



OAKMONT

EDUCATION

OAKMONT EDUCATION PULSE: NAVIGATING EXCELLENCE IN CREDIT RECOVERY & ADVANCEMENT

Towpath Trail High School Receives Recognition at Silver Maple Ridge Ground Breaking Ceremony

In a remarkable display of community collaboration, Towpath Trail High School received recognition at the October 17th, 2023 groundbreaking ceremony for Silver Maple Ridge – the largest multi-home development undertaken by Habitat for Humanity of Summit County. This transformative project will introduce 16 new, affordable homeownership opportunities for local families, accompanied by the creation of a new City of Akron Park. Habitat's commitment involves selling homes to qualified families on a 30-year, zero-interest mortgage.

Former Akron Mayor, Daniel Horrigan, Akron Ward 2 Council Representative, Phil Lombardo, and former Akron Ward 5 Council Representative, Tara Mosley, along with their dedicated teams, graced the occasion. Betta Deblasio, Field Representative for Congresswomen Emilia Strong Sykes, expressed congressional recognition, hailing the development as a welcomed addition to the community.

Habitat for Humanity Board Chair, Jake Frego, emphasized the significance of stable housing, rooted in the values of faith, family, and friends. Corporate



partners, including Akron Community Foundation, Amazon, Circle K, and Huntington Bank, were acknowledged for their unwavering support over the years.

Rochelle Sibbio, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, outlined the phased construction plan, highlighting Towpath Trail High School's pivotal role. The school received special recognition for taking charge of 85% of the construction work on 2-3 homes annually, contributing to vital components such as floor systems, beams, walls, trusses, doors, trim, siding, windows, painting, and roofing. Each 1200-square-foot house will feature a 1-1/2 car garage.

Students from Towpath Trail High School, spanning across its East Campus, Barberton Campus, and Main campus, were recognized for their active participation in the construction process. This initiative aligns with the school's curriculum, leading students towards their NCCER core certification.

Future homeowners, like Laurenthia Gurley, expressed gratitude for the City of Akron's provision of land, the financial sponsors for generous donations, and the volunteers who will help turn dreams of homeownership into reality. Towpath Trail High School's recognition at the groundbreaking ceremony stands as a testament to the power of education and community partnership in fostering positive change.

Navigating NCAA Approval for Student-Athletes at Cypress High School



In a recent development, Oakmont Education's Northern Executive Director of DORs, Larry Burt, successfully led the initiative to secure NCAA approval specifically for

Cypress High School. This achievement holds significant implications for student-athletes at Cypress High School, who are now empowered to pursue both academic and athletic excellence seamlessly.

Q: *Larry, could you elaborate on the NCAA Status and its importance for prospective college athletes at Cypress High School?*

Larry Burt (LB): Certainly. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center plays a crucial role in certifying the eligibility of prospective college athletes for participation in sports at NCAA Division I or II institutions. For Cypress High School, this involved a thorough review of the student-athlete's academic record, SAT or ACT scores, and amateur status, ensuring alignment with NCAA rules. Additionally, Cypress High School's academic rigor and compliance with state standards were meticulously assessed.

Q: *What is the relevance of NCAA approval to Oakmont Education and Cypress High School?*

LB: The significance for Cypress High School and Oakmont Education lies in the fact that the school is now NCAA approved. This means that student-athletes attending Cypress High School can seamlessly balance their athletic commitments at their home districts while

being assured of attending a nationally accredited and NCAA-approved academic institution. The approval ensures that the credits earned by student-athletes at Cypress High School are recognized by the NCAA, allowing them to pursue both academic and athletic endeavors without interruption.

Q: *Larry, can you share your role in the 5-month process of securing NCAA approval for Cypress High School?*

LB: My role primarily involved creating and submitting the necessary documentation for Cypress High School while maintaining clear communication with representatives from the NCAA. It was crucial to accurately and concisely define how Cypress High School functions within the Oakmont Education network, articulate the educational model, and demonstrate how we meet the eligibility requirements. This was a meticulous process that spanned five months.

Q: *Were there team members you collaborated with during this process for Cypress High School?*

LB: Absolutely. I received invaluable support from our Academic Coaches, Ali Stahlheber and Emily Knight, who assisted in submitting specific curriculum and assessment information for Cypress High School. Additionally, Director Chuck Hall shared documents from his previous attempts at this process, providing insights that proved beneficial.

Q: *How do you envision this approval benefiting the community and students at Cypress High School moving forward?*

Cypress High School

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LB: The NCAA approval of Cypress High School opens up opportunities for students within the Mansfield, Ohio community. They can now access the full spectrum of benefits offered by our DOR at Cypress High School, including flexible class schedules, credit recovery options, and Career and Technical Education (CTE), while maintaining their eligibility for collegiate sports. In essence, students at Cypress High School can enroll, take advantage of the academic offerings, and still remain eligible for collegiate athletics—a win-win scenario for their overall development. This is a great advancement that can pave the way for other schools within the Oakmont Education family.



Oakmont Education's Collaboration with the Ohio Attendance Taskforce

In the realm of educational initiatives, Oakmont Education's DOR Schools recently embarked on a transformative journey by actively participating in the Ohio Attendance Taskforce. Our Southern Executive Director, Randy Smoot, played a pivotal role as a committee member in this crucial endeavor aimed at addressing truancy and chronic absenteeism in Ohio.

The Ohio Attendance Taskforce is a dynamic coalition comprising educators, school superintendents, principals, and community leaders. This collective force united to tackle the pervasive issue of absenteeism, recognizing its impact on student success. Students in Oakmont's schools often face higher rates of absenteeism, making it a formidable challenge for them to achieve academic milestones.

As a committee member, Randy Smoot represented community schools, offering a unique perspective shaped by extensive experience in both education and as the Truancy Probation Officer for the Clark County Juvenile Court. This dual perspective allowed a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by students and families.

The collaborative efforts with the Ohio Attendance Taskforce centered around core strategies emphasizing a holistic approach to address attendance issues. Recognizing the need to consider all aspects of a student's life, including family dynamics, socioeconomics, community influences, and cultural factors, the taskforce aimed to develop more effective solutions for improving attendance.

Oakmont Education's DOR Schools is proud to have been a part of this initiative, represented by Randy Smoot in this statewide effort. As we move forward, let us continue working collaboratively to create an educational environment that supports the success of every student.