



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY



C L A S S O F

2022

K E E P S A K E

Lake Okeechobee News

SouthCentralFloridaLife.com

May 25, 2022



Okeechobee Christian Academy

To the Okeechobee Christian Academy Graduating Class of 2022,

It has been a great privilege to have been given the opportunity by God's grace to invest in each of you intellectually and spiritually. We are thankful for each of you, and we love you all very much. You are all carefully crafted in His image. As we watch you prepare for the next chapter of your lives, whether it be college, work, or anything else you choose to endeavor, we want you to know, as a staff, we are praying for you and over you.

Father,
 We are thankful for the opportunity that you have given us to invest in these young men and women. They have truly been a blessing to us. We humbly ask now, on their behalf, that they would trust you with all their heart, let your Word and wisdom guide their understanding of the world, submit their choices to you, follow your path, and walk humbly before you. May you lead them, guide them, and protect them. May they boldly love you and live for you all of their days. We pray for your grace and gospel to grip their hearts. We ask that they live lives that look to seek your face, rest close to your presence, and trust your goodness. Finally, we ask that they comprehend fully the abundance of what has been poured for them by You. Let that remembrance of grace guide every step they take and shape every decision they make.

In Your Precious Name, Amen
 Love, Your Secondary Teachers



Andrew King
Valedictorian



Johnathan DeSarro
Salutarian



Robert Arnold



David Bayless



Mason Diefenbach



Summer Jolly



James Orcino



Kinsey Reynolds



Derek Rucks



Tyler Vest



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2022!

Patricia Dunn
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Caleb Burton
Ceilani Burton
Abby Holcomb
Derek Rucks
Juan Baitazar

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Okeechobee Homeschool Graduates

Local homeschool families celebrate senior graduations

SPECIAL TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Several Okeechobee homeschool students have completed their high school journey this year. These amazing young people have achieved not only academic success, but they have also excelled in sports, fine arts, work and faith. They all have exciting plans for the future as well.

Hailey Callaway, (not pictured) daughter of Savannah Callaway, has been homeschooled since 2016, her 6th grade year. Hailey has been dual enrolled this academic year through IRSC, working towards her ultimate goal, a degree in Marine Sciences.

Hailey was involved in 4-H, showing silkie chickens and miniature horses. Hailey loves to paint and attended Visionary School of Arts in Stuart. In addition to the previous hobbies, Hailey loves to sew, crochet and visit Disney World.

Ally Paige Nickalson, daughter of Doug and Rachel Nickalson, has been homeschooled for 12 years. She was a ballerina for over six years with The Okeechobee Ballet. Ally also enjoys piano, reading, shooting bow, crocheting & gardening. Currently, she works as a babysitter and office assistant. Ally plans to continue learning office management in

her current job with a local small business.

Giovanna "Gia" Pasquarella, daughter of Tommaso and Stacy Pasquarella, has been homeschooled since the 6th grade. She has a passion to protect the unborn. However, Gia passed up an internship opportunity for the pro-life movement to fulfil her life-long dream to serve with Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters in North Carolina. There, she will live in community with other Christians, pointing campers to Jesus. That dream has become a reality as she prepares to leave in the next few weeks. Gia hopes to continue as an intern at the SWO

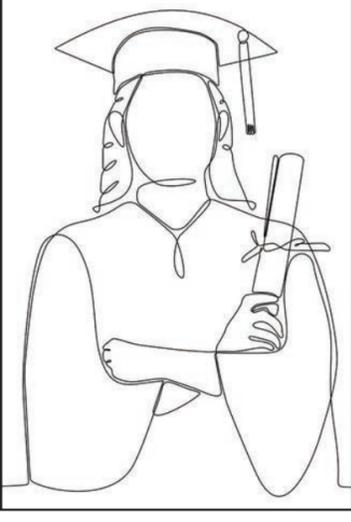
Institute in the fall.

Daniel Lee Phillips, son of Eric and Mandy Phillips, has been homeschooled since kindergarten. The oldest child in an athletic family, Daniel has played basketball for four years, track for three years and cross country for two years with Okeechobee High School. He has also held jobs in lawn care, bread delivery, handyman services and at Teez2Pleez. Daniel hopes for an opportunity to play collegiate basketball and become a basketball coach.

Morgan Tucker, daughter of Jason and Kimmy Tucker, has been a student-athlete

throughout her school years.

While homeschooling, she lettered in three sports at Okeechobee High School: basketball for four years, volleyball for three years and cross country for one year. Morgan's love of sports and health and fitness are guiding her future. She will be attending Chowan University in North Carolina on a volleyball scholarship and majoring in exercise science. A member of Everglades Baptist Church and active with their youth, her faith is a driving force in her life.



Hailey Callaway



Ally Nickalson



Giovanna Pasquarella



Daniel Phillips



Morgan Tucker

Congrats to the Class of 2022 Keep Reaching for the Stars!



Cherylynn Bohannan



Will Rivero



Lynndsy Johnson

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Okeechobee High School

2022 OHS graduating class is anything but normal

SPECIAL TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE NEWS

One would think a description like “normal” used to describe a graduating high class would sound like boring.

But for the 102nd graduating class of Okeechobee High School, the word “normal” feels like a relief.

After the previous two classes had their senior year heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2022 had to wonder what lay in store for them as they headed into their final year of high school.

But, thankfully, the disruptions from the last two years were few and far between. While in 2021 administrators and school staff were able to put together a homecoming bonfire experience for seniors late in the school

year as restrictions loosened up, this year the scramble wasn't necessary. Because for the most part, things were back to their normal schedule.

Homecoming, the traditional bonfire, prom, and more were all back. Things felt just a little more normal.

Some of the new traditions from the pandemic did carry over, however. In 2020, Heidi Dove-Handford helped organize an Adopt a Senior program, where members of the Okeechobee community could “adopt” one of the seniors from that year's class. The idea was to acknowledge some of the students that went through a tough final year at OHS and gift them with something nice whether that would be a gift basket, college gear, dorm room

essentials, or gift card.

That program carried over to 2021 seniors the following year. And now, the Okeechobee community has kept the ball rolling into 2022, adopting seniors from this year's class and showering them with gifts and support.

While this year at OHS may have felt more normal, the accomplishments by the Brahms this year were anything but.

The Brahms represented Okeechobee well at competitions across the state and nation. The OHS Brahman Band finished in fifth at the Florida Marching Band Championships with a score of 80.8 for their season. That score is the highest the Brahman Band has ever achieved. Longtime

OHS Band director Clint LaFlam credited the performance to the desire students had to be back on the field after missing last year.

The OHS Jazz Band followed that up later in the school year with straight superior ratings for the first time ever.

OHS in 2022 earned district championships galore. The girls tennis team, boys baseball team, and girls basketball team all secured back-to-back district championships this year. OHS girls wrestling crowned two district champs in their first inaugural season.

Speaking of inaugural seasons, OHS fielded a girls lacrosse team this year for the first time ever. Seniors on the team have helped set a foundation for the program to build off of for years to come.

The OHS Ag Mechanics team was named state champions towards the end of the school year. And the Okeechobee FFA continued their dominance in state and national competitions.

The Class of 2022 found out they will be one of the final few classes of seniors to graduate from the old Okeechobee High School. After years of attempts, funding was finally approved by the state to construct a new high school in Okeechobee. If planning and construction goes well, the new building could be up by the 2024-25 school year.

The 102nd graduating class of OHS has helped make this year one for the history books. Now, it's up to the Class of 2023 step up and carry the torch.



Seniors from the Class of 2022 visit Central Elementary as part of their Grad Walk. [Courtesy photo OHS/ Lake Okeechobee News]

SUMMA CUM LAUDE GRADUATES



Abigail Holcomb



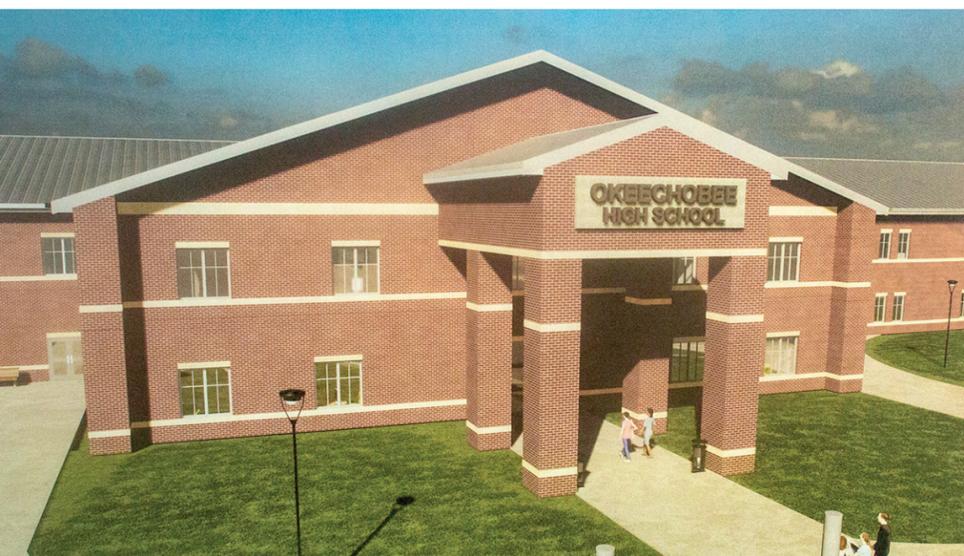
Samuel Melear



Anna Velten



Joy Whipple



A render of the new Okeechobee High School scheduled to replace the current school by the 2024-25 school year.

The Class of 2022 will be one of the final graduating classes from the existing high school

[Photo by Richard Marion/Lake Okeechobee News]

MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATES



Seyram Akahoho



Kaitlyn Brewer



Zane Hicks



Summer McGlamory



Lauren Raulerson



Callie Rucks



April Rose Salva



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CUM LAUDE GRADUATES



Stephanie Alvarado



Breannah Garcia



Kiersten Kennedy



Rylann Maxwell



Lacey Nail



Elizabeth Smith



Sofia Zapata



JUST Graduated

Congratulations to all graduates!

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Happy Graduation! **Class of 2022**

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Congratulations

OHS

Class of 2022

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11




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OHS CLASS OF 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS



The 2021-2022 OHS Brahman baseball team shows off their district championship trophy
 [Photo by Richard Marion/Lake Okeechobee News]



The OHS Brahman Jazz Band celebrates receiving straight superior ratings – a first for the program!
 [Courtesy Photo OHS Brahman Band/Lake Okeechobee News]

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Congratulations
 Class of
2022



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 wishes all the 2022 Graduates
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 for a prosperous future.

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OHS CLASS OF 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS



Members of the OHS girls tennis team show off their second consecutive district champion trophy

[Courtesy Photo Celine Tremer/Lake Okeechobee News]

Three cheers for the inaugural OHS girls lacrosse team!

[Photo by Richard Marion/
Lake Okeechobee News]



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Congratulations to Rhiannon Dryer and all of the 2022 Graduates



Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths

Proverbs 3:5 & 6



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OHS CLASS OF 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS



OHS Class of 2022 Class Officers:

Joy Whipple
Jacqueline Jaimes
Kiersten Kennedy
Abigail Holcomb
Rhiannon Dyer.

[Courtesy Photo Mia Benitez/Lake Okeechobee News]



OHS Class of 2022 Homecoming King and Queen:

Clinton "Trey" Williams
Elle Thomas

[Courtesy Photo Emma Raulerson/
Lake Okeechobee News]

Congratulations

Area Graduates

Class of 2022

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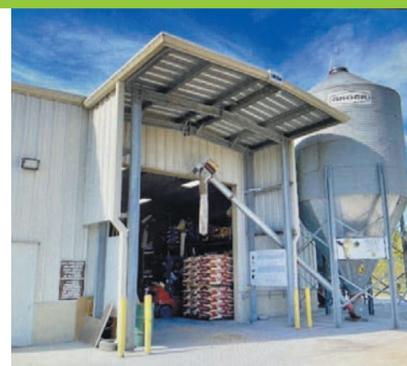
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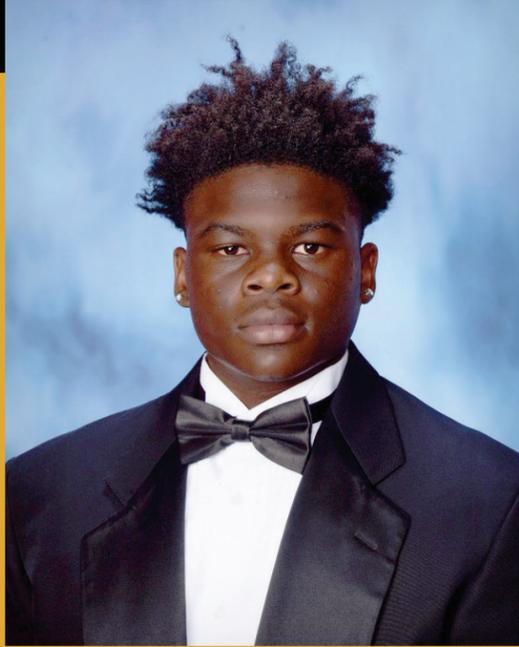
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MISTER AND MISS OHS



Alisa Wingfield



Braealon Pelt



**Celebrating the
Bright Future
Ahead of You**

Today's graduates are tomorrow's leaders, and we're filled with hope and pride as the Class of 2022 celebrates this milestone achievement and takes the next step.

May you always remember the importance of hard work, integrity and kindness in your future roles and endeavors. Congratulations, best wishes and thanks for giving us so much to celebrate!



Class of 2022
Class Flower:
Sunflower
Class Song:
'The Nights' by Avicii

Class Quote:
"We will never be those kids again."

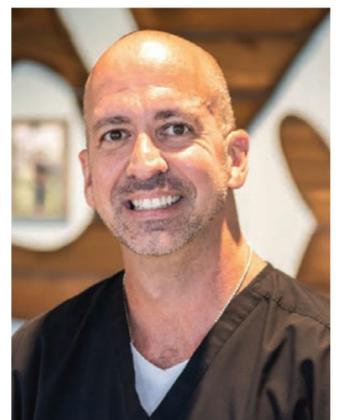
- Frank Ocean



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Congratulations, OHS Class of 2022!



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CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATING SENIORS!

Including our own :

LATT DURRANCE

HALEY WESTER

ELIZABETH SMITH

MADELYNN WILLIAMS

SELENA RIVERA

HADLEY SMITH

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can't wait to see where life takes you!

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