



OLDHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

**Our Schools,
Our Stories:
Connecting Our
Community**

Transforming Our High School Athletic Facilities: **An Investment in Excellence**

Our high school sports scene is on the cusp of a new era. These upgrades at North Oldham High School, Oldham County High School, and South Oldham High School are aimed at not only improving aesthetics but also the functionality, accessibility, and modernization

of the extracurricular venues to enhance the overall experience for students, staff, parents, and the entire community. The new turf fields have the durability to host a multitude of sporting events, band practices, competitions, physical education classes, and also allow the high schools to more easily accommodate community needs.



"I think the new turf field is a great place for the marching band to practice before competitions because we compete on turf fields. It was harder to practice on grass and then compete on turf, especially for the newer members."

-- Jenna Griffin, NOHS band



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN MICHAUD

What's Next?

While the current upgrades are already proving to be game changers, there's more excitement on the horizon. Our Board of Education has approved another round of stadium upgrades to address additional site, seating, and access improvements. This initiative also includes updates to technology and sound systems. The stadiums are not the only venues receiving major upgrades. OCHS and NOHS will undergo major renovations and artificial turf field installation at soccer/field hockey/lacrosse fields starting this fall and the SOHS practice field will be completely renovated upon completion of the new concession stand.

We invite you all to join us for the games and events at our high schools. House Bill 678 allowed us to begin these stadium upgrades first, but there is much more to come in our exciting journey towards world-class academic, arts, and athletic facilities.

PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN STOCKER



"It was cool when the new lights were flashing in our school colors and they did the Dragon Roar. We all thought it was fun to see when we scored."

-- Heidi Peters,
SOHS Field Hockey



New ticket booths at all three schools will streamline the entry process for games and events. The installation of new fencing around the athletic fields not only keeps our students and spectators safe but also enhances the aesthetic appeal of our campuses. State-of-the-art LED sports-lighting has been installed at South Oldham's stadium, with installation to begin this winter at NOHS and OCHS.



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN MICHAUD



"The new field means a lot to me, and the team. It shows the dedication to our program, the school, and the focus on improving all the facilities."

-- Caden Sheppard,
OCHS Football

igniting passion in our COMMUNITY

Dear Oldham County Community,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Oldham County Schools community newsletter: Our Schools, Our Stories: Connecting Our Community. It brings me immense joy to reach out to you through this new communication channel, and I hope you find it informative and engaging.

The purpose of this newsletter is simple but vital: to foster a stronger connection between our school district and the wonderful community that supports it. We recognize that effective communication is the cornerstone of any thriving educational system, and this newsletter will serve as a bridge between us, providing you with a glimpse into the remarkable achievements, ongoing initiatives, and exciting developments happening within Oldham County Schools.

Recently, we completed our school district's strategic plan, which outlines our vision, goals, and objectives over the next five years. The four pillars of our strategic plan are our students, staff, families, and community. We aim to engage these groups, empower them with knowledge and passion, and elevate the experience each has within our school system. This plan can be found on our website by



using this code, or visiting: www.oldham.kyschools.us/district/strategic-plan

Stemming from the strategic plan, our new district logo and tagline were created: "Ignite Passion. Experience Excellence." The logo creates a powerful visual representation of the district's commitment to both passion and excellence. It communicates the idea that through the district's educational programs and supportive environment, students will be inspired to pursue their passions while receiving the necessary tools, resources, and guidance to excel in all aspects of their academic and personal lives.

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond the classroom. We are investing in our facilities to create modern and safe environments that promote learning. You will soon see renovations and improvements in our schools that reflect our dedication to providing state-of-the-art facilities for our students and staff. We believe that the physical space in which learning takes place plays a vital role in the educational experience, and we are excited about the transformations underway.

In addition to academics and facilities, we recognize the importance

of fostering strong community partnerships. The success of our students is not just the result of what happens within our schools, but also the collaborative efforts with local businesses, organizations, and community leaders. We are excited to strengthen these partnerships and continue working together to create a supportive and enriching environment for all.

As we embark on this journey of enhanced communication, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of Oldham County Schools. Our community's dedication to education is what makes our district truly exceptional. Together, we can look forward to a bright future filled with educational excellence, remarkable facilities, and deep community connections. Thank you for being an integral part of our Oldham County Schools family. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead, and we can't wait to share this exciting journey with you.

Respectfully,
Jason Radford
Superintendent, Oldham County Schools



The Oldham County Board of Education



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NOHS



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DISTRICT 2

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Kenwood Station, SOMS,
SOHS



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Crestwood, Locust Grove,
EOMS, SOMS, OCHS, SOHS



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La Grange, Locust Grove,
EOMS, NOMS, OCMS,
NOHS, OCHS



Carly Clem
DISTRICT 5

Buckner, Centerfield,
Goshen, Harmony,
Kenwood Station,
La Grange, NOMS, OCMS,
SOMS, NOHS, OCHS, SOHS

Engaging Students Through Authentic LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Elementary/Preschool:

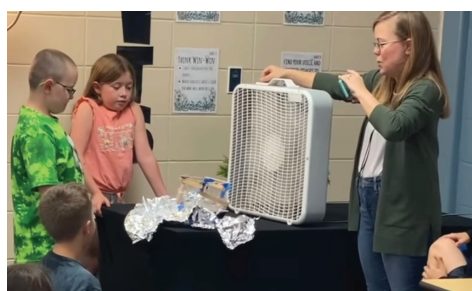
Oldham County Schools prioritizes authentic learning experiences because they contribute to a more meaningful and effective learning process. These experiences help

students connect their classroom learning to real-life situations and develop a deeper understanding of concepts and skills. Teachers may use real-world problems, hands-on projects, field trips,

guest speakers, and technology to create these opportunities. By doing so, they can make learning more meaningful, enjoyable, and valuable for students, setting a strong foundation for their future.



(Left) Exploring the Alphabet with Bright Minds - Katie Batman's students at Oldham County Preschool use a light board and colorful letters to ignite their love for learning.



(Above) In this hands-on experiment, Centerfield 3rd grade students are designing and building structures meant to sustain strong levels of wind from an extreme weather event such as a hurricane. Through these experiments, students are learning the design-thinking process, as well as the importance of resilience and adaptability.



(Above) At Buckner Elementary, teams are engaged and working collaboratively to use the engineering design process to make a structure that protects a home from erosion.



(Above) In this science experiment with 2nd graders at Locust Grove, Georgia Fawbush's students predict whether items will sink or float in a tub of water and record results. Afterwards, they consider the attributes of the items and determine why certain items sink or float.



(Above) Camden Station 1st graders are constructing houses with modeling clay and their assigned material of either toothpicks, popsicle sticks or bricks. They will then test to find out which houses can withstand the huffing and puffing of the big, bad wolf.

Middle School:

Thinking classrooms are learning environments designed to promote and support critical thinking, problem-solving, and deep engagement in the learning

process. These classrooms are often characterized by a variety of instructional strategies, tools, and techniques that encourage students to think more deeply and critically about the subjects they are studying, including

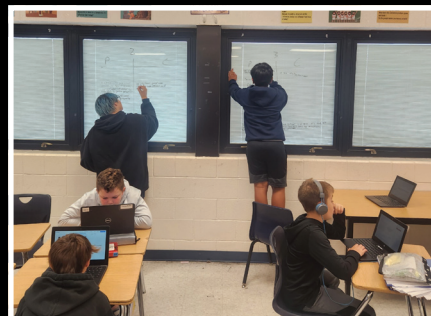
collaborative and active learning, where students are actively engaged in the learning process rather than passively receiving information. This helps students develop the skills necessary to be independent, lifelong learners.



(Left) Founded in 2021 by an OCMS 8th grader and sponsored by teacher, Lizzie Gorbandt, Flight Club provides students with opportunities to learn about the science and engineering behind drones, airplanes, and other flying objects. This student-led club provides members with the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world applications and build leadership skills.



(Above) South Oldham Middle students in Ms. Lehocky's 6th grade English Language Arts classes are using the Thinking Classroom with white boards for their lesson on schema about an upcoming novel they will read.



(Above) Inquiry is the name of the game in Mr. Cardwell's class at East Oldham Middle! Students have multiple sources to help them answer the question posed. Recording their thinking on vertical white boards allows them to quickly revise their thinking and the teacher can easily see what is happening with the student's thought process.



(Above) The 'NO'vation Lab at North Oldham Middle is in its 3rd full year and is continuing to grow into a well-equipped makerspace. It houses two industrial lasers, ten 3-D printers using filament and resin with mirror and multi-color capacities, three laser etching/CNC etching machines, several vinyl cutters, screen printing stations, heat presses and various multimedia technologies.

Connecting Passion TO PATHWAY

High School:

We have focused on Career and Technical Education pathways and increasing dual credit courses along with industry certifications in our high schools, in order to offer students a broader range of opportunities and career exploration as they prepare for either higher education, trade school, or the job market. These programs enhance students' skills, boost their motivation, and contribute to

the overall economic well-being of the community. Our high school pathways range from trades like welding to teaching and learning to media arts, just to name a few.

In addition, the Arvin Education Center offers multiple pathways for students to explore, such as sports medicine, biomedical science, engineering, culinary arts, automotive, and much more.

The Creative and Performing Arts Academy at the Arts Center is a high school program for Oldham County students with a deep-rooted passion for the pursuit of artistic and academic excellence. For the student who is considering a professional career in the performing and visual arts, CAPAA provides a program during the school day that allows students to train and gain hands-on learning experiences while achieving their arts and humanities credits for graduation.



Students in Jeremy Hess's chemistry class at Arvin Education Center created a "ghost" by conducting chemical reactions. Students had the chance to see different chemical and physical changes through Halloween themed experiments in the lab all day.



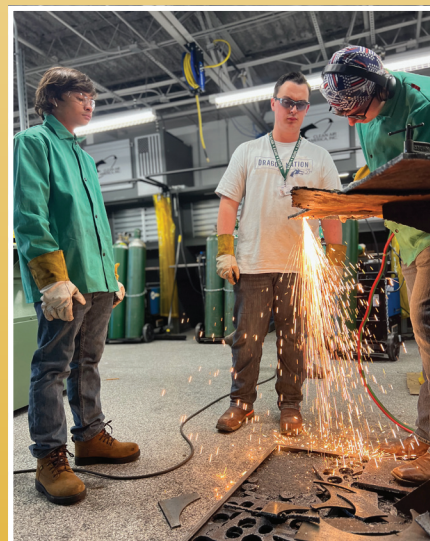
Second year nursing students collaborate with automotive students to create an industry specific first aid kit at the Arvin Education Center. This type of partnership is crucial because it addresses the specific needs of a unique environment. It's a win-win situation, learning from each other and making a real impact on workplace safety.



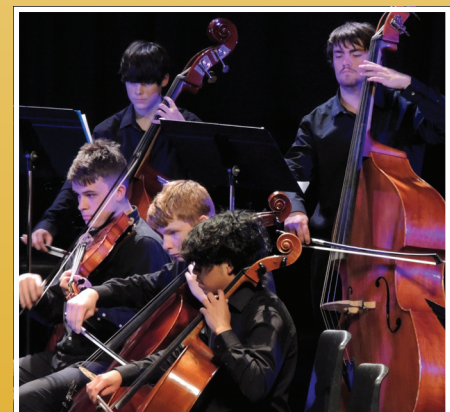
SOHS student uses an oxyacetylene torch to cut steel.



OCHS 11th grader Avery Woosley observes Buckner Elementary 4th grade teacher Julie Brown for an assignment on the ethnography of the classroom for her class in the teaching and learning pathway. "I chose to be in this program because I've always been interested in teaching and inspired by my teachers, so I wanted to see if teaching was going to feel right for me to pursue."



73 students are enrolled in the brand new welding program at South Oldham High School. "The kids are eating it up," said welding instructor Declan Jacobs. "Students not even in the program are poking their heads in to see what's going on. The intricacy of it is a big draw. I think there will be even more interest next year."



CAPAA students from the String Orchestra Focus in concert.

Calling All **FUTURE STUDENTS** of Oldham County Schools

Don't have a child in the school system yet? OCS is dedicated to providing support for families across our community. Our early childhood education work is designed to share information with parents to assist in providing children with a strong foundation for kindergarten and future learning through supports that address their social, emotional, physical,

and cognitive development. Please use this QR code if you would like to sign up for our Future Student Registry. By signing up, your family will receive information from OCS regarding early childhood education and development. You will also be invited to OCS events as you prepare for your child's schooling.



Exceptional
CHILDREN SERVICES

If for any reason you suspect your child (age 3-21) may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving special education services, please call Oldham County Schools Exceptional Children Services Department 502-222-3737. Our goal is to ensure every child has the support they need to thrive and excel.



In Oldham County Schools, we strive to equip students with the skills and knowledge to be independent readers, writers, thinkers and communicators, while fostering a love of and value for literacy. We value providing access to evidence-based instructional practices and materials, ensuring differentiated instruction and culturally responsive teaching, and using the Kentucky Academic Standards

and literacy practices as a bedrock for instruction.



Scan here to see an overview of our approach to elementary literacy instruction with a focus on the 5 pillars of reading. Or go to youtu.be/GSmQNHPEpoc

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Empowering Our STRATEGIC PLAN Through Effective Budgeting

Kentucky education funding is driven by property values and Oldham County ranks 20/171 lowest funding per pupil in the state. A large increase in the state base funding per pupil (SEEK) is needed to address this issue. You can see our full list of legislative priorities at the bottom of this page.

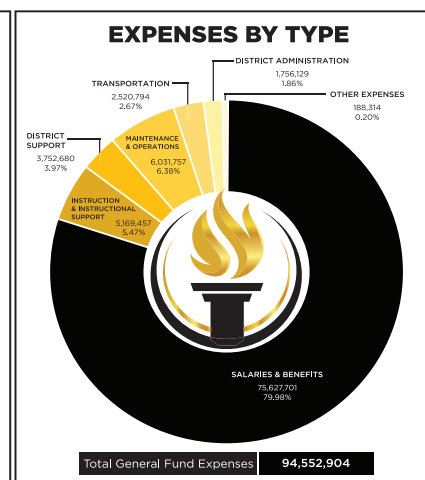
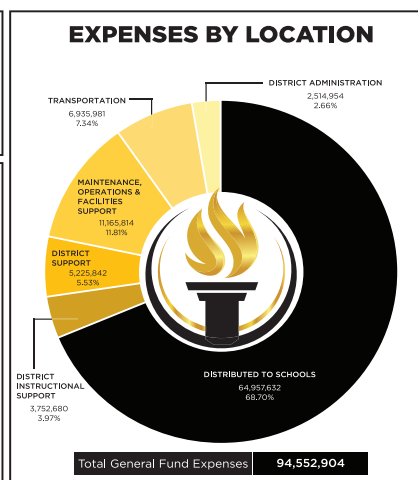
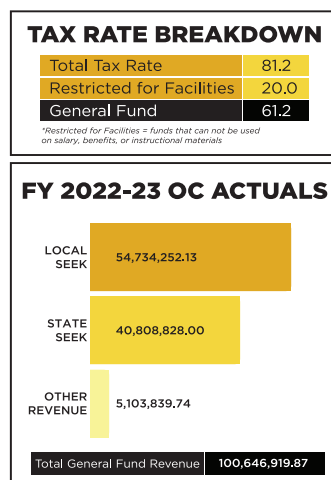
School funding in Kentucky is made up of an equalized formula of local taxes and state allocation, known as SEEK, short for Support Education Excellence in Kentucky.

The higher the property values as compared to the statewide average, the lower the state allocation, in order to provide equity in funding across school

districts. Districts receive more or less state funding based on the amount of local taxes that can be generated in the county.

Fiscal Year 2023 Overview

In concluding the 2023 fiscal year, Oldham County Schools demonstrated a robust general fund balance, marked by revenues that exceeded projections and expenses that were judiciously managed under budgetary constraints. Revenues were reported at 2.6% over budget and expenses were under budget by 5.6%. In addition, OCS has increased salaries while decreasing overall cost to the district. A noteworthy 4% reduction of expenses in salary and benefits has been observed from



*Restricted for Facilities = funds that can not be used on salary, benefits, or instructional materials.

fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023, reflective of staffing changes at the district level. This achievement was accomplished while concurrently providing annual salary increments to our staff. However, our work is not done. We continue to look for ways to cut expenses in order to offer our staff a competitive salary while being good stewards of

taxpayer dollars.

For more information on expenditures and how SEEK funding works in Kentucky and in Oldham County, scan here. Or go to www.oldham.kyschools.us/departments/finance



This budget year, Oldham County Schools implores state legislators to:



Fully fund pupil transportation to reimburse the district for the approximate \$2.6 million annually required to supplement this expense.



Codify language to fund full-day kindergarten to ensure funding continues for this expense that the district has incurred for many years.



Increase the SEEK base funding per pupil by a minimum of \$325 per year over the next 4 years to get back to 2008 state funding levels, adjusted for inflation.

Elevating Education

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships are the lifeblood of our schools, breathing vitality and resilience into the educational experience for our students, dedicated staff, and families. These partnerships amplify the impact of our schools, creating an environment where students thrive academically, staff members are empowered to excel, and families feel an even deeper connection to their community schools. These are just a few examples of our valued community partnerships.



Thanks to a Pyramid Award, students in Ron Adkisson's class at North Oldham Middle School have a new lathe, they are learning the steps to turn blocks of wood into beautiful pens that are truly works of art. Opportunities like this provide valuable resources for students to explore their creativity while developing practical skills.

Since 1995, the Oldham County Educational Foundation (OCEF) has granted OCS teachers money to assist with instructional strategies to increase student learning outcomes. Teachers applying for Pyramid Awards are encouraged to develop innovative projects by introducing unique, new, or different instructional methods designed to actively involve students in the learning process and invigorate student learning. This year, OCEF gave \$46,454.13 in Pyramid Awards to 44 teachers.

Safety is the highest priority for our district. District leaders hold an annual school safety meeting with local law enforcement. Together, they review the school resource officer program, Kentucky Center for School Safety audit reports, SRO schedules, and school traffic and arrival/dismissal safety. In this collaboration between OCS, Oldham County Police, La Grange Police, and the Oldham County Sheriff's office, they discuss what can be improved, and plan for the upcoming school year, all to ensure the highest levels of student and staff safety.



Our School Resource Officers are a vital component of our safety plan. Our 11 SROs not only keep our campuses safe, they also build trust and foster community throughout our buildings.



The Oldham County Health Department, Oldham County Educational Foundation, and Oldham County Fiscal Court have played a vital role in bringing Care Solace to OCS. Care Solace provides a pathway for OCS students, families, faculty, and staff to connect with reliable, ethical and high-quality mental health care services – no matter the circumstances. We are one of the only districts who have community involvement in providing Care Solace. We are very grateful for their financial contributions to provide this program so our students, staff, and families have better access to mental health support.

Our community and industry partnerships are of paramount importance, shaping the educational journeys of our students by offering invaluable opportunities like internships, mentorships, and co-op experiences. We are committed to expanding these opportunities and invite our community and industry partners to contribute their ideas to foster the development of the next generation of dedicated professionals.

The experiences our students gain through these partnerships, such as our Biomed and Sports Medicine partnerships with UofL Health and Baptist Health, often exceed what can be captured in mere photographs. We place a strong emphasis on safeguarding patient rights in collaboration with our esteemed partners as we help launch a new generation of healthcare professionals.



Interns are scrubbed in and ready to learn.

(Right) Sports Medicine student, Linnea Edling, measures a patient's range of motion. "I love that we get to work with physical therapists and patients in a clinic. I hope to major in exercise science in college and this is great experience."



Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jason Smith, introduces students to the UofL Health Co-op program and tells them what to expect in rotations.

elevating STUDENT experiences:

The Empowering Influence of the Arts

Incorporating visual and performing arts at all grade levels helps create well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but

also emotionally intelligent, culturally aware, and creatively adaptable. These benefits make the arts an integral part of a holistic education that prepares

students for success in various aspects of life. At Oldham County Schools, we prioritize teaching visual and performing arts across each grade level.



Buckner Elementary 3rd Grade "Animated Manners Monsters" - Students design and paint monsters in monochromatic colors, then photograph and redraw them on the iPad using the app DoInk Animation. Next, students animate their creations and turn them into GIF posters to help teach other students about good manners.



NOMS students rehearse for Beauty and the Beast Jr. "From the first time I auditioned, to the very last show, I have never felt so much joy from any other activity before. I found that music is what I want to pursue in the future because it has brought so much joy, laughter, and fun into my life." - NOMS 8th grader Brookelynn Woods (Belle)



The North Oldham High School Band achieved a historic milestone by competing in the state finals for the first time in school history. Finishing 6th in state is a huge accomplishment and a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of each band member, as well as the skilled guidance of band director, Amanda Buchholz.



Students in musical theatre dance train at an elite level with the OC Performance Troupe at OCSAC.



Elementary students perform in the OC Youth Theatre Program's production of Frog and Toad at OCSAC.

In addition to arts education within each school, the Oldham County Schools Arts Center continues to be groundbreaking in demonstrating how the district can effectively provide diverse arts opportunities to the largest number of students and community members. People of all ages continue to gain the benefit of performing alongside top talent and working with a

nationally recognized faculty on a weekly basis. With an annual enrollment of over 3,000 students, the Arts Center is home to the Community Arts Program, District Arts Services, Performance Series, Adult Education Program, and the Oldham County Resource Center. The Arts Center is also home to many community arts organizations, artist residencies, and other

partnerships - creating a hub for developing a lifelong passion for arts and culture by capitalizing on the wealth of talent coming from Oldham County. We invite you to come witness the overwhelming talent of our community at one of our upcoming performances. You can see a list of performances, classes, and workshops at www.ocsartscenter.org



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