# SUMER 2021 // ISSUE 16 Learners Leaders

#### BECOMING AN UNRIVALED LEARNING COMMUNITY

#### **Educational Quality & Culture**



Max R., Traveling to Germany for One Year









Jack S., Entering the National **Guard and Attending MSOE** 

WWW.OASD.ORG

Sam B., Working in Carpentry Before Entering an Apprenticeship

# OASD Graduate Profile Leads to OHS Career Pathways

In 2019, the Oconomowoc Area School District (OASD) developed the Graduate Profile alongside a new strategic plan. The Graduate Profile defines the desired characteristics of an OASD graduate and creates benchmarks for staff and students to work towards. The development of these characteristics is integrated into the learning of students from 4K through 12th-grade in hopes



that on their graduation day, students will be inquisitive and open-minded problem solvers; curious, reflective, and engaged learners; service-minded humanitarians; confident and articulate communicators; courageous and compassionate leaders; and well-rounded members of our community.

In 2019, Oconomowoc High School (OHS) also solidified the OHS Career Pathways, their approach to ensuring that graduates are ready to accomplish their post-high school goals. Whether that path leads into Military service, an apprenticeship program, a 2-year or 4-year college, or into the workforce. The OHS career pathways provide a guide for students to explore and develop their goals with the flexibility to evaluate and adjust those goals along the way. "At Oconomowoc High School, we know that we have a responsibility to help each Raccoon be prepared for advanced career training after they graduate from high school. As a community we have infused career-exploration and career-readiness opportunities in our classes and as part of our school culture. There is no one pathway that we celebrate

over the other, rather we emphasize the importance of feeling ready, prepared, and excited for whatever pathway our seniors choose after graduation," said OHS Principal Jason Curtis.

The OASD Graduate Profile and OHS Career Pathways fit together to help students, families, and staff unite around the goals and expectations for our students, throughout their education and upon their graduation.

C As a district, our goal is that each student leaves OHS with a plan. Some students have a very clear vision of what this plan entails while others are still weighing their options. Our hope is that all students see value in the plan that is right for them which is why we want to celebrate each student and their choice after graduation. We want students to feel confident and proud of the career path they are choosing, which is another reason we take the time to celebrate all pathways.

> - Kyla Stefan, OHS School to Career Coordinator

In June, 439 students and their families celebrated the completion of their OASD education and the opportunity to take the next step in their path, using the characteristics from the Graduate Profile at colleges throughout the country, employers in our community and region, and at military bases across the world.

Students in the Class of 2021 were not only shaped by their experiences at OHS but by their time at all of our elementary and intermediate schools and we're confident that they'll be successful in the next phases of their lives.





# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK Congralilla ass of 2021

Kristen M. Taylor, PhD Interim Superintendent

What a year! Our student body faced numerous changes to their school experience, social, and personal lives in the midst of a global pandemic. Our Oconomowoc students thrived and continued to develop and demonstrate the characteristics defined in our graduate profile. Our students worked to become:

- Inquisitive and open-minded problem solvers
- Curious, reflective, and engaged learners
- Service-minded humanitarians
- Confident and articulate communicators
- Courageous and compassionate leaders
- Well-rounded members of our community

This year's group of 439 graduates has demonstrated excellence in the classroom, in the arts, and in athletics. 166 seniors participated in a club, 147 seniors participated in a sport with 91 seniors being scholar athletes and 26 of those being 4-year scholar athletes. 165 seniors were on the honor roll this year and 227 of our seniors were on the high honor roll with a GPA of 3.7 or higher. Congratulations to Amelia Sitzberger, who was named Valedictorian, and Sarah Kopfer, who was named Salutatorian.

Even though there are things each of us wishes we could change about the 2020-21 school year, there is a reason the rearview mirror is small and the windshield is large. Where our graduates are headed is even more spectacular than what they leave behind. The class of 2021 earned a record breaking \$11,300,038 in scholarships! Many of those dollars came from local donors, the Oconomowoc Area Foundation, and the Oconomowoc Scholarship Fund, demonstrating our community's significant commitment to our district and students.

Our students move forward into the future on many pathways. 81% are headed to a two-year or four-year college. 3% are headed to the military. 1% are moving into an apprenticeship and 14% are pursing their passion by moving directly into the workforce. This graduating class is uniquely talented and they leave a legacy of excellence in our schools. We are proud to send them on to their futures and will be humbled as they make their mark on the world as OHS alumni. Congratulations to the class of 2021!

Quality

& Culture





Happy **Retirement!** The Oconomowoc Area School District thanks our 2020-21 retirees for their dedication to our students and families.



- Pictured, top, left to right: Deb Berg - Arno Kirchenwitz
- Tom Beirl
- Bottom, left to right: Lvnn Carlstein Mike Krofta



OASD Staff Appreciation In this unique and challenging year, our staff members have shown their ability to adapt to change while staying focused on supporting our students. Thank you to all of our OASD staff members for making the Oconomowoc Area School District a great place to learn.



2019-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN DIRECTIONS Educational Equity &

Diversity



Personnel

Excellence





Customer Care/ Return on Investment

## Dr. Kristen Taylor Selected as OASD Interim Superintendent

The OASD is excited to announce that the School Board has selected Dr. Kristen Taylor as Interim Superintendent. Dr. Taylor has served the OASD as the Director of Human Resources for the last three years.

In addition to her qualifications for the position, she will have the unique ability to assist the district and School Board in the search for our permanent Superintendent, then return to her Human Resources role, creating a smooth transition for our staff and acting as a resource for our permanent Superintendent.

Dr. Taylor will transition to her role as Interim Superintendent on July 1, 2021. Please join us in congratulating Kristen Taylor on her new position.

## OHS Counselor Invited to Serve Second Term on State Council

OHS Counselor, Scott Bakkum, has been invited to serve a second term on the State Superintendent's Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory (AODA) Council. Bakkum was invited to serve a second term because of his demonstrated interest in health and safety issues for students.Bakkum has been a school counselor at OHS for the past 23 years and the District AODA program coordinator for the past eight years.



#### Customer Care/ Return on Investment





### Announcing the 2020 & 2021 OHS Wall of Fame Awardees

2020 Wall of Fame Recipient, Ms. Jacki Lyden, is a 1971 graduate of OHS, a champion of environmental causes, and a best-selling author.

2021 Wall of Fame Recipient, Mr. Sean McCollum, is a 1981 graduate of OHS and children's and educational writer and editor.

Read more about our Wall of Fame Awardees as www.oasd.org/WallOfFame.

# **CONGRATULATIONS,** Class of 2021 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

Valedictorian, Amelia Sitzberger, will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall to pursue a degree in computer science and cybersecurity. She looks forward to being involved in the NROTC program to become a Naval Officer and plans to continue playing rugby during her time in Madison.



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"My favorite memory at Oconomowoc was chatting with Mr. Erik Jappinen at the bubbler with my friend, Bethany, before lunch every day during senior year," said Amelia. "Bethany and I always got a kick out of talking with our former middle school teacher who cares so much for his students," she added.

"I would like to thank my mother for always supporting me and my brother for inspiring me to serve in the U.S. Navy. I would also like to thank my teacher, Mrs. Tomski, for being an amazing role model who introduced me to computer science and also inspired me to serve," Amelia concluded.

Salutatorian, Sarah Kopfer, will attend the University of Notre Dame to study computer engineering. She hopes to play club tennis and participate in volunteer opportunities, engineering organizations, and university clubs on campus. "The impressive variety of PLTW Engineering courses that OHS offers has allowed me to explore my interest in my future



career field, and the IBCP program has allowed me to fuse engineering with intense humanities courses that have urged me to look within myself and challenge myself in ways that I have never done before," Sarah said about OHS.

"My favorite memories at OHS are all from the many great moments I spent with the tennis team during my four seasons. Whether battling on the court alongside my teammates at State or laughing about something silly while eating a Phoenix, playing tennis always brought me joy beyond anything else," Sarah added.

"I would like to thank my parents, above all, for sacrificing in order to give me all the support and opportunities I have needed to get to the place that I am. I would like to thank all my teachers as well."

#### Educational Quality & Culture





#### **Exemplary Award**

More than 100 Oconomowoc High School band and choir students participated in the Solo & Ensemble Festival at OHS in spring and several students were selected for the Exemplary Award. Congratulations to choir students Emily and Ellie, and band students Jordan, Kate, Aliya, Ryan, Jack, Bryce, and Brendan on receiving the Exemplary Award.



#### **Excellence in Chinese Learning**

Congratulations to our Oconomowoc High School students, Maycee, Sophia, Olivia, Aiden, Reilly, Camille, and Max, for earning the Excellence in Chinese Learning Award from the Wisconsin Association of Chinese Language Teachers. They were nominated by their Chinese language teachers, Ms. Wan and Ms. Lourigan, in recognition of their outstanding participation as well as their commitment and dedication to Chinese language learning.



#### 2020-21 OHS Global Scholars

Congratulations to the OHS 2020-21 Global Scholars. OHS Students Abby P., Nadia B., Emily M., Anna M., Olivia H., Katie W., and Kennedy H. (not pictured), focused their final service projects on writing books, making face masks, and collecting school supplies for Guatemala Service Projects, Inc.



OASD seniors received a new record amount in scholarships in the 2020-2021 school year.



\$11,300,038

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Educational Quality & Culture End of Year Celebra Control Cont Educational Quality & Culture

#### **ELEMENTARY CELEBRATIONS**













#### CELEBR ATIONS





# SPRING SPORTS #oconPRIDE

## SPRING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS:

- Boys Golf
- Boys Tennis
- Boys Track
- Girls Track

OHS tied for the overall Classic 8 Conference Sportsmanship Award, a first for OHS since joining the conference.

#### OHS 4-YEAR SCHOLAR ATHLETES





# HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2021 CELEBRATION

#### Friday, October 1:

Hall of Fame Inductees invited to Homecoming Parade and Football Game.

Saturday, October 2: Induction Ceremony brunch at the Oconomowoc Community Center.

*Visit www.oasd.org/HallOfFame for more information.* 















## **Rux Stadium Track Access** for the Public This Summer:

# June 14-July 31, 2021

M-F: 4:30-7:30 a.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m. Weekends: 5:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Visit www.oasd.org/BuildingsAndGrounds to complete the required online forms.

Athletic photos courtesy of Stoneberg Sports Photography.

Graduate photos courtesy of Lifetouch Photography.



**BELIEVE IN** 

YOU!

CONGRATS

**E** 

Jason Curtis, OHS Principal







0 J BOOKMOBILE

The Bookmobile is back and open to al Oconomowoc families in 4K-8th grade.

**DATES:** June 30, July 14, 28

#### **SCHEDULED STOPS:**

- Meadow View Elementary: 8:30-10:00 a.m
- Nature Hill Intermediate: 10:30-11:30 a.m

#### **DATES:** August 11

#### **SCHEDULED STOPS:**

- Fowler Park: 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- Imagination Station: 10:15-11:15 a.

Learn more at www.oasd.org/Bookmobile



# **SAVE THE DATE**

#### 2021-22 ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online Registration for the 2021-22 school year will open from July 5-August 4, 2021, and will occur within the Skyward Family Access system. OASD families will receive more information by email this month and information can also be found at www.oasd.org/SchoolRegistration.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JULY

- 5 . . . . . . . No OASD Summer School
- 5.... OASD Online Registration Opens
- 21. . . . . . OASD School Board Regular Meeting, OHS East Campus Wilkinson Board Room, 7 p.m.
- 30 . . . . . Last Day of OASD Summer School

#### AUGUST

- 4 . . . . . . . Last Day of OASD Online Registration
- 4 . . . . . . OHS Materials Pick Up & Photo Day
- 18. . . . . . OASD School Board Regular Meeting, OHS East Campus Wilkinson Board Room, 7 p.m.
- 24 . . . . . OASD Schools Open Houses, Elementary 4-7 p.m., Intermediate 3-6 p.m., OHS 2-5 p.m.

#### SEPTEMBER

1 . . . . . . . First Day of School

915 E. Summit Ave. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 262-560-1115



#### FCC OFFERING EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides monthly discounts on internet service for eligible households.

*Visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit or call 833-511-0311 to learn more about the program and application process.* 

#### 🖌 OASD School Board

School Board meetings are now held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Oconomowoc High School East Campus, Wilkinson Board Room.

Matt Carico CarricoM@oasd.org Rick Grothaus GrothausR@oasd.org Kim Herro herrok@oasd.org Jessica Karnowski KarnowskiJ@oasd.org Dan Raasch RaaschD@oasd.org Scott Roehl RoehlS@oasd.org James Wood WoodJ@oasd.org

#### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Oconomowoc Area School District provides assurance that no student is discriminated against because of the student's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

#### **DECLARACIÓN DE TRADUCCIÓN**

Estamos trabajando diligentemente para traducir nuestros documentos al español. Por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo para aclaración. Si todavía necesitas aclaración, por favor comuníquese con Translate@oasd.org.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

In order to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, a cost-effective bulk mailing service was used for this publication. There are limitations to the service and we cannot fully match the mailing list with our school district borders without adding significant cost. If you do not live within the Oconomowoc Area School District and received this publication due to this limitation, we ask for your understanding.