

Bath School Community Newsletter - Winter 2020

Dear Bath Community,

We had the privilege of honoring the following six individuals last month at our inaugural Hall of Fame induction ceremony. You can find their full biographies on our website and Facebook page, as well as hanging in our high school hallway. We are always looking for deserving people to recognize from our community to induct into our Hall of Fame. Please go to our website www.bathwildcats.org and click on the Hall of Fame link at the bottom right of the page to access our nomination form.

Sincerely,

Rich Dackin

@BathWildcatSupt

#WildcatNation

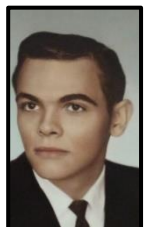
#WildcatWay



Paulett (Owens) Eberhart - Class of 1971, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee

Paulett (Owens) Eberhart is a 1971 graduate of Bath High School where she served as Senior Class Secretary and was a member of the first Bath Women's Basketball Team. After graduating, she attended Bowling Green State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She then went on to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She married Mike Eberhart, a fellow Bath 1971 alum, and they are the proud parents of three children, Jamin, Jessica and Matt. Paulett has two brothers who are also Bath alums, Doug (1969) and Frank (1974) Owens, and she has family that continues to live in the area.

Following her formal education, Paulett moved into a successful business career, becoming a Chief Executive Officer and Fortune 100 leader with a reputation for transforming global businesses. Her early years were spent at Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a global technology services company. After rising through the ranks of the financial area of the organization she took an unprecedented move into the business side where she had increasing responsibility for the operations of multiple ventures, during an era of rapid growth. During her tenure, EDS grew from a small, unknown company founded by Ross Perot, a later U.S. Presidential candidate, to a Fortune 100 global company operating in over 100 countries. She ended her 26-year career at EDS as President of its largest business unit and the youngest and first female Corporate Senior Officer in the company's history. She then served as President and Chief Executive Officer of two global companies, Invensys Process Systems and of CDI, a publicly listed engineering design firm, conducting major turnarounds of each company. Currently, she is Chairman and CEO of HMS Ventures, a consortium involved with the acquisition and management of real estate. Paulett enjoyed her years at Bath High School and appreciated the dedicated teachers and staff that all contributed to her success.



Robert (Bob) Hempker – Class of 1966, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee

Bob is a Bath grad of 1966, who started playing steel guitar at age 12. Bob shares "I had a great instructor. Ron Dearth had a teaching practice on E. Kibby St. in Lima. He really helped me immensely. I started getting calls from local musicians wanting to hire me to play in bars in and around the Lima area. My parents were so understanding in allowing me to do that as long as one of the band members watched out for me."

"In 1969, I got a job offer to go to Nashville, TN to work for Loretta Lynn. She was an up and coming female vocalist. I joined her group, the 'Coal Miners,' in November of '69 and ended up playing for Loretta for 23 years. I have played at the Grand Ole Opry numerous times and still get requests to play there. I have also performed on the *Johnny Carson Show*, *The Today Show*, *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The David Frost show*, *The Flip Wilson Show* as well as the tv show *Midnight Special*. Moreover, I have played at the Lincoln Center in Washington D.C. and for former presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush."



Chief Joseph (Joe) Kitchen – Class of 1988, Community Service Hall of Fame Inductee

Joseph L. Kitchen is Fire Chief of the Bath Township Fire Department. He joined the department in 1990, starting as a volunteer. He served six years as Lieutenant and was appointed Fire Chief in 2002. Chief Kitchen is a graduate of Bath High School, Apollo Career Center Public Safety Program, and Rhodes State College. He holds degrees in both Emergency Medical Services and Fire Science.

He is a Level II firefighter, paramedic, fire investigator, and a certified fire safety inspector. Additionally, he is a Hazmat/Weapons of Mass Destruction Technician, an assistant fire service instructor, and an EMS continuing education instructor.

He believes strongly in the Rotary Club motto of "Service Above Self" and is an active member of the Lima club. Chief Kitchen serves as an advisor of the BHS Interact Club. He has dedicated much of his career to educating Bath students in the areas of fire prevention, safe driving, citizenship, and leadership. He is proud to be a Bath Wildcat and a member of the Bath Township community.



Vicki Mauk – Class of 1976, Athletic Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee

Vicki Mauk was born March 30, 1958 in Lima to Gene and Sue Edwards Mauk and attended Bath Schools all her life. Her parents quickly realized that many of Vicki's talents and abilities rested within the arena of sports. During her time at Bath she kept herself very busy with volleyball, basketball, softball, and track, earning 11 varsity letters in total. When Vicki graduated from Bath in 1976, she decided she wanted to continue her athletic career just down the road at Ohio Northern University, and while she knew being involved in more than one college sport would be a challenge, she decided to give it a try. She chose her three favorite sports – volleyball, basketball, and softball and earned 12 varsity letters as an ONU Polar Bear.

She began her teaching career in 1981 as a physical education teacher at Gomer Elementary and began her coaching career at Delphos Jefferson, where she coached basketball for the 1982-83 season. Vicki went on to coach at Kalida High School, coaching basketball from 1983-1986, and was named two-time Coach of the Year, earned two PCL titles and three sectional championships. Meanwhile, at Elida, she was named assistant volleyball coach in 1982, which began her coaching career with Elida, again, including her three favorite sports – volleyball, basketball, and softball. Two times the volleyball team was named WBL champs and six times the softball team was WBL champions. Her Elida Lady Dawgs basketball team was a two-time state runner-up and in 1997 won the state Division II championship. Additionally, they were five-time WBL champions, seven-time sectional champs, six-time district champs, three-time regional champs, and Vicki was named WBL Coach of the Year five-times and Division II Coach of the Year in 1995. Vicki was previously inducted into the YWCA, Ohio Northern University, and Elida Halls of Fame.



CLASS OF 2019 HALL OF FAME ... continued on back cover

FIFTH GRADE QUIZ BOWL TEAM

The quiz bowl season is here! Twenty-two students participated in try outs. Eight students were selected based on their test scores. During each practice session, the team plays mock games against each other. They follow the procedures they will encounter during a meet. The first half of practice revolves around using the white board as a team. This portion of play requires teamwork, compromise and quickness by four players. The second portion of the practice, the buzzers are used. This round is centered on speed, confidence and individual knowledge. Again, four team members play this portion of the competition. Each practice a new procedural skill is taught. Examples of procedural skills are introducing team members, shaking hands upon the game's conclusion, contesting a judge's initial decision, cleaning the area after a game, using good sportsmanship, encouraging teammates and listening to everyone's ideas. The fifth grade quiz bowl team members are **Tevin Lever-Roose, Eli Ripley, Daniel Plumpe, Landyn Klaus, Kaden Pllaughter, Adeldide Wilver, Kody Slaught,** and **Madilyn Steiner**. Mrs. Wiedenbein is the coach.



WILDCAT KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

The Bath 2020-2021 school year Kindergarten Roundup is ready to begin! To be eligible, a child must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2020. If you have a child who meets this qualification, please go to our website www.bathwildcats.org to register your child. All registrations for the 2020-2021 school year must be done online. Once you have registered your child, please provide the elementary office with the child's birth certificate (which includes mother's maiden name), social security card, immunization record, three documents providing proof of residency in the Bath district, and custody papers, if applicable. Screenings will take place Wednesday, May 27th and Thursday, May 28th. A screening time will be scheduled when you bring the above-mentioned documents to the elementary office. The elementary office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to collect these items or answer any questions you may have.



ELEMENTARY NEWSCATS!

Bath Elementary School fifth grade students, **Ava Amstutz, Emily Spencer, Madilyn Steiner, Gwyn Foust, Eli Ripley, Kadyn Hall, Kamryn Doyle, Marlie Mason, Adelynn Howery, Briley Kaple, Arianna Rasor** and **Braycen Joliff** are this year's staff for the Elementary NewsCats! They are learning how they put together both recorded video announcements for our students to watch as well as live video productions streamed to parents and grandparents if they are unable to make it to the event. Most of the time the NewsCats are able to put together and record video announcements for the students to watch once a week. After several productions this year, it appears The NewsCats are well on their way to producing some high-quality news reports.



BATH ELEMENTARY MATH CAMP

Who: 3rd & 4th grade students

When: February 29th, 2020 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Registration begins at 8:50 a.m.

Where: Bath Elementary School

To register, fill out the paper that will be sent home with the students or fill out the online registration form via the link

(<https://forms.gle/SC9buxZ4AELQXL2e9>) by February 21st, 2020.

To check out a video of what your child might be doing during Math Camp, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm-rBkmiA8A>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- February 3 – Spring Pictures
- February 17 – No School
- March 20 – 2 Hr. Delay



MUSIC IN THE ELEMENTARY

It has been an exciting beginning of the year in elementary music. Our students have all been busy singing, moving, playing instruments, and dancing during music class.

Our fourth grade just performed their musical, *Bugs Christmas*. The students worked hard learning their songs, dances, and lines. This year we had several students who worked back stage. They were surprised to discover that it is nearly as much work to be off stage as it is to be onstage. All the fourth graders came to understand how much work goes into putting together a show. Students did their dress rehearsal for the rest of the elementary and performed their show for the parents that night.

Our brand new kindergarteners just performed their very first concert. They performed many of the songs and chants they learned over the first semester as well as some Christmas songs. They worked really hard learning how to be a performer. Kindergarteners learned how to stand up straight, wait quietly between songs, and not to wave to the audience. That's always the hardest part!

As we move into the second semester, we will begin preparing for the Spring Arts Festival on March 20th. The art show will be displayed in the hallways around the school. Once again, this year will feature a family folk dance at the conclusion of the evening. Fourth graders will be pulling out their recorders for our annual March Madness. Show Choir, Jazz Band, first, second, third and fourth graders will all perform. Dinner tickets will go on sale March 1st. We hope to see you there!

~ Mrs. Hartzler



ELEMENTARY SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to **Landyn Klaus** who finished in first place in the Bath Elementary School Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. Landyn is the son of Eric and Danielle Klaus. **Michael Gantt**, son of Casey and Erin Gantt, was our runner-up and **Faith Jenner**, daughter of Jesse Jenner, took third place. Landyn, being Bath Elementary School's winner, will participate on February 22nd in the Allen County Spelling Bee at 10 a.m. at OSU Lima against other fourth through eighth grade students from the area county schools. He will also compete in The Lima News Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 21st at the Lima Masonic Center.



BATH ELEMENTARY STRIVES to BE KIND!! BE AWESOME!! BE HELPFUL!!

This past fall the elementary students and staff took the picture below with us in the shape of the letters B and E. These letters were to represent Bath Elementary. The B and E were also used to encourage students to BE awesome, BE kind, BE helpful, BE a leader and to BE the best Wildcat they can be by doing things the Wildcat Way. This was a great way to start out the year being united in our approach to a great school year and a great way to introduce our students to the Bath Local Schools new seal. Finally, students were each given a Wildcat Way bracelet, and were asked to do a kind act for someone else and then pass the bracelet onto that person in the hopes of spreading the Wildcat Way to others in and out of our community.



VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

On November 11, Bath Middle School conducted a Veterans Day breakfast and assembly. Our building was honored to have approximately 50 veterans in attendance for the breakfast and the assembly. It was a pleasure to host and to recognize veterans from our community. The activities for the day also provided a valuable lesson to our students about patriotism and service to our country. The middle school would like to thank our veterans for their service and for spending part of their day with us.



NEW LIBRARY AIDE

Starting in late December, the middle school welcomed Ginger Stahr as our new library aide. Mrs. Stahr is a member of the Bath community and a Bath alum. She previously worked at Bath Elementary. She takes the place of Tara Mulholland, who moved out of state. The middle school welcomes Mrs. Stahr to our building and wishes Mrs. Mulholland the best of luck in her new home state.



BMS PARENT ADVISORY GROUP

At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, Bath Middle School initiated a Parent Advisory Group. The parent advisory group gives parents a better understanding of what happens at BMS on a day to day basis. It also allows parents to bring concerns they may have to the principal. Lastly, members of this group act as a liaison between the community and the middle school. The Parent Advisory Group meets once a month on the second or third Monday of the month. New members are always welcome. Please contact the middle school office if you are interested in joining our advisory group.

GUIDANCE RESOURCES

Parents are encouraged to review the resources and information available on the Bath Middle School website under the Guidance Counselor tab. Information provided includes a list of area counseling services, assistance with ProgressBook, and a list of tutors that are available in the area. This valuable information can be accessed at:
<http://www.bathwildcats.org/GuidanceCounselor.aspx>



Working together for our children's success

BMS ON TWITTER!

Community members are encouraged to follow the Bath Middle School Twitter account @BathMidSchool to view current information, photos and building happenings that are relative to Bath Middle School and the Bath Local Schools in general. Students and parents are also reminded to register for middle school text alerts. Registration for text alerts is available at the Bath Local Schools website www.bathwildcats.org



SPELLING BEE

Bath Middle School recently completed its school-wide spelling bee. Our seventh graders finished strong! Congratulations to spelling bee champion **Mindy Young** (7th grade), **Taylor Young** (7th grade), who finished 2nd place, and **Jaden Ryan** (7th grade), who finished in third place. Congratulations to all the students who participated in our spelling bee. Also, a big thank you to Mrs. Meg Rockhold for organizing the event.



NAVIANCE AND CAREER EDUCATION

Bath Middle School continues to place an increased emphasis on career education. An exciting change to our career education plan this year has been the addition of Naviance. Naviance is a college and career readiness software program that partners with high schools and other k-12 institutions to provide students with college planning and career assessment tools. All middle school students will be involved in this college and career readiness program. If you have not discussed our new Naviance program with your child, we would encourage you to ask your student about it. You can find a link to Naviance for middle school students on our homepage. Ask your student to log into their account and show you all Naviance has to offer!

Additional valuable information pertaining to careers and college can be accessed at www.bathwildcats.org/collegecareerreadiness.aspx. If you have any questions about the Naviance program or the information on this website, please contact the middle school office.

Furthermore, our sixth-grade students will be exposed to numerous career fields via regular guest speakers. Sixth grade students will also receive career-based projects during their keyboarding/technology class.

While we do not expect middle school students to make career decisions at this age, our hope is that we have given them the tools, experiences and exposure to a variety of career choices while in middle school to help guide them as they begin to make decisions concerning their future.



**Naviance for HS
Students**



**Naviance for MS
Students**

QUIZ BOWL

The Bath Middle School 6th grade Quiz Bowl is once again competing in the Allen County Academic Team competition held at Shawnee Middle School. The season, which runs from the middle of January through the end of February, will see the Bath team facing 13 teams from Allen and Auglaize counties. Question topics can range from current events to math, science, social studies, and even music. We would like to wish coach Rohrbaugh and the following students representing Bath Middle School this year good luck in their competition: **Karson Green, Tarek Horn, Hunter Neff, August Plumpe, Jacob Rasor, Ethan Tellez, Carter Schrock, Connor Wright.**



BMS STUDENT COUNCIL

The Bath Middle School Student Council has been busy this year with several community service projects. The students collected almost 800 pairs of new socks to donate to the Lima Rescue Mission and Family Promise. Over Christmas break, 18 students and a couple of parents volunteered to serve lunch at Our Daily Bread, then went to the Lima Mall to ring the bell for the Salvation Army, where they collected over \$400.

The group will do a spring service project at the middle school where they will pick up trash and plant flowers. They also plan to volunteer at Our Daily Bread again over the summer to continue the mission of service. The middle school student council advisor is Mrs. Bonnie Wicker.



UPCOMING DATES

- February 19 – 8th grade parent scheduling meeting
- February 29 – Science Fair
- March 6 – Health Fair
- March 16 – Band & Choir concert
- April 28-May 1 – 8th Grade DC Trip



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY- NEW INDUCTEES

Congratulations to the newest members who were recently inducted into the Bath High School chapter of the National Honor Society.

Ta'Niya Allen
Chandler Clark
Abbie Dackin
Jordan Dilworth
Hannah Duncan
McKenna Hale
Haylee Hammons
Emily Harnishfeger
Raleigh Highland
Trey Johnson
Mariam Khan
Faith Kindig
Noah Kindig

Rylee Koslakiewicz
Linnaea Long
Mariah Mathews
Kaitlyn May
Peyton Moyler
Elijah Miles
Kanyon Poling
Claire Plikerd
Madelyn Renner
Charles Schneider
Megan Tracy
Grace Wagar
Sara Watkins



OHSAA- STATE QUALIFIERS

Girls' Tennis- **Esther and Ruby Bolon**

For the second year in a row, juniors Esther and Ruby Bolon teamed up in doubles competition for the OHSAA state tennis tournament. The duo advanced to the second round of this year's tournament before losing a close match. Congratulations to Esther and Ruby for another great season!



FALL ATHLETIC RECOGNITION

The following student-athletes earned these All-WBL honors this season:

Honorable Mention: **Kira Stall** (Cross Country), **Andrew Burkholder** (Golf), **Eden Adkins** (Volleyball), **Keaton Liles** (Boys' Soccer), **Lexi Renner** (Girls Soccer), **Rachel Wilcox** and **Chloe Rieman** (Girls' Tennis-4th place in second doubles), **Elena Oliver** and **Fayme Gandhi** (Girls' Tennis- 4th place in first doubles), **Carter Parlapiano** (Football), **Lex Boedicker** (Football), **Derek Grigsby** (Football), **Zach Simpson** (Football)

Third Team: **McKenna Hale** (Girls' Soccer), **Zach Garza** (Boys' Soccer)

Second Team: **Mallory Clark** (Volleyball), **Alexis Hammons** (Girls' Soccer), **Jonathan Wiggins** (Boys' Soccer), **Trey Johnson** (Football)

First Team: **Britton Hall** (Golf), **Ainsley Miller** (Girls' Soccer), **Chandler Clark** (Girls' Soccer), **Brenton Brock** (Boys' Soccer), **Ruby Bolon** (Champion- Second Singles), **Esther Bolon** (Champion- First Singles)

Player of the Year: **Chandler Clark** (Girls' Soccer)

Congratulations athletes!

2019 HOMECOMING PARADE AND BONFIRE

A BIG Wildcat thank you goes out to all who were involved in this year's Homecoming parade and bonfire. We also want to thank those who volunteered to drive this year's Homecoming attendants onto the field at halftime. Your time, efforts, and participation are greatly appreciated! We had a fantastic turnout and hope for the same next year.

TUTORING HELP IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

Did you know student members of the National Honor Society offer tutoring during most study hall periods, Monday through Thursday? Students who would like help must sign up with Mr. Garland in Study Hall, who will notify the NHS tutor. For further information or questions, contact Mrs. Ellington, National Honor Society Advisor, at ellingtonc@bathwildcats.org or 419-221-0366, ext 2207.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- education.ohio.gov – Parent Resources, Community Resources, Earning a High School Diploma, etc...
- ohiomeansjobs.com – In-Demand Careers, Career Pathways, K-12 Students, College Student
- [ohioalerts](#) – Bath High School District Text Alerts
- bathwildcats.org – BHS Practice Tests, Handbook, E-Mail, Progress Book, Guidance/Calendar, etc...



HALL OF FAME GUEST SPEAKERS

Bath High School inducted six members into our inaugural Hall of Fame. On Friday, December 13, three of these inductees talked to our students and staff at the high school. Paulett (Owens) Eberhart (Class of 1971), Joe Kitchen (Class of 1988), and Gretchen Prichard (Teacher and Hall of Fame Girls' Basketball Coach) answered questions about their experiences at Bath in addition to sharing their perspectives on why they have achieved success. The assembly kicked off a terrific Hall of Fame Weekend. Plaques with their full bios can be found in the hallway located outside our cafeteria.

Congratulations to all six Hall of Fame inductees, who exhibit the #WildcatWay!



INTERACT CLUB BARREL DRIVE

The Bath High School Interact Club teamed up with the Bradfield Community Center to host a coat drive during the last week of October. Families were encouraged to donate coats, gloves, hats and thermal socks of all sizes to the barrels located in each building. The club also collected food for Meals 'til Monday at the football game the same week. Thank you to all who donated and your commitment to help others.



A SEASON OF GIVING

With the assistance of National Honor Society and the Spanish Club, Student Council was able to help 18 families this year. The Spanish Club donated hats, gloves, and scarves. Our NHS members donated gifts for each child in every family, as well as a Good Foods gift card. Student Council donated all the necessities for a full holiday meal along with toiletries and other

household items. NHS members and Student Council members delivered these donations the week before Christmas.



Congratulations to Bath High School seniors **Derek Inskeep** and **Noah Kindig** on their recent honors. Derek is this year's recipient of the *Honda/OSU STEM* award, and Noah is Bath's recipient of the *Daughters of American Revolution Good Citizenship* award.

SCHEDULING 2020-2021 SY: Guidance will be speaking with our students the week of February 18th during wildcat time about scheduling for next school year. A scheduling meeting with this year's 8th grade parents will be Tuesday, February 18 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. All schedules will be due by March 6th.

LOOKING AHEAD

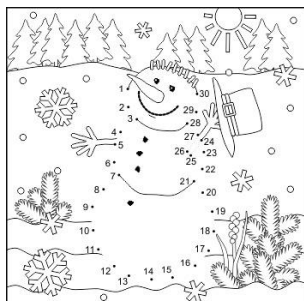
ACT- Junior class only	Tuesday, February 25 at 8:15 a.m.
BHS Blood Drive	Friday, March 27 at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in high school gym
End of Course Exams	Wednesday, April 15 - ELA I and ELA II (Part 1)
	Thursday, April 16 - ELA I and ELA II (Part 2)
	Tuesday, April 28 - Algebra I and Geometry (Part 1 and 2)
	Thursday, April 30- American History & American Gov't (Part 1 & 2)
	Tuesday, May 5 - Biology (Part 1 & 2)
AP Exam	Wednesday, May 6
Honor's Banquet	Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in auditorium
Prom Mock Crash	Thursday, May 7
Prom	Saturday, May 9 at 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at UNOH Event Center
Relay for Life	Friday, May 15
Last Day for Seniors	Friday, May 15
Senior Breakfast	Friday, May 22 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Cafeteria
Graduation Practice	Friday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. - MANDATORY
Graduation	Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Bath Stadium





BATH LOCAL SCHOOLS
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BATH LOCAL SCHOOLS DIRECTORY

BATH ADMINISTRATION

Rich Dackin, Superintendent
Annette Morman, Treasurer
2650 Bible Road
Lima, OH 45801
(419) 221-0807

BATH ELEMENTARY

Chris Renner, Principal
Chris Clark, Asst. Principal
2450 Bible Road
Lima, OH 45801
(419) 221-1837

BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brad Clark, Principal
Todd Fleharty, Asst. Principal
2700 Bible Road
Lima, OH 45801
(419) 221-1839

BATH HIGH SCHOOL

Brian Jesko, Principal
Cam Staley, Asst. Principal
2850 Bible Road
Lima, OH 45801
(419) 221-0366

CLASS OF 2019 HALL OF FAME

Continued from the front cover page, our Hall of Fame 2019 Inductee's



Gretchen Prichard – Teacher & Coach 1958 – 1997, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee

Gretchen Prichard taught Health, English and Physical Education at Bath High School for 38 years from 1958-1997 and started the girls' basketball, volleyball and softball programs before deciding to focus solely on basketball.

Coach "P" was known as a "Pioneer of Girls Athletics" in Ohio. Her overall record at Bath was 460-119 ending her career 2nd on the win list for Ohio High School Girls Basketball Coaches. Her 1971-1976 basketball teams won 62 consecutive games, the state's longest. She coached six teams to undefeated regular seasons and had only one losing campaign. Three years later that team was the 1987 OHSAA State Champions, the first Bath team to win a state title. Ten years later, in 1996, the Wildkittens were State Runner-up.

To honor her achievements, Coach Prichard was named to the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame, the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, and an inaugural member of the Ohio Girls Basketball Magazine Hall of Fame. She was twice named Ohio's "Coach of the Year", and District 8, All- Northwest Ohio, and WBL "Coach of the Year" a total of 11 times.



Jerry Ward – Class of 1960, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee

BGen (Brigadier General) Jerry Ward began life in Lima, OH in 1942, born to Joseph and Ethel Ward. He was the youngest of six children and brother to Mary (retired Bath School Bus driver), Betty, Norma, Helen, and Joseph. He was a proud BHS graduate, class of 1960, where he played for the Bath football team. He went on to graduate with honors from Bowling Green State University where he continued his football career. He was an Academic All-American football star, Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities and began towards a pro football career.

Jerry, however, chose to put football aside to pursue a burning interest in aviation and entered the Marine Corps in August of 1966. While in the Marine Corps, Jerry was also able to play football for the Marines while stationed in Virginia before heading to his duties in Vietnam. Jerry attended flight school and shortly after he was deployed, he became one of the first Huey gunship drivers, where he earned two of the most distinguished single mission Air Medals – the Distinguished Flying Cross twice and a Purple Heart after his helicopter was shot down. He flew over 1,250 missions in Vietnam. After active duty, he opted to transfer to the Reserves at NAS Norfolk, VA flying the CH-46. Later, he transferred to NAS Alameda, CA to fly the CH-53w and later command the HMH-769. His final tour was as Commanding General of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing before he retired in 1997 after 31 years of faithful and committed service.

Jerry was honored by those who knew him with the gesture of the memorial of the Marine Corps Reserve Aviation Chair that is located at the Minutemen Memorial Building in Washington, DC. BGen Ward will also proudly be moved to rest eternally at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. in the near future.