

The Tartan Then and Now: 1962-2020

By Adam Robb

Founded in 1958, Oak Hills High School became the home for the Highlanders. Eight years after the door to Oak Hill was first opened, a young English Literature and Film teacher came up with an idea to keep the school informed about things happening around them. And thus The Tartan was born, in 1962 under the watchful eye of Eugene Wagner, the same man who created it. The Tartan is still being printed today, however with only two issues a year. The paper, over its many years, was subjected to changes that have mostly stemmed from the evolution of pop culture and technology. The topics I will be focusing on in this article consist of student life/classes, sports, pop-culture, and technology.

The Tartan's humble beginning was a way for the students of Oak Hills to connect. The Tartan was focused on students writing for other students, with more student interactions built into the papers. It also focused more on student life rather than news stories and national events. This is evident in the October 1, 1966 edition of The Tartan, as throughout they talk about homecoming and the homecoming football games. There was a piece in the sports section of the paper, where the Tartan staff had students from every grade to submit personal drawings of signs they would take to the homecoming game against Mt. Healthy. This element of student interaction between the staff and the students seems to give the paper more of an inclusive feel, that isn't too prominent in the later issues of The Tartan. Other articles included in this issue of The Tartan include a seven-way tie for Homecoming queen, and Oak Hills students entering a national sing competition. Another way The Tartan tried to adhere to the student body as a whole is through the many different opinion piece articles that focused on student-based problems in the school. The opinion pieces are the most prominent in the March 19, 2010 issue of The Tartan, with an article that concerned the student dress code in an article titled: *"Penguins Waddle the Halls. Why We Need A Student Dress Code* by Mike Otten. These fun, student-based articles became a way for students to cut back. This is prominent in the 1998 and 2006 issues as we found the additions of the senior superlatives and the Best and Worst in the parking lot. Even though



these articles were light-hearted, they soon were discontinued as The Tartan received complaints about these articles.

The Tartan seemed to cover the Oak Hills sports and activities teams since its ultimate birth in the late 60s, covering everything from football to the band and theater. Covered in the 1966 issue of The Tartan, it focuses on the homecoming game, which reveals that during this time, the rival of the school had been Mt Healthy.

As technology became more advanced and easier to use, The Tartan had to shift its processes. When The Tartan started everything had to be produced, edited, and printed through paper means. A large team of writers and editors contributed many hours to the perfection of the Tartan itself, the result, a student, and sports-focused paper. With the newly implemented technology of the computer becoming more excusable to the public, The Tartan was soon being produced quicker than ever before. With the domination of the phone business and the rise of social media in the early 2000s, the idea of information about others and world events became more and more mainstream.

Overall, in its decade-long life, Tartan faced many different challenges and changes that reflected the issues and events around the world. It's a privilege and an honor to look back at what the Tartan used to be, and it's an honor to follow in my grandfather's, Eugene Wanger's footsteps.