



Contact: Sandra Jensen
Phone: (440) 949-5819
Email: sjensen@sheffieldschools.org
Website: www.sheffieldschools.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Brookside High School Names the 2024 Gallery of Success Inductees

Selected alumni receive awards!

[Sheffield Village, OH, April 25, 2024] Brookside High School will induct the newest members of the Gallery of Success- alumni who have made remarkable contributions and have demonstrated the values of the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake Community through their actions and accomplishments. The Gallery of Success recipients will be honored at the annual Senior Awards Ceremony on May 8, 2024, at 630pm at Brookside High School. The committee aims to choose candidates who inspire others through their leadership and integrity, recognizing those who have left a legacy in their community through their achievements, engagement, and kindness. Nomination applications were accepted by the committee throughout the year up until March 29, 2024. In addition, each application will be kept in the running for five years.

This year the committee will induct three members into the Gallery of Success. These amazing alumni truly have earned the privilege to be a member of the Gallery of Success at Brookside High School. Receiving this distinguished award is the pinnacle of what it means to be a great alumnus and our inductees serve as an inspiration for our students and faculty. This year's inductees are:

Sheri Smith Hancock ('91) - Celebrated for her dedication, passion, and remarkable achievements as an entrepreneur in the beauty industry. Sheri recently celebrated her 25th Anniversary as the owner of Fine Bella and has garnered national recognition including the prestigious 2022 Creativity in Customer Service Award by Salon Today. Beyond her professional achievements, Sheri is a devoted mother of three and an active community member giving back whenever she has the opportunity. As a 1991 alumni, Sheri is a shining example of achievement, engagement, and kindness.

James T Walther ('78) - Honored and recognized for his commitment to the people of Lorain County. Judge James Walther has been serving as a judge for Lorain County Probate Court since he was sworn in on February 9, 2009, and has served as the presiding Judge of the Common Pleas Court since 2010. Throughout the years, Judge Walther has been actively involved outside of the courtroom. He has played an intricate role in helping various organizations and programs in his community. Whether spearheading The New Journey Court to help individuals with mental illness or volunteering as a community speaker, he inspires others through his leadership and integrity. Judge Walther believes wholeheartedly in the motto of his court "Never look down on somebody unless you are helping them up". As a 1978 alumni, Jim Walther makes an excellent addition to The Gallery of Success at Brookside High School.

Mary Jane Bloom ('41) - Distinguished for her work and dedication to the non-profit sector, as well as being an accomplished author and professional storyteller. Mary Jane developed a strong sense of devotion to the non-profit sector with her commitment to her work with the Lorain County Easter Seals Society. Mary Jane earned the prestigious title of Executive Director and went on to write the

book, *From Tragedy to Triumph: A History of the Easter Seals Society*. She has received many accolades and awards for her efforts and achievements. Following her retirement, Mary Jane continues to give back to her community through her professional storytelling at schools, churches and hospitals giving children an incentive to read and helping them overcome the fear of public speaking. Mary Jane Bloom is a distinguished alumnus of the Brookside class of 1941 and is celebrated for her achievement, engagement, and kindness within her community and beyond.

To learn more about the Gallery of Success or to nominate alumni, check out the alumni page on the Sheffield- Sheffield Lake district website [Alumni / Alumni \(sheffieldschools.org\)](http://Alumni/Alumni(sheffieldschools.org)). Any questions or inquiries related to the upcoming induction ceremony or future nominations; contact Brad DeLuca, at bdeluca@sheffieldschools.org or 440-949-4219.