

Advocate

Summer 2021

Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow

The newsletter of the
Owen J. Roberts
School District

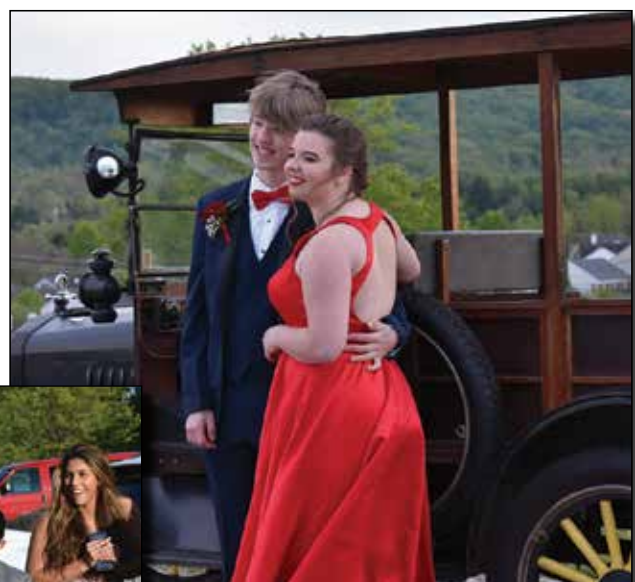
Celebrating Prom 2021

In the fall of 2020, when school started in a fully virtual format, having an in-person prom was nothing more than a twinkle in 11th grade/prom advisor, Chris Burns’ eye. In a “typical” school year, elected 11th grade class officers would have started meeting bi-weekly in early September and moved into longer weekly meetings in January. In a “typical” year, business could be accomplished in person with a sense of rhythm and continuity that instead was disrupted by the restrictions and reality of the pandemic environment. Like so many high school milestone events that take months to pull together, it was tough to plan a prom. As knowledge of Covid-19 continued to rapidly evolve, no one could predict when it would be allowed and safe to gather in large groups.

Mr. Burns and high school administration kept very close eyes on policy, trends, and practices while keeping sights on the possibility for a prom. There was never a question of a desire to have a prom, but there were many questions about whether such an event could be held safely. At some point in early 2021, administration felt they could safely forge ahead with prom planning. With Owen J. Roberts High School class sizes averaging over 400 students, it was ultimately decided that hosting the prom on school property was the safest and best venue for the expected attendance. Like most schools in the area who held proms this year, families were made aware well in advance that to keep everyone safe, potential attendees needed to be screened for Covid-19. Nurses in the district held an antigen testing clinic at the High School the night before the prom.

To support community, the 2021 prom was planned using as many local businesses as possible. “The community really came together in many valiant ways,” said Mr. Burns. Teachers, parents and community organizations donated nearly \$4,000 in gift cards and prizes that were raffled to the 340 students in attendance. With the theme Great Gatsby, an American-period a capella quartet serenaded students as they entered the tent and a 1920 Model T Wagon was positioned for memorable photos.

There was so much enthusiasm at the event. The day of the event, guidelines for mask wearing were relaxed and prom attendees were notified they were able to dine and dance unmasked in the enormous 60x150-foot tent. It was the first time in over a year



that students could socialize without face coverings. Senior Brooke Dietrich offered her thoughts about the night, “Prom is always a memorable, special occasion for upperclassmen; it’s all about getting dressed up, taking pictures, and dancing to our heart’s content. However, I think that prom this year was even more special because after a year of separation and uncertainty, we were able to connect with each other and appreciate fun moments as a class before we graduate in June.”

OJR Cyber Academy Positioned in Excellence

In the past year, we have experienced seismic shifts in how we play, work, and learn. As a result, more families have come to prefer online learning to in-person school, a developing trend prior to the pandemic; a trend which is expected to continue into the future.

At Owen J. Roberts, we are enhancing the OJR Cyber Academy because we believe that Owen J. Roberts is best-positioned to provide a quality, whole-child, virtual education for students. Students who enroll in the OJR Cyber Academy will be 100% a part of the top-performing Owen J. Roberts School District and enjoy personalized support for physical, academic, and social-emotional success.

The 2021-2022 OJR Cyber Academy will be greatly enhanced from what the district has provided for online learning thus far. “We are building upon what works best at every age level and developing personalized learning strategies centered on each unique student,” said OJR Cyber Academy Principal Christine Seeley.

OJR Cyber students can expect daily interaction with highly-qualified, motivated OJR teachers. Owen J. Roberts invests heavily in formal training, coaching, and continued professional development to assure teachers have command of curriculum content as well as the strategies and resources to meet each learner’s needs. OJR Cyber Academy teachers are zealous about student success in the online teaching and learning environment.

When considering the whole child, being a part of the vibrant Wildcat community is an important factor to think about when choosing a cyber-school. Owen J. Roberts students have experiential learning opportunities which complement the curriculum, enhance concept mastery, and inspire imaginations. At Owen J. Roberts, students can grow socially and emotionally with access to award-winning music programs. Cyber students can learn and grow through participation in school plays and musicals. Students will have the opportunity to develop confidence through an extensive offering of athletic opportunities and countless chances to discover new passions through a plethora of clubs, activities and community service.

With award-winning programs, exemplar online courses and robust services, Owen J. Roberts is the best choice for cyber education. Choosing OJR Cyber Academy also eliminates the high cost of using taxpayer dollars to pay tuitions to cyber charter schools.

At Owen J. Roberts,



the mission is to “inspire each student for success today and greatness tomorrow”. At the OJR Cyber academy, online learners can tap into an investment our community has made to achieve that goal.

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Students Create Ludwig’s Mural

In May, final touches were completed on a 24-foot x 13-foot mural designed and produced by Owen J. Roberts High School student artists.

This project started in the fall of 2020. George Cooney, a board member for Ludwig’s Corner Horse Show Association (LCHSA) contacted high school art educator and National Art Honor Society (NAHS) advisor, Tracey Schiavello. Starting the 2020-2021 school year with the continuing challenges of Covid-19 created challenges in the type volunteer work honor society students were able to pursue. When Ms. Shiavello and NAHS officers learned about the mural opportunities, they saw an opportunity for inductees to engage with the community as volunteers and have some fun along the way giving students a safe break from the monotony of so many pandemic restrictions. They liked the idea of creating art that could be enjoyed right in our own community.

The project originally called for three separate designs but was reduced to one mural that wraps around all sides of a building on the grounds.

Olivia Folsom, NAHS student President, presented the Ludwig’s project to her student artist peers and the students spent the winter



months coming up with ideas and final drawings. By early spring 2021, paint colors were selected and a supply list was created. A scheduling program was then instituted so students could volunteer to paint the mural. Painting started early in April to be finished early May. “Our students had the opportunity to experience a real world Community Art Project - from understanding the needs of the client through planning and final production. I hope this type of project becomes an annual tradition in our community”, said Ms. Shiavello.

West Vincent Elementary Holds Virtual Career Day



This year’s new format of learning brought many changes to our school year. Teachers, administrators, and staff have shifted their styles of teaching in order to adapt their lessons into the virtual world. For years past, West Vincent Elementary School hosted a Career Day where parents came into classrooms to speak about their careers and how school has helped to prepare them for the workforce. When new guidelines prevented West Vincent from hosting an in-person Career Day, they reinvented a Virtual Career Day.

Staff recruited their friends and family to film clips highlighting some of their careers. Students participated in a career assessment which assigned them a career color to match strengths and interests. They used their career color to virtually attend this year’s Career Day on a special website. Students were able to explore career rooms in Human Services, Health Sciences, Business Services, Technical Services, Communication Services, and Agricultural Sciences. Some careers featured in the rooms included a judge, a neuroscientist, a painter, a fisherman, and more! This career fair website allowed students, both virtual and in-person, the opportunity to learn about careers in a new and exciting way utilizing technology. Check out the Virtual Career Fair for yourself at <https://sites.google.com/ojrsd.net/careerfair/home>

Middle School Students Donate Quilt

Each day, Middle School students have what is called a “WIN” period at the end of their day. WIN is an acronym for What I Need and is meant to be a flexible period for students to utilize in ways for which they would find most benefit. Many students receive support from teachers during this period, participate in team-building activities within their respective teams, attend band/chorus rehearsals, receive gifted education services, and so forth.



For one group of students, WIN was a time that they chose to spend with their favorite Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Mrs. Culbert. Over the course of the school year, these students helped Mrs. Culbert with small chores around the classroom like watering plants or baking cupcakes for staff. One of the projects this group tackled was to work collaboratively to make a quilt. They sent out a request to the Middle School staff for donations of OJR-themed t-shirts. Then they used the t-shirt donations to create “patches” that would be sewn together to make the quilt. The finished product was magnificent and a perfect representation of what can be produced when student passion collides with teacher guidance. On May 21st, these students proudly donated their t-shirt quilt to Principal Stoltzfus. Look for this work of art to be displayed in the building in the near future.

East Vincent Bookmercials

At East Vincent Elementary School, faculty and staff invested in the growth of all readers in grades kindergarten through six. Stronger readers developed stronger skills through rigorous skill-based instruction and through reading lots and lots of text.

For the last two months of the school year, Kids for Change (KFC) student leaders from the growth and achievement building goal team created an interactive reading challenge to promote the importance of reading while motivating students to read an abundance of books. After students read a book, they recorded “bookmercials” through technology app, Fligrd. The “bookmercials”, which were commercials about books, advertised well over 2,000 titles to the East Vincent community! Through the 2020-2021 school year, East Vincent readers grew in their reading skills and abilities as evidenced by fall to spring benchmark scores. Every reader made at least one reading level of growth.



OJR Hosts Special Olympics-style Event

Owen J. Roberts High School hosted a Special Olympics-style event in May in Wildcat Stadium. Due to Covid-19, the Chester County Special Olympics was cancelled in 2020 and 2021. Last year was to be the 50th annual event! In light of the void, Owen J. Roberts moved forward with a homegrown version to support a special group of athletes. The event was planned to be adaptable and inclusive to the needs of students of all ages so they might feel safe, important, and empowered with a variety of fitness-based activities.

Approximately 65 students rotated through a series of stations designed to challenge their kicking, running, throwing, and jumping skills. The weather was glorious and athletes had an amazing time embracing physical



fitness, making and enjoying friends, and receiving tons of encouragement.

Families and staff from around the district were invited to be a part of this special day and share in the spirit of the Special Olympics. Events such as this could not be possible without a team of dedicated and caring individuals pitching in to create a safe and memorable experience for students.

North Coventry Elementary Points True North

The motto for the 2020-2021 school year at North Coventry was #truenorth. This served as a constant reminder in all of the decisions that were made for our North Coventry community each and every day. “What’s best for our kids?” is the question that we returned to time and again as our guiding principle. In a year when so much was unknown and unpredictable, the boys and girls knew that some things would always be the same at school, no matter what. Morning greetings, recognizing and celebrating each other’s accomplishments, and spirit days are just a few of the constants that the children could count on at school.

Though the days may have looked different this year, morning announcements kicked off each day to welcome the children and share important information as a community of learners. Mrs. Grashof, the school’s counselor, typically led the announcements and shared news of upcoming events. Mrs. Grashof became the morning news anchor as the announcements went viral with

every classroom tuning in on Google Meet. This allowed for special guest speakers like our School Nurse, Mrs. Lemma, to give updated guidance to children. Mr. Bentman also enjoyed jumping into the anchor chair as well, encouraging the children to do their best.

Each week, members of the NC staff nominated a boy and girl from each grade to recognize them for displaying important traits like compassion, respect, and trustworthiness. The names of the children were announced during the morning meeting and they were called to the lobby to have their picture taken. These pictures hung in the hallway of the lobby on the recognition boards. A group picture was also shared on social media for friends and family to celebrate. Reinforcing these traits that make our boys and girls good citizens of their school is one way that North Coventry builds strong community members.

Another continued tradition of celebrating our student’s successes was through our Wally Wildcat program.



Students were encouraged to follow the Wally Wildcat Way:

- Respect Yourself
- Respect Others
- Respect Your School
- Respect The Environment

When doing so, they could receive Wally Wildcat Tickets that were then turned for a chance to win a prize! Prizes could include extra recess, a take-home art kit, a visit with a

local police officer, or a dance party! During the month of May, students who earned a Wally Wildcat ticket could also use that ticket to vote for an upcoming spirit day. The votes were close, but ultimately the students voted most for Tie-dye Day, Disney Day, 80s Day, and Career Day! The 2020-2021 school year was filled with many changes for our students, but we learned that as long as we stayed #truenorth, we would have a memorable year together.

IB Students Navigate Uncharted Waters

In March of 2020, the world may have been shutting down due to COVID safety precautions, but the juniors of the International Baccalaureate Career-Prep Certification (IBCP) program were just gearing up. Students were securing the final details of their senior projects, creating their service learning proposals, and beginning their research of their ethical dilemma. They were connecting with community members to determine service project start dates, and were creating future plans for the service activities that would start as soon as the 2019-2020 school year finished. Many plans were put on hold as COVID safety guidelines continued to evolve.

As a candidate of the IBCP program, students are required to give back to the community with a minimum of 50 hours of service. They need to learn and develop an understanding of a World Language, and to fully delve into an ethical dilemma that is

connected to a current event. These three independent senior projects are in conjunction with the rigorous academic requirements of successfully completing two OJR STEAM courses in a track of their choice: Life Sciences, Engineering, Computer Information Systems & Business, or NJROTC. They must also complete two IB Diploma courses that have additional writing components and standardized cumulative tests. When regulations and “Stay-at-Home” orders were put into place, the third cohort of the IBCP program needed to navigate their way through continuing to pursue their goal of satisfying all IBCP requirements to graduate with a certification; which meant they needed to start over with their plans of giving back in service. Service projects went from tutoring elementary students at after-school programs to arranging virtual tutoring sessions, from volunteering with an at-home group thera-art to volunteering outdoors at



a historic farm, from creating personal hygiene bags to be distributed throughout the towns to collecting personal hand-made cards to deliver to nursing homes and hospitals that no longer allow family members and friends to visit, and from going on a week-long missions trip to collecting used clothing to make sturdy dog toys to give to animal shelters.

As OJR high school students adapted and managed their academics in a way never expected before, the IBCP students continued as well on their ever-changing journey to the same pre-pandemic goal of a certification at graduation with un-changed requirements. They have accepted the challenge of the same finish line, the same rules, but with a different never-before charted path.

Hamster Unites East Coventry Readers

In March, Humphrey the Hamster quickly became everyone’s favorite friend at East Coventry Elementary School. Humphrey was the star attraction of the One School, One Book Adventure. Each classroom in kindergarten through sixth grade enjoyed a chapter a day of the book titled *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney. The award-winning book is the first in a series of 12 books.

The purpose of the One School, One Book Adventure was to organize the school around one central activity. With some of the District students in the Cyber Academy while others attended in-person instruction, there was a need to unify all of the students. The whole-school read provided just that. The school’s cyber teachers made sure to include their students in all of the activities that the in-person students enjoyed.

One Book, One School had an activity a day that would coincide with the chapter that was read. Each activity

allowed the students to think about the reading and dig deeper. The activities also prompted responses to reading that were then displayed in the hallways for all to see. Predictions, character traits, graphs....you name it. The hallways were full of hamster facts and information. Students could walk through the school and see what other students in East Coventry were thinking about their furry friend Humphrey.

To keep things exciting, each day students located Humphrey as he moved around the school. He would appear on window ledges, behind glass showcases, and in the nooks and crannies of the school. Students searched the school each day to find out where he appeared. As part of the adventure, the school also hosted a color war to see which grade could find and collect the most hamsters in their assigned color that were hidden around the school. Another highlight was when a real hamster came to spend a week at East Coventry



Elementary School. He visited each class and students were able to spend time reading with him. In addition, each classroom had their own stuffed hamster and gave their hamster a unique name.

The culminating event was a hamster parade. Each class had a chance to parade their hamster in front of the rest of the school. The hamsters were dressed up and on placed on “floats” which brought smiles galore to the

faces of East Coventry students.

In addition to unifying the school, the whole-school read was meant to encourage the love of literacy. March became known as “literacy month” at East Coventry. March is also the month for the annual East Coventry Elementary School PTA ReadATHon, as well as the District’s Read-in. Humphrey’s appearance helped to enhance all of the events this month.

Owen J. Roberts School District is proud of its almost 400 graduates. Here we feature a handful of our graduates and their diverse talents, interests, and future pursuits.



Quincy Allem played Coventry Rugby, was Captain for Downingtown Rugby, and was a member of OJR Young Life.

Quincy was very happy to get back to school when it opened to in-person learning. He believed that the best way to connect with people was face-to-face, and was forced to realize that during times of isolation. He found that going to the gym to work out was a way to get out of the house and work on self-improvement. He understood that the changes thrust upon students will make graduation even sweeter.

Prior to the pandemic, the most memorable experience for Quincy was the first rugby state championship tournament he was part of. His team achieved second in the state. After the pandemic, the memory of the rugby tournament that resulted in a State Championship will be a favorite. The state title was important but being able to actually play with the team doing something they all loved, after nearly a year, helped him in grow in more ways than just winning.

Owen J. Roberts gave Quincy options to choose electives and join programs that were vital to understanding what he wanted out of a future job. He found a landscape that allowed expression of interests and an ability to grow as an individual. He appreciated the athletic training classes as an elective option at Owen J. Roberts.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I want people to start treating each other as people. Right now our country is so double-sided. People only care what side of the political battle they are on. I want people to acknowledge and understand that a person on either side of a political spectrum is a worthy human being. It's by loving each other and showing each other support that we will grow and prosper as a society. We need to remember the golden rule we all learned in kindergarten and treat others how we wish to be treated.

Quincy will attend West Chester University in the fall to study business management and play rugby. He is excited to build unforgettable relationships and have a family one day because human connections and family are what will be truly important.



Rylee Carlson was active with Dance One Studios. She danced for six years and was honored to have been given so many

opportunities even through the pandemic. Over the past year, she was still able to perform and even able to be on the screen of a drive-in movie theatre. Dance carried her

through this past year and has always encouraged her to work harder and become stronger. Dance steered her to want to work with children through her involvement with them at the studio. She found so much joy working with children that she decided to study to become a pediatric speech therapist.

Rylee said that school was definitely different since the pandemic, but she never let it stop her from working hard on academics. She continued to feel connected to school by communicating with teachers and classmates and still having the privilege to see and talk to them in google meets.

"The Class of 2021 is so resilient and strong as we have all been working so hard to achieve so much over the past four years," Rylee mentioned. Football games were among her most memorable times. She was always amazed to watch all the students of OJR unite and cheer for their team! "Since March 2020, our class has just remained so united as one, which is something I will never forget."

Learning during a pandemic was tough, but, as a student of OJR, Rylee learned to adapt quickly and continue working hard. Owen J Roberts encouraged Rylee to give back to community and she hopes to continue in that spirit. She plans to attend California University of Pennsylvania to major in communication disorders and one day obtain a masters in speech pathology. She is excited for all that life will send her way including the potential twists and turns.



Caellie Cobb was President of the Horticulture Club, a member of Kids for Kids, Best Buddies, and Young Life. She was a member

of National Honor Society, National English Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. Caellie was able to feel connected to the school and her classmates through spirit days whether they be virtual or in person. One of her favorite activities in her free time was Young life. She missed meeting with her Young Life peers in person during Covid and was delighted as restrictions eased and the group found ways to meet safely outdoors.

Mini-Thon, an opportunity for students to be empowered as leaders in the fight to conquer childhood cancer, was a high school experience she never forget. Mini-Thon 2020 was the last school event prior to the Covid lockdown. She was impacted by how much fun one could have when collaborating on a good cause. The most memorable experience since March 2020, was the in-person internship at North Coventry Elementary. She felt prepared to enter the field of education through the Teacher Leadership Academy. The course has allowed her both online and in-person internship opportunities in a variety of classrooms.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would love to be able to expand the capabilities and resources in the district to better support special needs students and families.

Caellie will attend Elizabethtown College to student Elementary Education and Special Education and she is excited about becoming a teacher.



Tyler Cute played Owen J. Roberts Football and was part of Coventry and Downingtown Rugby Clubs.

Social media was a huge way Tyler kept connected to friends during Covid. His favorite pastimes were being with friends and playing sports. He believed the Class of 2021 to be caring, supportive, and athletic. He always felt a sense of school spirit and comradery at events like football games. He was very happy to see pandemic restrictions begin to ease, so he could spend more time with friends.

Owen J. Roberts prepared Tyler for the next phase in his life by teaching him that he could always make a comeback. He learned that even through the hardest times people find a way to come together and help each other. Tyler's favorite course in high school was Sports Marketing which fueled a desire to work in the business field. Tyler looks forward to meeting new friends and finding a great career fit by starting at Montgomery County Community College for a semester and possibly transferring to Temple University.

If I could make a change in the world... communities would benefit from caring less about others' opinions and focus more on caring for others.



Ava Esterly used to read and write a lot as a kid, but fell out of it in high school. She found it amazing to rediscover that hobby during the pandemic.

Ava was President/Founder of the History Club, Co-president/ Co-founder of the Incredible Future Club, and OJR Orchestra cellist. The Incredible Future Club, an environmental club dedicated to reducing OJR's environmental impact and spreading awareness about the issues that face our planet, inspired Ava to go into environmental science.

Ava felt the Class of 2021 had a strong sense of community and a desire to build each other up. She felt a high level of respect for one another and for uniqueness of each individual. She was thankful for the brief time in the history club before the pandemic. She will always remember what a fun and enjoyable time it was to be with

A Spotlight

peers and talk about the things they were mutually passionate about. When she looks back on high school, she will also remember how much fun pep rallies were!

High school taught Ava the importance of being true to oneself. She learned self-motivation and the skill of pushing towards a goal to success. Ava hopes to use this skill to become either an environmental scientist or author. She also hopes to travel the world and meet people from all different walks of life.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would like to see a world where we recognize the dangers of thoughtless consumerism and the importance of preserving our planet for future generations.



Joe Feiser was Captain of OJR Men's Swim Team during his junior and senior years. Joe worked as a lifeguard at Laurelwood Swim Club and also as a dishwasher

at Meredith Manor. The swim team was Joe's primary way of staying connected to OJR throughout the pandemic. Joe felt a strong bond as a team and teammates often messaged one another giving a sense of connection even when they couldn't meet in person. Joe learned to appreciate so much about his school life when the pandemic forced so many restrictions.

Joe enjoyed lifting in the gym, which he was unable to do for much of last year, so he did his best to stay in shape. Once the gyms finally reopened, he gave working out his all, which was fun and fulfilling.

One of Joe's all-time favorite experiences was morning dryland with the swim team. He described getting up before school and hitting the gym with friends. "The feeling is just indescribable, something about the atmosphere I will never forget." Joe found friends with many interests at Owen J. Roberts and was proud of how well students got along despite variations in beliefs and interests. Joe credits Owen J. Roberts teachers for supporting social interactions and for being positive influences.

Mr. Cardi, who taught Ceramics, was a big influence on Joe. He learned to relax and develop and hold onto a fun and free spirit in that class. He felt that if he could hang on to caring for what makes life fun and enjoyable, his life would continue to grow in meaningful ways.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would like to see people not be so quick to anger when someone has a different thought or opinion that they do. It has become way be argumentative these days. The world would be a much better place if there wasn't so much hatred.

Joe will attend Clarion University to study psychology. He is still considering career paths. He will swim

t on the Class of 2021

for Clarion and is excited about the athletic and academic opportunities there. “Oh man, I really can’t wait to find my purpose in life...just get out there and live it!”



Ayanna Kakar was a Girl Scout Ambassador and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient. She was Vice President of the OJRHS Equality

Alliance, Treasurer for Amnesty International, and a Third Degree Black Belt - American Tae Kwon Do Association.

Despite most clubs being virtual this year, her association with those organizations played the biggest role in keeping her connected with the school community. She still met new people and participated in meaningful activities to improve the school community during virtual club meetings. With so many uncertainties plaguing both junior and senior year, the Class of 2021 demonstrated an ability to roll with the pandemic’s punches, a testament to the tenacity of the class. After almost a year of online school, Ayanna felt her personal abilities in adaptability and self-management improved significantly. Considering asynchronous study, learning how to realistically pace herself and to develop a non-rigid routine was incredibly important.

As a hands-on learner, Ayanna loved the numerous class field trips Hybrid Ecology class offered. A white-water rafting excursion was a definite highlight. Beyond learning about the local river ecology, getting the chance for adventure with friends while mastering the skills to successfully raft was among her most memorable high school experiences.

With the numerous clubs that OJR offers, having the ability to easily discover new hobbies and interests was incredibly important to teaching her about balancing academics with other passions. Though she always knew that she wanted to pursue pre-med, it was only through clubs such as Amnesty International and the OJR Equality Alliance that she discovered how much she wanted to work towards activism as well. In the future, she hopes to combine those two interests to work towards improving inclusivity in the medical field.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I definitely would wish to provide access to feminine hygiene products for all and remove the harmful stigmatization that contributes to this issue. After spending last summer working in alleviating period poverty in Pennsylvania, I learned a lot in regards to how deeply this issue affects local areas.

This fall, Ayanna plans to study Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology at Emory University, Atlanta. Ultimately, she hopes to be a neurosurgeon, with a deep interest in exploring research as well. Thankfully, with Covid restrictions lifting, she

looks forward to hands-on research at the Emory Hospital, labs and CDC. “I feel that we’re currently on a brink of a technological breakthrough with current AI advancements and engineering towards space travel. I look forward to seeing where this all takes us in the next decade.”



Rachel Kearney was a distinguished honor roll student at the Technical College High School, where she studied Cosmetol-

ogy. She was a SkillsUSA member and District SkillsUSA competitor. She served as a Girls Take the Lead Ambassador and was a LINK participant.

To stay connected to her friends/classmates during the pandemic, she made sure she had adequate time to message, video call, and play online games with friends. A hobby that evolved for her over the course of the last year was painting. With spare time during quarantine, she transferred from painting on canvases to painting giant murals on the walls of her home home.

Among her most memorable high school experiences were socially-distant gatherings with friends outside the Coventry Ice Cream Parlor. She and her friends would bring towels and spread six-feet apart from one another to enjoy a frozen treat and time together laughing.

She feels that she has learned that life is not always fair, but that each of us has a voice and opportunity to work toward what is important to us as an individual. By taking Cosmetology at TCHS, she learned that she was passionate about helping others. It was meaningful to her to help others by guiding them toward confidence in their external appearance. But beyond that, she grew to want to help others medically as well, and started EMT training.

Being a student during a pandemic taught her that, “even if we don’t want to admit it, we are all at least slightly dependent on others.” She also learned to show the people she loved some extra compassion and appreciation, and that it’s important to do so for oneself as well.

If I could make a change in the world... it would be for more people to be understanding and compassionate. I firmly believe that if we all learned to accept each other regardless of religious beliefs, sexual/gender orientations, race, etc. that we could create such a beautiful, uplifting harmony between mankind.

Before graduating, Rachel passed the State Board Exam for Cosmetology and was working as a junior stylist at Mane Street Hair Studio. She plans to continue with a cosmetology career part time, while starting EMT training. After becoming a certified EMT, she would like to continue toward Paramedic certification. She looks forward to fulfillment from

study of topics of genuine interest and from spending more time with the people she cares about.



Ava Lasmanis

In addition to being Valedictorian for the Class of 2021, Ava Lasmanis was Mock Trial President, Rho Kappa President, German

Club Vice President, National Honor Society Secretary, National Science Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, Academic Team (Varsity Captain), and OJR Age Group Swim Team Junior Coach.

Ava described herself as the type of person who likes to jump between hobbies. She currently reignited the hobby of crochet loves creating blankets and scarves, and values the ability to create while pursuing passive activities.

Co-founding the school’s mock trial team was the one memory that will always stick with Ava. Mr. Keith Morris connected Ava with Nadia Mokhallati, and the two formed OJR’s first competitive mock trial team. “Getting to see more people join and the club grow and develop throughout the years has been extremely rewarding,” mentioned Ava.

Ava believed the entire ’20-’21 academic year, with nearly every aspect of life affected, will be memorable. She found her classmates to be determined and tenacious working through all sorts of challenges, including one of the most difficult college admissions years ever. During quarantine, this self-proclaimed “full-steam-ahead” student did learn to value the art of self-care and allowing oneself to relax and decompress.

Ava felt that setting and achieving goals was encouraged at Owen J. Roberts. She hopes this skill will help her find success in college and beyond. Mock Trial was the school activity that most prepared her for her career interest. She developed an interest in American history and politics in Middle School, but her experiences surrounding law and leadership through Mock Trial helped her hone a desire to pursue a career in constitutional law. Ava will attend Johns Hopkins University majoring in Philosophy and Political Science/International Relations.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I want to be a force for social change and empathy. I think that many of the problems that we have in our country and around the world come from a place of fear, and one group being unable to recognize the humanity of another group. I would help everyone understand that no matter what physical, mental, financial, or cultural differences we may have, all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

Kendra Melniczek obtained Girl Scouts Bronze and Silver Awards, and is in the process of earning her Gold Award. She was President of the OJR



Kendra Melniczek

Equality Alliance Club, Team Captain of Ski & Snowboard Club, member of National Honor Society, National English

Honor Society and Amnesty International. She participated in Odyssey of the Mind, Fall Play and Reading Olympics. She was a Presenter at Berks Take the Lead event, a ceremony highlighting the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character.

Kendra observed that the Class of 2021 was uniquely poised between the pre-pandemic “normal” and the ways education may evolve due to the changes in teaching and learning. She found value in artistic pursuits in a more flexible schedule. Even the opening up of mornings and afternoons usually spent in transport to and from school allowed her to “return to a renaissance way of life, where it was possible to work on something like a clothing design and a piano melody in the same hour.” During this time, she also evaluated the difference between learning and course “work”.

Among her most memorable high school experiences were Horticulture trips to the Philadelphia flower show. Those trips were rich learning experiences for her. The Horticulture program, where she learned skills in floral arrangement and landscape design, will always stick in her mind as the most influential including shaping potential career interests. She is considering some “global fresh air” before diving into New York City and another round of “traditional academics”. Once the dust of the pandemic settles, she plans to seriously pursue the field of biotechnology so that she may help reinvent the ways of modern life.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would allow everyone to view themselves as who they are, not as what they are. So many cling to trivial labels that only restrict their true selves, and I believe that by looking at yourself as a raw, undefinable being, you will find fulfillment that this world lacks experience with.



Sriya Jonnadula

Sriya Jonnadula was Class of 2021 Salutatorian. She founded and became President of Launch ENT, which provided students an opportunity

to learn about the aspects of starting a business. She was also Founder and President of Science in Action, Founder and President of the HS Youth & Philanthropy Club, a Tutoring Director for Mu Alpha Theta, Treasurer of National Science Honor

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Society and member of National Honor Society, National English Honor Society and National French Honor Society. Her primary hobbies were singing, cinema, and dance, all of which she was able to give more time this past year.

She will always remember leading the first LaunchENT meeting as a 9th grader. In that moment, she believed she had the potential to be a leader. In the past year, a moment she won't forget was the first Zoom call with her closest group of friends and how special that interaction was after being somewhat socially isolated during the pandemic. During the pandemic, she learned that learning doesn't end in the classroom; everyone and everything is a fascinating textbook from which to learn.

Owen J. Roberts gave Sriya the freedom to explore her unique academic and extracurricular interests without inhibition. Being a student at OJR made her realize that she could pursue anything if she was dedicated enough. Her collective extra-curricular experiences taught her to be a better collaborator, listener, and leader.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would hope that people around the world had more sympathy for others. We cannot advance as a society if we spend all of our time highlighting other's mistakes; we must spend our time fixing those mistakes instead.

Sriya will attend the Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology at the University of Pennsylvania (dual-degree in Computer Science and Economics), where she hopes to pursue various entrepreneurial endeavors. COVID-19 has energized her to create change through startups and she is excited to learn more about the world and herself.



Tristan Olson

In his spare time, Tristan Olson builds roller coasters on digital software. He also enjoys bowling and was part of a youth group at Cedarville Church. He

was a member of the OJR swim and dive team, the Paw Report, and the Video Production Club. Tristan was also on the club dive team at West Chester University.

Tristan missed his friends during pandemic restrictions, sometimes finding ways to connect safely at places like Coventry Parlor or the local pool. That is why, although he had many memorable moments in high school, the most memorable one was Senior Night for the swim and dive team. The event was touch-and-go with indoor-gathering restrictions and rising Covid cases. Tristan had doubts that the swim season and traditional milestones could happen, but he was elated and emotional that they were able to have a swim season and be part of a night honoring senior team members. He felt that that experience

marked all of the fun memories he had with the dive team. It felt normalizing and liberating amongst the craziness of the pandemic. Tristan felt that being a senior student during the pandemic made him very flexible. He felt that his class became very supportive of one another.

Tristan took Video Production, Film Production, Television Production, and Advanced Film Production courses. The classes gave him a foundation with technology. He learned editing, camera work, and most importantly, how to work together as a team. His coursework in high school supported him to work hard and become independent in his work, which gave him confidence to handle college-level work. High school also taught him how to make more friends, which did not come naturally. He hoped to apply the skills he learned at West Chester University so he can continue to grow and develop a bright future.



Evan Patrick

Evan Patrick was National Honor Society President, VP of National English Honor Society, VP and Co-Founder of History

Club, Member of Spanish National Honor Society and the National Science Honor Society, Volunteer Firefighter, Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician, Marching Band Section Leader, Bassoonist in Concert Band, Adjutant in NJROTC, Bagpiper and Bassoonist for OJRHS Musical Pit Orchestra.

Evan's main hobby was making and playing music. He remarked that this past season of marching band was the only season where wearing a mask was a part of the uniform, and maintaining six-foot distancing was an integral part of drill. Evan will never forget seeing the excited crowds at his first cavalcade!

OJR helped Evan discover passions and academic interests "through amazing teachers, interesting courses, clubs, and organizations". Ecology and chemistry courses prepared him for a desired career in one of those fields. Ecology sparked an interest in the environment and chemistry provided a challenge to understand the surrounding world on a deeper level.

Evan will always remember working with other members of student government to try and create a quasi-normal high school experience during a pandemic. Even during remote learning, Evan remained connected to friends through computer applications, texting and phone calls. He enjoyed the use of breakout rooms as a unique opportunity to talk to friends he had not seen in a while. The pandemic taught Evan the importance of interpersonal relationships realizing that he may have taken seeing his friends at school for granted.

Evan plans to attend West Chester University to study chemistry. He is excited to keep learning and experiencing more of what life has to offer!

If I could make a change in the world... it would be to give everybody the ability to live in someone else's shoes. Oftentimes, people think too much for themselves rather than other people. But I believe that if people invested time into other people, the world would be a better place.



Ezana Rivers

Ezana Rivers graduates with International Baccalaureate Career Programme Diploma in the Career Track of Life Science. She was a member of

National Honor Society, English and Science Honor Societies. She was President of Stage Crew, Treasurer of Spanish Club, Senior Communication Director, and a member of Marching Band, Concert Band and Violin I in Orchestra. She enjoyed being a North Coventry Elementary School Learning Assistant and held a couple outside jobs.

Ezana completed her senior year as a cyber-student. She missed the in-person connections with her classmates, but was grounded by the sounds and conversations over class calls.

Before Covid, she had never binged watched a show. Between March and September 2020, she successfully watched every episode of Greek, Parenthood, La fan, and New Amsterdam. Then, she became absorbed in writing an ethical dilemma (with occasional IB/future college panic attacks). During quarantine, she also reignited the process of writing jokes, which was something that she had not pursued since middle school.

Ezana remembers entering OJR with mixed emotions as a third-grader. After a few years, she found security in a community built on trust and respect. "OJR taught me how to grow my spirit", Ezana reported. She learned how to trust administration and how to be "as quirky I want to be". She feels thankful to Owen J. Roberts for a welcoming ten years that helped her find self-trust and confidence. She is thankful to Dr. Susan Lloyd for being the one of the first and constant happy faces she saw in this school district!

She also felt immensely supported by Mr. Bill Richardson. Ezana's mother heard about the International Baccalaureate Programme through a client, but Ezana felt unsure. She eased into the program and with encouragement from Mr. Richardson chose a life science career track. She felt that IB gave her courage to take Biology-based classes and gave her confidence to become a science major in college. Ezana will attend West Chester University as a Cells and Molecular Biology major and a member of the West Chester University Honors College.

Ty Tansey is active with Cedarville United Methodist Church as a volunteer of the Audio-Visual Team and one of the Head Front Ensemble Section Leaders.



Tyler Tansy

He felt a good deal of flexibility this year accessing classes on remote platforms and liked working with others in small groups in breakout

rooms. Ty has a huge passion for the technical theater world, especially in lighting and audio. The pandemic made a giant impact on Ty giving him more time to focus on enhancing creative and technical skills which he hoped to apply to a potential career in the entertainment industry.

Ty will always remember the Cleveland marching band trip in 2018. "The trip was packed with a truckload of entertainment and fun including the Nautica Queen Dinner Cruise, playing the National Anthem at the Cleveland Indians baseball game, Cedar Point, visiting the water park at Kalahari, and Kennywood Amusement Park." An unforgettable experience after March 2020, was finally getting together with the jazz band again after a year of no activity. Ty feels as though both band and academics have provided him with a foundation for his future.

Ty gained technical skills though the digital media program at Technical College High School which he hopes to apply to a career in the live event industry. He learned to program a light show for a live band and key fundamentals of audio and video that he hopes will prove useful in the near future. Ty looks at his high school career globally feeling motivated and shaped by every teacher. He was also shaped by the pandemic, learning that something positive can spring from outcomes that may appear negative.

If I had to make one change in the world... it would be to destroy destructive criticism. Being able to understand almost every obstacle each of us goes through would enhance credibility, personality, and trustworthiness.

Ty plans to go to community college to take his prerequisites and possibly minor in Computer Science. Ultimately, he would like to transfer to Northern Michigan University to study Theatre Technology and Design.



Olivia Wampler

Olivia Wampler stayed connected to the school and classmates through virtual lessons. She continued to make friends in the virtual

setting and talked to a few of the close friends she made outside of the school setting. Olivia was a student director for the spring play her freshman through junior years. She was also Student of the Month in both Video Production and Spanish classes.

One of her favorite high school experiences was the opportunity to

The Class of 2021

host an exchange student from Spain. “It was an incredible experience that allowed me to connect with a group of people from a different culture.”

Owen J. provided Olivia the ability to learn, grow, and explore a variety of topics and field interests that she may want to pursue in the future. The classes and teachers inspired her to pursue becoming a forensic scientist. Being a student during a pandemic taught her how to better manage time and develop more self-motivation, especially when not able to be physically present in the classroom.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would like to see more acceptance and understanding in the world. I think people need to educate themselves and learn to be accepting of other people’s differences because without that the world is filled with controversy and hate.

After navigating the college search in the restricting pandemic, Olivia decided to attend Cedar Crest College and major in Forensic Science. She is very excited about going to college, making new friends and embarking on a career she will enjoy.



Rachael Weston

Rachael Weston appreciated her involvement with Leo’s Club, a service organization focusing on building a strong community.

She was extremely happy to attend school in person to connect with classmates. She felt her classmates all demonstrated perseverance over the last months. Rachael loves being outdoors, which helped her to get through these times.

Among her most memorable high school experiences were all the chorus concerts. She appreciated that they were upbeat and fun. She loved live audiences and the energy and happiness that abounded. She feels prepared for college because she learned within boundaries and expectations for class work and assignments. Being a student during the pandemic taught her that there

are going to be times when one may really struggle and want to give up, but it is important to keep going. Rachael plans to attend Wilson College to major in Veterinary Nursing/ Pre-Veterinary. She is very excited about going to college and meeting new people, being in a new place, and just starting her future.



Blake Willis

Blake Willis described the Class of 2021 as persistent, outgoing, positive, and joyful. He was Leo Club Vice President, a member of National

Honor Society, NEHS, Mu Alpha Theta and Black Student Union. He loved basketball and lacrosse and picked up the game of golf during the pandemic. He valued Leo Club as a great way to meet new people and to give back to community. He also learned time management and how to set priorities through his association

with Leo Club. As a full cyber student, there were a lot of distractions, but he was happy to have navigated through in a positive way.

Blake loved the daily rituals of high school—having lunch and classes with friends and coming to school every day. It was “difficult and bothersome” to adapt to online school at first. He believes it will always be a memorable experience.

Honors classes helped prepare Blake for difficult courses in college. He felt that Mr. Kelly and Honors Algebra 2 created a foundation for the remainder of the math courses throughout high school.

If I were able to make one change in the world... I would like to start a club of some sort to support young men growing up and navigating life without a father figure.

Blake will be attending Saint Joseph’s University to study Finance. He plans to get a Master’s Degree and make enough income to support his family and friends who have always been at his side.

East Vincent Elementary School Culture Corner

By Mrs. Becca Derstine, Miss Addyson Cashman and Mr. Elliott Hess

The goal of the East Vincent Elementary School Culture Corner was to creatively educate the school community about various elements of different cultures represented in the United States. The students in the Kids For Change Diversity Committee were responsible for contributing to the research. They also helped to generate engaging ideas that would actively involve both in-person and virtual students.

“What I personally wanted the Culture Corner to be was a place where people could, in a way, explore the different cultures around the world. And that is just how it turned out to be,” said fourth grade student leader Elliott Hess.

It was encouraging to observe how a small group of students collaborated to produce Google Slides, a schoolwide

Kahoot for Black History Month, and raffles to increase motivation and participation among the East Vincent classrooms. Featured cultures included Native American, Hispanic and Latino American, and Black and African American. Sixth grade student leader Addyson Cashman says, “The best part about creating the EV Culture Corner was not only teaching

others about it, but I also learned many things as I was telling and teaching people about it. As a team, we worked hard to create something that was inspiring for others.” Additionally, teachers created an appealing display case consisting of an eclectic collection of artifacts, posters, books, and facts to visually cultivate a deeper understanding of each culture represented.

Valedictorian and Salutatorians Honored by School Board

As they were honored by the Owen J. Roberts School Board on Monday, May 17, 2021, Valedictorian Ava Lasmanis, Salutatorian Sriya Jonnadula and Salutatorian Rachel Towler read a statement about a teacher who had a significant impact on her education. That teacher, in turn, offered remarks about the student.

A teacher that stood out as mentor, advocate and friend to Valedictorian Ava Lasmanis, was Mr. Keith Morris. Mr. Morris helped Ava find internships and start the school’s first-ever mock trial team. He helped her pursue her love of Constitutional Law and flex her creativity and individuality in her studies.

Mr. Morris described students such as Ava as resilient and incredible heroes among us. Ava’s work ethic, personal drive, ability to learn and level of achievement are in the top one percent of those I’ve taught over my 18 years as an educator. But what stuck Mr. Morris most about Ava was her powerful leadership style—the ability to develop others in leadership. While working to increase her own levels of competence, she actively works with others to teach and motivate them toward their own personal successes.

Mr. Morris also defined Ava to possess a fierce senses of loyalty, commitment and a mind open to new ideas and

challenges. He found her reverent with a deep devotion to and sense of family. “She leads her life with integrity and meets all challenges with a combination of decisive, thoughtful options and tireless effort.”

“Most students never say they want to be on the bench because they never want to sit out a game. Ava is the only student who’s ever told me she wants to sit on a bench because that is her endgame. From what I’ve seen and the trajectory I’ve witnessed, Ava is on the way to having “The Honorable...” precede her name,” concluded Mr. Morris.

Sriya Jonnadula remembered the trepidation of approaching Mr. Lieberman’s classroom for the first time in 9th grade to ask him to advise a club she founded, LaunchENT. Students spoke of Mr. Lieberman with reverence and awe. Sriya explained that she went on to learn that he was empathetic, knowledgeable and funny. “He had a gift for showing students that academics aren’t defined by GPA’s or test scores; they’re truly defined by

“She leads her life with integrity ... meets challenges with a combination of decisive options and tireless effort.”

pure intellectual curiosity and uninhibited excitement. Thank you for making me a better learner, a better collaborator, and a better leader,” said Sriya.

Mr. Lieberman remembered that day in the spring of 2018, when a 9th grade student came in to ask, not only if he would advise a club she was founding but if he would allow her to take AP Economics as a 10th grader. This had not been done in 20 years of teaching the course, so Mr. Lieberman was hesitant. Sriya presented a compelling case and Sriya not only succeeded, but excelled in AP Economics. Mr. Lieberman described a passionate student who had a profound impact on the Owen J. Roberts community. Above and beyond her academic achievements, Sriya inspired organizations such as DECA and LaunchENT towards sustainable success.

Salutatorian Rachel Towler explained that Mrs. Patrice Reiche with her “infectious enthusiasm and passion for learning”, profoundly impacted the way in which Rachel approached

school and learning. “In reading groups, we were encouraged to showcase our connections to the literature in creative ways that allowed us to expand upon the works. In math, we were challenged to work through difficult problems which taught me how to persevere through frustration,” said Rachel. She further explained how she felt that Mrs. Reiche had given her both the safe space and the tools to continue to learn and grow.

Mrs. Reiche described an elementary and middle level student who was always humble, considerate, and polite. She observed that as Rachel grew, her humility continued to shine through.

Mrs. Reiche shared impressions from some of Rachel’s high school teachers. Dr. Amber Benson-Chubb remarked at her eloquence, high level of insight, and incredible work ethic. Mr. Todd Mengel commented on Rachel’s positive impact on the band. As marching band flute section leader, she helped teach marching drills and music to section members quickly gaining the admiration and respect of all.

Rachel’s teachers agree that whether studying engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, or pursuing another of her myriad of interests and talents, Rachel will learn and lead with professionalism and maturity.

French Creek Elementary Honors Traditions

Traditions are part of the end of every school year, and sixth grade students at French Creek Elementary School look forward to their own very special culminating event - the highly anticipated Annual 6th Grade vs. Staff Kickball Game! Regrettably, the 2019-2020 class of sixth grade students had their final year of elementary school cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For this class there were no end of year in-person celebrations, no end of year promotion parties with friends, and no 6th Grade vs. Staff Kickball Game. Students expressed a great deal of disappointment and shared they had waited their “whole lives” for this right of passage to middle school. In June of 2020, Dr. Malinda McKillip, French Creek Principal along with faculty and staff, promised students they would be invited back to participate in a game as soon as possible. Admittedly, no one anticipated that the children would be waiting for an invitation one year later.

Our most recent alumni definitely did not forget the promise. In May of

2021, former French Creekers received an unexpected email inviting them back to French Creek at the end of the school year to participate in a long overdue game against their former elementary teachers and administrators. Word of the event quickly spread and students reached out with expressions of thanks and anticipation. Current 7th grader, Molly Stone shared the following thoughts:

“Hello! I’m writing to thank you for putting together the kickball game for the seventh graders from French Creek. Words cannot describe how excited my friends and I were when we got the email! It was disappointing when we couldn’t have our sixth-grade celebrations and activities last year, but this surprise brings back a big piece of that joy. I can guarantee that every student I know from French Creek is thrilled about this event; we have all been looking forward to it since Kindergarten!”

Former French Creek Attendance

Clerk and current Technology Department Administrative Assistant, Ms. Veronica Cousens shared, “Continuing to participate in the annual kickball game provides me with an opportunity to return to French Creek to reconnect with students and celebrate their growth and achievements.” French Creek staff members love the tradition as do other administrative professionals who have been known to make an appearance in the annual game.

The past several months have certainly presented our school community with significant challenges and obstacles to overcome. French Creek’s commitment to students, past and present, remains unwavering. Kickball is an everyday favorite game at recess for French



Creek students, and the sixth grade vs. staff kickball game is a favorite way to wrap up their elementary journey and begin their rite of passage from recess and playground games onto the main campus. For the French Creek community this game represents the end of elementary school, a celebration of hard earned student achievements, and shared admiration and respect between the students and staff. It’s also a lot of fun! #WhatMakesFCSpecial

Game Design at OJR

Coding skills are becoming increasingly important for students of all ages. Hour of Code celebrations in our elementary schools, STEM electives in middle school, and AP Computer Science courses at the high school are all opportunities for students to access coding concepts. Recently, OJRHS added a Video Game Design Course to its computer science offerings.

The Video Game Design course teaches the foundation of computer science and programming through the development of video games. Students use JavaScript to create their own video games from scratch. Throughout the course, students learn coding through Khan Academy lessons and open resources that are available through code.studio. Students are able to directly write in JavaScript or use block chains to create codes for their games.

Some students might say their games are “not the greatest ever created”, but the work outputs are impressive. Students use code to create games with spaceships, quests for heroes, and flying dragons. In their designs they may utilize prepackaged sprites, two-dimensional bitmap that is integrated into a larger scene, or create their own from scratch. Choosing from various backgrounds, students are able to write code so that heroes jump on moving platforms, over ravines, or off of buildings.

Throughout the course, students learn essential computer science skills such as graphic design, concept development, and debugging to determine errors in their game. In addition to coding skills, the course requires that students make use of various algebraic and geometric concepts. Students use variables within functions to assign values to words. Scalar manipulations and coordinate plane knowledge is needed to determine character movements. Several games require animation where heroes can jump or rotate through game backgrounds.

As students transition from high school to college, it will be important to have an understanding of coding concepts. More and more professions require coding skills. Logic and deductive reasoning are paramount for improving problem solving. Additional access to coding opportunities is essential for our OJR students for developing creativity and resilience to learn autonomously and think with agility in complex situations.

A Warm Wildcat Welcome to Dr. Stout

Please welcome Dr. Wilbur Stout as Superintendent of Schools for Owen J. Roberts School District. Dr. Stout assumes his role on July 1, 2021. He will replace Superintendent Dr. Susan Lloyd who retired this June. Dr. Lloyd worked in public education for 25 years - 10 of which were spent with her alma mater, Owen J. Roberts, first as principal of North Coventry Elementary School and then as Superintendent of Schools. We wish Dr. Lloyd and her family the very best as they embark on a well-deserved and new phase in life. The OJR Board of School Directors acknowledged the tremendous service and accomplishments of Dr. Lloyd when approving her retirement. “She will be greatly missed,” said Leslie Proffitt, President of the School Board.



Owen J. Roberts welcomes Dr. Stout from his position as the Assistant Superintendent of State College Area School District. Dr. Stout has also served as the Director of Secondary Education at Cornwall-Lebanon School District, High School Principal at Hempfield Area High School, Assistant Principal at Centerville Middle School, and a Middle School Guidance Counselor in the Hempfield Area School District.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome a Superintendent with Dr. Stout’s diverse experience and background,” said Leslie Proffitt, President of the Owen J. Roberts School District. “His extensive experience in school districts will serve him well here at Owen J. He brings building level, central office, and assistant superintendent experience with him.”

Go Wildcats! Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas



Despite the pandemic, Owen J. Roberts High School was able to offer fall, winter, and spring athletic seasons. The seasons looked different in the amount of competitions, spectatorship, and ability for practice. What stood out about these seasons, was how much our student athletes appreciated their sports, coaches, and their teammates. Athletes followed strict mitigation measures and demonstrated tremendous care about keeping each other safe. While not always easy, most athletes showed poise and resilience, even in the face of schedule changes and quarantines. These seasons exemplified the meaning of Wildcat Pride.

This spring, the undefeated Girls’ Lacrosse team were Pioneer Athletic

Conference Champions. The team qualified for districts as the 4th seed and placed 5th in the district tournament to earn a trip to states. Special recognition to: Korrigan Sweeney - PASLA Rookie of the Year; Gabbi Koury - PAC MVP, All PASLA Team, PASLA Breakout Player of the Year, US Lacrosse All-American; Alexa Vogelmann - US Lacrosse All-American; Coach David Schlesinger - US Lacrosse Coach of the Year;

Track & Field District Medalists: Aidan Rohrbough - District Champion, High Jump, 1st place (17th at states); Claire Zubey - 1600m, 2nd place; Andrew McGonigle - 3200m, 5th place (15th at states); Adam Scherch - Pole Vault, 5th place

(18th at states); Zach Taylor - Long Jump, 5th place (22nd at states). Claire Zubey took fifth place at PIAA State Championship in the 1600m.

The baseball team had a very strong season and finished 15-6, which qualified them for districts as the 10th seed. The team lost to Hatboro in the second round of the playoffs.

The softball team had a very strong season and finished 12-7, which qualified them for districts as the 15th seed. The team beat Truman in the first round before losing to North Penn in the second round.

The boys’ tennis team had a solid year and finished 6-5. Jason Sawicki placed 2nd at the PAC singles tournament

and qualified for districts. The boys’ lacrosse team was extremely competitive this year and finish 5-7, narrowly missing the district playoffs. PAC Citizenship Award- Deyana Tabatabaei (girls track & field) PAC Scholar Athletes: Sam Cerimele (baseball), Allison Daubert (softball), Dylan Mercadante (boys’ lacrosse), Kendall Obara (girls’ track & field), Josh Dimarino (boys’ track & field), Parry Ryan (boys’ tennis), and Sophia Samuelson (girls’ lacrosse).