

# The Spotlight

June 2022

Saying Goodbye To The Class of 2022

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Check out our June Song  
Of The Month!

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## Retiring Staff Members

By Audrey Helms

As the end of the school year quickly approaches, it is time to say goodbye to our beloved teachers Mrs. Cumming, Mr. May, and Mr. Gibeaut as they make their way to retirement. Below they share with us some of their most cherished accomplishments and memories during their time at Olmsted Falls High School.

### Mrs. Cumming

**What are your plans for after retirement?** "I plan on still working with science educators and students. I tutor students in chemistry through a wonderful family-owned tutoring organization based in Connecticut. I am a College Board AP Consultant so I will teach teachers how to teach AP Chemistry. I also work with the National Math and Science Initiative that serves underserved students and teachers in science. My husband and I love to travel and to be outdoors hiking and biking, and we have a couple big trips planned for the fall that combine both of these with another trip in January. Beyond that...more traveling and lots of time with family!"

**What was your favorite memory with the class of 2022?** "I will fondly remember the presentations put on by the AP Research students - fantastic job. I will also remember all of the great one-on-one conversations that I have had with students in the class of 2022. I will dearly miss these students!"

**What will you miss the most about OFHS?** "For me it has always been about the students - working with them, watching the light bulb go on when they

realize chemistry is not impossible, hearing about their successes, listening to their individual narratives, being told that I made a difference in their lives....nothing can top that!"

**A word from students:** "I had Mrs. Cumming for 2 years in chemistry and during that time she has become one of my favorite teachers. In her class, I found a new appreciation for problem-solving that I will take with me for the rest of my life. She always gave me the best advice whenever I had a problem, and I will miss her a lot next year." Amber Corman '22

### Mr. May

**What are your plans for after retirement?** "I will spend more time with my family and travel abroad starting this autumn."

**What was your favorite memory with the class of 2022?** "Many members of this class traveled with me to Quebec City. It was delightful to watch their reactions as they practiced their French and experienced Quebecois history and culture."

**What will you miss the most about OFHS?** "I will most assuredly miss my students and colleagues here at OFHS, especially my fellow World Language teachers!"

**A word from students:** "I had Mr. May for 3 years and I can, without a doubt, say that he changed the way I look at my education. He taught us new study habits, how to prepare for tests properly, and even some life lessons along the way. I'm honored to say that I got the opportunity to learn from Mr. May and I wish him the best in the future." Sam Vallejo '22

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## Mr. Gibeaut

**What are your plans for after retirement?** “1. I will continue to help coach basketball at OFHS 2. Will continue to do PA work for OFHS football and track, as well as various Baldwin-Wallace athletic events 3. Help my wife run her dog care business 4. Actively seek a second residence in the Carolinas.”

**What was your favorite memory with the class of 2022?** “1. In my 33 years at OFHS, this has been the most consistent year of strong school spirit--and we've had terrific school spirit most of the time I've taught here. Youth and high school are short-lived and fleeting, so my hats off to everyone in this senior class who lived this school year to its fullest! 2. The incredible basketball season from this past winter!”

**What will you miss the most about OFHS?** “All the camaraderie I've had with faculty, staff, administration, community, and the student population has made this such an incredibly fun experience. I thank all these groups, as I truly never had to 'work' a day in my life!”

**A word from students:** “Mr Gibeaut is a fun and amazing teacher who always kept things engaging through student demonstrations! He would also always give us a little pump-up speech on test days, and he is all around an amazing person!” -Israel Gole '22

# Where is the Class of 2022 Headed?

By Claire Wiggenhorn, Hadley Allen, Katie Cleary, Nora Barnard, and Ellie Phillips

## Sports

With the seniors school year ending, most are looking forward to what comes next. Some people may be going into college, while others may plan not to. To some of our seniors, college is the next chapter their lives where they will further explore themselves and their education. Others, on the other hand, are choosing to continue their sporting careers as well. Noah Voelker states, “I am going to Kent and trying out for the team there. They have a division 1 and division 3 team. I have talked to some coaches and am going to work hard over the summer to make either of the two teams.” Noah is much looking forward to playing for Kent, and so is his current teammate Will Dovenbarger who also plans on attending Kent State. Will is going to be trying out for a hockey team and hopes to continue playing throughout his college years. Nathan Urry is also continuing his career in wrestling at Cleveland State. “I'm excited to see what my college career holds,” Urry says. Going to school for lacrosse is Spencer Lethbridge. He will attend Thomas More University and is “excited to play at the next level and take that jump. I am super excited to meet new guys and build lifelong friendships along the way!” Lastly, Maddie Swanson plans on attending Findlay for swim while Lillie Katsaras is going to Bowling Green for track and field and cross country. We are very excited to see what these amazing athletes and our other OFHS alumni do in the future, and we wish them luck!

## The Trades

One of the most in demand jobs right now is the skilled trades, and multiple students from Olmsted Falls are planning on putting their handiness skills to work. Just to highlight a few of these students, we asked them some questions about their future. Collin Fetterman said, “I chose to go into HVAC because I enjoy working with machinery. Also, the median age for technicians is 55 so many positions will be open in the

future. I plan on going to work for Stack Heating and Cooling after I graduate because they have an instructor that they employ themselves, and I will not have to pay for my education.” Along with HVAC we have some students like Gabe Brown going into Electrical. Gabe remarks, “I plan to join the Electricians Union and do the wireman apprenticeship training through the J.A.T.C (Joint apprenticeship Trade committee). My father is a iron worker for Local 17 in Cleveland and most of my family is union in one career or another. One of my friends became an electrician and I got to learn more about it. I also made some friends through him and I decided that I wanted to be an electrician.” Good luck to Collin, Gabe, and all our students going into the trades!

## Arts

As many of our graduating seniors head down impressive paths focusing on academics, trades, and other subjects, OFHS has an impressive number of students pursuing the arts as well. Whether it be the visual arts, performing arts, or musical arts, these talented students are sure to be in the spotlight in the future. Although we have some students- such as Zowie Hoover and Samantha Backus- who plan on going into fine arts, a majority of our graduating seniors who plan on pursuing the arts want to focus on music. Audra Kaminski plans to study music therapy, while Galvin Morgan plans to specialize in music composition. On the performance side of things, Sarah Schuff plans on studying musical performance, and Madison Podojil plans on keeping her place in the spotlight through musical theater. Holly Robinson, who plans to study music education, says, “I'm super excited to study music and art because I love both fields! I one day hope to teach middle school students, and can't wait to see what this path brings me!” Good luck to future singers, artists, and performers!

We must give a hand to a future Ivy League student,

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## Ivy League Schools

Jimmy Bement, who will be attending Princeton University in the fall. Getting into an Ivy League school takes lots of work and dedication to enrich your educational experience. Bement is no stranger to this commitment. During his four years at Olmsted Falls High School, he participated in NHS, Class Officers, Track and Field, Soccer, Cross Country, MHS, Rho Kappa, Key Club, and Student Ambassadors! He was the President of NHS and Treasurer of Class Officers. Bement plans to study political science during his undergraduate years before attending law school.

When asked if he had any advice for others aspiring to go to an Ivy League school, he stated, "I think that the most common mistake people make in applying to these schools is valuing quantity over quality. While it is necessary to fill up your application with the best GPA, test scores, and club titles in order to be taken seriously, an applicant needs a unique factor that can clearly communicate to the Ivies why they in particular are a valuable investment. For me, this was a yearlong research project that I conducted on proportional voting mechanisms, a topic closely related to the fields I plan on studying/working in, and the topic which I made the focus of my essays and interviews in every school I applied to."

### Military

Many students have chosen a different path after high school, including serving our country. These graduates plan on going into all the different branches of the military. The National Guard is the branch that responds to domestic emergencies and overseas combat missions. Soon-to-be graduates Kyler Kuntz and Camila Gutierrez are both going into this branch after graduating. Kyler will also be showcasing his musical

talents by playing his Euphonium in a National Guard Band. The Navy has people able to work almost any type of America's military equipment and their job is to maintain the freedom of the seas. Two former students are going into this branch, Wyatt Hensley and Johnathan Hubeny. While talking to Wyatt about how he decided to actually do such a life-changing thing such as joining the military, he said, "I've only recently found a desire to join the Navy from a family history in armed forces and a desire to serve the country and be a part of something bigger than myself. It's a really good but tough personal decision to better myself and set myself up for success in the world, but to leave all my friends and family for a while will be hard. It definitely has its perks and I'm very excited for all the unique and exciting experiences it holds for me." The Air Force protects the nation through control of the air and space. Soon to be graduates Alexander Milicic, Jonathan Vegh, and Phillip Angus plan to protect the country by serving in the Air Force. Finally, the Marine branch that works in operations in littoral zones (places in the water close to the shore) will be welcoming two former Olmsted Falls students into their program. Both Andrew Conner and Caleb Sherman plan to serve in the Marine Branch. Thank you to all the future graduates that plan to go into the military of any sort, and good luck on all future endeavors!

The Spotlight staff would like to wish one final good luck and congratulations to all of our graduating seniors!

## Senior Wills

By Abigail Guthrie

"I, Bailey Boyle, will Kendall Getz the aux cord on bus rides to football and basketball games!"

"I, Lauren Noernberg, will Danielle Cameron my trampoline and best seat for film in the basketball team room."

"I, Allison White, will my *short girl* title to Emma Sedlacek because someone has to get made fun of."

"I, Andrew Homola, will Mr. Celaschi my entire Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson collection of movies."

"I, Lisa Boateng, will Mrs. Topolski my hoodie with Lisa written at the back because we have the same first name."

"I, Terence King, will Mr. C to have an wonderful life, and I hope you and your wife and kid live in prosperity."

"I, Madison Podojil, will Claire Spittal as a wonderful replacement to my Vice President position in Masquers:)"

"I, Aaron Katitus, will my putter to Dylan Sowers because he cannot putt."

# A Letter to the Class of 2026

By Samantha Gaba

Suffice it to say, we've all been there. Walking through the doors of the high school for the first time wondering what we're all doing here. It took me forever in those first weeks to see that there were really just two hallways that connected all the classrooms.

That's all changed now.

When the Class of 2022 were freshmen, the high school was still under construction. The science and art halls had yet to exist, and some classes involved walking outside to the trailers. Trust me when I say learning your class schedule was...difficult. But four years later, here we are. A somewhat newer building and four new classes. So here it is:

Dear Class of 2026,

It's going to be hard. It's going to be scary. Come freshman orientation, you're going to walk these halls and through your class schedule and you're going to get lost. That's what Student Ambassadors are for. They'll help guide you through your first year; they'll be your shoulders and your legs should you need them.

And then the first actual week of school hits. There's no homework—not yet. But you can sense the workload beginning to pile up, even if the teachers are still going over the syllabus and fire exits.

And then you've been in high school for a month. Halfway through the quarter, and your workload is still light but you're just on the edge of a nervous breakdown. And that's okay. That's what freshman year is all about—learning how to navigate the course load and prepare you for the sheer amount of work you'll encounter in your junior and senior years. Honors classes will turn into AP classes, and you'll get notified that you still have to fulfill your course requirements, like taking an art class or personal finance.

Freshman year is like that prerequisite everyone has to take. It's like having to take health class and realizing that you're still only in class with the people you've known for nine years. Other classes will start to come, though. Soon you'll meet the juniors and seniors that you skirt around in the halls. The ones that seem to tower over you as you try to find your way to Algebra or Geometry.

Don't approach high school like you've already been in it. Approach it like you are going to be in it. There will always be those remarks in the hallways, the occasional, "Oh, you're a freshman." And the

name will drag out, the "freshman" will become "freshhhhhmannnn," an acquired trait that you can't quite shake until junior year. Don't worry, that's normal. You'll approach the Classes of '28 and '29 the same way when you're a junior or senior.

But don't treat this year like a filler year for the good parts. You can still enjoy your first year of high school. This is your time to join all the clubs you're interested in, your shoo-in for club presidencies and amiability, should decide to run for class president junior year. These opportunities will pass you up so quickly you'll realize junior year that you wish you had joined that club earlier.

Socially, freshman year will be the same as eighth grade, but it can change very quickly. You'll make new friends, lose old ones, and solidify your group for the next three years. You'll have more opportunities to leave the house: football games, powderpuff, basketball games, homecoming, etc. Sports will be taken more seriously, workouts will increase, and that grade point average will seem more real than ever before.

Don't mess this up, kid. Freshman year may seem unnecessary and trivial now, but you'll need it for the future. I know you're sick of hearing this. I realize that hearing the same statement over and over makes you want to listen to it less, but it's true. Freshman year will pass by so fast. The workload you encounter will be entirely different than that in middle school (especially for those of you taking Honors Biology), and you'll feel as if you have no time to do it all. You won't, but you'll make it work. Come senior year, you'll be asking yourself, "How in the hell did I manage to do all of it freshman year?" Because you won't know how to do it then.

It's true, freshman year is a trial run for sophomore, junior, and senior year. A trial run. That means it's practice. It's okay to mess up once in a while freshman year, but if you slip the entire year it'll be hard to get back up the next year, and the year after that, and so on. All I can say is to try your best. Just try, that's all. If you don't try, you'll never know how to do it in the future, and that's the most important thing. So this is our farewell, I suppose. A good luck, a remembrance, a "I hope you do well" wish from the Class of 2022. Good luck, '26. We hope you try your best.

Class of 2022.

# Dear Our Graduating Publications Members

By Hadley Allen

As the class of '22 heads out of Olmsted Falls and moves on to bigger and better things, those of us who remain here for another one, two, maybe three years are left with a bit of an empty space in our hearts. Sure, it's sad for everyone to see our seniors go, but this sadness is a little more intense for Mr. Gaba and Mrs. Pickenhiem's first-period publications class.

Publications, though not the most well-known class, always manages to pull together a group of people who share the same interests, and a lovely team dynamic inevitably sets in. This year, a large number of our members happen to be seniors, and whether they have been in the class since freshman year or this was their first time trying to figure out how to upload pictures from a camera to a computer, we will miss them all the same.

First up on the roster is Ellie Phillips who, although may not have actually been present most days, definitely responded in the group chat as much as the next gal. Ellie served what was possibly one of the most important roles in the class, the one who knows sports. Whether it was writing every single sports column in the entire 2022 volume of the newspaper (and believe me, it most definitely was), or even just asking around for quotes to go on sports pages, Ellie takes first place in that category, and we will miss her dearly.

Next up is Abby Guthrie, who was one of our new members this year. Abby was always the first to send out the dreaded mass email that is a staple in publications, and never minded taking one for the team when it comes to getting pictures. No matter the time or place, if there was a school event, you could count on Abby to go in full-photographer style. Although she provided lots of support on the actual yearbook, Abby's most prominent support was shown through her endless supply of adorable dog and cat

pictures that she shared throughout the class. Abby provided us with many much-needed cute animal videos, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

Samantha Gaba was another one of our long-distance yearbook/newspaper-ers this year. However, even though she wasn't able to be present in class, she pulled her weight (and then some) all the way from the art wing. Never afraid to bombard someone in the hallway, you could always count on Sam to get a quote, picture, or any other material needed from a student who was too stubborn to answer their emails. Her witty, and occasionally critical, articles always served as comedic relief in the newspaper. Although a couple of articles had to be sent back for renovations, Sam truly left her mark in the class.

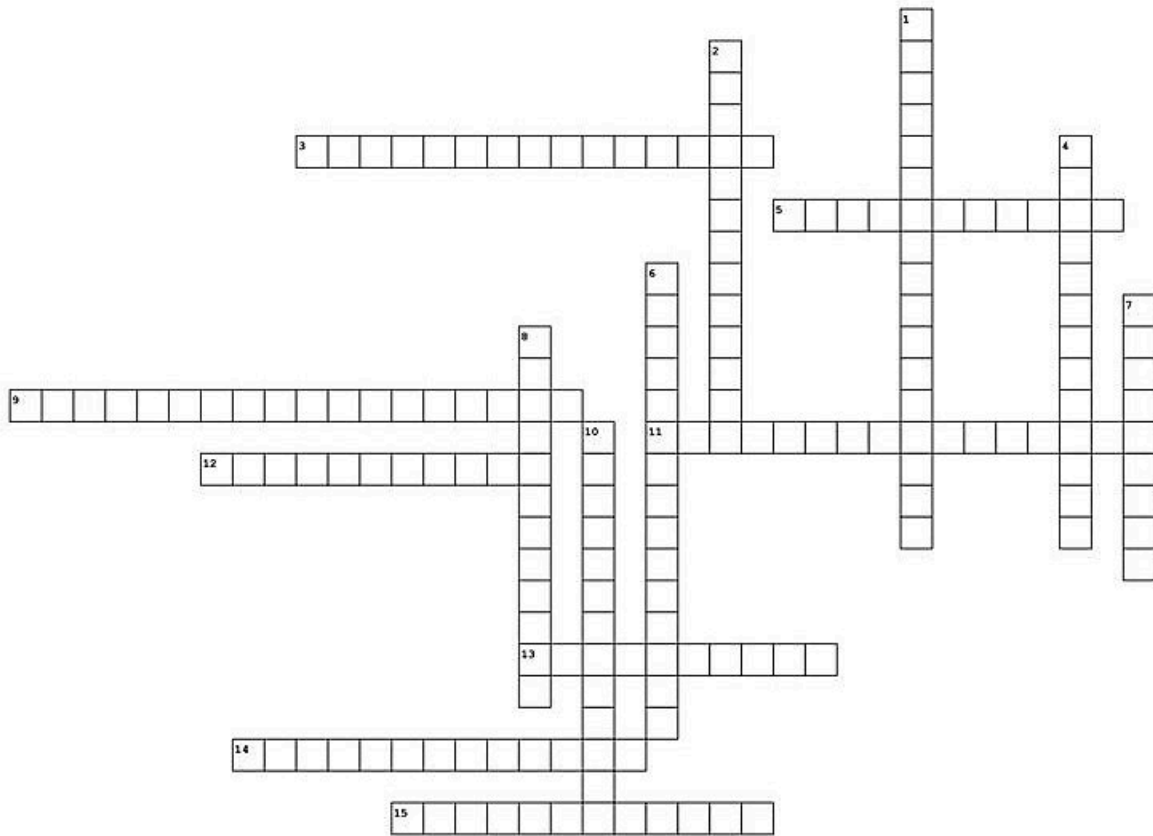
Finally, we have Samantha Poore, senior editor of the yearbook. Sam's dedication to the yearbook was completely unmatched this year. Countless students could undoubtedly testify as they have surely witnessed her sprinting down the hall with a camera on one occasion or another. On top of this, Sam has spent roughly 27,394 hours (not counting class time) making sure that everything in the yearbook was flawless. Her impressive ability to craft beautiful layouts and make copious amounts of checklists set her apart from the others, and she has certainly played a ginormous part in the completion of the yearbook.

Although we are excited to adopt our newest members into the class next year, losing our seniors makes the experience bittersweet. Our seniors have left us with some big shoes to fill, and that little slice of our days from 8:10 to 8:56 will surely not be the same without them. I would like to wish the best of luck to our seniors with all of their future endeavors; there is no doubt in my mind that you will all do great things. Even if those great things don't include tagging group photos.

# Senior Crossword Puzzle

By Samantha Poore

The answer to each clue is an OFHS senior! Time to find out how well you know the class of '22!



## Across

- 3. Homecoming Queen
- 5. Prom Queen
- 9. Soccer commit to University of Mount Union
- 11. Class president
- 12. Attending Loyola University in Chicago
- 13. Also known as Woody
- 14. Key Club Secretary
- 15. Homecoming King

## Down

- 1. Prior Michigan fan now attending OSU
- 2. Senior yearbook editor
- 4. Played Dolly in the 2022 school musical
- 6. Track and cross country commit to BGSU
- 7. Piano soloist at Pops
- 8. Prom King
- 10. Studied abroad in France

## Newspaper Staff

Hadley Allen (editor)	Elaina Phillips
Katie Cleary (editor)	Samantha Poore
Nora Barnard	Claire Wiggernhorn
Samantha Gaba	
Abigail Guthrie	
Audrey Helms	