



# The Wigwam

*Southern Local School District Newsletter*

*Spring 2022*

## Southern Staff Celebrated During Breakfast

Southern Local School leaders showed their appreciation during a special staff recognition breakfast on May 27.

About 100 people gathered in the high school cafeteria which featured a catered meal by Connie's Corner Family Restaurant and Catering of Chester. Superintendent Tom Cunningham touted nearly 30 people who served from five to 25 years as well as a few retirees.

"This entire year has been fantastic and the perseverance you have shown is amazing," Cunningham said. "You have done an incredible job with our students and we really appreciate it."

He said officials wanted to do something special to show their appreciation for everyone's efforts and school board members were also on hand as a show of support. Cunningham said each staff member, from teachers and bus drivers to cafeteria workers and custodians, had a vital part in the district.

"Everybody plays a role and it's extremely appreciated," he commented.

Cunningham then presented gifts to administrators, teachers and staff for their length of service. Five-year honorees included Jessica Coleman, Erin Newburn,



**Southern Local Schools recognized faculty and staff members during a special appreciation breakfast on May 27. Among them were retirees, from left, Chris Plunkett, Diana Pinkerton and Sue Henthorn.**

Karla Calderon, Kyle Exline, Victoria Nuske, Andrew Vulgamore, Monica Plunkett and Dara Redfern. Ten-year recipients were Greg Sabbato, Emily Brinker, Ashley

Farnsworth, Alyssa Lockhart, Vicki Biggio and Rob Marra. Those who served for 15 years include Kimberly Blatch, Eric Sampson, Mike Skrinjar and Steph Sevek. Among the 20-year honorees were Renee Blakeley, Nikki Lewis and Terra Rauschenberg. Those celebrated for 25 years of service were Tammy Phillips, Michelle Skinner and Tracey Jones. Meanwhile, retirees included Diana Pinkerton, Lynn Beadnell, Chris Plunkett, Calvin Sell, Mary Lou Taylor and Sue Henthorn.

Retirees Chris Plunkett, Diana Pinkerton and Sue Henthorn, who had a combined total of 103 years with Southern Local, thanked the attendants and received a standing ovation.

Plunkett, a paraprofessional with 25 years under her belt, said she was happy to be part of the district.

"They have been my family and they are wonderful to work with," she added.

Pinkerton, who taught for 45 years, agreed.

"I love Southern Local and it will always have a place in my heart," she said.

Ditto for Henthorn, an intervention specialist for 33 years, who added, "I enjoyed every minute here."



## *Goodbye, Class of 2022!*

Forty-eight seniors doffed their caps as they marked a major milestone during the 2022 Commencement at Southern Local High School on May 27. Family and friends watched as the newest alumni bid farewell to their alma mater and prepared to start the next chapter of their lives.

(Photo Credit/JIMMY JOE SAVAGE)

# Seniors Earn Scholarships, Awards at Assembly

Graduates-to-be gathered once more at Southern Local High School before collecting their diplomas for the annual Senior Assembly on May 25.

Proud family members looked on as many of the 48 seniors collected more than \$137,000 in scholarships, including a four-year university grant plus other awards, in the school gym. Senior Class President Ronni Mayfield congratulated her peers and thanked everyone for supporting the seniors as they attained their milestone. SLHS Principal Jay Kiger also heralded the class for their amazing accomplishments, saying they made him extremely proud.

"I continue to be amazed by these accomplishments. You have demonstrated resilience and grit," Kiger said. "This class has been motivated and hugely impactful. You've set the bar high for future graduates."

Academic and athletic awards plus \$137,150 in scholarships were distributed during the event. Among the recipients were the following:

- Emily Walker, K.L. Martin Award for \$300;
- Emily Walker, Franklin B. Walter Scholarship nominee, \$100;
- Emily Walker, Southern Ruritan Club Scholarship, \$500;
- Elizabeth Mostella, Southern Local Perfect Attendance Award K-12;
- Elizabeth Mostella, Columbiana County Coaches Association Scholarship, \$500;
- Adriana Gilliam, Bethany College Kalon Scholarship for \$27,000 annually for four years (\$108,000);
- Emily Walker and Elizabeth Mostella, American Red Cross Scholarship for \$250 each;
- Abbey Powell, Kampfer Family Scholarship, \$750;
- Andrew DeSellem, Columbiana County Farm Bureau Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Andrew DeSellem and Emily Walker, Mar-



**Southern Local High School Senior Class President Ronni Mayfield addresses the crowd during Senior Assembly on May 25.**

cus K. Walter Memorial Scholarship, \$1,100 each;

- Kaden Korbel, Ira Lewis Thompson Memorial Band Scholarship, \$250;
- Andrew DeSellem, Silas Black and Mariah Anderson, career tech honors diplomas;
- Andrew DeSellem Silas Black, Mariah Anderson, Marissa Stewart, Makya Shaw, Emily Walker and Caleb Prendergrast, FFA honors cords;
- Christopher Mason, Andrew DeSellem, Silas Black, Mariah Anderson, Marissa Stewart and Makya Shaw, Columbiana County FFA Scholarships for \$250 each;
- Marissa Stewart, 4-H honor cord;
- Emily Walker, Student Council Dedicated Member Scholarship for \$500;
- Ronni Mayfield, Student Council Above and Beyond Scholarship for \$500;
- Rebecca Passage, Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers' Scholarship, \$300;
- Elizabeth Mostella, Kim and Ashley Bergman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Silas Black and Elizabeth Mostella, U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Awards;
- Andrew DeSellem, U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award;

- Ronni Mayfield, U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Excellence;
- Jordan Powell, American Legion Unit 442 Auxiliary Scholarship, \$250;
- Andrew DeSellem, Sebastian Bach, Silas Black and Emily May, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 442 Scholarships for \$1,000 each.

Additionally, SLHS teacher Alyssa Lockhart presented Southern Local Alumni Scholarships and said a total of \$341,500 has been given to 375 awardees with \$18,000 provided last year. This year's recipients included Emily Walker, \$2,500; Sebastian Bach, \$2,250; Emily Flannery, \$2,000; Andrew DeSellem, \$1,750; Abbey Powell, \$1,750; Elizabeth Mostella, \$1,750; Cameron White, \$1,500; and Rebecca Passage, \$1,500.

Shansky then announced Ohio High Schools Athletic Association Awards for Ronni Mayfield and Bryce Foster, who earned the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Awards, and Elizabeth Mostella, who received the Scholar Athlete Award.

Family members bestowed honor cords upon seniors and recipients included Damon Allen, Mariah Anderson, Sebastian Bach, Sophia Beatty, Silas Black, Riley Collins, Alexis Crooms, Mason Dalehite, Andrew DeSellem, Emily Flannery, Adriana Gilliam, Grace Haught, Emily May, Ronni Mayfield, Elizabeth Mostella, Rebecca Passage, Abby Powell, Jordan Powell, Jordan Rannick, Logan Rhodes Ella Rose, Makya Shaw, Marissa Stewart, Emily Walker, Robert Westover and Cameron White.

Ronni Mayfield and Marissa Stewart presented a class history while Andrew DeSellem and Emily Walker provided a humorous class prophecy regarding the grads at their 10-year reunion. Meanwhile, the junior class took their place in the senior seating section and Mayfield closed the celebration with a thank you to the crowd and congratulations to her fellow seniors.



## Balloon Battle

Preschoolers at Southern Local Elementary battled to pop each other's balloons in a special contest during the annual Field Days activity. Each grade has a moment in the sun with the youngest of the youngsters gathering at Wigwam Stadium to play water games, tennis ball toss, tug-of-war and more as the school year wound down. Pictured are Oliver Goddard, Jack Rodgers, Zayleigh Gimbus, Paxton Rodgers and Emma Mostella as physical education teacher Kathy Randolph and helpers Catie Brewer and Elizabeth Mostella look on.



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# District Information

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## Southern Local Board of Education

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**Have A**  
  
**Great Summer!**

