

# THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Stop in La Grange McDonald's any weekday morning between 7 to 9 a.m. and you'll find a group of friends gathered with the coffee and conversation flowing. The Breakfast Club has been meeting at McDonald's for decades and though members have changed over the years, the fellowship and laughter has been a constant. The Club averages anywhere from 10 to 20 most mornings with retirees mainly from Ford or GE, but says anyone is welcome to join the group. The group eats breakfast together, discuss the latest news, celebrates good days together and supports each other on hard days. With some regulars dealing with grief and health issues, the club has been a godsend members said. McDonald's owner Emily Kasselmann said she was proud to inherit and host the group when she took over the restaurant, "I love having them here. They are a special group." McDonald's recently gifted the club with matching "Good morning McDonald's" trucker hats because after all, any morning started with friends is a good morning.



Right: The La Grange McDonald's Breakfast Club enjoys coffee and conversation.



Left: The Breakfast Club can be found at McDonald's in La Grange weekdays from around 7-9 a.m. The group, which can be anywhere from 10-20, welcomes new members and says the more, the merrier.



Vietnam vet and former GE employee John Ackerman and his wife Mary are regulars at the La Grange McDonald's Breakfast Club. They used to go to Pendleton McDonald's in the mornings after they retired but as that group dwindled they started coming to La Grange.



Retired sewing machine operator Mary Ackerman says she and her husband John have been married 52 years and are enjoying retirement together. They start every weekday at McDonald's in La Grange. Of the group, they are the only married couple that attend together.



Left: Veteran and Center-field resident Donald Taylor, retired from 30 years, enjoys the daily conversations at La Grange McDonald's. He has been a member of the Breakfast Club for two to three years.

## RESIGNS

FROM PAGE A1

Regarding his reasoning for resigning, Dennis said: "I always stated the day that I lose my knowledge and connection within the schools, then it is time for me to hand over the reins. I no longer have a child in the district and the time has come ...

"I am now encouraging a parent to step up and represent District 4 on the school board ...

"Trust the members who you voted for and stop the criticism and constant hate of the ones you worked so hard to get into these positions. The current board will pick a great candidate or will have solid leadership in place to drive the ship until a quality candidate is chosen."

The board approved Dennis' resignation unanimously and are advertising the position in a legal notice in the Era. The position will only last until elections in November 2026. The application deadline is June 20 at noon.

The board also approved the designs for a school-wide renovation to South Oldham High School. The renovations will occur in four main phases over a three-and-a-half-year period.

The renovations will feature about 126,000 square feet in additions, including 22 new classrooms, though every inch of the school will be updated in some way.

Meant to achieve a more high-

er-education feel, renovations also include the auditorium, gym, cafeteria, art lab, concessions area, collaboration spaces in stair areas, spirit shop and media center with a large ceiling feature.

The project is expected to cost approximately \$97 million in total, though market prices and competitive bidding could raise or lower the overall price.

In other news, the board also gave numerous recognitions, including:

- Students accepted into the 2025 Governor's Scholars Program: Abigail Dehner, Georgia Downs, Emerson Fischer, Erica Freeland, Amelia Hayes, Alexandra Kachalova, Veeksha Katta, Grace Myers, Savannah Smith, Lauren Yang, Kathleen Zhao, Camden Killian, Bryan Xia, Jordan Ballard, Elsie Husband, Emerson Miller, Eyla Rhodes, George Ackert, Catheryn Brown, Sophia Flanagan, Zoe Gatewood, Molly James, Elle Jones, Kara Loechle, Will Matthews, Mallory Sackella, Lila Spadavecchia, Robert Toe, Allison VanMeter, Owen Wells and Abigail Keeling.
- Students accepted into the 2025 Governor's School for the Arts: Abigail Howell, Dance; Caroline Bednar, Dance; Emma Ricketts, Visual Art; Anna Powers, Instrumental Music, Percussion; Piper Davino, Instrumental Music, Woodwind; Georgia Downs, Musical Theatre; Simon Hay, Instrumental Music, Piano; Anna Jamison, Creative Writing; Jacob Kimberl, Instrumental

Music, Percussion; Alexander Reynolds, Musical Theatre; Leysha Gudibanda, Visual Art; Ada Heppermann, Creative Writing; Isla Oeffinger, Design; Savannah Smith, Dance; Claire Denison, Dance; Jenna Hefner, Musical Theatre; Aubrey Johnson, Musical Theatre; Anthony Payne, Instrumental Music, Brass; and Zakkary Lehmann, Vocal Music.

- Students accepted into the 2025 Governor's School for Entrepreneurs: Leysha Gudibanda, Wesley Tonn, Oliver Killian and Nadir Abozaid
- Students accepted into the Commonwealth Honors Academy: Eyla Rhodes and Leah Wheeler.
- Students who placed in the State Student Technology Leadership Program Championship: Samuel Johnson, 1st place 3D Design; Pryce Hendrick, 1st Place 3D Design; Lara Fields, Emma Jane Lopes and Seth Pease, 1st Place Feature Video; Colton Grace, Logan Brodsky and Pryce Hendrick, 2nd Place Animation; Emma Holobinko, 2nd Place Manipulated Image; RCX Eaglestrike Team — Adeline Ibershoff, Korben Creason, Sadie Powell, Connor O'Brien and Royce Wilde — 1st place in Habitat Design Challenge; Mercy Grorud, Graham Kelty and Abby Kaelin, 1st Place PSA; Hailey Martin, Brooke Martin, Phoebe Church and Lucy Burton, 1st Place Documentary; Ella Van Allen, Hosanna Grorud and Mia McCoy, 1st Place Help Desk; Greyson Perkins,

1st Place Screen Capture; Zoey Adamson, Lorelei Minzenberger, Theodore Suddeth, Owen Friggle, Amelia Hatcher, Lily Silveira, Lucas Grimes and Abby Kaelin, 2nd Place Cinemania; Alessio Parrino, Carlos Gonzalez, Alexa Wait, Laney Freeles and Tobi Edens, 1st Place K-5 Minecraft, Creative Digital Arts; and Alessio Parrino, Claire Carey, Kenneth Parker, Dylan Henson and Michael Carpenter, 2nd Place K-5 Newscast.

- Students who placed in the State Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Conference: Chloe Charlet and Sophia Culp, 1st Place Interior Design; Makayla Tucker, 2nd Place Job Interview; Ashley McCurdy, 2nd Place Interpersonal Communications; Alexis Barnum and Caroline Greenfield, 3rd Place Event Management; and Akua Asamoah, 3rd Place Fashion Design.
- Ignite Passion Award Winners Teacher Marti Wilkins of North Oldham Middle School and Library Media Specialist Jessica Holmes of Kenwood Station Elementary.
- Oldham County Schools Communications Assistant Heather Peters, who is instrumental in organizing the recognitions for each meeting, Radford said.

The board meeting also featured a student showcase from Kenwood Station Elementary's Student Leadership Team, composed of over 70 students from third grade to fifth grade.

Participating students apply

to a committee of interest, where they have the opportunity to be a positive leader throughout Kenwood. Activities include being a role model in classrooms of younger students, being part of a school cleanup crew and assisting in the morning announcements.

During public comment, local resident Olivia Tipton told the board that, after submitting an open records request, her daughter's name and student ID were publicly posted online on the Kentucky School Board Association public portal.

Tipton expressed her concern over her daughter's information being publicly released, and called the list where all open records requests are published "the list of shame," and claimed it is used to discourage the public from filing open records requests.

"Shame on you, Oldham County Schools, for allowing this. And shame on you, board, for not looking over this. I feel like it is a gross disservice," Tipton said.

"I certainly don't want to create a situation where I'm coming across as disagreeing ... [but] if that is the case, then we will look into that and I will follow-up with you personally ... that's not something we ever want to do, nor try, nor should we," responded Radford.

The Oldham County Board of Education's next meeting will be held June 9, at 4:45 p.m. — rescheduled from the original date of June 23.

# Congratulations to all 2025 Graduates!

Graduation is just the beginning, learning never stops.  
Learning means staying informed and  
**The Oldham Era** is the best way to  
*keep learning growing!*

3-Month Subscription for

**\$10.50**

PLUS KY SALES TAX

**ORDER TODAY!** Local delivery area only.  
**Offer Expires June 30, 2025!**  
3 Months for \$10.50 + \$0.63 KY Sales Tax = \$11.13

YOUR BILLING INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME/PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT/DEBIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRES (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last 3 digits on back of card)

**3 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!**

- **CALL**  
502-222-7183
- **CLIP & MAIL**  
P.O. Box 1480  
Owensboro, KY 42302
- **VISIT**  
105 S. Walnut  
La Grange KY 40031

**The Oldham Era**  
Your News Since 1876.

All Access Includes The Oldham Era Print Edition & 24/7 @ oldhamera.com

All information and payment required to receive this special non-refundable offer. Offer only available to new subscribers in our local delivery area who have not had a subscription in the last 3 months. If you respond to this offer but do not qualify for introductory pricing, the expiration date will be prorated to match the payment to your current rate. Your subscription includes 24/7 digital access to all content available online. Your subscription expiration stop is automatic after a 28-day grace period. All rates include KY sales tax, where applicable. Yes, I authorize the The Oldham Era to instruct my credit/debit card company to debit my credit/debit card account as I have requested above. Hurry! Offer expires June 30, 2025.