



OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL (OTHS)
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
211 E. Main Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTHS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INAUGURATES ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Ottawa Township High School (OTHS) District 140 Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the first recipients of its new annual scholarship program supporting OTHS students.

Four OTHS seniors – Brooklyn Byone, Lucas Farabaugh, Joey Liebhart, and Madilyn Soulsby – will each receive \$10,000 scholarships upon confirmation of enrollment at a four-year higher education institution. These scholarships totaling \$40,000 were presented during the OTHS 2026 Honors Night ceremony in the school auditorium May 6th.

Current members of the OTHS Educational Foundation board selected the recipients from qualified applications. Foundation board members related to scholarship applicants are excluded from the selection process. The scholarships are distributed to each recipient annually at \$2500 per year for a total of four years.

“The incredible support of the OTHS Educational Foundation helps make college a possibility for deserving students,” says OTHS Superintendent Dr. Michael Cushing. “Many potential donors have expressed interest in supporting the OTHS Educational Foundation for the purposes of establishing and distributing scholarships, and this program ensures they support that specific demand,” Cushing explained.

Some of the criteria required for consideration for the scholarship are:

- Student must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA while at OTHS
- Student must be a senior in good standing at OTHS, with no major disciplinary infractions
- Student must have participated in an officially sanctioned activity at OTHS
- Student must submit an essay about the importance of Ottawa Township High School in their educational journey
- Student must have two letters of recommendation from OTHS teachers or faculty
- Student must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA while enrolled at the 4-year institution
- If a student transfers institutions, the scholarship may continue provided all the previously established criteria are satisfied for attending a 4-year educational institution

Brooklyn Byone, Joey Liebhart and Madilyn Soulsby plan to attend the University of Illinois in Urbana - Champaign. Lucas Farabaugh plans to attend Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois.

The OTHS District 140 Educational Foundation was established 1993 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit private foundation to secure funds that support and promote the educational programs and activities of OTHS students. Through generous donations, the Foundation provides grants to teachers and staff to purchase equipment, promote innovative teaching initiatives and augment scholastic and activity resources beyond the fiscal constraints of the school’s normal operations and budget.

The OTHS Educational Foundation is also responsible for the courtyard outside of Kingman Gymnasium and sells commemorative bricks and landscaping features to help raise funds for the Foundation in addition to managing the annual OTHS Hall of Fame ceremony and the Student of the Month award program, among other initiatives.

You can learn more about the OTHS Educational Foundation online at:

<https://www.othseducationalfoundation.org>

Visit the OTHS Educational Foundation on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OTHSEducationalFoundation>

