

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY  CONNECTION

WINTER 2023

OLENTANGY ADDRESSES GROWTH AND OPENING BERLIN MIDDLE

Olentangy Schools is widely known for the achievements of our students and staff, the educational excellence across our schools, and the exceptional value we offer. We are recognized for our community pride, the specialized services in our schools, and the opportunities available to our students.

These pillars have indirectly resulted in monumental growth within the district boundaries, which began in the early 1990's with the opening of Olentangy High School and continues today as we prepare to open our 6th middle school and 28th school building, Berlin Middle School.

“The growth in our district directly correlates to the number of families moving to Delaware County and the building of new homes in the area,”

stated Superintendent Mark T. Raiff. “In order to maintain our close school communities, small class sizes, and special teacher/student relationships, we will continue to be proactive in the need for new school buildings and revising attendance boundaries to optimally utilize current buildings.”

To revise the attendance boundaries for Berlin Middle School, a Superintendent’s committee of 13 community members did a deep dive into attendance boundaries, building utilization, feeder patterns, and projected enrollment growth. The redistricting process also had an elementary school component to relieve overcrowding at Heritage Elementary, Liberty Tree Elementary and Cheshire Elementary.

GROWTH CONTINUE PAGE 3

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

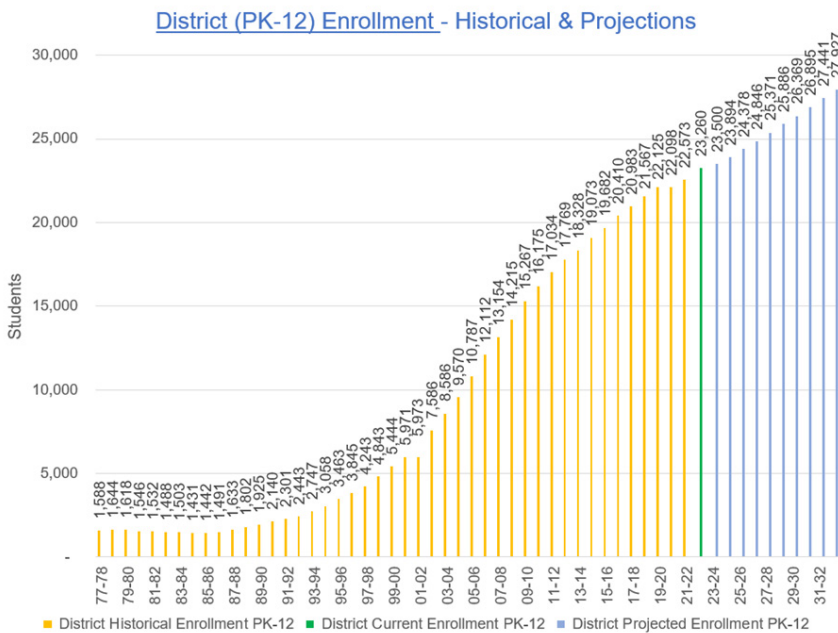
Dear Olentangy Community,

I announced my retirement last week after 20 years of employment at Olentangy Schools, the last eight of which have been as Superintendent. At this point in my career, I look forward to retirement and more time with my family. However, my role here has felt less like a job and more like being part of a bigger family working toward a greater good- the education of our students.

I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished during the last eight years. During this time, the District has passed two levies, built three schools (Berlin High School, Shale Meadows Elementary and Berlin Middle School) while growing to the fourth largest school district in the state. Behind the scenes, we have continued to monitor the growth and planning for additional buildings, with ground breaking of our 17th elementary this spring.

Additionally, we have developed district level departments of Student Well-Being, Equity and Inclusion and Safety, Security and Preparedness, while also growing the District’s robust specialized support services all in an effort to achieve our mission

SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUE PAGE 3



MEET TREASURER RYAN JENKINS

Olentangy Schools welcomed Timothy “Ryan” Jenkins as Treasurer in September, replacing former Treasurer of five years Emily Hatfield.

“I continue to be amazed by how supportive the community is of our schools, and am equally impressed by the dedication of my coworkers that work every day to ensure we provide our Olentangy students, staff and community the best educational experience at an exceptional value,” said Mr. Jenkins, reflecting on his first few months as Treasurer. “I look forward to spending many years in Olentangy Schools and becoming part of the community.”

As Treasurer, Mr. Jenkins leads a team of two assistant treasurers, two accountants, and seven additional staff members that oversee the

district’s accounts payable, payroll, and insurance benefits. In the short time since accepting the position, Mr. Jenkins has presented the 2022 fall five-year forecast, is actively addressing Olentangy’s state funding, working with the business department on partnerships with athletic booster clubs and facility use, overseeing financial statements and the district’s annual audit as well as forging relationships to better our community through economic development.

Mr. Jenkins joined Olentangy from the Pickerington Local School District, where he served as Treasurer since 2013. He has also held Treasurer roles at two other Ohio school districts along with administrative and teaching positions. Mr. Jenkins holds a

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from The Ohio State University.

He currently resides in Pickerington with wife of 23 years, Kimberly, and their two sons Zachary, a paraprofessional at Pickerington Schools, and Andrew, a junior at Pickerington North High School. The Jenkins family looks forward to moving to Olentangy following Andrew’s high school graduation.



POWELL LIBERTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES OLENTANGY SCHOOLS IN 2023

Through the years, Olentangy Schools has extended classroom lessons to the community in the form of service-learning opportunities. This year the curriculum team has joined with the Powell Liberty Historical Society to engage students, families and community members with local school history in a Local History Plunge.

In this open-house style experience, families attend one or both workshops to explore the many curated artifacts and photos related to our local school history. One and two-room school houses, original modes of school transportation and early sports and clubs define the “station rotation” experience; with the goal for families to co-author a social media post summarizing the

selected topic and help the Powell Liberty Historical Society celebrate Olentangy Schools in 2023.

Learn more and register for the Saturday, February 11 workshop by browsing the [interactive notebook](#). Contact Dr. Kristin Bourdage at kristin_bourdage@olsd.us with questions.



OLENTANGY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ALUMNI GATHERING DATES FALL 2023

Orange High School
September 15

Berlin High School
September 22

Olentangy High School
September 29

Liberty High School
September 29

SIGN UP NOW

olentangyeducationfoundation.org

ENGAGEMENT SERIES INVITES COMMUNITY

GROWTH
FROM PAGE 1

Olentangy is hosting an engagement series to welcome the community into dialogue on work taking place across the district that supports our mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student.

“We are continually seeking opportunities to engage with our stakeholders,” explains Chief Communications Officer Krista Davis. “Our district strategic plan includes the goal to expand community involvement and partnerships and sharing about our work and including the community in the conversation is an integral part of that goal. Mr. Raiff has previously held ‘Town Halls’ to present on the district’s progress in key focus areas, and this series dives deeper into multiple areas of interest.”

The first event in the series presented on staff professional learning, replicating professional development for parents and community members to experience. The second event welcomed over 30 community members to participate in a discussion on student mental health and well-being, why it is important to student learning, Olentangy’s trauma response protocols and priorities moving forward.

Our next Community Engagement series event takes place on Tuesday, February, 28 at 6:30pm at the Olentangy Administrative Offices. Director of Safety, Security and Preparedness Joseph Suozzi will be joined by Olentangy School Resource Officers and representatives from the Delaware County Sheriff’s office to present on school safety.

The 2023-2024 redistricting announcement, a mapping tool and more information on the redistricting process and the Redistricting Guidelines Resolution are available on the [2023-2024 Redistricting webpage](#).

The attendance boundary committee was mindful of feeder patterns for future Elementary School 17, which will be located south of Berlin Middle School at the intersection of Piatt Road and Peachblow Road in Delaware. A more extensive elementary school redistricting process will take place in advance of the elementary school opening for the 2024-2025 school year.

The facilities committee’s 10-year enrollment projections and an analysis of enrollment by attendance boundaries suggest the need for elementary schools 18, 19, and 20, middle school 7 and high school 5 by the 2032-2033 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT

FROM PAGE 1

to facilitate maximum learning for every student. We continue to recognize and address the fact that academic learning does not happen in a vacuum and support services in these areas is crucial to student success.

Eight years ago, none of us could have predicted that we’d experience a global pandemic. However challenging these past years have been, we’ve learned and become even more resilient with instituting a Committed Distance Learning remote program for over 5,000 students for the 2020-2021 school year and implementing health and prevention guidance that ensured students and staff were learning in the building without pandemic-related closures since August 2020.

While these were unprecedented times, they allowed us to examine existing practices and adopt new and creative ways to meet our mission, always working on doing better for our students.

My time here at Olentangy has been rewarding and memorable. My four children are graduates of Olentangy High School, and my wife, Katie, has spent 19 years teaching in the District, most recently at Freedom Trail Elementary. Olentangy Schools will always hold a special place in all of our hearts. Thank you for your support, encouragement and friendship throughout the years.

Proud to serve as your
Superintendent,

Mark T. Raiff



YEARS OF SERVICE

2003-2023

SCHOOL FUNDING MASTERCLASS

Community members are invited to a School Funding 101 masterclass to learn about the state funding formula, how funds are allocated to Olentangy Schools compared to other districts, and what that means for Olentangy resident taxes. Guests will be given action steps to make an impact for change and be able to ask questions of the panel. The event is Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Olentangy High School.

SCHOOL FUNDING PANEL:

Mark T. Raiff, Olentangy Schools Superintendent

Timothy Ryan Jenkins, Olentangy Schools Treasurer

Kevin Daberkow, Olentangy Schools Board of Education

Julie Wagner Feasel, Olentangy Schools Advocacy Committee

REGISTER TODAY!

THANK YOU BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ohio's local school boards play a significant role in establishing policies and practices in public schools. To acknowledge this important role in the state's education system, January is recognized as School Board Recognition Month. Olentangy Schools is thankful for our Board of Education members and their service to our students and community and were celebrated at the January 26 board meeting.

View a [thank you video](#) from Olentangy students for the Board of Education.



Olentangy Schools
7840 Graphics Way
Lewis Center, OH 43035
T: 740-657-4050
F: 740-657-4099

<https://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us>

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MR. KEVIN O'BRIEN
PRESIDENT
(740) 657-4090
kevin_obrien@olsd.us

MR. BRANDON LESTER
VICE PRESIDENT
(740) 657-4091
brandon_lester@olsd.us

DR. KEVIN DABERKOW
BOARD MEMBER
(740) 657-4150
kevin_daberkow@olsd.us

DR. LIBBY WALLICK
BOARD MEMBER
(740) 657-4092
elizabeth_wallick@olsd.us

DR. LAKESHA WYSE
BOARD MEMBER
(740) 657-4093
lakesha_wyse@olsd.us

Visit www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/board-of-education/board-meetings for information on board meetings.

DISTRICT DATES

SCHOOL FUNDING 101
January 31, 2023

ONE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE
February 4, 2023

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 9, 2023

LOCAL HISTORY PLUNGE
February 11, 2023

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS
February 15, 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL
February 17, 2023

PRESIDENTS DAY-NO SCHOOL
February 20, 2023

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 23, 2023

END OF 3rd QUARTER
March 9, 2023