

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
**HISTORY**  
CENTER

Information Contacts:

Eric Gollanek  
302.528.0361  
efgollan@gmail.com

John Peters  
269.857.2967  
jppubrel@gmail.com

OPEN-HOUSE AND EXHIBIT HONOR SHS GRADS  
AT OLD SCHOOL HOUSE ON TUESDAY, MAY 14

MAY 3, 2019 -- An open-house evening program and exhibit will celebrate the Saugatuck High School Class of 2019, showcasing interviews with graduating seniors reflecting on their past (childhood), present (senior year at SHS) and future (life after graduation), on Tuesday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Old School House, 130 Center St. in Douglas. Admission is free and the public is invited.

The exhibit will remain through May, highlighting a year-long student project in which Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History partnered with the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and Saugatuck High School teacher Christina Lewis to document the lives of the Class of 2019 throughout the 2018-2019 academic year. The project was conceived as a means of encouraging students to see themselves as an important part of their community's history.

As part of its Youth Leadership Initiative, the Kutsche Office trained SHS journalism students in oral-history interview methods and the importance of preserving the everyday experiences as part of the historical record. These students then developed their own oral-history questions and interviewed members of the graduating class.

More than 70 high school seniors' stories were audio-recorded in their own voices, during the fall, winter, and spring trimesters. Kutsche Office staffers at GVSU then condensed the interviews into individual biographical reader panels illustrated with photos, one for each student, to create the exhibit.

The May 14 event will open with brief remarks by Saugatuck Schools Superintendent Tim Travis, Kutsche Office Director Dr. Kimberly McKee and SDHC Executive Director Eric Gollanek, after which visitors will be welcome to enjoy the exhibit at their own pace. Cookies, soft drinks and water will provide light refreshments.

This special student-project event and exhibit are jointly sponsored by Saugatuck Public Schools, GVSU's Kutsche Office of Local History, and SDHC board member Renee Zita.

For the special exhibit's open hours throughout the month, to be determined soon, and for more information about Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or activities planned for the months ahead, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

###

PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "Classroom7894")

Caption: Saugatuck High School students from teacher Christina Lewis' journalism class prepare interview questions for Class of 2019 oral-history project celebrated in Old School House exhibit opening May 14.