



# The Oakwood Schools Foundation is pleased to announce, the 16th Annual Harlamert Foundation Entrepreneurship Competition

## About the Competition

This annual competition, administered by the Oakwood Schools Foundation thanks to the generosity of Irvin Harlamert, JD (OHS class of 1948), emphasizes the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit on the success of our society and encourages students to explore and understand the experience of entrepreneurs. The competition was first held in 2010 and is open to all students at Oakwood High School.

## Important dates

- February 3, 2025 — **Written entries due to the Oakwood Schools Foundation**
- March 18, 2025 — **Awards breakfast for winners, parents, and entrepreneurs**

## Competition Assignment and Guidelines

Spend at least half a day shadowing an entrepreneur and submit a written report about your experience. Be creative; tap into original ideas and highlight your personal experiences and reflections.

- **Prize Money:** Awarded based on the quality of your submission.
- **Deadlines:** Meet all deadlines and follow the provided instructions.
- **Essay Quality:** Submit high-quality, fully proofread work.
- **Content:** Essays must be your own work, with an introduction, supporting details, and conclusion.
- **Word Count:** Between 750 and 1,000 words.
- **Photo Requirement:** Include a picture of you and the entrepreneur with your essay.
- **Entrepreneur:** Cannot be from your household and must be different from those used in 2024, including:

Shoppe Smitten Unlisted Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Be At Home Properties Kettering Health Mindful Movement Roseberry Allen Sweet Rivers Boutique and Jewelry Diana Cleaning Speakeasy Yoga There's a Wine for That! Claire Dunn Real Estate	Johnson Investment Council Dinkler Law Office Deddens Media Robert Deddens Law Office The Prime Residence Group Little Acorn Academy Millennium Reign Energy LLC Showen Motors and SureLock Storage 614 Media Group Stance Physical Therapy & Running Clinic All The Best Deli Laura's Cookies
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## What is an Entrepreneur?

The stereotypical profile of an entrepreneur—a male businessman who started his own company and has become extraordinarily wealthy—no longer applies. Entrepreneurs are male and female, young and old, involved in both vocations and avocations. Success is no longer defined largely by an accumulation of wealth but can be measured in many other ways.

The French word *entrepreneur* is loosely translated as someone who "undertakes to accomplish something." However, its broader definition encompasses anyone who takes the initiative to create or build something. This could include a piano teacher from Dayton offering lessons from their home, an individual running for public office, or even a member of the clergy. Entrepreneurs can also be artists, like a painter opening a gallery, or performers, such as actors and musicians. The term applies to professionals, too, such as lawyers, doctors, and dentists. Ultimately, an entrepreneur is anyone who enters into an enterprise, regardless of whether they achieve financial success.

## Deadlines and How to Submit

The deadline is Monday, February 3, 2025.

- We're collecting ALL entries on a Google form here: <https://forms.gle/N55UgSadR9YPQtdU9>
- A pdf of these guidelines and another link to the Google form to submit can be found here: [Harlamert Entrepreneurship Competition | Oakwood Schools Foundation](#).
- Please email [contact@oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org](mailto:contact@oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org) if you need help submitting your work or need to make other arrangements to submit your entry.

## Content and Scoring

Your entry will be read by members of our review committee and scored in several areas, including content, flow, and word length. The criteria below are suggestions for organizing your essay. The more of these elements that you touch on in your essay, the higher your score.

### Introduction

#### Describe the Business:

- What is the business? Provide a brief description of the entrepreneur's business, including its products, services, or focus area.
- How long has it been operating? Mention the start date or timeline of the business and any significant milestones.
- What are its goals? Outline the primary goals of the business, such as growth, community impact, or innovation within a specific field.

### Questions for the Entrepreneur

#### Prior to the Start-Up Phase:

- **Source of the Idea:** Where did the idea for the business come from? Was it a personal need, market gap, or inspiration?
- **Influences and Background:** What past experiences, education, or mentors helped shape the entrepreneur's ability to start the business?
- **Previous Experience:** Did the entrepreneur have any relevant work experience before starting the business?

### The Start-Up Phase:

- **Planning and Strategy:** What kind of planning was done (business plan, market research, etc.)?
- **Advice and Support:** Did the entrepreneur seek outside advice (mentors, consultants, etc.)?
- **Financing:** How was the business financed? Personal savings, loans, investors?
- **Risk Analysis:** What risks did the entrepreneur consider before starting? Were they calculated or based on instinct?

### Additional Questions:

- **Passion for the Business:** Does the entrepreneur enjoy the work? Why or why not?
- **Role Models:** Are there any role models or mentors who influenced their path?
- **Timing:** Was the timing right to start? Was it too early, too late, or perfect?
- **Mistakes and Lessons:** What mistakes were made, and how did the entrepreneur correct them? What did they learn from them?
- **Risks and Rewards:** Were the risks too high or too low? Did the rewards meet expectations?

### After Achieving Success:

- **Success Milestones:** When did the business become established and successful?
- **Effort and Challenges:** Was the journey harder or easier than expected? What were the biggest challenges?
- **Future Plans:** Is the entrepreneur looking to grow the business further, or have they reached their peak?
- **Additional Ventures:** Did the success of this business lead to new ventures?

### Your Conclusions

- **What did you learn?** What knowledge did you pick up that you didn't know before? Did you learn more about the challenges and rewards of running a business?
- **What surprised you?** Did something surprise you about the entrepreneur's approach, the industry, or the realities of entrepreneurship?
- **What impressed you?** Was it their work ethic, problem-solving ability, creativity, or resilience? What qualities or actions stood out as particularly inspiring?
- **What scared you?** Were there risks the entrepreneur took that made you nervous or challenges that seemed overwhelming?
- **Have you thought about being an entrepreneur before this experience?** Did it make you more interested in starting your own business, or did it give you a clearer understanding of what's involved?
- **If you should ever become an entrepreneur, what would your dream endeavor be?** If you could start any business, what would it be and why? What problems would you want to solve, and what motivates you to pursue that venture?

**GOOD LUCK!**

*We look forward to receiving your entry.*

**Deadline: February 3, 2025**

**Questions? Email us at [contact@oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org](mailto:contact@oakwoodschooolsfoundation.org)**