

Thomas Quade Named Dual Award Recipient

Geauga Public Health Department Health Commissioner Thomas Quade was named this year's recipient of the Chardon Schools Superintendent's Award and recipient of the Friend of the Chardon Education Association Award.

The joint recognition and presentation to Mr. Quade was led by Superintendent Michael Hanlon and CEA president Shalyn Swick during the school district's regular board meeting on May 17.

Both awards are annual traditions bestowed each spring to individuals demonstrating extraordinary service to Chardon Schools.

During the May 17 board meeting, Dr. Hanlon referenced the many COVID-19-related regulations established at the start of the school year to enable school to successfully re-open in fall 2020 and the myriad of adjustments made throughout the school year to sustain school as conditions changed on a sometimes monthly or weekly basis.

He described Mr. Quade as instrumental in this work with the district—both with superintendents and teachers—answering questions and providing guidance—and also acknowledged his utmost respect for Mr. Quade.

"I can tell you from personal experience that he always arrived at those (decisions) in a positive manner, and his primary interest was always our students, staff, and community," added Dr. Hanlon.



In response, Mr. Quade thanked Dr. Hanlon for his support and his leadership in the county's superintendents group. "He's clearly seen as a leader in that group, and you all should be proud of him as well," added Mr. Quade.

Mrs. Swick lauded Mr. Quade for his approachability and helpfulness. "Throughout this entire pandemic, you have always been there to keep our community safe, and we appreciate you more than you know," added Mrs. Swick. "Thank you so much."



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Chardon Schools was pleased to host an in-person, Class of 2021 commencement ceremony outdoors at Chardon Memorial Field on the afternoon of May 30. Chardon High School proudly graduated 256 students, of whom 86 earned honors diplomas, 24 served as valedictorians, one served as a salutatorian, and two were student-elected honorarians.

Graduates are now preparing to officially embark on their chosen 4E's pathway(s): **ENLISTMENT, ENROLLMENT, EMPLOYMENT, and/or ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

The Class of 2021 has four graduates who are pursuing the **ENLISTMENT** pathway. Of those four graduates, two have enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and two in the United States Air Force.

In terms of **ENROLLMENT**, about 80-percent of graduates are enrolling in colleges and universities, while nearly five-percent are pursuing technical institutes or licensures. Areas of study include business, commercial driving, construction, design and engineering, education, electrical, EMT/firefighting, film and digital media, law, medicine and pharmacy, nursing, public relations, real estate sales, sciences, theater and music, and welding.

Among the colleges, universities and technical institutes graduates have enrolled in are: Auburn Career Center, Bowling Green State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Kent State University, Lakeland Community College, Miami University—Oxford, The Ohio State University, Ohio Technical College, and West Virginia University.

Graduates on the pathway of **EMPLOYMENT** account for over 15-percent of the class with plans to work at organizations that include Farris Excavating, Geauga County Sheriff's Office, The Holden Arboretum, Mistick Construction, and Ryan Heating & Cooling, Inc.

Several Hilltoppers are pursuing **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** while a number of graduates are embarking upon multiple 4E's pathways simultaneously. As an example, one graduate has plans for Entrepreneurship through yacht detailing and repairs; Employment as a private security officer via certification earned through ACC; and Enrollment at Cleveland State University this fall to study law or education.



"The Class of 2021 was impacted by a virus that shook everything that our district's prepared for and looked forward to. Throughout this entire year we have spoken about how we choose our response to any event . . . Our seniors understand the importance of hard work, valued work ethics, collaboration, and finishing what they started . . . In a year of no, they worked for yes."

—Mr. Doug Murray,
CHS Principal

"Just go live and live big. Run fast, fall down, get up, and just enjoy the journey. Changing and evolving is uncomfortable, but let me tell you it's worth it."

—Mrs. Denise Hagan,
2021 Commencement Speaker



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Notable Hilltopper Experiences

While the ongoing pandemic and resulting need for extensive precautionary measures may have made the school year feel differently than a traditional year, the commitment of Hilltoppers to learning as their most important work remained unchanged. Following are examples (not a comprehensive listing) of achievements and projects that exemplify ways in which Hilltoppers of all grade levels continued to reach for the stars in the 2020–21 school year:

ACHIEVEMENT EXAMPLES

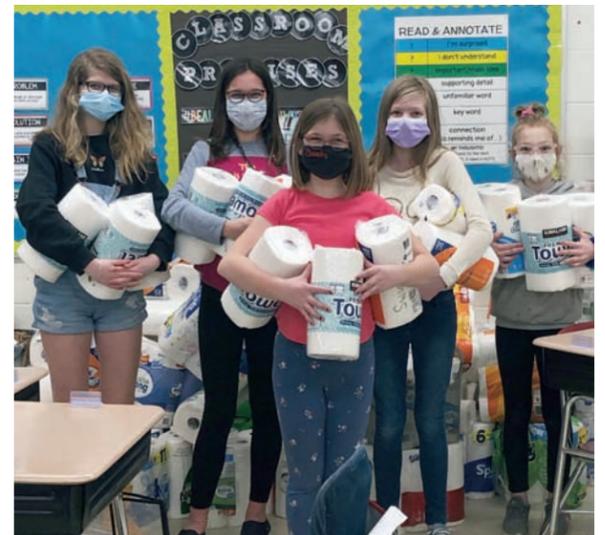
- **ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM**
17 medals in the State competition
- **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**
53 newly inducted Chardon High School students
- **NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS**
Noah Munoz, Zoe Shive, Jacob Stephans
- **NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS**
Jeffery Fletcher, Brendan Sarbach
- **NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY**
Two newly inducted CHS/Auburn Career Center students
- **OHIO FCCLA—STATE COMPETITION**
Charlotte Kurtz and Savannah Bryant earned first-place with their respective ACC teams and advanced to the National tournament



- **OHIO SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION TEAM**
Charlotte Jons competed as CHS' first-ever OSDA team member, participating in 14 virtual tournaments and advancing to the State novice tournament
- **JUNIORBOTS PORCUPINE TEAM**
3rd place in the AWT JuniorBots battle-bot tournament
- **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD B TEAM**
Chardon Middle School team advanced to the State competition for the 25th consecutive year, placing 10th overall out of 42 teams
- **SKILLSUSA OHIO - REGIONAL COMPETITION**
Olivia Brosch and her ACC team earned a silver medal and advanced to the State tournament
- **STELLA'S ART GALLERY'S "IN HONOR OF WOMEN" BEST OF SHOW**
Awarded to Jenna Toutant for her "Chaos Behind the Eyes" graphite/charcoal sketch
- **VIRTUAL SCIENCE FAIR**
After an extended hiatus, the annual fair was relaunched by Chardon Middle School this year as a virtual event with students Ava Dreher, Addison Fabian, Kai Harris, Zachary Hatchcock-Zeppo, Juliana Miozzi, Lukas Reel, Owen Przepiora, Ayden Smelko, Claire Stevenson and Colbie Wolf recognized by the CMS principal for exceptionally innovative science fair projects

COMMUNITY SERVICE EXAMPLES

- **BOXING WITH PARKINSON'S**
Tate Farinacci, Liam Downs and Haydn Haueter raised \$2,000 in donations for the Geauga County Department on Aging's Boxing with Parkinson's community program, including a \$1,500 check from Rotary of Chardon
- **CEREALOUSLY GENEROUS TINY TOPPERS**
Maple School Tiny Toppers far surpassed their school's goal to collect 200 boxes of cereal for local food pantries, amassing 500 boxes by the final collection day
- **LOVE OUR GEAUGA LIFESAVERS**
Student volunteers from all grade levels created handmade artwork and handwritten letters as messages of hope for UH Geauga Medical Center staff
- **NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**
17 Chardon High School students were recognized nationally by Innerview Technologies, LLC for their exceptional dedication to community service
- **RESCUE VILLAGE**
CMS Builders Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Chardon, held a school-wide paper towel drive, collecting over 300 rolls of paper towels to donate to Rescue Village
- **THERAPEUTIC THURSDAYS**
Seasonal, outdoor field trips provided Mrs. Bunker's students with opportunities to continue learning about and serving the Chardon community, including a food donation project for the Little Free Food Pantry on Water Street
- **VETERANS DAY**
Honorary activities included recording a performance of Park Elementary third-grade students singing "Thank You Soldiers", which then aired on Geauga-TV



NEW OPPORTUNITY EXAMPLES

- **CAREER-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAM**
Newly launched program at CHS with activities that included student-operated, in-house cookie and boutique businesses
- **INDIVIDUALLY UNIQUE—AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH**
Each Munson Elementary student and staff member colored/decorated a large paper puzzle piece to unify into an inter-locking collage on the main hallway wall, demonstrating how we are all different but fit together like a puzzle
- **PERCEPTIONOLOGY® WORKSHOPS**
Interactive workshops led by Mr. Donald McLeod and funded by a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation grant gave Chardon Service Learning students the opportunity to hone their soft skills, including active listening, asking questions, and communicating at articulately as possible both through practice in class and application in real-world settings
- **PRINCIPAL'S PODCAST**
Virtual student Melody Wilkinson was featured on a CHS Principal Podcast, discussing both the advantages and challenges of virtual school versus in-person school
- **VALENTINES ACROSS THE USA**
Park Elementary and Munson Elementary teachers Mrs. Picone and Mrs. Sobodosh launched an exciting cultural learning experience for their second-grade classes by coordinating a mail exchange of letters and artwork with teachers and their students from classrooms throughout the United States



2020–21 DISTRICT RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

The Chardon Local Schools administrative team, together with the full support of the Chardon board of education and staff members in all departments, navigated the meticulous planning and implementation of the district's pandemic response plan for the 2020–21 school year with the unwavering provision of expertise and guidance from the Geauga Public Health Department's Health Commissioner, Thomas Quade.

At all times, the safety and security of all students and staff remained Chardon's top priority while recognizing the need for as many in-person learning opportunities that could safely be provided.

Equally invaluable partners who contributed to a successful 2020–21 school year were the district's COVID-19 taskforce and parents, guardians, and students.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

The district was pleased to be able to offer in-person instruction as an option for all Kindergarten through grade 12 students while Tiny Toppers pre-Kindergarten students attended school exclusively in-person in accordance with the recommended guidance for child care and preschool settings.

Only on the very limited occasions when data trends for Chardon Schools students and staff reflected a slight uptick in numbers—primarily quarantines in late 2020—did the affected school building, grade level, or the district as a whole need to transition in-person students to the remote learning model for a temporary time period. Outside of those exceptions, in-person enrolled K–12 students were otherwise able to receive instruction in Chardon school buildings.

VIRTUAL AND HYBRID INSTRUCTION

Chardon Schools' response plan also allowed for families to opt instead for virtual or hybrid instruction.

Approximately 20-percent of the district's total K–12 student enrollment opted for virtual or hybrid instruction. This percentage remained consistent throughout the majority of the school year, decreasing to 13-percent by the conclusion of the school year on June 10.

Virtual instruction was delivered by Chardon Schools faculty who taught from inside their classrooms in the school buildings while connected virtually to remote learning students through the use of the Google Suite (Google Drive, Google Classroom and Google Meet) and with district-approved digital resources to support the curriculum.

"Approximately 25-percent of teachers were involved in teaching virtually over the course of the school year," said Assistant Superintendent

of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Ed Klein. "Some teachers were assigned to all virtual classes—such as Kindergarten, grade 3, high school health courses, etc.—and some teachers were assigned as part of their overall teaching assignment."

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Addressing whether there was academic impact on students district-wide as a result of the non-traditional school year, Dr. Klein said the district has not incurred major impacts on student learning.

"Student achievement in Chardon Schools—as measured by local, state, and nationally normed assessments—reflects negligible learning loss during these past 18 months," added Dr. Klein. "This is certainly a testament to the dedication and focus of our staff and teachers during these unprecedented times."

EXTENDED-LEARNING SUMMER PROGRAM

With the full support of the Ohio Department of Education, Chardon Schools has designed an extended-learning summer experience for Hilltopper students in order to provide individualized academic supports at multiple grade levels.

"While the academic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been limited in Chardon Schools, we are excited for this opportunity to provide continued support for students across the district," said Dr. Klein. "We recognize that many students

and families need a break—extended learning is not designed, nor intended to be traditional school; and many families who are invited to participate in extended learning can choose not to participate.

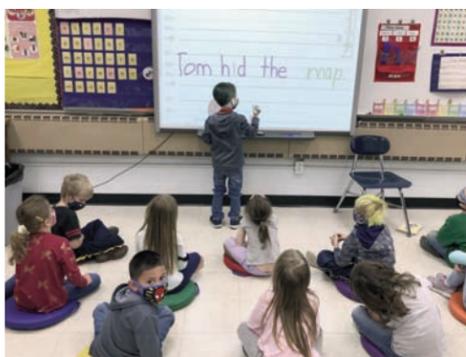
LOOKING AHEAD

Chardon Schools remains committed to its collaborative work with the Geauga Public Health Department to maintain the safety for all students, staff and visitors to the district's school buildings.

"As we prepare for the next school year, we are continuing our commitment to high achievement for all students," said Dr. Klein. "Teachers will continue to learn and implement the science of reading development, focus on professional learning communities, and develop college and career pathways for all students."

Dr. Klein further explained that as part of its plans for the 2021–22 school year, the district is anticipating the continued operation of all Kindergarten classes at Maple School.

"This will afford us continued use of additional physical space at both Munson Elementary and Park Elementary—which has been practical during this pandemic," added Dr. Klein. "Additionally, operating Kindergarten in the same building as preschool allows us to focus their efforts together on the specific learning needs of early childhood students."



FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs, Mr. Steven Kofol, reports that numerous facilities improvement projects—all of which received board approval during the 2020–21 school year—are slated to commence and be completed this summer with others beginning in or continuing into summer 2022.

Major projects in progress or in the queue district-wide at this time are as follows:

ROOFING PROJECTS

- CHARDON HIGH SCHOOL—Complete replacement, a two-phase project, began this summer with the final phase slated for completion in summer 2022
- CHARDON MIDDLE SCHOOL—Complete replacement to be completed in summer 2022
- MAPLE SCHOOL—Repair work
- MUNSON ELEMENTARY—Complete replacement to be completed in summer 2021
- PARK ELEMENTARY—Repair of west elevation brickwork; repair of school and auditorium roofs

OTHER PROJECTS

- CHARDON MEMORIAL FIELD—ADA-compliance stadium upgrades to north and west bleachers, and west ticket entrance; parking lot restriping; stadium scoreboard full replacement to be completed in summer 2021; stadium turf replacement began this summer and will be finalized by the end of the season
- MUNSON ELEMENTARY—Replacement of two boilers in summer 2021
- OTHER—Various asphalt repair/resurfacing at main campus; various concrete repair/replacement projects at main campus



Car Raffle Success Thanks to Junction Auto Family

Chardon Schools' plans for the summer 2021 full replacement of the Chardon Memorial Field stadium scoreboard are made possible by the Junction Auto Family and the Babcock family donating a 2020 GMC Terrain, valued at about \$29,000, to Chardon Schools/Chardon Athletics in fall 2020.

This philanthropic act in support of the district made it possible for Chardon Schools to launch a car raffle to raise funds for the 20-year-old scoreboard's replacement as parts had become obsolete.

The random drawing on Feb. 5 resulted in Chardon High School alumna Heather Warren of Chardon Township being named the grand prize winner of the car while Magdalene Giorgi of Chardon was the second-place winner (\$500 prize).

"When I got the phone call from Doug Snyder, my family and I could not believe it," said Mrs. Warren. "Thank you Junction Auto and Chardon Schools for such an amazing prize. I am loving my new car."

Chardon Schools remains grateful to the Junction Auto Family for the generous donation of the car and to the entire community for its outpouring of support, generating the sale of 1,620 raffle tickets.



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Five-Year Forecast Financial Report

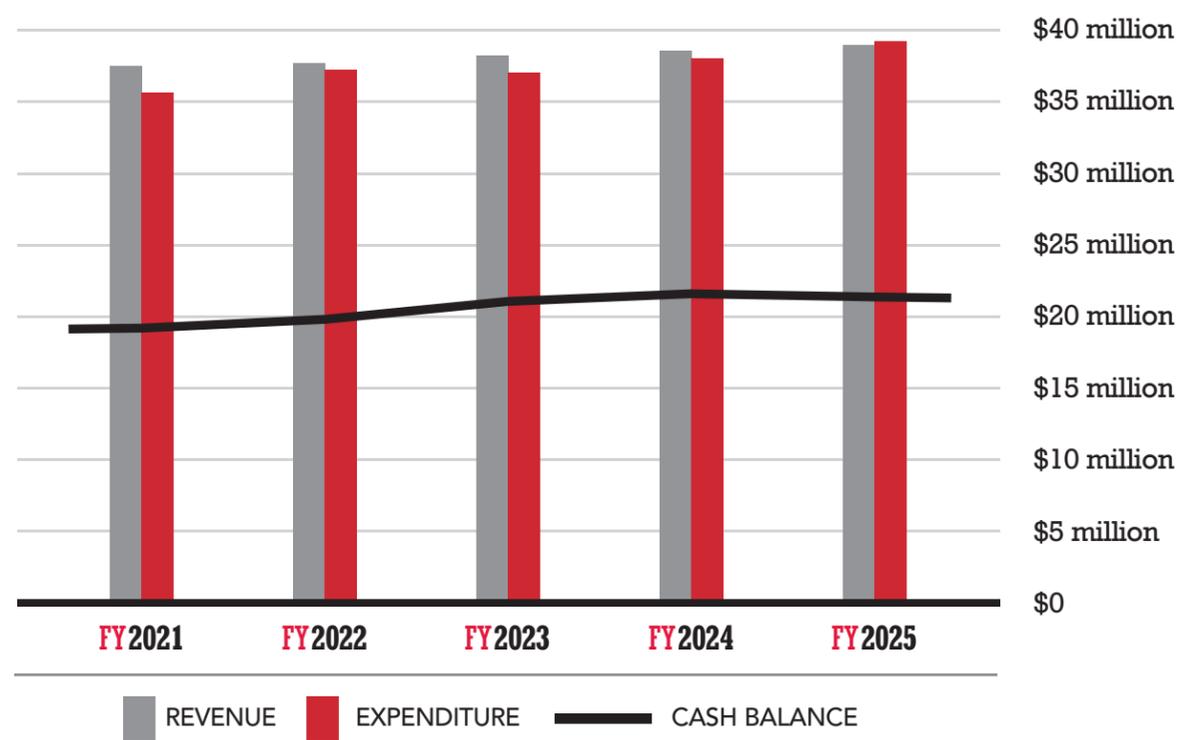
MAY 2021 The district's Treasurer/CFO, Mrs. Deb Armbruster, reports that fiscal year 2021, like fiscal year 2020, started in a strong financial position for Chardon Local Schools. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to show financial impact, but not at the rate that was originally anticipated.

State revenue cuts were reduced, the 2020 triennial appraisal was positive, and higher than anticipated collections were all factors that improved the revenue picture. Expenditures were less than projected due to the CARES Act with continued ESSER funds from the federal government along with attention to cost-effective measures enacted while providing a quality, in-person, safe education to the students.

It is important to note that the five-year forecast is an estimate which is based on historical trends and current factors. The forecast variables can change multiple times throughout the fiscal year and while cash flow monitoring helps to identify unexpected variances, no process is guaranteed. The intent is to provide the district's financial trend over time and a roadmap for decisions aimed at encouraging financial sustainability and stability.

Additional financial detail from Chardon Schools can be accessed via the BoardDocs link on the Board of Education page of the district website.

Revenue vs. Expenditure and Effect on Cash Balance FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025



- The projected Cash Balance in 2025 is \$21,403,369 without open purchase orders included and \$20,903,369 when included.
- There are numerous variables that are out of our control that could significantly impact the General fund (COVID-19) (ESSER).
- The five-year forecast is updated in November 2021 to reflect any possible changes that may occur during the school year.