

OEF Spring 2020

NEWS



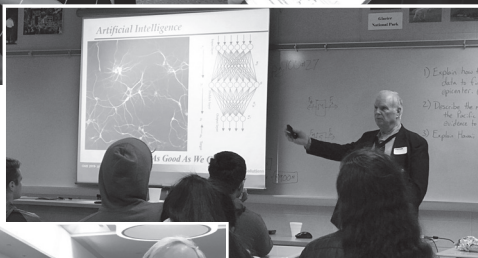
When an alumni award recipient is notified by the OEF of their award there is no expectation of the recipient. However, it is always the hope that they will be able to attend the banquet and talk about their experiences at Okemos and beyond. This year Dr. Schreiner, our recipient, was not only excited to attend the banquet but he also wanted to interact with the students from Okemos High School, in particular those in Physics, his area of expertise. He spent part of his time speaking to 5 classes of OHS students

Never Stop Learning

where he shared academic information as well as three life lessons he learned as a student: *Never*

stop learning; It might come in handy someday and; Draw a picture of the problem. Dr. Schreiner also spent time speaking with retired science teacher Dave Chapman, a conversation recorded by Matt Ottinger and available on the Okemos On Demand Channel. In addition, a visit was arranged to the MSU Cyclotron for 4 students. When word got out about the visit 23 students asked to be selected! Not wanting to turn anyone away, the Alumni Association, headed by Rod Ellis (class of '65) rented a bus and took all 23 students! In addition they contacted a former Okemos grad, Col. Brian Forney, currently a physics teacher in Grand Rapids, who brought 4 students. The students loved the tour at the FRIB. Learning that Dr. Schreiner was the first to program the original cyclotron at MSU was especially exciting. It was a truly memorable day for all involved.

Thank you Dr. Schreiner for your support of Okemos students and science!



OEF Reaches Out - First Friday treats



Last spring, we began our First Friday initiative. This effort is led by our Board of Education Trustee, Mary Gebara. Each month she has been organizing and coordinating deliveries, with the help of other trustees, to each school. The first Friday “goodies” have varied from



sweet treats, to seasonal cider and doughnuts, or books for each school library, as well as useful items like post-it notes. The Okemos teachers and staff go above and beyond every day and do so much for our students and community. We love seeing how excited they get when we come in on a first Friday.

This small gesture allows us to show our appreciation for all they do as well as help them to know who we are and what we do. Thank you Okemos staff!

How can we make more OPS teachers aware of the grants available to them through the Okemos Education Foundation? With so many new hires in recent years, we knew our grant programs weren’t something every teacher was aware of or fully understood. Teachers can apply for micro-grants for small projects costing up to \$250. Larger grants costing between \$250 - \$1,000 are also available. There are many ways a teacher can obtain a grant and it became our mission to ensure everyone knew about the OEF and all we have to offer.

Author Visit - Ruth McNally Barshaw

Each year the Okemos Education Foundation and Horizon Bank sponsor an author to speak to students in all four Okemos elementary schools during March is Reading month. This past March we welcomed Lansing author/illustrator Ruth McNally Barshaw to Okemos to present to our elementary students. Ruth has illustrated several picture books and has written and illustrated the Ellie McDoodle series of chapter books about a girl who journals everything that happens to her. Ruth showed the students some of the journals she started as a child their age which let them know you’re never too young to start writing and drawing. She also did some step by step lessons in creating art for the students.

The OPS LMC Specialists are extremely grateful to the OEF and Horizon Bank for supporting this each year. It has continued to allow us to bring in award winning authors and illustrators to inspire our students to read, write and illustrate!



Recognizing Excellence and Promoting Innovation in Okemos Public Schools

A Message from OEF Board Co-Chair, Sue Hallman

Supporting academic excellence and innovation to enhance student learning is the cornerstone of the Okemos Education Foundation. For 35 years the OEF has been supporting academic excellence in the Okemos Public Schools by contributing over \$1,200,000 to ensure that opportunities for excellence and innovation are available to ALL Okemos students.

This support is done primarily through teacher grants for use in the classroom with the intent to provide valuable experiences for our students that would not otherwise be available through the general budget. The foundation awards four different grants: a micro grant up to \$250, a regular grant up to \$1,000, the Lee Gerard Professional Development grant up to \$2,000 and the Bjorkquist Alumni Science grant up to \$1,000. These are typically awarded to classroom teachers and encompass all levels and all subjects.

While these grants are our primary focus and vary from year to year depending on the number of requests we get, we also budget for annual on-going activities. These include but are not limited to: working with Horizon Bank to bring an author in to visit all four elementary schools in March for March is Reading Month; supporting all 4th graders in the district attending the three day Seeds of Science field trip at MSU and helping to offset the cost of science fairs at the elementary and 5/6 level. Supporting these ensures that when our students transition from 4th to 5th grade they will all have had the above educational experiences.

As a part of supporting excellence it is also important that we celebrate and recognize that excellence within our district. Each year we host a Commitment to Excellence banquet where we honor teachers, support staff, a parent volunteer and an outstanding alumni. *(See separate article.)*

We take this time to honor those who have contributed in making Okemos Public Schools the amazing district it is. While this evening individually recognizes a handful of staff and others, it is truly an opportunity to celebrate ALL of our Okemos School District family as we work ***Together... Educating with Excellence, Inspiring Each Learner for Life.***

Through these grants and ongoing budgeted support, the Okemos Education Foundation provides students with opportunities that might otherwise not be available to them. While the OEF is fortunate to have many individuals and businesses who support the foundation from amounts as small as \$25 upwards of \$10,000, we cannot continue our mission without help from ALL of our community. If you are already a regular donor to the OEF - THANK YOU - your support is greatly appreciated. If you have not donated in the past please consider doing so today. OEF donations support Okemos students in EVERY building at EVERY level in EVERY subject matter. Donate today using the form on the back of the newsletter, going online at oefsite.org/donate or accessing the QR code found in this newsletter.

Help us so that ***Together...we can continue to support excellence and innovation in the classroom in order to enhance student learning.***

Support the OEF by Giving Us Your Precious Two Minutes!

The OEF is currently undergoing a strategic process to guide us as we plan how best to support the OPS district in the coming years. To that end we are reviewing our mission, goals and objectives. Developing a meaningful plan requires that we involve the many different stakeholders who are part of our community. We have developed a very short survey, only 7 questions, and would ask that you take a few minutes to fill this out. Your feedback is critical as we look to the future and how we can best support our schools, staff and students. Thank you for your time and for your support of the Okemos Education Foundation.



Please scan the QR code to take the survey or go to oefsite.org to complete the survey.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

These are just a few ways that OEF grants supplement current learning initiatives in the Okemos school district.

Author Visit Inspires OHS Students

“The world is not a better place without you in it.” This powerful message was conveyed by author, Kristine Brickey, during her visit to Okemos High School. This message is also conveyed in Ms. Brickey’s Book, *They Said She Was Crazy*. Thanks to OEF funding, the generous support of anonymous library donors, and an initiative spearheaded by an enthusiastic OHS senior, Noor Hassan-Contreras, more than 70 students were able to hear this message and enjoy author Kristine Brickey’s visit. Noor, after reading one of Ms. Brickey’s books and seeing the author speak at a conference, knew she needed to bring this author back to her school to speak to her school. She contacted Ms. Brickey immediately to see if she could pay a visit to the Okemos High School Students.

The author visited one of the Creative Writing classes and talked to students about the writing process, “turning truth into fiction,” and strategies to work through writer’s block. She then was able to speak to students during their Flex hour, where she continued the conversation and shared some of her life experiences that were fictionalized in her book, *They Said She Was Crazy*. This is a book about a mother who is trying to pick up the pieces of her life after her son’s suicide, all while experiencing “sightings” of him everywhere. Several of the students received copies of *They Said She Was Crazy* at no cost. In addition to leaving students inspired to write, Ms. Brickey also left students feeling that the world needs them and that it is indeed not a better place without them in it. One of the tenth grade Literature and Composition 10 students who read the book said she plans to keep the book so that one day her teenage children can read it.



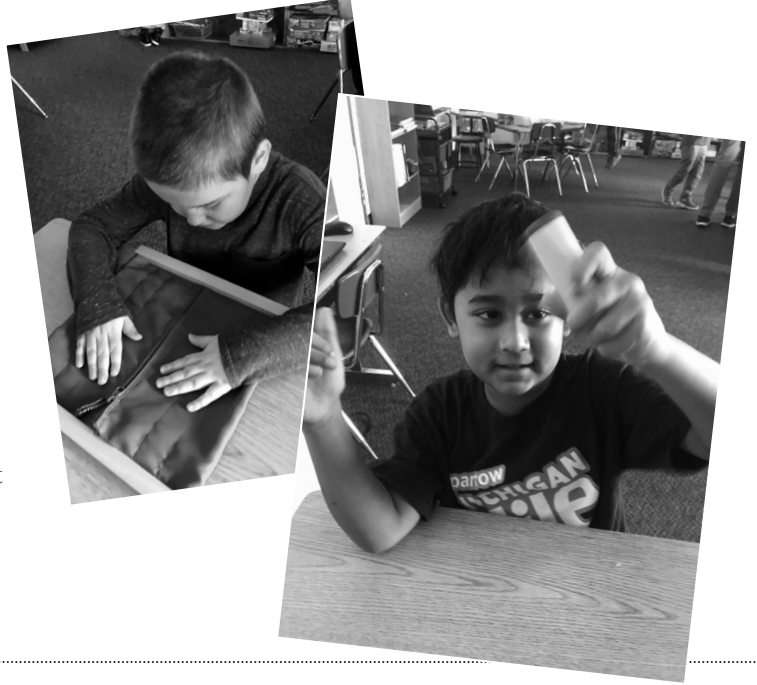
Author Kristine Brickey, during her visit to Okemos High School

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

continued...

Building Equity and Learning through Manipulatives

ASD classroom Teacher, Jaime DeLong, received a micro grant that will provide her students with a learning environment similar to their peers. Jamie explains, “Students are able to engage with materials in the general education classroom to connect with peers using these beautiful materials. Manipulatives help connect abstract concepts with hands-on experiences. Students are able to learn how to use the manipulatives in the self-contained classroom setting and are working to generalize across to general education classroom settings.” The OEF’s support has provided an opportunity to bridge the gap between students and their neurotypical peers through learning materials and at the same time providing wonderful learning and friendship opportunities.



Scooter Fun at Kinawa Middle School!

Can you remember scooting on a scooter when you were in an elementary gym class? Going forward, backward, playing games, spinning around? The OEF, partnering with the Kinawa Parent Group, was able to give current Kinawa students this experience with the purchase of scooters for their gym class. Sheree Jungwirth, one of the Physical Education Teachers at Kinawa said this, “Thanks to the OEF grants and Kinawa Parent Group, all of the students in PE at Kinawa are able to enjoy cooperative games, fitness activities, and fun with their peers. Scooters are the most popular equipment with students and the countless smiles on the student’s faces while using them prove it!”



Creating a diverse learning environment through books

Library and Materials Specialist, Sally Langley, was able to purchase diversity books for the library at Central Public Montessori using a micro grant. She writes “All of the librarians in the district are striving to create a more equitable balance in our library collections, so that all cultures feel represented. Children are more engaged when they see someone who they feel represents them. I am so grateful to have received this grant which allowed me to purchase these diverse books to add to my collection and is accessible to all students/staff in the district.”



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

continued...

High school students get hands on lab experiences

High school science teacher, Laura Richter, was awarded a micro grant for the purchase of silver nitrate to give her students hands on experience in their labs. According to Ms. Richter, “Labs can be done without it but they would not be as interesting. Silver nitrate reacts with all the substances which is unexpected for the students. These labs are good for the students to see the results of reactions we have looked at in lecture, to see the signs of a chemical change they have been told about in action. Since silver nitrate is expensive, if not for funding provided by OEF micro grant, purchasing this would not be possible. First hand experiences are so much more memorable! Students get to see chemical reactions right in front of their eyes!”



*Motivational speaker
Shon Hart*

Pushing through your struggles to come out on top

Motivational speaker, Shon Hart, was able to visit with freshmen at Okemos High School through funds provided by the OEF. He spoke with the students about how he grew up in a rough neighborhood and used football as a motivation for him to make it through high school and personal struggles. He received a full ride scholarship to Michigan State University and then decided to quit the team but used education to make a difference in his life. He spoke about his experiences of struggling to overcome the loss of football and what could have been to inspire and motivate the OHS students. His message to them was that we all need to figure out how to move forward, past the struggles we face every day, to be more than just a person getting by in life and to move from being average to elite.



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

continued...



Zen Den

Mental health is a prevalent concern in our society and at OHS. A quiet room for students to relax and decompress when needed, otherwise known as the Zen Den, has been created within the counseling area by the counselors as a way to teach students about healthy coping skills and the importance of self-care to maintain and improve mental health. All OHS students are welcome to use the room when needed. When students enter this area there is among other things, a weighted blanket, sound machine, rock garden, mindful meditation books, and a lamp that has adjustable light levels, to accommodate students activities in the Zen Den (i.e. reading versus deep breathing). Hopefully this quiet place will help the students normalize stress, anxiety and depression for students and help them realize they aren't alone; give students a space to practice positive coping skills when they are experiencing negative feelings; and keep students in school (rather than them leaving and missing even more school). The OEF is proud to support our staff as they find new and innovative ways to support the students at OHS.

CMS Robotics Team

This year two FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics teams were started at Chippewa. Ginny Canestraight, a current Okemos High School student, mentored the robotics teams this past season. Over 20 students were involved, a great start to a new program. The students were given just three weeks to construct their robots.

At their first competition one of the teams, Junior Desperate Penguins White, made it to the final round! The other team, Junior Desperate Penguins Maroon, received a special judges award! These competitions are extremely competitive, great job Penguins!



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

APPLE Awards

The following Okemos staff members were honored with an APPLE Award from 7/2018 – 6/2019

APPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Adams, Joanna
Aho, Phil
Andersen, Ashley
Austrins, Mariana
Batora, Christine
Beck, Michelle
Becker, Olivia
Belanger, Shawn
Bellamy, Claire
Biermann, Caity
Binkley, Erin
Black, Susie
Bluhm, Lindsey
Boehme, Molly
Bouterse, Angela
Brussow, Adam
Burke, Christina
Butler, Rebecca
Casey, Susan
Chance, Marsha
Chapman, Dave
Chase, Joy
Clark, Carolyn
Clements, Adam
Cline, Mahnon
Coty, Josh
Davis, Staci
DeLong, Jamie
Derochowski, Wanda
Dockus, Diane
Eddy, Jennifer
Erdman, Larry

Erickson, Cindy
Farnelli, Gina
Feldpausch, Anne
Fesko, Ashleigh
Fletcher, Shelby
Floyd, Andy
Freeman-Baldwin, Rachel
Fricano, Sarah
Fry, Tara
Garvey, Trisha
Gibson, Kathy
Giraldo, Carolina
Gould, Erin
Gulbransen, Rebecca
Gutierrez, Erin
Gutierrez, Jose
Gutting, Rachel
Hagon, Adrienne
Hamilton, Deb
Harnick, Jen
Hawks, Brynn
Hayes, Sarah
Heisler, Sally
Hendrix, Jennifer
Heslip, Brie
Hileman, Jessica
Holcomb, Jennifer
Holcomb, Lisa
Hood, John
Hopper, Tom
Hughey, Jonathan
Hughey, Molly
Ianni, Jamie
Ives, Danielle
Johnson, Lauri

Johnson, Rachel
Kampf, Laura
Kushion, Brian
LaFrier, Erin
Lee, Jean
LeGoulven, Julie
Lieber, Beth
Long, Susan
Malkus, Megan
Manko, Melissa
Mankowski, J
Mann, Niki
Mason, Julianne
McAndrew, Casey
Medina, Amanda
Mitchell, Jessica
Mlaker, Susan
Murembya, Marian
Nelson, Denise
Nieland, Corey
Olivarez, Amy
Olstad, John
Palmer, Colleen
Patnoudé, Mindy
Pemble, Caitlin
Pignataro, Alana
Pirochta, Lindsey
Pruden, David
Pulter, Paula
Samluk, Melissa
Saros, Jason
Schlicher, Jennifer
Schneff, Mary
Schoen, Kris
Schoonover, Chrissy

Seydel, Laura
Simla, Tena
Stewart, Kara
Stierley, Steve
Stone, Zac
Sweet, Tori
Svihart, Lisa
Thomas, Cari
Thompson, Michelle
Thornton, Holly
Thrush, Cindy
Valla, Justin
Ward, Kim
Warren, Jessica
Weber, Theresa

Wertz, Leslie
Whitmyer, Kortney
Whittico, Amanda
Williams, Brian
Wolff, Cindy
Woodruff, Jenny
Young, Chelsea
Zink, Cora



Update from the Superintendent

by **John Hood**, Superintendent

January is here, and with it reflections and gratitude marking my first year as superintendent of the Okemos Public Schools. The Okemos community continues to model the critical importance of strong relationships and the many benefits that result for our students and staff. Every new school year is filled with excitement and uncertainty, but more importantly, the opportunity to build on our connections and to continually learn and grow.

Our journey together continues, and with it the opportunity to share a few updates for you below.

Thank you for unique privilege of teaching your children and cultivating a strong partnership with you, as we teach and learn -

“Together...educating with excellence, inspiring learners for life.”

Bond Implementation Updates

In 2017, the Okemos Public Schools began an extensive and collaborative process to assess the current technology, security, capital outlay, transportation and facility needs throughout our district. After a two-year process, the board of education voted to address the highest priority needs by calling for an election on a bond proposal for consideration by our voters.

In May of 2019, voters in the Okemos community voted to approve the 24.9 million dollar ballot proposal to meet areas of need identified across our district. Since then, the district has been working diligently on implementation of the proposal. Major projects implemented thus far include:

- *Replacement of student “1 to 1” learning devices in grades 5-12*
- *Replacement of the district’s phone system*
- *Upgrade of the district’s wireless system*
- *Purchase of sample flexible learning furniture to pilot in each school this fall*
- *Purchase of four new school busses*
- *Planned for the expansion of Bennett Woods (groundbreaking this winter)*
- *Installation of window security film (Spring 2020)*
- *Installation of air conditioning (Summer 2020, 2021)*
- *Bathroom renovations (Summer 2020, 2021)*



To learn more about bond projects, please visit the district’s website, <https://www.okemosk12.net> and click on the “Our District” banner on the top left of the page. Locate the “Bond Updates” link to view ongoing updates regarding the implementation of bond projects including tentative timelines into the future.

Each of these projects utilizes bond funding to address needs, preserving the district’s limited general fund which is critical to student programming.

On behalf of the students, teachers and staff of the Okemos Public Schools, I wanted to once again extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community for the successful passage of the bond proposal and continued support of our schools.

Strategic Planning Initiative

This fall, the Okemos Public Schools district launched a strategic planning process to guide the focus of our district for the next four years. With the diverse voices and many lenses of our community being critically important to this work, the OPS Strategic Planning Committee sought community input in multiple ways- through a community survey, a community forum and two high school student forums. Over seven hundred and fifty responses were collected and analyzed to inform the work.

Development of a strategic plan will provide structure and guide our “next steps” as we strive to maintain quality programs that meet the needs of our students. The OPS Strategic Planning Committee consists of stakeholders from across the district and community working to affirm our mission, vision, and values, to identify critical issues and create aligned goals to move us forward. For additional information, including committee make up, past strategic plans, and survey results, please look for the “Strategic Planning” link located under the “Our District” tab on the district’s homepage.

Superintendent's message continued...

We continue to value the long, rich tradition of collaboration and the opportunity this affords to craft an intentional future for our students and district.

Equity at Our Core

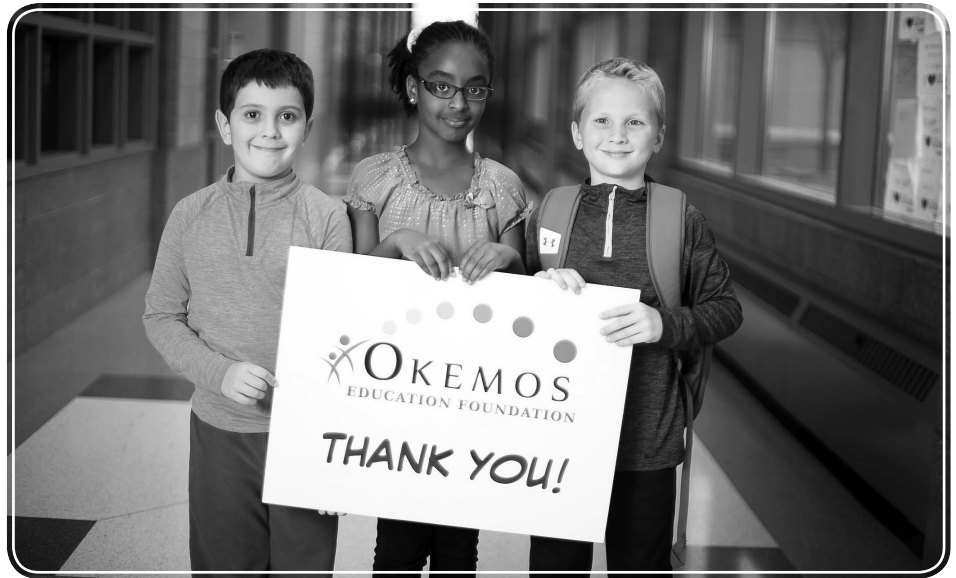
As a diversity enhanced district, Okemos Public Schools continually works to ensure that we are meeting the academic and behavioral needs of ALL of our students. As educators, we strive to examine and reflect on our relationships, curriculum, pedagogy, policies and practices to promote the success of every child.

Okemos Public Schools is committed to creating a culturally competent and responsive school environment where students, staff and community recognize, embrace, celebrate and value the diverse attributes of each other. The Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee continues to support and enhance these efforts by offering perspective to the superintendent to inform meaningful and relevant action throughout the Okemos Public Schools. The Okemos Education Foundation has graciously agreed to sponsor our efforts in our Diverse Educator's Symposium which is being planned this year!

This year, the district will pursue new data collection tools to evaluate the impact of this work and provide further focus for our work in the future. In addition, we are investigating strategies to diversify our staff so that it better reflects our student body and community. Our journey to equity continues with targeted professional development, continual evaluation of our policies and practices through an equity lens, and by working to remove barriers for our students and families. Please look for updates on this work on our district website as well!

2018-2019 OEF DONORS

(7/1/18 through 6/30/19)



The Okemos Education Foundation relies on financial donations in order to fulfill its mission. Thank you to our 2018-2019 Partners in Education for supporting Okemos students!

Platinum Donors (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

- Granger Waste Services
- Horizon Bank
- Scott & Alba Ried

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

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- Chuck & Karen Canestraight
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Patricia Trelstad
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Tiffany Wey

Copper Donors (\$250 - \$499)

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Briarwood Realty
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Tomie Raines, Inc.
Pratin & Pratiksha Trivedi
Janet Velicer
Dan & Linda Wertz
Jeremy & Angela Wilson
Marna Wilson
Sarah & Justus Wohlford
Peng & Hui Zhang

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Jane Andros
Joseph & Beth Bonsall
John & Susie Brewster
David Brower
Murray & Elaine Brown
Jacqueline Browne
Dave Bueche
Martin J. Bukovac

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Debra Chamberlain
Kathleen Tamara-Luchini Colbry
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Jerry & Suzanne Gieszer
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Jon & Teresa Mayes
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Please contact us at chair@oefsite.org if you find errors in this information.

Our donor list is always available on our website at www.oefsite.org. Make a donation today and we'll add your name.

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!

2019 Okemos Education Foundation Award Recipients

The OEF is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's awards for excellence, given to educators, support staff, community volunteers, and distinguished alumni who have made a significant impact on the Okemos school community. The awards were presented on November 21, 2019 at the Kellogg Center, MSU.

Learn more at www.oefsite.org/2019banquet.



Lindsay Harrod, Okemos High School Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

Lindsay received her undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University with a major in Family and Consumer Science and a minor in Health Education. She received her Master's degree in Educational Technology from Marygrove College.

This is Lindsay's 11th year with Okemos Public Schools. In addition to being a high school Family and Consumer Science teacher Lindsay is/has been a student council advisor, connect freshman orientation co-advisor, yearbook advisor and freshman class advisor.

In her free time Lindsay enjoys spending time with her family. She also loves being outside taking walks, riding bikes, boating and vacationing. She enjoys crafting, planning activities and events, decorating and home projects.

When asked about her job and Okemos Lindsay says, *"I am very lucky that I can wake up and go to work loving my job everyday. I have always been passionate about teaching and learning and have wanted to be a teacher since I was very young. I take great pride in what I do every day and love to build relationships with students. Okemos is a wonderful place to work. It has provided me with many opportunities that have given me ways to be involved with students and parents. The support and friendships I have made here are something to be treasured."*

Thank you Lindsay for your passion and congratulations on your award!



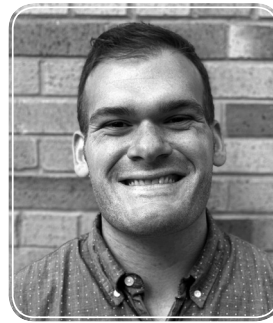
Nita Carpenter, Okemos High School Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

Nita has been a part of the Okemos Public School family for 29 years as a high school math teacher. Since 2011 she has been the Math department chair. She graduated from Spring Arbor College (now Spring Arbor University) with her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. Nita then attended Michigan State University where she received her Masters in Curriculum and Teaching. In addition, she has taken many other courses relating to best classroom practices.

Nita enjoys spending free time with her family, husband, David, and their three sons, Joel, Kelden and Gabe. In addition to her family, she loves golf, walking the dog, playing recreational volleyball, playing word games and spending time with friends.

About Okemos, Nita says, *"I have truly enjoyed teaching at Okemos High School for my entire teaching career thus far. As with any profession, there are always going to be highs and lows, good times and tough times. However, the overwhelming majority of my experience with students, parents, administrators and colleagues has been positive and supportive thus far and for that I am truly grateful."*

Thank you Nita for all you do and congratulations on your award!



Jonathan Hughey, Cornell Elementary School Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

Jon is currently in his 5th year teaching third grade at Cornell Elementary School. He recently completed his Master's in Educational Administration from Michigan State University where he also received his Bachelor of Arts in elementary education.

Jon is excited to be a new dad, daughter Ellie will be 4 months when Jon receives his award. His wife, Molly, also teaches at Cornell Elementary. In addition, Jon's family includes mom, Sue, dad, Ron and four brothers and sisters, Jessie, Jim, Jacob and Jenny.

When not spending time with his family, Jon enjoys watching sports, playing golf, spending time outside and being with friends.

When asked about Okemos Jon replied, *"I love working in Okemos. The teachers are appreciated and treated as professionals, there is a great amount of diversity in the student population, I have made great friends with my colleagues at Cornell and I appreciate all of them. I am lucky to be teaching in this district."*

We are lucky to have you as a part of the Okemos Public School family. Congratulations Jon!



Dorean Brazier, Okemos Public School Staff Commitment to Excellence Award Recipient

Dorean is an educator who lives the value of learning. She received her undergraduate degree from MSU in Special Education/Emotionally Impaired. She continued with a Master's degree in Special Education/Learning Disabled. Dorean has additional certifications as a Certified Teacher of Dyslexics, a Project Read Trainer and a Reading Specialist.

Dorean is a long time member of Okemos Public Schools staff at both the elementary and high school level, all as a special education teacher or consultant. She has been at Central, Edgewood, Wardcliff and Cornell. Currently she is at Okemos High School where she has worked for the past 18 years.

Dorean's family includes Dr. James Brazier, a retired political science professor and current corrections officer. Her son, Dr. Brett Brazier, is a Captain in the Air Force in San Antonio, Texas and is in his 1st year of orthopedic surgery residency.

In her free time Dorean enjoys skiing travelling, reading, playing tennis and golf. Dorean is also a former competitive figure skater and coach.

Thinking about her time in Okemos Dorean notes that it has been *"a challenging, exhilarating experience, a place where she has become a lifelong learner and learned to forgive herself when a mistake was made and to forgive others when she was misunderstood. Okemos has been a family experience with tons of support. For Dorean, retirement will not be a day of celebration, rather a sad day for her."*



Mariann Frank, Okemos Public Schools
Special Recognition Award Recipient

Mariann is a parapro in the upper elementary self contained ASD classroom at Central. This is her third year with Okemos Public Schools and in the ASD room. Mariann received her Liberal Arts degree from Oakland Community College. She also has behavioral training from a board certified behavior analyst.

When not in the classroom Mariann enjoys spending time with her family; husband, Steve, daughters, Peyton and Delany, and sons, Connor and Dalton. She also loves going on adventures, hiking, kayaking, golfing and Monday night Bingo.

Speaking of her classroom experience Mariann says, *“Working with Abby Showerman and the incredible team has opened my eyes to love and embrace the children we work with. I am so proud to work with a team that jumps into action.”*



June Hicks, Central Elementary School
Special Recognition Award Recipient

June is currently the Administrative Assistant for Operations. Prior to that she worked in the ASD basic classroom at Central as a parapro. She has been with Okemos for four years.

June is a Wisconsin Badger, earning her Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Ecology/Natural Science. She volunteers with Harris Nature Center, enjoys biking, reading, knitting, and spending time with her family, dogs and bird!

Her family includes husband Scott, daughter Anna a sophomore at OHS, son Edward a freshman at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



Kathy Martin, Okemos Public Schools
Special Recognition Award Recipient

Kathy has worked in Okemos for almost 19 years as a parapro, working at all levels in all buildings.

She is very blessed with family and friends including her husband Steve, daughter, Brittney, a 2010 Okemos graduate, and as she says ‘too many fur babies’! She enjoys refinishing furniture, baking, making crafts and knows sign language.

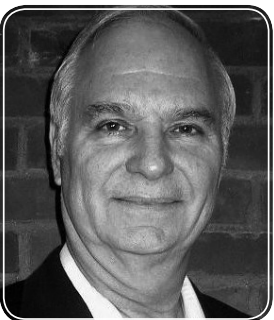
Reflecting on her time in Okemos Kathy notes, *“I have had hard placements as well as wonderful placements but I have always tried to make the best of it. I have made some wonderful friends throughout the years. I have always been thankful for my job and the many things I have experienced.”*



Shawn Donaldson, Kinawa Middle School
Special Recognition Award Recipient

Shawn is a parapro with the ASD program in Okemos. He currently works at Kinawa in the ASD basic classroom moving ‘up’ with students he worked within the elementary ASD program at Central for the last two years. Previously Shawn worked as a before and after care taker in Okemos.

He received his undergraduate degree from MSU and is currently working on his Masters through Ball State University.



Dr. Walter Schreiner, Class of 1959
Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

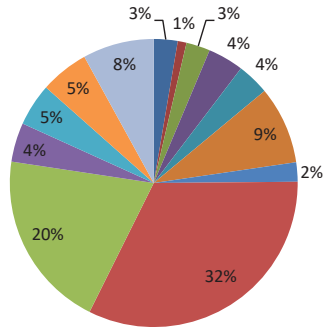
After graduating from Okemos High School in 1959, Dr. Schreiner spent over 2 years in the Peace Corps, teaching physics and math in Chile. In 1973, he earned a PhD in high energy physics from Virginia Polytech & State University. This was followed by a post-doctoral at Brookhaven National Lab for two years. From 1975 to 2005, he was employed by Philips Electronics Research, where he did R&D for x-ray analytical physics. At the same time, he owned and operated a private x-ray diffraction analytical laboratory for about 20 years and taught x-ray diffraction classes. That led to management consulting, business process re-engineering, and eventually to solving and teaching how to apply statistical engineering methods to solve chronic manufacturing problems worldwide.

Dr. Schreiner traveled all over North America, Europe and Asia, to apply his expertise and to teach. After “retiring,” he set up his own consulting company, CP Solutions. There he solved chronic manufacturing problems in medical instruments and prosthetic components, lighting, electronic components, displays, domestic appliances, electronic assembly, semiconductors, plastics, fuel cells, wax and contact lens manufacturing. Since 2010 he has been volunteering with the Fuller Center, to help build houses for those in need.

***Congratulations to all 2019 award recipients.
Thank you for your support to Okemos Public
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2017-2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income as of 6/30/2019



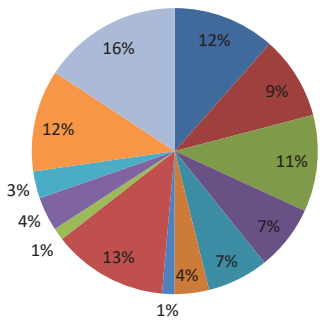
- Endowment Donations
- Endowment Realized Gain Loss
- Endowment Dividends & Interest
- Strategic Fund Dividends, Int
- Horizon Bank Author donations
- JBASF (Science)
- JBASF (Science) OAA Donation
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- Business Sponsors
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- United Way
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- OEF Banquet ticket sales

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Expense as of 6/30/2019



- Commitment to Excellence Awards
- JBASF & Micro Grants
- OEF Grants- Classroom Grants
- Seeds of Science Field Trips
- The Okemos Channel
- Operating Expenses
- Fall Letter Campaign
- Fall Newsletter Print/Postage
- APPLE Award & Plaques
- Advertising/Website/Miscellaneous
- Printing & Investment Fees
- Elementary Author visit
- Room Rent and Meals

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Middle row: Lynne Thatcher, Sue Hallman, Donna Kregelka, Deb Baughman, Shruti Nandani
Front row: Ron Styka, Mary Gebara, Sara Roland, Jen Hall-Berman*

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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 Co-Chair Ron Styka at chair@oefsite.org for more information.
Thank you!

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