

OAKMONT EDUCATION PULSE: NAVIGATING EXCELLENCE IN CREDIT RECOVERY & ADVANCEMENT

MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL HAMILTON CAMPUS CULINARY PROGRAM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH





FRANKLINTON PREP HIGH SCHOOL SHEDS A LIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING





### -= Crossing State Lines: Oakmont Education Expands to Iowa =-

Oakmont Education is embarking on an exciting journey with the establishment of Great Oaks High School & Career Center in Iowa. This expansion marks a significant milestone for Oakmont as it ventures beyond Ohio to bring its unique educational model to a new community.

The appointment of Kris Byam as the Executive Director highlights Oakmont's commitment to excellence in education. With a wealth of experience in education, particularly in work-based learning, Kris is poised to lead the charge in Iowa. His passion for education and alignment with Oakmont's mission makes him the ideal candidate to spearhead this new endeavor.

The decision to expand reflects Oakmont's dedication to providing quality education opportunities to students beyond its home state. Oakmont Education Vice President, Cris Gulacy-Worrel, and Vice President of Career Tech, Dr. Jerry Farley, have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life by collaborating closely with the Iowa Coalition for Public Charter Schools, ensuring that students in Iowa have access to a high-quality education tailored to their needs. Stay tuned here for updates and insights along the way.



OLD BROOK PARMA HEALTHCARE STUDENT LEVELS UP WITH OFFER AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



COOKING UP COMPASSION: MARSHALL HIGH'S CULINARY CLASS GIVES BACK



DETAILS ON OUR LATEST RIBBON CUTTING EVENT!

# Black History Month Culinary Meals Hamilton

Chef Tiffany and her culinary students at Marshall High School Hamilton Campus took the spotlight this Black History Month, embarking on a flavorful journey through African American Cuisine. Every Friday, they tantalized taste buds with recipes honoring the rich heritage and distinct flavors of African American culinary traditions.

These culinary events weren't just about delicious meals; they provided a unique educational experience for both students and staff, extending learning beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. Students delved into diverse culinary practices, fostering a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage and expanding their culinary knowledge.

The collaborative effort between Chef Tiffany's team and the Oakmont support staff was pivotal. Oakmont provided logistical support, resource procurement, and promotional assistance, ensuring the events reached maximum participation and impact.

Through these events, students not only honed their culinary skills but also learned the value of teamwork and collaboration. The celebration of Black History Month through food created a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere, reinforcing Marshall High School's dedication to holistic education and cultural diversity.

















# Welcome Don Polyak!

We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to the Oakmont Education team, Don Polyak, who joins us as our Chief Financial Officer (CFO). With over 25 years of experience in strategically guiding organizational growth, Don brings a wealth of expertise to our leadership team

Don's extensive background in entrepreneurial leadership, coupled with his strong financial acumen, uniquely positions him to drive success at Oakmont Education. As CFO, he will play a crucial role in shaping and executing financial strategies that not only ensure stability and compliance but also foster growth and prosperity for our organization.

A proud alumnus of Kent State University, Don is deeply passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of the students we serve. His dedication to providing choice and opportunity in the communities we operate in aligns perfectly with Oakmont Education's mission and values.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Don Polyak as we continue our commitment to empowering students and transforming communities through education. We look forward to the invaluable contributions he will make to our organization's continued success

# OAKMONTEDUCATION



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# **Empowering Communities:** Franklinton Prep High School and Gracehaven Host Human Trafficking Awareness Summit

Franklinton Prep High School and Gracehaven joined forces to shed light on the dark reality of human trafficking through a collaborative summit. On January 31st, the school opened its doors to over 50 attendees from various educational institutions and non-profit organizations for a Human Trafficking Summit, Keynote speakers. including U.S. Attorney Kenneth L. Parker and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Amy Turner, provided invaluable insights into recognizing the signs of human trafficking.

Jackie Jenkins, Franklinton Prep High School's Student Success Coordinator, collaborated closely with Gracehaven to orchestrate the summit, underscoring their shared commitment to protecting vulnerable youth.

As U.S. Attorney Parker elucidated the indicators of trafficking, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the issue's gravity and the urgency of intervention. The summit concluded with a call to action, urging individuals to report suspected cases to emergency services or the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Hosted as part of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, this collaborative effort between Franklinton Prep High School and Gracehaven exemplifies a community's resolve to combat exploitation and safeguard its members. Through education and advocacy, they stand united against this insidious crime, ensuring that no individual falls victim to its grip unnoticed.

Visit www.justice.gov/humantrafficking for more information.











oakmontedu.org/pulse













### Marshall High School's StudentsX2 **Exchange Program**

Marshall High School and EDUcircuits are embarking on an inspiring collaboration to bridge the gap between schools of privilege and those with fewer resources. Richard Ries, co-founder of EDUcircuits, shares the vision behind their partnership with Marshall High School and Oakmont Education. Their not-for-profit initiative aims to facilitate connections between students from diverse backgrounds through the StudentsX2 pilot program.

Annika Rathouz, along with her peers from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas, joins hands with students from Marshall to kickstart this transformative journey. Together, they will collaborate on meaningful projects, starting with the development of a school newsletter. This newsletter serves not only to foster community within Marshall but also to showcase the school's achievements to external supporters.

However, their aspirations extend beyond this initial project. The ultimate goal is to continue finding avenues for students and advocates to positively impact the lives of all students, both at Marshall and St. Andrew's. With dedication and enthusiasm, this partnership promises a future filled with successful endeavors and profound impacts on student communities.







# Campus Open House & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**Come celebrate** the opening of Marshall High School Hamilton Campus on March 21st, 2024, from 4-6 pm. Get a tour of the space that cultivates our Healthcare, Business, Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, and Culinary pathways. See you there! **RSVP at marshallhshamilton.org/rsvp or email kelven.moss@marshallhs.org** 



Higher Ed Spotlight: Old Brook Parma Healthcare Student Levels Up with Offer and Scholarship Opportunity

Congratulations to Aaliyah Rhodes, an Old Brook Parma senior and Healthcare student, who not only was selected for direct admission to Ursuline College and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in The Breen School of Nursing for Fall 2024, but was also awarded a Dean's Scholarship, which holds an annual scholarship amount of \$24,000 for 4 years!

# Cooking Up Compassion: Marshall High's Culinary Class Gives Back

In Middletown, Ohio, the culinary class at Marshall High School isn't just about mastering recipes; it's about mastering compassion and community service. Students like Jordan Fultz and Chance Chrisman are discovering their culinary talents while also discovering the joy of giving back.

For Jordan, stepping into the kitchen for the first time has been eye-opening. "Being in culinary opens a lot of things for you. We feed the other students; we feed the teachers. It's really a fun experience," he shared enthusiastically.

Chance echoes this sentiment, expressing gratitude for the guidance of Chef Chad Conklin and the opportunity to make a difference. "It's been really helpful. My mom was for it. Like, she liked me in my culinary uniform," Chance said with a smile.

Chef Conklin believes in teaching more than just cooking; he imparts valuable life lessons in discipline, budgeting, and self-care. Inspired by a passion for community service, Conklin initiated a bi-monthly program to cook meals for those in need.

The students' eagerness to contribute is palpable. "They were really excited for the opportunity to help feed the community. And that really warmed my heart," Conklin expressed proudly.

As the first dinner approaches on February 21st, featuring a delectable spread of spaghetti and meatballs, homemade noodles, garlic bread, and tiramisu, the students are not just learning to cook; they're learning to cook with compassion, leaving a lasting impact on their community and beyond.









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