

# Celebrate THE HoliDaYs



Season's greetings to you and yours from the Academy staff.

Woodie Colley, Dorie Gruber, Alyson Gruber, Sheila Cubick and Michael Woytek



## Melissa Kowalski Science Teacher, Put-in-Bay Schools

Melissa Kowalski teaches grades 7-12 science at Put-in-Bay Schools on South Bass Island in Lake Erie, and her classroom is built around one big idea: students learn science best by doing science. The island's ecosystems, and its role in bird and pollinator migrations, give students a front-row seat to environmental systems in motion. With Kowalski's guidance, students collaborate with experts, collect meaningful data, and see how their work supports conservation in their own community. Recently, one of the monarch butterflies tagged by students was recovered over 2,000 miles away in El Rosario, Mexico.

[See Melissa's full bio](#)

STEM enthusiasts. This series will shine a light on members who advance the mission of the Academy through their dedication and impact.

### Eligibility

- Must be a current member of the Ohio Academy of Science.
- Self-nominations and nominations by colleagues, students, or peers are welcome.

### Submission Process

Email your nomination to [info@ohiosci.org](mailto:info@ohiosci.org) with the subject line: "Member Spotlight Nomination – [Nominee Name]".



### Our new address

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## Please consider supporting the Annual Fund

Across Ohio, students are learning to think carefully, test ideas, and communicate what they find. Families, teachers, volunteers, and professionals help them practice those habits in real settings so learning connects to life. The Ohio Academy of Science exists to bring that community together, **creating a culture of innovation** that carries students from curiosity, to confidence, to career.

As we enter the holiday season, we know STEM education is not the top priority for many charitable givers. Science education is less urgent than feeding the hungry, yet without the support of those that understand its importance, we would be unable to continue serving our state's needs. That is why we are asking our own community of parents, educators, professionals, and friends to act as allies. **Without you, none of what we do would be possible.** An Annual Fund gift helps us widen access, lower barriers, and keep standards high so more students can take part and succeed.

The impact often appears in simple moments that add up over time. A quiet student answers a question with new confidence. A team revises a method and sees better results. A teacher brings a new approach back to class and watches it click. When students feel seen and supported, they try again after a setback, take pride in their work, and begin to picture a future that fits their talents.

If this mission aligns with your values, please support the Annual Fund. Every gift is put to work for students, teachers, and families, and every gift helps build a stronger future for science in Ohio. We will use your support carefully, share what it makes possible, and keep the welcome wide for all who wish to learn. Thank you for standing with this community.

### Program Highlights

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