



Our Roots Run Deep - Our Branches Stretch Far

# The Oakfield Difference

January 2024

Oakfield School District, 250 E. Church St., Oakfield, WI 53065

## Rec Department Shot Club



The Oakfield Rec Department would like to acknowledge our four participants of the Rec Summer Shot Club.

Clay Marschie achieved the Hall of Fame level with 12,500 shots

Caleb Fisher achieved the Hall of Fame level with 12,500 shots

Evan Immel achieved the All-Star level with 7,500 shots

Garett Drazkowski achieved the Pro level with 5,000 shots



### Senior Spotlight - Savannah Tapp

**Future Career?** Biomedical Engineering  
**Favorite High School Memory?** Senior Sunrise  
**Favorite Teacher?** Mrs. Vaughan  
**Favorite Subject?** Science because it's something I'm passionate about and I like the teacher.  
**One Word that a friend would use to describe you?** Driven

### Beater of the Month - Owen Holzman

**Make/Model:** 1997 Buick Lesabre  
**Miles:** 92,000  
**Years you have owned it:** Two Years  
**Nickname:** N/A  
**Special Features?** None  
**What do you like most about your car?** Breaking off the passanger side mirror.. twice.

### Middle School Student of the Month Mia Miller

**Favorite Food?** Pizza  
**Pets?** Cat named Nugget  
**Hobbies?** Writing and Chess  
**Favorite Teacher?** Mrs. Waisanen  
**Future Job/Career?** Writer



Non Profit Org  
ECRWSEDDM  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Oakfield, WI  
Permit No. 4

## Highlights

- PAGE 2: Principal's Messages
- PAGE 3: District Administrator Message
- PAGE 4-7: MS/OHS
- PAGE 8: Community
- PAGE 9-10: School Board Minutes
- PAGE 11: How to Build Habits
- PAGE 12: Communication Form/Calendar

POSTAL PATRON

### Dates to Know

- January 26 End of Semester (MS/HS)
- January 29 No School - Staff Development
- February 13 & 15 P/T Conferences
- February 16 & 19 No School - Staff Development

### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The School District of Oakfield does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex (including gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, or disability in its education programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap and/or any other characteristics prohibited by State or Federal law. If any person believes that the School District of Oakfield or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of s.118.13 Wis.Stat. or in some way discriminates against individuals on the basis listed above, send a complaint to the administration office at the following address: Oakfield District Office, 250 E Church St Oakfield, WI 53065.

# Message From Mr. Brown



Happy New Year! We wish you and your family happiness and healthiness!

With the end of the first semester coming fast, our staff and students are fully engaged in successfully completing all requirements. That being said, the administration has one eye in the future to ensure ongoing success. Of all the activities that we feel can best move us forward, our staff is using our recent student data from the Naiku test to make better informed decisions.

Many of our students haven't taken a timed standardized test. Therefore, this was a new experience for them. Through using Naiku assessments, our goal is to: 1) Use student results for staff to tailor classroom instruction to help best prepare all our students to reach the college and career readiness level, 2) familiarize students with Pre-ACT/ACT timed assessments. Your child has access to additional Pre-ACT/ACT tests in their Naiku portal where they can practice one or more subject areas and receive immediate feedback, and 3) help students to identify areas where they excelled and areas where they may have struggled, allowing them to set their own goals for growth.

The Naiku test will be administered to all high school students February 1, 2024. Seniors will not be required to be at school until period 5, which begins at 12:16pm.

Students in grades 8-11 will be receiving registration materials for the 2024-2025 school year during the first week of February and registering for classes by the end of February. Please look for more information being sent home and through email early February.

Tuesday February 13 from 6:00 - 7:00pm in the MS/HS Library our High School Counselor, Jennifer Schindel, will be hosting a Middle School Transition Night for all 8th grade parents. On this night we will share the high school philosophy, as well as high school course requirements and curriculum. Parents and students are expected to attend this informational session.

## THE ACT

The ACT Test will be administered to all high school Junior students on Tuesday, March 12th. This is a state-mandated test that all Junior students must take. The test will be held at Oakfield Middle and High School. Please get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast that day. More information will be shared to families of Juniors in the upcoming weeks.

The Pre-ACT Test will be administered to all high school 9th and 10th grade students on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The test will be held at Oakfield Middle and High School.

There will be 100% virtual learning on Tuesday, March 12th for all students in grades 6-10 and grade 12 due to the ACT test being proctored at the school.

There will be 100% virtual learning on Tuesday, April 9th for all students in grades 6-8, 11 and 12 due to the Pre-ACT test being proctored at school.

Please start making accommodations. Work will be given in advance and all students will be notified of their responsibilities prior to both virtual days for testing.

As always, it remains an honor to serve our district.

Timothy J. Brown  
tbrown@oakfield.k12.wi.us  
(920) 583-3958

# Message from Mrs. Doyle



Hello Oakfield Elementary families, happy new year! New year, new beginnings, let's go! Oakfield Elementary students are busy learning already!

The One School, One Book Program has been a hit. We appreciate the support of families in reading this year's book, *The Water Horse*. Thank you to the Oakfield Parent/Teacher Organization for helping fund this event. Our goal is to create more literacy activities in the home with a family read aloud. Winter weather is a perfect time to create a read aloud routine as a family.

In December, Winter Benchmark Assessments were given in reading and math for students in grades 4K - 5. This gives staff a chance to monitor the growth students have made since the beginning of the school year. iReady Reports for grades K - 5 were sent home the first week of January. This information will also be shared with families at the February Parent/Teacher Conferences. Staff analyze the assessment scores to determine the next steps in your child's learning and support their continual growth at their level.

Staff will share assessment reports with you at the upcoming Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences on Feb. 13 and Feb. 15 from 3:30 - 7:30 PM. We hope students can join in on the conversation, too. We take pride in students owning in their learning and students take great pride in their learning success, too. Please take a few minutes to talk with your child about their successes at school and goals for the next month or remaining days of the school year.

The best way to support your child's growth is to read and do math with them at home. Try to find a time when you can focus on just your child, no distractions. Children need that time to connect with the adults in their lives just as much as they need to continue to practice their academics at home. Thanks for your continued support. We are excited to continue to watch our OES students soar the second half of the school year.

Mrs. Doyle  
-Oakfield Elementary Principal

# Message from Ms. Conners



## Frequently Asked Questions - Operational Referendum

The School District of Oakfield currently has an Operational Referendum of \$1.1 million that allows the district additional funds above the state's revenue limit cap. This referendum is essential for funding staff salaries, benefits, and annual maintenance and supplies. Renewing this operating referendum in November of 2024 is crucial for the district's financial stability. Below is some information regarding the Operational Referendums for Schools.

### Why do schools need operational referendums?

- Since 1994, Wisconsin school districts have been primarily funded by a combination of state aid and local property taxes. Each school district in Wisconsin has a revenue limit created by the state budget. This limit caps the amount of money a district can receive through state aid and local property taxes. A district's revenue limit is directly linked to two things: enrollment and state-approved adjustments. In most cases across the state, the revenue limits have not kept pace with inflation. In addition, school boards can ask voters to pass an operating referendum. An operating referendum allows the district to raise its revenue limit authority. Most districts in the state have used operating referendums to meet their budget challenges.

### How is an operational referendum initiated?

- The School District of Oakfield has had numerous Operating Referendums to ensure the financial stability of the district. We are in need of renewing our current operating referendum of \$1.1 million in November of 2024.
  - A school district can only place a referendum question on a ballot after going through an official process. The referendum process starts when a school board adopts a resolution to exceed the limit. The permission to exceed the revenue limit can be for either recurring or nonrecurring purposes, i.e., can continue indefinitely or be only for a set period.
  - The school district clerk must then submit the referendum to voters at the next primary or general election, as long as at least 70 days pass between the resolution's adoption and the election. \*Info provided by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau
  - The school board plays a crucial role in crafting the referendum proposal, setting the funding amount, and determining how the additional funds will be allocated. Board members also communicate with the community to build support.

### What is the difference between a capital and an operating referendum?

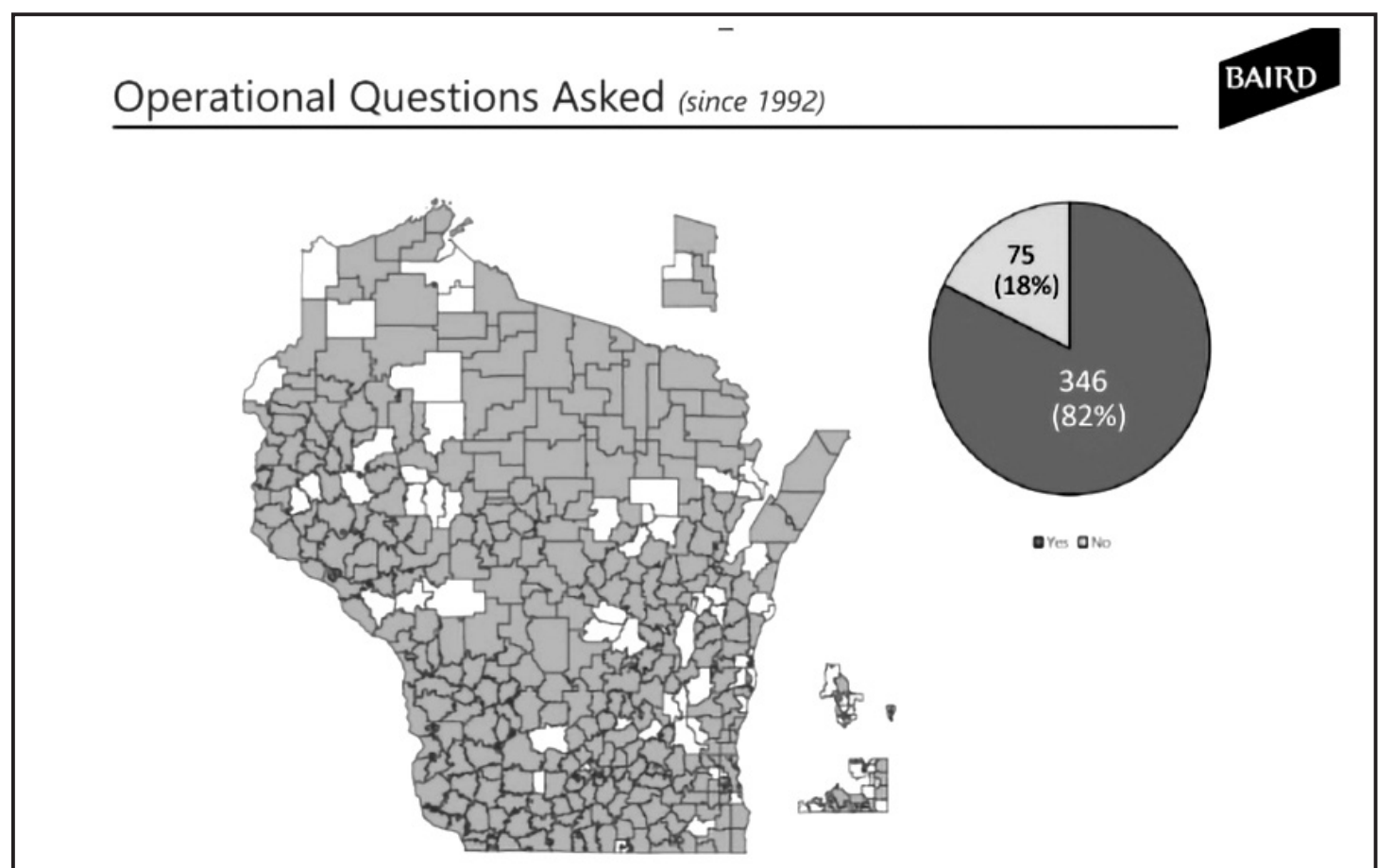
- School districts may initiate two types of referendums to increase funding. First, a district may hold a referendum to issue debt for a specified purpose. These are often referred to as "capital referenda," because the funds are typically (but not always) for construction and other large capital projects. This is what the community of Oakfield so graciously supported in April of 2022 for the renovation and addition at the Middle School/High School as well as updates at the Elementary School. A capital referendum provides the authority to issue a certain amount of bonds/notes to pay for a capital project.
- An operating referendum pays for things such as utilities, routine maintenance, salaries and benefits, supplies, etc. The goal in Oakfield is to not raise taxes but to maintain the funding at our current levels. The District will be seeking the renewal of our current operating referendum that allows us to levy up to \$1.1 million dollars beyond the revenue limits.

### How often can a school district pursue an operational referendum?

- Our current operating referendum is for 5 years 2020-2025. Our current plan is to ask the community to renew this referendum for another 5 years.

Please watch for additional information as we move closer to the fall. Again thank you for your continued support of the Oakfield School and our Students.

Tracey Conners  
District Administrator  
School District of Oakfield



# Teacher of the Month

## Mrs. Danne



**Where did you go to high school?**

Waupun

**Where did you go to college?**

**What degree did you graduate with?**

UW - River Falls! I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education.

**What are your hobbies outside of school?**

Lately I've just been a Mama to my 5 month old daughter. Spending time with my husband, dog and family are also priorities and I enjoy spending as much time outside as I can when the weather allows!

**What is your favorite teaching memory?**

Oh gosh...I have way too many to pick just one. I'd have to say anytime a student starts to believe in themselves or gains confidence in a skill they were once unsure of are some of the most memorable moments I've experienced.

## FFA News

On December 15th, we were very excited to have our section six state officer, Julia, pay us a visit. Julia stayed throughout the day during classes and met with our officer team to chat about how the year has been going as well as giving some beneficial advice. On January 14th, Marissa Kottke and Lincoln Laabs ran a Christmas tree pickup, where they and other members collected Christmas trees and disposed of them properly. On January 31st, the Oakfield FFA will begin its annual strawberry sale! On February 7th, the Oakfield FFA will be sending their officers and members to LDE's (Leadership Development Events). Leading up to the time of LDE's, members will be hard at work preparing speeches, interview applications, or memorizing the FFA creed. LDE's will help better members' public speaking abilities! Not only do we have many members participating in LDE's, we also have a quiz bowl team going this year!

## Outdoor Report

As Winter seems to have just started here in Oakfield, the snowmobiling and ice fishing seasons are finally kicking off. Snowmobile trails in Fond Du Lac, Dodge, Green Lake, Columbia, and Calumet counties opened over the weekend. With all of the cold weather throughout the week many lakes are finally freezing up and ice fishermen are ready. If you plan on going out on the ice remember to check the ice and tell somebody where you are going as the ice is never 100% safe.

## Boys Swim

Oakfield High School co-ops with Fond Du Lac for high school boys swim. Boys swim is a winter sport that starts in November and ends in February. Swim team enrollment is open to any Oakfield High School student. The Fondy Swim Team has frequent meets between home (Fond du lac Aquatic Center), and away meets. Traveling to Appleton West & East, Oshkosh west & north, Sheboygan, Neenah, DePere, and usually Ashwaubenon and Wauwatosa. If interested in joining, contact Mr. Mock (dmock@oakfield.k12.wi.us) and head coach Nikki Schneider (mikenikkibella@gmail.com). The season has been a little difficult with the struggle of weather difficulties, but the boys are

pushing through for a great rest of their season. We sat down with Boys Swim coach Nikki Schneider.

**How long have you been coaching?**

This is my 13th year of Coaching - my 9th year for Fond du Lac High School.

**Why do you think people should join this team?**

I believe that people should join our team because we become so much more than just a team by seasons end...we become a family. We find a space for everyone - regardless of experience or skill level - and just like to watch you grow, not just as swimmers - but as human beings. It's a place for fun, for learning, for growing, and for making lifelong friendships.

**How do you think the season is going so far?**

I think that this season has been one of great growth for all of us. With two new assistant coaches we are finding our balance, and finding ways to become more technique oriented - while also becoming more competitive with our training. The guys are being pushed in a way they haven't been in the past, but they are also seeing a lot of huge improvement. I look forward to seeing what the next month will bring!

**What is your favorite thing about this team?**

We always learn and grow together. This team supports one another through the ups and downs, not just of swim - but of life. They all make me so proud of the human beings that they are.



# High School Students of the Month



**Senior**

**Mekena Gerlikovski**

'Mekena is a true leader in the classroom and beyond. She steps up when help is needed and smiles in the process. These leadership qualities are carrying over to her work with the National Honor Society this year. She is that student that everyone enjoys working with!!'

**Junior**

**Peyton Lamb**

'Peyton is willing to think outside the box and be creative!'

**Sophomore**

**Caleb Simmons**

'Caleb is new to the choir this year and is working extremely hard in our rehearsals and his lessons.'

**Freshman**

**Emma Axelson**

'Emma always works hard in Physical Education Class. In the Badminton unit, Emma has made amazing improvements!'



# Messner Tree and Field Trip

On October 19th, Mr. McCarty's U.S. History and Philosophy students hiked to see two trail trees, experienced different viewpoints of the Ledge and toured Oak Center Cemetery. The following paragraphs and pictures give a perspective of what some of the students took away from the trip. One of the biggest conclusions was observing what Al Messner has done to preserve history in the area.

My classmates and I took a field trip to go exploring through nature and got to experience the Ledge view and trail trees. The first stop of the trip was near Belle Reynolds at The Ledge. We walked for around 10-12 minutes until we found what is called a trail tree. This was one of the first biggest take away experiences because I have walked out to the Ledge many times but I've never really noticed this specific tree before. We know this is a trail tree because the tree's branches were bent by Native Americans so the first branch is completely sideways pointing towards the Ledge. We also know because it was grown around rocks and stones in the ground where the roots had to grow through. Another big takeaway was when we were on our way back from the tree, and me and my friend Connor walked off into the woods to see the actual drop off from the Ledge. I always enjoy seeing the distance when I walk out there so this was especially cool because I was out there with people I'm not usually out there with.

A third take away from the trip was after we left the Ledge, we took a stroll out to Al Messner's house and property which also leads back to the Ledge. Walking through his trials out to the Ledge, we stumbled across another trail tree. Mr. McCarty asked him, "Al, how do you know this is a trail tree? Let's see if he can get 5 reasons." Al continued to talk about the rocks in the ground and the bent arm pointing out to the Horicon Marsh. He talked about the width and the age of the tree which we figured was around 9ish feet in width and around 200 years old.

A fourth takeaway was once we arrived at our final destination at the Oak Center Cemetery you could see Al keeps good care of this small cemetery by mowing the lawn and keeping it as neat as he can. We noticed a triangle rock-like object in the ground. Al went on to explain that he believed the triangle rock actually pointed straight out to the marsh, just like how the tree [on his land] did. A fifth and final take away from the trip was right at the end. Jonah, Connor, Landon, and me were standing around talking and we realized a lot of the stones didn't have any death dates, only born dates. Me and Connor had not realized that a lot of people pre make their headstones well before they are even dead. This was one of my biggest takeaways of the day because it's something that actually shocked me to know.

(Summary by Noah Patterson)



Photo by Karl McCarty.

The field trip offers our students a unique opportunity to see a special place on the Ledge. Behind Al is a location that illustrates the steepness of the geological feature.

## The Ledge by Al Messner

There were many different things that were important about the field trip but what I think was the most important was Al Messner's part of the Ledge. I think that this is important because he believes in taking good care of the Ledge and the land that could have been trails from Native Americans. Another important takeaway was the plants like the wild ginger, which is only there because Al still owns the land and it's not farmland and has cows or fields on it. Al told us that his part of the Ledge along with other parts are protected so that people can't mine [or quarry] the Ledge. This is important so the history can be seen and enjoyed. Along the Ledge was something that could be a trail tree but nobody is 100% sure if it is. That's important because it would have said that there were Native Americans that lived/traveled through there. Finally Al takes his part of owning the land, he told us that his family has owned the land for over 100 years, this shows that he cares that the land is in the right hands.

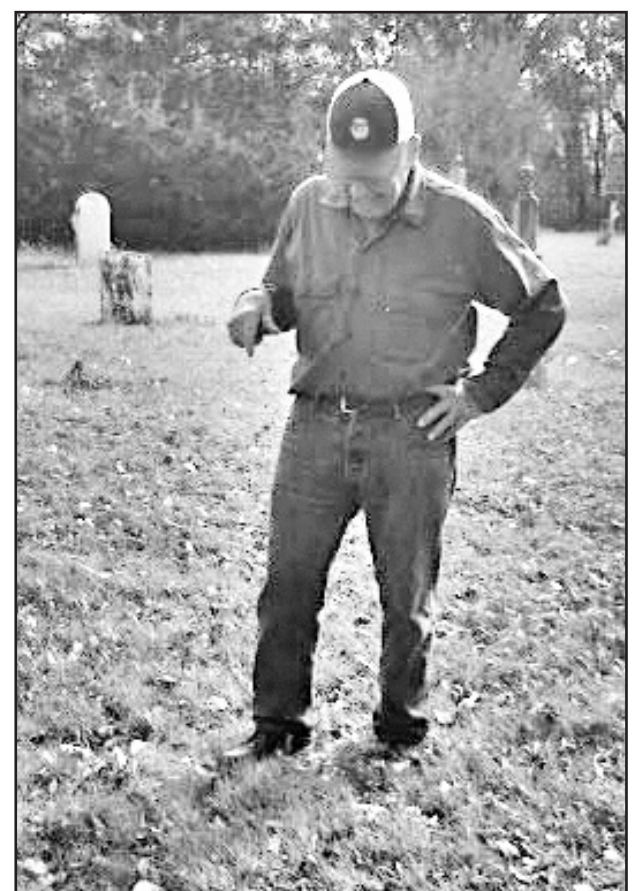
(Weston Bass)

## Oak Center Cemetery

Today, I am going to be explaining why I think that Oak Center Cemetery is important and interesting. The first reason I think that Oak Center Cemetery is important is because it has a past to it; When I say this I mean there are past generations there, there is also room for future generations there too. This is important because most families want to be buried together as a family.

Another reason why Oak Center Cemetery is important is because there is history there, multiple people think Indians came through there and they were there. There was a rock that looked like an arrow head facing toward the ledge.

Many people also think Oak Center Cemetery is important because they think that a man in a war was buried here [Andrew Howard].



Photos by Karl McCarty.

LEFT: Al Messner smiles in the middle of his tour on his property in October. RIGHT: Al Messner points out a potential stone marker that some people think was a marker stone for travel to the Horicon Marsh.

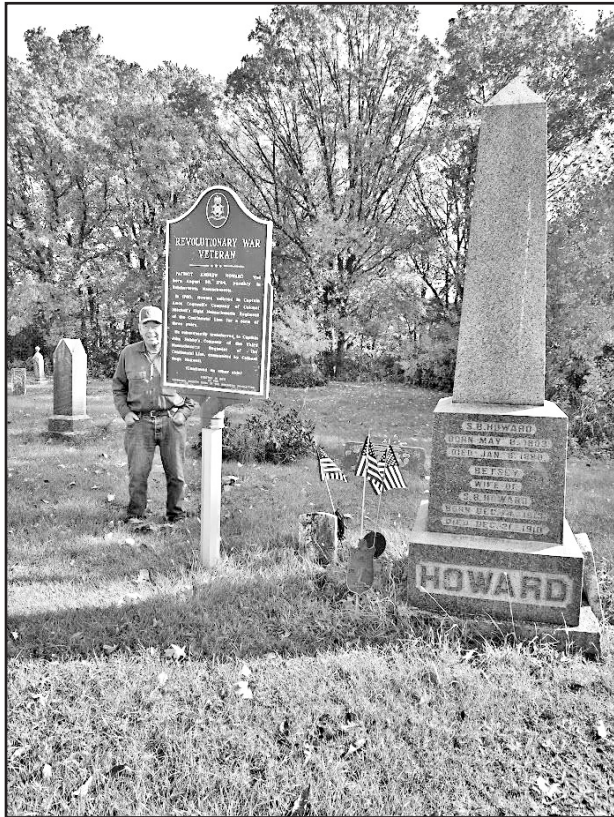


Photo by Karl McCarty.

**LEFT:** Al Messner stands next to the Andrew Howard (1764-1849) monument at Oak Center Cemetery. The grave is worthy of historical marker, because Howard is a rare Revolutionary War veteran buried in Wisconsin. **RIGHT:** Al Messner (left) points to west to the Horicon Marsh, as junior Jayden Willett (right) listens to the historical explanation.

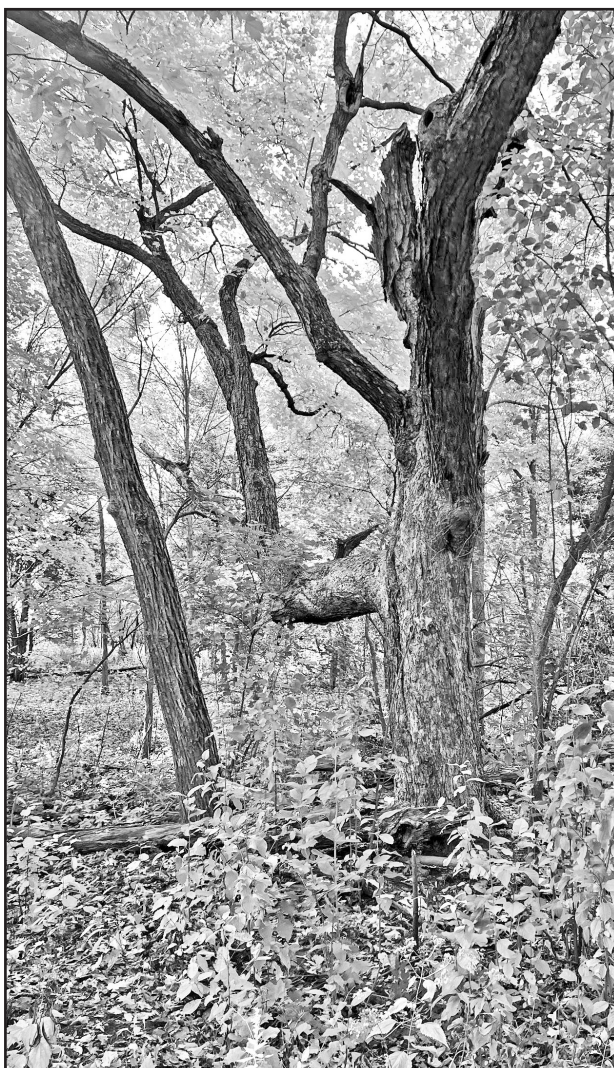


Photo by Caden Mueller.

A trail tree of Y.

Another final reason why Oak Center Cemetery is interesting is because there are not many people in the cemetery. There are a lot of headstones that are different; Some of them look like wood logs and I think this is important because of the history around the area. These are just some reasons why Oak Center Cemetery is important and interesting.

(Caption by Alexis Hansen)

There are many important takeaways from our field trip we took yesterday. One takeaway is being able to identify a trail tree. You can identify a trail tree by its unnatural bend or branches going all the same direction with the unnatural bend. Atrophy is also a way to identify a trail tree because if you see at the tree's elbow there is a dead spot that's a good teller on whether it could be a trail tree or not. Another take away from the field trip is why the Native Americans made trail trees. They made trail trees like a "highway system" to direct them certain ways, such as to the Ledge. Another takeaway that we got from the field trip was how the soil and the surroundings affect the tree's growth. If they have a rockier soil like the Ledge, the tree could grow at a slower rate than regular soil. One importance that we took away from the trip was preserving and taking good care of

your private land. You could have many valuable things on your property that you don't know about and you want to preserve them such as trail trees. We don't want people to damage anything that the Native Americans have made. We also realized that sometimes it is good to take a day just to enjoy the nature around you.

(Caption by Bailey Schepp and Mitchell Moser).

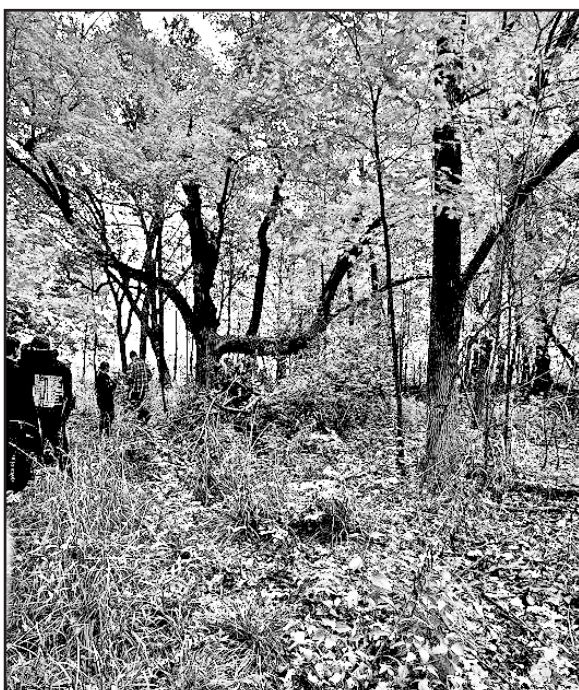
One of the takeaways from the field trip on Al Messner's land was that the ledge was important for the Native Americans around there because the water used to be higher so they hunted as well as fished in the Horicon Marsh area. Another takeaway I had from Al's land was the type of stone the ledge was made up of, Niagara Dolomite. Al also showed a rock that was of a polished texture with scratches on it that he believes was from when the glacier was moving through the region and polished the stone over time. The glacier also scratched it when little rocks stuck in the bottom of the glacier scooted over. Another thing we saw on Al's land was a possible trail tree. The trail tree had stones around it that may have made a circle around it at one point for rituals. Finally, I learned that Al believes in preserving the land that his family has owned for over 100 years because eventually there won't be many places like it left.

(Jonah Schaub)

**Top five from Field Trip**

First, trail trees were important for the indigenous people to be able to designate trails and crossing points on streams. Second, it is important for us to preserve indigenous land because it helps us learn about the history of what the land was like before us. Third, while having parks is nice, we have to make sure to not take anything from the parks to be able to preserve them. Four, family plots are often used at cemeteries for a family that would want to be buried together. Five, there is a guy [Andrew Howard] at the Oak Center cemetery that was in the Revolutionary War. He is one of the only revolutionary war veterans that was buried around this area.

(Caption and photo by Ryhan Vielbig).



Al Messner is a very interesting individual. From what I have seen in my years I have never personally met a man that reminded me of my grandpa but had such a love for Native American knowledge and artifacts. His philosophy is very clear and precise. He is a man of preservation and I doubt he was ever any different. You can see this in his land. His family and him have preserved a piece of land around Oak Center. He has done this because he tries to keep the old for the new generations to learn. A second part of his preservation is the "People of Old." He has a great deal of knowledge about Indian history and the artifacts left behind. These being the way that they used his land and the land around.



Photo by Karl McCarty.

Behind the scenes, Judy Messner is supportive of Al helping the community and honoring the past by preserving the Ledge. Although she did not join us for the field trip, she was supporting the Lions Club at the Homecoming Parade.

He also has knowledge of their artifacts like trail trees. Just listening to him talk about the tree you can tell he knows his stuff. A third part of preservation would be the cemetery. People who take care of a cemetery have the respect of people and the knowledge of keeping land. He tries to preserve the people's lives by taking care of their final resting place which, for most, is a person's [main] description. A fourth would be his teaching. He has preserved the knowledge of old by teaching others for many years at Oakfield. A final part of his philosophy is his family. You can just see by the way he talks and how he explains things, you can tell he is a big part of his family's life. And in turn they are a part of his philosophy because they are going to be the ones to preserve his own life in the future.

(Justin Marschie)

I think Al is a super nice person and his values and philosophy are strong and clear, some of his values are that he is a huge preservationist, loves to teach and make it possible for people to learn about things that he is interested in. For example yesterday he was

with a pretty big group of kids and wanted to teach them about his property and the stuff on it along with a cemetery that he keeps care of. This shows how his job as a teacher years ago still affects him today because he still tried to teach us and give us interesting information. Another example is how well maintained his property is, I think that it is really inspiring to be able to be older and still care enough to take care of a huge property like that. The last thing about Al is how kind he is, he didn't have to let us on his property, but he ended up trying to teach us about the land and the history of it even though he never had to. I think that Al is very inspiring because of all of the stuff he is able to do and how kind he is.

(Caption Landon Mortimer)

I thought the Oak Center Cemetery was the most interesting part of the field trip not only because I saw my family plot, but how Al talked about it. I could tell that he really cares about it and the history of it, such as planting trees in the cemetery and keeping it clean. Even when he started talking about the

history of the cemetery he was sad in a way because he lost the records. But that's not his fault because he said they were hand drawn or written. It was also crazy to see a war veteran in Oakfield, because he would have to be old and then move to Oakfield. It felt really good seeing my Grandpa and Grandma's grave because they died before I was born so all I get to know about them is stories. But to also know that they have a family plot for my Mom and her siblings also made me happy.

(Calvin Quick)

On our field trip around Oakfield we saw a few trees that may have been bent by Indians. The one that stuck out the most to me was the tree on the Messner property. Al Messner believes that the tree on his daughter's property was bent by Indians. The tree was clearly bent about 20 feet from the ground, it was about 8-9 feet around, about 200-250 years old and was an oak tree. This can be taken into consideration when identifying a trail tree. Oak trees take a long time to grow and since the tree was so large it shows that it could have been around when Natives were roaming the land. Al believes that it is a trail tree because there was rock surrounding the tree. Although it can't be proven it is very likely.

(Abi Dorn)

I think the most interesting thing about the ledge is that he owns some of the land to the ledge and nobody can go on it. I also think that it's important because we have trail trees because it shows us that the Native Americans were on their own land for a long time forming trees to point to their way of direction. On top of that, he still believes there might be glacier stones at the top of the ledge. I also find it interesting that he does own some of Ledge that will always be just his land, he also owns a lot of farmland just next to the ledge. I find it valuable that he owns the land and not someone else because it probably wouldn't look the way it does now because they wouldn't care like he does.

(Noah Ingalls)



Photo by Karl McCarty.

LEFT: Al Messner took the time to share highlights of Oak Center Cemetery. This included explaining the concept of family plots from a century ago. RIGHT: Al Messner is generous with his time in tending to Oak Center Cemetery. He has even planted trees there. Students from 7th hour U.S. History and 8th hour Philosophy took the time to take a picture with Al next to the trees he planted. From left to right is Justin Marschie, Al Messner, Andy Kintzler, Calvin Quick, Dylan Smeester, Rueben Arellano, Owen Lawson, Westin Bass, Dani Urbina and Brent Morell.



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast with The Oakfield Firefighters

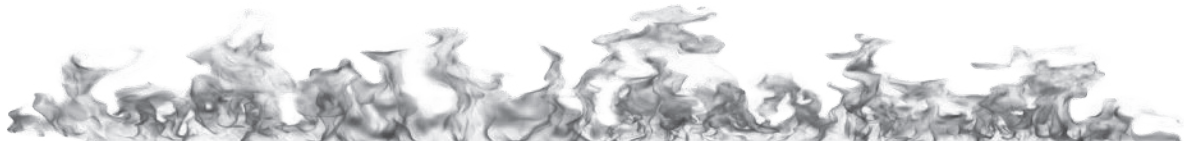
Sunday, February 25, 2024  
Oakfield Community Center/Firehouse

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prices: 3 years and under Free  
4 - 12 years of age \$5.00  
13 years and over \$10.00



We will be serving scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, applesauce, doughnuts, orange juice, coffee and milk (ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST)



- \* Coloring contest for the children
- \* The McGruff Crime Dog may be making an appearance
- \* Come out and support your Oakfield Fire Department



Sponsored by the Oakfield Firemen's Auxiliary

## LAMARTINE CLERK POSITION JOB OPENING

The Town of Lamartine is currently accepting applications for the Town Clerk position. The selected candidate will be responsible for the statutory duties of the position including the management of elections, daily financial transactions, and licensing.

Applicant does NOT need to be a resident of the Lamartine Township.

If interested, please send a resume to:

Town of Lamartine  
Randy Kuik, Chairman  
N5269 Schaefer Drive  
Oakfield, WI 53065

- Please see a summary list of qualifications below.
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, & Outlook.
- Knowledge of accounting, including payroll and ability to learn and use accounting software.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Ability to read & write well to take minutes at town meetings and transcribe to a complete record for the town.
- Ability to manage time and work requirements.
- Able to meet deadlines.
- Able to deal with flexible hours that include board meetings.
- All duties as described in WI State Statutes 60.33 "Duties of the Town Clerk".
- Position includes Wisconsin Retirement System.
- Be able to work at least 20-30 hours per week.
- Oversee all Township Elections.
- Please direct any questions to Randy Kuik, Chairman 920-579-0326 or chairman@town-oflamartinewi.gov.

## Christmas Lights Winner

The staff at the Oakfield Difference had the task to go around the community during the holiday season and pick out the house they liked the best that was lit up for the holiday season. The staff had some great houses to choose from. The house they liked the best is located on Oakview Circle in Oakfield. If you know the owner of this house be sure to congratulate them on the beauty of their lights they display during the holiday season.



## Oakfield NHS Technology Help

On March 10th Oakfield High School NHS will be hosting technology help for anyone that is interested and feels they need help. This will be held at Oakfield High School commons from 2-4 PM. Bring in your electronic devices (smartphones, tablets etc) that you want help with and we will be more than willing to help you.



### General Mills Box Tops has gone DIGITAL

Box Tops is a program that the Elementary School has participated in for years to earn funds for the library.  
www.boxtops4education.com

- No more clipping
- No more sending box tops to school
- Download the NEW Box Tops App
- Shop as you normally would
- Scan your store receipts to find participating products
- The App will automatically credit the school's Box Top earnings online
- Your receipt has to be scanned within 14 days of purchase

Old Box Top labels are still on certain products. You can continue to clip those and send them to school. They are going to continue accepting them until products with those labels run out.

EARN funds for our School Library



## Once again the School District of Oakfield will be participating in the Eastern Wisconsin Excellence in Education Awards Program.

We are excited to announce twenty-four school districts are partnering with Channel 5 to recognize exceptional school employees in a program called the "Eastern Wisconsin Excellence in Education" awards. This program is similar to the "Golden Apple" and "Shining Stars" programs in Green Bay and the Fox Valley. This program allows parents, students, community members, and staff to nominate deserving school employees in the following categories:

- Innovation in work (How has the employee demonstrated innovation in his/her work area?)
- Culture creator in the work environment (How has the employee gone above and beyond in creating a positive school culture?)
- Social/emotional well being (How has the employee impacted the social/emotional well being of students and/or the school environment?)
- Community involvement (How has the employee positively impacted the community?)
- Student connection (In what ways has the employee built positive relationships with students?)

Please nominate an Oakfield Staff member by using this link <https://rb.gy/gmbkhhk>. Nominations need to be submitted by February 5, 2024. Following the submission deadline, a panel of judges will review each nomination to determine finalists. These finalists will then be asked to elaborate on the work outlined in the nomination. The judges will then select the award recipients in each of the five categories.

The awards show ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at the Kiel Area School District Performing Arts Center. The program will be live streamed on Channel 5, WeAreGreenBay.com website. The nomination form will also be available on the websites of all 24 school districts, as well as social media outlets and found within local newspapers.

Please consider nominating a deserving Oakfield Staff member!

Tracey Conners  
District Administrator



# Regular Board Meeting (Monday, November 27, 2023)

*Generated by Jackie Hungerford on Friday, December 1, 2023.*

## 1. Introduction

Procedural: A. Call to Order

President Dercks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: C. Roll Call

Present: Paul Dercks, Angie Patterson, Heidi Kopf, John Totz, Jessica Shepherd, Tim Wiese, Sal Arellano

Staff: Tracey Conners, Becky Doyle, Molly Liebelt, Jackie Hungerford, Bryce Daane, Abby Daane

Other: Marissa Kottke, Justin Marschie, Reuben Arellano, Layla Basty, Zach Schraufnagel, Abigail Dorn, Jeff Breselow, Maggie Landowski, Adam Landowski

Procedural: D. Board Mission Statement

## 2. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): A. Approval of Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: Move to approve all items under consent agenda.

Mrs. Patterson seconded by Mr. Totz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 7-0-0

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. October 23 Regular Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action: Move to approve the October 23, 2023 Regular meeting minutes as part of the consent agenda

Action (Consent), Minutes: C. November 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole minutes

Recommended Action: Move to approve the November 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.

Action (Consent): D. Warrants through November 24, 2023

Recommended Action: Move to approve warrants through November 24, 2023.

Action (Consent): E. Cheer/dance coach

Recommended Action: Move to approve the dance/cheer coach as presented.

Action (Consent): F. HS Counselor

Recommended Action: Move to appoint Jennifer Schindel as HS Counselor

## 3. Public Comments

Information: A. Public Comment Procedures

Jeff A. Breselow, W8787 Bay View Road, Mayville, WI - Topic: Dodge County Land Dispute

Maggie Landowski, N11925 Westline Rd, Brownsville, WI - Dodge County Land Dispute

## 4. Reports

Information: A. Administrator Reports

Ms. Conners reviewed her district report

Discussion, Information: B. DLT Reports

Ms. Conners reported on the MS/HS in Mr. Browns absence. On Wednesday, January 10, 2024 we will be hosting Financial Aid night. During Oak Enrichment the High School will start with Pre ACT practice. In February they will be doing weekly preparation. Kevin Pratt, Counselor Consultant is working with our seniors and our scholarship page. On December 13th Mr. Brown

will be having his Principal/Parent Meeting.

Mrs. Doyle reported on the Elementary School: Mrs. Bergum had her baby early. Congratulations to the Bergum Family. The giving tree is up and ornament tags are on. We will be having the Grade 1,3,5 Christmas Concert on Wednesday December 13, Grades K, 2, 4 will be doing the Spring Conference, a 4K intern and been hired for the second semester and still searching for the 5th grade intern, Out of School Time program is wrapping up for the first semester,, and the Oakfield Elementary Report Card scores are in the top 3% in the US. We are very proud of the staff and students.

Information: C. Financial Update

Ms. Conners shared the monthly financial update.

Information: D. CESA 6 Update

No Update

## 5. Discussion Items

Discussion, Presentation: A. FFA - National Convention Report Out

M. Kottke and J. Marschie reported on their trip to the Washington Leadership Conference and R. Arellano, L. Basty, Z. Schraufnagel, and A. Dorn reported on their trip to the National FFA Convention in Indiana. They all came back with excitement and shared what they all gained from their experience and how they can use these Ideas in Oakfield.

Discussion: B. Dodge County Land Dispute

Maggie and Adam Landowski questioned the Board regarding the Dodge County error in coding regarding resident school district. Discussion took place.

Discussion: C. Curriculum Update-State Report Cards

Ms. Conners shared with the Board information on the District State Report Card. Oakfield was the top district in Fond du Lac County. Congratulations. The priority Areas include Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes and On-Track to Graduation. What the district watches closely and wants to see the gains is the student growth and we were successful in that area.

## 6. Action Items

Action: A. New Course Proposal HS

Recommended Action: Move to approve the new courses as presented.

Mr. Daane explained to the Board the new course called Mighty Oak Production. This is a capstone project class that will operate a student-run business.

Mrs. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Totz, moved to approve the new course for the 2025-26 S.Y. as presented.

Motion carried 7-0-0

Action, Discussion: B. Elementary Design Update

Recommended Action: Move to approve the elementary design as presented.

Ms. Conners reviewed with the Board the updated plans and financials. Next step is to look at how this could be completed in stages.

Action, Policy Second Reading: C. Second Reading NEOLA policies

Recommended Action: Move to approve the policies as presented.

Ms. Conners reviewed with the Board the Second Reading of the Neola policies.

Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Kopf, moved to approve the policies as presented.

Motion carried 6-1-0

## 7. Next Meetings

Information: A. Regular Meeting-Monday, December 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at MS/HS IMC

Information: B. Committee of the Whole meeting, January 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at MS/HS IMC

## 8. Adjournment

Action: A. Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Patterson, Move to adjourn into closed session at 7:17 according to state statute 19.85 (l) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and (l)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Recommended Action: Move to adjourn into closed session according to state statute 19.85 (l)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and (l)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become Involved.

Motion carried 7 -0-0.

# Regular Board Meeting (Monday, December 11, 2023)

*Generated by Heather Bradwin-Haseman on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.*

## 1. Introduction

Procedural: A. Call to Order

President Dercks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: C. Roll Call

Present: Paul Dercks, Heidi Kopf, Jessica Shepherd, Tim Wiese, Sal Arellano

Absent: Angie Patterson, John Totz

Staff: Tracey Conners, Becky Doyle, Tim Brown, Jackie Hungerford, Heather Bradwin-Haseman

Other: Jared Tatro-Nexus Solutions

Procedural: D. Board Mission Statement

## 2. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): A. Approval of Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: Move to approve all items under consent agenda.

Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Kopf moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5/0/2

Minutes: B. November 27, 2023 Regular meeting minutes

Recommended Action: Move to approve the November 27, 2023 Regular meeting minutes.

Action (Consent): C Warrants through December 8, 2023

Recommended Action: Move to approve warrants through December 8, 2023

Action (Consent): D. New Hire-Custodian  
Recommended Action: Move to approve Bryon Schrank as the new MS/HS custodian.

Action (Consent): E. Retirement

Recommended Action: Move to accept Tracey Conner's retirement as presented.

**3. Public Comments**

Information: A. Public Comment Procedures  
No Comments

**4. Reports**

Information: A. Administrator Reports

Ms. Conners reviewed the District with her report.

Discussion, Information: B. DLT Reports

Mr. Brown updated the Board on the MS/HS: working on course description book, virtual parent/principal meeting this week TH to review survey results and how to improve, concert next week, whole staff-all positions filled.

Mrs. Doyle update the Board on Elementary: Benchmark testing in December and will hit the ground running in January, concert this week for 1,3,5; grades 2,4,6 will perform spring concert, successful giving tree this year-very generous donations/giving; navigating the holidays In the weeks ahead with holiday parties, skating trip, pie in the eye.

Information: C. Financial Update

Information: D. CESA 6 Update

None at this time

**5. Action Items**

Action: A. FFA Summer Overnight Trips

Recommended Action: Move to approve the summer overnight trips for FFA as presented.

Mrs. Kopf, seconded by Mr. Wiese moved to approve the FFA summer overnight trips as presented.

Motion carried 5/0/2

Action: B. 2024 National FFA Convention Trip

Recommended Action: Move to approve the 2024 National FFA Convention Trip as presented.

Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Kopf moved to approve the National FFA Convention Trip in 2024 as presented.

Motion carried 5/0/2

Action, Discussion: C. Elementary Design

Recommended Action: Move to approve the elementary design as presented.

Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Kopf, moved to approve the preliminary elementary design concept and the funds as presented.

Motion carried 5/0/2

Action, Discussion: D. CESA 6 as hiring agency to conduct District Administrator Search

Recommended Action: Move to approve CESA 6 as the hiring agency for the District Administrator Search.

Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Kopf, moved to approve CESA 6 as the hiring agency to conduct the District Administrator Search as presented.

Motion carried 5/0/2

**6. Next Meetings**

Information A. Special Board Meeting- Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6 p.m.--Board would like this to be a virtual meeting, Mr. Wiese asked for it to be recorded as he has a conflict and can not attend.

Information: B. Committee of the Whole- Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at MS/HS IMC

Information: C. Regular Meeting, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at MS/HS IMC

**7. Adjournment**

Action: A. Move to adjourn into closed session according to state statute 19.85 (l)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation In which it is or is likely to become involved.

Recommended Action: Move to adjourn into closed session according to state statute 19.85 (l)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Mr. Dercks, seconded by Mrs. Kopf moved to adjourn into closed session at 6:32 p.m. for the stated reason above.

Motion carried 5/0/2



**School District of Oakfield**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT**

**February 5th - April 30th**

**4K AND 5K REGISTRATION**

Registration is for 4K/5K children not already enrolled at Oakfield Elementary. Children must be 4 or 5 on or by September 1, 2024 to be eligible for enrollment in the 2024-2025 school year.



**FULL DAY 4K & 5K - 5 DAYS A WEEK**

**Stop at Oakfield Elementary during these times:**

**Thursday, February 15th**  
12:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**OR**

**Wednesday, February 28th**  
12:30 PM - 6:30 PM

*4K/5K tours will be available for families*

- Registration paperwork completed onsite
- Birth certificates & immunization records are needed for registration

**The above will also be covered at our Future Oaks Night.**

**Non-Residents will need to complete open enrollment application. Find info on our school website.**

For questions or unable to attend & want to register, please contact Oakfield Elementary at (920) 583-3146.

School Board Meeting Schedule (2023-2024)		
Monday, February 12, 2024	Committee of the Whole Meeting	5:30 p.m. MS/HS IMC
Monday, February 26, 2024	Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m. MS/HS IMC
Monday, March 11, 2024	Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m. MS/HS IMC
Monday, April 8, 2024	Committee of the Whole Meeting	5:30 p.m. MS/HS IMC
Monday, April 22, 2024	Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m. MS/HS IMC

# How to build a habit in 5 steps, according to science

By Katy Milkman

Most of us assume those superachievers who are always able to squeeze in their workout, eat healthy foods, ace their exams and pick their kids up on time must have superhuman self-control. But science points to a different answer: What we mistake for willpower is often a hallmark of habit.

People with good habits rarely need to resist the temptation to laze on the couch, order greasy takeout, procrastinate on assignments or watch one more viral video before dashing out the door. That's because autopilot takes over, eliminating temptation from the equation. Having established good habits, little to no willpower is required to choose wisely.

Sounds great, right? The only catch is that building good habits takes effort and insight. Thankfully, science offers both guidance on how to begin and strategies to lighten your lift. Here are a few research-backed steps sourced from my book, "How to Change," that can set you on the path from where you are to where you want to be.

## 1. Set a specific goal

The way you define the goal you hope to turn into a habit does matter. Goals such as "meditate regularly" are too abstract, research has shown. You'll benefit from being more specific about what exactly you aim to do and how often.

Don't say "I'll meditate regularly." Say, "I'll meditate for 15 minutes each day."

Having a bite-size objective makes it less daunting to get started and easier to see your progress.

## 2. Create a detailed, cue-based plan

Now that you have established a specific goal, it's time to think about what will cue you to follow through. Scientists have proven that you'll make more progress toward your goal if you decide not just what you'll do, but when you'll be cued to do it, as well as where you'll do it and how you'll get there.

A plan like "I'll study Spanish for 30 minutes, five days a week" is OK. But a detailed, cue-based plan like "Every workday after my last meeting, I'll spend 30 minutes studying Spanish in my office" is much more likely to stick as a habit.

Making this kind of plan reduces the chances you'll forget to follow through because the when and where in your plan will serve as cues to action that jog your memory. Even better: Put your plan on your calendar so you'll get a digital reminder. An established, hyperspecific plan also forces you to anticipate and maneuver around obstacles and makes procrastination feel more sinful.

## 3. Make it fun to repeat

When we set out to build a new habit, most of us overestimate our willpower and set a course for the most efficient path to achieving our end goal. Say you hope to get fit by exercising regularly — you'll likely look for a workout that can generate quick results such as grinding it out on a treadmill. But research has shown you'll persist longer and ultimately achieve more if you instead focus on finding ways to make goal pursuit fun.

When it comes to exercise, this might mean going to Zumba classes with a friend or learning how to rock climb. If you're trying to eat more fruits and vegetables, it might mean swapping doughnut breakfasts for tasty smoothies, which can combine multiple servings of fruits and veggies in one delicious drink. Because you are far more likely to stick with something you enjoy and repetition is key to habit formation, making the experience positive is critical, but it's often overlooked.

One excellent way to make goal pursuit fun is to try what I call "temptation bundling." Consider only letting yourself enjoy an indulgence you crave while working toward your goal. For example, only let yourself binge-watch your favorite show while at the gym or enjoy a beloved podcast while cooking healthy meals. My own research shows that temptation bundling improves follow-through; it transforms goal pursuit into a source of pleasure, not pain.

## 4. Foster flexibility

By the time we put a behavior on autopilot, a lot of us fall into fairly consistent routines, tending to exercise, study or take our medication at the same time of day and in the same place. But when you're in the start-up phase of habit building, contrary to popular opinion, my research suggests it's important to insert some variability deliberately into your routine.

You'll still want to have a first best plan — maybe an 8 a.m. meditation session if you're trying to kick-start a mindfulness habit. But you should also experiment with other ways of getting the job done. Try to mix in a noon session and maybe a 5 p.m. meditation, too.

Successful habit building relies on frequently repeating a behavior, and if your routine becomes too brittle, you'll follow through less often. A flexible habit means you can still do what you need to even when a wrench is thrown in your first best plans — say, a traffic jam on the way to dropping the kids off at school that gets in the way of your morning meditation.

One way to be flexible that's proven useful is by giving yourself "emergency reserves." Emergency reserves are a limited number of get-out-of-jail-free cards for those days when you really can't squeeze in your 10 minutes of meditation, regular jog or Spanish practice.

It's more motivating to set a tough goal for yourself — meditating every day, for instance — than an easy one, according to research. But missing multiple sub-goals along the way can be discouraging. A couple of emergency reserves each week give you the flexibility to miss a day when a real emergency arises without getting discouraged and abandoning your objective entirely.

## 5. Find the right kind of social support

This step is obvious but sometimes overlooked. Seek out social support. Social support isn't just about having cheerleaders and people to hold you accountable — though both can add value, so I'd suggest telling your friends and family about your goals.

We're strongly influenced by the behaviors of the people around us, evidence shows. Want to start running regularly? You're probably better off joining an established running club than asking a few friends who aren't yet in the habit of jogging to get in shape with you. People in the running club have already built the habits you want. You can learn from them about what works and gain friends who will make you feel like a slouch when you slack off.

Good habits are contagious, so try to catch some by hanging out with people who are a little ahead of you on the learning curve. It's important not to get too crazy — if you try to train with marathoners when you're just hoping to work up to a 5K, I've found it can be discouraging.

But in general, research by myself and others shows that finding people to socialize with and emulating those who have already accomplished what you want to accomplish can make a world of difference. As an added bonus, when you pursue your goals in tandem with people you like, that makes it more fun!

One last thing to keep in mind is that habits can take some time to form. They don't click overnight. Despite claims that there's a "magic number" of days it takes to form a habit, my collaborators and I have disproven this myth in our recent research. We all form habits at our own speed, but for simpler and frequently repeated behaviors such as hand sanitizing, we can expect speedier habit formation than for more complex behaviors such as hitting the gym, which, on average, can take months rather than weeks to put on autopilot.

Article from CNN

Award-winning behavioral scientist Katy Milkman is the James G. Dinan professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, author of "How to Change: The Science of Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be," cofounder of the Behavior Change for Good Initiative and the host of Charles Schwab's "Choiceology" podcast.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

W N U A X S I S J V N Q H T Z T Y R Y S T W D I  
 Y B G O R P V R H U V E R N L V O N X I M I W F  
 J D V E P Q T E Y L Z X W Z S C A D K X R B Q T  
 K N E K N H X L E N S J Z Y I D N F L P E H H Z  
 E H C Z T J A K A B M A A Q E O S U U E D K K R  
 C A E G E I D R Z A V N D H L A X P O D Q X N V  
 T L K A E Q K A R W L U N L Z G R X E O G E E H  
 Z Y T U Y E T P W E N A Z Y N R B E E N S U J Q  
 U H C C I M N S T U Z R W H T M O L E O N I D G  
 U H J T V X Z D V V T Y C U I V H Z S I O N E B  
 I A I I F N W O D T N U O C I R P G K S I L P A  
 Y R A G V E S Z X H A I V C P Q B O R E T Q G L  
 P H M H C Y R L Z Y T V Q U C C Q K O M U X Q L  
 P B B D E B E M V U B E W R I G X Y A A L D E O  
 A U M B L C P B P O Q C R G M N N C W K O C M O  
 H X I Q E I P V E V L D H S C R T S E E S F S N  
 X L T T B X O X I O R D X F X J Q L R R E H A S  
 C A H K R Q P P C T Z W J R M O N W I S R J J J  
 C R W W A Z Y K B T T V I D P D L B F X A E G N  
 A O K V T G T W K S M E V N K O Y N S B G E I Z  
 S V T G I C R Z J L L W F R M I D N I G H T Q X  
 I E Q X O D A P J A T G I N I G A P G G K L C U  
 M W O L N P P B B O T I C F O Y N V H X Z A R I  
 F F Q K U N Z D E G S J F V Y C W U N X K C A E

- Balloons
- Celebration
- Cheers
- Clock
- Confetti
- Countdown
- Fireworks
- Goals
- Happy
- January
- Midnight
- Noisemakers
- Party Poppers
- Resolutions
- Sparklers





Ms. Conners
District Administrator

Resident/Parent/School Communications

This form is available for you to offer suggestions or make comments about any facet of the School District of Oakfield. If you would like someone from the District to respond to what you have written, please furnish us with the information requested below.

CHECK ONE:

I hope my input is helpful but it is not necessary for someone to contact me with a response.

Please respond to my comments/suggestions:

Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Multiple horizontal lines for writing comments and suggestions.

Please send to:
Ms. Conners
District Administrator
School District of Oakfield

2023-24 District of Oakfield Academic Calendar

Academic calendar grid showing months from Aug/Sept 2023 to June 2024. Includes contact information for Ms. Tracey Conners, Mr. Timothy Brown, Mrs. Becky Doyle, Mrs. Holly Rabe, Mr. Doug Mock, and Johnson Bus Service. Includes a legend for symbols like School Day, No School, Teacher Professional Development, etc.