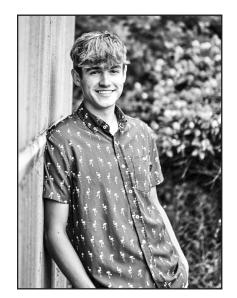


# The Oakfield Difference

Our Roots Run Deep - Our Branches Stretch Far

April 2024 Oakfield School District, 250 E. Church St., Oakfield, WI 53065



#### Senior Spotlight -**Noah Patterson**

What are your after school plans? Wisconsin Operating Engineers Union Favorite High School Memory? First time bringing my mototcycle to school Favorite teacher? Mr. McCarty One word a friend would use to describe you? Exquisite



#### Beater of the Month -**Andy Kintzler**

Years you have owned it: Little over 2 Nickname: Old Girl Mileage? 210,000 **Special Features?** It's a town alarm clock **Favorite Memory?** Buying it



#### Middle School Student of the Month -**Clayton Marschie**

Favorite Teacher? Mr. Schepp Favorite Subject? Physical Education Favorite Sport? Baseball Favorite Color? Buffalo Bills blue If you could have a superpower, what would it be? Mind Control



#### Oakfield Ag. Dept. & FFA Greenhouse Sale Price List May 3rd, 4:00pm-6:00pm May 4th, 8:00am-12:00pm Annuals: Hanging Baskets.....\$20.00 Spikes/Grass/Kong Coleus......\$4.00 4pk Flowers............\$3.00 each or \$30.00 per flat (12 packs)

**House Plants:** Spider Plants/Kalanchoe.....\$2.00 

Thank you for your support of the Oakfield Greenhouse Management Students and the Oakfield FFA!

# Highlights

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PAGE 15: Today's News

PAGE 16: Communication Form/Calendar

#### **Dates to Know**

3 1/2" Pot Vegetable.....

**May 15:** Senior Awards Night – 6:30pm May 22: High School Spring Concert – 7:00pm May 27: Memorial Day – *No School* **May 29:** Middle School Spring Concert – 7:00pm

#### 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.

POSTAL PATRON

## Message From Mr. Brown

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGES



On behalf of the middle and high school, I want to express my gratitude for the support from our community for our schools. My five years of serving this district as principal has shown me that you value education and the opportunities we provide for students. I have seen us turn out to support our graduates and have seen full gyms at sporting, music, theater and other co-curricular activities. We take great pride in being Mighty Oaks. Our schools are true community schools, with great students and even better families. It is an honor to work for the best small district in the state.

The Musical was Amazing: Beauty and the Beast was a great performance by our students and staff. We had 43 students involved in the production and improved technical elements of stage lighting, sound and stage. THANK YOU to all those that put on the show. If you missed it, please be sure to see what we do next year!

Oakfield's Music Department had 4 band students participate in the Trailways North Division Honors Band in November. Students in grades 7-12 performed at 8 sporting events, pep rallies, and the Homecoming Parade. Nine alumni (and an alumni's parent) participated in a combined pep band performance in February. Sixteen band students performed in 20 events at District Solo Ensemble. Two students will continue to State Solo Ensemble on April 27th to perform in 3 events. Three band students will be traveling to Ripon College to participate in their Band Festival this month.

Future 6th Grade Students just learned about band instruments and got to try a few to see if they'd like to join band for summer and/or middle school. Fourteen high school choir members and 41 middle school choir members performed solos, duets, or small groups at their pop concerts in October. Members of the choir sang the national anthem at over 20 athletic events this year. Nine high school choir members took part in the Ripon College Rally Choir Festival on March 5th. Thirty-seven choir students performed in 45 events at solo-ensemble festivals in February and March. Six of these students will perform at the state solo-ensemble on the UW-Oshkosh campus in 8 events. The musical arts have absolutely been taking center stage this year!

I remain humbled and honored to serve this great community and our students. Thank you for the opportunity to share in the joy and pride that is Oakfield. Please contact me directly if there is ever anything I can do to continue to help move this great district forward.

Timothy J. Brown Middle and High School Principal tbrown@oakfield.k12.wi.us (920) 583-3958

#### **Dates to Note**

**Friday May 10:** Middle School Semi-Formal Dance 6:00-8:00pm

**Monday, May 13:** School Board Meeting 5:30 @ MS/ HS Library

Wednesday, May 15: Senior Awards Night 6:30pm

**Sunday and Monday, May 19 - 20:** Senior Class Trip **Monday, May 20:** School Board Meeting 5:30 @ MS/HS Library

**Wednesday, May 22:** High School Spring Concert 7:00pm

Monday, May 27: No School Memorial Day

**Wednesday, May 29:** Middle School Spring Concert 7:00pm

**Wednesday, June 5:** Middle School End-of -Year Field Trips

**Thursday, June 6:** Last Day of School, release at 1:20pm

Friday, June 7: Graduation at 7:00pm

## Message from Mrs. Doyle



I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone for their participation in the March Madness Family Edition Night last month. We saw outstanding attendance, and it was truly refreshing to witness children and adults engaging in games and activities together. Having families back in our building is a joyous feeling. Students also had the opportunity to enjoy the All-School Field Trip to the YMCA in Oshkosh, where they indulged in a variety of sports activities to celebrate our school theme. From swimming to ice skating, from soccer matches in the arena to burning off energy in the gym, students immersed themselves in a day of active fun. It was indeed a grand event.

Looking ahead to May and June, there's much to anticipate beyond the daily structure of our school. We'll be celebrating our 4K students with the "See You Later Alligator" event, marking the symbolic closure of the elementary school for our fifth graders with the Fifth Grade Promotion ceremony, honoring our seniors with the traditional OES Senior Clap-Out, enjoying Spring Music Concerts at full capacity, embarking on field trips across all grade levels, and coming together as a school for Field Day to end the year with some last-minute fun. So, grab your running shoes because we'll continue to Get Into the Game at OES as we navigate through these final months of learning, celebrating, and playing!

Mrs. Doyle -Oakfield Elementary Principal













2024

## Message from Ms. Conners

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



As we enter the home stretch of the school year, I wanted to give you an update on our plans for the elementary renovation project. While this is nowhere near the scale of the middle school/high school project, it will have a distinct impact on Oakfield Elementary. This is part of the overall referendum project that was passed by the community in April 2022.

#### **Enhancing Oakfield Elementary: A Look at the Renovation Project**

Oakfield Elementary is buzzing with excitement as it undergoes a transformative construction project aimed at enhancing the learning environment and overall experience for students, staff, and visitors. The project encompasses a range of renovations and updates, each designed to elevate the school's functionality, safety, and aesthetic appeal.

**Safe and Secure Entrance:** One of the primary focuses of the project is the creation of a safe and secure entrance and vestibule. This initiative aims to enhance security measures and provide peace of mind to parents and guardians.

Renovated Reception Area: The reception area is getting a makeover to ensure a welcoming and efficient space for visitors and administrative staff. The updated design will reflect modern standards while maintaining the school's unique identity.

**Expanded and Private Health Room:** In response to the growing needs of students' health and well-being, Oakfield Elementary is expanding its health room. The private setting will offer a conducive environment for medical attention and care.

Office Conference Room: A new office conference room will facilitate productive meetings and collaboration among faculty and staff, promoting effective communication and decision-making.

**Pupil Services Office:** Enhancements to the pupil services office will streamline support services for students, ensuring that their individual needs are met effectively.

**Principal's Office:** The principal's office is receiving updates to enhance functionality and reflect contemporary educational leadership standards.

**Special Education Room Transformation:** The renovation of the special education room is a highlight of the project, with the incorporation of sensory rooms, private refocusing room, and ample storage space. The addition of new cabinetry will further enhance organization and accessibility.

**4-Year-Old Kindergarten Classroom Updates:** The school is modernizing its 4-year-old Kindergarten classroom, converting the old choir room into a vibrant learning space. Updates include new ceilings, floor tiles, cabinetry, and the addition of a dedicated bathroom for convenience.

**Bathroom Renovations:** Oakfield Elementary is committed to providing hygienic and comfortable facilities for students and staff. The project includes a complete renovation of bathrooms outside the gymnasium and updates to the bathroom in the child care area.

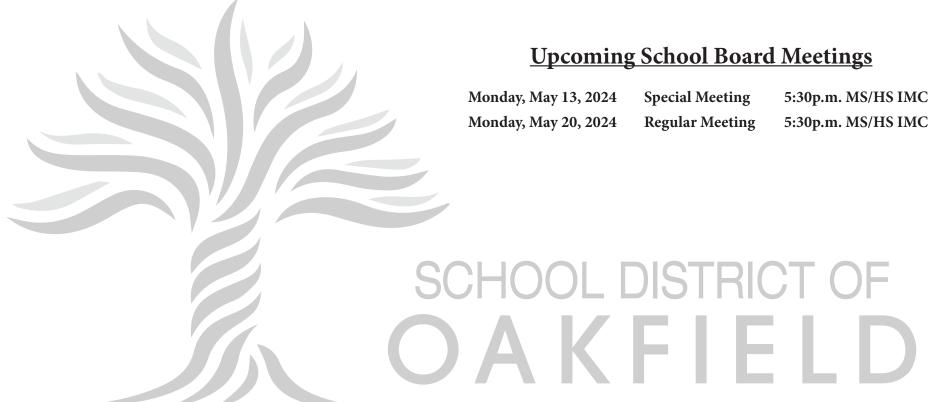
**Mechanical Renovations:** The Elementary building will be getting a new chiller for the HVAC system. This is a portion of our long term maintenance of the system. New and modernized controls for the full HVAC system will also be installed to support a comfortable working and learning environment.

**Retrofitted LED Lighting:** All classrooms, hallways, gymnasium, and workrooms will be retrofitted with LED lighting for a more comfortable and flexible lighting system.

Through these renovations and updates, Oakfield Elementary is poised to offer an even more enriching educational experience, fostering a conducive environment for learning, growth, and community engagement.

Work on these projects will begin in May and last through the summer months and be reading for school in the fall. If you have any questions please contact the district office.

> Thank you, Tracey Conners District Administrator School District of Oakfield



## Softball Season 2024

We interviewed Varsity Softball Coach, Rob Schaefer.

What are you looking forward to this season?

I am looking forward to this team developing, hitting more consistently, communicating, and improving on defense. I am looking forward to each practice and each game, the season goes fast so this team's time together is limited.

#### What expectations do you have for your players?

I expect every player to improve both offensively and defensively. There are always things to work on, and I expect each player to take those things seriously. I expect the team to continue being respectful and to work extremely hard, as it will pay off as the season goes on.

#### What do you feel are your strengths for your team this season?

I think the leadership on this year's team is strong, players have a lot of respect for each other and coaches. There is a lot of experience and that will show up in tight games.

#### What do you feel are some challenges your team will have to overcome this season?

I think the team will have to overcome complacency, we will have to treat each game, each inning and each pitch with the same effort and focus. If we become overconfident we jeopardize getting surprised at the end of the year. Keeping our

focus and staying humble will serve us well as the playoffs approach.

#### **Senior Softball Players**

#### Alyvia Robinson

What are your team goals/ personal goals for the season?

My team goal for the season is to make it back to state.

#### What have been some of your most cherished experiences from your career?

Some of my most cherished experiences from my career are making it to state twice and winning once and making first team all state and first team all district.

#### Aly Lamonska

#### What are your team goals/ personal goals for the season?

Our team goals are to continue to hold the conference title, and hopefully make it to state again! Personally I hope to improve my pitching and keep my .500 batting average.

#### What have been some of your most cherished experiences from your career?

Some of my most cherished experiences are of course winning state my freshman year and going to state my junior year. I also enjoy going out after home games (wins) and bonding as a team. The funniest moment was when our bus hit a goose and the windshield shattered. It was scary but a funny memory. I really enjoyed playing each year, and the team and I are hoping for another successful

## New CESA 6 Technology Support Specialist



"I love smaller school environments and the close-knit communities. I'm happy and excited to be here and to be a part of the Oakfield community" -Ben Steffen

Mr. Ben Steffen has been selected by CESA 6 as the new Technology Support Specialist that will support Oakfield School District. Ben has three years of prior experience in enterprise help desk and networking and seven years teaching. He attended and graduated from Concordia University, River Forest with a degree in English Education and has both the CompTIA Network+ and Microsoft Identity and Access Administrator certifications. He has also served as a stage director and AV director for a variety of school theater productions, including co-directing two TAPPS award-winning competitive One Act Play productions. Ben lives in Sheboygan with his wife and three cats.

Welcome to Oakfield!!

## **Teacher of the Month** Ms. Belanger



#### What subject do you teach?

I teach choir at the middle school and high school, along with general music in grades 3, 4, and 5. And how long have you been teaching? This is my 37th year of teaching here in

#### Where did you go to school/ college?

I grew up in Brillion, WI and graduated from UW-Stevens Point.

#### What are some of your hobbies?

I love to golf!! In addition I enjoy reading and tending to my flower gardens during the summer.

#### What's your favorite part of teaching?

One of my favorite parts of teaching is making connections with kids! I also love watching them succeed and taking great pride in their accomplishments.

#### What is something exciting that has happened to you recently?

I am loving watching the growth of the high school choir this semester and look forward to their spring concert.

#### With your time at Oakfield high school, what has been your biggest accomplishment?

I don't know if I would call it the biggest accomplishments, but some of my fondest memories are watching students perform and shine each year with their pop concert solos and making the New York Adventure available to choir students while they are in high school.





Senior

**Westin Bass** 

'Wes is an outstanding leader!'

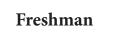


## **Junior**

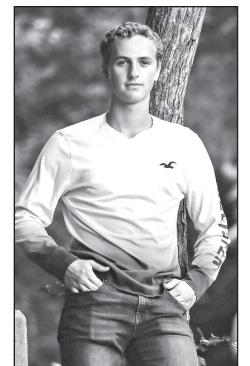
in my class, she comes to class with of his classmates and he's always prea positive attitude and a great work pared for class.

#### Sophomore **Hunter Reuter**

'Hunter is willing to work with any



#### 'Spencer has been a great help around the classroom during some of his free time. He has hung posters, organized, and done other menial tasks to help make a big difference in our room.'

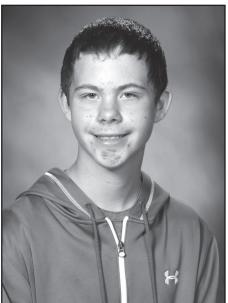


## Krista Sabel

'Krista is an awesome student to have













## **Students Inducted into National Honors Society**

On Wednesday, April 17th, nine behavior, ethics, and cooperation Oakfield High School students were named to the school's National Honor Society chapter at a candlelight ceremony.

These new inductees are: Leyton Batchelder, Kylynn Gerlikovski, Kate Haase, Marissa Kottke, Madeline Marschie, Lainey Schepp, Daniel Urbina, Kennedy Volbright, and Aurora Voss.

To be eligible for membership, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale. Members must also meet high standards of leadership, service, and character. Leadership is based on the student's participation in community or school activities. To meet the service requirement, the students must have performed some community service or school service where they did not receive monetary payment. Character is measured in terms of integrity,

with both students and faculty.

The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in three-fourths of the nation's high schools. Thousands of dollars in scholarships have been awarded to senior members since 1945 by the sponsoring organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Congratulations to all of the National Honor Society inductees!





## Annabella Hartwig Selected as a Member of the State Honors Choir

The WSMA State Honors Music Project is nationally recognized as one of the finest opportunities for young people. This year, for the 2024 WSMA High School State Honors Music Project, almost 1,500 auditions were registered for 429 positions in five ensembles. Auditions included individual student performances and sight-reading process. Selection was based on several aspects of music performance.

Annabella Hartwig, a sophomore member of the OHS choir, was selected to be a member of this prestigious group. Students selected for the WSMA State Honors Music Project will participate in an intensive



and mandatory four day summer camp in June and perform in Madison during late October as part of the Wisconsin State Music Conference. This year's choir will work under the direction of Daniel Bara. Mr. Bara is the John D. Boyd UGA Foundation Professor of Choral Music and the Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia where he oversees seven university choral ensembles as well as the graduate choral conducting program

Congratulations to Annabella on this outstanding achievement!

#### Hello Oak Nation,

We are moving forward with the installation of two new scoreboards in the MS/HS gym. We are also upgrading our stream link that will provide a better viewing experience and an onscreen scoreboard. The school district is offering two different ways for families or businesses to help financially support these upgrades. GO OAKS!!

**Scoreboard Advertisement:** Is to purchase a panel that surrounds the scoreboards. It is a financial commitment of \$2500.00 for a five-year placement of your business advertisement. Payment can be an annual payment of \$500.00 or a one-time payment of the full amount.

#### Oakfield Scoreboard Ad Panel

The School District of Oakfield Is offering business and community members the opportunity to purchase an ad panel that surrounds the new scoreboards in the MS/ HS Gymnasium.

It is a financial commitment of \$2500.00 for a five-year placement of your message. Payment can be an annual payment of \$500.00 or a one-time payment of the full amount.

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
The School District will need a jpeg file of your business logo, to be displayed on the board.	





**Gym Brick:** Is to purchase a brick for the sign that is located on the wall behind the ticket table when you enter the gym on the Oakfield side.

3" X 6" with text is \$75.00

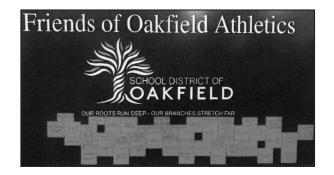
6" X 6" with text is \$100.00

#### Oakfield Gymnasium Bricks

The School District of Oakfield has committed funds to update and modernize the Middle School/ High School. We are bringing back the opportunity for you to purchase a Brick/Plate in the gym. Proceeds from the initial "Brick" sale helped pay for the wan board and score table. There is still a need to replace the scoreboards which are very outdated and will need attention in the future. Purchase a printed "brick" on the new wall. Families, individuals, companies. All are welcome.

Option 1: 3 x 6 with text \$75.00 Option 2: 6 x 6 with text \$100.00

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Option 1:	Option 2:
Total Enclosed:	
Text for bricks:	
,	
Mail to:	



Oakfield School District • PO BOX 39, Oakfield, WI 53065

## FFA News - Annual Banquet

On April 10th, the Oakfield FFA held its annual banquet to celebrate the accomplishments that the chapter and students have had throughout the year. There, the officer team went over the successes of multiple fundraisers, handed out awards, and recognized our graduating seniors who will be leaving the Oakfield FFA officer team. The Oakfield FFA would like to say thank you to Marissa Kottke, Justin Marschie,

and Rueben Arellano for everything you have done through the years in FFA. While people may be leaving, we are excited to announce our 2024-2025 officer team, where Abby Dorn will be leading the way as president! Thank you to everyone who attended the banquet and who has shown constant support to the Oakfield FFA throughout the year!

- Rhyan Vielbig, Oakfield FFA Reporter 2023-24



The Star Degree Recipients

From left to right: Lincoln Laabs - Star Chapter Degree, Paityn Dorn - Star Greenhand Degree, Miranda Kottke - Star Exploritory Degree, Lily Collien - Star Discovery Degree.

The star degree is given to the students who go above and beyond the general requirements for their degree.



2023-2024 Officer Team

From left to right: Lincoln Laabs - Treasurer, Rhyan Vielbig - Reporter, Abby Dorn - Vice President, Marissa Kottke - President, Rueben Arellano - Sentinel, Justin Marschie - Secretary. Thank you to all the officers who put in their time and effort to serve to Oakfield FFA this year!



2024-2025 Officer Team

From left to right: Lincoln Laabs - Vice President, Rhyan Vielbig - Secretary, Abby Dorn - President, Caden Mueller - Sentinel, Paityn Dorn - Historian, Khloe Derdelinghen - Reporter. Good Luck to our 2024-2025 officer team!

# Oakfield Toy Show

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2024 Oakfield FFA Alumni & Supporters Toy and Craft Show! We were happy to host it back at the Oakfield Middle & High School! Special thank you to our sponsors who donated a silent auction item or cash.

We'll see you all for next year's show on Sunday, April 6 2025!





#### 2024 Toy Show Supporters

Steve Wirtz Bristol Morgan Service Motor Company Ballweg Implement Oakfield Elevator Reisterer and Schnell Schaefer Transport Knowles Stillwater Salon Katy's Log Cabin Hoff's Quality Meats & Catering Homan Auto Group Metalcraft/Scag Schraufnagel Implement Waupun Equipment B Creative Metal Art Nature Spring Farm





## DCON

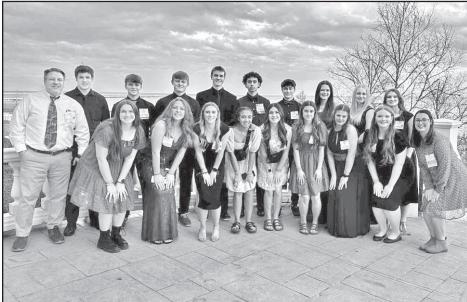


Wisconsin - Upper Michigan (WIUM) District Convention (DCON) is an annual event where key clubbers unite. During the weekend, kids can listen to workshops, run for the district board, and meet new people. Key Club is all about service and helping our

kids learn about new service projects, how to lead a club, and the importance of teamwork. Everyone had so much fun at the waterpark, the mini golf course, and the dance. Oakfield High School brought 17 students and had

communities. Throughout the weekend the 1 person run for a position on the district board. Also, for the first time, our school also won the most spirited club and division award. We hope to grow these numbers next year and get even more people involved in Key Club. GO DCON!







X Y U T C R O S S C O U N T R Y Q J C C G A P P T U I E M J C I W B H E A ZYDHENSB X V Z CDNHSQ W B G S A B T Z H X B K Y C Q L B AJCJMAUIFMJTUAC SGEUASDZZWSRMYHQB WNQCNKEASRQI IGUTNENIYESAFNIGW MKERTTTAZSDL EZSADBCXCTEXBJJKI H F T C M A O H D L B A N D N A N NZRKJLUFWIGYDCUXG OGIXRLNBFNUJHMI TTAHZICWDGBPTQWSR V M N R H Q I F O O T B A L L P B AKNFCVLVOLLEYBALL

## Clubs and Organizations

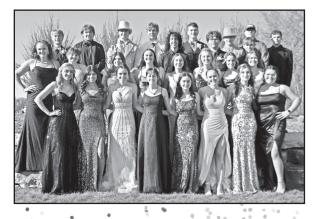
Student Council Cross Country Volleyball Basketball Equestrian Mock Trial Wrestling Football Theatre **Bowling** Choir Track GSA Band Swim NHS

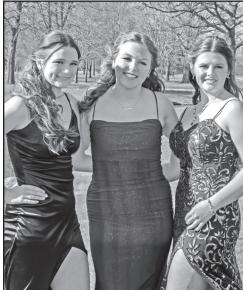














# Drown 2024













## \$ \$ For Sale \$ \$

### LOGITECH BLUETOOTH SPEAKER/CAMERA





NEWLY USED CAMERA WITH BLUETOOTH SPEAKER CAPABILITIES

- ► HEIGHT: 11.98 IN.
- ► WIDTH: 2.95 IN.
- ► DEPTH: 2.98 IN.
- ▶ Plug-and-Play USB Connectivity
- ► Certified for Skype for business and ready for Teams



► Zoom Certified

► Compatible with Google Meet®

► Retail Price \$399



**\$40 Each** 

\*Cash or check payable to Oakfield High School. Payments can be dropped off at the high school office.

\*Contact Mr. Huebel by calling the high school or at chuebel@oakfield.k12.wi.us with any questions or to make arrangements for purchasing.



# CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION LAWN SIGNS

Each sign comes with a two sided pre-designed top orange banner that has a Grad Cap, "Class of 2024", Mighty Oak logo and Graduate's Name.

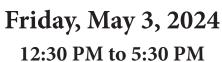
Please fill out the form & return form and payment to Oakfield High School Office .

Grad Name:
Pick one of the following:
☐ Graduate Name Only
☐ <b>Graduate Name &amp; Picture</b> *If adding a grad photo please email a digital copy of the photo to chuebel@oakfield.com
Add On (Pick one of the following):
□ NO Add on
☐ "Congratulations"
□ "Congrats"
□ Custom



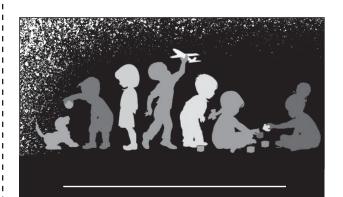






Oakfield Community Center Main Street, Oakfield, WI. 53065

To make an appointment, please call Karen @ 920-579-0266 or go the Red Cross Website. By donating at this time, YOU ARE SAVING LIVES, as well as helping our local graduating Seniors thru Scholarships.



## School District of Oakfield

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

February 5<sup>th</sup> -April 30<sup>th</sup>

#### **General Mill Box Tops is DIGITAL**

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



#### BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

Earn for schools with HUN-DREDS of products from brands



#### SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the Box Tops app to submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



#### EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS

Box Tops products are identified and earnings are credited online.

Learn More: boxtops4education.com Earning is Easy!



## Menominee Reservation and Spawning Trip

MENOMINEE RESERVATION & SPAWNING TRIP

On April 17th, fifteen seniors from Mr. McCarty's Philosophy and See America First and Outdoors Club visited the Menominee Reservation, Keshena Falls and Shawano Dam. We are very thankful to have this opportunity to learn about the Menominee people and the sturgeon. Students in the See America First class wrote paragraphs for pictures taken on the trip.



Caption and photo by Alyssa Laning.

One thing we saw at the museum is many pieces of beaded clothing and jewelry. I learned that the Menominee were expert silversmiths and that they made jewelry from German silver. This specific piece has floral designs and is laid on silk. Each design was first beaded on a base material and then was fitted with silver as a border. These belts and sashes were worn for ceremonies and other special occasions.





spawn, we stopped at the Menominee Reservation Museum in Keshena, WI. While getting our tour, the tour guide described the significance and story of the different tribal clans. The artist of the statues pictured is James Frechette Jr. The big bear statue

Photos and caption by Natalie Floyd.

On our trip to see the sturgeon

(left image) sculpted is used for people to pray to and is said to be signaling to an eagle, which is another clan of the Menominee. This is the first part of the origin story of the Menominee, after the bear and eagle become brothers they go on to find the wolf, moose,

and crane. These different clan statues are pictured (above image). I found this interesting because of the history behind the art, and how the legend was passed down through generations as one of the most important things to the Menominee ancestors. Overall, I really enjoyed this trip and learned a lot at the museum about the history of the Menominee people.



Caption and photo by Noah Patterson.

In the image to the left, is Jack Wischnefski (left), Jonah Schaub (middle), and Justin Marschie (right). I believe this to be the best part of our trip because it was interesting to see the sturgeon flap around on top of eachother and up onto the rocks. I would say there were somewhere between 100-200 sturgeon just in that small area along the rocks. All sorts of groups were there watching the sturgeon splash the water and take pictures.

Pictured to the right is a female sturgeon being captured by two officials of the DNR. She was currently spawning eggs when she was captured by the officials so she was spraying eggs all over the rocks. The sturgeon looked to be around 200 lbs and needed 5-6 people to lift her nicely over to the ruler to be measured. She ended up being around 77in or 6ft 5in. I found it interesting that the officials that caught the fish and the ones measuring reacted in the same way that a fisherman would if he caught a big fish. I was glad to see that when they were done with



Caption and photo by Justin Marschie.

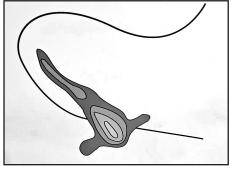
her she was slid into the water nicely and the officials washed her eggs back into the river.



Caption by Maci Patten and Lola Basty, Photo by Maci Patten.

This picture is of a sturgeon getting tagged and measured by the DNR. I think it is really cool because I got to see some really big sturgeon. The DNR would get there nets and catch the sturgeon with either their hands or nets. Once they caught the sturgeon, they would put it next to a bump board to measure and tag them. Once they would finish with the sturgeon, they would slide it back into the water and pick a new sturgeon. This picture also shows the size of the sturgeon compared to humans.





Caption and photo by Karl McCarty.

The smaller image shows a Native American burial site map which the tour guide pointed out at the museum. She said that the sturgeon are so sacred to the Menominee that their families buried their people in the shape of this honored creature. The large pictures shows the sturgeon exhibit at the museum with our tour guide.

2024

On April 17th, for our See America First class, along with a few others from other classes, went on a field trip up to The Menominee Cultural and Lodging Museum, Keshena Falls, and to the Shawano Dam. We got to see the sturgeon spawning when we went to the dam. While we were there, there was also some people from the DNR who were there measuring the fish and taking samples from them. I thought this





Caption photo by Karl McCarty.

I enjoyed this picture because it is at Keshena Falls. The tour at the tribe's museum pointed out that the Menominee believe Keshena Falls is sacred and the sturgeon naturally want to work upstream to it. Because of the dam downstream, the DNR works with the tribe to release sturgeon in March/April of the year above the dam. During our stop by the Falls, a tribal member stopped me to tell us where to go to watch these released sturgeon. Although we did not have luck seeing any released sturgeon by the Falls, I now know next time where to look. I took this photo because Keshena Falls Road intersects with Oshkosh Road, which honors the leader who prevented the removal of the Menominee to Minnesota. It also shows where you can stop if you visit the reservation, as Keshena Falls is a great place to relax and watch the rapids.



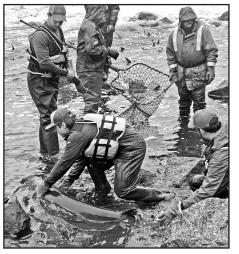
Photo by Karl McCarty.

From left to right are Natalie Floyd, Maci Patten (faced away), Chloe Gudex, Sydney Warnes and Hannah Gurno. The Shawano Dam is a great place to view the sturgeon, because of the accessibility for all ages. There is a sidewalk along the river, and there is also a bridge (not shown) in which viewers can spot sturgeon from above. That bridge is particularly helpful on a sunny day. We went on April 17th, which was cloudy and rainy. However, because of the rain in the prior day, the extra water helped the sturgeon run.



Photo by Karl McCarty.

This view shows the bottom of the bridge over the Wolf River in Shawano, but downstream of the Dam. This location offers a secluded place. Therefore, where our students are standing you could see at least a dozen sturgeon, but very few people go to that side of the bridge.

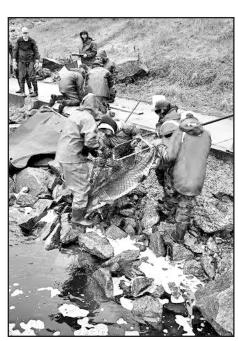


MENOMINEE RESERVATION & SPAWNING TRIP

Photo and caption by Sydney Warnes.

was super cool because it was a lot of younger people who were out there working with the fish and they were just out there holding these huge fish. I really enjoyed this trip and seeing the sturgeon spawning because this is something completely new to me and the fish were really cute.

This is a picture of some of the DNR officers catching sturgeon with there nets, measuring them, and then tagging some of them. Originally when they netted this beast of a female sturgeon, they only had two guys but soon they realized they needed more people. It took six guys to lift the sturgeon up onto the sidewalk so they could measure the sturgeon. This sturgeon was 77.1 inches long and was estimated to be way over 150 pounds! On the left side of the picture you can see a big black rubber mat which they slide the sturgeon back into the water when there done measuring them.

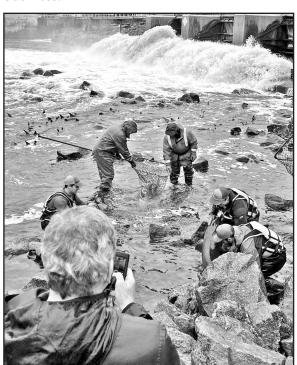


Caption and Photo by Hunter Sabel.



Photo and caption by Jonah Schaub.

I took this photo because I thought it was interesting that the sturgeon were piling on top of each other. I also found it interesting that they were willingly swimming out of the water. The sturgeon didn't seem to care that there were people right next to them, as they just went on with their business.



Caption by Hannah Gurno and Chloe Gudex. Photo by Hannah Gurno.

On April 17th, 2024, the See America First Philosophy class, and seniors in the Outdoors Club went to Shawano for a field trip to watch the sturgeon spawn. We initially went to Keshena Falls and didn't see any sturgeon so we thought all hope was lost. Then we went to the Shawano Dam and found where all the sturgeon were hiding. There had to have been over 100 sturgeon below the dam. There was one sturgeon that was, I believe, 77 inches. It literally looked like an alligator.

# OHS Students Go to Dubuque

DUBUQUE FIELD TRIP

On April 1st, thirty students from Oakfield High School went to the National Mississippi River and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. McCarty's See America First class was learning about the Mississippi River, and Mrs. Daane brought her two sections of Wildlife. The following paragraphs are written by seniors in the See America First Class, which focuses on geography, our country and where to travel. We were really appreciative of the opportunity to take this trip!



Caption and photo by Mekena Gerlikovski.

The National Mississippi River Museum had many interesting historical exhibits. One of them was an exhibit featuring ice harvesting, which I thought was pretty interesting. On the Mississippi River, between 1800 and the 1950s, seasonal ice harvesters would wait for the ice to thicken between 16-18 inches deep and then slice the ice into blocks using horses and ice plows. This photo features an insulating cabinet meant to hold the ice and keep food cold in the summer. There is also a pair of ice tongs, which were used to pluck blocks of ice out of the river.



When we went to the National Mississippi River Museum Aquarium, the otters were the first thing that caught my eyes. Even though there were so many colorful fish and other animals around the place. When we would walk up to the otters they would almost like show off, they would do all sorts of "tricks". The otters were nonstop swimming in circles and around the enclosure. Watching the 2 otters swim around was so cute and entertaining.

Caption by Maci Patten. Photo of Maci by Lola Basty. Photo of otter by Maci Patten.



Photo and caption by Jonah Schaub.

I took this photo of the pair of wood ducks that were in the aquarium. Wood ducks are the coolest looking ducks in my opinion and they are fairly abundant in Wisconsin. Their wings must have been clipped because there was nothing keeping the ducks in the aquarium. I noticed that the wood ducks were fairly aggressive towards the pair of goldeneye ducks when they got too close.

Jonah Schaub took this great picture of one of the ducks in one of the aquariums. This is a goldeneye which is a very rare breed of duck in Wisconsin. This duck was always swimming around the tank and diving underwater. I found it very interesting that they didn't have nets to stop them from flying away so I'm guessing they cut off the ducks flying feathers. This was very cool because you could get really close to these ducks and the goldeneye especially was not afraid of people and would swim right up to you.



Caption by Hunter Sabel.

Our trip to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium was very interesting. There were many different things to see; the history of the Mississippi as well as many kinds of fish. The different kinds of fish to see was the most interesting part to me. There were lionfish, jellyfish, stingrays, and much more. I was really intrigued by the lionfish. I think they look very unique to the

other fish. There were also other

creatures like otters, alligators,

snakes, and stingrays. This was a

really nice experience for our See

America First class.



Caption and photo by Lola Basty.



Photo and caption by Rueben Arellano.

I took a picture of the river right outside the building. I found this reflective due to us being at a museum about the Mississippi River, and all the stuff we were learning about was there right in front of us. On the right just out of frame, a river boat can be seen, we could sadly not go on it, but we could still see the scale of the boat compared to people near it, and it was interesting to see something that we have previously learned about in class. You can also see the bridge in the middle of the picture, which I always really enjoy bridges, as I think they can really add to the aesthetic of a picture. Overall I think that the Dubuque trip was a pretty good experience, we learned about the Mississippi River, and the surrounding area was very visually pleasing.



Caption and photos by Natalie Floyd.

During spring break, I took a personal trip to Dubuque and the Maquoketa Caves. I went to see the Riverwalk in Dubuque, here we were able to see some bridges and some fancy sculptures, as we were leaving we got to watch a train cross over the bridge. Also in Dubuque, we stopped at a local cafe in the morning. Walking through the downtown area, we saw many murals, we walked through the industrial district, as well as some pretty cool buildings. We spent quite a bit of time walking around the town and looking at old buildings. There were maps placed so that we always knew where we were going, included in one of the pictures. We had a great trip and enjoyed learning about this city and walking around, even though it was colder out.







What I enjoyed most about the trip was the large aquarium when you first walked into the building. There was an open top fish tank with a variety of different fishes and ducks. In the picture is a baby northern map turtle. Outside of the picture, it was busy swimming around with its much larger parents. Fish and ducks were also having their own life inside of the aquarium. Wood ducks and Golden eye ducks were swimming around and climbing over the rocks and hard scape (aquarium decoration). It was fun to be able to walk right up to the fish tank and see so many different things going on at once.

On our trip to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, we saw many amazing species of fish. Our favorite species that we got to see was the Alligator Gar, a type of freshwater fish. There are many different types of gar fish, but the Alligator Gar is the largest out of all of them. They are characterized by their large alligator-like mouths and long bodies. We probably spent the most time at the gar tank out of all of the tanks in the aquarium just watching all of them swim around. If given a chance, I think both of us would love to return to the museum.

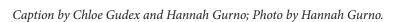




Photo and caption from Aly Lamonska.

On April 2nd I traveled to Dubuque, Iowa with my See America First and Wildlife classes. We visited the Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. I thought the museum was really interesting, but the most interesting part to me was how interactive the museum was. Throughout the museum you could find a ton of interactive learning activities. They had an interactive current activity, a water table to learn about dams, levees, and the cloud cycle, one of the most interesting to me was the room to learn about old engines and boat gears. I thought it was cool that they had activities that visually showed how the gears worked on a boat. I thought this was really cool because that's more of a complex idea to grasp by just reading about it. I think they did a great job at showing kids exactly how a boat moves and what goes into making a boat function.



Photo and caption by Addie Martin. During our class trip to Dubuque, Iowa the aquarium had touch tanks for starfish and stingrays. In the starfish tank there were many different types of them with all different texture.



Photo and caption by Alyvia Robinson.

This is a Garden Eel, this was in a tank along with other vibrant colored fish. This creature was very small and shy, and it continued to go in and out of its little hole that it was in. This Garden Eel was a yellow/green color and just liked to observe everything going on around it.



#### U.S. HISTORY FAMILY RESEARCH

## U.S. History Family Research

The following is the continuing series on family history stories from Mr. McCarty's U.S. History Class. Students worked hard mid year salvaging the ancestor's stories.

## From the Vietnam War to Wisconsin

By Daranee Xiong

My dad, Jia Xiong, was born on June 15th, 1977 in Kiamuna, Laos (it's not there anymore). In English terms, his name is Jia but in Hmong terms, it's Riam, but it's pronounced like Jia but with a Hmong thick accent. It means Knife in Hmong. His parents named him that because back in the day, they would just name their child anything simple. My dad joked he could've been named a cup or a spoon. His parents were Vakai Xiong and Youa V. Vang, they had a total of 12 children. They lived in the Mountains and were farmers, doing crops and taking care of cattle. Jia was the 2nd child and oldest son in the family. He had 5 brothers and 6 sisters. The oldest was Mai Yee (daughter), and then Jia (son), Ying (son), Vue (son), Shoua (daughter), Sai (son), Meng (son), Sue (daughter), Gao (daughter), Yer (daughter), Kia (daughter), and Chee Nou (son). Those were the order of when they were born. Jia wasn't born yet in the Vietnam War but his father, Vakai Xiong, was participating in the Vietnam War.

My Grandpa, Vakai Xiong (left bottom) was born on July 5th of 1949 in the village of Na Chao, Laos. His parents were Chia Pao Xiong and Mai Vang. He had 5 brothers; Chong Chue, Kaneng, Wachao, Xai Chao, and Lai and 2 sisters; Zoua and Xiong Mee. In the Vietnam War, 1969 to 1972, he worked as an

airplane voice-recorder intercepting radio communications for US base in Long Cheng, LS20A, XiengKhouang, Laos. In January of 1973, Vakai married my grandma, Youa Vue (right bottom). Her parents were Blia Long Vue and Mee Vang. Shortly after he married my grandma, he left home to complete his training as a soldier, helping the CIA during the Secret War and returned home in 1975 when they US pulled out of the Vietnam War. He recently passed away on June 6th, 2023.

When the US pulled out, Vakai had to escape to Thailand. If he didn't, he would get killed by the Vietcong. Since Vakai helped the U.S. army, he is branded as a traitor to them. So, the Xiong Family packed up their bags and traveled onto a path through jungles and mountains for days to get to Thailand's borders. At this time, they were a family of 7 people, so 5 children and 2 parents. They traveled for a week. They brought rice, food, pots, the lightest thing you can carry. My dad repeatedly said you had to be really, really quiet and avoid the Vietcong. There were lots of killings and bombs along the path. Lots of people and children, who were also escaping to Thailand, died from ambushes and traps set up by the Vietcong like grenade trip wire. "There were a lot of children who died," Jia kept saying. Jia could only recall just a little bit when he was young. He couldn't remember how old but he said he remembered he was still being carried by his mom. He estimated that he was probably 4-6 years old. When on the move, you don't travel during the day time but at night, because it's safer from the Vietcong. During this whole trip, it was 50/50 chance. It was very risky and dangerous. You die or you make it.

Mekong River was the last step to cross because after you cross it, you are in Thailand. My dad, Jia, recalls how people reacted when they saw the Mekong River. It was dawn and they were screaming and racing into the river to cross. My dad estimated that there were over 200 people trying to escape. To cross the river, you can't swim all the way or else you will get pushed through the current. You can make a raft or get the donut floats where there is a hole in the middle and tie those who can't swim together in a line. The people who can swim, pull the rope and swim to the opposite side. Although hope was on the other side, there were still tragedies. Mounts of dead bodies floated in the river: there were lots of diseases spreading, starvation, and drowning. After they crossed the river safely, they will be taken to a refugee camp. Jia and his family was the last family to cross the river. Afterwards, they made it to Thailand to the Refugee Camp and lived there for 5 years before moving to the US.

Moving to the US was a difficult experience. In the winter of 1987, they arrived in Spokane, Washington. After a year, May in 1988, Jia's family moved to Wisconsin, La Crosse. Then in May of 1992, they moved again to Fond Du Lac and have lived there ever since. My dad went to LP Goodrich High School and graduated 1995. He said it was difficult for him because of the language barrier. He instinctively said that in Hmong language, we didn't have past and present tone. He had a few friends in school. His first great thing about the US was Pepsi and another one which was funny was about how cats and dogs can talk in the TV. "Wow, I didn't know cats and dogs can talk." He quoted and laughed afterwards. Back in Laos/Thailand, they didn't have TV or anything. It amazed him when he came to the US, to find that Cats and Dogs can talk in TV. My dad, Jia, is currently working as a Machinist in Oshkosh.

Grandpa Vakai's Funeral was held the Hmong traditional 4 days at Twohig Funeral Home on July 8th-11th. They had my grandpa's casket in the front of the room and just a few feet away, there was my cousins and relatives sitting on the floor with 2 long incense sticks. Then, in front of them was an old man playing the qeej instrument and a big gong behind him which is also played as well by a different man. In the funeral home, all you can hear is the gong and the instrument playing. It plays all day and night so it'll be difficult to get that sound out of your head. When you're



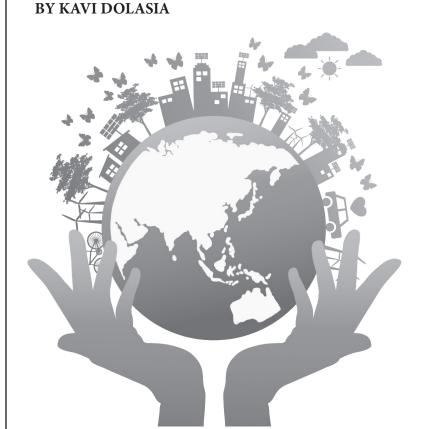
sitting on the ground with the incense stick, you have to bow your head 3 times whenever the man playing the qeej instrument bows his instrument. I did that for at least more than 5 hours the 1st day. It was either the 2nd day that these men in uniform that served in the Secret War/Vietnam War came in and did salutations to him. On the 3rd day, we had everyone sit down and each one had an incense in their hands. We would listen to a man who sung about my grandpa's life and it was around 1-3 in the morning. My dad, Jia, then received my grandpa's military hat which symbolizes that now that grandpa is gone, he is the man of the house. During the funeral, we also received a state of wisconsin "celebrating the life and service of Lieutenant Vakai Xiong" certificate.

Blia Choua Vang was from my mom's side of the family and my mom's dad. He also came into Mr. McCarty's Philosophy class during Sensai's (my brother) last year in high school. He was born on June 15th, 1940. He married Youa Xiong in 1960s. He was a 2nd Lieutedant that was leading 155 soldiers. He fought in the CIA's Special Guerilla Unit in Laos from 1963-1975. In 1978, they crossed the Mekong River to flee the Communist Persecution in Laos to Thailand. Then in 1992, they came to the US. His wife died in 2004 from a stroke. He remarried in 2006 to Houa Lor. He loved playing the qeej instrument and was renowned grandmaster qeej player in the Hmong Community. He also was one of the leaders in the Hmong Community and a great shaman who helped heal the spirits of many. He passed away on a friday, September 14, 2018 at the age of 78 when I was in 6th grade. This picture was taken at a 2016 New Year's party.





## Earth Day 2024 Highlights The Perils Of Plastic Pollution



Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is an annual reminder of the urgent need to protect our planet. The global movement began on April 22, 1970, when US lawmaker Gaylord Nelson mobilized more than 20 million people to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Earth Day Network (EDN) now boasts more than 50,000 partners in over 190 countries. It has led to the passage of landmark environmental laws. These include the Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in the US and the 2015 Paris Agreement, an international treaty on climate change.

The theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs. Plastics. It highlights the fact that over 380 million tons of plastic are produced annually, an astounding 50 percent of which is for single-use purposes. The nonprofit is demanding a 60 percent reduction in the production of plastics by 2040.

EDN has outlined four ways to achieve this lofty goal. The first is to raise public awareness of the health risks of plastic pollution. It has been linked to everything from cancer in humans to deaths in marine wildlife. The second entails persuading countries worldwide to commit to phasing out all single-use plastics by 2030. EDN also aims to urge governments to implement policies to end fast fashion, another major contributor to plastic pollution. Lastly, they want corporations to invest in innovative technologies to create sustainable materials to substitute plastic.

"Our reliance on plastics could be the biggest gamble in the story of human health in history. We are all ingesting and inhaling microplastics. They are everywhere. Are we just hoping they are safe or is even the remotest possibility they might be toxic so terrifying that we can't contemplate it?" says Kathleen Rogers, president of EarthDay.org.

Even if governments agree, the laws on plastic regulation will take some time to go into effect. Meanwhile, companies can take immediate action to reduce their plastic footprint with minor changes. For example, clothing manufacturers can choose natural or recycled fabrics. Restaurants can deliver food in compostable paper containers.

Individuals of all ages can also make a big difference. Avoid single-use plastic spoons and forks by keeping a reusable cutlery set in your backpack or car. Carry a container for leftovers when you go to a restaurant. Take a reusable water bottle and lunch bag to school. These simple actions will go a long way toward saving our planet.

Dolasia, K. (2024, April 16). Earth Day 2024 highlights the perils of plastic pollution. DOGOnews. https://www.dogonews.com/2024/4/16/ earth-day-2024-highlights-the-perils-of-plastic-pollution

## Why High Schools And Universities **Are Finally Embracing Esports**

2024

#### **BY JONO SISON**

After years of reluctance, educational institutions across the United States are finally embracing competitive video gaming, commonly referred to as esports. Since 2018, over 8,600 high schools and about 175 colleges and universities have added esports as an extracurricular activity. And the numbers keep growing.

The shift in attitude is credited to two factors — the increasing popularity of esports and the recognition of the potential benefits organized video gaming can offer to students.

#### **Esports popularity**

Esports, short for electronic sports, refers to organized competitive gaming where players or teams compete against each other in video games. Esports involve professional players competing at a high level, often in tournaments with significant prize pools. These competitions can take place in various formats. They include individual player vs. player matches, team vs. team matches, or even large-scale events in arenas with live audiences.

The esports industry has experienced significant growth in recent years. Gaming experts estimate that by 2025, esports competitions will draw in 640 million people or about 60 percent more than in 2019. One of the biggest reasons for the popularity is the social component. Fans of popular online games can easily connect to top players in the field through various social media platforms like YouTube and Twitch.

The surge in both player participation and viewership has transformed esports into an immensely profitable endeavor. Analysts project the global esports market to expand from \$1.38 billion in 2022 to \$1.87 billion by 2025.

#### Benefits of esports as an extracurricular activity

#### Helps students succeed in school

Most video gamers do not participate in traditional school sports or clubs. Experts believe that offering esports as an extracurricular activity will help these kids get more involved with the school community. This, in turn, will cause them to be more engaged in the classroom and aspire to pursue higher education.

#### Fosters inclusivity

Esports are more inclusive than most sports. This is because there are few limitations to playing games online. For example, in traditional sports like soccer, athletes are separated into teams by gender. Also, physically impaired people have to compete separately. In esports, gender, or physical impediment do not matter. The only important thing is the player's skill.

#### Communication and teamwork

Being part of a team can teach kids how to communicate and collaborate with others. These skills are essential for both personal and professional success.

#### **Decision making**

The fast-paced nature of most video games demands quick decision-making from players. This prepares them for high-pressure careers like medicine, where the ability to make instant decisions is often crucial.

#### Time management

Most schools require students to maintain their academic standings to participate in school teams. This motivates kids to be more organized and manage their time efficiently.

#### **Expands STEM and other career opportunities**

Students involved in esports often lean towards STEM-related jobs, which are higher-paying and readily available. The popularity of esports has also created career opportunities within the field. In addition to players, esports teams, both professional and amateur, also need support staff to operate. They include managers, marketing staff, engineers, and much more.

Given all these benefits, it is hardly surprising that schools are increasingly adding esports to their extracurricular activities.



Sison, J. (2024, April 10). Why high schools and universities are finally embracing esports. DOGOnews. https://www.dogonews.com/2024/4/10/why-high-schools-and-universities-are-finally-embracing-



**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:	

