

Advocate

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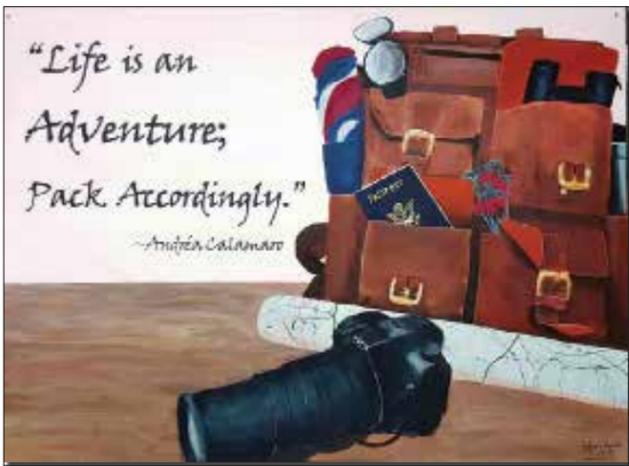
The newsletter of the Owen J. Roberts School District

Summer 2019

Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow

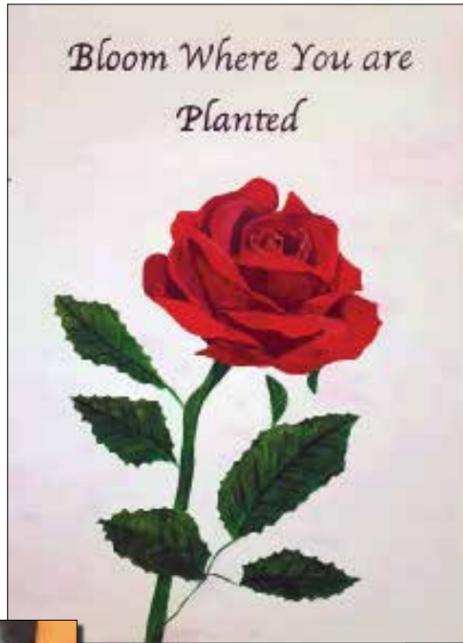
Showcasing The Class of 2019

This page celebrates the murals created by AP Studio Art.

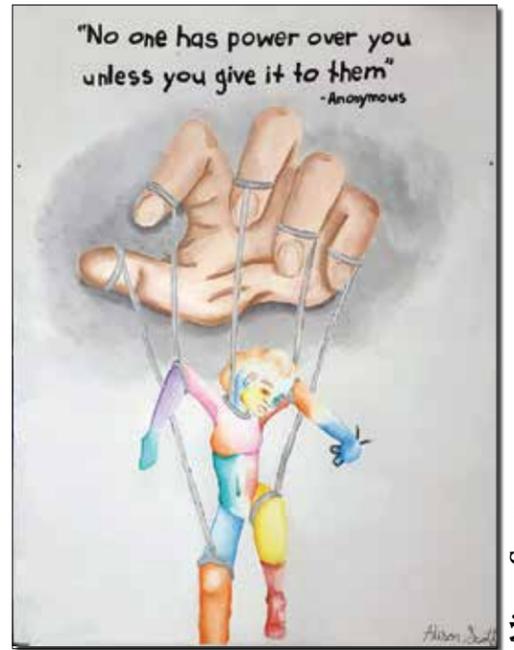


Andrea Calamaro

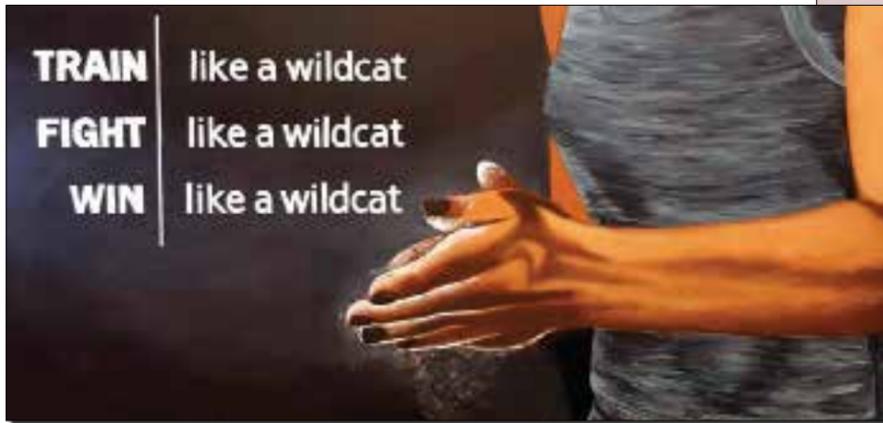
"Live your dreams; don't let others diminish them. Tell YOUR story. Fight through adversity. Meet all of life's challenges. Fill each other's buckets with kindness." ~ Mr. Ken Napaver, Principal



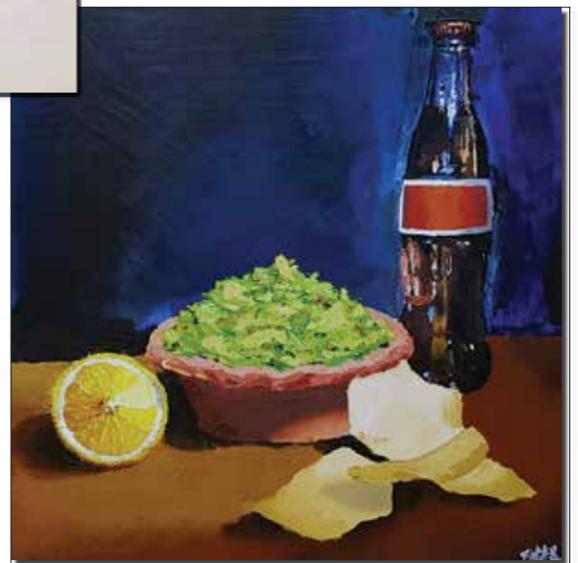
Paige Dinius



Alison Scott



Haley O'Donnell
Class of 2020

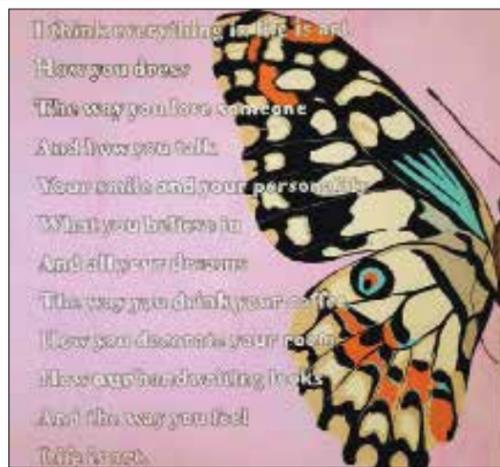


Avae Busch
(one of a collection of nine)

"Even though our time at Owen J. Roberts is coming to an end, it is not the end of the story." ~ Nadia Mokhallalati



Regan Guest

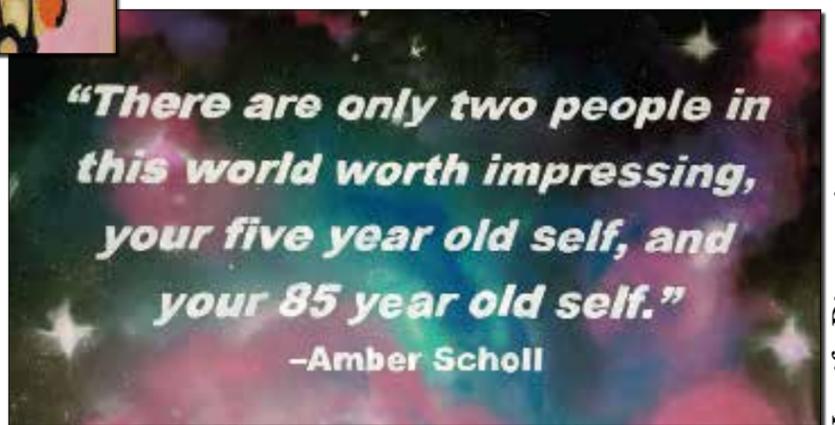


Loretta Jansen

"Our destinies will take us to various parts of the world where we may feel unsure about landing smoothly, but I encourage you to stand up to the change even though you may feel some trepidation." ~ Jake Iyob



Maddie Isenberg & Paige Culp



Jennifer Dinnocenti

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Acknowledging Teachers



On May 20, 2019, at the Owen J. Roberts Board of School Directors Regular Business Meeting, the Class of 2019 Valedictorian, Jake Iyob, and Salutatorians, Sam Coroniti, Kenzie Milne, Nadia Mokhallalati, and Morgan Prichard informed the Board and audience about a teacher of significant influence. Each student shared comments about what made the teacher important to him or her. Those teachers, in turn, provided insight about interactions and experiences

in teaching and guiding the student. The audience learned a bit of how teachers make a difference to students, how students impact teachers, and how these students may have already impacted our world.

Teachers selected to be of significant impact to these students were Profesora Adrienne Andrés, Mrs. Erin Sanchez, Mr. William Richardson and Ms. Elizabeth Seiler.

Military Grads



Congratulations to the following graduates for choosing to serve our country in a branch of the U.S. Military: Evan Bratton, Army National Guard; Zachary Englehardt, United States Army; Colin Frederick, Army National Guard; Eric Friedemann, NROTC at Virginia Tech; Eloise Gebert, United States Naval Academy; William Jackson, Army National Guard; Dylan Richter, United States Marine Corp; and Jessica Sheehan, Army National Guard at West Chester University.

First International Baccalaureate Cohort Graduates

A cohort of 20 students graduated this year with an International Baccalaureate Career Program (IBCP) Certificate in addition to completing all criteria for a High School Diploma from the Commonwealth of PA. To earn the certificate, IBCP students completed two IB courses taught by a certified IB teacher, two of OJR's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) career courses, and two years of the IB Core. The Core is a Personal and Professional Skills Course which culminates with the student completing a Service project and portfolio, a language learning portfolio and a reflective project centered on ethical dilemma of the student's choosing. Over the course of two years, students are able to

participate in rigorous academic and career learning from both the IB courses and OJR STEAM electives while contributing their skills and time to the community through service.

Two of the Class of 2019 Valedictorians are among the IBCP students to earn the IBCP Certificate. As part of the IB program, Salutatorian Kenzie Milne completed a culminating senior project on ethics of 3D organ printing. Kenzie completed the rigorous IB program while continuing to take AP courses in her Junior and Senior year. She has set her sights on veterinary medicine. To this end, and as part of the IB program, she took two courses from OJR Life Science offerings, including

Genetics. She completed her service work volunteering at an animal rescue and completed additional volunteer work teaching young student how to ride and care for horses. She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and National German Honor Society. While excelling in academics, Kenzie also managed to make her mark on the soccer field each year.

As a whole, the cohort completed over 1200 hours of community service relating to animal rescue, natural lands trail management, tutoring, generating



a mural for the Coventry Woods Fair, clothing drives, summer camp volunteering, and more. They tackled ethics questions on topics such as Off-Shore Drilling, Embryonic Research, Safety of GMOs, Designer Babies, Hydraulic Fracturing, Robots in the Work Force and others.

Preparing the OJR Graduate

Owen J. Roberts Middle School recognizes its role in contributing to the development of the Owen J. Roberts Graduate. From the time students enter the building in seventh grade, they are provided opportunities to learn autonomously. Students are given the freedom to choose elective courses in areas that are of interest. Clubs and other extra-curricular activities engage students. Responsible citizenship is encouraged with students participating in a variety of service projects. Service projects are organized and run through service organizations which include (but are not limited to) Leo Club, Builders Club, Youth and Philanthropy Club, National Junior Honor Society, and Student Council. Owen J. Roberts Middle School students respond each year

by volunteering hundreds of hours, donating goods to support those in need in our community, and raising thousands of dollars for local charities.

Middle school students embrace uniqueness through participation in an inclusive program of studies. Programs such as "Start with Hello" and the Olweus Bullying prevention program encourage our students to be supportive of one another and to celebrate differences. Middle School Best Buddies program helps to create a place of belonging, comfort, and fun for students with and without intellectual or developmental disabilities. An annual highlight for the school is the celebration of Special Olympic Athletes as they depart for Olympic competition.



Teachers are the backbone of the Middle School building. They are continuous learners and seek new ways to engage the middle level learner. Emphasis is placed on instructional strategies that are of high-interest and provide students with choice. Access to technology permits our students to explore content deeply and to meaningfully explore individual interests. Professional development

at the Middle School has a strong focus on meeting the social and emotional needs of our students applying a multi-pronged approach. Self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships and responsible decision-making are fostered to provide a great foundation for "success today and greatness tomorrow".

Keystone is Your New Real Estate Tax Collector

Owen J. Roberts School District is pleased to announce that Keystone Collections Group will be collecting Real Estate Taxes effective immediately. You will receive your real estate tax bill on or about July 1, 2019. You have three convenient options to pay your real estate tax. (Para recibir asistencia en español, por favor llame 1-724-978-2866.)

Online: Keystone's e-Pay is the easy, fast and secure way to pay your tax online. You can pay your tax in minutes, on time, and with confidence.

Visit www.KeystoneCollects.com/Pay. You can pay through a no charge electronic transfer from your bank account. You can also pay by credit card. A 2.5% bank processing fee applies to credit card payments.

By Mail: You can mail your payment to the Processing Division at Keystone by mailing your payment to:

Keystone Collections Group
Real Estate Tax Payment
P.O. BOX 505
Irwin PA 15642

To request a receipt online, visit www.KeystoneCollects.com/Pay. You will need your original invoice number.

In Person: You can no longer pay your tax bill via the Fulton lock boxes or in person at Fulton Bank. To pay your bill in person, visit Keystone's Chester County office, located at 780 Miles Road, West Chester. Please note that cash is not accepted.

For a complete list of Keystone branch locations, visit www.KeystoneCollects.com or call 1-866-539-1100.

Tax bills will continue to be mailed directly to taxpayers. If a mortgage company or bank pays your real estate tax bill from an escrow account, you must forward your tax bill to them so your mortgage company or bank can pay your bill on time. For questions, go to Keystone's website and select the Contact Us link to ask a question online. Or call Keystone's Taxpayer Services Department toll free at 1-866-539-1100. Para recibir asistencia en español, por favor llame 1-724-978-2866

Celebrating the Class of 2019 - A Look at OJR Graduates



Terrance Sims used his high school years to prepare for a career in automotive technology. He hopes to have his own shop offering both automotive and collision

services. Terrance was a top automotive student who contributed to his Automotive Technology courses at the Technical College High School and earned membership in the National Technical Honor Society. He was a leader for the 2018 SkillsUSA Conference, a showcase of career and technical education students. The most memorable moments of high school for Terrance were the pep rallies and the teachers' terrible attempts at dancing. Terrance credits his automotive instructor, Mr. Buchanan, for career preparation in the field and for nurturing interests with patience. Terrance appreciated Mr. Buchanan's job field knowledge and help with finding co-op opportunities. Terrance was accepted to the Pennsylvania College of Technology and is extremely excited about earning a degree in Automotive Technology. He is looking forward to the hands-on nature of further learning and proud about the College's great reputation as a vocational college.



Sarah Tabatabaei will never forget going to Huntington Beach, California for DECA Internationals, watching her first surgery, and going from game to

game with the Cat Pack supporting OJR's athletics. Sarah was Senior Class Director, Science National Honor Society President, Allied Health Student, NHS Treasurer, DECA Member, TATU Member, Leo Club Member, President's Club Member, Project Libertad Volunteer, and PICC Community Navigator. She attended Allied Health every week day. Three days of the five, she was in Phoenixville Hospital participating in Clinical Rotations from the Operating Room to Maternity to the Laboratory. She gained extremely valuable insight formed many personal conclusions that she believes will save from future indecisiveness. She created some incredibly strong friendships with students from other schools in the program.

Sarah was successful with DECA, being awarded State Champion in her marketing event Sophomore and Senior years, advancing to International Competition. She feels that a defining quality of the class of 2019 is the way students have translated hobbies and interests into activities to seek in the real world. Sarah felt fortunate to take a STEAM elective all 4 years. She was enrolled in the first year of Intro to Engineering as a freshman, the first year of Biotechnology as a sophomore, and the first year of Genetics as a junior. By taking these types of courses, she had a clear mind senior year with certainty of interest in genetics and

the medical field. Allied Health solidified her decision to pursue medicine. Additionally, because of enrollment in STEAM courses like Genetics, she discovered an interest in retaining research experience in her future career. Sarah volunteered with Project Libertad, an association based in Phoenixville that provides culturally competent academic enrichment programs to Latino migrant children.

In the fall, Sarah will attend Drexel University to study Biological Sciences. She chose Drexel for many reasons including their co-op program. She called herself a "civic-junkie" and is drawn to urbanism and Drexel's vast communal outreach.



Dakota Flanagan said that while she knows that not everyone supports all of her decisions, she absolutely found tremendous support when

she needed it. She remembers walking into Child Development class her freshman year, not knowing the only male in that class would turn out to be her life partner and the father of her child. She noticed he "was blowing his nose with toilet paper he had brought from his home, and I smirked because it's something I thought I would do." He had told her, "some of us don't have enough to buy tissues, okay?" She said they still joke about how they met to this day. Dakota worked and cared for her infant in addition to finishing high school. The nights were sometimes long and the mornings could be a struggle to get to school, but she was a good student and cares about staying a good student in the future. Dakota aspires to be a Registered Nurse working in labor and delivery. Some of her favorite high school courses were Anatomy, Physics, Animal Studies, and Psychology. She will take a year off before pursuing an associate degree in nursing from the Delaware County Community College.



Manus Weber enjoys reading fantasy literature and playing both piano and ukulele. Manus has been in choir since elementary school and was part of

the Varsity Singers, the Naturals Acappella group, and has joined many musical and theatrical productions. Singing allowed Manus to bond with others who love music. Manus was Dungeon Master for the Dungeons and Dragons Club and also enjoys cooking and art. He will forever remember when he played the 'Rainbow Connection' on Ukulele and sang to the entire auditorium for the pep rally. The music seemed to connect with the crowd, uniting everyone and imparting with him a feeling of acceptance and pride.

He appreciated the variety of courses offered. He also felt that his experiences on stage have helped him become a better communicator and improved his confidence. He leaves OJR feeling so grateful to inspiring teachers like Mr. Wallace

and Mr. Howard in the social studies department who sparked a love for the subjects of government, history, and sociology. He is also thankful to the music department for acceptance and for talented and incredibly kind music instructors—Ms. McIntyre and Mrs. Markofsky. In addition, he credits Mrs. Galambos for teaching him the love of being on stage.

He plans to study government and policymaking and continue to grow into his own as a person finding his niche in the world.



Ahmed Alveed will always remember getting into the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences (PGSS) as it stood as a culmination of

all he had worked for throughout high school. PGSS is a summer enrichment experience in the sciences and mathematics for talented Pennsylvania high school students. The program has an emphasis on collaborative learning and team research, which suited Ahmed since he enjoyed performing research, even in his spare time. Ahmed served as Student Body President (1,600 students). He was also an active member of the award-winning Computer Science Club (Coding Crew) and DECA.

Ahmed has represented the student body by providing district-wide school reports to the Board of School Directors at regular business meetings each month. He raises money and does various activities for NAHAR, an underprivileged school in Bangladesh.

Ahmed will follow his brother's footsteps and attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall. He was particularly attracted to Penn's strong programs across computer science and business.



Anna A. Campbell was a member of the Snowboarding/Ski club, Harry Potter Club, Gay-Straight Alliance and Marching Band. She

was Trumpet Section Leader and Uniform Manager in Marching Band. In addition to snowboarding, she enjoyed taking care of and training animals. She will never forget the first time she performed her freshman year marching band show. The show that year was called a Cinematic Journey and included theme songs from Toy Story, Harry Potter, Robin Hood and ET. She described the energy of her peers and instructors as nervous but excited, but "at the end of our eight minute show, the crowd's response was like nothing I had ever experienced before. It was a feeling that I loved the first time and every time after I was on that field." While that show was a first performance in the red and white uniform, she grew to know that attire as "a second skin".

All of the science courses taken at OJRHS including earth science, biology, chemistry, and anatomy helped Anna decide to pursue a

career in engineering. The teachers that have helped and impacted her the most were Mrs. Pioli, Biology, and Mr. Garman, Chemistry. She was involved with community horse shows, helping with food services and parking. She chose to attend Drexel University due to their co-op program, location, and how inviting and helpful she found the school. Last summer, she participated in a summer academy at Drexel University School of Biomedical Engineering. Anna is excited to make a difference in the world helping people.



Annie Hillegas played tennis for Owen J. Roberts and was a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society,

Junior Classical League and Reading Olympics. Annie enjoyed being a hunter/jumper (horseback riding) and Alpine Ski Racing. She is an avid reader.

She said that her friends comprised most of her high school memories from having discussions about favorite books to having heated arguments about the most trivial topics. She was thrilled that Owen J. Roberts offered so many science electives that were specialized toward what her interests. She took advantage of Ecology, Genetics, Biotechnology and Animal Studies. The Ecology class she took in tenth grade helped to consolidate her love of nature. At the end of the year, she was able to travel as a class to Costa Rica, which was an extremely enriching experience.

Another activity that shaped her career interest was being a working student at Pine Creek Sport Horses. Annie loved working with animals, especially horses. While she is not completely sure what her career will be, she is certain that it will involve animals. Annie currently volunteers at Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, a program that helps people with disabilities learn to ride. She will attend Colorado State University and major in Zoology, considering a double major in Equine Science. Annie hopes to travel abroad in college or get an internship with a wildlife conservation program.



Casey Walker was Owen J. Roberts Softball Captain and Club President. She was also active in Spanish Club, National Spanish Honor

Society, and PA Strikers Softball. Casey will always remember softball Florida trips because they were always a great time and brought the team together quickly. Casey feels that Owen J. Roberts prepared her for college through a great learning environment with faculty members that care about each student and their particular needs. Mrs. Najim, Mr. Hunter, and Mrs. Andres have all left a lasting impression on Casey through their dedication and enthusiasm. She

Continued from page 4

Celebrating the Class of 2019 - A Look at OJR Graduates

felt encouraged to learn from people who love what they do and who take the time to connect on a personal level with their students. Among her service projects were Toys for Tots and the Special Olympics. Special Olympics was very meaningful to Casey, who loved "seeing kids have a fun day in the spotlight". Casey plans to go to LaSalle University to play softball and major in math. She feels LaSalle will provide her with the best opportunity to play the sport that she loves and still achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a pediatrician.



Nadia Mokhallalati, who plans to go into international law, was a founder of the Mock Trial Team at Owen J. Roberts High School.

She was highly involved in student government and Ambassadors Club and was a Salutatorian of the Class of 2019. She was selected as a National Merit Scholarship winner. The national honor is given to only 2,500 students nationwide. Nadia taught World Language in the elementary after school program, was a member of the Debate Club, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and French Club.

Nadia will always remember the Mock Trial competition season this year. Despite it being the team's first in the Pennsylvania Bar Mock Trial competition, they were able to make it to the district final. She noted, "It was wonderful opportunity to honor Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts." Nadia has long dreamed about becoming a lawyer, specifically in the field of International Human Rights, where she can advocate for equality and justice across the globe.

A nonprofit organization she has been involved with since childhood is Amana Foundation, which provides opportunities for youth to organize and lead community services activities. Amana's biggest event is the Day of Dignity, which partners with other organizations, such as Islamic Relief. Once Nadia entered High School, she was able to be elected to the Executive Committee and worked to organize a donation collection for the people of Idlib, Syria, who suffered a terrible chemical attack. These efforts were done by partnering with Narenj Tree Foundation, another organization for which she volunteers, that focuses on collecting both monetary and clothing donations for Syrian Refugees. Looking toward the future, Nadia is most excited about the new experiences that await with regards to education, career, and personal growth.



Jessica Ofori was a member of Leo service club and a cadet in NJROTC. She participated in Mini-thon to help raise funds for pediatric cancer research and treatments.

Jessica came to OJR as a junior and she learned that making new friends did not necessarily mean you have to

grow apart from the friends known for a long time. From homecoming to prom, Jessica made new friends and loved her senior year! Some of the lessons gleaned through her time at OJR were the importance of teamwork, communication, punctuality and being future-focused. Of the lessons learned, an important one, gained in English class, was to fight through shyness and exercise effective public speaking. Learning to speak in public pushed her to pursue an interest in community health. Jessica believes in a clear growth-oriented mindset and sense of determination. She values being courteous, kind, and friendly. She volunteers with the United Methodist Church in West Chester during their meal packaging for Rise Against Hunger on Martin Luther King Day at the church. Jessica will attend West Chester University next fall to major in Public Health. She plans to use her speaking and communication skills to work closely with community members towards a goal that benefits everyone.



During her sophomore year, **Paige Aldred** stumbled upon an article on dinoflagellates while conducting research for her

biotechnology class. She went from merely reading that one article to diving into hours of research, to then designing an experiment. Over two years later, Paige is still using dinoflagellates in research competing at the Chester County and Delaware Valley Science fair. Her junior year, she was awarded first place at the Chester County Science Fair and fourth place at the Delaware Valley science fair. This year, she was grateful to have been loaned a luminometer from West Chester University so that she could quantify the bioluminescence in dinoflagellates. She placed first at Chester County and third at the Delaware Valley Science fair.

In addition to science study, Paige was Secretary of the Senior Class, President of Owen J. Roberts Environmental Club, Officer for the Wildcat Ambassadors, Editor for the School Newspaper, member of the Science National Honor Society, and was one of the voiceovers for morning announcements. She played Wildcat Girls Tennis and was a member of the Leo Club. She has played piano for 10 years and has been part of many piano recitals. She was struck by the friendliness of her class, saying, "Whenever I assisted a new student who was from another country or English was not their first language, I always was so proud to see other students accept them and make them feel welcomed." Paige enjoyed a trip with part of Mrs. George's Ecology class to Chincoteague Bay Field Station her junior year.

Paige feels that OJR has provided her with rigorous classes that allowed her to form a strong work ethic. She offered special thanks and appreciation for Mrs. Laura George, Mr. William Richardson, Ms. Mary-Rita Bonner and Mr. Richard Hampson for their support of her research project and

for encouraging a love for the sciences along the way. This fall, Paige will attend the University of Delaware's Marine Science program utilizing the satellite campus in Lewis, DE to take her research to the next level. By becoming a marine biologist and conducting research, she hopes to significantly help the environment and save marine species.



Sam Coroniti was Varsity Soccer Captain and Coventry Venom Club Soccer Captain. He was Computer Science Club co-founder

and was a member of Spanish Club, Science National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and was Environmental Club Director of Communications. Sam, a class salutatorian, completed, with distinction, 10 AP courses over the last 3 years. The Honors Ecology trip to Costa Rica in the summer following his junior year is one of his favorite memories. Sam will major in environmental science, so the immersive experience in the rainforests and the seemingly endless diversity of life allowed his class to get close to everything from bullet ants to caiman alligators, promoting inquiry while integrating learning about the ecosystems so smoothly that learning was enjoyable. OJRHS teachers provided Sam with all the tools needed to become an independent learner practicing self-reliance and a high level of responsibility. He is thankful for all the science offerings from honors earth science to senior year AP Biology and environmental science. Mrs. George was instrumental in his decision to pursue a science-related career. Inspired, Sam participated in a Marine Conservation Course at the Brown Environmental Leadership Lab where he studied coral reef ecology. That learning experience clarified that his purpose was to protect and conserve the environment. Through the environmental club, Sam helps out at state parks by cleaning the wilderness and maintaining the trails. Locally, he helps with the spring peeper migration across Hollow Road.

Sam committed to the University of South Carolina Honors College because of the dedication that the college shows toward enabling each student to be who they want to be, giving them the tools and aid to research topics of interest.



Valedictorian **Jake Iyob**, who will attend the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania to study actuarial science, played

Varsity Baseball, Varsity Basketball and Norchester Legion Baseball. He was president of the Spanish Club and a member of Science National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, National Honor Society, Physics Club, and Computer Science Club. Outside of school he enjoyed

playing with his two dogs and fishing.

Jake will never forget the two trips to Florida he took with the baseball team. Jake felt that OJRHS provided rigorous classes and coursework and exposure to several other activities and areas of study allowing exploration of various interests. He felt supported in seeking opportunities to explore college choices and guidance through the new and daunting application process. AP Computer Science Principles and the Computer Science Club both provided Jake an opportunity to explore and learn about computers and coding. He was always swaying towards math in his future and computer science showed opened up a unique way to utilize math in a future job setting.

Jake chose the University of Pennsylvania because of its prestigious academics and his love for the city of Philadelphia. Jake grew up being exposed to the city and Penn's campus and is super excited to spend the next four years in such a beautiful place. Mrs. Adrienne Andrés said, "I want to thank Jake's parents for raising such a fine young man, whose kindness and humility will take him far."



Jonathan Hayes described himself as "reserved on rare occasions, but mostly overly enthusiastic, hardly able to be confined to

a classroom." He is "not a bookworm or a scholar by any means". Jonathan was passionate about music, always singing and thinking about music and writing lyrics instead of working or studying. Sam was very involved with Battle of the Bands, Farm Day, and guitar in the jazz band in 7th grade. "But the school activity I am probably most known for is classroom disruption," noted Jonathan, who explained that he never played any sports, and had limited involvement in extra-curricular activities. His focus was on playing and writing music. He started playing guitar at the age of four inspired by the songs of the late John Denver, and has not stopped since. He began writing songs around the age of eight, and played his first gig at Steel City coffee house in Phoenixville around the age of ten. He played both locally and out of state. He is finishing his third album and his music is available on iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music, google play, Pandora, iHeartRadio, and many other online stores. He is in the process of having his music sent to radio stations nationwide and hopes to do a tour.

Mr. Raught, Jonathan's US government teacher, inspired a desire to learn as much as he could about politics and government. Although he considers himself first and foremost as a musician, Jonathan dreams of one day using music to affect politics and social causes. One cause, the Red Corner Benefit, raises money for childhood cancer. Each year the benefit chooses a local family who has a child with cancer to be the recipient for that year, and he first attended in 2010 when a family friend was chosen as the child recipient. Jonathan has played main stage at the Red Corner Benefit every fall for the past six years, even

headlining one year. In addition to performing, Jonathan is proud to be a part of the Red Corner Crew getting the venue ready for the owners, who he says “are some of the most dedicated, kind, generous people to grace this green earth and I am a better person for having met them and getting involved in their organization”.

He does not plan to attend college or university, but plans to continue working in landscaping and stone masonry and hopefully growing his music career. His dream is to make a living doing what he loves.



John Vallino, Owen J. Roberts Crew Club captain, loves to row and sees himself always pursuing the activity as well as coaching others. He appreciated

access to engineering courses and took all but two that were offered. He was a member of the STEAM club and helped to design and construct the Tiny House which was auctioned to fund future STEAM programs. The miniature home was 14-feet long by 8-feet wide and boasted 112 square feet of living space on the first floor, plus two loft areas that added an additional 64 square feet for sleeping and storage. Working in the engineering lab made John happy and he hopes one day to have his own work shop. It may come as no surprise that his favorite project was making a hand-crafted kayak custom-sized and constructed to suit his specific body type and water travel preference. The skin-on-frame vessel was fashioned after Greenland kayaks. Students used their hands and eyes in an organic process to construct the PVC frame, then used a 2-part urethane process to seal the fabric “skin”. He uses the kayak, but the Greenland style kayak paddle he crafted from African Spruce, Red/Purple Heart and Cherry, was reserved for decorative purposes.

He felt his engineering courses prepared him for what he wants to do in the world after high school. John chose Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology because of the hands-on learning nature and the technical programs that would put him into a job right out of high school.



Taylor Blaszczyk felt that she came out of her shell as a member of the OJR Gay Straight Alliance and was an officer for three years. She was active in the Rainbow

Connect GSA Conference, a safe social forum for LGBTQ youth and their allies held at West Chester University. Taylor appreciated that the conference provided connections as well as leadership skills and opportunities. Taylor was inspired to advance equity in terms of sexuality, race, gender and social justice. She plans to continue conscious engagement as an older GSA mentor. Taylor will never forget being on homecoming court. She said, “I was never a very popular person so being one of a select few girls on the court meant so much to me.” Taylor found her school and her class to be

ambitious, creative, and accepting. High school gave her many different opportunities to grow into her own person and shift her world view. “Even the art on the wall provided messages of encouragement,” Taylor commented. She loved that art and creativity were celebrated. Government and philosophy classes helped Taylor realize a love for the way in which people view the world. She especially loved that studying philosophy leads to a lot of engagement and discussion. She became motivated to share her experience learning about these topics with others and become a high school teacher. She feels strongly that more people need to understand our country and our government and how both shape us. Taylor looks up to her mother as her main role model and will follow in her footsteps and attend Kutztown University. While she feels that leaving home is both exciting and scary, she looks forward to her best OJR friend being her roommate.



Ella McCausland's biggest hobby outside of school is also her biggest passion. Artistic expression is the thread that

ties each of her varied interests together, and art has accompanied her through all of her adolescent phases and obsessions—drawing portraits of Beanie Babies, sketching anatomical horses, designing snowboards, and painting movie posters. Art is a part of who she is, and it has nurtured within her a sense of creativity and open-mindedness that she believes she will carry forever. Ella was an Assistant Teacher at Art Fusion 19464, member of National Art Honor Society, member of Yellow Springs Art Center, and volunteer at Charlestown Playhouse. Ella came to OJR in the middle of her junior year after attending a private girls school for freshman and sophomore year and an arts based semester-long boarding school, Oxbow School in Napa, CA, for the first half of junior year. Her interests ranged from cross country and lacrosse to newspaper and politics club to art and service. At Owen J., Ella felt connected to a concentrated group of talented individuals, from athletes to musicians, actors to leaders. Ella was so grateful for the true sense of community manifested at OJR. She feels she will be graduating with a better understanding of self, a higher level of tolerance, and a drive to change the world.

Ella was very impacted by Mrs. Dawn Galambos' AP English Literature class. Before that class, Ella had never seriously considered writing as a career path, but with Mrs. G's inspiring lessons and guidance, she developed an interest in journalism and creative writing that could be a part of a future career.

Ella has always been passionate about social change, finding incredible fulfillment through working in her communities. Her service learning spanned from GESU Picnic to the Rebuild Wine Country initiative which fundraised for Napa Valley residents impacted by the 2017 wildfires. Volunteering as an assistant teacher with Art Fusion 19464, gave Ella an outlet to share her passion for art with children and has solidified a goal to provide artistic opportunities to children at a global scale. Next

year Ella will take a gap year to travel, volunteer, and work. Her loose plan is to spend two months volunteering at the SEGA Girls' School in Tanzania, participate in an international art and/or language and cultural immersion program in Europe or South America, and return to Pottstown to volunteer in the community, work, and take a few community college classes. She may also tag along with a few lifetime best friends as they hike the Pacific Coast Trail. In the fall of 2020, Ella will attend either the Rhode Island School of Design or New York University with the ultimate goal of working in global public service and art. She is most excited to see her generation change the world for the better.



Zach Bowker has decided to pursue a career in nursing. Zach was a winning competitor for the Owen J. Roberts Boys Swimming and Diving

Team. The 400 Freestyle Relay team edged out some tough competition. Zach also competed in the backstroke and freestyle. Zach felt that Owen J. Roberts provided a solid education that will be very useful in future studies. Biology, chemistry and athletic training courses solidified the interest in nursing. Zach's guidance counselor noted that he was very humble, detail-oriented, focused on his goals and very good at critical thinking and problem solving. Zach will attend West Virginia University, selecting it because he felt he will be equipped with the tools needed to succeed in his studies.

Eloise Gebert caught the eye of recruiters for the U. S. Naval Academy as a stand out girls lacrosse player her freshman year. Mr. Wright, the scholarship presenting Blue and



Gold Officer, informed that the Naval Academy has very rigorous qualification standards with only 8% of applicants accepted using a whole

person index. Applicants must have excellent grades, be nominated by a member of Congress or other official, and have stellar physical fitness. Eloise's full scholarship to the USNA includes a 5-year commitment to serve her country in the Navy. She looks forward to serving in the military and to community service in her future. She felt that OJR Leo Service Club helped set the stage for a heart for service. She really enjoyed coaching younger athletes.

Eloise capped her four-year Wildcat Varsity Lacrosse career as a captain who celebrated the 200th career goal during her senior year. She was extremely proud to be a member of a fifth year PAC Championship LAX team. Eloise also played successful Varsity Field Hockey 2016-2018 and was captain senior year. Eloise acted as the Girls Basketball manager senior year. In addition to playing sports 2.5-3 hours per day, Eloise was a top student taking AP Environmental Science, AP Physics, AP Statistics, and Honors English. She felt her coursework prepared her well for the next phase in life. She was a member of the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. In fact, art was an important hobby for her. She loved ceramics, drawing and photography which all helped to calm and relax her. A pivotal experience at Owen J. Roberts was a field trip to a STEM Conference for Girls at Lockheed Martin. Eloise felt completely empowered by the achievements of women in engineering and decided to pursue studies in oceanography and aviation.

WPVI-6ABC in the Classroom



WPVI 6 Action News reporter, Katherine Scott, took interest in the ingenuity of the students in Owen J. Roberts High School's Advanced Engineering class. She interviewed Mr. Crowl and his students and learned about lockdown devices they designed and assembled as a way to keep classrooms much safer than the barricade method should a lockdown situation occur. The district recently received a grant to have a specialized outside agency conduct a comprehensive safety audit and is evaluating more permanent, certified, and code-compliant classroom safety solutions for use throughout the entire district. While the student-made devices were a temporary advantage, the project was an engaging, authentic learning experience which had a positive impact on confidence in school safety and security. The segment ran on 6abc on May 6, 2019.

Celebrating the Class of 2019 - Destinations

Albright College: Mary Kurtas, Kaeleigh Karetas

Alvernia University: Marcus Martin, Victoria Sarge, Cheyanne Weston

American Musical and Dramatic Academy: Michael Maher

Arcadia University: Michelle Frank

Arizona State University: Kasey Fitch

Automotive Training Center: Thomas Webber, Anthony Lorenzo

Baylor University: Mia Baumgarten

Bloomsburg University: Sa-Vaughn Davidheiser, John Deanna, Brooke Delong, Joseph Hennessey, Mikayla Johnson, Madeline Krumenacker, Alison Scott, Hope Shivers, Grace Wornson

Boston College: Vidisha Pandey

California Polytechnic State University: Van Schneider

California University of Pennsylvania: Aaron Ingalls

Castleton University: Tyler Hansen

Cedar Crest College: Meredith Fitzgerald, Khushali Vyas

Clemson University: Grace Culver, Ryder Defibaugh

Coastal Carolina University: Emily Evans, Emma Oswald

College of Charleston: Hannah Sterner

Colorado State University: Anna Hillegas

Columbia International University: Andrea Calamaro

Delaware College of Art And Design: Loretta Jansen

Delaware Valley University: Kira Phillips, Georgia Dluhy

Delaware County Community College: Robert Wagner

DeSales University: Paige Cadieux-Petrie, Annamarie Scheffer

Drexel University: Anna Campbell, Jacob Griste, Tyler Hemstreet, Heidi Joyce, Wyatt Kaiser, Shelby Slemmer, Katherine Sundermier, Emma Torak, Anna Wentz

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania: Aidan Hayward, Fiona Murray

EI School of Professional Makeup: Megan Smith

Elizabethtown College: Brinley Beveridge, Patrick McCutchen, Aidan Poley

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University: Nicolas Distefano, Mary O'Brien, Veronika Zdrazil

Flagler College: Jennifer Dinnocenti, Camryn Nace

Florida Keys Community College: Bailey Costello

George Mason University: Zachary Holecz

Gettysburg College: Garrett Hale, Quentin Heise

Hawaii Pacific University: Kaitlyn Fluharty

High Point University: Ava Aijala

Holy Family University: Madison Twaddell

Immaculata University: Jared Folsom, Andrew Fonder, Jared Moore

Indiana University at Bloomington: Nicholas Massa

Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Patrick O'Brien, Nicolas Dorsey, Tyler Gottshall

James Madison University: Reagen Amand, Catherine Cervi, Casey McGinley, Carrie Saylor

John Cabot University: Nicholas Barone

Johns Hopkins University: Hannah Pugh

Johnson and Wales University: Savona Pezzillo

Keystone College: Donovan Maga

King's College: Shaylan Cobb

Kutztown University: Alana Ayres, Devan Banos, Rebekah Brown, Adam Dolga, Matthew Foster, Regan Guest, Matthew Hakun, Nicholas Hood, Madeleine Leblanc, Kylee Macleod, Hannah Moloney, Victor Overton, Jordan Siket, Benjamin Venza, Jacob Wood

La Salle University: Paige Culp, Casey Walker

Lackawanna College: Johnathan Mears

Lafayette College: Natalie Fuertsch, Kayla Massi

Lebanon Valley College: Jacob Demech, Matthew Guarini

Lehigh University: Joshua Diamond, Ella Greenholt

Liberty University: Bridget Gallagher, Emma Kratz, Manus Weber

Loyola University Maryland: Ben Samuelson

Lycoming College: Andrew Dede, Diana Rantz

Maryland Institute College of Art: Grace Saunders

Marymount Manhattan College: Katarina Bobo, Carson Bispels, Lily Buettler, Jacey Caplan, Wyeth Casperite, Bailey Hunt, Charlotte Lasak, Eleanor Pettyjohn

Monmouth University: Lilia Crew

Montgomery County Community College: Simon Berry, Scott Brown, Gabriel Brown, Ricky Buehler, Madison Carney, Jacob Deeter, Brendan Frick, Richard Java, Julie Kelly, Kateri Kucek, Hugo Mateos Amechi, Michelle Mayk, Kaidin McPhillips, Isaac Motter, Laura Panetta, Cole Parker, Taylor Pupek, Jakob Reinert, Christian Rodriguez, Carly Schell, Lindy Shiffler, Lily Shivak, Harrison Sill, Mark Smith, Yohanna Snyder, David Speelhoffer, Elizabeth Swaim, Kaitlyn Walk, Steven Warren, Ethan Wiley, Jeffrey Wilson, Camryn Wood

Montgomery County Community College - Blue Bell: Taylor Blaszczyk, Madelyn Murphy

New York Film Academy: Aaron Duval

North Carolina State University: Elizabeth Braaksma

Northeastern University: Samuel Smith

Northern Arizona University: Adriana Spokes

Ohio University: Maxwell Levitsky

Penn State University – Altoona: Samuel Bilotta

Penn State University – Berks: Aaron Beekley, Avae Busch, Taylor Derr, Louis Gambardella, Jose Manuel Hingada, Sydney Jordan, Jacob Kardelis, Robin Mailum, Heather McFadden, Trevor McVickar, Alyssa Ruggeri, Collin Stauffer, Darian Storti, Cooper Stott, Christopher Williams, Ethan Winemiller, Chelsea Zgleszewski

Penn State University – Harrisburg: John Rinehimer

Penn State University - University Park: Marianna Ambrogi, Kaedyn Bollinger, Julia Brennan, Jessica Buckwalter, Cormac Caughey, Benjamin Colt, Caroline Deviney, Benjamin Diamond, Maxfield Evans, Audrey Farnham, Nathaniel Farnsworth, Abigail Fili, Mary Gautreau, Max Gawlik, Michael Giacomponello, Matthew Hopkins, Matthew Karcewski, Nathan Kelly, Bronson Kilroy, Michael Kronengold, Kenzie Milne, Dylan Monteiro, Tyshia Myers, Morgan Prichard, Justin Schwenk, Gabrielle Sener, Cecilia Stacks, Sebastian Velazquez, Jordon Zakarevich, Madeline Zarkoski

Pennsylvania College of Technology: Benjamin Fuertsch, Colton Malcom, Sampson Soeder, Terrance Sims

Pennsylvania College of Art and Design: Olivia Kenny, Chalyse Daroci

Pratt Institute: Eli Gutierrez

Rhode Island School of Design: Ella McCausland

Rider University: Nicole Simpkins

Rutgers University: Marlee Filling

Saint Anselm College: Andrew Engel

Saint Joseph's University: Dominic Carroll, Madison Dalton, Addison Waldman, Ryan Walker

Shenandoah University: Bradley Blanchard

Shippensburg University: Emma Halsey, Mackenzie Kurtz, Joshua Santos-Vidal, Dru Scherer, Cassidy Skilton, Harold Weber

Slippery Rock University: Lauren Hughes

Syracuse University: Gretchen Harken, Angela Ledger

Technical University of Munich: Linus Blatz

Temple University: Benjamin Bochanski, Gavin Brown, Isabella Darlington, Ryan Flaim, Christina Hoffman, Beckett Houck, Lindsey Lafountain, Emma McDonnell, Julio Pinedo Vargas, Ryan Sayers, Quinten Sherwood, Marina Sykes

Temple University Honors Program: Isabella Payne

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology: Emerson Bealer, Aislyn Eberhard, Alexander Hannum, Harry Smith, John Vallino, Collin Walton

The University of Vermont: Jack Murray

Thomas Jefferson University: Thomas Kirk

Towson University: Sequoia Gayer

University of Maryland: Dante Carroll

University of Rhode Island: Scott Honicker

University of Alabama: Alexis Getley, Caitlin McGee

University of Arizona: Madelyn Isenberg, Benjamin Karpinski

University of California, Los Angeles: Sarah Tabatabaei

University of Central Florida: Daniel Duffy

University of Delaware: Paige Aldred, Sharvari Apte, Kelsie Hansell, Mckenna Johnson, Sophia Murray

University of New Haven: Galen Kasznay

University of Pennsylvania: Ahmed Alveed, Jake Iyoob, Nadia Mokhallalati

University of Pittsburgh: Marshall Bergstresser, Madeline Daubert, Deirdre Kelly, Jack McGuane, Merrin Pickford

University of San Francisco: Amanda Cassa

University of South Carolina: Cameron Richards

University of South Carolina Honors College: Samuel Coroniti

University of Tampa: Maurice Gentry

Ursinus College: Daniel Vicario

Utah Valley University: William Meredith

Utica College: Angeline Viti

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Eric Friedemann

Washington College: Adam Brown, Logan Clefish, Kyle Waldhof

West Chester University: Calvin Allem, Julia Amadio, Kaitlyn Asher – Kohler, Ava Bicer, Gordon Delano, Paige Dinius, James Donnelly, Kaleb Fisher, Mia Flavin, Isabelle Gunson, Abigail Hand, Kylie Hershey, Madison Hrynkow, Hannah Karaman, Daniel Kucharik, Elaina Lee, Alexa Luckowski, Dana McKinley, Arnaldo Montagano, Olivia Montesano, Jessica Ofori, Rachel Pelletier, Abigail Perry, Jessica Sheehan, Matthew Shimkonis, Spenser Stark, Jacob Vitullo, Autumn Werner

West Virginia University: Savanna Arnold, Mackenzie Batyko, Zachary Bowker, Ryan Glenn, Cory Hartman, Ben Hornak, Bradley Pryor, Brandon Sawicki, Benjamin Sbei, Robert Squier, Marissa Venezia

Wilson College: Simone Karustis

United States Army: Mohamed Ahmed

United States Navy: Elijah Ruiz

United States Naval Academy: Eloise Gebert

United States Marine Corp: Dylan Richter

United States National Guard: Guistino Evan, William Armenise, Bratton Jackson

Army National Guard: Colin Frederick

Police Academy: Thomas Dang

Driven by Honesty, Integrity, Empathy

There are many ways in which East Coventry Elementary students practice the characteristics of honesty, integrity and empathy on a daily basis. Students are encouraged to make good choices remembering the P.A.W.S. pillars of character: practice responsibility, act respectfully, work together, and safety matters.



to-Sticks students assisted the early intervention students with learning about the elements of music including keeping a steady beat. Collaboration with these future elementary students helped both groups of children grow in empathy and appreciate the diversity in each one of us.

This year, students in the Strings-to-Sticks program collaborated with Early Intervention children. Chester County Intermediate Unit Early Intervention is housed at the East Coventry Elementary building and is run by Mrs. Meeker. Pre-K Early Intervention children benefit from a state-supported collaboration of services and supports designed to support children with developmental delays. Elementary-aged Strings-

Embraces Uniqueness

East Vincent Elementary students are considered to be one-of-a-kind, special individuals. Embracing the uniqueness of students requires educators to understand students and to meet their needs. Students need to feel safe, feel nurtured, and feel encouraged. They need to have opportunities to grow, to belong, and to achieve. In current education research and discussions, educators note the work of psychologists Abraham Maslow and Benjamin Bloom. "Maslow before Bloom" is a current educational trend whereby the work of Maslow and his hierarchy of needs says that if educators do not meet the basic needs of students, then the students cannot access Bloom's theories on the depth of learning.



At East Vincent Elementary School, staff and students embrace uniqueness. Every morning, students and staff gather to start their day through morning meeting, "an engaging way to start each day, build a strong sense of community, and set children up for success socially and academically". They greet one another by name, read a message, engage in a group activity, and listen to others share one-of-a-kind celebrations and thoughts. As a result, students are more likely to take healthy risks, establish a sense of belonging, reflect and set goals, and demonstrate optimism. Morning meeting is one way that students at East Vincent Elementary School embrace their uniqueness, accommodate their basic needs, and bloom as learners to one day become an Owen J. Roberts Graduate.

Learns Autonomously

North Coventry Elementary School operates with the belief that all students can learn. All student growth is celebrated. Academic rigor is at the heart of improved student learning. Teachers, administrators, parents, and the community must share



the belief that holding students accountable for hard work and the expectation to continuously improve their learning, will result in a meaningful and lasting educational experience for all contingencies. Open communication between students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community creates an environment of shared understanding and responsibility in the development of the "educated child". It assures that all voices are heard and valued.

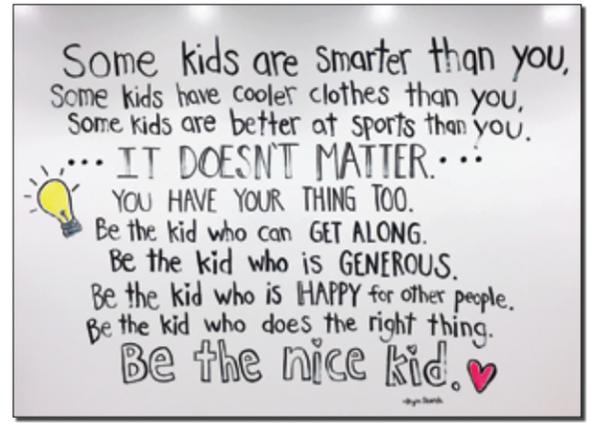
Intrinsic motivation supports all the character traits of North Coventry. As students are prepared for success, the Owen J. Roberts graduate is a pillar for instruction and interactions. Building self-confidence, learning resources and gaining independence is integral to growth and achievement. As the children begin their voyage at North Coventry, they learn how to develop

their learning through investigating with curiosity and passion. Using and leveraging the technology tools that surround us daily along with building purpose in life, we know that they are on track for life-long success.

As a Distinguished Title I School, the children, staff, and parents are integral to developing confident learners. Building and sustaining strong relationships is essential to academic success at North Coventry and beyond. With a few key ingredients and hard work by all contingencies, high achievement is attainable. A school climate that is collaborative and focused on results ensure self-motivated students. Each year, North Coventry sets goals and builds a plan for student, staff and parent achievement, taking pride in excellence and settling for nothing less. The OJR Graduate is the platform for victory.

Responsible Citizens

At French Creek Elementary School, responsible citizenship is an important characteristic that we strive to develop in our students each and every day. Students have responsibilities within the classrooms, but also within the larger school and local community as well. Primary students take pride in assisting their teachers with important jobs like completing the attendance and lunch counts, carrying the lunch bins to the cafeteria, and being the class messenger. Older students assume other responsibilities such as safety patrol, participating in K-Kids, and serving as buddies for younger students. As a school, we support our local community by engaging in ongoing food drives to support the North Coventry Food Pantry, participating in Pennies for Patients to support The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, honoring our respected veterans each year, and performing at local senior centers to spread holiday cheer. Furthermore, students are surrounded with reminders that responsible citizenship requires kindness. It is important for our students to recognize that they are responsible for giving back and positively influencing the world around them for others.



Thinks with Agility in Complex Ways

Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, the staff of West Vincent embraced many of the concepts associated with social, emotional learning. One particular fourth-grade class experienced a typical classroom issue where some students were not kind to one another.



Instead of addressing the problem on a surface level, the teacher, along with all students were able to have a deep level conversation and gain much-needed perspective of each other's point of view. They were able to communicate with one another, demonstrate respect for each other, and as a result student relationships were not only preserved, but strengthened. These students exhibited the ability

to think with agility in a complex manner and utilize their interpersonal skills. Time and again, the students had to consider multiple perspectives to practice communicating effectively. They learned to seek creative solutions so they could all adapt to their environment and thrive. We know that these important skills learned at the elementary level will help build successful Owen J. Roberts graduates.



The Owen J. Roberts Graduate

<p>Driven by Honesty, Integrity, Empathy</p> <p>Listens with an open mind. Acts thoughtfully. Collaborates successfully with diverse groups. Operates from a clear and adaptable vision of the future.</p>	<p>Learns Autonomously</p> <p>Intrinsically motivated. Has confidence in abilities and resources. Investigates with curiosity and passion. Leverages the potential of technology.</p>
<p>Embraces Uniqueness</p> <p>Understands the importance of a balanced and meaningful life. Demonstrates optimism. Seeks new experiences. Utilizes the habit of self-reflection.</p>	<p>Thinks with Agility in Complex Ways</p> <p>Adaptable in different environments. Seeks creative solutions. Inquires critically from multiple perspectives. Communicates effectively.</p>
<p>Responsible Citizens</p> <p>Embraces service learning. Responds to the needs of the community. Asserts a deep commitment to the betterment of the world.</p>	<p>Our Mission</p> <p>Inspiring each student for success today and greatness tomorrow...</p>



Message from the Superintendent

For our readers of the Advocate that could not attend graduation, I would like to share with you my comments to the

graduating class of 2019.

“Good evening parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friend, neighbors, and member of the School Board. Welcome to Wildcat Stadium! Seniors, since your first day of kindergarten, you have been preparing for this moment. Your parents and guardians have been preparing for this moment. Your teachers, guidance counselor, and coaches have been preparing for this moment. The moment when you will be called an Owen J. Roberts graduate. You see, through the years, we have had one goal for you: to develop your ethical, emotional, social, and intellectual capacity to be innovators in our global society. Before I go on, I want to tell you that at the end of my speech I’m going to answer an age-old question that will help you fulfill those qualities and find success in life.

But let’s talk first about how, as an OJR graduate, you have had the

opportunity to experience numerous co-curricular and extracurricular experiences designed to sharpen important skills, challenge conventional wisdom, and cultivate a broad knowledge base. Thanks to a sincere commitment by your teachers, OJR graduates demonstrate an enhanced ability for analytical and creative thought, while exhibiting self-sufficiency, resilience, confidence, and the ability to solve complex problems in novel ways.

So as you look back on your time here, I ask you to consider what we’ve asked you to achieve. Not just good grades for 12 years, but to be independent, thoughtful, capable human beings. Did we succeed in our mission? Throughout your time at Owen J., we have instilled in you an understanding of the importance of a balanced and meaningful life: to embrace your uniqueness, to demonstrate an optimistic approach to life, to seek new experiences, and to engage in self-reflection. We have hopefully developed you to be leaders who are: driven by honesty, integrity, and empathy, who listen with an open mind, who act thoughtfully, who collaborate successfully in a landscape of diversity, and who will from here forth operate from a clear and evolving

vision for the future. You have been taught through the years to think with agility in complex ways: to be adaptable in a variety of environments, to seek creative solutions, to inquire critically from multiple perspectives, and to communicate effectively. You have been taught to learn autonomously by: being confident in your abilities, investigating with curiosity, passion and creativity, being resourceful, leveraging the potential of technology, by planning for your future, and by finding motivation in new places. And finally, you have been taught to be responsible citizens by: embracing service learning, by contributing to the development of our school district, by responding to the needs of our community, and by asserting a deep commitment to improve the world.

How, then, will you apply all that you have been taught? And how will your choices, direct your thoughts and actions, and leave a mark on the world that improves it in tangible ways?

Just how will you become innovators in a global society? The answers to my questions are limitless: You can help our community explore the next frontier in diversity, not merely settling for tolerance. You can lend your imagination and your creativity to develop solutions for our crumbling

infrastructure. You can show your courage and commitment by never missing an opportunity to vote for the candidate who speaks to your soul, and maybe even be that candidate yourself. Or, you can carry the Owen J. Roberts’ mission with you as you raise our next generation. And you can actively seek opportunities to ask, “How can I help you?”

Finally, I want to answer that age-old question for you, to help you simplify all of these intricate ideals down to a manageable, yet remarkable, expectation. The question is: Would you rather be right, or would you rather be kind? There are lots of opinions that support both sides. But I’m here to tell you that above all else, more important than everything I’ve shared with you tonight...kindness always matters. If you’re not right, oh well. You can learn from that. You can even turn it into a defining moment. But if you choose to be unkind, everything that you’ve been taught unravels.

I can’t call you boys and girls anymore, so I’ll say it this way: ladies and gentlemen, to be truly successful - be kind to each other, and be kind to yourselves. Congratulations, Owen J. Roberts Class of 2019!”

Go Wildcats!

Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas



PAC Team Champions: Girls’ Lacrosse

PAC Individual Champions: Girls 4x800m Relay (Emily Glasier, Hannah Kopec, Emma Torak, Mackenzie Kurtz)

Girls 800m (Mackenzie Kurtz)

Boys 4x800m relay (Cole Smith, David Brunton, Vincent Fennell, Matthew Muthler)

Boys Discus (Aidan Hayward)

District Champion: Aidan Hayward-Discus

State Medalist: Aidan Hayward (7th shot & 8th discus)

Season Information:

Girls’ lacrosse finished 19-7, won an undefeated PAC Championship, placed 6th in districts, qualified for states and advanced to the state quarterfinals.

Boys track & field finished 4-1: won PAC Championships in the 4x800m relay and the discus, individuals

qualified for districts and states. Aidan Hayward was the district discus champ, and Aidan placed 7th in the shot and 8th in the discus at states.

Baseball finished 14-8: qualified for PAC Championship, qualified for districts.

Boys’ lacrosse finished 9-9: qualified for the PAC Championship, qualified for districts.

Boys Tennis finished 7-6 and had individuals qualify for the PAC Singles and Doubles Championships. Jason

Sawicki placed 4th in the singles and qualified for districts.

Softball finished 10-10 and narrowly missed qualifying for the PAC Championship and districts.

Girls track & field finished 2-3: won PAC Championships in the 4x800m relay and 800m, individuals qualified for districts and states.

NJROTC Makes Top Rank

In just six short years, a declining unit grew to become world-ranked. Commander Jimmy Miller, NJROTC Area 4 Manager, recently notified the Owen J. Roberts NJROTC unit of its selection as the MOST IMPROVED UNIT in the world (583 high school Navy programs in the US and overseas). The unit competed in 11 zones to reach the designation through the Naval Service Training Command, NJROTC. Earlier this year, following the annual inspection, the unit received the designation of Distinguished with Honors.

According to Master Gunnery Sgt. (Ret.) Andrew Worley, the Owen J. Roberts High School Naval Junior ROTC unit “has made significant improvements to build upon its established program, high morale, and proud traditions”. Sgt. Worley and his assistant, OJR unit leader Captain (Ret.) Craig Armstrong, informed that after feeling good about four consecutive years of Unit Achievement awards, they decided to put together a plan with a goal to reach Distinguished, never expecting to surpass the mark to Distinguished with Honors, and certainly never

dreaming of progressing from most improved in the region to most improved in the world.

OJRHS NJROTC enrollment has experienced an increase close to 100% in the last six years. The unit has made a noteworthy increase in academic rigor including honors and Advanced Placement courses and by incorporating programming with the International Baccalaureate Certificate Program. The reach for academic excellence is continued among the unit with several cadets becoming members of National Honor Society. Focus on academics has helped the unit increase cadet placement into prestigious service academies as well as assists with student receipt of ROTC scholarships.

The OJR NJROTC instructors have developed a varied program of global education providing a trip to Ireland to work with the Irish Coast Guard and a European WWII history trip. More than 50 students have been involved in the overseas leadership learning opportunities for which the unit fundraises to finance. They have also added overnight education trips

including a tour of the USS New Jersey and a leadership weekend at Freedoms Foundation.

Support to the Veteran community has expanded tremendously including veteran recognition programs, care packages sent to troops, speaking engagements, memorial improvements, and developing/ presenting classes on the Vietnam War and POWs at Hanoi Hilton to five different high schools.

“This recognition is just phenomenal,” offered Master Gunnery Sgt. Worley, who is retiring this year. “It proved the point that the JROTC was worth saving. It is rare that a declining unit makes a comeback and that tells me that the community made a decision, and then they supported us in every way possible. The school and community can now be as proud of the unit as the unit is of their school and community.” One outward sign of school and community pride is the over 4,000 community service hours logged each year by about 100 cadets.

The unit does not work in isolation. For the past three years, the unit has

hosted and delivered a regional Drill Competition. This year’s competition attracted 12 schools. They have initiated and developed a coalition of JROTC instructors whom with they meet regularly. “We have a very supportive parent organization,” said Capt. Armstrong. “Having parents support our unit in so many ways gave us confidence to do more with the students,” offered Sgt. Worley, who said that strong student leadership also has made a remarkable impact.

“As excited as we are about this achievement,” noted Worley and Armstrong, “we are just so pleased that this means more opportunities for students. There will be more opportunities for scholarships and more nominations to service academies.” “It’s pretty special,” said Sgt. Worley.

KYW Newsradio 1060 featured a segment on Owen J. Roberts NJROTC on Saturday, June 29, 2019.