

## Our Schools and COVID-19

Throughout the mandated school closures this spring, administrators, faculty, and staff worked to meet the needs of students during an uncertain and historical time. The remote learning scenarios were initiated without the benefit of preparation time, which was not the ideal. Since then, the district has been gathering and listening to the feedback of all stakeholders and has been planning and preparing for the new school year. We know that school will not look the same as before the pandemic. We know that the current environment is highly emotional. There are differing perceptions and opinions. At the forefront of all planning is the health and safety of students, staff, families and the Owen J. Roberts community.

The first student day of school for the 2020-2021 academic year is August 31, 2020. Plans are being made for instructional delivery and safety measures, while guidelines for schools continue to evolve from a multitude of government and expert sources. While events are rapidly unfolding, at the time of newsletter production, it is our aim to provide in-person instruction in our schools five-days per week. Families who choose, may enroll in the Owen J. Roberts Cyber Academy. The Cyber Academy will be different from the online learning that took place in the spring.

Owen J. Roberts continually ranks among Pennsylvania's top performing schools and for parents who choose OJR Cyber Academy, students

will stay on track with our K-12 proven curriculum. The OJR Cyber Academy will be taught by Owen J. Roberts teachers who are trained in and passionate about teaching in an online environment. Owen J. Roberts teachers are all PA-certified and highly qualified. Families can expect the needs of their students to be met with supports available. Students and families will continue their connections with our Wildcat community and high school graduates will receive an Owen J. Roberts High School diploma.

We look forward to sharing more about the OJR Cyber Academy and in-person learning for the 2020-2021 academic year. For the most up-to-date information, continue to check the district website, [www.ojrdsd.com](http://www.ojrdsd.com)

## Graduating IB Students

June 2020 marked the end of the third year of the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Program (IBCP) at Owen J. Roberts High School. Eighteen graduating seniors completed the necessary requirements to receive the IBCP Certificate. Over the course of 2 years, these students participated in this rigorous program, completing certified IB courses and an exploration in their career areas through OJR courses in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), Computer Sciences or Biological Sciences and Health-related studies. Students explored their interests in these career areas and sharpened their focus on their post-secondary paths. Although their school year was cut short by the COVID-19 closure, these students still completed six IB assessments including: two written tasks, two oral recitations, one internal assessment, and the reflective project research paper. Additionally, they completed 50 hours each of service learning and language development culminating in a submission

of two portfolios demonstrating their work in these areas. Although these work products were the culmination of two years of work in the IB program, each of these items was completed remotely and submitted to the IB for grading. OJR IB students are resilient life-long learners that will not be slowed when obstacles present themselves.

Exploring and advancing their knowledge in their chosen field will allow our 2020 graduates to pursue their education in the fields of nursing, engineering, pre-medicine, speech and language pathology, biomedical sciences, forensic science, biology and neuroscience at the following schools: Drexel University, Lehigh University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Pittsburgh, Meredith College, James Madison University, University of North Carolina, Florida Institute of Technology, Misericordia University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice



and Penn State University. Students received both academic and athletic scholarships attesting to the well-rounded nature of the students in this program.

## Fostering Math Foundations

Building early numeracy matters for long-term achievements in mathematics. Numeracy is the ability to "see" math and apply it to day to day life. Therefore, number sense can be defined as a child's knowledge of number, number relations, and number operations.

Educators often refer to number sense as a child's fluidity and flexibility with numbers. It helps children comprehend what numbers mean and gives them the tools to look at math in the outside world and make comparisons. Over time, through opportunities to explore and play with numbers, children begin to gain confidence in their understanding. Visualizing numbers in different contexts, spotting relationships between numbers and predicting the patterns all contribute to good number sense.

How does number sense begin? Home is a great place to start. Parents can have early math conversations with children. "How many towels?" "Which is more?" "What's two more?" "How many steps to the car?" "How long do you think the drive will take?" The more we talk with our children, the

more they are able to connect numbers and math concepts to real life. As children enter school, number sense is imperative as they develop and foster their growth in the primary grades.

These experiences with numbers are critical and as a result, we support our students with number sense interventions. As an example, these skills include working with oral counting, number relations and base ten understandings, cardinality, subitizing (looking at a number of dots and saying that number without counting), and partitioning numbers (understanding that numbers can be broken down into smaller quantities).

At North Coventry, we have begun to carefully examine the assurance of building number sense in the primary grades. Mrs. Joyce DeVol and Mrs. Rachel Lemuell, Title 1 Math Specialists, are dedicated to enhancing the primary curriculum

by working with the staff to develop these key skills.

The students are enjoying their learning and are happy as they see connections outside of their classes. First grader, Kaylynn Heim said, "I like learning things like number words, sentences and seeing numbers around my school."

Making connections and looking at numbers will help encourage students to think flexibly and promote confidence. Together numbers and number sense help promote our mental skills along with critical thinking.

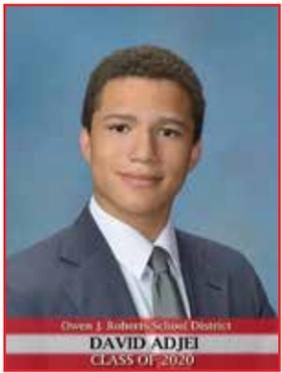
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**DAVID ADJEI**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**CHRISTINA AGRESTA**  
CLASS OF 2020



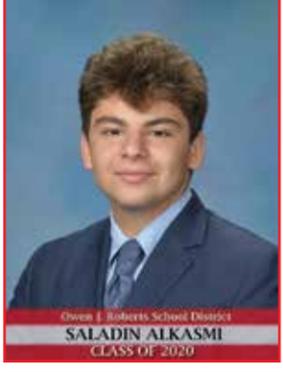
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**TIA ALAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**NATALIE ALBANO**  
CLASS OF 2020



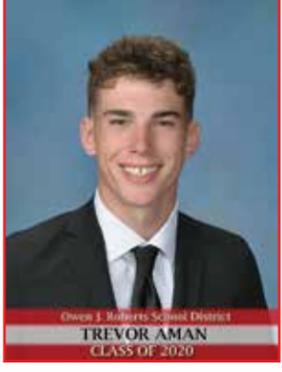
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**RYAN ALDERMAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**SALADIN ALKASMI**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**CLARA ALLEM**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**TREVOR AMAN**  
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**MOLLY AMBROSIO**  
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**ELIZABETH AMSTUTZ**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**GRIFFIN ANDERSON**  
CLASS OF 2020



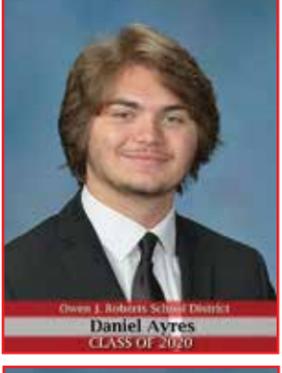
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**CHRISTIAN ANGELILLI**  
CLASS OF 2020



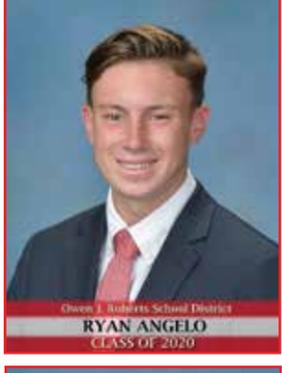
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ARIANNA ARDITTI**  
CLASS OF 2020



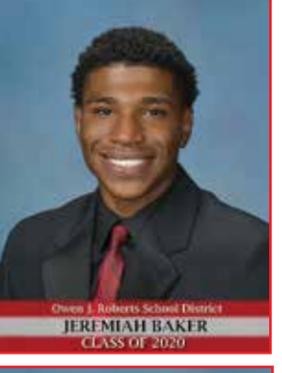
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**RACHEL ARP**  
CLASS OF 2020



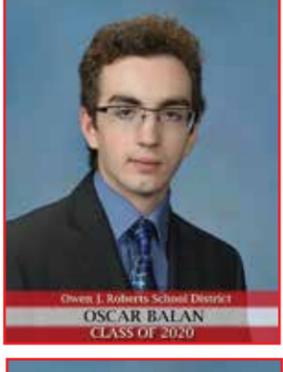
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**Daniel Ayres**  
CLASS OF 2020



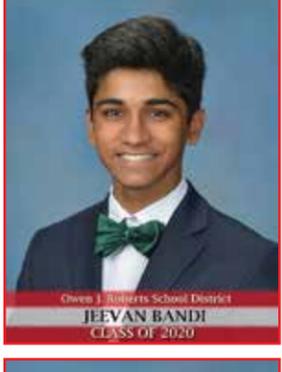
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**RYAN ANGELO**  
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Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JEREMIAH BAKER**  
CLASS OF 2020



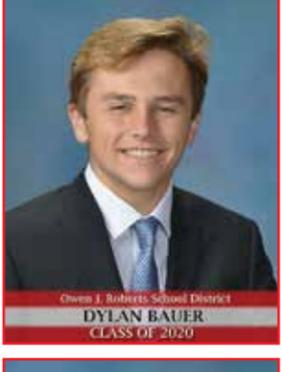
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**OSCAR BALAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JEEVAN BANDI**  
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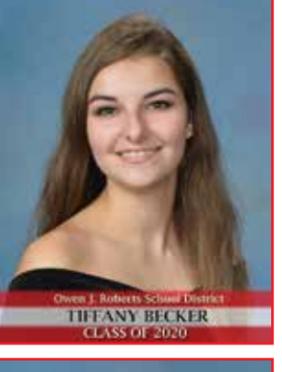
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ERYN BARADGIE**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**DYLAN BAUER**  
CLASS OF 2020



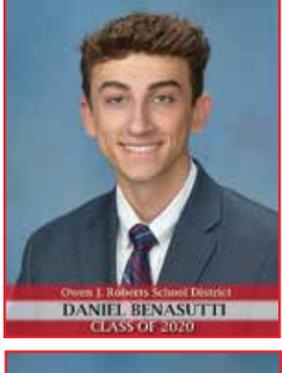
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JENNIFER BEATTY**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**TIFFANY BECKER**  
CLASS OF 2020



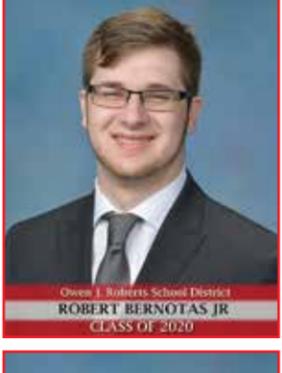
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ASHLEY BETTEL**  
CLASS OF 2020



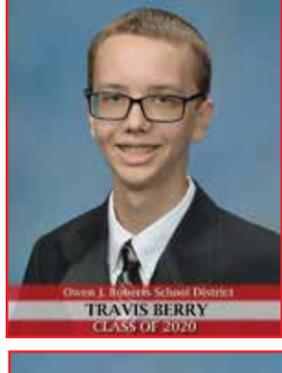
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**DANIEL BENASUTTI**  
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**CONRAD BENFORD**  
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Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ROBERT BERNOTAS JR**  
CLASS OF 2020



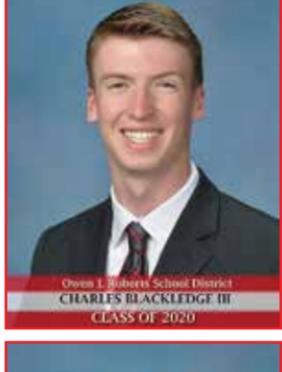
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**TRAVIS BERRY**  
CLASS OF 2020



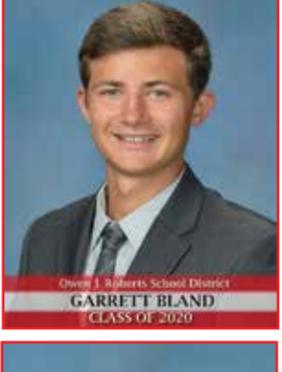
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**LEYA BICKELL**  
CLASS OF 2020



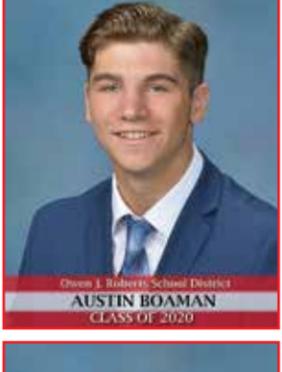
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**PAIGE BIEDRONSKI**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
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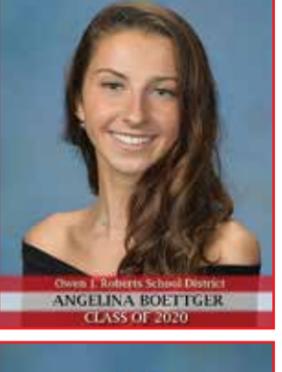
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**GARRETT BLAND**  
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**AUSTIN BOAMAN**  
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Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ANNA BOCHANSKI**  
CLASS OF 2020



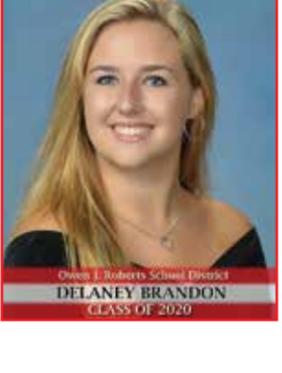
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**ANGELINA BOETTGER**  
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Owen J. Roberts School District  
**SOPHIA BONO**  
CLASS OF 2020



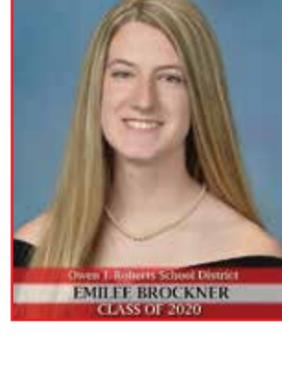
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**CONOR BOOTH**  
CLASS OF 2020



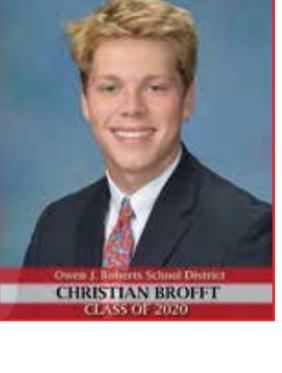
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**MADELINE BRAUN**  
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**CHRISTIAN BROFFT**  
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**CONNOR CANIGLIA**  
CLASS OF 2020



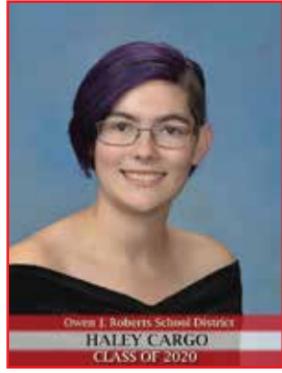
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**JAMES CAPECE JR.**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**JULIANA CAPECE**  
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**HALEY CARGO**  
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**EMELIE CASEY**  
CLASS OF 2020



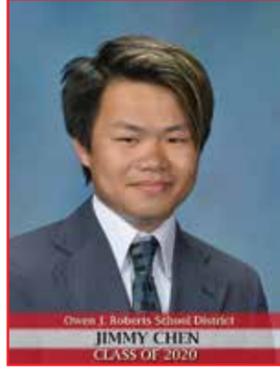
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**COOPER CHAMBERLAIN**  
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**JORDYN CHAMBERS**  
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**JIMMY CHEN**  
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**MARISA CHINICI**  
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**NIKITA CHIN**  
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**CELESTE CHRISTIANO**  
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**ANDREW CHRISTOFOROU**  
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**CAMRYN COOPER**  
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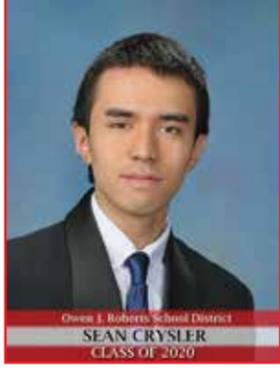
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**AUGUSTUS CORONITI**  
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**JOSEPHYNE DAVIS**  
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**JACOB DUNLEAVY**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**RYAN DUSKE**  
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**LUCAS ECHIKSON**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**TEAGHAN EDLEMAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**ELIZABETH ELSMORE**  
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**DEVYNN ENGLE**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**KATHERINE ERB**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**KEITH ESTERLY**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**BRANDON FARKOUH**  
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**JANE FARNHAM**  
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**ANDREW FATULA**  
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**MOLLY FEDICK**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**CLAIRE FLUTENBERGER**  
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**VINCENT FENNEL III**  
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**GABRIEL FERREIRA**  
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**SOPHIA FERRIZZI**  
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**NATHAN FISHER**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**TYLER FISH**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**BLAYNE FISHER**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**ANTHONY FLAMINIO**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**TRINITY FLORES**  
CLASS OF 2020

# to the Class of 2020



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**LINETTE FOGWELL**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ANASTASIA FOKIN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**DAVID FORREST**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**TRENT FRANCESCO**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**DELANEY FREDERICK**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**MCKINLEY FREES**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**MADELINE FRIEL**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**DANIEL FRISK II**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**Gavin Frederick**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**JESSICA GADEBUSCH**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**NATHAN GATTO**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**JACOB GALLAGHER**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**NATHAN GALLO**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**AMBAR GAUTAM**  
CLASS OF 2020



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**ETHAN GAWLIK**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JACKSON GELTING**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**KATIE GERBER**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**GRACE GERMAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**VINCENT GIORGIO**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**GRACE GIRARD**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**RYAN GLASS**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**CHLOE GOLAS**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MCKENNA GOLDSTEIN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**VICTORIA GRACE**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**BROOKE GREENAWALD**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**NOAH GREENSPAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**LOGAN GREGORY**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**COLE GROSSER**  
CLASS OF 2020



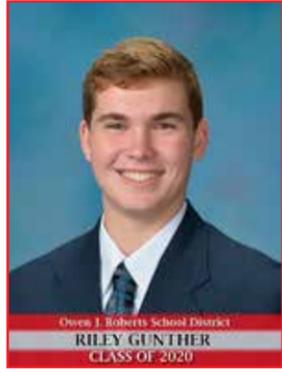
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**UDAYKIRAN GUDIPLUDI**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**VERONICA GUERRA**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MICHAELA GUERRERO**  
CLASS OF 2020



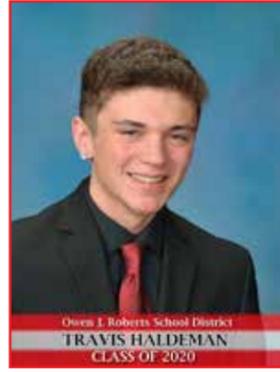
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**RILEY GUNTHER**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**NICHOLAS HAGEN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MELISSA HAHN**  
CLASS OF 2020



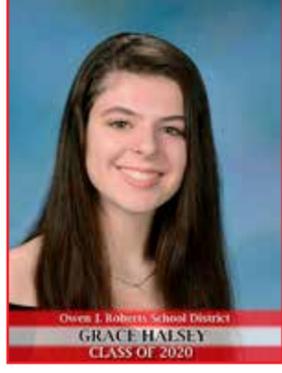
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**TRAVIS HALDEMAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MACKENZIE HALE**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JAMES HALLMAN**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**GRACE HALSEY**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ALEXANDER HANNA**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JONATHAN HANNEVIG**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ABIGAIL HANNIS**  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**RYLIE HANNIS**  
CLASS OF 2020

# Congratulations to



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**ALLISON HAWK**  
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Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MATILDE HECKLER**  
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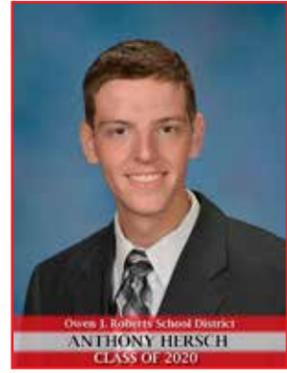
Owen J. Roberts School District  
**SIERRA HEGARTY**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JOSHUA HEIMBACH**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**KARLIE HEINZ**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ANTHONY HERSCH**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MADISON HILL**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**Nathaniel Hine**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MADLYNN HOCKER**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**CORRINE HOFMANN**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MATTHEW HOLEVA**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**WILLIAM HURLOCK V**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JORDAN IRVIN**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**FITZGERALD JABREE**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**HANNAH JACHOWSKI**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JOSHUA JACKSON**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JESSICA JANDA**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**CAYDEN JARVIS**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JACKSON JENKINS**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**LINDSEY JENNINGS**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JUSTIN JORGENSEN**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JACKSON KEATING**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ANDREW KETTER**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**TIMOTHY KELLER**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**DELANEY KENNEY**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**BRIANNA KERLEY**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**RYAN KILCULLEN**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MICHAEL KILGALLON III**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JENNA KIRBY**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**EMMA KIRCHER**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**NOAH KIRKBRIDE**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**KENNEDY KOLLAR**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**HANNAH KOPEC**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**MADELINE KOURY**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**LIAM KOWALSKI**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**SAMUEL KUHL**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**Mantarinee Kanharat**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**Anna Kupsov**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**OLIVIA LAFFERTY**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**ZACHARY LALOUP**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**JULIA LAMB**  
 CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
**EMILY LANE**  
 CLASS OF 2020

# to the Class of 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MARLENA LANGDON  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
COURTNEY LASKEY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
OLIVIA LECLAIRE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
NICHOLAS LEHMANN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
LILLIAN LEIGHTON  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CONNOR LEISTER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
DAVID LIGNORE JR  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ALEXIS LITTLE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
HALEY LIVINGSTON  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CHRISTOPHER LOMBARDI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MAXWELL LOUIS  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CHLOE LUPO  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CHARLEY LUSTIG  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
PETER LYNCH II  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
Hailey Landis  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CARSON MACKEY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
LANE MAGNESS  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
AIDAN MANCINI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
RYAN MANEVAL  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
JOSEPH MANILI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
GENEVIEVE MARANHAO  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
KRISTA MARINO  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
LAURIN MARKLE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SOPHIE MARKS  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ALYSSA MARSH  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ALLYSON MAUPAY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MYLES MCDUGAL  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
JACKLYN MCGEE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
EMILY MCGONIGLE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MEGHAN MCGRATH  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MICHAEL MCGUIGAN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
FAYTH MCHALE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
THOMAS MCLEAN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
DELANEY MCNALLY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
KENDALL MCNEFF  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SAMUEL MECK  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ANTHONY MEDOVICH JR  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ISABELLA MEDOVICH  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CATHERINE MERKLE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
FRANK MIGNONA  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
NICHOLAS MILEY  
CLASS OF 2020

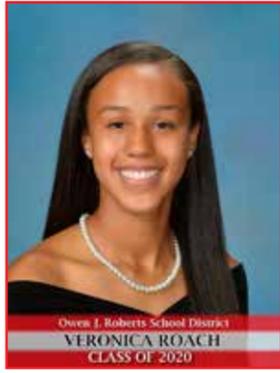


Owen J. Roberts School District  
LILLIAN MINOR  
CLASS OF 2020

# Congratulations to



# to the Class of 2020



# Congratulations to



Owen J. Roberts School District  
NICHOLAS STAKMAN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
JORDAN SPRANGER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ALEKYA SRINIVASAN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
KIRA ST. CLAIR  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
PORTER STACKS  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
GIANNA STALLETTI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
KYLE STORTI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ETHAN STUART  
CLASS OF 2020



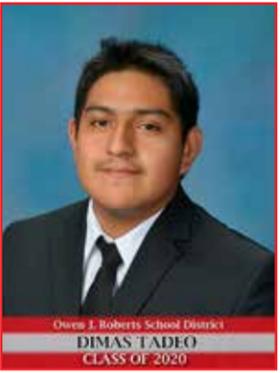
Owen J. Roberts School District  
KATRINA SUBICK  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
STACIA SUBICK  
CLASS OF 2020



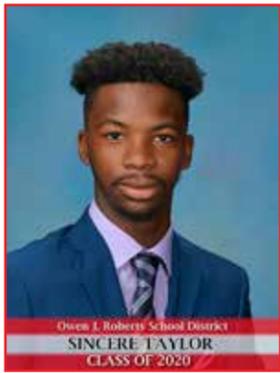
Owen J. Roberts School District  
Brittany Simcox  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
DIMAS TADEO  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SARAH TAMMANY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SINCERE TAYLOR  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
JENNA TAYMAN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MARISA TERWILLIGER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
BRILLE THOMPSON  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
GARRETT THOMPSON  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
KATHERINE THORPE  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
RONNESHIA TRIUMALASETTY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
JULIE TOGNUCCI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ARISSA TORRES  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND  
CLASS OF 2020



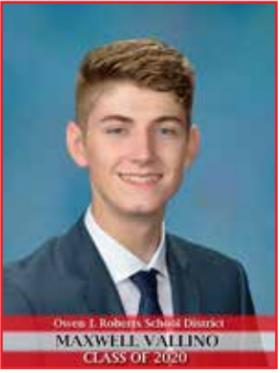
Owen J. Roberts School District  
ROBERT TRANTER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ZACHARY TRIMBUR  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SAMUEL TURLEY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MAXWELL VALLINO  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
EMMA VENANZI  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
LILY WAGNER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
TROY WAGNER  
CLASS OF 2020

## Help Champion Innovation

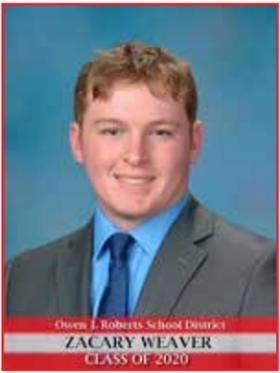
The Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation (OJREF) strives to engage our community in our goal of being a champion of superior performance and supporting educational innovation within the OJRSD. The Foundation is a charity that operates independently from the district and is dedicated to the mission of the OJRSD. To that end, numerous OJR high school seniors received nearly \$30,000 in scholarships administered through the OJREF. Scholarship recipients for the 2019/2020 school year were announced at the Virtual Awards Ceremonies in May. The OJREF was honored to be a part of this ongoing tradition of rewarding the efforts of these students.

This year, through the mini-grant program, various schools within the OJR school district have received innovative classroom tools such as Ozobot kits and iPad microphones. In recent years grant recipients have received iPad keyboards, laptop desks, social-emotional learning materials, MakerSpace materials, funding for STEAM projects and, so much more. These mini-grants offer a way for our teachers to think outside of the box about ways to bring the classroom to life.

The OJREF relies on the generous donations of our community members and local businesses to provide the funding used to operate our mini-grant program. Sadly, many recent fundraising events were canceled, and some future events are still uncertain because of the global pandemic. Now, more than ever, the OJREF could use your support. We invite anyone interested in helping to visit our website ([www.ojref.org](http://www.ojref.org)) to learn more.



Owen J. Roberts School District  
CAMERON WARREN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ZACARY WEAVER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
AVA WEBER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
LILY WEISS  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ALICIA WILKERSON  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SAMUEL WILLIS  
CLASS OF 2020

# to the Class of 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ANYA WINEMILLER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SPENCER WINGET  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
MADISON WISEN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ALEX WITHERS  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
DEREK WITTLINGER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
FELICIA WOLFER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
THOMAS WOOD  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ANIYA WRIGHT  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
EMILY WUNDER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
Chandler Williams  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SELENA YEAGER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
ADELE ZIEBER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
DANIEL ZELNER  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
GAVIN ZORN  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
SEAN ZUBEY  
CLASS OF 2020



Owen J. Roberts School District  
TALIA ZUCH  
CLASS OF 2020

## French Creek Goodbyes

The end of the 2019-2020 school year was bittersweet for the French Creek school community. Students, staff, and families demonstrated tremendous grace and flexibility during the mandated school closure. Technology was widely used to keep all grade levels engaged and connected. Online platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, SeeSaw, and Google Classroom allowed for

instruction and student collaboration to continue during this challenging time. Evidence of this was especially apparent when traditions such as the 6th Grade Promotion Ceremony, 6th Grade Send Off, 7th Grade Orientation, and Kindergarten Round Up were redesigned in order to maintain compliance with recommendations for public safety.

Despite these challenges, faculty, staff, and parents worked together to create a virtual middle school transition, a virtual promotion ceremony, and an online 6th grade yearbook presentation. French Creek also hosted a 6th Grade "Drive By Send Off" to provide students with an opportunity to receive their promotion certificates in person. The highlight of this event was watching the entire staff cheer and express their congratulations and well wishes as students said good-bye to their elementary years.



French Creek, along with each of the other elementary schools, also hosted a Senior "Walk" Drive-Thru event to celebrate our former French Creek students. Although graduating seniors were unable to walk the halls one last time, the returning seniors were recognized by the entire staff as they drove by wearing their caps and gowns. It was a wonderful end of year celebration.

The end of the school year also brought well-deserved retirements for French Creek secretary, Mrs. Susan McKernan and academic coach, Mr. Stone Stafford. Mrs. McKernan and Mr. Stafford each served the Owen J. Roberts SD for nearly three decades. Their ongoing commitment to our district is very much respected and appreciated. We look forward to beginning the upcoming school year with Mrs. Jessica LaGrossa as secretary and Mrs. Danielle Rapp as academic coach. Mr. Gordon Till will also serve as our building custodian upon the retirement of Mrs. George Ludwick in August. Mr. Ludwick has been with the district since 2014 and is looking forward to beginning his retirement in Florida where he can be closer to family.

## Message from the Superintendent



I hope you appreciate the tribute to each senior student pictured in this newsletter. While we were not able to gather in person to celebrate, on June 5 Owen J. Roberts aired the virtual commencement exercises for the Class of 2020 online and on PCTV. Below I share my remarks with you and invite you to watch the commencement tribute which may still be accessed on the district website.

"Congratulations to the graduating seniors in the class of 2020. I sincerely hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy during this quest to overcome a new rival.

Rounding out your time as high school students, I'm sure this isn't what you had in mind. You may feel cheated, or at least melancholy, with the way we have had to stage your senior year and your graduation. Hopefully, though, you were able to spot the opportunities that existed to learn and grow in this unusual circumstance, right up to the very end of your time here at OJR.

2020 has been defined by online classes, increased time and space between you and your friends, and preparing to start your post-high school life without a certainty of what tomorrow may hold. You may have asked yourself, "How can we possibly learn and grow when even shopping for groceries presents risks?"

Consider that in addition to your regular schedule of senior year classes, you were plunged into a curriculum that required you to become experts in change and flexibility, self-sufficiency and adaptation. Along with studies in literature and composition, you witnessed how sympathy, empathy, generosity and gratitude moved us to both tears and laughter. In the absence of gym class and extra-curricular sports, you exercised tenacity and grit in order to achieve new goals. In team sports you learned that we're better together. Sports in the age of social distancing taught us how to be better together . . . apart. Music, theater and art classes evolved organically in the absence of on-site education, challenging you to make creative use of time, space and energy, all of which have historically existed in the domains of math, science and engineering.

We are all learning a lot about human psychology and sociology. Simple actions like wearing facemasks in public places and maintaining a safe distance between us are actually bringing the global community together with a common purpose. Grand sweeping changes that usually take generations to spread across the globe are now happening overnight, prompting us to recognize that both unity and diversity have merit in our universal new normal.

I recently heard someone say, "We're not all in the same boat, but we're all weathering the same storm." Graduates who will be studying business and industry, information technology, carpentry, agriculture and mechanics, are all entering a world in need of stronger, safer, and more intuitive boats, in order to survive new kinds of storms.

During these past few months, you have become walking, talking examples of the Marine Corp concept of "Improvise, adapt and overcome!" You are well trained to not only meet challenges, but also to accept new ones.

Graduating in 2020, then, is not an example of education *interrupted*. It is an example of education *enriched*. You will be the generation that takes on the world's challenges from this very unique perspective. If you embrace that, you will lead us into a future of tomorrows that become more certain because of your bold adaptability. OJR class of 2020, for what you've accomplished during this intriguing year of enriched education, we are so proud of you, and we rest assured that now it is your time to teach us."

# Diverse Connections

By Stephanie Laubenstein

“Imagine a world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book.” Inspired by We Need Diverse Books and the National Education Association, East Vincent Elementary School students and staff are on a mission to build a diverse world celebrating all children’s unique identities. The first step in our new mission was to completely revise the focus of March’s 2020 Read Across America events, beginning with a school-wide “book tasting”.

We chose the theme of “windows and mirrors” to provide opportunities for students to connect and relate to characters, as well as learn from the stories other people share, especially when they are unlike our own. In mirror books, children could see themselves reflected in the characters’ experiences, appearances, personalities, struggles, and more. These stories not only validated children who struggle to find characters like themselves in their books; they also brought a tremendous amount of joy and excitement to young readers. Many children begged their teachers to keep their mirror books, eyes lit up, huge smiles on their faces, hugging the book so tightly as if it were a best friend they hadn’t seen in forever!

The same books that are mirrors to some children serve as windows to others, allowing them a glimpse into their lives. While one child may strongly connect to the main character’s appearance, family structure, or religion, another student may not be able to relate at all. This is where there is work to be done. We taught students to seek out and embrace window stories - especially those of people whose voices have not always been heard and those that are unlike our own. Fourth grader Makayla Wheeler shared, “When I read the window book, it reminds me of someone’s past and that if it’s different from yours, you should respect and not be mean or disrespectful to them.” Stories = Power. Being able to tell stories from your own life and have them heard and believed empowers people.

Throughout the book tasting, students listened openly to others’ stories with empathy and understanding, accepting each individual story as their truth. The highlight of Read Across America week was when every member of our school community viewed the short film, Hair Love by Matthew Cherry. As a shared community text, we knew that it would serve as a mirror

to some and a window to others, sparking powerful conversations among students. They thoughtfully asked questions, which led to further learning, growth, understanding, and appreciation of diversity. Hair Love was a mirror text for Juelz Chiron-Robinson in Mrs Laubenstein’s fourth grade class. “It made me feel proud to embrace my hair. My braids or my curls. My diversity.”

EVES staff recognizes the critical and ongoing work that must be done in order to create a more just and equitable world. Especially in our current climate, we feel a strong call to action. Over the past few months, a growing alliance of teachers has come together to have conversations about our role in cultivating a more culturally fluent environment for our students. Through books clubs, webinars, trainings, and honest conversations with people of color, we are starting by educating ourselves. Beyond self-awareness, we

hope to continue the conversation and take steps forward with the most important members of our community - students and their families. It is our mission to engage in continuous learning on the topics of diversity, race, and racism, so that through open dialogue and action, we can do our part in creating an anti-racist world - a world where all children grow up knowing their worth, feeling proud of who they are, and empowered to continue listening to others’ stories with an open heart.



## East Coventry Students as Leaders

East Coventry Elementary School recognizes that having 6th grade students in an elementary school is unique. Knowing that students in 6th grade have unique developmental and academic needs; East Coventry Elementary School has created several opportunities for leadership and to address their distinct needs.

6th grade students need to be social. They need opportunities to engage in learning activities that promote the ability to listen to the opinions of others and be able to share their thoughts. As a result, the teachers who support the 6th grade students frequently allow for students to engage in social discussions around a specific topic in order to share opinions and thoughts. Since being able to learn through social interactions is important, the location of the 6th grade classrooms at East Coventry Elementary was carefully considered. The classrooms are essentially in their own section of the building. This allows for the students to work in the hallways or other spaces without impacting the rest of the students. This configuration also allows students to take greater ownership and

responsibility over their individual learning.

Leadership opportunities are important for our 6th grade students since they are viewed as role models of the school. The AAA Safety Patrol has been a long-standing tradition at East Coventry for the 6th grade students. Students are trained and assigned various roles including hallway monitors, sidewalk patrols as well as kindergarten safeties. They arrive at the kindergarten classes before dismissal to help the younger students pack their belongings and assist with them getting to their school busses safely. It is important that our kindergarten students view the 6th graders as mentors and trusted individuals. Often the kindergarten students grow quite attached to the 6th grade safeties assigned to assist their classroom.

The East Coventry Elementary News Team allows 6th grade students the chance to hone their presentation skills by producing a weekly news segment. The weekly segment includes upcoming news about the school, staff highlights,

sports, vocabulary, and historical moments. Students get a chance to use green screen technology, iPads and iMovie software to script, record, edit and produce their segments. Each weekly segment is broadcast to the school and shared with the community.

Other unique opportunities for the 6th grade students include reading the morning announcements as well as guiding the school in the daily Pledge of Allegiance. In addition, students in 6th grade play an important role in the school’s positive behavior program. Students in all of the grades earn green tickets for demonstrating responsibility and good citizenship. Once a week, students get a chance to cash in their tickets at a “store” and purchase small items. Our 6th grade students manage the store and assist the



younger students. By helping the other students, the 6th graders demonstrate and model compassion, patience and understanding. All of these important social and emotional characteristics are those that we expect all of the students at East Coventry Elementary to demonstrate.

## Go Wildcats!

### Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas

Congratulations to the following students who have chosen to serve in the military upon graduation: Griffin Anderson, Montgomery County Community College - United States Navy; Nick Hagen, United States Army - ROTC; AJ Hersch, United States Air Force; Olivia Lafferty, Moravian College - Army National Guard; Andrew Morrissey, The Citadel - The Military College of South Carolina; Jeremiah Pike, United States Air Force; TJ Reynolds, Penn State University - Navy ROTC; Kurt Sayers, Army Reserve; and Selena Yeager, Military

Congratulations to the following Owen J. Roberts athletes: Male Career Athlete- Cooper Chamberlain, Male Athlete of the Year- Antonio Petrucelli, Male Athlete of the Year- Connor Quinn, Female Career Athlete- Maddi Koury, Female Career Athlete- Mikayla Niness, Female Athlete of the Year- Olivia LeClaire

Congratulations to Nevaeh Ritsick who earned the title valedictorian for the Technical College High School Pickering Campus. Nevaeh is from Owen J. Roberts and studied Health Career Pathways.

Congratulations to Class of 2020 Valedictorian Arianna Ardit and Salutatorians Marlana Langdon and Ethan Burns

Owen J. Roberts celebrated the first graduates from the Octorara Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy (OHSPSA). Congratulations to Eryn Baradgie, Matthew Brown, Anthony Hersch and Justin Jorgenson. OHSPSA is an approved Pennsylvania Department of Education Career and Technical Education Program that provides job-ready first responders upon graduation from high school.

Congratulations to OJRHS artists who won awards at the Montgomery County Community College’s 2020 Art Shows: Claire Feltenberger, Haley O’Donnell, Katrina Subick and Felicia Wolfer. Please check out their works of art at ojrsdnews.blogspot.com

