



# The ByLine

WINTER 2021



**ROYALS RISING TO  
THE CHALLENGE**



# Academics ◀ Community ◀ Opportunity

## Mission

Our mission is to send into a changing world confident young people of integrity who think critically and creatively while embracing the joy of lifelong learning.

2020-2021

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Sixth graders test their engineering skills to see who can launch balls the farthest.

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Integrity, Respect, Scholarship and Personal Best

Editor: Susan Haas, Director of Marketing and Communications

On Cover: Middle School students visit the new spirit rock that adorns the front of the school.

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL  
MITCH WHITE

# The Power of Both/And

When I was a classroom teacher, I had a sign in my classroom that said, “Both/And, not Either/Or.” That sign was a useful reminder to me (and hopefully my students) to avoid binary thinking. In my experience, very few things in life are true dichotomies. I can both disagree with a politician and wish her success. Rooting for the Browns can be both fun and disappointing. The tomato can be both a fruit and a vegetable. (Look it up. The Supreme Court is on my side on this one.) The emotional health of students and academic excellence are both critically important.

This year, many people have asked me if the year has been stressful due to COVID and the difficulties that have come with running a school during a global pandemic. My answer has been, YES, absolutely, it’s been the most stressful year of my career. But, it has ALSO been the most joyful year of my career, one that has made me appreciate our ability to continue to fulfill our mission under difficult circumstances while students are learning on and off campus. This year has been both extremely stressful and unbelievably joyful. It’s been a great example of “both/and” for me.

This year has also given me newfound appreciation for the support of our parents, students, alumni, teachers, staff and leadership team. I’d like to give a special shout-out to our GoForward Team, which we formed last summer to lead the school through the COVID crisis in admirable fashion. The GoForward Team has been a great example of distributed leadership, and I am grateful for each member of the team for their support of the school during this year.

I am looking forward to the time – hopefully not too far away – when we can again welcome visitors back to campus. I hope to see you then!

All the best,



Mitch White  
Head of School

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### JOHN R. DOOLOS

J.R. Doolos (Vivienne '30 and Jackson '32) is a managing director at Keybank Capital Markets. He earned his BS in banking and finance from Case Western Reserve University and serves on the Development Committee at Lake Ridge.



### JON HYMAN, JD

Jon Hyman (Norah '24 and Donovan '27) is a partner at Meyers Roman Friedberg & Lewis law firm. He earned his BA from Binghamton University and his JD from Case Western Reserve University. Jon serves on the Marketing and Enrollment Committee at Lake Ridge.



### JULIE LATKOVIC

Julie Latkovic (Liliana '31) is the President of Liberty Logistics Services. She earned her BA from the University of Mount Union and has been on the Development Committee and Auction Committee at Lake Ridge.

# Campus Highlights

## TWO MOCK TRIAL TEAMS REACH STATE COMPETITION



In February 2020, two Lake Ridge mock trial teams successfully advanced to the Ohio state competition after winning their trials and several awards in the Cuyahoga County regional mock trial competition at the Justice Center in Cleveland. They represented two of four teams that advanced from a field of 14 highly competitive teams. It was the eighth consecutive year that Lake Ridge Academy has advanced a team to the state level and the first time in more than ten years that two teams from Lake Ridge moved on to the state level competition. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the traditional state competition was cancelled.

Congratulations to the members of the Blue Team (Paul Jonathan Yoo '20, Sunny Saini '21, Pablo Pineda '21, Jessie Shi '20, Addie Wisniewski '20, Adrienne Chan '21, and Michelle Zhang '20) and the Purple Team (Joel Lacoste '22, Tanish Makadia '22, Alex Sandhu '22, Judy Zhu '21, Tyler Young '22, Aashna Lakkaraju '22, Zane Haidar '22, Oliver Lagasse '20, and Matt South '20).

## 2020 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Congratulations to seniors Chris Chapadia, who was named a 2020 National Merit Semifinalist, and Abby Rosu, who earned Commended Scholar recognition in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship competition.



## NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Lake Ridge Middle and Upper School students participated in the Lorain County Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition held last winter, an annual program that recognizes, exhibits and honors excellence in visual art from 7-12 grade students for more than 50 years. The 2020 exhibition included 51 award-winning pieces of artwork created by Lake Ridge Academy students. 58% of the artwork entered received recognition, including ten Gold Keys, one Gold Key portfolio, 11 Silver Keys, and 26 Honorable Mentions.



Michelle Zhang '20 earned two of only five prestigious American Vision Awards – the highest award given to regional entries. Her pieces continued to the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards held in New York City and earned four top medals. Her painting, *Stages of Grief No.1*, earned top honors by receiving both a gold and an American Vision medal. She also won a gold medal for a painting titled *First Visit to Kunming* and a silver medal for the painting titled *United Nations, NY*.

At the national competition, gold medals are awarded to the most outstanding pieces, while the American Vision Award is given to one of the five pieces that were selected as American Vision regional award finalists. She also attended the National Ceremony which was held virtually in June.



## THESPIANS RECEIVE TOP STATE HONOR



Congratulations to the cast and crew of the Upper School's 2019 fall play *All My Sons*, who were awarded with a full-length featured production slot at the Ohio Thespian State Conference, the highest honor that can be awarded to a play performed by a high school in the state of Ohio. The conference was scheduled to occur in March 2020 but was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. This honor marks the fifth full-length theater production invitation for Lake Ridge in the last decade, solidifying the success of the school's theater department and School of Fine Arts.

## UPPER SCHOOL FALL PLAY HELD OUTDOORS



The pandemic shuttered theater stages across the world, but Lake Ridge's Upper School thespians, led by Theater Director Kristy Rodriguez, discovered a unique way to keep their state-recognized theater program moving forward by performing to audiences both in-person and virtually.

During the summer, an expansive open platform treehouse was built on the

quad. The treehouse is part of a natural world outdoor playground, and Kristy quickly realized this new campus addition could be the key to maintaining a fall play performance. She said, "All of us, and especially our students, are hungry for the connections that the performing arts can give. Once I saw the completed treehouse, I knew it could let us maintain all of our new school risk mitigation policies while giving our dedicated and talented thespians the opportunity to be on stage once again."

The Upper School fall play, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, offered two outdoor performances with limited seating capacity. Those who could not attend in person were able to watch online via Broadway On Demand.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR GRADUATION:

MAY 29

Class of 2021

Graduation Live Stream



## HOLIDAY PROJECT

In December, Lake Ridge completed its 33rd Holiday Project to support families in need in Lorain through our long-lasting partnership with Christ Lutheran Church. Although the Holiday Project looked a little different this year in order to comply to COVID



mitigation measures, Lake Ridge rose to the occasion to lend a hand to those in even greater need in our community this year.

Our school community donated clothes, money, and food to help 72 children and their families have a merry Christmas complete with a holiday meal, warm clothes, and many presents to open! All additional food and clothing will stock the church's food pantry and free clothing store. In addition, since we have been hosting fewer faculty/staff functions, the school donated an additional \$1,000 to the church. And, to support the elderly this season, our Lower School students crafted holiday cards and candy bags for those staying at Kemper House and the O'Neil nursing home.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

# GRADUATION

With the pandemic shuttering all of the traditional end-of-the-year school events last spring, our seniors missed the opportunity to make those final special memories of their years at Lake Ridge. But, graduation was an event that the school vowed to make as special as possible for this class that lost so much.

After much research and collaboration with the Lorain County Health Department, the Class of 2020 enjoyed a one-of-a-kind, drive-in style graduation on May 30. The 50 graduating

seniors were safely celebrated by their families and teachers from the comfort of their own cars. Traditional portions of the ceremony, like speeches from the valedictorian and salutatorian and students walking to the stage for diplomas still occurred. A car parade procession, international student graduates livestreaming in from overseas, and a surprise fireworks show made this graduation unforgettable for all! Teams of faculty and staff made this special occasion happen in a most spectacular way!

### Class of 2020 College Matriculations

Our 50 graduates matriculated to the following colleges and universities and garnered \$4 million in college scholarships!

**Danielle Ayad** – Emory University  
**Gabriella Ayad** – Vanderbilt University  
**Nicholas Ayad** – Emory University  
**Brianna Barrett** – Ohio University  
**Danielle Barrett** – University of Dayton  
**Kailey Barrett** – Ohio University  
**Talon Basiewicz** – York College of Pennsylvania  
**Aidan Beitel** – Bowling Green State University  
**Vi-yen Blackwood** – Brandeis University  
**Austin Bramhall** – University of Cincinnati  
**Weiyuan “Wayne” Cai** – Ohio State University  
**Ethan Cayton** – University of Cincinnati  
**Xiaoyin “Cally” Chen** – New York University  
**Dylan Coble** – Lawrence University  
**Carter Crane** – Kettering University  
**Carter English** – Grinnell College

**Kira FitzGerald** – Princeton University  
**Jiajun “Jason” Gao** – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Brianna Gorny** – St. Olaf College  
**Logan Gray** – Defiance College  
**Lee Rosenthal Greene** – Alfred University  
**John Harrington** – Skidmore College  
**Matthew Harrington** – Miami University  
**Christina Isckarus** – Ohio State University  
**Kevin Kotobelli** – Ohio State University – College of Engineering  
**Oliver Lagasse** – Macalester College  
**Hanze “Jayden” Li** – University of California-Davis  
**Eileen Libens** – University of Limerick  
**Eliana Mayle** – Ohio Wesleyan University  
**Elizabeth Navratil** – Kenyon College  
**Katherine Norton** – Colorado College  
**Charlotte O’Brien** – Kent State University

**Bour Opoku** – Oberlin College  
**Kayla Yueran Pan** – University of Wisconsin  
**Jennifer Parrish** – University of Georgia  
**Yilin “Sigmund” Qian** – Baylor University  
**Ryan Rosu** – Miami University  
**Samantha Ruggles** – Providence College  
**Sasha Sekreta** – The College of Wooster  
**Kexin “Jessie” Shi** – Boston University  
**Michael Sison** – Tulane University  
**Haochen “Tom” Song** – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Matthew South** – Butler University  
**Connie Tian** – Wellesley College  
**Addison Wisniewski** – Saint Louis University  
**Zelin Xiao** – New York University  
**Xiaoqian “Rachel” Xu** – Ohio State University  
**Paul Jonathan Yoo** – Columbia University  
**Michelle Zhang** – Tufts University  
**Susan Zhang** – University of Pittsburgh





# Class of 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program Honorees and Presidential Scholar

Last year's senior class excelled in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship program. In fact, 11% of the Class of 2020 received National Merit Scholarship recognition and 6% were finalists!

Congratulations to Carter English, Ryan Rosu, and Connie Tian who earned National Merit Semifinalist and Finalist recognition last year. Ryan earned a National Merit Scholarship.

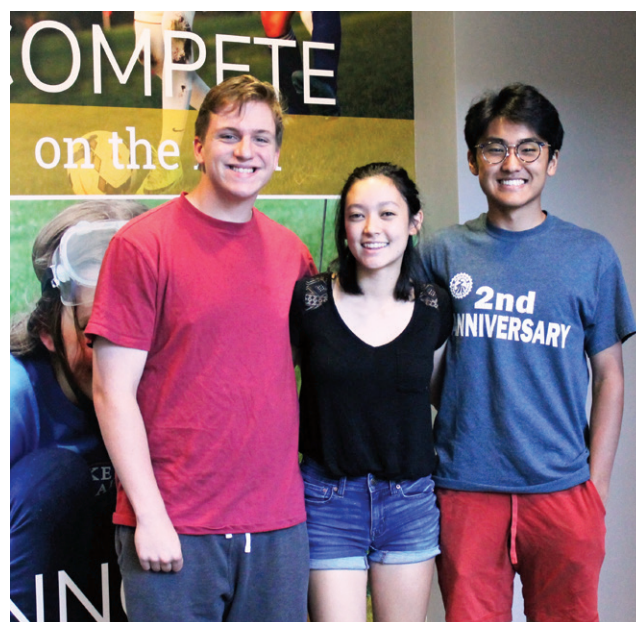
The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarship funds that began in 1955. About 1.6 million juniors entered the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The top scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills advance only 16,000 students to the Semifinalist list. 15,000 finalists are selected based on academic records, written essays, participation in school and community activities, evidence of leadership and any other honors or awards received. Only 7,500 National Merit Scholarships are awarded nationally each year.

Kira FitzGerald, John Harrington, and PJ Yoo were named as Commended Scholars, representing the top 5% of the nation's top high school seniors.

Connie Tian was named a United States Presidential Scholar Candidate. Connie was one of only 3,900 candidates selected for the United States Presidential Scholar Program, which is overseen by the United States Department of Education and the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. The program recognizes our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors for their accomplishments in academic success, leadership, and service to school and community.



Above: Ryan Rosu, Connie Tian and Carter English earned National Merit Finalist recognition and Ryan earned a scholarship.



Left: John Harrington, Kira FitzGerald and PJ Yoo were named National Merit Commended Scholars.



# Welcome New Faculty and Administrative Staff

by Joel Lacoste '22



## **MIKE CULLEY**

### **Director of Upper School**

Lake Ridge Academy welcomed Mr. Mike Culley as the new director of the Upper School. Mike has held a variety of positions in the private education sector and came to Lake Ridge with an immense amount of experience from Lawrence Academy in Groton, MA. A teacher for sixteen years and an administrator for the last six, Mike now hopes to make an educational impact on a greater scale in his new position. A highlight of Mike's career involved research on the benefits of "blended learning," which has directly benefited Lake Ridge during the pandemic.

Mike holds a BA in history and an MEd in curriculum and instruction. He pursued a wide variety of relevant professional development opportunities, including Project Zero Classroom at Harvard University and the NAIS Equity Design Lab: Grading for Equity. Mike enjoys public service and served as Lieutenant at the Groton Fire Department for 15 years.

When he initially heard of Lake Ridge, Mike was attracted to its "small, tight-knit community that was human-centered and focused on the basic idea of One Lake Ridge." He has enjoyed getting to know his teachers, coworkers, and students. He describes the faculty as "a great group of educators who have embraced this difficult year." Mike and his wife, Rachel, and their two daughters, Peyton '29 and Avery '31, are excited to be part of the Lake Ridge community. In his spare time, Mike enjoys going on bike rides and spending time with his family.



## **RHETT RYBARCZYK**

### **Director of College Counseling**

Lake Ridge Academy also welcomed Mr. Rhett Rybarczyk as the new director of college counseling. Rhett previously worked at Oberlin College in its admissions department since 2014, most recently as a senior assistant director of admission. Prior to Oberlin, Rhett was an associate director of admission at Ohio Wesleyan University for three years. Rhett holds a BA in sociology and Black world studies from Ohio Wesleyan and an MA in organizational communications from Ohio University.

Working in admissions has been "about building connections and helping students find their right fit," Rhett explained. He has worked alongside the Lake Ridge community for over a decade and has enjoyed building relationships with families and students who have enrolled at the colleges he has represented. Lake Ridge's community and familiarity attracted Rhett to working at the school. Although the 2020 school year has been an unusual one, Rhett said that he has "enjoyed getting into the routine of things and building relationships with the teachers, staff, and students at Lake Ridge."

Rhett is a native of Northeast Ohio and grew up in Oberlin. Rhett and his wife, Emily, currently live in Amherst and have two young boys, Wesley and Everett. Rhett enjoys going on long walks with his family and exploring new parks throughout Northeast Ohio.





**Erin Brown**  
Middle School  
English



**Robyn  
Dimacchia**  
Lower School  
Physical Education



**Jessica Duthie**  
Middle and Upper  
School Math



**Lauren  
Higginbotham**  
Assistant Director  
of Alumni Relations  
and Annual Giving



**Natalie  
Hrvatin**  
Upper School English



**Cody Mott**  
Middle and Upper  
School Choral  
Director



**Rich  
Rawlinson**  
AP Microeconomics /  
AP Macroeconomics



**Dr. David  
Wagner**  
Middle and Upper  
School French



**Shelby White**  
First Grade

# Happy Retirements

Two of our longtime faculty members retired at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We thank them for their dedication and wish them the best in their future endeavors!

## Sue Haendiges

Sue Haendiges was first hired as a physical education teacher at Lake Ridge in 1980 early in her teaching career. She served as head coach of several athletic teams including field hockey and varsity girls' basketball, and she was an assistant coach to track and field teams. She started the Lake Ridge volleyball program, which grew from a Middle School program into varsity and junior varsity squads.

Ever the ultimate teammate, Sue was always happy to fulfill whatever role was needed at the time, including that of athletic director and the physical education department chair. Her dedication to teaching the importance of movement, cooperation, and trying new things built a strong foundation of confidence in many students.

## Teresa Jenkins

Like Sue, Teresa Jenkins joined the Lake Ridge Academy community as an Upper School English teacher in 1980 and quickly became engrossed in the culture of Lake Ridge and the uniqueness of an independent school education. Teresa filled several important leadership roles at Lake Ridge over the years including directing fall plays and advising Student Senate and many state-finalist mock trial teams. She helped shape the Student Council into the Student Senate, altering it from an organization that planned dances to one that filled a governmental role by enacting improvements like the Honor Code, Honor Council, and test calendar policy. She also served as the English department chair and an advisor of the DaVinci House. Decades of our alumni fondly remember the gracious warmth and wit she brought to the classroom each day.

# Faculty Honors

Congratulations to the following faculty members who received prestigious recognitions this past year.

**Dr. Chandana Mozumdar**, Upper School Dean of Students and history teacher, began the school's mock trial program twenty years ago. This fall, she was presented with the Eiler Award given by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, the organizing body of Ohio's high school mock trial program. The award recognizes a mock trial coach, legal advisor, volunteer or administrator whose dedication and selflessness in giving their time, as well as their knowledge and skills, makes a difference in the life of a student. Award recipients are those who regularly

inspire and motivate teams to outstanding performance. Dr. Mo was nominated by mock trial students.

Theatre Director **Kristy Rodriguez** was named the Theatre Educator of the Year by the Ohio Thespians Association in March. Kristy was chosen from a pool of student-nominated applicants in recognition of her extraordinary commitment to theatre education.

Math Department Chair and Upper School math teacher **Margot Calcut** was honored with the 2020 Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Northeast District High School Teacher Award.





# Advancing Conversations of DIFFERENCE

On May 25, 2020, the killing of George Floyd affected the nation, moving many white people to begin to understand the systemic racism embedded in our country's institutions and the implicit biases embedded in each of our own minds. Recent events have magnified deep divides in this country, and the economy, public health, and education have suffered because of our collective inability to compromise and find common ground on matters affecting life and death.

Lake Ridge Academy's mission is "To send into a changing world confident young people of integrity who think critically and creatively while embracing the joy of lifelong learning." It is clear that the world is changing in many ways, and it is more important than ever that we learn to celebrate our differences.

Lake Ridge promotes respect for others beginning in the Lower School where the Responsive Classroom philosophy places equal



emphasis on children's social and emotional development with their academic progress. The school's core values of integrity, respect, scholarship and personal best are deeply rooted in Middle and Upper School programs, and events like CultureFest and Diversity Forum involve participants outside of the school's community in programs that celebrate and talk about diversity.

But, during Mitch White's short time as Head of School, he has heard from a majority of African American families that their children experience racism within the Lake Ridge community. Though these parents agreed that teachers have been quick and effective in dealing with incidents when they become known, the parents are dismayed, as we all are, that the occurrences keep happening.

Mitch has also heard from many families and students who hold conservative political views that their viewpoints aren't valued and that it is difficult for conservative students to speak their minds both within and outside the classroom. He has also heard of too many cases of girls being subjected to sexist and misogynistic comments, and difficulties from international students related to their full integration into the Lake Ridge Community.

Alumni and former parents have shared similar personal experiences about their time at Lake Ridge. They also shared that their feelings about the school sometimes prevent them from supporting or becoming more involved with Lake Ridge, which suggests that these instances are prevalent and that they have persisted for far too long.

The need for increased and a more consistent emphasis on antiracism, equity, and justice has prompted the formation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee led by Laura Guggenheim, English department chair, and Lake Ridge parent and Oberlin College Professor of Africana Studies, Dr. Meredith Gadsby. Even amidst all of the additional pandemic-related stress and mitigation measures this past fall, Mitch White launched this DEI Committee, which has organized programs led by the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio.

The DEI Committee's charge is to more effectively fulfill our school's mission and ensure that Lake Ridge Academy truly is a

place where everyone of any race, religion, gender, political belief, gender/sexual identity, family background, or socioeconomic status is "free to learn" and to be their authentic selves without fear of disrespect or discrimination. Students, staff, and teachers need to learn how to talk about race and racism, gender and queerphobia, sexism and misogyny, and how to have respectful conversations about their political beliefs.

Student programs sponsored by the DEI Committee included several moderated listening sessions (absent any faculty and staff) including sessions for students of color, female, and conservative students; a multi-step leadership workshop for student officers and senators; and diversity training for our student ambassadors. Bystander training will follow for all MS

and US students this spring. Both adults and students participated in the creation of Community Agreements to govern discussions in the Middle and Upper Schools prior to the November election. These agreements are based on our core values, and they help to ensure that discussions, political or otherwise, can take place respectfully and that all students will have an equal opportunity to share their views.

Additionally, Mitch's work with all three division directors newly reiterated expectations that Lake Ridge classrooms must be places where diversity of thought can and should be

expressed. Multiple communications reminded teachers about this importance during the election season. Faculty and staff leaders across campus are receiving training related to best practices in hiring, including discussions about implicit bias that can surface during search processes.

Especially in this country where communities and even individual families have become dangerously polarized, discussions about race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and politics can feel like skating on thin ice. The fear of offending others and the fear of being offended may cause us to shy away from attempts to engage in these conversations, despite their importance and their necessity. Some may even believe that inequities, discrimination and prejudice do not factor into their relationships because they may not have directly experienced them.

But avoiding these issues will not change the fabric of our school so that racism is no longer seen as acceptable by some, so that

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victims' experiences are validated, so that microaggressions are addressed effectively every time, and so that students learn the real meaning of respect for others. Every student, every person, on our campus must be welcomed, respected, and valued, and we must rise to the challenge of having the uncomfortable, even difficult, conversations that will help prepare our students for the road ahead.

Race and racism have informed much of the committee's early work because, as one student recently wrote to Mitch White, "Racism is actually a big problem at Lake Ridge Academy [...]. (1) Students at Lake Ridge do not know how to talk about racial issues with their peers or in the classroom. (2) Students at Lake Ridge feel very comfortable saying very racist and hurtful things to black students." When incidents do occur, Black students do not often share their experiences with teachers or administrators for fear of being considered "snitches" or that the response might address only the individual occurrence rather than the larger issues.

In conjunction with his announcement about the creation of the committee, Mitch wrote in his letter to all families last summer saying that "racism is incompatible with Lake Ridge Academy's mission and core values, and these concerns [...] demand our attention [...]." He visited every grade to make it clear that racial slurs and discriminatory language of any kind will not be tolerated at school.

Early DEI Committee actions focused on professional development for all faculty and staff to help them to take an implicit bias approach to understanding themselves and their students. The goal of this professional development was to help participants to recognize that even the person most consciously dedicated to equity and justice cannot escape the influence of their own unconscious, or implicit, biases that may cause them to fall short of recognizing all forms of systemic racism that either benefit or inhibit them. Teachers and staff also had the chance to participate in a small group discussion entitled "Subversive History," led by former Lake Ridge parent Dr. Renee Romano, an author and professor of history, comparative American studies, and Africana Studies. Their readings and conversations are helping participants recognize the long history of racism in the United States, how it has persisted through Reconstruction, "Jim Crow" laws, and even the Civil Rights Era into the present day.

Responses from many students have been very positive, and some students who had previously felt victimized have gained the confidence necessary to come forward with their experiences and concerns for the first time. We are grateful for the support of the Nord Foundation and the Decatur-Romano Family, which will allow us to sustain these programs for at least the next three years.

The experiences of many of our students, brought to our attention by a brave few, have opened our eyes to a tough reality: we all need to do better.

## United States Capitol Insurrection

DEI Committee Co-Chair Laura Guggenheim recently participated in a professional development session by the Pacific Educational Group that offered guidance about how to conduct difficult conversations about race using the organization's Courageous Conversation™ COMPASS. Little did she know then that her new knowledge would be so pertinent to the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the United States Capitol.

On January 7, regular Upper School classes were paused early in the day, and advisors were asked to facilitate discussions with their advisees in ways that would allow students to voice their concerns, fears, hopes and thoughts on the day's events. Students in Laura's morning classes wanted to continue conversations beyond the advising period, and Laura knew that what she had learned in the workshop would be helpful as she used the Courageous Conversation™ COMPASS to help her students understand their own personal perspectives better before considering their classmates' feelings.

Laura explained that different people are motivated by different things. "As individuals, some people are driven by their sense of morality, others by their emotions, others by facts and data, and others by the groups to which they belong and feel a sense of duty. If one person makes a choice based on their sense of what is morally right, and another makes a different choice based on economic data, for example, it makes sense that these two people would have difficulty understanding the other's choice."

The point, Laura emphasized, is that debating right and wrong does not lead to understanding. Instead, "we must all first understand the place from which we make difficult choices ourselves and then work to understand the same thing about those with whom we interact. Only then can we have a discussion about HOW each of us arrives at our decision and begin to develop a real understanding of one another's positions."

Students soon realized that as they resisted the urge to debate right or wrong and instead sought to understand others' viewpoints, they found the discussion to be incredibly powerful. Students voiced a variety of different perspectives during this class, and Laura reflected that "their response makes me hopeful that we may yet be able to foster real learning and growth for all students with this work."

All faculty and staff will undergo Courageous Conversation™ COMPASS training prior to the 2021-2022 school year so that these techniques can be employed in all divisions and disciplines.



# NEW CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS

The Lake Ridge community knows that we have the gift of an extraordinary campus where all of our K-12 students can learn together in many different kinds of classrooms – indoors and outdoors. This year, the foresight of one donor had an unexpectedly important impact on our students and teachers as they worked to find ways to spend more time outside.

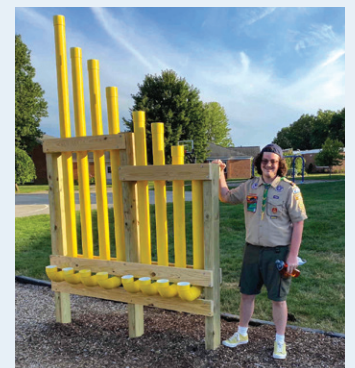
Several natural world enhancements were added to the playground area, and students of ALL ages have made good use of these new areas. In the kindergarten secret garden, students can use old fashioned water pumps to draw water from a roof-fed cistern that flows into a water table. On the sledding hill, students can tunnel under the slide, clamber over big boulders, or send a basket across a pulley-fed line to a friend.

The playground investment was given anonymously to the school by a Lower School parent, but the impact has made a difference campus-wide. The big hit has been the enormous treehouse that is large enough to support a full classroom of students. The treehouse provided the perfect stage for the Upper School fall play, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, and the entire playground project has inspired yet another outdoor education project to enhance the school's gardens behind Kemper Science and Engineering building.

Another new playground installation was given by an engineering student, Eagle Scout Ren Gleason '22. Ren's PVC pipe organ was crafted, expertly tuned, and designed in Lake Ridge colors to attract young composers during recess.

Tucked in the west woods where students tap trees for maple sugar in early spring, there is another new outdoor classroom, which was built and installed by Eagle Scout Andrew Young '25. This thoughtfully timed space gave students and teachers a beautiful quiet space in the woods to write, read and learn this past fall.

Finally, a major campus refresh project occurred last summer thanks to generous donors to Gift from the Heart at the 2019 November auction. All of the school's driveways were repaired and revived through an extensive process that took several days to complete. The old driveways were dangerously pitted with holes and cracks, and now the campus roads are safer and more attractive. Since these projects would not have been funded by tuition, donors really made an important difference for everyone who enjoys our campus.







# THE ONLY WAY TO

As the 2019-2020 school-year ended and summer began, the world wondered what the next school year would look like. Would COVID-19 just disappear in the summer heat? Would schools reopen to remote-only learning in the fall? Would masks really work and could young children actually wear them well? Do children spread coronavirus? Would teachers be comfortable

coming to school in person? With more questions than answers, Head of School Mitch White quickly organized the 13-person GoForward committee comprised of the school's Leadership Team and representative faculty members to help the school do just that—go forward into the next school year in the safest AND most educationally rewarding way possible.





# GO IS

# FORWARD

The GoForward team worked tirelessly all summer, poring over recommendations and research from a variety of governmental and medical resources, and took into consideration responses from parent and faculty surveys, to inform Lake Ridge’s reopening plan. One of the most critical sources of information was the Lorain County Board of Health. “The responsiveness and leadership from Lorain County’s Health Commissioner, Dave Covell, has been a tremendous asset from the

beginning of our planning. During early summer meetings with LCPH, it became evident that the unique qualities of Lake Ridge Academy – our small class sizes and ability to educate students outdoors on our 93-acre campus – would enable us to reopen in person, five days a week. I was pleased that Lake Ridge was one of the first schools in Northeast Ohio to announce our in-person reopening plan,” stated Mitch.







## **GOFORWARD PLAYBOOK**

The GoForward team worked in smaller committees to tackle specifics like health policies, facilities, teaching and learning, and natural world education. The work eventually informed the creation of our GoForward playbook, which was released to the community on August 7. The 22-page playbook includes specifics on prevention and mitigation strategies, a COVID-19 action plan to respond to COVID-19 symptoms and positive cases within the school community, and learning environments. A parent committee consisting of physicians and medical professionals, the Parents Association president, an attorney, and two childcare providers reviewed the playbook and gave their recommendations before its release.

“It took our volunteers hours of research on the virus and the measures required to combat its spread. We combined that knowledge with the school’s leadership to formulate a plan that would be effective and productive for the day-to-day business of being a school,” commented Tom Dresing, MD ’83, Lake Ridge Academy board chair and cardiologist. He continued, “Under the pressure of a quick development time, the team anticipated that some would not agree with the recommendations, and that some of the activities that make the experience at Lake Ridge unique and memorable would need to be modified this year. In the end, we felt that the playbook strategies would be the best way to take care of

our whole community and allow us to stay open with the least amount of disruption to our normal operating environment.”

The school has been following the playbook policies successfully. It was quickly apparent that our students and faculty were capable of implementing a two-barrier policy, which heavily relies on mask wearing, with relative ease. Over the past few months, the GoForward committee has made numerous decisions on what can or cannot be safely conducted on campus based upon the two-barrier policy. “We are confident that Lake Ridge has remained open in-person because of our steadfast commitment to ensuring all campus activities follow the two-barrier policy,” said Mitch White.

Although the majority of families decided that they prefer in-person learning, the committee knew that a remote learning option would be necessary for families deciding that at-home education was best for their personal situation. Royals from Home, a remote learning environment, is available to families who choose a virtual option and students who must isolate or quarantine. Coursework is a mix of synchronous learning and independent activities, and always includes one-on-one touchpoints with faculty. Director of the Upper School Michael Culley explained, “Students access courses via Google Classroom or SeeSaw, and they connect synchronously in a set schedule through the six-day cycle. We have intentionally reduced the synchronous meeting schedule in order to avoid constant screen



time, and we have shifted the learning model to one where students are accessing more coursework independently with the support of their peers and teachers in the synchronous meetings. We are also supplementing instruction where needed to support this transitional model.”

Per advice given by the Lorain County Health Department, Lake Ridge’s current status is not tied to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, which color codes counties based on their current COVID status. Instead, the school determines if it is best that a grade, division or the entire school close due to illness, and will follow any advisory by the county due to rising local cases.

## ENROLLMENT STAYS STEADY

Lake Ridge formally announced its plan to reopen in-person on June 16, several weeks before the majority of schools in Northeast Ohio made their reopening decisions. This decision immediately affected the inquiry rate in the admission department. “Domestic enrollment quickly rose in July and August, especially in the Lower School, as parents realized that other options would not fit the educational goals and experiences they wanted for their child,” commented Dr. Megan Zahler, Director of Enrollment Management. In fact, the admission department enrolled 40 new students over the summer, an impressive number considering the economic uncertainty felt by many during the pandemic.

However, some news out of the admissions department is not as rosy. Many of our international students, particularly those from Asian countries, have experienced difficulty in returning to the United States after spending the summer at home. The majority of these students are learning via Royals from Home but some have opted to defer enrollment until travel restrictions are lifted and they can arrive on campus. Annual international recruitment travel has been postponed for the foreseeable future, and the combination of quarantine restrictions, visa requirements, and COVID fears have made it difficult to attract new international students.

## GRATEFUL TO BE HERE

The Lake Ridge experience is certainly different this year, but faculty and students returned to school in August with big smiles and a sense of relief.

Fourth and fifth grade math teacher Kim Parrish '87, commented, “Thanks to the thoroughness of the playbook and all the mitigation measures the school put in place, I felt confident that we could be safely back in school with the kids. While it’s been stressful teaching during these unprecedented times, the community and administration have been extremely supportive. Additionally, this has given us a great opportunity to be outside more than ever before, using our beautiful campus as our extended classroom.”



## OUR STUDENTS CARE

Since the start of the pandemic, our students have shown they care about supporting the community affected by COVID-19. These independent, student-led efforts occurred primarily during the spring state of Ohio shut-down. Thank you for your compassion and leadership!

### Teacher Appreciation Week Raised Funds for Second Harvest Food Bank

Lake Ridge students wanted to take action to support people in need while simultaneously honoring their teachers who were pulling out all the stops to deliver a Lake Ridge education all online. During Teacher Appreciation Week in the first week of May, student leaders Joel Lacoste '22 and Tyler Young '22 challenged the community to raise money for Lake Ridge and promised to give half of it to Second Harvest Food Bank – the largest food bank in Lorain County. Their efforts raised more than \$14,000 and provided hundreds of meals to people in need.

### Robotics Team Organized PPE 3D Printing Effort

When it became evident that local healthcare workers were running low on personal protective equipment due to the rise of COVID-19 cases, the Lake Ridge Academy robotics team quickly realized they could help. The team regularly uses 3D printers as part of their club and for engineering classwork. The students were hearing from classmates whose parents were working at essential organizations and desperate for additional supplies to keep them and their families safe.

With support from Todd Morrison, Lake Ridge Academy’s Institute for Engineering and Innovation director, students reached out within the school community to see who else might have 3D printing capabilities at home. They assembled a team of four parents and students to produce face shields and N-95 style face masks. The group produced and delivered several hundred face shields for the Hospice of the Western Reserve and Woodbine Product Company, a Medina based manufacturer of hand sanitizer.

### Face Mask Sewing

Several Middle and Upper School students dusted off their family sewing machines to sew fabric face masks for those in our greater community, often donating their profits back to our school or to support those in need in the local community.

Mitigation measures that limit group size and mixing of divisions have limited the ability for traditional community events like the homecoming dance, Day of Service, and concerts to occur. Yet our students and faculty have found creative ways to continue to offer various events and programs. In October, theater director Kristy Rodriguez made sure the fall play continued by moving it outdoors on the new playground treehouse. A small audience of family members attended and the performance was also livestreamed for friends, family, and alumni anywhere in the world to watch. This fall, TGWBIS (Thank Goodness We're Back In School), Senior Challenge, and Middle School Community Building Days all occurred with modifications to ensure safety.

"Lake Ridge Academy's curriculum prepares us for our futures, and our experience with the pandemic is no different. We are learning how to come up with creative solutions to problems," stated Adrienne Chan '21, student senate president. She continued, "For example, we are still meeting as an Upper School via Zoom meetings, so the student body is still well integrated and informed. We are also continuing our practice of empathy, supportiveness, and respect; I still feel that we are one unified community despite some of us being virtual and some of us being in school physically. With our houses planning fun events such as the Dante haunted house, student senate organizing new initiatives for improving wellness and mental health, and, of course, our faculty being there as a solid support system, our school spirit has never been so strong."

The GoForward Playbook has proven to be a well-planned document that has required minimal updating since its release in August. The leadership of the school will continue to rely on the GoForward Playbook and any new guidance from Lorain County to make decisions as Lake Ridge and our country continues to cope with the pandemic.

## MEET OUR SCHOOL HEALTH SPECIALIST, MICHAEL HAASE, RN, BSN



The role of school nurse has never been as important to schools across the globe as during this academic year. Like many schools, Lake Ridge Academy is relying even more on its school health specialist, Michael Haase, to help limit COVID-19 exposure on our campus by educating the community on the latest best practice mitigation measures and assisting symptomatic students and teachers to determine a back-to-school plan.

Nurse Haase's medical experience has prepared him well for managing the health needs of an entire campus during a pandemic. Michael began his nursing career in orthopedics, but quickly sought more challenge in surgical recovery and eventually moved into the trauma and surgical ICU at MetroHealth. He spent the last half of his career as a nurse in the emergency room at Southwest General Hospital, a role that he finds very similar to his responsibilities at Lake Ridge. He stated, "Managing triage, staying organized and being prepared are all guiding principles I used in the ER and now use as the school nurse at Lake Ridge."

Michael is no stranger to the Lake Ridge community. He became personally invested in Lake Ridge years ago when his wife, Margaret Haase, began teaching kindergarten. His daughter, Penny, is in first-grade this year and son Andy is a rising kindergartener. Michael started subbing in the school's health clinic five years ago and officially moved into the position last year. "Through subbing, I realized there was more involved in the role of a school nurse than I thought. It's really a huge public health job, which I really enjoy. This year, I find myself doing a lot of reading, either reviewing the latest public health guidelines or updated medical research related to COVID-19." He continues, "I also love the close community here and the opportunity to help kids from grades K through 12 grow."

He is always impressed with Lake Ridge students, but even more so during the pandemic, stating, "I have seen a lot of resilience and compassion from our current students to follow the mitigation rules. This is uncharted territory for everyone, and I wasn't sure kids could follow all the rules. But, they have been able to do it very well. I thank them for wearing their masks in the classrooms day in and day out."

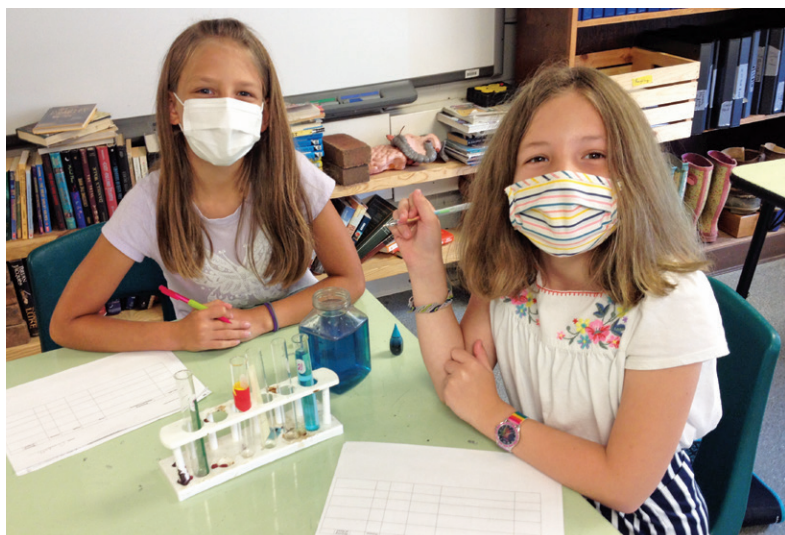
As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, guideline fatigue is settling in. Michael commented, "Maintaining vigilance is the key to keeping COVID at bay, but it's the hardest to do. We cannot let our guard down, and the medical community must continue to educate and remind, while making sure mental health is not suffering from all the distancing rules."

One of Michael's silver linings from the pandemic is quite simple. He said, "The general public has never been good handwashers, and we are certainly improving that habit, which can in turn help reduce all types of viruses. That's my biggest advice to families: handwashing that is done thoroughly and long enough will have the biggest impact on everything."



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## Annual Fund Giving July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



## Annual Fund – Mission-Based Giving

Annual Fund gifts are one of the strongest endorsements of Lake Ridge Academy's mission and bring excellence to Lake Ridge Academy's educational program. The three Centers of Excellence, small class sizes, nurturing teachers, hands-on learning and delivery of outdoor education are just some of the ways that the support of the Annual Fund helps to keep Lake Ridge special. Overall, 2019-2020 Annual Fund donors provided \$328,753 to Lake Ridge.

## 1963 Society

Generous gifts from 1963 Society members honor the school's founding year and provide as much as 80% of overall Annual Fund giving each year. Within the 1963 Society, Founders Club members support some of the school's most important academic initiatives and greatest needs - including our teachers.

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## 2020 GOLF OUTING

Because of the pandemic, the 2020 Golf Outing was delayed until July 2020, but many sponsors and players offered financial support in time to count in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. For the first time in years, a major thunderstorm abruptly ended the outing, and only one foursome played a full round. Even so, golfers were happy to have had the opportunity to play and raised \$48,890 for the school.

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## 2019 Auction / Gifts from the Heart

The 2019 Auction raised \$335,456 to support our curriculum, teachers, and technology in November 2019. Auction sponsors completely underwrote event costs so that all other event proceeds could benefit our students, and donors to Gift from the Heart funded an unusual but necessary project to resurface the school's driveways that tuition dollars could not cover. An anonymous Lower School parent led the effort with a \$50,000 challenge, and all Gifts from the Heart totaled \$135,800.

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BRICK Ceramic + Design Studio  
Brio Crocker Park  
Brunswick Laser Wash  
Cain Park  
Timothy Callaghan  
Catawba Island Club  
Center Road Laserwash  
CFD Nexus, LLC  
Diego Chahda '08  
Albert Chan and Annie Tan  
Charles Herndon Galleries  
Charles Crocker Salons & Spas  
(Crocker Park)  
Chef Ameer's Playing with Food  
Chez Francois  
Chickett's Closet  
Christian Brothers Automotive  
City of North Ridgeville Mayor's  
Office  
Cleveland Cavaliers  
Cleveland Magazine  
Cleveland Museum of Natural  
History  
Cleveland Public Theatre  
COSI  
Crayola Experience  
Creekwood Golf Course  
Crocker Park  
Tom and Kate Dake  
Megan Daley and Ryan Smith  
Vanessa Delgado  
Designs by Denise  
Peter Diamantis  
Dillard's Great Northern  
Katinka Domotorffy  
J.R. and Ashley Doolos  
Janna and Tom Dresing '83  
Denise Dunlap  
Dupax Properties, LLC  
Daniel Elskens and Judith Clark  
Elyaderani Family  
Sherry and Don Esch  
Farmhouse Yoga, LLC  
First Watch  
Fitness Edge Cleveland  
Stephen FitzGerald and Yumi Ijiri  
Craig and Karen Foltin  
Stacie Foor  
FootJoy  
Stephanie Fulop  
Megan Gardner '03  
Alan and Erin George  
Giant Eagle North Ridgeville  
GK's Custom Polishing, Inc.  
GolfTec Cleveland West  
Jessica Golski  
Jake and Jennifer Gorny  
Don and Lorraine Greer  
Valerie Grossman  
Dr. Haiquan Guo  
Sean and Susan Haas  
Michael and Margaret Haase  
Aimee Haber and George Pascal  
Stephanie Haller  
Erin Haney  
David Harris  
Henryblaire Custom Clothing  
Hofbrauhaus Cleveland  
Holden Forests & Gardens  
Hot Locks Salon of Westlake Inc.  
House of Blues Cleveland  
Hyatt Place Crocker Park  
Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum  
Island AdvenTours  
iSmile Dental  
Deborah and William Jamieson  
Bob and Paula Janmey  
Ed Jaroszewicz  
Jennifer Thompson Photography  
Jimmy John's



# Legacy Society

Members of the Legacy Society have thoughtfully planned for the school's future by naming the school as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Their future gifts will fund scholarships, world languages, Centers of Excellence, landscaping, preservation of our campus, teachers, and technology in perpetuity.

These donors have made gifts that will benefit their own heirs, provide a life income during their retirement, or pass tax-free assets to their family members. Their will commitments, trusts, gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and gifts of life insurance will benefit generations of students long into the future, and we thank them.

Richard and Kathy Ader	James and Sally Fell	Sally Hudnutt	Alumnus '04	Marilyn Wasem*
Dale and Brenda Alexander	Ralph and Barbara Fisher	Don '70 and Linda Kaatz	Chauncey Smythe*	Betty Weiss
John Wesley Brown*	William and Lucille Hassler**	Herbert and Mildred Kaatz**	Joyce and Ken Sommer**	Bob* and Hope Wismar
Peter and Dana Corogin	Pat Hemmer	Lawrence and	Kent and Gail Sommer	
<b>Cole Fauver '79</b>	Jim and Chris Heusinger	April McCormack	<b>Jutta Swoboda</b>	* deceased
Scrib* and Ann Fauver	Lee and Jo Ann Howley	Gary and Angela Rasoletti	Patricia Battle Thibou '70*	<b>bold – new member</b>

If you would like to create a scholarship in your family's name, honor a teacher or loved one with a special gift, or otherwise make a gift to Lake Ridge Academy through a future gift, please let us know. You need not disclose the details of your gift in order to be recognized as a Legacy Society member, but we would appreciate the chance to thank you for your plans.

Linda and Donald Kaatz '70	Marble Room Steaks and Raw Bar	Pulp Juice and Smoothie Bar	Jen Szwagolak
Price Kasl	Anna Martin	Rachael Rieke Photography	T3 Performance
Kastelic Family	Massage Envy	David Radulovich '11	Afreen Tabassum
Vaughn & Karen Kauffman	Massage Heights Crocker Park	Raj Plastic Surgery	Table 45 Restaurant & Bar
Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line	Kevin and Lori McAllister	Residence Inn Avon	Rick and Sheri Terens
Kemper Family	Leannie and Kurt McAllister	Rob and Michelle Robertson	The Cheesecake Factory
Betty and John Kemper	Deb McFadden	Mark and Kristin (Kemper)	The Cleveland Browns
Kemper Cognitive Wellness	Medieval Times	Roshkowski '84	The Cleveland Orchestra
Kentlyn's Boutique	Mellissa G Photography	Seaway Marina	The Goodtime III
KI Alive Soap	Mitchell's Ice Cream	Michael Sertich '01 and	The Laser & Skin Surgery Center
Ally Kidik	Moff Family	Julia Bilz Sertich '01	The Lash Lounge
Kids Party Entertainment by Angel Bug	Robin Moodley	Shammin Family	The Magic Man
Kidsplay Indoor Fun	Chandana Mozumdar and	Amy Sheon	The Olde Wine Cellar
Peter and Julie Kim	Ravi Vedula	Michelle and Michael Sherwin	Chris and Mona Thompson
Carol and Dan Klimas	Petra Nanut	Melanie Shmois	Thunderbird Hills Driving Range
Tom and Alison Klocker	Nautica Queen	ShurTech Brands	Touchstone Crystal
Karen Kramer, DDS	Phil and Clare Navratil	Sarah Sihlar	Trolley Tours of Cleveland
Carl and Kimberly Krueger	Liz Navratil '20	Mike and Shelly Sison	UltraMissions
Lake Ridge Academy Athletics	Ed and Denise Neugebauer	Rose Skinner	Urban Farmer
Lake Ridge Academy Beekeeping Club	Northeast Ohio Parent Magazine	Allison Smith	Jill Vedaa
Lake Ridge Academy Robotics Club	Ben and Brenda Norton	Glen and Allison Smith	West Park Beauty Salon
Lake Ridge Academy Varsity Volleyball Team	Jared and Jill Oakes	Snow Trails	Western Reserve Historical Society
Meghan and Dan Latham '90	Rick and Anca Obid	Spaces by Judy	Westshore Dermatology
Chris and Julie Latkovic	OMG! Ohio Mobile Gaming	Chann and Ed Spellman	Westwood Country Club
Learning Express Toys	Oriental Trading Company	SportsVille	Winfield Associates
Heath and Shelly Lee	Kim (Kemper) Parrish '87 and	Stella & Shay Beauty Bar	Wittle Town
Greta Leshar	Peter Parrish '86	Nick and Erin Stellato	Woodbine Products Company
Lessons with Julie	Peak Resorts	Steve Madden, Ltd.	Nate Woodward and Amanda Buzo
Lifestyle Landscaping, Inc.	Pearl Road Laser Wash	Fred and Betsy Stueber	Bo Yoo and Bing Gaspar-Yoo
Light Salon & Spa	Perfect North Slopes	Sugarcreek Restaurant	Scott and Rebecca Young
Live with Kelly and Ryan	Peter & Co. Jewelers	Superior Industrial Insulation Co.	Young Chefs' Academy
Dee Lovett	Petitti Garden Centers	Marc Suskin	Andrea and Joe Zepernick
MAC Cosmetics	Pickwick & Frolc	Celia and Eric Sutherland '80	
Main Event	Playground World	Swings-N-Things	
	Playhouse Square	Gudrun Swoboda	
	Poppee's Popcorn	Jutta Swoboda	
	Psycle, Inc.	Synergy Woods	

## Special Gifts

Many donors in the Lake Ridge community offer major gifts to fund new projects, scholarships, technology upgrades, renovations, special equipment, and sustainable endowment initiatives that move the school forward. These needs require deep financial investments and often make a difference for institutional priorities well beyond the scope of the specific funding area. Overall these special gifts combined with the Annual Fund support raised more than \$750,000 for Lake Ridge.

### ENDOWMENT- UNRESTRICTED

---

Linda and Don Kaatz '70

### SHEERER-FILION SCHOLARSHIP FOR ENTERING STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED

---

Evan Filion '16  
Julianne Sheerer

### FAUVER FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR ENTERING STUDENTS WITH HIGH FINANCIAL NEED

---

Cole Fauver '79

### NATURAL WORLD PLAYGROUND ADDITIONS

---

Anonymous Lower School Parent  
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

### KEMPER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING – BUILDING AND PROGRAMS

---

Bettcher Industries, Inc.  
Bing Gaspar-Yoo and Bo Yoo  
Andrew Milluzzi '08  
The Walt Disney Company

### BETTCHER CONVOCATION CENTER

---

Bettcher Industries, Inc.

### PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN OF FIRST RESPONDERS

---

The Fauver Family  
Michael Hall in honor of Mitch White  
Glenn M. Kurtz and Kimberley Morey Kurtz in honor of Mitch White  
Nancy and Joseph Scarpitti  
Celia and Eric Sutherland '80  
Chrissy and Don Wostmann in honor of Alec '19

### JOYCE B. SOMMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

---

Kent and Gail Sommer  
Sommer's Mobile Leasing

### THE FAUVER FAMILY LEGACY

Cole Fauver '79 is one of three Lake Ridge siblings whose late father, Scrib, was one of the school's founding members in 1963. Like his father, Cole approaches his relationship with Lake Ridge with deep devotion and a strong sense of responsibility. Cole was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in November 2019 in recognition of his lifelong commitment to Lake Ridge, and he has served on the Board of Directors since 2015, which is no small feat since he lives outside of Ohio.



Last year, Cole made a special gift to create the Fauver Family Endowed Scholarship. In addition to his generous Annual Fund and auction support, Cole made a major gift to establish the endowed fund so that scholarship awards could be offered to students with financial need right away. Then, both Cole and his mother made plans to add significant resources to the fund's principal through their estate plans so that, one day, the scholarship will be one of the school's largest endowed funds.

This scholarship is already making a difference for students who could not otherwise experience a Lake Ridge education. And, because the scholarship will exist in perpetuity, the Fauver Family Scholarship will extend the family's legacy for generations.

### HARDING FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS FROM OLMSTED FALLS AND BEREA

---

Harding Family Charitable Trust

### YANNA VOUTSIOTIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP HONORING STUDENTS WHO EXCEL IN ATHLETICS, ACADEMICS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

---

George, Vivy and Alexia '07 Voutsiotis in memory of Yanna Voutsiotis '05

### ASPIRE SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED

---

Linda and Don Kaatz '70

### COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDING COMPETITIVE, NEED-SENSITIVE FINANCIAL AWARDS

---

Annette Wasem Knapp '83 and Jeff Knapp '84

### THE DRESING FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

---

Janna and Tom Dresing '83

### THE KAUFFMAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED

---

Vaughn and Karen Kauffman

### CENTER FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP FOR TEACHERS, LANGUAGE PROGRAMS, AND THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

---

Albert Chan and Annie Tan



# Friends and Families Get In It to Win It

In lieu of Lake Ridge's traditional auction gala, the pandemic required a live virtual event. The change presented a welcome chance to include students and expand the audience to include guests from around the world.

Dozens of students, teachers and staff members contributed videos, photographs and other content for the videos shared during this production. Student representatives from all three divisions participated in the show both on stage and on the production crew, and board chair Tom Dresing '83 shared the stage with student emcees.

Co-chairs Julie Latkovic and Erin Haney led a team of volunteers to raise money for the school through an elaborate In It to Win It raffle, and an Upper School house competition boosted sales through the roof (go DaVinci!). Raffle drawings were held live, and the school's first 50th reunion class was honored with a special video tribute featuring their own words.

Overall, the event raised more than \$336,000 for the school – more than some in-person auction years. In a surprise announcement near the end of the hour-long show, Tom Dresing announced a Dresing Family gift of \$100,000 to top off the already generously supported Gift from the Heart project to install several outdoor learning spaces in the gardens behind Kemper Science and Engineering. The Lake Ridge community rallied to support our teachers and students yet again!

# Alumni News



## 1987



**Jodie Skillicorn** lives in Hudson, OH with her husband, two kids, two cats, two bunnies, and dog. Earlier this year, the day before bookstores in Ohio closed due to the pandemic, her book, *Healing Depression Without Medications:*

*A Psychiatrist's Guide to Balancing Mind, Body, and Soul*, was released. In the book, she challenges the conventional approach to defining and treating depression. Instead, she offers a research-based, holistic approach including mindfulness, nutrition, exercise, sleep, supplements, nature, connections, and breathwork that empower readers to become agents of their own wholeness and healing. The photo used for the book (shown here) was taken by Kelly Tooman '87.

## 2005



**Sarah (Cleeton) Schneider** and her husband, Dustin, welcomed their daughter, Madison Bea Schneider, on September 8, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. Older siblings, Oliver and Joanna, are very excited.

## 2006



**Brett Cannaday** and his wife, Jacki, are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their newest member, Parker Aurora Marie Cannaday. Brett and Jacki welcomed their daughter on April 15, 2020 at 11:35 am in Tallahassee, FL. Parker was born 8lb 3 oz and 20.75 inches long—an absolutely perfect brown haired, brown eyed baby that makes their world complete.



**Erik Escuro** and Makayla Zutaut are pleased to announce their marriage on March 7th, 2020 at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. The couple was joined by alumni Greg Norton '06, Brian Veber '06, best man Brett Cannaday '06, and sister Katrina Escuro '03.

## 2008

**Andy Milluzzi** is a senior systems engineer for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts and helps to create new attractions at parks around the world. He helped engineer Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance at both Disneyland at the Disneyland Resort and Disney's Hollywood



Studios at Walt Disney World. In June, Andy and his team won a TEA (Themed Entertainment Association) award for best new land for their work on Star Wars Galaxy's Edge.



**Zachary Sweebe** and Vanessa Libbey were married on August 29, 2020 in an intimate ceremony in the English Garden at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. Zack and Vanessa live in New York City. Zack is a

lawyer at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, and Vanessa is a classically-trained opera singer, an actor in children's movies, a commissioned poet, and a calligrapher. Through Zoom, Zack and Vanessa celebrated the big day with friends and family from around the world, including several LRA teachers and alumni; they are excited to celebrate in person once it's safe to do so.

## 2009



**Kendall Szulewski-Francis** married her best friend, Enrique Patino-Daly, on November 9, 2019 at the beautiful Stone House at Stirling Ridge in Warren, NJ. A sunset ceremony was

followed by a night of celebration with their closest friends and family. Fellow Lake Ridge Academy alumna Megan Leake '09 was a member of the bridal party. Kendall and Enrique met at Seton Hall University and got engaged in Paris, France in the fall of 2017. They currently reside in San Francisco, CA where Kendall is Head of Strategic Partnerships at Puls Technologies and Enrique is the Communications Lead for Developer and eCommerce at Square.

## 2011



**Alyssa Viggers** and her husband, Zachary, welcomed their son, Emmett Michael, on July 13 in Alta, IA. Welcome Emmett!

## 2012



**Emily Glor** and Ray Crook were engaged in June and are planning a wedding for July 2021. They met four years ago while Emily was living in Columbus.



Emily Glor and Lake Ridge classmate **Rahil Patel** graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry together this past May,

completing their D.D.S. degrees together. Emily is in a one-year general practice residency at Mercy Medical Center in Canton, OH and Rahil is living and practicing in Houston, TX.

## 2013



**Melissa Nester** completed the master of nursing program at Case Western Reserve University, which is a graduate entry-nursing program for students who have bachelor degrees in another area and are looking to

change careers. Melissa holds a bachelor's degree in health management systems, which allowed her to work in information technology before switching careers. Melissa is now working on completing a master's of science in nursing (MSN) in both pediatric primary care and pediatric acute care, in order to become a dual-certified nurse practitioner. While she finishes her MSN classes, she is working as a registered nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at the Cleveland Clinic.



**Garrett Wright** and his wife, Melissa, are excited to announce the birth of their son, Jamie Andrew Wright. Born on June 28 at 9:08 pm, the little man is already surprising his parents with how quickly he's growing!



## 2014



**Maureen Blaha** married Luke Pontius on June 26, 2020. The couple hosted a beautiful small wedding. Maureen and Luke reside in Nashville where Maureen is the Vice President of Philanthropy and

Development for the BOLI Group, and Luke works in accounting.

## 2017



**Gretchen Norton** spent the summer working as an intern at Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio. Gretchen says that she saw the Ohio National Guard had been working in the warehouse and at distributions since March so she thought they might need more help. Gretchen says, "One meaningful experience I had was to help at food distribution. I got to see some of the people who have called the office to compliment all the work we've been doing and learned how the drive-through distributions actually work. Overall, my time at Second Harvest Food Bank helped me figure out what kind of career I want when I graduate from Allegheny College this year."

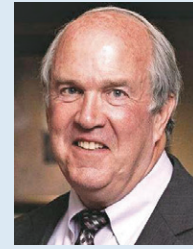
## 2018



**Halle Garbinski** is a rising junior at New York University Stern School of Business concentrating in finance and minoring in the business of

entertainment, media, and technology (BEMT). Since September of 2019, Halle has been working for GigFinesse, a technology startup that uses AI automation to facilitate music booking. Halle began working for the company as a Brand Ambassador and has since been promoted two times. In her second role as an Artist Outreach Coordinator, she self-curated four concerts across NYC, assisted in booking over 100 additional concerts, and recruited over 100 artists to the platform. She was recently promoted to be in charge of strategic partnerships. In this role, she is responsible for conducting venue, artist, and corporate outreach and managing all social media initiatives. Additionally, Halle recently completed the NYU Stern Coronavirus Response Fellowship in which she developed a business plan for an entrepreneurial venture that addresses the challenges in the live entertainment industry brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Todd G. Thompson '70** passed away on January 15, 2021. Todd was a member of the first graduating class at Lake Ridge Academy.



**Pat Hemmer** passed away on January 8, 2021 at the age of 94. Pat's twin daughters, Anne and Julie, are members of the Class of 1971, and her late husband, Bill, was Lake Ridge's beloved first headmaster. Her late son, Michael, attended Lake Ridge in grades 6-8. Pat returned to Lake Ridge in 2013 for the school's 50th anniversary celebration and stood to receive an eruption of spontaneous cheers from the entire student body when she was introduced as the school's first kindergarten teacher. She dedicated her life to children and volunteered to support them until she was 90 years old.



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