



OAKMONT EDUCATION

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Welcome, Dimitrios Kriaras!

Oakmont Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Dimitrios Kriaras as the new President of the organization effective September 1st, 2023.

Dimitrios Kriaras brings with him over two decades of invaluable experience in higher education, having held significant leadership positions as Chief Operating Officer, President, and Chief

Executive Officer within colleges and universities. His deep-rooted commitment to student success and innovative approach to education has proven transformative for students across various career stages.

“Mr. Kriaras’ extensive experience and visionary leadership make him an excellent fit for the role of President at Oakmont Education,” said John Stack, Founder, President, and CEO of Oakmont Education. “We are confident that his dynamic leadership style, industry relationships, and dedication to shaping the future of education will significantly contribute to our mission of empowering under-resourced opportunity youth.”

John Stack, who founded Oakmont Education and has served as its President and CEO, will remain actively engaged as the CEO of Oakmont Education. John’s steadfast leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping the organization into what it is today, and he will continue to guide Oakmont toward even greater achievements. “I am excited to welcome Dimitrios to the Oakmont team,” Stack commented. “His arrival as President will undoubtedly strengthen our commitment to providing quality education and transforming the lives of our students.”



2 CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2023

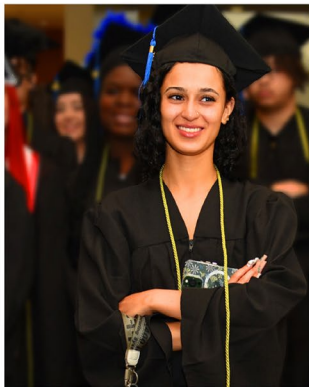


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Celebrating the Class of 2023



Old Brook Parma Wins Cox Communications Charities Grant

Old Brook Parma received the 2nd place prize in the Cox Communication Charities Grant, winning \$5,000 toward VR equipment. The grant application was spearheaded by Old Brook Parma's lead teacher, Mr. Patrick Jungling, who is also the head of Oakmont Education's science department. He recognized the unique opportunities VR equipment could provide to both our academic classrooms and CTE programs.

This grant will enable Old Brook Parma to further transform student lives by strengthening engagement, increasing learning outcomes, and supporting cultural connectivity. The experiences afforded to students through the use of VR equipment will not only immerse them in rich STEAM learning opportunities, it will expose them to communities and landmarks around the world.

The check was presented at Cox Communications' head office in Parma.

The 2022/2023 school year was nothing short of remarkable, as we proudly announce that Oakmont Education witnessed its highest number of graduates across all our Dropout Recovery high schools, with an astounding total of 925 graduates (previous record was 785) donning their caps and gowns!

But that's not all – our graduates have not only earned their diplomas, but they have also set a new standard by collectively achieving a remarkable 2309 Industry-Recognized Credentials. This achievement exemplifies the dedication, resilience, and commitment of our students, educators, and support staff in pursuing excellence.

Oakmont Education takes immense pride in equipping students with not only academic knowledge but also practical skills that prepare them for success in the workforce. The attainment of 2309 Industry-Recognized Credentials is a testament to the quality of education our students receive. These credentials, ranging across various industries, from healthcare to technology, from construction to hospitality, reflect the versatility and adaptability of our graduates as they enter the job market.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of providing exceptional education opportunities to all. The 2023-2024 school year holds exciting prospects as we continue to refine our programs, expand our partnerships, and embrace new challenges. The Oakmont Education community is poised to continue making a positive impact on the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

Breaking Barriers: Oakmont Education Supports Free Menstrual Care Products for Ohio Students

Empowerment through access takes center stage as Ohio's HB 33 paves the way for change. The legislation directs the Department of Education and Workforce to allocate \$5 million for feminine hygiene materials in schools, heralding an era of menstrual equity.

The bill's impact is two-fold:

- **Funds for Access:** Schools will receive \$2 million for dispenser installation and \$3 million to reimburse costs for providing feminine hygiene products. Every girl in public and chartered nonpublic schools will benefit from grades 6 to 12.
- **Dispensers in Schools:** The Department is crafting an application process, with dispenser-specific funds set to reach schools by October 2023. This ensures that menstrual care products are accessible to all students promptly.

Oakmont Education has teamed up with Aunt Flow, a leading advocate for menstrual equity. Through this partnership (learn more at goauntflow.com/schools), Oakmont Education is dedicated to ensuring access to menstrual products for all students. This initiative aligns with our commitment to creating a positive, inclusive learning environment. Together with Aunt Flow, we're working towards a future where menstrual equity is a reality, breaking down barriers and fostering educational equality.





What is Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools and what does it mean for our Schools?

Ohio's Path to Progress

Ohio's educational standards are built on a foundation of continuous improvement. By utilizing the Ohio School Report Cards' accountability measures, the state gauges school performance. These efforts align with federal and state requirements, designating the lowest-performing schools as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Striving for Betterment

While all Oakmont schools have achieved or exceeded Graduation Rate expectations on the Local Report Card, the minimum 67% graduation rate requirement may not be attainable for some due to program nuances. Nevertheless, our resolve to drive improvement is resolute.

Leveraging Support for Growth

A silver lining emerges as our schools qualify for school improvement grants and support from Ohio's State Support Teams. These valuable resources will play a pivotal role in propelling our schools toward better outcomes and enhanced educational experiences.

A United Approach

Through collaborative efforts with school leaders, Oakmont is actively completing required plans and assessments. This strategic approach ensures a focused effort on improvement areas, underscoring our dedication to progress.

Looking Ahead

As we navigate this journey together, your steadfast support remains invaluable. We're confident that our united commitment will unlock new horizons for both our schools and students. The 2023-2024 school year holds exciting prospects as we continue to refine our programs, expand our partnerships, and embrace new challenges. The Oakmont Education community is poised to continue making a positive impact on the lives of our students and the communities we serve.



Celebrating Randy Smoot's Promotion to Executive Director of Southern Schools

Randy Smoot's elevation from School Director at Cliff Park High School to Executive Director of Southern Schools marks a significant chapter at Oakmont Education. With a background ranging from Operations Management to Education Leadership, Randy's dedication to student welfare and strategic prowess shines through. Randy's journey, including his role as a Truancy Probation Officer and subsequent rise as School Director, showcases his ability to inspire progress. Armed with a Master's in Public Administration and a history of success with esteemed

companies, Randy's visionary leadership now extends statewide.

His promotion exemplifies Oakmont Education's commitment to internal growth and leadership development. Randy's words encapsulate his ethos: "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve. Together, we'll make a difference in students' lives."

Congratulations, Randy, on this remarkable achievement. His leadership will undoubtedly steer Oakmont Education towards a brighter future, enriching the lives of countless students.



Big Wins out of the State Biennium Budget

Oakmont Education played a pivotal role in advocating for and highlighting the significance of Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) and Career-Technical Education (CTE) programs and, thanks to this advocacy, DOPR schools providing in-house CTE and Credentialing programs can now:

- Qualify to receive state CTE funds in their first year, ensuring that resources are channeled effectively for positive educational outcomes.
- Qualify for the Quality Community Schools Funding from which they had previously been excluded.
- Increase the amounts of CTE funding for all CTE Categories for DOPR schools providing in-house CTE and Credentialing.
- Allow a portion of funding to be utilized post-grad and placement to support graduates after graduation.
- Expanded DOPR Testing Windows to two 10 week windows a year.

We applaud these advancements and recognize our partners who played a crucial role in advocating for the remarkable achievements within Ohio's school choice landscape. Particularly, we extend our appreciation to Dave Cash, CEO of Charter School Specialists, who comprehends the pressing nature of the dropout issue and its potential remedies.

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Empowering Young Entrepreneurs: Old Brook High School Business Students Shine in Pitch Competition

In an exciting display of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Old Brook High School's Business students took center stage as they participated in a captivating pitch competition organized by Community Wealth Partners of Greater Cleveland. The event marked a significant opportunity for these budding business minds to showcase their unique ideas and vie for impressive monetary rewards based on the quality of their pitches.

Under the spotlight, the Business students were tasked with presenting their personal business concepts to a panel of esteemed judges, each an expert in their respective fields. The challenge? Convince the judges of the viability and potential of their ventures. The criteria encompassed a well-rounded presentation, covering essential aspects such as the product or service's purpose, the primary target audience, the envisioned marketing strategy, and the passion driving the creation of their business.

The stakes were high, with the promise of substantial prizes to fuel their entrepreneurial journeys. A total of \$1,000 awaited the champion of the competition, while second place would secure \$500, and the third and fourth place winners would each walk away with \$250. The winners were encouraged to utilize their winnings to formally establish their businesses by registering with the Secretary of State Office and creating their online presence.

The showcased student businesses reflected a diverse range of creative ideas and ambitions. Among the standout pitches were:

1st Place: Modesty Boutique

Claiming the top spot was Janessa, the visionary behind Modesty Boutique. Her clothing company specializes in offering modest attire for men, women, and children at affordable prices. The boutique addresses the needs of those who struggle to find fashionable yet modest clothing options. Janessa's dedication to her venture earned her the first-place position. She's poised to embark on the Business and Administration program at Tri C in the upcoming fall semester.



2nd Place: AM Style Motion

Michael, the driving force behind AM Style Motion, secured the second-place position. His company designs clothing tailored for adolescents, showcasing unique and original designs. Michael's commitment to his venture was underscored by his participation in the Financial Literacy Workshop presented by Community Wealth Partners of Greater Cleveland. His pitch demonstrated meticulous planning by outlining revenue projections, growth strategies, and the necessary funding to kick-start his business.

3rd Place: Gizzy Spins

Taking the third-place position was Antonio and his brainchild, Gizzy Spins. His music production company offers a wide array of services including recording, film-making, editing, DJ-ing services, and sound mixing. Antonio's passion for music and his personal experience in struggling to access studio time inspired him to create a platform that empowers fellow artists to bring their musical visions to life.

4th Place: Hyperstreet Performance

Alex, the mastermind behind Hyperstreet Performance, secured the fourth-place position. His company specializes in automotive enhancements such as window tinting, car wrapping, and car painting. Alex's expertise extends to intricate details like carbon fiber wings, rear diffusers, and custom grills. He's set to expand his knowledge by enrolling in the Auto Mechanics program at Polaris in the upcoming fall term.

The distinguished panel of judges featured representatives from PNC Bank, Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Development, and the Urban League of Greater Cleveland.

Following the exhilarating pitches, Judge Ms. Marengo from NOHCD extended an invaluable offer to mentor the students, guiding them as they embark on their entrepreneurial journeys.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to Andrea Boyd of Community Wealth Partners of Greater Cleveland for orchestrating and hosting this remarkable event. The unwavering support of the dedicated CTE team at Old Brook Main Campus – Mrs. Santiago, Mr. Spivey, and Mrs. Benn – was instrumental in ensuring the success of this memorable competition.

The pitch competition not only highlighted the remarkable talents of Old Brook High School's Business students but also underlined the importance of fostering entrepreneurship and empowering young minds to transform their ideas into reality. As these driven students step into the world of business, their innovative spirits will undoubtedly continue to shine brightly, leaving a lasting impact on their communities and beyond.



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