

36 Seniors Earn National Honors

Thirty-six members of the Shaker Heights High School Class of 2012 have been honored by one or more of the National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic scholar programs. Together, they represent about 10 percent of Shaker’s senior class.

National Merit Semifinalists: Joshua Barnett, Benjamin Claus, Terence Conlon, Rachel Jensen, Aleksa Kaups, Matthew Krantz, Claire Lo, Rachel Shafran, Nathan Sun, and Benjamin Walker.

National Achievement Semifinalists: Morgan Hammonds, Nia Morgan, and Rachel Shands.

National Hispanic Scholars: Anamaria Boyd, David Levitz, and Spencer Seballos.

National Merit Commended Students: Kristen Amaddio, Brian Benton, Shoshana Bieler, Noah Eisen, Vincent Gassman, Jiawei He, Burcu Kahriman, Jackson Laskey, Jack Lawrence, Ian Limoli, Hannah Lyness, Hannah McCandless, Nia Morgan, Maneesha Pimplikar, Diana Ponitz, Karim Ragab, Spencer Seballos, Rachel Shaw, Brianna Stack, Audrey Steiner-Malumphy, Joan Thompson, Lukun Zhang.

These scholastically talented seniors are considered top candidates for admission to the most selective colleges and for merit-based scholarships.

A Record 159 Shaker Students Named AP Scholars

A record 159 Shaker Heights High School students and June 2011 graduates have been named AP Scholars by The College Board in recognition of their outstanding performance on three or more Advanced Placement (AP) examinations administered through May 2011. This represents 36 percent of the Shaker students who

took AP exams. Worldwide, about 19 percent of the nearly 2 million students who took AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Shaker Heights High School offers 22 Advanced Placement courses in 18 subject areas. In any given year, approximately one-third of Shaker sophomores, juniors, and seniors are enrolled in at least one AP course. For a complete list of Shaker’s AP Scholars, visit www.shaker.org.

Putting the Pieces Together: Mosaic Reflects Shaker’s Commitment to International Baccalaureate

A team of Shaker Heights High School faculty, staff, students, and parents has transformed a plain white wall into an eye-popping, three-dimensional mural in the entryway of the High School. The mural is a celebration of Shaker’s adoption of the International Baccalaureate program in all eight schools. It features a stunning tiled mosaic mounted on a faux-marble wall that looks so real, visitors can’t resist touching it in wonder.

High School art department chair Dan Whitely says, “I knew that it needed to make a strong statement, and to create a ‘wow’ factor upon entering the building.”

Whitely’s advanced art portfolio students helped to create a mosaic design that used the official International Baccalaureate logo and color palette, yet included a reflection of their own style – literally – by blending mirrored glass fragments with two shades of blue tiles. Karen DeMauro, ceramics teacher at the High School, spent several weeks over the summer arranging, gluing, and grouting the hundreds of hand-cut pieces into the mosaic to ensure it would be ready for the first day of school. Behind the scenes, Assistant Principal Sara Joyce handled logistical details as numerous as the glass fragments in the mosaic.

Whitely enlisted the help of a sculptor and friend, Don Winton, to carve a beautiful wooden frame for the large mosaic. The frame depicts the 10 International Baccalaureate learner profile attributes, which all Shaker students are encouraged to adopt: balanced, caring, communicators, inquirers, knowledgeable, open-minded, principled, risk-takers, thinkers, and – appropriately – reflective.

In order to anchor the framed mosaic securely, members of the maintenance staff installed drywall over the tile wall beneath, creating a smooth, blank canvas. Local artisans Kim Metheny and Sue Weir then applied a hand-painted, glossy marble finish. Metheny and Weir, parents of recent Shaker graduates, co-own a business that specializes in creating decorative finishes.

The faux-marble finish was inspired by Whitely’s travels to Greece. “I really wanted to include some element of Greek architecture in this mural,” he said. “When I was there, I realized what a debt we owe to the ancient Greeks. So much of our culture and what our students learn began with them.”

Shaker Heights High School faculty, staff, students, and parents transform a plain wall into a three-dimensional mural in the entryway of the school in celebration of the International Baccalaureate program.



Calling World Language Speakers

Enrollment of international students is on the rise in the Shaker schools, with families now hailing from more than 25 countries. To help welcome these new families and ease their transition to our community, the Shaker schools have teamed up with the City of Shaker Heights to create a world language database.

The database will include contact information for residents who speak both English and another world language fluently, and who may be willing to provide assistance to other international families as they navigate their new terrain.

Mandarin, Spanish, and Arabic speakers are in particular demand. If you are willing to lend your language skills to help welcome our new neighbors, please contact Julie Voyzey of the City's Communications and Outreach Department at julie.voyzey@shakeronline.com.

Grant Helps Buses Run Cleaner, Warmer, Cheaper

Thanks to a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Shaker's school buses are cleaner, warmer, and less expensive to operate this winter. The \$15,000 grant is being used to finish retrofitting the buses with a Webasto heater, which reduces idling time, emissions, and fuel consumption. The net savings for the District are estimated at \$45,000 per year.

"A diesel engine runs dirtiest when it's cold," explained chief mechanic Joseph Belsan, who spearheaded the project. "And unlike your car, a bus has to be brought up to a minimum operating temperature before you can drive it. That used to take an hour or even longer when it was really cold outside. Now it takes less than half as long."

The Webasto works by warming both the diesel engine and the interior of the bus in less time and uses half as much fuel as a cold engine startup. Because the de-

Hall of Fame Inducts Seven Graduates



Seven graduates were inducted into the Shaker Heights Alumni Association Hall of Fame on October 9. **Front row:** Rabbi Roger C. Klein, '60, of The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Cleveland; Earl Biederman, '53, Cincinnati Bengals football scout; Bram Kaufman, '78, plastic and reconstructive surgeon at MetroHealth Medical Center. **Back row:** Alan Perris, '60, chief operating officer of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; David Icovc, '67, an internationally recognized forensic engineering expert; J. Brian Tuffin, '83, president and chief operating officer of biotech company Fuse Science, Inc. Cleveland radio executive Carl Hirsch, '64, was inducted posthumously.

vice has a timer, the warming can be started up automatically, reducing the need for staff members to come in early on the coldest days to turn on block heaters and crank up engines.

On top of all these benefits: The inside of the bus is warm and cozy by the time kids get on board, and the windshield is defrosted in the process. No more scraping!



Chief mechanic Joe Belsan adjusts a fuel-saving device on one of Shaker's buses.

Survey Says...

As a part of the Shaker schools' strategic planning process, a community survey is now underway to collect feedback from residents about their communications preferences.

How do you want to hear about news from the Shaker schools? What topics are of most interest to you? Please take a few moments to give us your thoughts. The five-minute survey can be completed online at www.shaker.org. Print versions of the survey are available at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building and at the Shaker public libraries. The survey will be available until December 31.

For the latest news and info about the Shaker schools, visit shaker.org. To receive regular e-news updates, subscribe at shaker.org/news. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/ForShakerSchools.

Weathering Tough Financial Times

Despite steep cuts in state aid that took effect July 1, the Shaker Heights City School District is on a stronger financial footing going forward than it was a year ago, according to the five-year forecast adopted by the Board of Education in October.

The outlook stems in large part from millions of dollars in savings in wages and benefits that result from collective bargaining agreements reached this year. Base salaries for all employees are frozen for three years, and staff members will begin contributing significantly more toward health care costs on January 1, 2012.

In addition, a series of cost-saving measures enacted since 2007 have had a sustained impact to help cushion the twin blows of a significant cut in state support triggered by Ohio's reeling economy and a shrinking local tax base.

Employees Do Their Share

In April, the Board of Education and the Shaker Heights Teachers' Association approved a three-year contract that freezes base salaries at current levels. The contract was retroactive to January 1. Since base salaries were frozen in 2010 as well, the same wage schedule will be in effect for four years.

Three-year agreements with the District's other collective bargaining groups took effect July 1 and also call for a freeze in base salaries. Following a total freeze in the first year, teachers and other bargaining employees receive a one-percent lump-sum stipend and are eligible for step increases in the second and third contract years. The District's non-bargaining employees – administrators, tutors, aides and security personnel – are subject to the same provisions as those in the teachers' contract.

As is the case with most school districts in Ohio, personnel costs normally represent about 80 percent of general fund expenditures for the Shaker schools. Considering that the District spends approximately \$70 million annually on salaries and benefits, a four-year freeze on base salaries will result in savings and will con-

tinue to have an impact going forward.

Cost-Saving in Personnel, Health Care

The District is also cutting costs by trimming its work force. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, the Shaker schools have already realized \$709,000 in savings, primarily by eliminating 10 positions. This follows the reduction of 23 positions from last year's budget, which saved nearly \$2 million.

Treasurer Bryan C. Christman has emphasized that the District needs to achieve budget reductions going forward. The District's five-year forecast calls for annual budget savings of \$1.5 million a year, starting in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Meanwhile, the District has continued to control health-care costs. A series of changes will offset a projected 11 percent annual growth rate in health insurance costs this year and the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

The changes include increasing the employee share of the premium from eight percent to 12 percent beginning in January 2012. Raising deductibles and employee co-payments were among the other changes in the school district's health plan. The net financial impact of the contractual changes is estimated at \$833,000 per year in ongoing savings.

Eroding State Support

Aggressive cost containment has become even more important for the District in light of eroding financial support from the State of Ohio. For the two-year period ending June 30, 2013, the Shaker schools will receive about \$8.3 million less from the state than the amount for the previous biennium.

The lost revenue includes approximately \$1 million a year in federal stimulus funds that came to the District through State Foundation payments and about \$2.75 million a year through the accelerated elimination of the tangible personal property tax and public utility reimbursement payments.

The effect of shrinking state aid will be felt for a while. The District is projected to lose about \$21 million over the next seven years, including the \$8.3 million over the current biennium.

The operating levy approved by voters in May 2010 will help cushion the impact of sharp reductions in state aid. According to the appropriations resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, the schools will receive nearly \$64 million in FY12, a 6.2 percent increase from the amount received last year.

Integrity in Financial Reporting

In addition to strong support from constituents, the District continues to receive recognition for the accuracy and integrity

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WINTER
SHOULD NOT
BE THE SEASON
OF YOUR
DISCONTENT.



Most people shy away from putting their homes up for sale during the winter months. But Cathy LeSueur has many ways to encourage buyers to act and you can take advantage of her proven system. She'll present you with a detailed marketing plan that outlines what it will take to sell your home. She'll aggressively seek buyers through advertising, feature your home on the weekly TV Open House and post your property on the Howard Hanna website to ensure maximum exposure. Give Cathy a call today at 216-999-8408 and find out how easy selling your home can be.



"I applied for my first grant to help purchase materials for the newly formed Science Olympiad team that Gene Zajac and I had started a year earlier," he says.

In addition to participation in the robotics competition, Marencik has used Foundation monies to enhance the science and engineering curriculum for all his students.

"The grants have afforded these students the opportunities to compete at the highest level in various science and engineering competitions and to experience science, technology, engineering, and mathematics well beyond the normal scope of high school education."

He speaks for teachers across the district in believing that "enrichment activities made possible by the Foundation give our students a distinct advantage in the areas of knowledge and experience, and set Shaker apart from other school districts."

Learn more about the Foundation and view a video about its work at www.shaker.org/foundation.

School News Update

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of its financial reporting and for its purchasing practices. The audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, is the latest in a long line of "clean" audits. The District recently garnered the Auditor of State Award with Distinction for its excellence in financial recordkeeping.

The Shaker schools have received similar awards of excellence in financial reporting for 12 consecutive years from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and the Association of School Business Officials.

In addition, the Ohio Schools Council recently recognized Shaker as an "exemplary saver" for its aggressive use of cooperative purchasing to get the best prices for products and services. Through participation in the Council, the School District receives discounts on electricity, natural gas, school buses, insurance, and other goods and services.

Here Comes the Sun

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"One of the most interesting things is that you very quickly modify your behavior because you are paying attention to it," says Brett. "It's kind of fortunate for us that our meter is in a very visible spot. You really notice a huge difference between the times it's zipping around, the times it's barely moving, and when it's going backwards. It really makes you think about the electricity you are using."

"For instance, when you walk out of the room and you leave the light on, it makes you think, 'Oh I should really turn that off,'" says Annette.

But during the height of the summer, the couple doesn't hesitate to turn on the air conditioning.

Nor should they, says Martens. "In the summertime you get much more production, so basically Annette and Brett get to use their air conditioning guilt-free."

Laurel Richie Q&A

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toward women. I promote leadership opportunities for girls, through both athletics and groups like the Girl Scouts. Working for the Girl Scouts reminded me of what I learned as one – discover, connect, and take action. That's leadership. The WNBA's mission of giving back to the community also is very attractive to me. We are all role models.

What have you been doing since you started with the WNBA in May?

My first task was to hit the road, and I visited all twelve franchises in under two months. Our season runs May through October, including play-offs, and I am attending as many games as possible. I also have continued my speaking engagements.

What do you do for fun?

I read a lot, and I travel the world in search of the most beautiful beaches. In case anyone wants to know, my current favorite is Shoal Bay on Anguilla.