



OAKLAND  
CHRISTIAN  
— SCHOOL —

# Annual Report

2023 - 2024





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Middle School Retreat

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# A NOTE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Our mission here at OCS is to equip students to fulfill their unique God-given purpose. Our teachers, staff, and administration are honored and excited to witness this mission unfold in the lives of our students, as each year they grow academically, develop socially, and—most importantly—continue to discover Jesus and their identity in Him through retreats, Bible classes, and personal relationships.

And then, as they walk across the stage at graduation, we pray that God has used OCS to fulfill our mission, that we have equipped them with a firm foundation for what lies ahead.

As I reflect on our school year, I am reminded of the privilege we have to celebrate, teach, and invest in our students. This opportunity exists because, over 55 years ago in 1968, a group of pastors and parents had a vision for Christian education and a similar mission when they founded Oakland Christian School in the basement of a church in Pontiac. And as you read a portion of the history of OCS on the next page, you'll see a story of sacrifice and blessing as land was donated, and homes and businesses were mortgaged to build our campus in 1976. And you'll continue to read of the legacy and foundation that has brought us to where we are today.

In 2023, God again opened the door for another chapter in the growth of OCS when He provided for the purchase of the "land across the street." He granted favor with the City of Auburn Hills who moved a road to allow OCS the opportunity to expand. And, once again, He blessed us with generous donors to support this growth.

This growth looks like a parking lot, but it is so much more. It is a gateway to community as we bring events like Grandparents' Day, all school chapels, sporting events and more onto campus. It is the first step in the future expansion of facilities and programs for our students. It is the next chapter in building the legacy and future of OCS.

And while the future is bright, I continue to find wisdom in our past.

Last fall, I was at a dinner with a group of our founding teachers and administrators. I listened as they talked about the good times and the tough times, about blessings and about struggles like skipping a paycheck, sewing athletic uniforms by hand, or teaching a class they had never taught before. During our conversation, there were two questions asked that I've remembered all year.

The first question asked was, "Why...why go through all of that?" Their response was immediate, "We did it for the students, of course."

And the second question I remember was, "How?" "How did you survive?" The answer was simple, "We survived on prayer. We took everything to God in prayer."

As we celebrate our '23-'24 school year, and look ahead to '24-'25, may we also be known as a community who says, "We take everything to God in prayer."



**Susan Brock**  
**Superintendent**

During the 2023 reaccreditation process, OCS was commended for the following:

- **Transparency:** OCS recognizes who they are and who they want to be.
- **Professional Development:** OCS desires to grow and improve, focused on developing professionally.
- **Volunteerism:** Parents love OCS and enjoy being involved.
- **Academic Inclusion:** OCS desires to meet the needs of a broad range of students.
- **Mission Driven:** Spiritual growth is a high priority and is noticed and appreciated by both students and parents.



# THEN & NOW



## HISTORY OF OCS

It's been more than 50 years since a dedicated group of parents established Oakland Christian School. Since the first 51 students in grades 7-12 gathered at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1968, there have been many changes both at Oakland Christian School and in the world of education.

Through the years, Oakland Christian School has continued to grow and flourish. After several temporary church locations, in September 1976, prayers were answered when 50 acres of land were donated for a new facility on Simmons Road in Auburn Hills. On October 15, 1977, 383 students and faculty began classes in the new spacious school. As enrollment continued to climb, five modular classrooms were purchased between 1980-86, and an office complex was connected to the main building at the beginning of the 1986-87 school year.

During the mid-nineties, plans for the addition to the existing structure were initiated. In 1996, the board implemented a capital campaign to raise money for additional classrooms, a media center, and a multi-purpose facility. The new structure also allowed for a cafeteria addition, kindergarten classes to return to the main campus, and removal of the modular classrooms.

Now, as we once again consider our strategic and visionary plan for future growth, we are guided by our mission to equip our students for His purpose, and our vision to see them leave our doors and impact their communities for His Kingdom. To this end, an OCS planning committee, members of the school board, and administration have been working for several months, considering all of the requirements and options.

We are blessed to have the space to expand the existing facilities on our school grounds, and with the purchase of the land across the street in the front of our building, we have the opportunity to move forward with the first step in our vision – expanding parking space. Auburn Hills reconfigured Simmons road this summer, giving us space to add over an additional 100 parking spaces to the front of our building, alleviating the congestion of drop-off and pick-up times, providing ample parking for large school events, and the ability to welcome more families to our campus.

As we move ahead with the plans before us, we rejoice in how the Lord continues to provide in and through this institution. Our location and buildings are a testimony to His faithfulness and His blessings on the sacrifice and efforts of dedicated parents, staff and administration throughout the years. We are immensely grateful for the solid foundation they have provided, and we look forward with great anticipation to God's blessing on the growth that is yet to come.



*Middle School Retreat*



*Boys Soccer*



*Spanish Immersion Trip*

**"OCS has had a huge impact on my life. I have learned so much, not just academically, but spiritually too. My teachers at OCS have taught me to persevere and have helped shape me into the person I am today."**

**-OCS Graduate**



# PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT



The new road configuration and the plan for the addition of over 100 parking spaces will provide:

- Improved traffic flow for drop-off and pick-up
- A turn lane for entering the OCS parking lot
- Separate entrances for elementary and secondary
- Necessary parking for our larger, on-campus events
- Increased safety for our entire community

In the summer of 2024 OCS and the City of Auburn Hills initiated a construction project that will facilitate a much-needed parking expansion on the OCS campus. The city of Auburn Hills reconfigured Simmons Road, allowing the majority of land previously "across the street" to now be accessed without crossing the street, making it the ideal location to expand parking.

As excitement grew for our vision to expand the OCS campus, so did our support! Throughout the year, the entire OCS community - parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty, students and friends - generously contributed! As a result, over \$400,000 has been raised to date as we continue to bring in funding for this project!



All funds raised at our Lancers LifeBuilders event supported the parking expansion!



# YEAR IN REVIEW



576

JK-12  
Students  
Enrolled

14

Varsity Sports



105

Combined Michigan and  
Global Seals of Biliteracy  
awards earned since 2018



39

Graduating  
Seniors



9

AP Capstone  
Diploma  
Recipients

80%

Involvement in  
Extracurricular  
Activities

"I urge everyone to choose to  
intentionally serve the Lord first, which  
will in turn lead us to serving others."

-Alexis Simonini, Class of '24

115

Churches  
Represented  
2023-2024



16

AP Course  
Offerings



8

Seniors  
Enrolled  
Kindergarten  
through 12th  
Grade





# A YEAR OF *Firsts...*



*First 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC*

This year was our first 8th grade class trip to Washington D.C. Fifty-three students, plus chaperones, visited many sights including monuments, the White House, the Holocaust Museum, and the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon. Our students also served the D.C. community by packing 6,000 meals for a local food bank. We are incredibly proud of our students and the way they represented OCS and the name of Jesus on this trip.

"The success of the 2024 women's soccer team was based on the community the girls built as a team. In the highs and lows of the season, they remained focused on their relationships, encouraging each other, and cheering each other on. We had great leaders on the team that set an example for everyone to follow. This resulted in the first-ever regional championship for Oakland Christian women's soccer and an appearance in the state semifinals."

-Coach Reyes



*First Regional Championship for Women's Soccer*



*First Elementary Fun Run Fundraising Event*

PTF hosted its inaugural elementary "Fun Run" fundraiser on October 6th, 2023. Over 85% of the student body participated, raising over \$26,000 in just 8 weeks to fund a brand new sport court for the elementary playground! It was a beautiful day for the run, with each class being recognized and celebrated as they ran laps around the baseball field. Top participants received a limo ride to G's Pizzeria for food and fun with Mrs. Clark, and all students received a surprise assembly for exceeding their goal. Congratulations!



# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## *Walking in Faith* with the Good Shepherd

Our Spiritual Life theme for the '23-'24 school year, "Walking in faith with the Good Shepherd", came from Psalm 23. This theme emphasizes the transformative power of following Jesus and the importance of the presence of the Lord in the lives of students and the entire school community.

Through chapels, mentor programs, class discussions, Bible studies, and biblical classroom integration, our goal was to create an environment that encouraged spiritual development, cultivated a strong sense of community, and equipped students with the tools they needed to navigate life's challenges while growing in their faith.

We focused on the belief that the Lord is the provider of everything we need and encouraged our community to trust in God's abundant provision in all areas of their lives, including spiritual, academic, and relational growth.

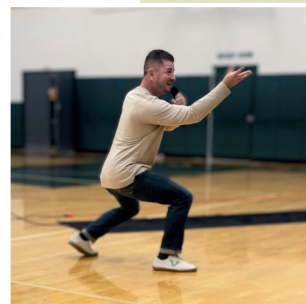
Understanding that life's journey may include dark valleys, students were encouraged to face challenges with faith, courage, and resilience, knowing that God is with them, dispelling fear and providing strength.

We saw a tremendous response in our student body, holding strong to these truths and living confidently in the promises of their Good Shepherd.

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:1-4)*

Special guest speaker,  
*Ketric Newell*  
visited Oakland Christian School on April 23, 2024 for a special chapel and evening session open to the whole community. His chapel message

*focused on "Replacing the Lies we Believe with God's Truth" and his evening session was centered on rooting our identity in Christ.*







# TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: MR. GREG FAVARO

Mr. Greg Favaro has been a pillar of the OCS middle school program since 2014. All middle school students take Mr. Favaro's STEM class, and while it is an exciting class, Mr. Favaro is most admired for his faith. The students will tell you he opens each class with prayer, and is known for his reminder, "God is good all the time, and all the time God is good."

In addition to teaching and leading our middle school students, Mr. Favaro teaches high school engineering courses, and established our extracurricular robotics program. Growing into both middle school and high school teams, he has created and led a program that now boasts championship teams both at the state and world levels!

Mr. Favaro says, "I joined OCS first as a parent and then was blessed to become part of the wonderful staff of teachers 10 years ago. I love teaching at OCS because I can display my faith freely through prayer and discipleship. I enjoy teaching students about the world of engineering. It has also been an extreme privilege of mine to mentor such excellent students in our competitive robotics program over the last 7 years."

"My Deep Hope is that we will be joyful, curious problem solvers who are overflowing with the unending love of Christ."  
-Mr. Favaro



Mr. Favaro and his wife, Liza, have two sons, Robert and Alexander. Robert graduated from OCS in 2024 and is currently a freshman at Michigan Tech University where he is studying Robotics Engineering. Alexander is a Junior at OCS.

Mrs. Clark, our Middle School Science teacher, says, "Mr. Favaro is a passionate teacher who consistently goes above and beyond teaching STEM classes by devoting countless hours to lead the robotics program. His genuine love for his students is evident in the way he nurtures their academic growth while also inspiring their faith through meaningful lessons from the Word of God. He takes time to mentor new teachers and encourage veteran teachers. We are truly blessed to have him in our OCS community."

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*  
Colossians 3:17



Last Minute Fix



Knight





# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: ART



Our high school art program continues to thrive, with students achieving remarkable success. Our high school students' artwork has been selected for prestigious exhibitions, such as The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, and contests such as Art on Auburn and the Southeastern Regional Scholastic art competition, showcasing their talent on an elite level. In 2023, our art department was recognized as a Silver and Gold Award winner by the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce.



Our middle school art students had the incredible opportunity to support our community when Trinity Health, Oakland reached out to our OCS art department with a need for a permanent display in their new pediatric office building. Hospital administrators collaborated closely with our middle school art department to facilitate this project and our middle school art students created a variety of pieces that now permanently adorn the walls of both the pediatric oncology and ophthalmology offices at Trinity Health. We are so proud of our young artists!

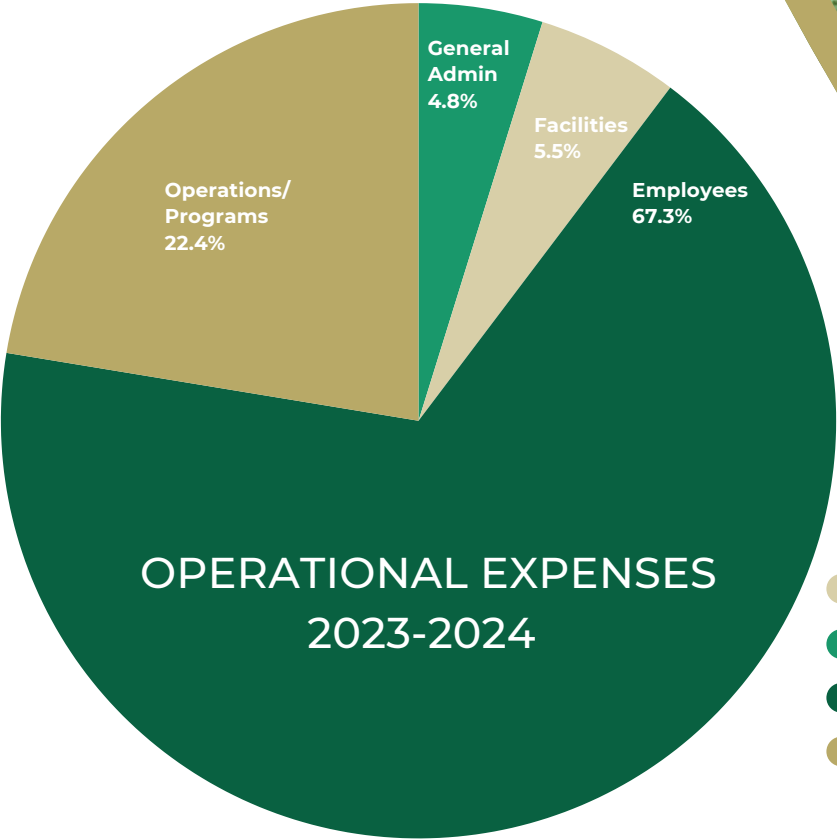
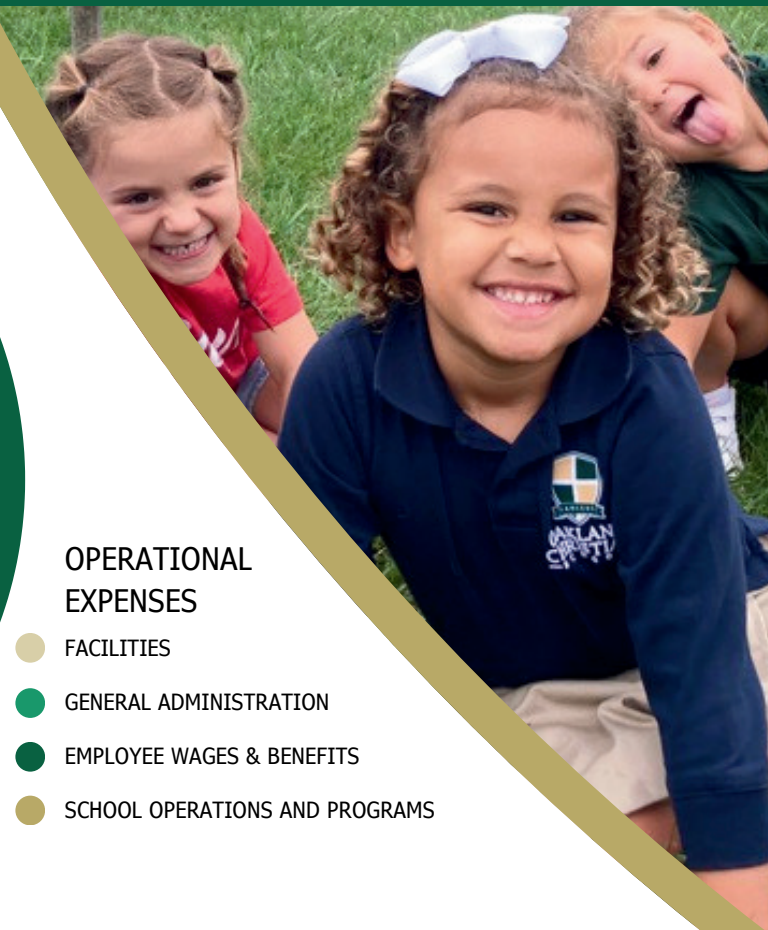


"Art is such a wonderful time in elementary! Each child knows that GOD is the ultimate artist, HE created them, and they are the best thing He made - each one a masterpiece! HE wants each of us to grow our abilities as an artist, and we do that by learning many different skills, learning about different artists and having a great time getting messy in the process! Learning, having fun, and knowing our important place in GOD's family go hand-in-hand in the art room!"

-Lyndsay Johnson, Elementary Art Teacher



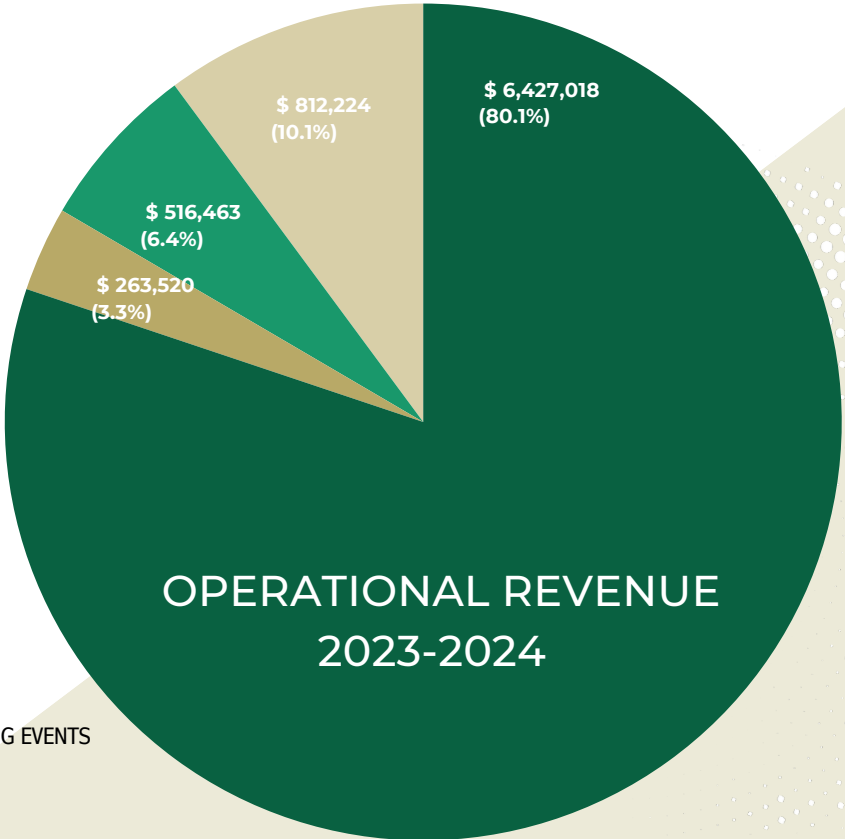
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



OPERATIONAL EXPENSES  
2023-2024

- OPERATIONAL EXPENSES
- FACILITIES
  - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
  - EMPLOYEE WAGES & BENEFITS
  - SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

GIVING AT A GLANCE	2023-2024
Number of donors	1063
Annual Fund Donations	\$148,914
Events	\$113,532
Restricted Giving	\$147,209
Other	\$101,218
TOTAL GIVING	\$510,873



- OPERATIONAL REVENUE
- TUITION REVENUE
  - FEES
  - DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING EVENTS
  - OTHER REVENUE





# OCS ANNUAL FUND

In 2023 we launched the first ever OCS Annual Fund with a theme centered on celebrating 55 years of "Equipping Together." We set a goal of \$150,000 to be used to support our faculty & staff, our academic & athletic programming and additional funding for tuition assistance.

In December, in support of our annual fund, we began the "12 Days of Giving" campaign, and we were humbled, honored and blessed as we watched our community join together to raise almost \$147,000 in just 12 days! Grandparents, alumni, parents, staff and students all generously invested in our students, staff and mission. What an honor to be a part of a community who believes that what we do here at OCS every day is changing lives and ultimately impacting HIS kingdom.

A few highlights from the campaign -

- ★ Our student body enthusiastically participated and invested in their school!
  - ★ Elementary students contributed \$3,144.58 in their change drive and received a \$3,000 match! Their efforts raised \$6,144.58 in support of OCS!
  - ★ Our secondary students (with a little help from their parents) met their goal of \$33,000 and received a day off school during the second semester - a win for everyone!
- ★ Our staff and board members were strong participants both in their giving and in the "bucket unfortunate" challenges!
- ★ Our parents, grandparents, and alumni supported us both in finances and in prayer.

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever."  
(Ephesians 3:20-21)*



## PRAYERS

**from a few of our generous supporters**

"I pray that as we believe together, we will become an even stronger community each day lifting each other up just in God's Kingdom... I pray today we open our hearts to God's love so that we can share this together in our community here at OCS."

"I pray that OCS continues to grow and continues to bring the Love of Jesus to our community."

"I pray that every OCS student would know the love of Jesus and share it with others, seeking Him first in everything."



# CONNECT WITH US

*Our Mission Statement:*

**EQUIPPING  
STUDENTS  
TO FULFILL  
THEIR UNIQUE  
GOD-GIVEN  
PURPOSE.**



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