



## Lake Orion Community Schools

# Interoffice Memo

*from the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources*

**From:** Adam Weldon  
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

**To:** Heidi Mercer  
Superintendent

**Date:** June 25, 2025

**Re:** Certified Staff – Recommendation for Hire

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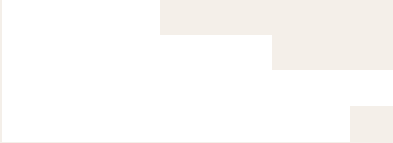
The following Candidate is being recommended for hire:

Name	Building	Position	Reason	Start Date
Kennedy Ochenski	Lake Orion High School	Science Teacher	Retirement	8.25.2025

The candidate's resume is attached for your review. This recommendation is supported.  
Attachment(s): Resume

# Kennedy Ochenski

## Contact Me



## Certifications

**Michigan Teaching Certificate**  
June 2030

**Integrated Science (DI)  
Endorsement**  
March 2023

## Education

**Masters in Secondary Education**  
Oakland University  
Graduates 2025

**Bachelors in Health Science  
with a Concentration in  
Pre-Professional Health**  
Oakland University  
Graduated 2022

## Teaching Philosophy

As a science teacher, my main goal is to encourage curiosity and confidence in my students during their journey in science education. I am motivated to create a classroom environment that is inclusive and fosters uncertainty, where students feel safe to explore, question, and learn from mistakes. My goal is to encourage students to develop critical thinking skills that they can carry into their futures. I hope to empower my students to become doers of science!

## Teaching Experience

**Adlai E. Stevenson High School**  
Utica Community Schools

Aug 2024-Apr 2025

- 600 hour Student Teacher Internship (Winter 2025): I will complete my student teacher internship in 9th grade Biology and AP Environmental Science under the supervision of Mary Murphy.
- 100 hour Final Field Placement (Fall 2024): I observed and assisted in 9th grade Biology and AP Environmental Science with Mary Murphy.

**Avondale High School**  
Avondale School District

May-Jun 2024

- Observed and assisted with Nikola Spencer during my 30 hour field experience in Biology and Forensics classes.

**Scripps Middle School**  
Lake Orion Community Schools

Feb-Apr 2024

- Observed and assisted with Sarah Hunter in 8th grade science classes and Wendy Deutsch in 6th grade science classes during my 50 hour field experience.

**Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**  
Warren Consolidated Schools

2012-2024

- Assisted both teachers and administration with numerous school activities, events, and pre-school year set up.

## Work Experience

**Graduate Research Assistant**

2024-Current

Department of Teaching and Learning | Oakland University

- Collaborated with faculty and team members to present findings, contribute to publications, and support ongoing research initiatives.
- Conducted research and data analysis (including interviews, data collection, and literature reviews).

**Graduate Research Assistant**

2024-Current

OpenSciEd Elementary Developers' Consortium | Oakland University

- Collaborated with University of Texas - Austin to interview, collect, and analyze data from teachers across the country to help better understand how teachers are interacting with and using OpenSciEd curriculum.

**Substitute Teacher**

2022-Current

EduStaff

- Substitute taught in the following districts Warren Consolidated Schools, Rochester Community Schools, and Utica Community Schools. Specifically spending time at Jefferson Elementary (WCS), Rochester Adams High School (RCS), and Stevenson High School (UCS).

# Kennedy Ochenski

## Research Topics

- Justice and Equity Oriented Teaching Practices
- AI in Research
- Using AI in the Classroom
- How Teachers Interact with Educative Features in OpenSciEd Curriculum
- Pre-service teachers perceptions and interactions of #TeachersofTikTok on TikTok

## Events & Presentations

- **Roundtable Speaker** - Future Teachers Conference, April 2025
- **Lead Presenting Author** - National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Conference, March 2025
- **Roundtable Speaker and Research Presentation** - Michigan K-12 and Higher Education Symposium sponsored by Apple, January 2025
- **Student Roundtable** - School of Education and Human Services Day, October 2024
- **Graduate Student Poster Presentations** - Oakland University AI Day, October 2024

## Papers & Posters

Hay, K., Garza, L., González-Howard, M., Bismack, A. S., & Robinson, C. (2024). Teachers' sensemaking of educative features in Wondering Elementary Science Curriculum. In OpenSciEd Elementary Curriculum Papers [Paper set]. OpenSciEd Elementary. Unpublished manuscript to be presented at NARST 2025, Washington D.C.

Hay, K., & Bismack, A.S (2024, October). *AI in Action: A Comprehensive Literature Review on Equitable and Just Teaching Practices*. Poster session presented at Oakland University AI Day, Rochester, MI.