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THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

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# OUTLOOK

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VOLUME 38 • ISSUE NO. 2

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*Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence*



# FEATURES

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## Getting to Know You

From Cuba to South Korea, and points in-between, our new faculty and staff bring a wealth of experiences and interesting perspectives to Oakridge.

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## Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Oakridge's community ambassador Nadia DiStefano details efforts to better engage with the many diverse communities surrounding Oakridge, and how our school is leading efforts to connect with our neighbors.

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## Let's Work

Integrated Media students put in time on the clock in the classroom, and with their clients in the 'real world.' We'll take you behind the scenes of their budding business.

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## Passionate About Their Art

Forget the old adage about teaching. Oakridge's accomplished fine art educators prove that those who can, do. Can't is not part of the equation.

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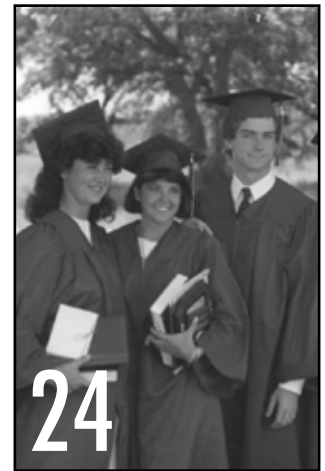
## There's No Place Like Home

As Oakridge approaches its 40th anniversary, we share some timeless photos and endearing reflections from the early years. They explain why we say, "There's No Place Like Home."

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## Gimme An O!

Ten Owls prove that athletics and academics can be a winning partnership at Oakridge and beyond.



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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

People who possess historical knowledge are like mature trees with deep roots. Healthy. Enduring. Inspiring. Studying the past – whether familial or organizational history – aids in understanding current culture. It also increases the likelihood of appreciating the present and participating in the future.

I find Oakridge history fascinating. Over the years, my knowledge has grown as a result of meeting people, listening to stories, and reading yearbooks and Outlooks. I have also been privileged to witness history in the making since 1993, the year I was hired. As The Oakridge School celebrates four decades of excellence throughout the 2018-2019 school year, we hope you will indulge us from time to time as we seize opportunities to share stories and school history with you.



*Arlington Councilwoman and Oakridge parent Victoria Farrar-Myers, Kristi and Jon Kellam, and Mayor Jeff Williams at City Hall following the Oct. 30 proclamation presentation recognizing Oakridge.*

The Oakridge dream began in the education wing of the Handley United Methodist Church in East Fort Worth. On opening day in 1979, there were 85 trailblazers. Today, nearly 800 students enjoy the beautiful and almost fully developed campus in Arlington. In 1985, just six short years after the founding, seven “pioneers” completed their senior year, proudly earning distinction as the school’s first graduating class. Last May, the largest class to date (84) received diplomas, increasing the number of alumni Owls to 1,682. From our humble beginnings in a rented church facility to the 100-acre campus of today, one thing at Oakridge has not changed:

the mission of inspiring students in a dynamic, college preparatory environment.

Enjoy this Fall edition of the *Outlook*. It is filled with pictures and stories from this academic year. Soon, however, this too will be archived...history, like the fun facts that follow.



The current library opened in 1999, but there were two previous locations. The first in the current Middle School learning commons and maker space and the second in the current Upper School math wing.



The 8-lane competition track opened in 2011. Before that, coaches and athletes painted lines around the field hockey field for track practice.



In the mid 1990’s, prior to the Fine Arts Center opening in 2000, choir and drama classes met in doublewide trailers in the Quad.



Theatre productions were held in the Upper School Commons until 1995, when they moved to the Multi-Purpose Activity Center (MAC). The stage in the John P. Flavin Fine Arts Center opened in 2000, the same year many of this year’s seniors were born.

I believe solid Oakridge people are those who embrace the present. But the firmly planted also strive to acquire knowledge of the school’s past and participate in the development of its future. The school’s story is remarkable, and each of us plays a vital role in writing the current chapter. Let us work together to create one that future Owls will reflect upon with pride and fondness.

Happy 40th Anniversary, Oakridge Family.

*Jonathan M. Kellam, Head of School*



CAMPUS NEWS



Back to School





# CAMPUS NEWS



## FALL *Festival*





# GETTING TO KNOW NEW OAKRIDGE FACULTY AND STAFF

## Where have you studied or worked abroad?

"I worked for four years at Bugil Academy in Cheonan, South Korea, as a High School Mathematics and Computer Science Teacher. I also had positions of Dean of Students, Dean of Faculty and Department Chair."



*Kimberly Ayodeji*  
Upper School Math and Computer Science Teacher



"I studied for a semester in London. While there, I traveled to Scotland, Wales, Paris, and Amsterdam."

*Bailey Cannon*  
Upper School Integrated Media Assistant

"As a faculty member of the St. Mark's School in Southborough, MA, I led student trips to Bhutan and the Dominican Republic. While at Houston Christian High School, I traveled with students to China and Ghana."



*Stephen Hebert*  
Upper School English Teacher

## Why are you an educator?

"I feel called to inspire young people. I believe each and every young person can continue to positively impact the world today, and I want to help inspire that journey."



*Clint Allen*  
Middle School History Teacher



"I have a passion to pour into our youth and raise them up to be contributing members of our society who are empathetic, intellectual, and hardworking."

*Stacy Bauer*  
Lower School 2nd Grade Teacher



"Every child deserves to know they are loved, cared for, and can accomplish great things."

*Melissa Carter*  
Preschool Teacher

"As an Athletic Trainer, we use education to teach our athletes how to better prepare themselves



physically for their sports activities. It really is a chance to educate them on healthy life choices, prevention and treatment of injuries, and to help them gain a basic understanding of how our bodies respond to exercise."

*Sara McMin*  
Athletic Trainer

"I want to impact lives in a positive manner and I have always viewed Oakridge as a great school with a family feel."



*Andre Walker*  
Men's Basketball Coach

## Why did you come to work at Oakridge?

"I love the sense of community and supportive culture that is in every aspect of the school. It is rare to find a school that fosters not only academic excellence, but encourages the students to explore their passions in the arts and athletics, and I am excited to join the team."



*Lindsey McCartin*  
Upper School Art Teacher

"I wanted to work in a school where everyone valued education deeply

and where high moral standards were emphasized daily. Here at Oakridge, I found such a passion for academic excellence and character formation.”



*Zuri Moreno*  
Upper School Spanish Teacher

“I can only work and live in a school I truly believe in and “can sell myself!” From being a parent, I know Oakridge inside and now move to market it from an employee perspective, too.”



*Michelle Emmert*  
Upper School Administrative Assistant

“I can’t think of a better place to teach than the school we chose for our children. I am very proud to be part of the Oakridge faculty.”



*Christian Hunter*  
Middle School Math Teacher

## OAKRIDGE SUMMER REWIND

Where can you paint your own pottery, become a spy and solve a mystery, learn some new football drills, brush up on your reading and math skills, learn to bake banana nut bread, and much more? The Summer Programs at Oakridge! For over a quarter-century The Oakridge School has served our families, as well as other children in our community, with exciting enrichment opportunities to engage students throughout the summer. Summer Programs 2018 was no exception. Students all over the campus were engaged in classes in the arts, academics, and athletics.

Six weeks of Summer Camp took place with an average of 65 students each week from the ages of three to fourth grade. Campers took an exciting make-believe tour around the world. The summer began with an imaginary visit to Australia, then on to a tour through Europe and Asia, a cruise through the Caribbean Sea, a frigid adventure to Alaska and Antarctica, then ending with a safari through the wilds of Africa. Interesting, real-life field trips to the Fort Worth Nature Center, Seaquest Aquarium, and Ripley’s Believe It or Not only made the Summer Camp more memorable.

Children in first through fourth grades participated in the Summer Days program. Thirty-three academic and enrichment programs were offered to meet each child’s needs. While brushing up on reading and math skills, students also were able to participate in art classes, science classes, an American Girl Party, Cheer Camp, or even learn to do a little cooking.

Students in fifth through twelfth grades also had many



*A visit to Globe Life Park was a home run with summer campers from Oakridge. In addition to athletics, students also engaged in arts and academic field trips.*

exciting programs that provided an opportunity to refine an academic skill or learn more about a special interest. Art classes challenged many artistic students, cooking classes created delicious food each day, an SAT class helped prepare students for college, and some creative thinkers signed up for the MakerSpace Instant Challenge.

Eleven different Sports Camps were offered by our Oakridge coaches for students in grades one through nine. These students were able to refine skills they already knew or learn a whole new sport. Athletes worked on perfecting everything from a backhand in tennis to a serve in volleyball. On fields across our campus, students could be seen throwing footballs, kicking soccer balls, shooting basketballs, and catching baseballs and softballs.

Students in Oakridge’s summer programs, whether they enrolled for one week or many weeks, made lifelong memories and friends while engaged in activities under the guiding hands of Oakridge faculty, coaches, and alumni.

*Kristin Davis, Lower School*



# OAKRIDGE RECEIVES NEARLY \$155,000 DURING NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Generous supporters across North Texas donated \$154,896 to The Oakridge School for this year's North Texas Giving Day. The donations included a \$5,000 grant from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

The charitable endowment awarded the grant Sept. 20 to The Oakridge School and four Arlington nonprofits that raised the most money on Sept. 20 between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and 7 p.m. to midnight. During the second time block, Oakridge had the most donors with 306 gifts.

"We are thrilled at how our community comes together to support our school," said Jon Kellam, Head of School.

"These gifts are indicative of our parents, grandparents, alumni, and



Head of School Jon Kellam, Assistant Head of School Sarah Kramer, Director of Development Lauren Matocha, and Director of Admissions Amy Wilson all smiles after Oakridge receives \$5,000 from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

friends' commitment to investing in our students, the faculty and staff throughout our nearly 40-year history."



Monique and Keith Bird are chairs for the 2018-2019 Annual Fund.

Oakridge Director of Development Lauren Matocha thanked Oakridge's 2018-2019 Annual Fund Chairs Monique and Keith Bird, other Oakridge families and supporters, and acknowledged the school's long tradition of giving and remarkable legacy of philanthropic support. "North Texas Giving Day and the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation affirm our school's mission and help us to provide an extraordinary educational experience for all students. Because of these gifts, we can continue to strengthen existing programs, but also start new ones." Among the school's most important initiatives are the Annual Fund, Super Supper and Auction, and Owl Club

Golf Classic. Supporters interested in learning more about giving and volunteer opportunities may email [lmatocha@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:lmatocha@theoakridgeschool.org).

North Texas Giving Day is the largest 18-hour online giving event in the country. It is coordinated by the Communities Foundation of Texas. The main donation day is Sept. 20, but the annual event is actually 11 days of raising awareness for donations for nearly 3,000 nonprofits across North Texas. Numbers on the organization's website show donations totaling \$48,487,531 on Tuesday, Oct. 23. Former First Lady Laura Bush served as this year's Honorary Chair.



The Oakridge community celebrated the naming of Parvin Stadium in early November, thanks to a generous gift from Chris and Toni Parvin, parents of Olivia '24 and Harrison '26.

Cheyenne Reese



# INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

I was born and raised in Arlington, and it is no secret that our city has changed over the last 15 years. It is no longer the place in between Dallas and Fort Worth, but rather a city with almost 400,000 residents, large entertainment and sporting attractions, as well as a place for big business to thrive. A study by Longwoods International found that in 2016, Arlington hosted nearly 14 million visitors, who spent an estimated \$1.4 billion inside our city lines. From the award-winning parks and recreation department, to concerts under the stars at Levitt Pavilion, world famous artists featured at the Arlington Museum of Art, and the numerous new restaurants and bars, there is truly something for everyone. Arlington has the perks of a big city, yet a small-town feel, allowing individuals to really feel like they can make a difference.

The number of non-profit and community organizations is astounding and with growth, comes a greater need for social services. Numerous Arlington residents work tirelessly to ensure individuals have what they need to be successful. More than 12,400 people received multiple-day supplies of food from Mission Arlington this summer. Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington watched over 1,300 youth every day after school. Women Inspiring Philanthropy and Junior League of Arlington have funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of support and scholarships back into the community. Alliance for Children, Arlington Urban Ministries, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Dental Health Arlington – the list of beneficiaries goes on and on.

The city has supported an infrastructure to support this growth and need, and of course that progress affects The Oakridge School. Increased opportunity for commerce equates to more houses being sold, more families moving to the area, and a need for additional academic options. Oakridge has a reputation spanning almost four decades for innovation, high academic standards, and exceptional art and athletic achievements. Personally, it has been a true honor to be in such a student-centered learning environment, with staff and administration truly concerned for the growth of each individual person. Even more so, I am proud of the interconnectedness between academics and community involvement that



*Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams surrounded by Oakridge students.*

The Oakridge School values. The number of ways the students, faculty and families give back to Arlington in and out of the classroom is incalculable.

The Community Engagement position I hold at The Oakridge School was created in the fall of 2017 as a way to connect the school more strategically with the growing and ever changing environment of Arlington and surrounding communities. The goal is that everyone in the city knows about and feels comfortable on our campus, and understands the great work happening here. Not every school – independent or public – will be right for every student, so my goal is, every single day, to share the culture of our academic community with others.

Since January, Oakridge has hosted numerous events to engage more with those who might not have otherwise known about our school or been on our beautiful campus. We began with a community-wide Picnic and Egg Hunt, which was kicked off by Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams and attended by more than 200 guests. The Oakridge National Junior Honor Society and Key Club both helped volunteer to make the event successful for participants. Also this summer, Marissa and Phillip Farhat '93, hosted an Open Gym for the community, inviting families to come meet our coaches, play in our Student Activity Center, jump in a bounce house, and enjoy a delicious meal grilled by Head of School, Jon Kellam.



A breakfast for realtors included a welcome from Head of School Jon Kellam, as well as a tour of the campus.

In April, over 30 local realtors came to campus for breakfast and to tour our school. They learned about who we are and our mission so they can be ambassadors to families moving into the area. We began a partnership with Fieldhouse Mansfield, placing an eight foot banner in their facility, which hosts numerous sporting leagues, events and tournaments. We have participated in different community days and provided prizes for coaches starting the season. Also in April, we opened up our campus to a Family, Math, Literacy, and Movie night, giving Oakridge and visitors a fun opportunity to interact with teachers.

Oakridge was honored to host the International Folk Art Market in Arlington's after party with about 100 organizers, volunteers and artists on campus in June. This special event was a celebration of a three-day market honoring and supporting the work of more than 30 folk artists from all over the world. This summer we hosted



Nearly 300 people enjoyed a colorful egg hunt at Oakridge.

a six-week Summer Playdate series. It is difficult to keep kids entertained and out of the heat the entire summer, so every Saturday we had a themed, two-hour event including Music and Movement, Art Adventures, Plant Your Food, and more.

What is so unique about my role is the ripple one small event can have on the overall success of The Oakridge School. If someone is seeking an independent school environment for their student, I want to make sure they know we are a choice for them. And if not? I hope they share what they have learned or felt while at one of our events with their friends and family. It is clear Arlington is growing and progressing with new energy, new families, and new prospects. It is comforting to know, that The Oakridge School is, too.

*Nadia DiStefano*  
Community Engagement Coordinator



Oakridge's Open Gyms provided fun play for young children and volunteer opportunities for Middle and Upper School students.



Community Engagement Coordinator Nadia DiStefano poses with local Jack & Jill of America, Inc. members who hosted a youth conference at Oakridge.



# SUCCEEDING IN BUSINESS

An entrepreneurial spirit has defined The Oakridge School since its founding 40 years ago. *Outlook*, over the years, has featured alumni doing great things and embodying that same spirit. This issue of *Outlook* highlights three alumni who operate small, successful businesses in Dallas/Fort Worth while also featuring an exciting development here behind the white fence: Pioneer Media Group, a student-run small business out of Oakridge's Integrated Media Department (see page 11 for a companion story on this signature program).

Kellye Hunt Raughton '07 started Maven, a 4,000 square foot retail business, in 2012. She was 24 at the time she founded Maven, a store initially focused on home and clothing. By 2015, Kellye propelled Maven exclusively into home design, leading projects from new construction to remodels. "From a very young age," said Kellye, "I always wanted a store."



Kellye Hunt Raughton '07 leads Maven, a retail business in Fort Worth.

She credits her father, Lowry Hunt, also a business owner, with helping her get her start. And Maven was not her first business. She and her family went into oil and gas in 2008, running Exuma Royalties, LLC, so that she could understand the depth and demand of business ownership. Then, when the opportunity to purchase Chiffonier on Camp Bowie surfaced, Kellye went for it. "I leaped, and I never looked back."

Maven has evolved into a flourishing interior design business. Kellye, who has four employees and multiple clients across Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, has found that having a niche and a passion has helped build the Maven name: "My thing is color and patterns, and that's what I have built my reputation on."

Matt Worthington '98 and Ryan Brentlinger Worthington '99 started Worthington Monuments, Inc. (WMI) in 2000. What began as a business plan assignment in a TCU Entrepreneurial Management class has become a multi-business (ad)venture for the Worthingtons, including six locations, a cemetery in Stephenville (Erath Gardens of Memory), and a lawn care business (Worthington Lawn Care Services).

"Matt created WMI, and while he completed school, he subleased space at a monument company in Weatherford," said Ryan. The Worthington Family had owned related businesses; Matt's father owned a monument company in the 1980's and 1990's, and his



Matt Worthington '98 and Ryan Brentlinger Worthington '99 started Worthington Monuments, Inc. (WMI) in 2000.

grandfather owned a cemetery in Grand Prairie. "Upon graduation, we purchased land and built our own production facility in Burleson."

Kellye has worked closely with her husband, Dustin, and father, Lowry; and Ryan and Matt, Upper School sweethearts, have been married since 2003.

"[Working together] is definitely not for everyone, but it works for us," said Ryan. "My favorite part is I get to work with someone who I know always has my best interest at heart." Likewise, Matt appreciates that he and Ryan can bounce ideas off each other and develop new ideas for their business.

Like Maven and Worthington Monuments, Inc., Pioneer Media Group had to develop all the things successful businesses have: a logo, a website, a social media presence, and a good plan. In short, they have had to build their brand, working mostly through social media. At any given time, students are working with 5-10 clients. In 2018-2019,

approximately 25 students will have an opportunity to produce professional work.

“Integrated Media, and especially the Pioneer Media Group branch, is a program created by students, for students, that uses the landscape of professional clients to produce tangible results,” said coordinator Melissa Triebwasser. “Students take full ownership of not only the success of the class, but often the success of the client, since many are small businesses or start-ups that wouldn’t normally have the means to bring in professional level marketers.”

Oakridge students are balancing the demands of coursework and entrepreneurship, just as small business owners have to juggle their businesses with their personal lives. The lines occasionally blur.

“It’s such a luxury to be able to make your own schedule,” said Ryan. “We are able to take time off when needed for family vacations, to go to kids’ school events, and other things like that. With today’s technology, we are able to work at any time of day in order to stay on top of the business.”

The downside to business ownership might be the all-consuming nature of the beast.

“There is no ‘off’ switch,” said Kellye. “It is 24/7 and you are solely responsible for it.”

Matt added: “We’re constantly thinking and talking about work, but we enjoy it. We love the freedom that being self-employed allows. With that said, at the end of

the day, when a problem presents itself, one of us needs to be there to get it resolved, no matter what our schedule says.”

And like most leaders, small business owners play a number of roles in their businesses. Kellye quotes marriage counselor, friend, number cruncher, employee relations specialist, and walk-in customer relationship builder as some of her extra talents. Matt mentioned strategic planning and customer service. Also focused on customer service, Ryan adds, “In the end, we aren’t doing something that the company down the street can’t do. But, we can provide unparalleled customer service. So my goal is to have that methodology trickle down to our team.”

Kellye credits Oakridge with providing the foundation she needed to be successful in business. “I truly feel that it laid the groundwork for me.”

Likewise, Ryan alluded to the goal-setting mindset imparted through her Oakridge education. “Set goals. Once achieved, set new goals. Be proud of your accomplishments, but always strive for greater.”

Matt speaks about former Assistant Head of Upper School, Kyle Edgemon, as a formative part of his Oakridge – and business – education. “He said that the people we choose to surround ourselves with today will affect everything in the future...to build relationships with people and do your best to keep nourishing those relationships. I have applied this to every aspect of my life. My marriage, my friends, my employees and my customers.”

The Integrated Media Studio is teaching current Owls about such relationship building. “Every person who has come away from a meeting with our students always comments how quickly they forgot they were working with high school kids,” said Triebwasser. “It’s awe-inspiring to see the passion that the students have for what they are doing, the risks they are willing to take to achieve their dreams, and the sacrifices they make to see them through.”

As Oakridge students continue learning more about entrepreneurship, alumni business owners have advice for them.

“One word: grit,” said Ryan. “Defined as courage and resolve, strength of character. You are going to fail. You are going to want to quit. Not every idea is going to be great. You have to have the will to know that and still go on.”

Advice from Kellye: “Never give up, because not every day is going to be easy.” And if she were to alter her Oakridge experience, real-world experiences – like those happening in Integrated Media now – would be invaluable.

Matt adds, “You must be dedicated to your business. You have to eat, sleep and breathe your business to be successful. I’m reminded of a quote, ‘the person on top of the mountain didn’t just fall there.’ ”

*Sarah Kramer  
Assistant Head of School*

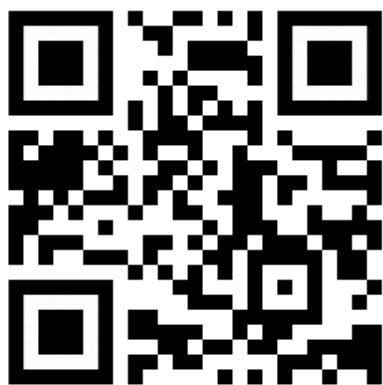


# GETTING 'REAL WORLD' EXPERIENCE

Authentic learning in the classroom through real world experiences. That's the mission and the mantra of the Integrated Media Department, a classroom that functions more like a creative agency than your standard media course.

Two years ago, we reached out to Jaden Oberkrom, the former kicker for TCU Football and the Big 12 Conference's all-time leader in field goals made, to see if he was interested in working with Oakridge to develop marketing materials for his fledgling kicking academy. Jaden was eager to sign on and a partnership was born that sprouted something truly special.

Turning over your marketing to a group of teenagers can seem intimidating, but the results spoke for themselves. With Jaden's full support, sophomore and junior students built a website, created two commercials, and fleshed out the social media for his company. Within a matter of weeks, his online presence had grown to 50,000 total impressions on Facebook



*Scan the QR code to see videos produced by Integrated Media students and to learn more information about the IM program.*



*Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams being interviewed by integrated media students from Oakridge.*

and Twitter alone. Not only was he getting noticed, he was gaining clients — going from around 20 when students began working with him — to well over 100 in multiple states.

The story of the Integrated Media Department isn't just one success. That first client quickly became two dozen, as students have worked with businesses all across Dallas-Fort Worth to create websites, logos, marketing materials, commercials and more. From international company Orangetheory Fitness to local startup The Bow Next Door, students have had the opportunity to have their work seen by tens of thousands of people across the state and beyond. But it isn't just the exposure that is of value to these Owls, it's the real-world experience that comes with it. Working with clients, on deadlines, with real results — and consequences — has

proven invaluable for the students, whether they pursue the skills they learned in the class in college or not. That's something that Class of 2018 graduate Jeff Wright appreciated. "I had never worked with a client in any class before, so I think that getting the human interaction really pushed me to make sure it's what the client wants, not what I want. Also, figuring out how to work with people was really helpful."

Though the majority of students that come through the program won't pursue a degree in film or graphic design, for many others, they've discovered a skill or a passion that they didn't know they had. That was the case for senior Zaki Farooqui. "When I started in Integrated Media as a freshman, I thought it was a fun class. But, as I have grown through the program, I have realized I have a real passion for filmmaking, and it's something

that I hope to pursue in college.” No matter what their future careers hold, the interaction with clients, the personal responsibility, the collaboration and creativity will all prove valuable as they enter their next stages of life. And it never hurts to have the ability to take great photos, shoot great video, and do layout and design, either.

Elly Rexinger, the head trainer at Orangetheory Fitness in Arlington-Highlands, appreciates the work the students do — not just as a client, but as an Oakridge parent, too. “It was a pleasure to work with the Oakridge students. They were professional, polished, and knowledgeable. As an Oakridge parent, it makes me smile knowing my third grader will be given these



same opportunities outside the classroom to learn and grow.”

What happens at the confluence of ability and opportunity is an incredible thing, and the Integrated Media Department allows students to meet there daily.

For more information, visit the Oakridge Integrated Media page on [vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com).

*Melissa Triebwasser*  
Integrated Media Studio Coordinator





• COME •

Create WIN  
LEARN Perform  
Excel  
LEAD  
with us

REGISTER FOR A TOUR

DECEMBER 10

JANUARY 26

APRIL 2

[theoakridgeschool.org/campusvisit](http://theoakridgeschool.org/campusvisit)



THE  
OAKRIDGE  
SCHOOL

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL IS A COED COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL SERVING STUDENTS AGE 3 THROUGH GRADE 12.  
The Oakridge School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, physical disabilities, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, financial aid, and other school sponsored programs.



LLI SOUTHWEST  
THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

**FEB. 21-22, 2019**

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# PUTTING THE STUDENT AT THE CENTER

As we anticipated Oakridge's 40th anniversary, the kindergarten team spent much of last year and this summer meeting and collaborating on how we could make some changes to our classrooms the following school year. Our goal was simple: we wanted to create a classroom that is student-centered in every way. We, as educators, wanted to stop viewing the classroom from our limited adult perspective and instead, view the classroom from the unique perspective of our five- and six-year-old friends.

Our Early Childhood Center faculty and staff kept the ten pillars of the "Oakridge Classroom Environment" at the forefront of our planning. Through diligent teamwork and collaboration, we are excited to showcase the three major components of our improved student-centered classroom this fall. These include changes to our curriculum and teaching practices, the incorporation of flexible seating, and the introduction of Bloomz, a new parent communication app.



The first major change we decided to consider was in our Language Arts curriculum. As Lower School teachers continued to express love for their new curriculum, *Wonders* by McGraw Hill, we decided to consider implementing it in kindergarten classrooms as well. After many visits with representatives and exploration into what *Wonders* in the classroom would look like, we decided we were all in. First, it would allow our students to receive the same sequential instruction from kindergarten through fourth grade, creating continuity that students need during these foundational years. Secondly, it was clear that this curriculum would provide more meaningful, differentiated, face-to-face reading interactions on a daily basis. The curriculum is literature rich, inquiry based, and challenges the students to become thoughtful readers who exhibit higher-level thinking skills as they read. This curriculum allows us to have daily-guided reading groups, where students practice their reading skills alongside peers reading at their level, and consequently become more confident and capable readers.

Another component to this curriculum change is a revision in our nightly take-home readers. Students will no longer follow the same book series chosen by the teacher each night, but rather, get to choose their own book at their specific reading level. This allows students autonomy and ownership in their reading, and results in much higher engagement and interest. Our hope is that every kindergartener finishes the year with a true love for reading, and this new system allows students to choose books that they are excited about reading each night.







With the help of many generous parents, we have been able to fill our classroom libraries with a variety of leveled literature resources for our students to enjoy this year.

In regards to our math instruction, we decided to continue using our current curriculum, Everyday Mathematics, but we wanted to change certain parts about the way we presented and practiced the kindergarten math skills. This year, we will be enriching our current curriculum by implementing a “Maker Math” teaching style. This follows our students’ love for STEAM and kinesthetic-inspired learning, and allows students to engage in authentic hands-on learning experiences. After students are introduced to a math concept, they will practice their skills in a “Maker Math” center/small group in order to promote deeper connections and understanding. These hands-on routines especially appeal to visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners because they provide a visual and concrete way to build, apply, and extend math concepts. Worksheets

will be reserved only for assessment and recording purposes. With the use of traditional and modern math manipulatives to build understanding of foundational math concepts, it is our hope that students truly look forward to math time each day.

Our next major change in creating a more student-centered classroom is the introduction and implementation of flexible seating. This educational trend is one we are so excited to incorporate in our classrooms because of its many educational benefits. For those unfamiliar with the concept, a flexible seating classroom is one in which traditional seating charts are replaced with seating arrangements that allow the students to sit where they choose. One of its principal objectives is to reduce the number and duration of sedentary periods of time, which research has identified as a danger to health. Thanks to our very generous Oakridge Parents’ Club, we are now able to offer the following flexible seating options to our students: wobble seats, a standing table, lap

desks, disc seats, and scoop rockers. These options will be known as “Smart Spots” in kindergarten, because we want to empower our students to decide for themselves which option provides their best and most effective learning space. This differs from child to child, so it seems obvious that we would have more than one seating option for so many different types of students and learners. While it is more work for the teacher, it is also more supportive of student needs.

This seating system also offers great health benefits. As students wobble, rock, bounce, stand or lean, they are moving in a way that increases oxygen flow to the brain, blood flow throughout the body, and core strength improvement. As a result this movement, students are more alert, focused and engaged. Students are also able to collaborate and practice teamwork much more effectively in their “Smart Spots.”

The last major change we made has to do with the way we communicate with parents. The new award-winning app, Bloomz, allows us to inform parents about school events, student behavior, attendance and more, while helping us to reduce the amount of paper reminders going home each day.

There are many exciting things happening in the ECC this year. It is our hope that our blend of established and progressive teaching methods will meet our students where they are and take them places they never dreamed possible.

*Emily Sweeney  
Kindergarten Teacher*

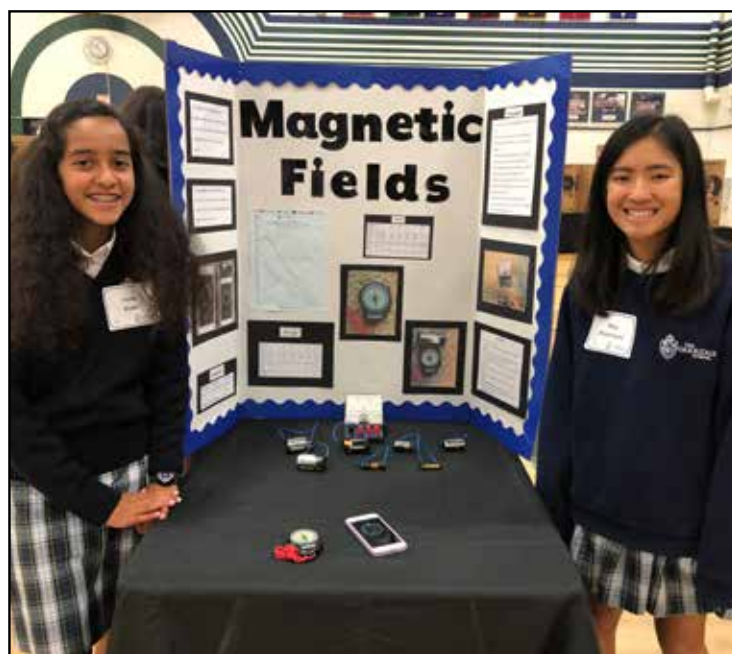
# BRIGHT MINDS, BRIGHT IDEAS

The Oakridge School hosted its inaugural STEM Showcase, “Bright Minds, Bright Ideas” last April. Featuring the projects of 133 students in grades 3-12, entries varied from the effects of water pollution on plants to 3D printing in geometry.

The overarching goal of the event, as envisioned by the Department of Science, was to celebrate student achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. At Oakridge, students are encouraged to think critically, problem solve, create, and innovate. The STEM Showcase fostered a hands-on approach to all of these things.

Math and science teachers partnered with students to create this memorable event attended by parents, students, faculty and staff, and community VIP’s. Please save January 25, 2019, for the second annual STEM showcase.

*Lori Lane  
Assistant Head of Middle School*





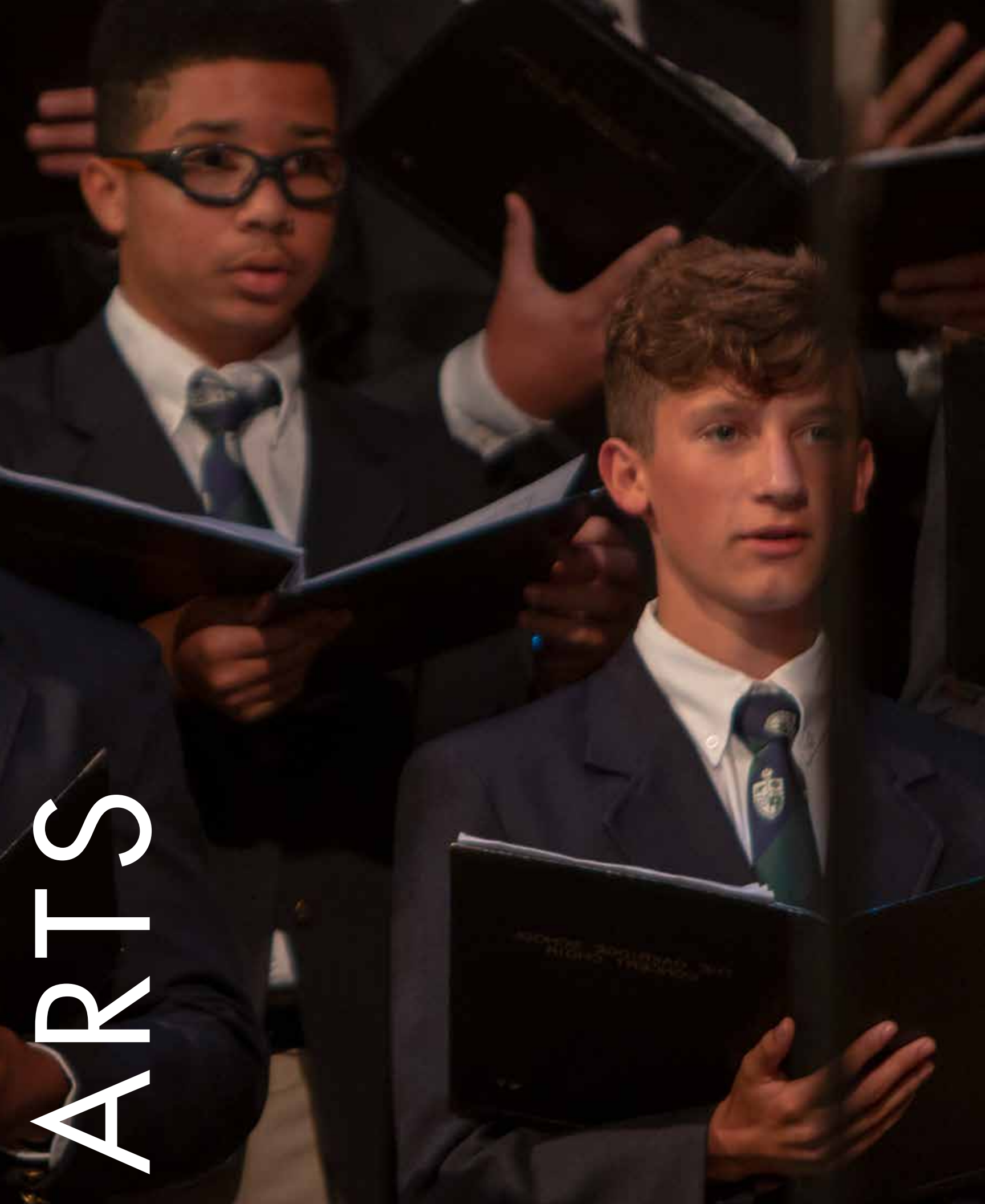


# Holiday Treasures Gift Shop

**DECEMBER 3 – 7**

The Holiday Treasures Gift Shop is an annual gift shop that provides an opportunity for ECC, Lower School, and Lower House Middle School students to “shop” for holiday gifts for family and friends. Volunteers are needed to assist children in the gift selection process and wrapping gifts. Shifts are available every day throughout the week – Morning, Afternoon, or Both. You will receive an email with available shifts to choose from prior to the Gift Shop. Volunteers are also needed in the month prior to the event for pre-wrapping of gifts and display set up.





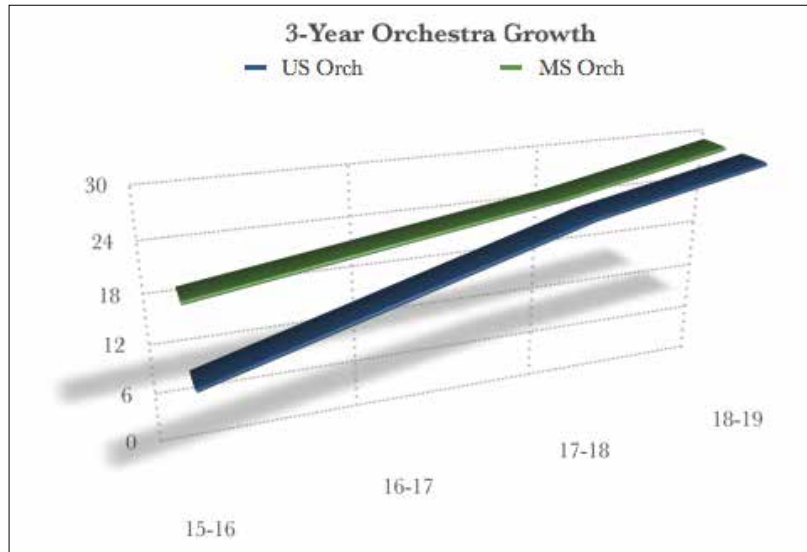
ARTS



# GROWING AN “OAKESTRA”

What does it take to grow an “Oakestra?” Let’s rewind. In August 2015, I was anxious to begin working with the students at The Oakridge School. After having spent the last decade teaching in a public school, where I traveled among three campuses each day, the thought of teaching in one classroom in one building on one campus was refreshing.

The first day with students finally arrived. Oakridge did not disappoint. One classroom for all of my classes. With 14 students in the Upper School orchestra and 20 in the Middle School orchestra, it was somewhat of a tight fit when you consider music stands, chairs, instrument cases, conductor’s podium, instrument storage, my desk, and office space. Nonetheless, we had a great year and began to see a renewed interest in orchestra. Evidence of that interest was displayed in the increased number of students enrolled in orchestra for the 2016-2017 school year. We had 20 students in the US orchestra and 23 in the MS orchestra. As a result of the growth, I had to move my desk and some of our instrument storage out of the orchestra room and into one of our small practice rooms. This allowed for a little more “breathing room” for us as we rehearsed in the orchestra room. By the end of the school year, it was evident our orchestra classroom was beyond maximum capacity. Over the summer of 2017, conversations took place about the need to rearrange some spaces in the orchestra area and music department in general. It was clear some immediate changes needed to happen. I decided the quickest solution for making more room was to remove some built-in storage cabinets and some bookshelves



*Courtesy Daniel Jamieson.*

containing the orchestra music library. Those were relocated to the room where I was now “officing.”

The 2017-2018 school year saw enrollment numbers increase again: 26 student in US orchestra and 26 in MS orchestra. In addition to those numbers, there was a varied number of fifth and sixth grade students who also took exploratory classes in string playing as part of a rotation of fine arts classes each year. The 2018-2019 school year will have 30 students enrolled in US orchestra and a similar number in MS orchestra, as well as the continued fifth and sixth grade classes. This growth in the orchestra department, as well as evolving needs in the choral department, brought about the need to make the physical changes we had discussed before.

Beginning in June of 2018, those changes began. It has been a fun process to watch. First, the carpet was removed to expose the concrete floor. Next, some walls were torn down and others were closed in. The hallway entering the music suite, which was in the backstage area, is now located on the same hallway as the main entrance to the

auditorium. Practice rooms were created where the old hallway was, as well as additional storage and office space directly across from the new practice rooms. As a result of these changes, there is now a dedicated entrance into the choir room. Previously, to be able to access the orchestra room and other parts of the music department, you would have to pass through the choir room.

Moving these practice rooms and storage areas has allowed the orchestra room to grow from an area roughly 20 x 30 feet to an area about 30 x 30 feet with an additional 140-plus square feet of instrument storage. The entrance to the orchestra room is now a double door at the end of the new hallway adjacent to the new choir room entrance. The increased square footage, dedicated storage area, and larger entrance will all work together to create a better experience for our orchestra students. We now have more room to play, greater freedom to move around the room, and more ease



*Renovations began during Summer 2018.*

in getting our equipment out of the room and to our performance venues — just to name a few benefits. Once again, I'm excited about the 2018-2019 school year at Oakridge. I'm relishing the thought of a new classroom with more space to teach music and impact students' lives.

*Daniel Jamieson  
Orchestra Director*



*The renovated orchestra room offers additional space for students to practice, and more ease for moving equipment in and out of the room.*





# ARTS FACULTY AS PRACTICING ARTISTS

“Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.”

It’s a tired and misguided idiom that everyone in education has heard about at least once during their career, if not, far more often. The suggestion is that if someone is truly talented at their craft, they will pursue a far more glamorous career — a suggestion that ignores the very real calling most teachers feel as well as the breadth of knowledge and experience they bring to the classroom.

It should be evident in the day-to-day interactions with students that our Oakridge teachers want nothing more than to be in the classroom. They are passionate about education and the well-being of each and every child on campus. That alone is enough to counter any negative perception of teachers as “those who can’t.” In fact, Oakridge has long been a shining example of exactly the opposite. Whether that be English faculty who are accomplished writers or science teachers who are active researchers, Oakridge boasts faculty who are accomplished in their fields outside the classroom. There may be no other area where this is more prevalent than the Oakridge Fine Arts



*A still from the finished film Ten Years at Sea with Brad DeBorde*

Department. Almost all of our Fine Arts Faculty are practicing artists.

Middle School art teacher Patti Greenwood draws and paints in her free time, recently sketching while enjoying the beauty of Hawaii. Her works have been displayed in shows across the Metroplex and have been sold as originals and as prints. For others like assistant director of choirs Dianne Findley singing and leading choirs is as much a part of her life outside of Oakridge as it is within. She has sung with Fort Worth Chorale and led youth choirs at Broadway Baptist Church for many years. Orchestra director Daniel Jamieson is a cellist in the Northeast Orchestra, based in Hurst, and frequently appears with smaller instrumental and vocal ensembles around the Metroplex.

A member of the Dallas Recorder Society, Lower School music teacher, Shandy Shumaker stays active in the elementary music scene throughout the summer months. Expanding Oakridge’s artistic reach outside of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, chair of fine arts and director of choirs Andrew Stewart sings with the Dallas-based professional choir, Orpheus Chamber Singers, the Taylor Festival Choir in Charleston, SC, and The Choral Pick-Up in Atlanta, GA, as well. The newest addition to the Oakridge arts faculty, Lindsey McCartin, is a professional painter and has been commissioned for artwork many times in her young career. Upper School drama teacher, Brad DeBorde starred in the feature length movie, *Ten Years at Sea*, which was featured at film festivals



*Daniel Jamieson performs with Northeast Orchestra.*



*Lindsey McCartin working on a new piece.*



*Behind the scenes of Ten Years at Sea with Brad DeBorde.*

around the country. Mr. DeBorde is also the author of a series of young adult fantasy novels.

Their involvement in the arts community outside of school brings invaluable real-world experience and context that can be shared with students. This hands-on experience, understanding of how theory is put into practice, and the skill of reflecting on one's own work

elevate our Oakridge fine arts faculty from arts teachers to teaching artists. Like so many other Oakridge faculty, they are masters of their craft and have chosen to make teaching their focus. Being "those who can" helps to make them the teachers they are.

*Andy Stewart  
Fine Arts Chair*



*Andy Stewart in a recording with Taylor Festival Choir in Charleston, SC*



*A watercolor piece by Patti Greenwood*



# FALL PLAY, *HAMLET*, IS A HIT

*Hamlet*, this year's fall production at The Oakridge School, played in front of enthralled audiences Oct. 4-6 in the Fine Arts Performance Hall of the John P. Flavin Fine Arts Center.

Benjamin Everett, a senior, took complete ownership of the titular role and gave us all a Hamlet we have never seen before — imbuing the character with heated passion and a high dose of physicality. Harrison Jones and Anna McGough, also seniors, gave strong performances as the King and Queen, respectively. Rosalind Krabill, a junior, was also a standout, giving a heartbreaking performance as Ophelia. Another highlight was the action-packed second act wherein Garret Kundysek and Benjamin Everett wowed the audience with an intense sword fight that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

“I honestly didn’t think my students and I could top last year’s fall play,” said Brad DeBorde, Upper School theatre director. “But, they proved me wrong. This is, honestly, the best show to have graced the Oakridge stage... ever! I couldn’t be more proud of these students.”

Director of Senior Programs and Upper School English teacher, Chris Renshaw helped to construct the script and served as a consultant to Mr. DeBorde and students on nuance and meaning. He also made suggestions on portrayals based on his knowledge of the history of how the Hamlet characters have been portrayed in different ways.

“Brad and I had a shared vision and understanding of the play, and so it was both very easy and very rewarding to move in and offer my opinions,” Renshaw said. “He was welcoming, as were the students, and it made

the whole experience one of my favorites in my 15 years at Oakridge.”

In all, some 300-plus people attended the production over three nights. Many remarked that they were amazed by the acting, set design, costumes, and how well the students understood the difficult language of the 400-year-old Shakespearean play.

The next Oakridge theatre production will be in February of the Rodgers & Hammerstein’s musical, *State Fair*.



# FLASHBACK AT 40



THE  
OAKRIDGE  
SCHOOL

*There's no place like home.*





# STEAMING AHEAD

Few schools offer robust do-it-yourself classrooms known as makerspaces. Oakridge provides its students with four — one for every academic division. Makerspaces have shown themselves valuable in helping to better prepare students to collaborate, create, and dream big.

In the Upper School, which has devices such as 3-D printers, “we consider questions such as ‘how can we use technology to improve the quality of lives?’ Not just simply, ‘how can technology make lives easier?’ There is a big difference,” said Matt Knauf, coordinator of the US Makerspace. “Most of our children

are consumers of everything. I want them to learn how to be designers of things. Whether they want to start their own businesses or work for Samsung, Apple, etc. – those companies want people who are independent thinkers and problem solvers.”

The Lower School and Middle School makerspaces allow students to discover and create with tools ranging from building blocks to sewing machines. At the ECC, Innovation Station is a fun and exciting area for children to explore new ideas in and outside the classroom. This year, ECC students will get to participate in a gardening project.



# ATHLETICS





# PLAYING AT THE NEXT LEVEL

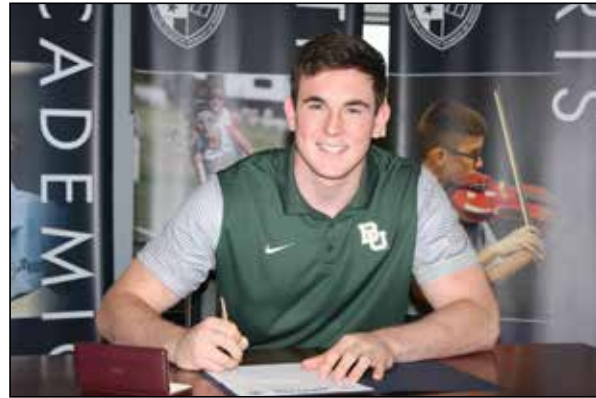
The months of April and May at The Oakridge School are generally busy months for students, parents, teachers, faculty, and staff. Classes are diligently prepping for final exams or Advanced Placement exams, arts programs are preparing for their end-of-year performances, and athletic teams are competing in end-of-season tournaments then previewing fall athletic options.

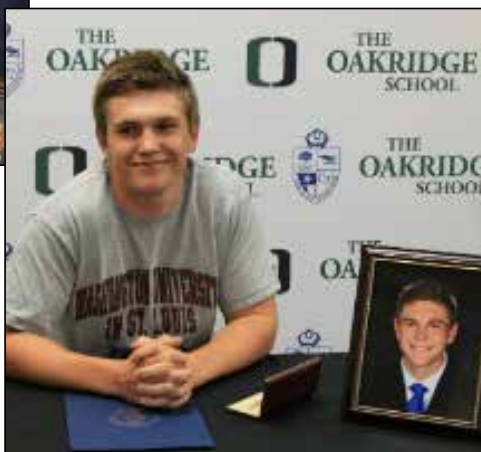
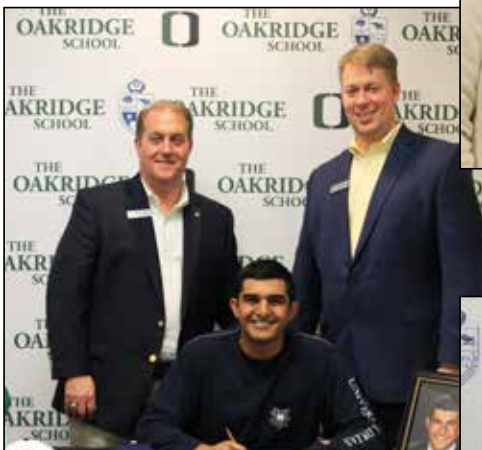
Graduating seniors and their families are simultaneously making final decisions for the next phase of their educational journey, celebrating the tradition of Walk to the Future with the next generation of Owls, participating in the senior dinner, and another lifetime milestone – graduation.

This spring, The Oakridge School celebrated its largest graduating class ever – 84 wonderful seniors. The Oakridge community was also honored to celebrate 10 student-athletes who are planning to continue competing in sports at the college level.

Legendary media personality Howard Cosell once astutely observed that, “Sports is human life in microcosm.” It’s in that spirit that The Oakridge School proudly celebrates the roughly 12 percent of our Class of 2018 who will continue developing themselves as scholar-athletes through competitive athletics in college. The mission of the athletic department is to inspire all student-athletes to reach their full potential in this microcosm of life, which often involves them discovering and developing a passion for one or more sports during their time at Oakridge. We celebrate with these graduates, knowing that the results of this dedication to their Oakridge athletic teams now reaches far beyond their years as Owls to their continued growth in their sport at the collegiate level and beyond.

Arthur Ashe famously said, “You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing





yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits, that is real joy.” Congratulations to the following Owls, and here is hoping that you pursue the joy that Mr. Ashe so eloquently described:

**ZANE AHLFINGER**

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS  
FOOTBALL

**CHANNY CORNELL**

SMITH COLLEGE  
FIELD HOCKEY

**TYLER FULLER**

UNIVERSITY OF MARY-HARDIN BAYLOR  
FOOTBALL

**TREVOR HALL**

AMHERST COLLEGE  
TRACK

**CHRISTOPH HENLE**

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY  
FOOTBALL

**CHRISTOPHER LAROVERE**

CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE  
TRACK

**ANUSH PABLEY**

UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS  
BASEBALL

**JIMMIE SANDERS**

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE  
BASKETBALL

**GRAHAM STANUSH**

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, PUEBLO  
WRESTLING

**CORRINA SULLIVAN**

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND  
SWIMMING

Be sure to cheer on all of our student-athletes this year in person and via social media. You can also get information about Oakridge’s athletic programs at [www.theoakridgeschool.org](http://www.theoakridgeschool.org).

*Shawn Meadows  
Director of Athletics*



# HOMECOMING

## Rain Does Little to Dampen Homecoming 2018 Spirit

Hundreds of Oakridge Owl families flooded onto campus for a day and night full of Homecoming activities. Friday, Oct. 19 began with a parade that included students from the Early Childhood Center, Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School, as well as faculty and staff. Although the skies were cloudy and a little bit of rain fell, school spirit was high and on full display that morning and at the evening football game. The theme of this year's Homecoming was, *"There's No Place Like Home."*





# HOMECOMING





# OWLS FOR THE WIN



MEDALS WON BY VARSITY CROSS  
COUNTRY DURING THE FIRST  
RACE OF 2018-19

MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS  
COUNTRY RUNNERS

45

4

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
VOLLEYBALL  
TEAMS

7

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FIELD HOCKEY WINS  
THIS SEASON

15

VARSITY SPORTS AT OAKRIDGE

FOLLOW OWLS FOOTBALL ON MAXPREPS & HUDL



@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL



@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL



@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL



@OAKRIDGEOWLS



THE  
OAKRIDGE  
SCHOOL  
**THE OWL CLUB**

The Owl Club's mission is to promote school spirit, character development, and the physical well-being of our students through financial and other forms of support for Physical Education and Athletic programs in every division. The Owl Club raises money through memberships, concession sales and through merchandise sales from the Spirit Store. The Spirit Store is located on the main campus next to the library and is open each Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. throughout the year. Our online store is always open at [www.theoakridgeschool.org/spiritstore](http://www.theoakridgeschool.org/spiritstore). Additionally, merchandise will be on sale at select events and home varsity football games.



Dennis Brown, President  
The Owl Club

## OAKRIDGE GOLF CLASSIC



# SAVE THE DATE

## MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

### WALNUT CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

The Oakridge Golf Classic supports The Owl Club, whose mission is promoting school spirit, character development, and the physical well-being of our students by providing support for physical education and athletic programs in every division.

For more information about sponsoring or volunteering for the Oakridge Golf Classic, please contact Ronda and Richard Lane at 817.477.9444.



*Ronda & Richard Lane with Raegan '20  
2018-2019 Golf Classic Chairs*



# ROOTED IN LOVE

The Oakridge School celebrates its 40th anniversary this spring. As the school flourishes, so do the oak trees that were planted 15 years ago by families rooted in love for our school and all that it could be! In Oakridge's 25th year, families received an oak sapling.



*Grace '17 and sophomore Jay Andersen, children of third grade teacher Judi and Head of Upper School Jim Andersen, pose near their tree in a first-day-of-school photograph.*



*Marcie '13 and Miles '09 McCarver, children of Richard McCarver, and wife, Jamie, a first grade teacher, pose near their tree in front of their home.*



*John Cocharo and grandsons, Grayson '24 and Simon '20 Stephens, in front of two Oakridge oaks, planted after the 25th Anniversary celebration.*





*Ransom Swinney '18 and junior Mercy Swinney in front of their oak tree. Ransom featured the tree in his salutatory speech at this year's graduation ceremony.*



*Helen Vendrick, great grandmother of Nick '08 and Gage '12 Lane and grandmother of Assistant Head of Middle School, Lori Lane, under her 25th Anniversary Oakridge sapling. She planted it in Andrews, Texas.*

**HAVE A PICTURE OF YOUR TREE?**

SEND IT TO US AT  
PHOTOS@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Class of 2007

**Katy Lane Garrett '07** and her husband, Justin, welcomed Jake Spencer Garrett February 4. Jake weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces and 22.5 inches. Jake joins big sister, Brooklyn Gail, who is in kindergarten this year. The Garretts live in Austin.



**Sean McGill '07** married Michelle Estrada on Oct. 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Austin. The couple met as medical students at The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. Sean is a psychiatrist in Galveston and Michelle is a general surgeon in Lubbock.



## Class of 2011

**Sandy Herman Fangman '11** and husband Tim welcomed their son, Brecken Knox, May 8 at 6:11 pm in McKinney Texas. Young Brecken

weighed in at 7 lbs 4 oz and 21 inches.



## Class of 2012

Oakridge Owls from the Class of 2012 reunited at the wedding of **David Kennedy** in August. Pictured are **Brayden Frank**, **Calvin Garrett**, **Matt Knauf** (cousin of the groom and Oakridge faculty), **David**, **Andrew Read**, **Aditya Misra**, **Daniel Lott**, and **Miles Wilson**.



## Class of 2013

**Carter Fraser '13** and **Caroline Settle '14** were married in Douglasville, GA, July 14. They have been together since their first date on Valentine's Day 2012. The couple honeymooned in Norway and have moved to Chapel Hill



where Caroline is working on her PhD in genetics at UNC and Carter is working as an application engineer for Protolabs, Inc.

## Class of 2014



**Arjun Jogimahanti '14** celebrated his white coat ceremony on August 2. "I am honored to finally

be entering the profession I feel I was destined to be in," said Arjun. "In medical school, I hope to build on the foundation I developed while at Oakridge. I aspire to follow in my grandfather's footsteps of practicing ophthalmology."

## Class of 2015

**Bruce Holtman '15** attends Lake Forest College and is in his senior year. He has been named one of the school's Senior 25. The Senior 25 are senior students who have, as leaders among their peers, positively contributed to the quality of life in the Lake Forest College community through their service, commitment, and achievements.



## Class of 2016

**Angelique Southern '16** was honored last semester as one of two students with the highest GPA of 4.0 at Spelman College. She is a member of the debate team and an ambassador for the school.

# HERE COME THE BRIDE, GROOM, AND THEIR FAVORITE FORMER OAKRIDGE TEACHER

It's not often that educators are asked to preside over a former student's wedding, but that's exactly what happened when Peggy Pfursich pronounced Travis Alley '10 and Corinne Queenan '10 husband and wife. The two married September 9, 2018 at The Montague Resort in Park City, Utah in front of a group of family and friends that included several Oakridge Owls. Pfursich, now an advisor in the College Advising Office, taught both students language arts when they were in the sixth grade.

"Corinne, Travis, and their families are very special to me, and being a part of



*Peggy Pfursich and Travis and Corinne Alley surrounded by family and friends after their wedding in Park City, Utah.*

their wedding was truly one of the most meaningful events in my life," said Pfursich, who obtained her license online as a minister in August so that she could marry the couple. "They are two of the best people I know and seeing them commit their lives to each other was remarkable."

Over the past several years, the three went from being teacher and students to friends who are like family. Travis and Corinne said having Peggy play such an important role on their wedding day was the perfect beginning to their new chapter in life. After their honeymoon to northern California, the couple returned to Dallas where both work as attorneys.



*These days you'll find Peggy, a former classroom teacher, advising students in the College Advising Office.*

*Bridget Lewis  
Director of Marketing and Communications*





Make plans now to join us for the 2019 Super Supper & Auction as The Oakridge School presents a Ruby Jubilee. Dress in your best country cocktail attire for a Texas-sized night of fun as Oakridge celebrates 40 years.

**DATE**

Saturday, March 2, 2019

**TIME**

6:00pm - 12:00am

**LOCATION**

River Ranch Stockyards

**TABLE SPONSORSHIPS & TICKETS**

Table sponsorships are available at multiple levels. Find a group of friends and reserve your table today. Individual tickets are available for \$150 per person.



Kristy Kundysek  
Super Supper & Auction 2019 Chair



Music and Entertainment by  
ACM Nominated Artist and Oakridge Alum,  
JT Hodges '96

[www.theoakridgeschool.org/supersupper](http://www.theoakridgeschool.org/supersupper)

# OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB

The school year is in full swing and the Oakridge Parents' Club (OPC) has been busy with many wonderful activities. This summer, several classrooms received new 21st Century classroom furniture thanks to OPC allocations. We kept the momentum going by providing school supplies, hosting the Back-to-School Fair & Family Picnic, Upper School first day breakfast, uniform resale, a teacher luncheon, Cheers & Tears, and our first-ever Boosterthon!

Thank you so much to all of those volunteers who made our first few months such a success. I would love to personally name every mom and dad, grandparent or grandfriend, but I'm sure it would line pages and pages of this *Outlook*.

If you haven't had a chance to get involved and join the OPC, we invite you to go online and sign up. Memberships are offered at



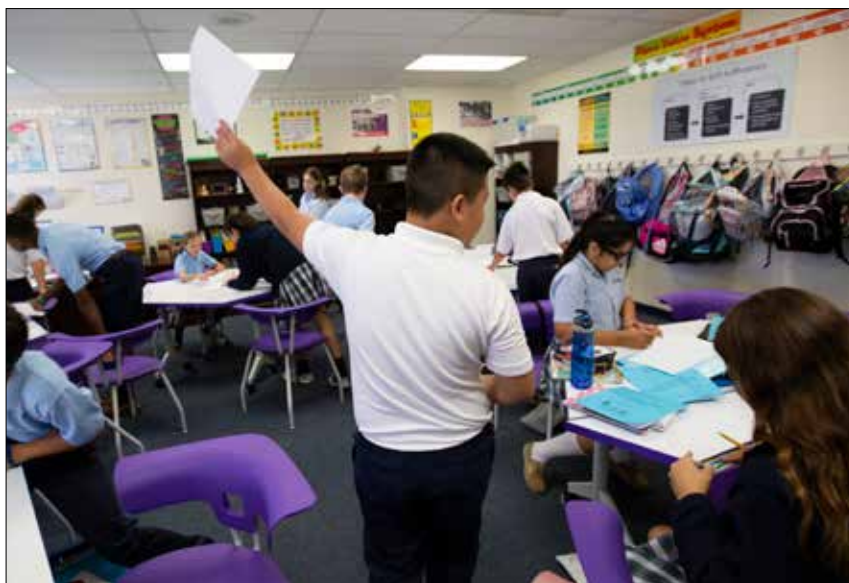
*Jeanne Curtis/OPC President 2018-2019*

three different levels: Supporter, Leadership and Legacy. These membership dues help to support all of the events and activities that are provided for the students and staff by OPC. Of course, I'm excited about them all and could write for days about the ways OPC supports our campus through activities, volunteering, and financial contributions to the classrooms, but what I would really like to share

with you is how the OPC also supports YOU. Whether you are a mom, dad, or grandparent, OPC is here for you. As I reflect back on my last 13 years at The Oakridge School, I can think of dozens of times my OPC membership touched me personally. From supporting me after my older son, Jacob '17, was in a devastating car accident to play dates with my younger son, Cooper, the OPC has become like family. I can remember when I dropped Jacob off at college in the fall of 2017. Like anyone who has ever dropped their

kiddo off at college, my heart was overcome with sadness. My OPC family was there to love, support and encourage me through the journey. It has been amazing to me how these "moms" with whom I had volunteered regularly had quickly become my friends and my family.

I hope you, too, will become part of our family and join the OPC.



*Students and teachers enjoy flexible classroom furniture made possible thanks to OPC allocations.*

*Jeanne Curtis  
OPC President 2018-2019*



# OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB





# JOIN OAKRIDGE CONNECT

Oakridge Alumni are now participating in an exciting new platform called Oakridge Connect. This closed group of over 1,500 alums allows members to communicate, network, share pictures, and post event information. The dynamic database helps maintain contact despite graduation, moves, and job changes. Alumni also have the ability to search for each other by class year, city of residence, university affiliation, Greek affiliation, industry, and company.

**SIGN UP AT [OAKRIDGECONNECT.ORG](http://OAKRIDGECONNECT.ORG).**

The screenshot shows the Oakridge Connect website. At the top left is the Oakridge School logo. In the top right corner is a "Sign in" link. A large green banner with a white arrow pointing right contains the text "Welcome to Oakridge Connect". Below this banner is a photograph of a brick and stone wall with a sign that reads "THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL". To the right of the photo is a "JOIN NOW" section with the text "Connect with" followed by three buttons: "in LinkedIn", "f Facebook", and "Email". Below these buttons is a small text block: "Why is it safe to register with LinkedIn / Facebook?". At the bottom of the page are four blue banners, each with an icon and a title: 1. "Re-connect" with an icon of two people, text: "Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch." 2. "Give back" with an icon of a person speaking, text: "Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students." 3. "Expand" with a globe icon, text: "Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know." 4. "Advance" with a person icon, text: "Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies."



# OUR MISSION

To inspire students to seek their full potential in academics, the arts, and athletics in a challenging and nurturing environment that cultivates social responsibility, mutual respect, and personal integrity.

# OUR VISION

To attain national recognition as a college preparatory school that provides educational excellence grounded in responsible character development and ethical leadership.

# PHILOSOPHY

We believe the role of The Oakridge School is to provide a challenging educational program that emphasizes the total development of each child, encompassing intellectual and social skills as well as cultural, emotional, and physical development, thus preparing students for higher education and life.

We believe an environment that employs a variety of teaching techniques and learning activities best enables each student to succeed as an individual and as a member of a group.

We believe an orderly environment, stressing personal and academic self-discipline, provides an atmosphere most conducive to success.

We believe in academic excellence and in the pursuit of knowledge as a lifelong experience.

We believe in high moral and ethical standards, honor, and mutual respect.

We believe The Oakridge School functions most effectively with the involvement of students, parents, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

We believe the graduates of The Oakridge School should be men and women of good character who have developed a healthy respect for self, an awareness of the privileges and obligations of citizenship, and a keen sense of empathy for and responsibility to fellow human beings.



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### **Associate Regents**

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### **Mrs. Sarah Kramer, Asst. Head of School**

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Ms. Kathy Gamill  
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To Parents of Alumni:

If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer uses your home as a permanent address, please email his or her address and contact information to [tfoster@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:tfoster@theoakridgeschool.org).

