

@ Shaker Schools

The FACE of Community Engagement

Keith Langford was named Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) for the Shaker Heights City School District as of January 2016. In this new position, Langford oversees the District's volunteer program, coordinates outreach activities, and acts as a community liaison with families, businesses, and community stakeholders.



Langford served as the Educational Support Specialist at Lomond Elementary School for more than three years, where he provided student support through small group and one-on-one instruction, managed classroom behaviors, and collaborated with teachers to develop effective interventions.

Langford was instrumental in implementing the Lomond Minority Achievement Committee (L-MAC) for third- and fourth-grade students at Lomond. He also started the Lomond Fathers Committee, which sponsors the Fathers Walk & Father-Daughter Dance. All of the District's K-4 buildings now also have a Fathers Committee.

Before entering education, Langford spent more than eight years in the business world managing customer service and sales support for Mercedes Benz, Wells Fargo, and Citizens Bank. He has also contributed his time and energies to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Boy Scouts of America.

"Mr. Langford is a compassionate and innovative educator as well as a seasoned business professional with a proven track record of working with people," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. "Our district and the entire Shaker community are very fortunate to have an individual with such a diverse set of skills and experiences lead this important new initiative."

Nothing Less Than Perfection

Popular pianist and songwriter **Jim Brickman**, SHHS '79, and vocalist Anne Cochran, SHHS '77, shared the spotlight with members of the Shaker High Mixed A Capella Ensemble at Brickman's Comfort & Joy holiday show at Playhouse Square last December. The students, led by choir director Mario Clopton, accompanied the illustrious Shaker alums on two songs they had workshopped together when Brickman and Cochran visited the High School last fall.

Brickman told the students, "Thank you for teaching me my own song; we've never heard it brought to life before." He then joked, "I have no expectation other than perfection."



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The Audrey Stout Learning Garden will be featured in the Gracious Gardens of Shaker Heights Tour on June 19.

Tour Features High School Learning Garden

The Audrey Stout Learning Garden in the courtyard of Shaker Heights High School will be featured on the 2016 Gracious Gardens of Shaker Heights Tour, which benefits the Shaker Historical Society. The tour takes place June 19 from noon to 4 pm, and provides a sneak peek into six or more beautiful residential gardens in Shaker Heights. The Learning Garden will be the only community garden featured on this year's tour.

The garden was recently named in memory of former Shaker High School history teacher Audrey Stout, who was an avid gardener

and steadfast champion of Shaker students from 1968 to 1986. Stout, who died last September, was also the mother of three Shaker graduates.

The Learning Garden serves a wide range of students at the High School. Teachers have found natural tie-ins with art, English, and science classes. Several students with disabilities have completed senior projects in the garden. And two Eagle scouts earned their awards by creating benches and a storage unit for the garden. Students have harvested potatoes and kale for the cafeteria, made their own salsa, and even created soap and paper from the garden's bounty.

The garden's design reflects the diversity of the school and surrounding

community. The four quadrants contain plants from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, with an emphasis on sustainable agriculture. Community volunteers help to water and harvest the garden throughout the summer months.

An annual grant from the Shaker Schools Foundation helps the garden to flourish and thrive. The Foundation also facilitated a one-time gift from the Class of 1955 that helped expand the garden.

Tickets for the Gracious Gardens Tour are \$20 in advance, or \$25 the day of the tour. For tickets and information, visit shakerhistoricalsociety.org.

27 Seniors Earn National Honors

Twenty-seven members of the Shaker Heights High School Class of 2016 have been named Semifinalists and Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists are Max Cassell, Allison Kao, Sara Mesiano, and Anna Seballos.

The National Merit Commended Students are Gabrielle Bal, Hannah Barrett, Vishwanath Betapudi, Haley Buchan, Nathaniel Calabrese, Abigail Connell, Margaret Cullina, Joseph Espy, Emily Forbes, Ruth Geye, Elana Herbst, Amani Hill, Nabhonil Kar, Owen LaFramboise, Daniel Luo, Braden Meyerhoefer, Ian Morrison, Clara Mueller, Joshua Podl, Olivia Rayburn, Anav Sood, Jacob Voyzey, and Helen Yusko.



Nationwide, 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists have been designated from approximately 1.5 million program entrants in more than 22,000 high schools. These scholastically talented seniors are considered top candidates for admission to the most selective colleges. **SL**