

MAUMEE VALLEY COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

# The Valley

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Preparing to lead,  
today and beyond

### INSIDE:

47th MV Gala is Off to the Races  
Michelle Li '25 wins state title  
New diversity statement released

## ADMINISTRATION

Lynn Casto  
Head of School

2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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Andy Weiner  
President

Alan Bannister  
Vice President

Christa Dewire  
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Dr. Arjun Das  
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Rachel Freeman  
(representing Maumee Valley Family Association)

Melanie Gross '91  
Dr. Raj Kattar  
Grace O'Leary '16  
(representing Maumee Valley Alumni Council)

Kevin Prater  
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## 2024-2025 ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES

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Carter Bayer '10  
David A. Cohen '81  
Christa Dewire  
Bradford "Ford" Koles Jr. '82  
Andy Weiner  
Kelly Wright

## DIVISIONAL HEADS

Lower School (PreK-grade 3):  
Robin Wheeler

Middle School (grades 4-8):  
Angela McCray-Hancock

Upper School (grades 9-12):  
Stephanie Harman

## DEPARTMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Rob Conover  
Director of Athletics

Michael House  
Director of Enrollment Management

Jim Kirtland  
Director of Finance and Operations

Kevin Merrill  
Director of Marketing and Communications

Reanne Young  
Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Amy Yustick  
Director of Strategy and Advancement

## MAUMEE VALLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The MVFA supports and complements the mission and philosophy of Maumee Valley Country Day School through volunteer service, parent education, and community building. MVFA strives to actively involve and communicate with the entire parent community.

Shaping the Future,  
Honoring the Legacy

## Dear Friends of Maumee Valley,

At Maumee Valley, we are proud of our 140-year legacy of innovation and excellence. As we look to the future, we are taking bold steps to ensure that the value of an MV education is not only preserved, but more powerfully understood and experienced by students, families, and our broader community.

This spring, we near the completion of two exciting initiatives: a refreshed Portrait of a Graduate and an updated articulation of the Maumee Valley Method. These foundational pieces clarify the skills, character traits, and social-emotional competencies our students need to thrive in college and life—and how our PreK-12 approach uniquely supports that growth. To bring these ideas to life, I hosted nearly a dozen Fireside Chats with parents. These intimate sessions sparked meaningful conversations about how MV's innovative academic philosophy supports critical thinking, adaptability, and a deep love of learning.

This spirit of clarity and storytelling also extends to our school's visual identity. We are developing a dynamic new brand strategy, including a modernized logo and a cohesive design system that reflects the energy behind our tagline: Explore Your MORE! This work will help us better share our story, attract new families, and strengthen our school community.

Meanwhile, our faculty are deeply engaged in a curriculum redesign, using Eduplanet21 and the Understanding by Design framework. This work ensures that what we teach—and how we teach it—continues to evolve with purpose and precision.

Across all these initiatives, one theme unites us: a commitment to continuous improvement. At Maumee Valley, we believe innovation is not a trend—it's a tradition. And as we honor our legacy, we are boldly writing the next chapter of our story, together.

I can't wait to share more in the months ahead.

Warm regards,

Lynn D. Casto P '23, '24  
Head of School

Statement of Diversity, Equity,  
Inclusion, and Belonging

At the heart of a Maumee Valley Country Day School education is our collective commitment to honoring each individual's unique experience. We strive to create an educational environment that inspires community members to engage as their authentic selves in all of their endeavors.

We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive, safe, and respectful culture in which each individual feels valued and empowered.

Understanding the lived experiences of our community is imperative. Different perspectives and ways of learning matter. Embracing the intersectional identities of all leads to innovation and educational excellence.

At Maumee Valley, we engage in diversity principles and practices that elevate equity, encourage mindful inclusion, and build a sense of belonging.



mvcds.org



advancement@mvcds.org



MAUMEE VALLEY  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## Mission

Maumee Valley Country Day School cultivates an inclusive community of intellectual excellence where learners creatively explore their passions and boldly inspire positive change in the world.

## Vision

Personal. Experiential. Global.

## Guiding Principle

We create an environment of freedom and responsibility to Think. Speak. Explore. Choose. Connect. Be you.

# The Valley

In this issue...

**10 Upper School students prepare to lead beyond Maumee Valley**  
The new Leadership Academy is providing the tools and insights to help students become more effective in leading organizations.



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## Homecoming events celebrate achievement

Multiple events last fall celebrated alumni achievements and new inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

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## 47th Annual MV Gala is Off to the Races!

The April 26 event brings the community together to support current and future MV students and to improve art wings through the Raise the Paddle fundraiser.

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## RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS

### Gold Advertising Award

2025 website refresh from the Educational Advertising Awards

### No. 1 Private School in Toledo Area

2025 rankings by Niche

### 2023 Eco-School Award

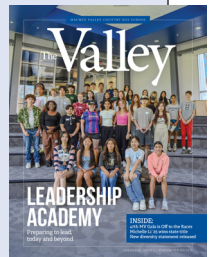
Lower School and its ongoing use of nature in its classrooms

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Valley celebrates the students, faculty, and alumni of Maumee Valley Country Day School, and the donors making possible many of their achievements. It is published twice a year by the school's Office of Marketing and Communications.

## NEXT ISSUE

We celebrate the Class of 2025 with coverage of their individual awards and commencement ceremony as well as the school's financial supporters with a summary of the year in giving.



## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

To submit stories or comments on this and future editions of *The Valley*, email [kmerrill@mvcds.org](mailto:kmerrill@mvcds.org).



### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send changes to Office of Advancement, 1715 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo OH, 43614.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Maumee Valley Country Day School is proud to be a member of these organizations:

Independent Schools Association of the Central States  
National Association of Independent Schools  
Independent School Management  
Ohio Association of Independent Schools  
National Association of Educational Procurement



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[youtube.com/MaumeeValleyCountryDaySchool](https://youtube.com/MaumeeValleyCountryDaySchool)



## Toledo mayor cuts ribbon on K/1 handbuilt community

To celebrate the “opening” of a new community planned and built by Maumee Valley students, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz visited campus this fall for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The community was built by Kindergartners and 1st graders as part of a classroom project that included field trips and

mapping to understand the purpose behind a variety of buildings in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Each student had to research what happens in a building and how it serves the community and then construct a small replica.

### Briefs



## Weekend celebrates excellence

As part of the yearlong celebration of its 140th year in Toledo, Maumee Valley created a weekend of reflection in October featuring its three most recent heads of school: Phineas Anderson P '97, '99; Gary Boehm P '01, '05; and Lynn Casto P '23, '24. The event was titled “A Generation of Excellence: Reflecting on 30 Years of Educational Leadership.”

The heads spent the first day with students in all divisions and then participated in an afternoon discussion moderated by **Jaden Jefferson '26** and **Josh Wang '25**, student representatives on the Maumee Valley Alumni Council. They were part of another panel discussion on Saturday, where they reflected on leadership, MV's progressive programs, and their favorite memories. That event was moderated by Patty Wise P '08, P '14, P '20, former chair of the Board of Trustees. (View a video recap at [mvcds.org/generations](http://mvcds.org/generations))

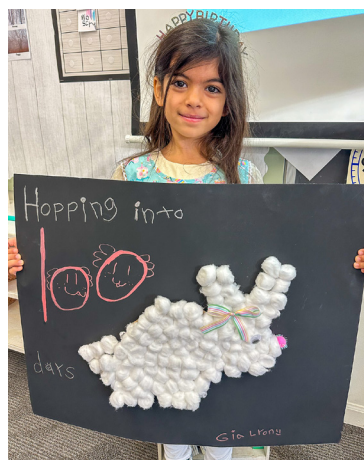
## Maumee Valley earns top ranking for 5th straight year

For a fifth straight year, Maumee Valley has been ranked the No. 1 private K-12 school in Lucas County as well as the Toledo area, according to Niche. The school also earned the top spot for best high school for STEM, which included rankings for both private and public schools. Our overall ranking was an A+. Here are Maumee Valley's No. 1 rankings for both the Toledo area and Lucas County:

- Best private K-12 school
- Best college prep private high school
- Best private high school
- Most diverse private high school
- Best high school for STEM (includes private and public)

## Kate Blake joins MV Board

Kate Blake has joined the MV Board of Trustees, bringing with her extensive leadership experience and dedication to community service. She and her husband, Erik, are proud Maumee Valley parents to Maggie '30 and Ben '33. Since 2021, Kate has served as president of the board for the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation, where her leadership has advanced key initiatives in food security, housing stability, and educational access throughout greater Toledo. Her professional journey includes nearly a decade with the education department at the Toledo Museum of Art and as director of marketing at Midwest Tape.



## K/1 marks 100-day anniversary

Kindergarten and 1st graders celebrated the first 100 days of school by creating posters featuring a collection of 100 items. During special events, families visited the poster museum and students later celebrated by enjoying 100 snacks.

## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



**Cecilia Johnson**, Maumee Valley's strings instructor, was selected as a finalist for the 2025 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year Award. The Toledo Symphony Orchestra organizes the award, which honors full-time, K-12 music educators in public

and private schools in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.



**Robin Wheeler** was named the permanent head of the Lower School in February after serving as an interim. "Robin has done a stellar job stepping into the role and getting to know our MVCDS culture and community while supporting our students,

families, and faculty with care," said Head of School Lynn Casto.



**Jeannie Jefferson**, a member of building maintenance teams at Maumee Valley since 1986, has announced her retirement. A special ceremony for her is being planned for later this year. Stay tuned for more details.



**Jasmine Smith**, associate director of admission, published a children's book titled *I'm not mad at YOU!* The book focuses on Sam, a student who often pouts or raises his voice, insisting that he is not mad at the teacher but his actions make her feel like he is. He explains the different reasons for his outbursts and behaviors while expressing gratitude for how his teacher approaches him.



## 5th graders keeping busy with projects

It's been a busy and exciting 2025 so far for MV 5th graders, who took on two cross-curricular projects. In January, they hosted the "Mystery City Museum," where each student researched a unique location and presented clues in a creative, conference-style setting. Guests were challenged to guess the locations based on posters and presentations, marking the students' first venture into crafting informational essays—blending Earth and space science with informational reading and writing.

Then in March, students showcased their entrepreneurial spirit through a Business Showcase. They created original companies, complete with logos, websites, promotional materials, and product pitches. They applied math skills to budget and plan, and used real currency in a school marketplace.

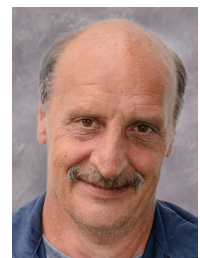


## Remembering Charles Shoudt

As *The Valley* was going to press, we learned of the passing of **Charles Shoudt**, a beloved and dedicated member of our maintenance and grounds team for nearly 20 years. Charles passed away at home following a brief illness.

Known for his quick wit and unwavering work ethic, Charles played an essential role in the life of our school. From setting up tables and chairs for student events to ensuring that every room was clean and ready for learning, his behind-the-scenes efforts touched every corner of campus. His attention to detail and care helped make Maumee Valley the welcoming and well-run place we know and love.

For these efforts and many more, he received the 2023 Larry Anning Award for Staff Excellence, which recognizes a staff member who personifies the highest ideals of personal integrity, professionalism, and excellence in the workplace.



**Josh Wang '25** was named a Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, putting him in the top 1 percent of all students who took the PSAT in September 2023.



Josh was named a Semifinalist this fall and then met all the requirements to be considered a Finalist. He now is eligible to receive one of 6,870 Merit Scholarships, which will be announced nationally this spring.

## Newsmakers

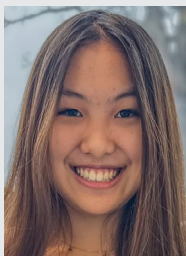


Congratulations to **May Drew '25** for her achievements in March at the Mid-American Model United Nations event in Grand Rapids, MI. She earned Highest Honors on the Science and Technology Committee and in her Ad Hoc Crisis, which focused on resolving conflict in Mozambique and South Africa. Because of her accomplishments, May was then one of only 15 students selected to participate in the event's Secretary-General's Crisis.

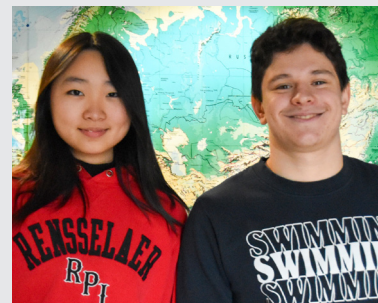


**Damien Krisjanis '26** was selected to serve on the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation Youth Advisory Council. They is one of only 20 students selected statewide and the only representative from Lucas County. Peer-led programs have been shown to decrease suicide attempts among high school students by nearly 30 percent.

**Ella Hu '27, Freddy Muler '26, and Yvonne Zhou '26** took home awards in the 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition.



Ella (pictured right with Freddy) received an Honorable Mention for a short story titled "A Seasonal Visitor." Freddy received two awards for his poetry: a Silver Key for



"Symphony in Blue and Red" and an Honorable Mention for "The Red Tree." Yvonne (above, left) received Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention awards. Her artwork was displayed as part of a student exhibition at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

**Chloe Zhou '26**

earned a silver medal in the prestigious Alpha Scholars program. Alpha Scholars is a rigorous social science research program that teaches college-level research, writing, and presentation skills to high school students in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Students work one-on-one with Harvard student mentors in advanced study and research of a topic related to their chosen SDG.



Five seniors were named National Merit Commended Scholars in October. About 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year by taking the Preliminary SAT, and only the top 50,000 are named either a Commended Scholar or Semifinalist. The seniors (below, from left) are **Benjamin Fisher, Eric Tang, Shrishte Baskara, Perseus Yang, and Oliver Kiehl.**



**Rami Ridi '25** was listed as an

author on a research paper published in The University of Toledo's *Translation Journal of Medical Sciences*. Rami assisted in the research last summer while participating in the Biomedical Science Program in Bioinformatics within UT's College of Medicine and Life Sciences. The paper examined pyrethroid pesticides, commonly used to kill insects, and how they may affect brain development as shown by changes in gene activity in rats exposed to deltamethrin. The study highlighted potential risks to brain health and the need for more research on these pesticides.



**Zeke Freeman '30**

earned the highest rating possible at the Ohio Music Education Association Solo and Ensemble event. Judges awarded Zeke a Superior rating based upon his cello playing—from memory!—of "Menuet No. 1" from J. S. Bach's First Cello Suite in G Major. It was his first experience at a live, adjudicated event.





**Ellie Hultquist '31** (left) and **Honor Savage-Edwards '32** both had unique opportunities to step into the role of head of school for a day at Maumee Valley. Current Head of School Lynn Casto officially bestowed the title upon each of them, granting Ellie and Honor the full rights and privileges of the position. Throughout their respective days, each student embraced their leadership duties with enthusiasm—such as reading to young students, touring campus in a Gator, greeting families arriving in the morning, and enjoying special activities like declaring extra recess or Pajama Day for their classmates. The experiences were made possible by their parents, who won the opportunity at an MV Gala.

All eight MV musicians received Superior ratings—the highest possible—for their performances in February at the annual OMEA District One Solo & Ensemble event sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA). Soloists were violinists **Sydney Abercrombie '25**, **Masho Leluashvili '28**, and **Corinne Moore '26**. Performing in small ensembles were the duo of violinist **Mohammad Tal '25** and cellist **Omar Tal '27**; the trio of violinists **Jacob Hennon '25** and **Erik Broman '26** and violist **Sofia Avram '26**; and the quartet of Sydney, Corinne, Sofia, and Omar. In January, five musicians performed beautifully at the OMEA District One Honors Orchestras and Band event. Participants were Sydney and Corinne (High School Honors Orchestra); flutist **Ella Hu '27** (High School Honors Band); cellist **Zeke Freeman '30** (chosen to be the associate principal cellist); and violist

**Lucas Mabbitt '30** (Middle School Honors Orchestra).

MATHCOUNTS took six participants—**Zeke Freeman '30**, **Arielle Leaveck '30**, **Meldene So '29**, **Gunnar Song '30**, **Serina Tal '30**, and **Lillian Tam '30**—to compete in February in Archbold. Zeke had the third-highest score of all competitors, and he and Meldene qualified for the state championships in Columbus! (Below: The team with coaches Darius Zolnor P '33, '36, '37 and Jasmine Smith)



A group of MV students traveled to Washington, DC, in February to attend the NAIS Student Civic Leadership Summit. The Summit gathered high school students from across the nation to deepen their understanding of pressing national issues, refine their leadership skills, and collaborate with experts to effect positive change. Attending were (above, from left) **Yvonne Zhou '26**, **Cranston Bannister '26**, **JoJo Ferguson '27**, **Layan Ridi '26**, and **Basil El Gafy '27**.



The MV Hawks Robotics Team finished seventh out of 27 teams at the Denver BEST Robotics Regional Championship in December. The team finished second in the T-shirt design competition. The Hawks entered the competition seeded fifth, and then advanced into the semifinals. They made it to Denver by finishing third overall at a competition in Bowling Green, where they finished first in the Robot Performance Category. In Denver, **Rami Ridi '25** was nominated by the team's coaches for the Kendrick Castillo Memorial Award. It recognizes students who mentor others, communicate well, volunteer in the community, and inspire others with respect and a positive attitude. It is named after Kendrick Castillo, a robotics enthusiast and high school senior killed in a 2019 shooting at his high school. The team was coached by Robert Daine and Phil Paskvan.

## Making the world a better place

Maumee Valley students are dedicated to making a difference through acts of service and leadership. From supporting local charities and mentoring young students to spreading joy through music and fundraising for meaningful causes, they embrace the spirit of giving back.

Thank you to the athletes and coaches of the **girls' field hockey program** (top) for representing Maumee Valley and helping a good cause at the same time. The team participated in the Komen Northwest Ohio Race for the Cure in October, which raised nearly \$150,000.

The **Community Outreach Committee** of the Global Leadership Program supported the Toledo Humane Society through two service initiatives. In December, the group gathered to make homemade dog treats, which were donated to benefit the shelter's animals. Then in March, they visited the Humane Society to spend time with both cats and dogs, helping to socialize and comfort them while also making more tasty treats to support their care and well-being.

The Upper School's **Youth Outreach Club** participated in a "Trunk or Treat" event at Toledo Public Schools' Glenwood Elementary School in October to spread joy in our community. Fifteen club members decorated the trunks of five cars with spooky themes and passed out candy to those who attended.



The Hats and Gloves Drive (above) by the **Youth Outreach Club** for Sherman Elementary generated a large bin of new, slightly used, and handmade hats, gloves, and scarfs. Club members and other US students packed 360 winter goodie bags for each student, consisting of candy, a hot chocolate packet, a craft, and a handwritten note.



## Worth Celebrating

- **Middle School students** celebrated World Kindness Day in November by participating in a fun and meaningful Kindness Tic-Tac-Toe Challenge. From holding doors open for others and writing uplifting notes to classmates to expressing gratitude for someone's hard work, the students embraced the spirit of kindness with energy and excitement. Many of these thoughtful acts are already part of their everyday routines, but it was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm with which they completed each challenge.
- The **Maumee Valley Family Association's Annual Toy Drive** helped to make the holiday season special for local families. In partnership with Lucas County Children Services, MV families brought in presents to bring holiday joy to abused and neglected children.
- The **Lower School Kids Council** celebrated Kindness Week with a variety of fun and meaningful activities. Throughout the week, students embraced kindness through games, surprise messages, small acts of generosity, and creating posters to promote a positive, caring environment. The week culminated with a special gathering at Forest School, where everyone came together to reflect on and celebrate the spirit of kindness and friendship.

**RIGHT:** Members of the Upper School's **Youth Outreach Club** volunteered at the Sherman Elementary carnival in March, by engaging young students in fun and educational activities. They ran a variety of games, including math challenges, ring toss, card games, a pedal-power generator, and a paper airplane competition. To make the day sweeter, the students brought candy donated by the MV community, which was used as prizes, with the remaining treats given to Sherman Elementary.



Members of the **Middle School Choir** spread holiday cheer in December by performing winter and holiday music for residents of Ohio Living Swan Creek. Among those enjoying the 30-minute performance was **Mimi (Bailey) Bowerman '57**. The students performed the MV Alma Mater for her and, on behalf of the choir, **Coral House '32** (pictured above with Mimi) presented her a decorated copy of the lyrics. In addition to performing songs, the students brought decorated ornaments and artwork created for the occasion by Lower School students.



**The Lower School's Kids Council** partnered with Food for Thought to collect donations this fall for local families in need. Hundreds of items were donated.

## Building Community



At Maumee Valley, students are celebrating cultures and the world around them through events that foster connection and global awareness. Here's a look at some of those recent activities (clockwise from top left): Dayal House students kicked off the holiday season by donning colorful costumes and carrying signs and participating in The Blade Holiday Parade through downtown Toledo in November. Also in November, the Indian Student Association (ISA) hosted its annual Diwali Dinner, which featured performances, food, sparklers, and a demonstration of Dandiya. The Muslim Student

Association brought the community together for its annual Iftar Dinner, which featured guest speaker Dr. Tesneem Alkiek (pictured) as well as Henna demonstrations. March brought color and energy with a Holi ceremony, as ISA members presented a program, followed by food and then a joyful colors celebration on the Anning Lawn for those willing to brave the consequences. Finally, the Upper School's Chinese Club welcomed the Year of the Snake with a festive spring festival, featuring traditional arts, games, and elaborate performances in the Millennium Theatre.

## BUILDING ON YEARS OF PROGRESS

# MV introduces new diversity statement

The Maumee Valley Board of Trustees reaffirmed its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging this year by introducing a new, forward-looking statement. Developed through months of collaboration between a board committee and school leadership, the updated statement reflects the school's ongoing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts, the progress made in recent years, and its aspirations for the future.

The process began in the fall when the Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee of the Board of Trustees—led by co-chairs **Tyler Boehm '05** and parent Nazarene Tubman P '22 '31—began reviewing the school's previous diversity statement, which was first adopted in 2015 and later revised in 2021. Their goal: craft a statement that more accurately represents MV's evolving commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering community.

Other participants were current board chair Andy Weiner P '25, '26 and incoming board chair Alan Bannister P '26; parents Jennifer McCary P '30, '35 and Corrie Voss P '30; and MV leadership team members Lynn Casto (Head of School), Amy Yustick (Director of Strategy and Advancement), and Reanne Young (Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging).

"I am incredibly grateful to the committee of the Board of Trustees, especially Tyler and Naz, for their thoughtful leadership throughout this

## New Statement:

At the heart of a Maumee Valley Country Day School education is our collective commitment to honoring each individual's unique experience. We strive to create an educational environment that inspires community members to engage as their authentic selves in all of their endeavors.

We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive, safe, and respectful culture in which each individual feels valued and empowered.

Understanding the lived experiences of our community is imperative. Different perspectives and ways of learning matter. Embracing the intersectional identities of all leads to innovation and educational excellence.

**At Maumee Valley, we engage in diversity principles and practices that elevate equity, encourage mindful inclusion, and build a sense of belonging.**

process. This new diversity statement is more than just words—it's a reflection of the progress we've made and a vision for where we're headed," Young said.

The newly adopted statement highlights the school's dedication to honoring individual experiences, fostering an inclusive culture, and embracing diverse perspectives as a pathway to educational excellence.

## A Legacy of Action

At the heart of the school's commitment are students and their families. The ultimate goal is and has been to continue to build a school community that reflects all families. As a result, the new statement is the latest milestone in more than 10 years of dedicated diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work at Maumee Valley.

In 2015, the board launched the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competency Task Force, which included students, faculty, administrators, and board members, and laid the groundwork and strategy for the school's diversity growth. In 2017, MV used the NAIS AIM Tool (Assessment of Inclusion and Multiculturalism) to conduct its first cultural assessment.

As a result of that work and engaging with the consulting group Single Story, the Diversity Advocacy Team was created with the intention to organize community events, refine hiring and retention practices, and integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into

professional development and curriculum development. These efforts were solidified in the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, where diversity, equity inclusion, and belonging were identified as one of the school's four primary goals.

"At Maumee Valley, we believe that a truly exceptional education goes beyond academics. It nurtures a sense of belonging, respect, and empowerment for every member of our community," Casto said. "This new statement, along with our ongoing initiatives, reflects our deep commitment to fostering an environment where all voices are heard, all perspectives are valued, and every student can thrive as their authentic self. By continuously evolving and embracing diversity, we strengthen not only our school but also the world our students will help shape."

## Diversity-related initiatives launched in 2024-2025:

- **Quarterly Digital Publication:** A platform for faculty and staff to share stories, highlight classroom experiences, and provide updates on professional development opportunities.
- **Single Story Cultural Audit Review:** A comprehensive evaluation of the school's values, beliefs, and practices through diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging lenses.
- **Creation of the CARE (Cultural Assessment Restorative Equity) Team:** A faculty, staff, and student-led group focused

on addressing challenges and opportunities identified in the cultural audit.

- **Bias Incident Reporting Tool:** A new online resource for faculty, staff, families, and students (grades 7-12), developed in response to student experiences at the national Student Diversity Leadership Conference in 2023.
- **Expansion of SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Training:** Extended to all faculty, staff, and now members of the Board of Trustees to deepen understanding of systemic inequities and inspire change.

- **Neurodiversity Training for Faculty and Staff:** Offered in partnership with the Hartmann-Eton Center for Teaching and Learning to enhance support for neurodiverse students.
- **Diversity Curricular Tool:** A curricular reflection tool designed by teachers Sara Card and Ana Rodriguez and former MV staffer Paula Apostolou to help teachers design their class units through the lenses of diversity, equity, and inclusion in mind.



Michelle Li '25 on the victory podium: "Before my jumps, I was a little nervous because I had the 4x200, but my coach told me to just stop thinking," Michelle said. "I kind of knew it was a good jump. I felt like I was flying, which was pretty cool. It was really rewarding."

# State Champ!

## Michelle Li '25 leads Hawks to strong showing at Track & Field Championship

**Michelle Li '25** led the charge at the Indoor High School State Championship meet in early March, claiming victory in the Division IV triple jump with an impressive leap of 34 feet 3.5 inches—nearly three feet longer than the second-place competitor. Sponsored by the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches (OATCCC), the event featured the best athletes in the state, and Michelle had been ranked No. 1 at various points throughout the season.

"Before my jumps, I was a little nervous because I had the 4x200, but my coach told me to just stop thinking," Michelle said. "I kind of knew it was a good jump. I felt like I was flying, which was pretty cool. It was really rewarding."

Her victory propelled the Hawks to an 8th-place team finish, with several other impressive performances from her teammates:

- Girls' 4x200m Relay: 4th place (1:55.51) – **Michelle Li '25, Jasmyn Nupp '28, Jenna Ridi '28, Selena Young '27**
- Girls' 4x400m Relay: 5th place (4:33.53) – **Chaarvi Baskara '28, Michelle Li '25, Jenna Ridi '28, Isabella Stueve '27**
- Boys' 4x200m Relay: 5th place (1:35.11) – **Sam Gomez '27, Gabe Skinner '26, Josh Wang '25, Demetre Wheeler '25**
- 60m Hurdles: **Jenna Ridi '28** finished 13th.
- Girls' 1600m: **Isabella Stueve '27** finished 9th with a time of 5:29.78.
- Boys' 200m: **Demetre Wheeler '25** finished 7th with a time of 23.02.
- Attending the States as an alternate runner was **Oliver Kiehl '25**.

"The hard work and dedication of our track and field athletes truly paid off," said Athletic Director Rob Conover. "We are incredibly proud of their achievements at the state level and grateful for the support of our coaches, families, and the entire MV community."

The Maumee Valley track and field team was guided this season by coaches Jack Dias, Tara Morrin, Scott Morin and Drew Ross.



Girls' 4x200: Selena Young, Michelle Li, Jasmyn Nupp, and Jenna Ridi



Boys' 4x200: Sam Gomez, Josh Wang, Gabe Skinner, and Demetre Wheeler



Girls' 4x400: Michelle Li, Chaarvi Baskara, Jenna Ridi, and Isabella Stueve

# Tennis team reaches Final Four



**TOP ROW (from left):** Head Coach Epifani Jones, Trisha Parinja '26, Winter Roach '26, Mari-Yona Shannon '27, Sofia Avram '26, Imaan Zafar '26, and Assistant Coach Josh Parish. **BOTTOM ROW (from left):** Lizzy Brown '25, Layan Ridi '26, Shrishte Baskara '25, and Jenna Ridi '28

Maumee Valley's girls' tennis team made headlines this fall with a historic run in the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association (OTCA) Tournament, reaching the Final Four. The team won three consecutive tournament matches, securing a District title with a 3-1 victory over TAAC rival Ottawa Hills. Once at States, the team fell to eventual state champion Indian Hill in the semifinals. The Hawks also won the Northern Buckeye Tennis League championship.

Three athletes also qualified for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Girls' State Tennis Tournament, which is a separate sanctioned competition that focuses on

individuals and pairs:

- Division II Doubles: **Sofia Avram '26** and **Layan Ridi '26** advanced to States after finishing second in Districts. Layan and Sofia were both named 1st Team All-OTCA Northwest District, and Layan was named 2nd Team All-Ohio by OTCA.
- Division II Singles: **Mari-Yona Shannon '27**, the Sectionals and District champion, advanced to the state quarterfinals and earned 2nd Team All-State honors from the OTCA. The coaches were Epifani Jones (head coach) and Josh Parish (assistant coach).



## New honor wall celebrates athletic achievements at the state level

The Department of Athletics is proud to once again honor Hawk athletes who have competed at the state level or earned All-State recognition. After a temporary removal during last year's athletic hallway renovations, their plaques have returned—now with a bold new display featuring a dedicated All-State recognition area.

Unveiled during Homecoming Weekend, this tribute was made possible by generous donations from MV alumni and supporters at the 2023 Annual Gala as part of the Raise the Paddle fundraising project.



# District Champs!

## Hawks advanced to Regional Semifinals

The boys' varsity basketball team won a District championship this year for only the fourth time in school history. They defeated No. 1 seed Sycamore Mohawk, 75-43, to advance to the Sweet 16 for Division VI. In the Regional Semifinal game played before a large crowd at BGSU's Stroh Center, the Hawks fell to North Robinson Colonel Crawford, 48-41.

Still, it was a season of many team and personal accomplishments, made all the more remarkable by a starting lineup that featured a freshman and four sophomores. Leading the way was **Kee'Ran Stokes '27**. Stokes was

named 1st Team for both the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC) and All-District 7. He was named 2nd Team for the Division VI All-Northwest Ohio District, which is selected annually by a panel of media members from the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Media Association. Finally, he was named Honorable Mention All-State for Division VI.

Other athletes earning accolades: **Ty Lewis '27**. Ty earned 2nd Team All-TAAC and Honorable Mention for both All-District 7 and Division VI All-Northwest Ohio District teams. In addition, he broke two school records for shot-blocking: 104 in a single season,

and 155 cumulative for a career.

**Charlie Gorski '25**. Charlie was named to the All-Academic Team for District 7.

**Jeybrehm Price '27**. Jeybrehm was named 1st Team All-TAAC, 2nd Team All-District 7, and Honorable Mention to the Division VI All-Northwest Ohio District.

**Sae Robinson '28**. Sae received Honorable Mention for All-TAAC.

**Nasir Wilson '27**. Nasir received Honorable Mention for both the All-TAAC and All-District 7 teams.

Congratulations to Head Coach Dontaviyon Fleming, his staff, and the team on a great season.

## Maumee Valley athletics earns state award for excellence

Maumee Valley received the prestigious Bruce Brown Award of Excellence this fall, a distinction given to Ohio high school athletic departments that consistently uphold best practices and national standards in education-based athletics. The award, presented by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA), highlights MV's commitment to fostering student-athlete development on and off the field.

Athletic Director Rob Conover accepted the award on behalf of the school at the OIAAA annual conference. "This award is a testament to the dedication of our coaches, student-athletes, and entire MV community in building a strong, values-driven athletic program," he said. "We thank the OHSAA and OIAAA for this meaningful distinction."



## Strong showing by runners at TAAC Championship

Maumee Valley athletes delivered standout performances at the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC) Cross-Country Championships in October, hosted on their home course. In the high school girls' race, **Isabella Stueve '27** finished third, earning 1st Team All-League honors. The varsity boys' team finished as TAAC runner-up, with **Charlie Harris '27**, **Tristan Hirt '25**, and **Eric Tang '25** named to the 2nd Team All-League.

In the middle school division, **Luke Oberlin '29** earned victory in the boys' race, while **Lily Wright '30** finished 5th in the girls' event.

## Hawk Nation earns Student Section of the Week from BCSN

Maumee Valley's student section brought the energy and spirit, earning the title of "Student Section of the Week" from BCSN in December. Students showed up in full force during home basketball games throughout the season, creating an electric atmosphere as BCSN crews captured the action. Go Hawks!

## Field hockey wins tourney game, 3 recognized for outstanding play

The girls' field hockey team defeated Laurel School in the first round of the state field hockey tournament. Three Hawks were honored for their play during the season by the 13-team Northeast Ohio Field Hockey League.

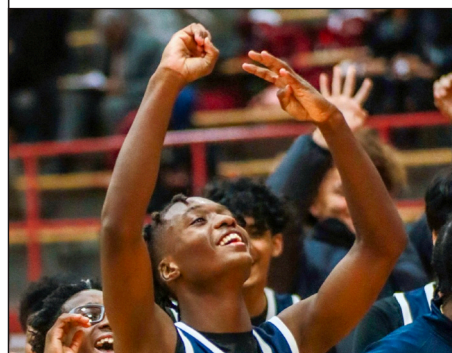
Congratulations to **Michelle Li '25** (2nd Team All-Region) and **Gloria Morales '25** and **Penny Weiner '26** (both Honorable Mention).

The girls also were crowned champs of the Fall Tournament, hosted annually by MV. Named to the tournament team were **Michelle Li '25**, **Julia Burke '26**, **Addie Henderson '25**, **Sydney Abercrombie '25**, and **Gloria Morales '25**. The team finished the season 6-9-2.

## Notable achievements:

- The Toledo Area Athletic Conference selected eight Maumee Valley athletes for All-League honors for their soccer accomplishments this fall. Named to the 1st Team All-TAAC were **Daivik Patel '25**, **Rami Ridi '25**, **Demetre Wheeler '25**, and **Gabe Skinner '26**. Named to the 2nd Team All-TAAC were **Zein Eltahawy '26** and senior **Oliver Kiehl '25**. Receiving Honorable Mention honors were **Oliver Dunn '27** and **Louie Snelling '27**.
- The **8th grade girls' basketball team** lost in the TAAC Championship and finished as league runner-up.
- The golf team finished third, one stroke out of second, in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference Championship.
- Swimmers **Addy Jaffe '26** and **Freddy Muler '26** advanced past Sectionals and competed in the District Swim Meet.
- Isabella Stueve '27** finished 6th at the District Cross Country Championships and advanced to Regionals.

- Luke Oberlin '29** finished 21st out of 150 runners at the Ohio Middle School Cross Country Championships.
- Kee'ran Stokes '27** (pictured below) scored a career-high 40 points in a Hawk victory over Scott. He had 75 points in the first two games of the year.



## MV launches ticketing policy for some 7-12 sports

Maumee Valley Athletics has traditionally not charged MV families for admission to sporting events. Through the work of a task force composed of families, employees, and members of the Board of Trustees, the school decided this year to change that policy and charge admission for most of its athletic events for grades 7-12.

A major factor in the decision: the dramatic increase in officials' fees and operational costs for home games as well as costs associated with game-day management. All revenue from ticket sales is used to support MV athletes and sports programs.

Individual game as well as season passes can be purchased by visiting [mvcds.org/tickets](http://mvcds.org/tickets).

## New Hall of Fame honors legends of Hawk Nation

Maumee Valley launched its first-ever Athletic Hall of Fame this fall to celebrate the school's athletic history and the individuals who have helped to shape it. The inaugural inductees—Jim Fish and Terri Herrmann—were honored on campus in a special ceremony during Homecoming activities. Both are beloved figures for their decades of teaching, coaching, and leadership, especially of Hawk athletes.

Next time you are on campus, be sure to visit the Hall of Fame (located in the athletic wing of the Upper School) to see their plaques.

This year's induction ceremonies are Friday, Sept. 19, as part of the 2025 Homecoming and Fall Tournament Weekend.

Know someone you feel is worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame? Share the name(s) with Rob Conover, MV's director of athletics, at [rconover@mvcds.org](mailto:rconover@mvcds.org).



Signage in the athletic hallway marks the new Athletic Hall of Fame.



**BREAKING NEWS:** An ensemble performs a scene as Sloane Greenwood '32 (right) portrays Medda Larkin in "Newsies Jr."

## A season of spelling bees, newsboys, and small-town secrets

The 2024-2025 theater season kicked off in November with three performances of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." This fast-paced and crowd-pleasing musical followed an eclectic group of six mid-pubescents as they vied for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Next in the lineup was "Newsies Jr." presented by students in grades 2-8 in February. Through song, dance, and acting, the students transported audiences to 1899 New York City, where a band of teenage newsboys fight against powerful newspaper tycoons. In March, students presented riveting performances of "The Rimers of Eldritch." Set in the mid-20th century in a small, decaying town in Missouri, the play delved into the moral dilemmas and secrets of its inhabitants, exploring themes of loneliness, guilt, and the complexities of human relationships.



**SMALL-TOWN SECRETS:** An ensemble scene from "The Rimers of Eldritch"; Becky Weingarden '27 (inset) as Nelly Windrod.

**E-N-J-O-Y-A-B-L-E:** "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" featured many group and solo performances. Among those sharing a moment in the spotlight were (from left): Will Stierman '28 as Chip Tolentino; Mariam Doumani '27 as Olive Ostrovsky; and Maisie Green '28 as Marcy Park.





Winter Concert



2-3 Concert &amp; Art Show

## Musical performances showcase range of talents

Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 delivered a remarkable performance at December's **Concert & Art Show**, setting the stage for our season of holiday celebrations. The event showcased their creativity and talent through an inspiring blend of folk dancing, line dancing, student-choreographed movements, and musical performances.

Guests were treated to a delightful concert and dance performances in December during the annual **Winter Concert**. The event featured the Upper School Vocal Chamber Ensemble, Mixed Middle School Strings, and the String Chamber Ensemble. Special dance guests included members of the MV Dance Team, **Jiawen Cui '26**, and the El Corazon de Mexico Ballet Folklorica.

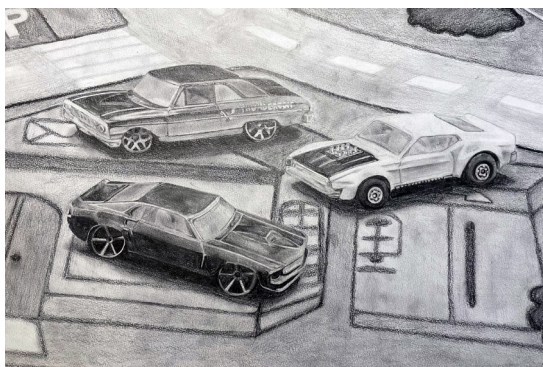
Musical performances continued into the spring as families and friends gathered in March for the annual **Concert & Art Show**, presented by students in 2nd and 3rd grade.

Inspired by *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry, students presented musical performances including "The Great Kapok Tree," "Hiss," "Hurry!," "Gak Goon," and "Slow." The event began with a digital showcase of student artwork, highlighting their exploration of nature



4-5-6 Concert &amp; Art Show

through mixed media and lessons from artists like Monet and O'Keeffe, emphasizing art's power to inspire care for our planet. All performances took place in the Millennium Theatre.



**ARTISTIC:** From left are "Red Room of Jane Eyre," "Cars on Mat," and "Threads of Autonomy."

### Works by 3 students appear in Congressional exhibition

Three MV students had artwork selected for display this spring during the Ninth Congressional District Invitational High School Exhibition.

**Layah Perry '25** was named the exhibit runner-up for her digital design titled "Red Room of Jane Eyre." It will be displayed for a year in the office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Other students honored were **Anderson Jachimiak '25** for a drawing

titled "Cars on Mat" and **Addy Jaffe '26** for a mixed media work titled "Threads of Autonomy." The works were on display for five weeks at the Toledo Museum of Art and were selected from submissions by students in nine Northwest Ohio counties.



# Leadership Academy

Upper School students prepare to lead beyond MV

BY KEVIN MERRILL

For decades, Maumee Valley Country Day School has fostered leadership among its students, helping them grow into thoughtful and capable individuals ready to make a difference. That commitment reached a new milestone with the creation of the Leadership Academy, a program officially launched in 2023 after years of development.

Designed for Upper School students, the Academy focuses on more than just preparing students to lead clubs or captain teams—it aims to equip them with the skills to lead entire organizations, both now and in the future.

The seeds of the Academy were planted back in 2016 during a Winter Intensive for Middle School students, co-taught by Athletic Director Rob Conover and former staff member Dr. Tara Morrin. That early version introduced 7th and 8th graders to leadership principles and encouraged them to imagine solutions for improving their school. It was intentionally student-driven, with participants shaping the mission and vision of the group.

As the years passed and the school's 2021–2026 Strategic Plan called for a deeper investment in leadership development, the idea began to evolve. The plan

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

### VISION

Inspiring future leaders to improve the world

### MISSION

Preparing MVCDS Leadership Academy participants with skills extending into social, academic, and professional environments into a bright future.

### PILLARS

Character  
Commitment  
Competent  
Strength  
Adaptability

**Above: Students conducting a team-building exercise during the summer workshop.**

challenged the school community to inspire students to become agents of positive change by cultivating emotional intelligence, communication skills, and a strong sense of personal responsibility.

From that challenge came the fully realized Leadership Academy, first offered as a two-day summer program in 2023 and attended by 50 students. The following year, participation more than doubled. Now, the Academy is a requirement for any Upper School student interested in holding a leadership role—whether in Student Government, athletics, or one of the school's 30-plus clubs.

But it's far from exclusive. Any student with a desire to grow as a leader is invited to participate.

For **Daivik Patel '25**, a three-sport athlete, class co-president, and head of the Indian Student Association, the Academy has become essential. "Leadership Academy has allowed me to better structure meetings, communicate effectively, and create a culture within my clubs," he said. "Over the year, my main focus has been instilling a culture of driven and

motivated students throughout all the clubs and sports I am involved in. Leadership Academy has helped me achieve this vision by providing me with tools to engage club members and build community.”

“Exploring one’s capacity for leadership takes courage, persistence, and resilience,” said Stephanie Harman P ’22, head of Upper School. “I am so proud of our Leadership Academy cohorts. Not only do these students stretch themselves personally, but they also help us to grow this program to be the best it can be.”

The Academy begins each year with a two-day summer workshop. Day one focuses on what co-founder Conover calls the “nuts and bolts of leadership”—how to run meetings, set strategic goals, raise funds, and communicate effectively. On the second day, students shift their attention to the importance of organizational culture. They explore how groups form identities, how individuals’ strengths and weaknesses influence outcomes, and how culture can fuel or hinder success.

One highlight of the second day is the “Raging River Challenge.” In this team-building activity, students work together to cross the Johnson-Bayer

“I learned that leading does not mean being the loudest voice in the room, but rather, the one that can help uplift others.”

May Drew ’25

Gym floor using only wooden planks. Falling off means starting over, so success demands coordination, trust, and careful planning. The exercise is a vivid example of how collaboration and clear communication are at the heart of effective leadership.

Students also take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to better understand their personalities and how they interact with others. These self-assessments provide a foundation for learning how to manage diverse teams and navigate different communication styles—critical skills for any aspiring leader.

The Leadership Academy doesn’t operate in isolation. Instead, it connects to leadership opportunities

throughout Maumee Valley, from the Kids Council in Lower School to the Student Council in Middle School. The goal is a continuous journey in leadership development that begins as early as Kindergarten and culminates in Upper School with students leading meaningful change across campus.

Throughout the school year, Academy members keep the momentum going. The program doesn’t have officers, but it is guided by the co-presidents of the Student Council—in 2024-2025, **Gloria Morales ’25** and **May Drew ’25**.

Gloria and May are not just organizers. They are also role models. Both came into the Leadership Academy with prior experience leading clubs and events, but they quickly discovered that even seasoned leaders have more to learn. For May, helping guide younger students through the Academy’s workshops and activities became an unexpected mirror for her own growth.

“In the process of aiding other students to learn how to lead, I found myself experiencing just as much growth,” she said. That growth included a shift in perspective: “I learned that leading does not mean being the loudest voice in the room, but rather, the one



As part of the Academy’s ongoing leadership-development efforts, it organizes a Leadership Summit every year. Students ask community leaders about their backgrounds and roles as leaders.

This year’s community leaders were (from left): Theresa Morris, District 6 City Councilwoman, City of Toledo; Brittany Ford, a consultant specializing in immigrant and refugee inclusion and strategic planning; Julia Faulkner Pechlivanos, director of organizational development at Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Kenny Farrar, managing director of Yellow Beet, specializing in business growth strategies; Deetra Kelly, a self-advocate community inclusion specialist at the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities; **Schuyler Beckwith ’04**, chair of Lucas County Democrats; Niki McCoy, director of residential life and girls’ basketball program director at Maumee Valley; and Terry Crosby, community ambassador and creator of Terry Crosby 5 Steps to Success Program.





that can help uplift others.”

Gloria echoed that evolution. Despite already being an established leader at Maumee Valley, the Academy helped her explore new angles of leadership and gave her permission to lead in her own style. “I learned that there was no blueprint to be a leader,” she said. Collaborating with May and their faculty mentors to co-facilitate the program only deepened that lesson. Now, she leads with more confidence and authenticity. “I no longer withhold my silly ideas during StuCo meetings,” she said with a smile, and she plans to carry that mindset into college.

Academy members help organize events such as guest speaker sessions and networking lunches with community members. One standout initiative is the Leadership Summit, held in both 2024 and 2025, where local business and nonprofit leaders engaged in a speed-mentoring format, rotating among student tables to share career advice, leadership insights, and personal stories.

“The Leadership Summit aims to foster an environment of learning, mentorship, and collaboration,” said Jana Smith, the Upper School dean of students and a co-advisor with Conover of the Academy. “Our students have the invaluable opportunity to interact with accomplished leaders from various fields, gaining insights into leadership styles, career paths, and



**Top (from left): Jaden Jefferson '26, Daivik Patel '25, and Rami Ridi '25 gain insights from Kenny Farrar. Above: Yvonne Zhou '26 gets advice from Terry Crosby.**

importance of community engagement.”

These kinds of experiences—real world, interactive, and personal—are what make the Leadership Academy so impactful. Students leave with practical skills and a clearer sense of their own leadership identity.

**Asa Karns '24**, the school’s all-time leading goal scorer in soccer and now a student-athlete at the University of Findlay, was part of the inaugural Academy cohort. He said it gave him the confidence to lead his team both on and off the field. “Leadership Academy did help me on my sports team, as it gave me eligibility to be a team captain, but it also made me comfortable to use my voice and have others look up to me,”

he said. “I could be an example for the younger guys and the other seniors.”

Daivik Patel echoed that sentiment, noting how leadership played a key role in bringing his soccer team together and maximizing their potential. “From practices to games to even team dinners, leadership is key for any organization that is seeking to accomplish big things,” he said. “With so much talent on the roster, it was of paramount importance to hold everyone together and lay out a clear framework of our goals as a team.”

What began as a small pilot within a Middle School Intensive has now grown into a vibrant, campus-wide initiative that continues to evolve. For Conover, that growth is the point.

“We have great students and academic programs, and you need that,” he said. “But the Academy helps with the other things—life skills, leadership, confidence. We’re supplementing the really good academic experience they get here with tools that are just as essential. We want our kids to be leaders. We want them to change the world. And we hope the Leadership Academy gives them a head start as they move out from Maumee Valley.”

*Daniel Knorek '22, a junior at Columbia University in New York studying American literature, creative writing, and political science, contributed to this story.*



I had fun hosting a s'mores bonfire for alumni returning for November's Get Back Give Back Day. Joining me were (from left) Alex Dapkus '14, Ellie Dapkus '19, Nihal Kattar '13, Perri Garner '05, and Jad Salem '13.



### ALUMNI COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Grace O'Leary '16**

President

**Nihal Kattar '13**

Vice President

**Jena Pugh '04**

Secretary

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Stephen Foster '84**

**Perrigrine (Perri) Garner '05**

**Sachin Hejeebu '15**

**Nick Hirt '97**

**Alex Karcher '12**

**Sahil Kattar '18**

**Mike Orra '99**

**Jesal Patel '91**

**Gail Steketee '67**

**Brent West '77**

### STUDENT MEMBERS

**Jaden Jefferson '26**

**Josh Wang '25**

## Stay connected, celebrate, **and come home to MV**

Happy spring from the Alumni Council! It's been a wonderful season of reconnection and celebration. In March, we hosted our annual Alumni Town Hall, which brought together MV graduates from across the country. We heard updates from Lynn Casto (head of school), Brian Oliver (director of annual giving and family engagement), and Rob Conover (director of athletics). If you missed this year's event, mark your calendar now—our next Town Hall is coming in March 2026, and we'd love to see you there!

During the Town Hall, we also voted on this year's Alumni Award recipients. They are an inspiring group of individuals who embody the values and spirit of Maumee Valley. These awards will be presented at two major upcoming events: the Smead Luncheon in May and during the Homecoming and Fall Tournament Weekend in September. First up is the Smead Luncheon on May 16, where we'll present the Alumni Achievement and Service Awards, along with the Spirit of MV and MVFA Volunteer of the Year recognitions. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates, faculty, and current MV community members. Watch for a registration link and the names of recipients coming your way soon.

Then, from Sept. 19-20, we'll welcome alumni back to campus for Homecoming and Fall Tournament Weekend. If you're from a class ending in 0 or 5, this is your reunion year, but all alumni are welcome. The weekend will feature campus celebrations, plenty of sports to watch, and the presentation of our Lifetime Dedication, Alumni Parent Dedication, and Young Alumni Achievement Awards. Visit [mvcds.org/alumni](http://mvcds.org/alumni) to see a list of past recipients.

As I wrap up my term as President of the Alumni Council, I want to express how meaningful this role has been. Over the past two years, I've reconnected with old friends and formed new bonds within our alumni network. If you haven't plugged in yet, I encourage you to take that first step, whether it's attending an event, following us online, or filling out the alumni survey. Your feedback helps shape the events and outreach we plan for the future. (A link to the survey can be found at [mvcds.org/alumni](http://mvcds.org/alumni).)

As always, feel free to reach out at [MValumniCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:MValumniCouncil@gmail.com) with any thoughts, questions, or stories to share. I'm excited to see where this community goes next—and I hope to see you at an MV event soon.

**Grace O'Leary '16**

Alumni Council President

Member of the MV Board of Trustees

### ABOUT THE COUNCIL:

The Council functions as an executive board to the Maumee Valley Alumni Association, which serves as alumni's voice in all programming activities at the school.

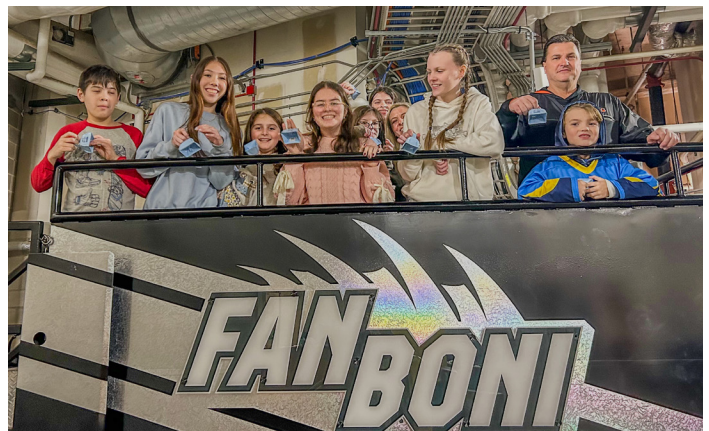


## On the road in D.C.

The alumni office hit the road in January, reconnecting with alumni and former faculty in Washington, DC. Among those reminiscing and celebrating their MV roots were (from left) **Collin Husted '10**, **Tom Cambisios**, **Madeline Williams '23**, and **Maya Francisco '20**. A beloved MV educator for nearly 30 years, Tom left a lasting impact as an English and history teacher and as head of the Upper School. Alumni reflected on the lessons learned in his classroom—lessons that continue to shape their careers and lives today.



Maumee Valley hosted a professional basketball team this year through connections with **Josh Radtkin '03**, the team's market owner. Josh's team—the Glass City Wranglers—were one of nine in the Basketball Super League. The team ran fundraisers on behalf of MV, donating a percentage of ticket sales to the MV Fund. Pictured: Josh (right) with MV Athletic Director Ron Conover



Alumni and current families enjoyed the annual alumni holiday party, which took place this year at Huntington Arena. The event coincided with a Toledo Walleye game, and some MV guests took the opportunity to ride a Fanboni machine. Thanks to the MV Alumni Council for organizing this fun outing.

## IN MEMORIAM



### ALUMNI

**Maryellen Radloff '68**, a former nurse and avid collector of books, passed away in December.

**Barbara Atkinson '70**, who excelled at varsity field hockey and track while at MV, passed away in January. While at the University of Louisville, she played center forward for the field hockey team, which won the NCAA Division I Championship.

**Sean B. McMahon '90**, a graduate of Miami University, passed away in March.

### FACULTY & STAFF

**Elizabeth "Ann" Lieder**, a former Lower School teacher who taught in the area at several elementary schools over a 30-year career, died in October.

**Anna Miller**, a former teacher who later taught at the collegiate level, passed away in February.

**Elizabeth Craig Crawford Uhlman**, a graduate of Swarthmore College who taught Lower School students, passed away in October.

**Tomeka Megail Shum**, who taught and advised students in the Middle School, passed away in October. Her husband, George, also served in Extended Time Care for many years.



TOP: Barbara Atkinson, Elizabeth "Ann" Lieder, Sean McMahon

MIDDLE: Anna Miller, Maryellen Radloff, Tomeka Shum

LEFT: Elizabeth Craig Crawford Uhlman



Above: Terri Herrmann P '16, '19 (center) was inducted into the MV Athletic Hall of Fame, and celebrated the moment with many of her former field hockey players who attended the event in her honor.

Right (clockwise from top right): MV science teacher Brandon Slotterbeck P '21, '24 (left) honors former teacher Ron Euton P '78, '81, '83 with the Alumni Parent Dedication Award; Ron Conover (left) bestowing the Athletic Hall of Fame Award to Jim Fish P '00, '01, '05; Jewel Woodard '77, P '14, recipient of the Lifetime Dedication Alumni Award; and Dr. Nirupama Yechoor '06, recipient of the Young Alumni Achievement Award, with her parents Dr. Upamaka Rao (left) and Dr. Siva Yechoor.



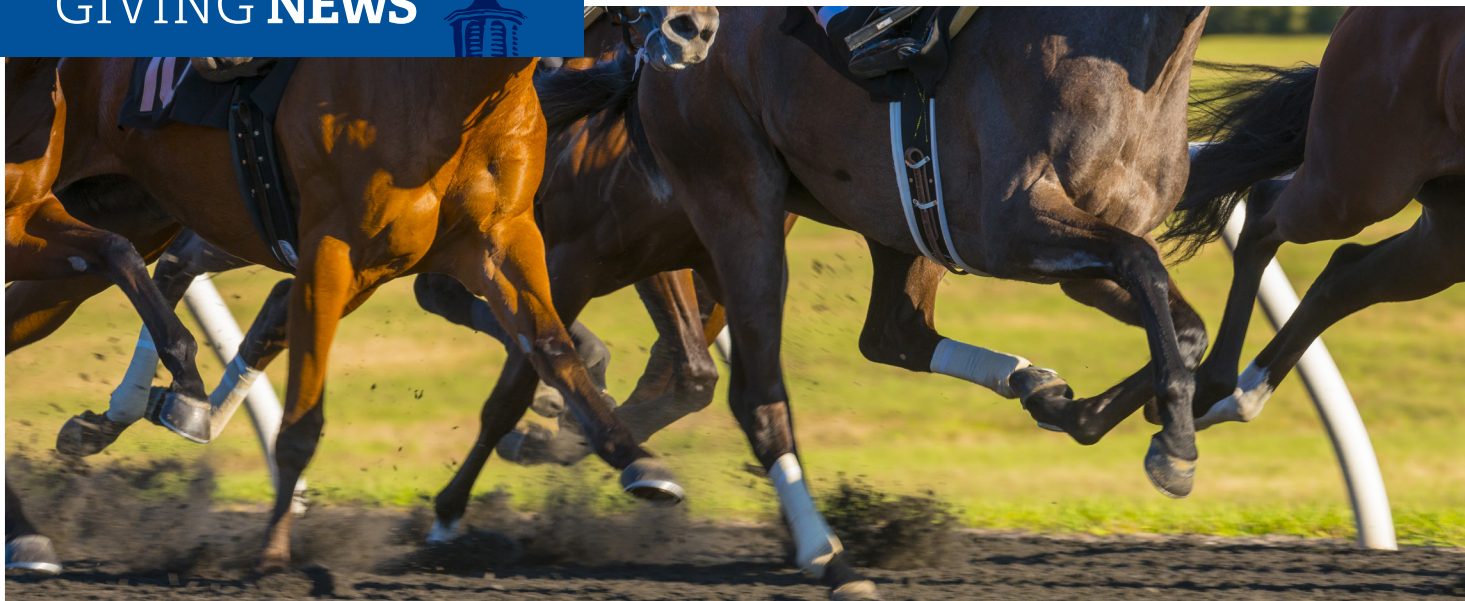
## Homecoming Flashback

Maumee Valley alumni returned to campus to celebrate tradition, reconnect with friends, and relive fond memories during Homecoming Weekend this fall. One of the weekend's big events was the Alumni Awards Dinner. In partnership with the Alumni Council, the school honored three individuals for their contributions to the school community and their professions. The dinner program also included the inaugural induction ceremony for the Maumee Valley Athletic Hall of Fame.



FAR LEFT: Among the attendees at the celebratory event were Carty Finkbeiner '57 (left) and Jack Saalfeld, Jr. '59.

LEFT: Jesal Patel '91, a member of the MV Alumni Council, with friend Shawn Dornhecker.



# Off to the Races!

## Join us for Maumee Valley's **47th Annual Gala**

The thrill of the race, the elegance of The Stables, and the spirit of Maumee Valley come together on April 26 for an unforgettable evening at the 47th Annual MV Gala. This year's theme, "Off to the Races" and presented by The Savage-Edwards Family, invites alumni, parents, and friends to don their finest derby attire and enjoy an evening filled with camaraderie and fundraising opportunities—all in support of Maumee Valley.

"Our Gala is more than just a fundraiser—it's a celebration of our vibrant community," says Amy Yustick, director of advancement and strategy. "Whether you come for the food, the company, or the incredible auction items, you'll leave knowing you've made a lasting impact on students and faculty."

Held at the The Stables in Whitehouse, the Gala aims to raise more than \$200,000 in a single night to support Maumee Valley's mission. The event features a live auction, the P.E.G. Raffle, and the ever-popular Raise the Paddle fundraiser. Tickets are \$150 per person, with various sponsorship levels available for those looking to deepen their support.

The event's success is made possible through the volunteer efforts of the Gala Planning Committee. A heartfelt thank you to Chair Reema Ridi P '23, '25, '28, and committee members Rachel Freeman P '30, '33, '34, '34; Shalini Lyon P '37; Patti Moreno P '36; Rawan Narwal-Kasmani P '34, '38; Anita Patel P '23, '28, '32; Erica Pearson P '39; Kamaria Wilson '12 P '37, '37, and Darius Zolnor P '33, '36, '37. **To purchase tickets, learn about sponsorships, and enter the P.E.G. Raffle, visit [mvcds.org/gala](http://mvcds.org/gala).**



### Raise the Paddle: Investing in MV's future through the arts

The arts have long been at the heart of Maumee Valley's educational experience, inspiring creativity and self-expression in our students. However, for years, our Middle/Upper School and Lower School art spaces have not reflected the exceptional quality of work produced within them. That's why this year's Raise the Paddle initiative at the 47th Annual MV Gala is dedicated to transforming these vital creative hubs.

**With a goal of raising \$75,000, this initiative will fund a complete renovation of the Middle/Upper School art room, including new doors and windows, upgraded cabinets, improved plumbing, HVAC enhancements, new lighting, and an upgraded kiln. The Lower School space will also receive significant improvements, setting the foundation for future upgrades across campus.**

Thanks to early donors, the school has already raised an impressive \$32,000 toward our goal—but needs everyone's help to cross the finish line. Every Raise the Paddle donation made on April 26 directly supports this transformative project, ensuring that every student has access to top-tier art facilities.

Join us at the Gala and help turn this vision into reality!

## P.E.G. Raffle: Win a trip of a lifetime

Want to win the trip of a lifetime while supporting Maumee Valley? The P.E.G. Raffle, named after the school's Vision statement (Personal, Experiential, and Global), offers ticket holders the chance to choose from six unforgettable luxury experiences—all for just \$100 per ticket. How it works:

- Purchase a ticket for \$100 at [mvcds.org/gala](http://mvcds.org/gala).
- One lucky winner (or two if more than 150 tickets are sold) will be drawn April 26.
- Attendance is not required to win.

Winners select one of the following luxury getaways:

**Personal Escapes:** Enjoy a hand-curated At-Home Wine & Cheese Experience with rare Italian wines or embark on a National Park Luxury Retreat at stunning destinations like Bryce Canyon, Lake Powell, or the Columbia River Gorge.

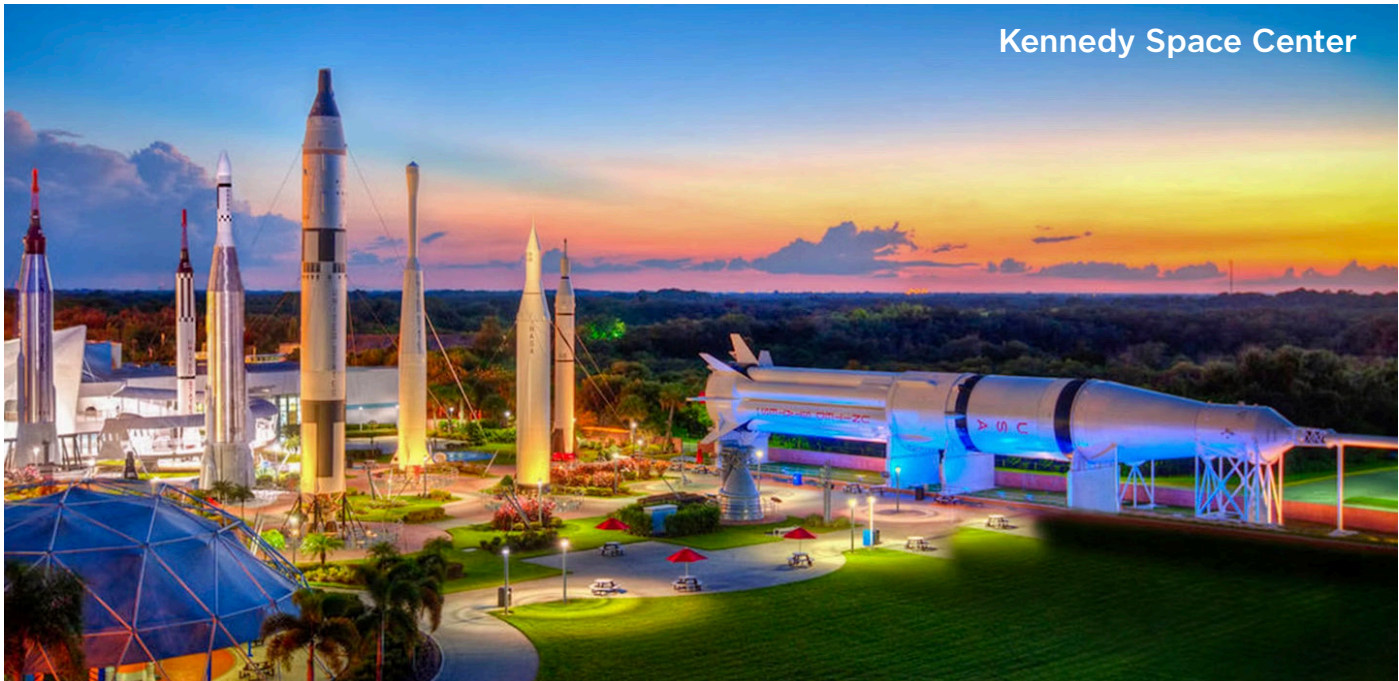
### Experience the Extraordinary:

Blast off with a Kennedy Space Center Adventure for four, including a meet-and-greet with an astronaut, or go Off to the Races with a Churchill Downs VIP Racing Experience for two, complete with a named race in your honor.

### Global Vistas:

Travel in style with a Luxury Escape to Ireland's Castlemartyr Resort, a 5-star historic retreat, or soak up the sun with a Costa del Sol Getaway in Spain, ideal for families or groups.

Visit [mvcds.org/gala](http://mvcds.org/gala) to secure your raffle tickets today.



## Support Maumee Valley through Gala sponsorship

Each year, Maumee Valley's Gala is made possible by the generosity of sponsors who invest in the future of our students while gaining meaningful visibility for their businesses and families. Sponsorship opportunities for the 47th Annual MV Gala are still available. Sponsors receive benefits ranging from gala tickets and priority seating to special recognition in *The Valley*, MV website, social media pages, and event signage. Sponsorship levels include:

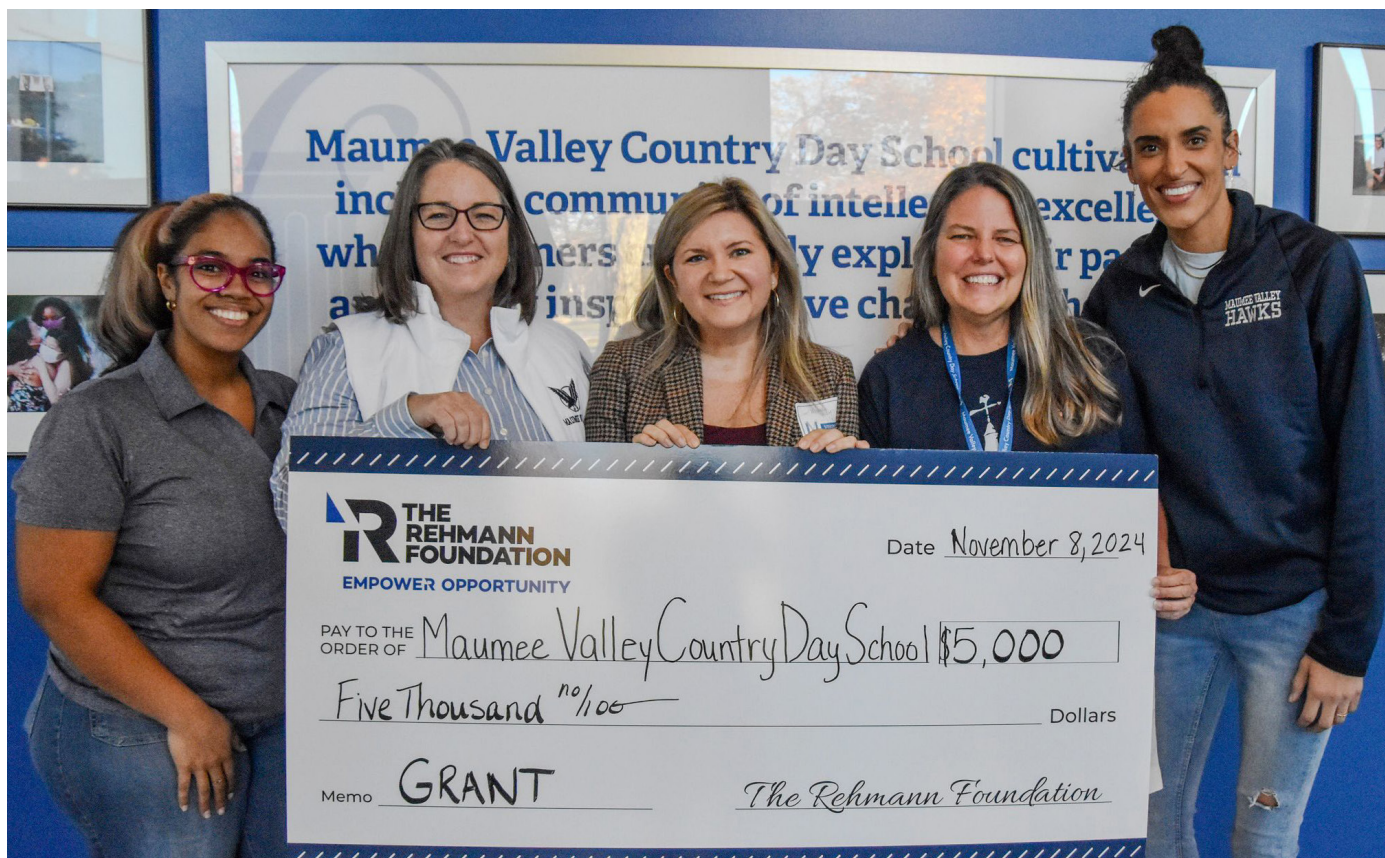
- **Presenting Sponsor** (\$20,000): 10 gala tickets, priority seating, event logo naming, opportunity to present a one-minute video, and premier recognition.
- **Diamond Sponsor** (\$15,000): 10 gala tickets, priority seating, and top-tier recognition.
- **Platinum Sponsor** (\$10,000): 8 gala tickets, priority seating, and high-level acknowledgment.
- **Gold Sponsor** (\$5,000): 6 gala tickets and key recognition.
- **Silver Sponsor** (\$3,000): 4 gala tickets and notable acknowledgment.

- **Bronze Sponsor** (\$1,000): 2 gala tickets and sponsor recognition.
- **Benefactor Ticket** (\$250): 1 gala ticket and name on the gratitude display.

### A special thanks to current sponsors:

- Presenting Sponsor: **Kim Edwards & Marc Savage**
- Gold Sponsors: **Mary Miller, Ridis, S&G, Andrew Weiner Morgan Stanley**
- Silver Sponsors: **Christa & Anthony Dewire, Saba & Saleem Zafar**
- Bronze Sponsors: **Lynn & Keith Casto, Linda & Fred Deichert, Eastman & Smith, Hilary & Hossein El Gafy, Finnea Group, Helene & Doug Lyon, Meritain Health, Metzgers, Dr. Kanchan Pillai & Dr. Mahesh Pillai, Signature Bank, UIS Insurance & Investments**
- Benefactor: **Rawan Narwal-Kasmani & Rahil Kasmani**
- Décor Sponsor: **KMG Fiduciary Partners**
- Heads or Tails Sponsor: **MV Board of Trustees**

Interested in joining this list of supporters? Contact Brian Oliver, director of annual giving and family engagement, at [boliver@mvcds.org](mailto:boliver@mvcds.org) to learn more.



Pictured (from left) are: MV counselor Salena Ferguson P '27, '31, Head of School Lynn Casto, Michelle Hodges of The Rehmann Foundation, MV Strategy and Advancement Director Amy Yustick P '20, '23, '25, and Niki McCoy, MV's director of residential life.

## Rehmann Foundation supports neurodiversity with \$5k grant

Maumee Valley was honored to receive a \$5,000 grant from The Rehmann Foundation, awarded as part of the organization's annual Day of Giving. The funds will support professional development for faculty and staff, equipping them with the tools to better serve neurodiverse learners. By fostering a more personalized approach to education, this initiative will benefit all Maumee Valley students, not just those identified as neurodiverse.

"We are incredibly grateful to The Rehmann Foundation for recognizing the importance of neurodiversity in education," said Lynn Casto, Head of School. "This generous gift will help us continue to provide an inclusive and personalized learning experience that allows every student to thrive. We appreciate Rehmann's commitment to making a difference in the communities it serves."

Maumee Valley was one of nine organizations across Michigan, Ohio,

and Florida selected to receive a grant from the foundation, which was established in 2021 to support education, economic development, and community initiatives.

"We started the Rehmann Foundation because of our firm's commitment to giving back to the community," said Rehmann CEO Stacie Kwaizer. "The annual Day of Giving allows us to reinforce our connections to local organizations and thank them for the essential work they do."

## MV sets new records on Giving Tuesday

The Maumee Valley community set new giving records in December by showing its support for our school on Giving Tuesday. Current families and students, alumni, and others gave 373 gifts, up 18 percent from last year.

Total gifts to the MV Fund were more than \$76,000, up nearly 25 percent from 2023. The category leading the way was first-time givers and friends, whose gifts totaled 214. The total was enough to earn a \$10,000 matching gift.

"Our community continues to inspire with its generosity and commitment to our mission," said Lynn Casto, Head of School. "Your support strengthens our school, enriches our students' experiences, and affirms the power of community."

### GIVING TUESDAY STATS:

<b>373:</b>	<b>Total gifts</b>
<b>109:</b>	<b>Current students</b>
<b>214:</b>	<b>First time and other friends</b>
<b>103:</b>	<b>Alumni and alumni families</b>
<b>109:</b>	<b>Current families</b>

## Help students with gifts to SGO, MV Fund

At Maumee Valley, delivering a Personal, Experiential, and Global education requires more than just tuition—it takes a shared commitment from our entire community. Your support empowers us to hire top educators, enhance learning spaces, and invest in innovative programs that define the MV experience. Here are just two ways to support the school and its mission:

### MV Fund

By contributing to the MV Fund, you help us say “yes” to the opportunities that make our school exceptional—today and for generations to come

The MV Fund supports all aspects of a student's experience at Maumee Valley. It is the mechanism that allows the school to respond to unexpected areas of need as they arise and to capitalize on new opportunities. During the 2023-2024 school year, the MV Fund provided more than \$250,000 in critical funding and support for our students, faculty, programs, and facilities. This year, we seek to raise \$300,000 and meet or exceed all relevant National Association of Independent School median participation benchmarks.

**Give today at [mvcds.org/mvfund](http://mvcds.org/mvfund)**

### Ohio Tax Credit

Through a state program, Ohio residents can receive a tax credit and help Maumee Valley students at the same time. Ohio is one of 18 states with a tax-credit scholarship program. Ohio taxpayers receive dollar-for-dollar non-refundable tax credits up to \$750 for single filers and \$1,500 for joint filers for donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs).

The Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS), of which Maumee Valley is a member, is a registered SGO. When donating through the OAIS website, you can select Maumee Valley's general fund as the recipient of your gift. Maumee Valley pools the money to create a scholarship fund and assist students and families with demonstrated need.

**Give today at [mvcds.org/sgo](http://mvcds.org/sgo)**

## Scholarship News

### Erie Chapman '61

returned to campus this fall and spoke with Upper School students about the value of learning across multiple disciplines and being committed to others. Through his foundation, he also presented the annual Foundation Renaissance Student Award. For his varied interests, achievements, and positive attitude, this year's recipient was **Jacob Hennon '25**. Pictured at right are Erie Chapman, Cynthia Hennon, Jacob, and Paul Hennon.



Congratulations to **Gabe Skinner '26** for receiving the Hubert R. Boldon Memorial Scholarship. Head of School Lynn Casto presented the award in recognition of Gabe's academic excellence and his unassuming yet forceful leadership within Maumee Valley's community activities, embodying the spirit of Rod Boldon's legacy. (Pictured from left are: Lynn, Gabe, Head of Upper School Stephanie Harman, and Adriana McNally, Gabe's advisor and Upper School Spanish teacher.)



## Join us at these 2025-2026 MV community events

**Sept. 19-20:** Homecoming and Fall Tournament Weekend

**Nov. 25:** Get Back Give Back Day

**April 11, 2026:** 48th Annual MV Gala

**May 15, 2026:** Annual Smead Luncheon

**June 11, 2026:** Annual Leadership Dinner for MV supporters

## EVENTS



### Sounds of the season

Spring brings the sounds of beauty during a series of musical performances:

**April 29:** Concert featuring String Chamber Ensemble, 7/8th grade Strings, and the Vocal Chamber Ensemble. 7-8 p.m. (Millennium Theatre)

**May 2:** 2nd through 6th graders perform a Strings Concert. 2-3 p.m. (Millennium)

**May 15:** String Chamber Ensemble performs a concert. 7-8 p.m. (Wolfe Gallery)

**May 16:** K/1 Concert & Art Show. 2-3 p.m. (Millennium)

#### April 26

47th Annual MV Gala. Join fellow MV community members to support the school (see story, Page 24)

#### May 9

Lower School presents the first Spring Fling, featuring dancing, food, and other fun activities. 6-8 p.m., Millhon Auditorium

#### May 14

Upper School spring Intensives begin

#### May 15

Annual Smead Luncheon. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Millhon

4th-6th grade Spring Social. 6-8 p.m., Millhon

#### May 22

3rd Grade Forest School camping event

#### May 23

6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony. 7:30-10 a.m., Millhon

#### May 28

3rd Grade Moving Up Ceremony. 7:30-9 a.m., Millhon

#### June 3

Upper School Awards Ceremony. 2-3 p.m., Millennium Theatre

Lower School Field Day. 10 a.m. - noon

#### June 4

Last day of school

Upper School Spring Intensive Fair. 1-3 p.m.

#### June 5

141st Graduation Exercises, celebrating the Class of 2025. 7 p.m., Bluestone

#### June 6

8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony. 7-9 p.m., Millennium



For the latest event details, visit [mvcds.org/calendar](http://mvcds.org/calendar). View the athletic calendar at [mvcds.org/sports](http://mvcds.org/sports)

#### 2025-2026 Academic Calendar released

The 2025-2026 academic calendar provides families with key dates to help plan for the upcoming school year. Included are important events across all divisions, including opening day, Graduation Exercises, late-start days, and winter and spring breaks. View it at [mvcds.org/calendar](http://mvcds.org/calendar)