence and who have made a significant, positive impact on students, staff and/or the school community.*

Dean Bolton Volunteer Service Award

- *Honors individuals who have made a significant, positive impact on students, staff, and/or the school community through their extraordinary volunteer service.*

Alumni Award

- *Honors an alumnus of Okemos Public Schools who demonstrates exceptional dedication and achievement as well as humanitarian contributions.*

We know there are many individuals who exhibit excellence in their role of supporting Okemos Public schools. If you know of one of these individuals, please consider nominating them.

More information and a nomination form can be found at oefsite.org under the tab Annual Awards and OEF Awards for Excellence. These nominations may be submitted at any time through **June 17, 2022.**

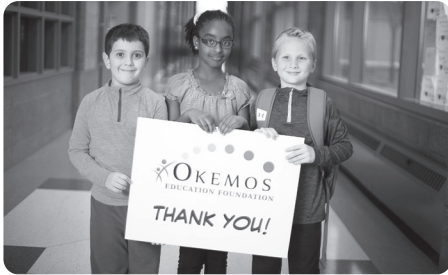
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Okemos Education Foundation
Annual Awards Banquet
Thursday, November 17, 2022
Kellogg Center - MSU
5:30 - 9:00



2020-2021 OEF DONORS

(7/1/20 through 6/30/21)



The Okemos Education Foundation relies on financial donations in order to fulfill its mission. Thank you to our 2020-2021 Partners in Education for supporting Okemos students!

Gold Donors (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Chuck & Karen Canestraight
Maribeth Fletcher
Great Lakes Hand Surgery Center
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Satish & Usha Gupta
Andrew & Erin Hagman
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Silver Donors (\$500-\$999)

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We apologize for any errors or COVID data entry delays. Please send any corrections to chair@oefsite.org.

Make a donation today and we'll add your name to the donor list.

Thank you for supporting Okemos students!

Who Are The Okemos Education Foundation Donors?

- Parents of Okemos students
- Parents of Okemos graduates
- Okemos alumni
- Grandparents of Okemos students and alumni
- Okemos school staff
- Community members
- Area businesses

People who believe in the importance of high-quality education for our youth.. people like you! Please donate today! Use the donation form on the back page, donate online at www.oefsite.org or scan the QR code.

Your support makes a difference in the lives of Okemos students!

The OEF is grateful to the following businesses for their generosity and support.

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Bronze:

Graff Okemos Chevy
Harkness Law Firm
Independent Bank

Copper:

Joseph Dunn Allstate Agency
Maner Costerisan

20-21 Staff Reflections on Virtual Learning -

This past year and a half required the need for unique instructional delivery. Did any of these involve innovative practices that enhanced academic excellence?

- Absolutely! I LOVED that I was able to conference with students in breakout rooms. While I can conference with students one-on-one in class as well, others can still overhear them, and for that reason, many are afraid to speak up. Having the breakout rooms allowed a lot of them to be more transparent about what they were feeling, needed help with, etc.

20-21 Staff Reflections on Virtual Learning -

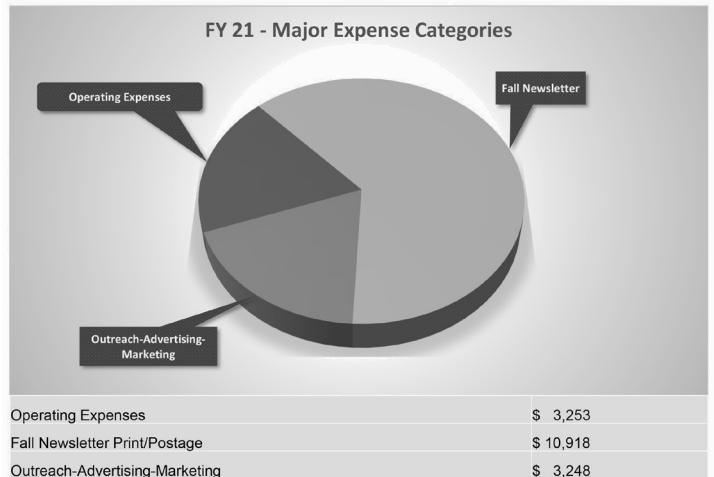
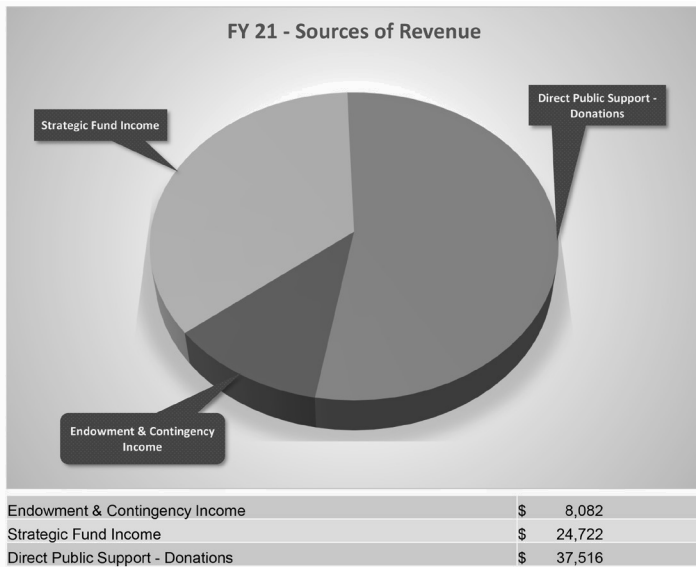
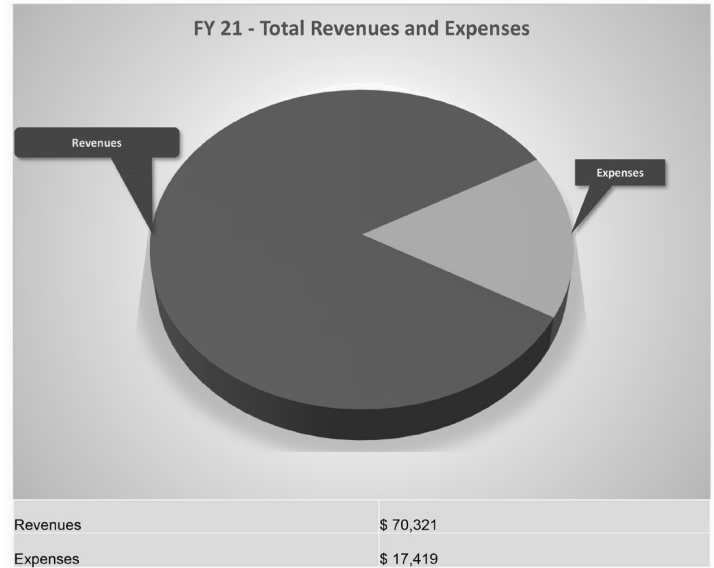
Please share something from the past year and a half that you would like the community to know about.

- Media and technology have gone so far above and beyond to continuously support us as teachers and our students. We could not have survived this last year without all of their support!

2020-2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Supporting the district through funding of teacher grants, field trips, author visit, etc. were suspended last year due to virtual learning. This year we have resumed these programs as well as adding special projects. To date we have committed \$12,000 in grants, \$1500 in field trips, \$2500 for our annual elementary author visit and \$10,000 to go toward the district's DEI initiative. Teacher grants (totaling more than \$25,000) and other programs are available throughout the year.

Your financial support is critical as we work with the district to identify additional needs that allow the OEF to positively impact student learning. Please consider making a donation by check to the OEF (4406 Okemos Rd. Okemos 48864), online at oefsite.org or you can scan the QR code on the back cover. **THANK YOU for your support!**



BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Let the OEF help you advertise your business to the 2600 families in the Okemos Public School District. Contact Board Chair **Sue Hallman** at chair@oefsite.org for more information about how your support can help our students.

Our full donor list is printed in our newsletter each year. It is always available on our website at www.oefsite.org. Make a donation today and we'll add your name to our list.

2021-22 OEF TRUSTEES



*Back Row: Shruti Gross, Deb Baughman
Middle Row: Mary Gebara, Sue Hallman, Jen Hall-Berman
Front Row: Pratin Trivedi, Sara Roland, Tena Sinila, John Hood
Not Pictured: Bidhan Redey, Ron Styka, Lynne Thatche*

OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2021-22 TRUSTEES

Sue Hallman
Chair
Pratin Trivedi
Vice Chair
Lynne Thatcher
Recording Secretary
Bidhan Redey
Treasurer
Jennifer Hall-Berman
Assistant Treasurer

Deb Baughman
Sara Roland
Tena Sinila
Ron Styka
Mary Gebara, *OPS Board Rep*
John Hood, *OPS Superintendent*

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE OEF

Make a Donation Your contribution will help to enhance the education of all Okemos students.

Sponsor an OEF program or event Let the OEF help you advertise your generosity as you help the OEF support Okemos students. Learn more at www.oefsite.org/business.

Purchase an Okemos Education Foundation **APPLE Award** to honor an Okemos teacher or staff member.

Leave a Legacy Support Okemos students with a planned gift through your will or trust.

Attend the annual **OEF Awards Banquet** and enjoy a memorable evening as we celebrate educational excellence in our district.

Volunteer your time and talents. We need help with **development/fundraising, publicity, graphic design, and website support.**

Follow the OEF on **Facebook** or **Twitter** and help spread the word about the OEF.

Contact OEF Chair Sue Hallman at chair@oefsite.org for more information.
Thank you!

Visit www.oefsite.org to support OEF



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Please include this form with your donation. Donations are tax-deductible, as permitted by law. Please see our website for recognition benefits based on levels of giving. Online donations can be made at www.oefsite.org

Name: _____
(as you wish to be recognized)

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please accept my gift of: _____

I would like my gift to be used:

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OEF General Fund: Program/Project Support
OEF Endowment Fund: Future Needs

I wish to honor a special person with this gift:

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Check all that apply:

- Parent/Grandparent (circle one) of Okemos student
Parent/Grandparent (circle one) of Okemos grad
Okemos Alum (year: _____)
OPS staff (current/former)

Please make checks payable to:
Okemos Education Foundation
4406 Okemos Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
Or donate online at: www.oefsite.org



Thank you for supporting Okemos students!