

Brush Alumni Association



your NEWSLETTER

This is **your** newsletter! Although we are here to facilitate its publication, we cannot be entirely responsible for its content. That's up to you! Doing something interesting that you think other alumni might want to read about? Getting together with some classmates for a dinner? Weekend? Vacation? Take some pictures, write an article, and send it in! Articles and photos can be submitted to our email: **office@brushalumni.org** We look forward to hearing from you and ask you to help us keep the ARC spirit alive!

Yearbooks Needed

In order to keep a complete set of yearbooks, we are in need of yearbooks from the following years: 1932, 1933, 1934, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1943, 1952, 1956, and 1992. If you have a yearbook from any of these years you would like to donate, we would appreciate it.

Join Us!

To Join the Alumni Association and/or to sign up for our electronic newsletter, visit <https://www.brushalumni.com/>

Venmo

We now have VENMO! @BrushAlumniAssociation

Alumni Association

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Alumni Arc-Lite

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ALUMNI ARC-LITE

CHARLES F. BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2025

Highlighting the Past, Illuminating the Present, Sparking the Future

BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL 100 YEARS Celebrating All That We Were...and Everything We Are

SAVE THE DATE

Brush High School is celebrating 100 years!



2026

**October 2
October 3
October 4**



There will be several events planned for the weekend. Potentially including events and activities on Friday night at the football game. **AND**, a dinner dance bash on Saturday night featuring **The Fabulous Blue Moons**

More detailed information will be included in the spring 2026 newsletter.

You can also continue to watch our alumni Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/brushalumni/>). Additionally, we will post other celebratory events being planned for our 100 year anniversary on our Facebook page and the alumni page on the district website (<https://www.selschools.org/community1/brush-alumni-association>).

(MARCHING BAND: See info on page 10 to participate in the Alumni Marching Band)

Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate

All That We Were...and Everything We Are

*Terry DiFranco Herschman,
Evan Dela Vega, Lindley Hall,
Neil Brofman*

Orders received after May 31 will be installed the following year.



Alumni Marching Band



ATTENTION ALUMNI MARCHING BAND MEMBERS...

Interested in breaking out those trombones and trumpets again? We would love to have you participate in an Alumni Marching Band on **Friday, October 2, 2026**.

You would receive music in advance. You would be required to attend a rehearsal with the current Brush Marching Band on Friday afternoon. Time to be determined, however it would be approximately 3 PM, for the football game that evening. If you have any interest in being contacted as more details become available, please email betz@selschools.org. Include your name (maiden if applicable), email address, phone number, graduation year, and instrument you play. No need to make a formal commitment at this time...just let us know if you are interested.

Class Gatherings

Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey, '68 – On Friday, July 25, the class of '68 celebrated its 75th birthday! The venue was the Black Forest Bar & Grill in South Euclid. Nearly 50 classmates enjoyed the patio, beautiful weather, and delicious food. Married classmates Steve Strate and Marilyn Weeks Strate came from Arizona, while Fern Hill Rice visited from California, along with others arriving from Florida, Illinois, and South Carolina. We decided life is too short and to live to the fullest as we raised a glass

Myron Belkind
Toni Cistone Costabile

Rev. Robert Byrne
Mike Couelli
Tim Evans
Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey

Mike Ina
Mike Reader

Don Lewis-Class Pres
Liz Bernstein Roman
Fred Kanter



2023 saw the gathering of the Class of 1957 as they celebrated 66+1 years since graduating from Brush High School. Classmates Myron Belkind and Toni Cistone Costabile posed in front of the Wall of Achievement. Both were inducted: Myron in 2008 and Toni in 2019.

NOMINATE AN ARC FOR THE WALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Please consider nominating a deserving ARC for the Wall of Achievement.

We look for ARCS who have displayed outstanding achievement in leadership, service to the community, service to Brush High School, humanitarianism, creativity, courage, and careers which have benefited others.

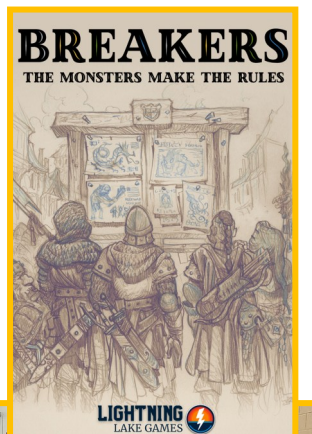
For a nomination form, visit the Alumni Association page on the South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools website. <https://www.sel.k12.oh.us/WallofAchievement.aspx>

DeLiberato Brothers Launch New Game Company with Breakers

Earlier this year, while casually attending the Origins Game Fair in Columbus, Lauren Betz Dunbar and Lindsey Greene (both class of 2006), unexpectedly saw two familiar faces. Brush High graduates **Brandon DeLiberato (Class of 2003)** and **Sam DeLiberato (Class of 2006)** were vendors at the fair. The DeLiberato brothers have taken their lifelong love of games and turned it into something larger. Both doctors by profession, the brothers recently co-founded **Lightning Lake Games** with a close friend, and their debut title, **Breakers**, launched with a Kickstarter campaign on September 2, 2025.

While Brandon grew up immersed in games like *Magic: The Gathering*, Sam discovered tabletop RPGs like *Dungeons & Dragons* as an adult, igniting a passion that quickly became a shared creative pursuit. That love of gaming and storytelling led the brothers to launch their own company with one goal: craft unique and engaging games that bring people together.

Their first game, **Breakers**, is a monster-hunting, trick-taking game that blends classic card play with a high-fantasy theme. Players compete to take down powerful monsters using suits like Melee, Ranged, Traps, and Magic, balancing risk, timing, and clever plays in every hand.



Lindsey Greene, Lauren Betz Dunbar, and Sam DeLiberato, all from the class of 2006.

Brandon DeLiberato, class of 2003.



Class of 2025 Alumni Scholarships

On May 15, in the Charles F. Brush High School Performing Arts Center, the annual Senior Scholarship Awards Night was held. Proud seniors who earned a GPA of 3.0 or greater took the stage as they were honored. The families and parents of these seniors were acknowledged for the part each played in helping these seniors achieve these accolades. Monetary scholarships were presented to many of these students.

The Brush Alumni Association was proud to be a part of this celebration, administering 19 scholarships which, this year, totaled \$32,000! The first scholarship given by the Alumni Association was in 1993, when Mr. & Mrs. Alan Skinner and Mr. & Mrs. Don Lamberton (1947 classmates) established the John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship. Since that time, the Alumni Association has distributed nearly \$280,000 to deserving Brush seniors. This year, the John Jacque Memorial Scholarships (\$1500 each) were awarded to Trinity Cromwell-Eddie, Andrew Thomas Matovic, and Taiyana Tucker-Key. Other recipients were:

- Riley Mills-\$5000 Jo Ann Soderquist Kramer Scholarship for Excellence in Physics & English, Class of 1960
- Connor Egan-\$1000 Straub/Jakse Century of STEM Scholarship
- Logan Booker, Madison Evans, Kimleisha Steele-\$1500 each, Junie Speed Davis Blackmore Scholarship
- Harmony Glenn-\$1000 Brush Alumni Association Community College Scholarship*
- Owen Patrick Thompson-\$1000 The Theodore Bell Mathematics Prize
- Evan Dela Vega-\$2500 The Brush Alumni Association Scholarship for Teacher Education
- Jelani Carr, Connor James Egan, Fuduoyuan Chen-\$2000 each, Class of '61 Scholarship
- Saadeddine Daouk-\$1000 Joseph Burris Memorial Scholarship
- Morgan Basile-\$1000 Thomas J. Murnick Scholarship
- Riley Mills-\$1500 Class of '84 Scholarship
- Lorah Farren-\$2000 Class of '61 Vocational Scholarship*
- Ryan Stovall-\$2000 Philip & Harriet Miller Scholarship*
- Alexis Abrams-\$500 Eugene A. Torok Scholarship

(*new this year)

By contributing to these scholarships, you have provided monetary help to these recipients' futures. We thank you, Brush Alumni, for your years of loyalty and caring. If you would like to create a scholarship in your name, your class, or someone else's name, please contact Bonnie Abbey at blabbey@aol.com. Also, if you wish to contribute to any of the named scholarships above, please note that on your donation envelope, PayPal donation, or VENMO when you contribute to your dues.



Evan Dela Vega



Saadeddine Daouk



Owen Thompson



F. Kevin Chen

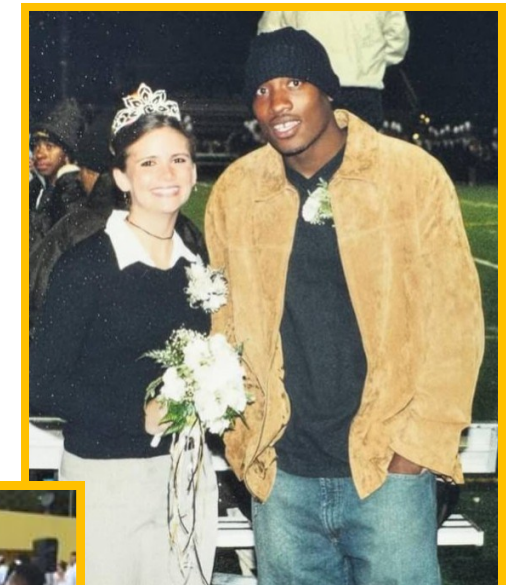


Mostly, I remember Brush as a place that held us during a fleeting but remarkable time in history. We were the last generation of kids to grow up playing outside until the streetlights came on, yet the first to step into a world where everyone would carry a tiny computer in their pocket. That cusp shaped us, made us both connected and present in ways that feel rare now.

I will always look back fondly on my years at Brush. For me, it was a golden time, a community that prepared us socially, intellectually, and maybe even spiritually for the world beyond those halls. My hope is that others from our class feel the same warmth when they remember those years, that sense of belonging, possibility, and shared history that can only come from being a Brush graduate at the turn of the century.



Natalie DiLillo Lynch
(Senior Class VP)
Lindsay Betz Peck
(Senior Class Secretary)



HOMECOMING QUEEN AND KING
Natalie DiLillo Lynch
Stanley Ball





Memories of Brush at the Turn of the Century

For most of us reading this newsletter, reference to the “turn of the century” means something different than it means to our younger alumni. When someone says “turn of the century” they are typically referencing the period around 1900, reflecting the shift from the 1800’s to the 1900’s. The period is often associated with significant social, technological, and cultural changes, including the rise of industrialization, new forms of entertainment, and evolving social norms. We think of horse-drawn carriages, Stanley Model R Roadsters, bathing costumes, corsets, sack suits, and waistcoats. While the turn of the 20th century is the most common reference, the term can apply to any transition between centuries. To the Brush alumni that graduated after 2000, the phrase refers to a completely different time.

Natalie DiLillo Lynch, '04 reflects on Brush High School at the “turn of the century” as she sees it.

I walked the halls of Charles F. Brush High School from 2000 to 2004, right at the turn of the century, a strange and special window in time. Looking back now, it feels like we went to high school during a golden era, perched between two worlds: the one where childhood was still analog and present, and the one that would soon become defined by constant digital connection.

When I started at Brush, the internet was still something you waited to connect to, AOL dial-up whirring and buzzing like a machine clearing its throat, AIM away messages coded in song lyrics and teenage angst, and retrospectively embarrassing screen names like Sassychic0929. If you wanted to talk to a classmate, you dialed their landline and risked a parent picking up. I didn’t even get my first cell phone until junior year, and even then, it was for emergencies and the occasional T9 text (that prehistoric predictive typing where one number key had three letters, and your phone just guessed what word you meant, sometimes hilariously wrong). Social media hadn’t yet swallowed our attention. Thank goodness for that.

Brush in those years had its own magic. Kids still walked or biked to school. Columbine had happened the year before we entered, but active-shooter drills weren’t a part of our reality. The world felt safer, even if in hindsight it probably wasn’t.

What made Brush especially golden was the way people mixed. Yes, everyone had their own friend groups, athletes, theater kids, band members, skaters, AP students, but there was an unusual fluidity. Most people got along with most people. It was normal to see a football player joking with a kid from the art wing, or someone from the jazz band hanging out with cheerleaders. It wasn’t cliqueless, but it was connected. Socially, economically, racially, Brush was diverse, and that diversity felt like strength.

We had classmates who went off to Yale and classmates who went straight into trades, and both paths were respected. That sense of acceptance, that wide net of possibility, gave our class a certain ease. It carried into our reunion last year: two decades later, the same congenial spirit was still there, as if time had only deepened it.

I know my own experience was shaped by the roles I held: three-sport athlete, artist, homecoming queen, VP of student council, bouncing between AP and college prep classes. My memories might be painted in rose-colored hues that not everyone shares. Still, even with the full awareness that high school is never perfect for anyone, I remember a genuine sense of community at Brush.

There are snapshots burned into my memory: the day the TVs flicked on in classrooms and we all watched in stunned silence as the events of 9/11 unfolded. The crowded cafeteria, where laughter always seemed louder than the food was edible. The teachers who demanded we write five-paragraph essays until it was muscle memory so much so that I later found myself better prepared at college than many peers from elite private schools.



Alexis Abrams



Harmony Glenn



Andrew Matovic



Lorah Farren



Logan Book-



Madison Evans



Trinity Cromwell-Eddie



Tayiana Tucker-Key



Morgan Basile



Riley Mills



Kimleisha Steele



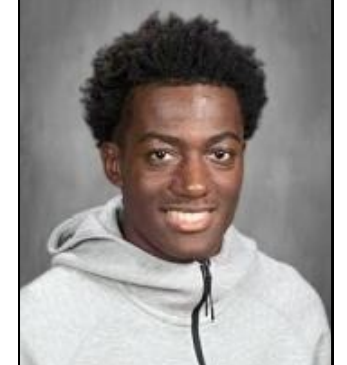
Connor Egan



Ryan Stovall



Jelani Carr





Local Alumni Business Spotlight: Team Couture Youth Center

Donna Pollard Brown, Brush Class of 2004, is the founder and owner of Team Couture Youth Center, a successful South Euclid aftercare program and summer camp. Among other activities, Donna played basketball all four years at Brush. One of her favorite things about Brush was and will always be art class with Ms. Curry. Ms. Curry always found a way to love her students for who they were and assist them with working with who they were. Donna's best memory is the bond developed with her basketball sisters! They still gather annually for a Christmas party. She is forever grateful for what Brush brought out of her.

Team Couture was founded in 2009 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth through education, enrichment, and community engagement. In 2019, the organization expanded its impact by establishing the **Team Couture Youth Center (The Center)**—a dedicated home base that serves as both an aftercare program and a summer camp for children ages 5-13.

The vision for Team Couture originated in 2009, during founder Donna Brown's final semester at the University of Akron. After relocating to Atlanta in 2013 to pursue a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Community and Economic Development from Clark Atlanta University, she returned to her hometown in 2017 with a renewed commitment to serve her community. Inspired by local leadership and the identified need for accessible youth programming, she opened The Center in February 2019.

Since its launch, The Center has become a trusted hub for children and families.

- **Aftercare Program:** Operates Monday through Friday, serving students from local and surrounding districts.
- **Summer Camp:** Hosts up to **50 children for 10 weeks each summer**, providing structured learning, recreation, and enrichment activities.
- **Community Engagement:** Throughout the year, the organization coordinates family events, resource distributions, and an annual holiday program that partners with stakeholders to provide gifts and support to single-father and grandparent-led households.

The Center's work is rooted in the belief that every child deserves a safe, nurturing environment where they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Founder Donna Brown brings not only her academic background but also professional experience as a childcare educator and **Qualified Behavioral Health Specialist (QBHS)**. Her expertise has proven essential in supporting youth with behavioral challenges, offering them constructive outlets and individualized care.

Through this combination of educational programming, family engagement, and community partnerships, Team Couture continues to advance its mission: **to empower youth, strengthen families, and build a foundation for lifelong success.**



Shakia Perry,
Donna Pollard Brown,
Adrianna Boone



Mayor Welo, Donna Pollard Brown,
Justin Tisdale (Class of 2000), Joe
Frank (Class of 1978)



Brush High School 100 All That We Were...and Everything We Are

Sally Shortle Miller, '71

100 years! Where has the time gone?! Brush has come a long way in 100 years. There have been many changes and additions. Many of the halls have been refurbished and are now lined with televisions displaying photographs and news of upcoming events. However, if you look, you can see remnants of what once was: the hardwood floors, marble window sills, and the original front doors.



The original cafeteria as it appears in the 1931 Hi-Lite



For a brief period of time, Brush defined our lives. Each of us has many friends and memories that will stay with us forever. Leading up to our celebration in the fall of 2026, the next few editions of the Alumni Arc-Lite will explore our history and jog our memories.

The cafeteria has always been the heartbeat of Brush. It was where we shared lunches, shared stories, and made friends. On our first day at Brush, many of us walked in nervously wondering, "Who will I sit with?"

Originally the cafeteria was on the third floor. Lunch was served daily to 300-400 students in grades 7-12. By the mid-seventies, the cafeteria served approximately

2,500 students in grades 10-12. The third floor was used as study hall when not serving lunch.

In the fall of 1950, construction began on the "new" cafeteria on the first floor, where it is still located. There were no vending machines, no food stations. Students ate lunch and then for many years traveled to the auditorium to attend the noon movie. Over the course of a week a full length movie was screened for prices that varied from a nickel to a quarter. In 1974, the cafeteria was again improved. The Commons area was added as well as a concession stand for the football games. 2020 saw the most recent renovation including an elevated section with windows overlooking the football field, and multiple food stations. The traditional long rectangular tables have been replaced with smaller tables.

Whether walking to the third floor or enjoying the newer area, the cafeteria continues to be the heartbeat of the school. It is the place that all students enjoy a meal, some laughter, and a little fun in the middle of a long school day.

