

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS ON MARCH BALLOT

The Olentangy Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to place a combined 4.25 mill levy on the March 19, 2024, ballot. The resolution combines a 3.00 mill operating levy and a 1.25 mill permanent improvement levy to address the operational and facility maintenance needs of the district. The resolution also authorizes the Board to seek the authority to issue up to \$350,000,000 in bonds, which will allow the district to address enrollment growth. The district forecasts it will not require any additional millage to be collected to meet future debt service payments.

The estimated annual collections of the combined levy would be \$28.9 million (a 3.00 mill operating levy will collect approximately \$20.4 million, and the 1.25 mill permanent improvement levy will collect approximately \$8.5 million). In reviewing 2024 home values, Treasurer Ryan Jenkins estimates it will cost homeowners \$148.75 annually for each \$100,000 of their home's appraised value. Jenkins stated, "The key reason for the

bond issue is that it encompasses the authority for the district to issue bonds for the construction of five additional Olentangy school buildings; three elementary schools (elementaries 18, 19, and 20), a seventh middle school, and a fifth high school. It also addresses the direct need to protect and preserve our taxpayers' investment in the assets owned by the community. Olentangy Schools aims to provide educational excellence for an exceptional value, and we are committed to being diligent stewards of our taxpayer dollars."



"It's no surprise that the Delaware County area is growing — and will continue to grow. Enrollment projections by our facilities committee forecast a 20% increase in student

enrollment over the next ten years," shared Superintendent Todd R. Meyer. "In spring 2020, we made a promise to our community that Olentangy would stay off the ballot for three years, and I am proud that we stretched that commitment to four years, with the lowest operational ask in over 30 years."

[See MARCH BALLOT ISSUE, Page 2](#)

THE OLENTANGY FOUNDATIONS: WHERE LEARNING OCCURS

Olentangy teachers actively embrace professional learning and collaboration, focused on the Olentangy Portrait of a Learner and The Olentangy Foundations frameworks, as the basis for instruction.

The Olentangy Foundations are where quality curriculum, assessment, instruction, and context in an inclusive environment intersect to ensure the opportunity for every student to maximize their learning.

For Liberty Middle School eighth-grade students in Mrs. Gillespie and Mr. Mills' social studies class, The Olentangy Foundations' components are embedded into a larger classroom culture of thinking and learning. Self-assessment drives students' learning and teaches them goal-setting and progress monitoring. Students, in turn, see the curriculum as relevant and meaningful to their lives and supports the development of transferable skills.

[See FOUNDATIONS, Page 2](#)

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: TODD R. MEYER

From the moment the Olentangy Schools Board of Education presented me with an opportunity to lead our district last summer, my priorities have included reaffirming our collective commitment to the District's mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student and the future of our One Olentangy community.

For me, these two areas go hand-in-hand and have served as guiding principles in the work of our district leadership team — especially those opportunities awaiting Olentangy Schools over the next ten years. I joined Olentangy Schools in 2007 — which does not feel that long ago — to open Orange High School, and over these past 17 years, I have watched our Olentangy and Delaware County communities grow and change at an incredible rate. In my first year in the District, our enrollment was 12,010 students. Today, it is almost double that number at 23,943 students. This growth is expected to continue over the next decade, with Olentangy Schools projected to open the 2033-2034 school year with nearly 29,000 students.

Thirty years ago, we served 1,925 students in two buildings. It is likely no one would have imagined Olentangy Schools would blossom into Ohio's fourth-largest school district and one of its highest-performing, but here we are. Our explosive growth is a point of pride for everyone in Olentangy Schools; it says that our district and community are destinations for families new to Central Ohio. Keeping up with growth has not come without challenges in the forms of modular classrooms, buildings near or over 100% capacity, and adjusted attendance

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Leveraging the foundations and how they work together also impacts the context of the classroom, sending a clear message that students are valued and belong at the center of the learning process. Overall, the teaching approach is student-focused, encouraging active engagement and collaboration, and the eighth grade social studies content is used as a vehicle for critical and creative thinking.

Olentangy Schools' mission is grounded in its pursuit to facilitate maximum learning for every student and allow students to flourish.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- In U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best High School Rankings report, four Olentangy schools claimed spots in Ohio's top 25 rankings.
- Olentangy Schools earned an overall top rating of five stars on the 2023 Ohio School Report Card.
- Students at all grade levels are succeeding at state and national-level competitions for geography, spelling, STEM, robotics, business classes and much more.
- Our ACT score average for 2023 was 24. The national average is 20 and the state average is 19. All 11th-grade students take the ACT, which measures what students are learning in high school to determine academic readiness for college.
- Many of our students earn college credit while still in high school. Olentangy offers a College Credit Plus program and 26 Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION

The Olentangy Local School District is led by a Board of Education- five members elected by the community to represent their collective voice in decision-making for the school district. Olentangy Schools is grateful for the dedicated service our five board members provide to the District on a daily basis.

Olentangy's board members represent countless years of commitment to the community, serving or leading Board or Superintendent committees prior to and during board service, talking with and listening to students, parents, and community members, and ensuring the district remains fiscally sound through policy and oversight.

The Olentangy Schools' Board of Education is responsible for an annual budget of nearly \$489 million, almost 24,000 students, over 3000 employees and 27 schools. Serving as a link between the

community and classroom, the District's Board members lead the fourth largest school district in the state of Ohio with a community-minded spirit and watchful guidance, all while maintaining their personal and professional lives.

Olentangy Schools provides an excellent educational experience at an exceptional value year over year, with the knowledge that we can always get better. We appreciate the willingness of our Board of Education to provide us with their knowledge and value of a quality public education.



MARCH BALLOT ISSUE Continued

"Olentangy is a destination district for families, and we continue to see new housing growth throughout our 95 square miles. This ballot issue is essential to continue to provide the necessary facilities for our students to learn and the individualized resources our students deserve. Our One Olentangy community has come together in support of our schools in the past, which has resulted in Olentangy being a recognized leader in K-12 education," continued Mr. Meyer.

Should voters support and approve the levy in March 2024, the first collection will be in the calendar year 2025.



OLENTANGY ENROLLMENT & BUILDING GROWTH

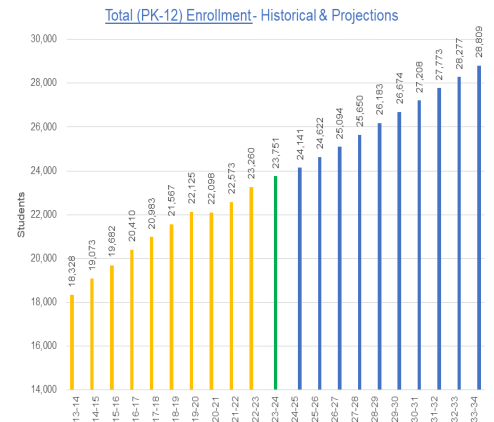
Each year, Olentangy Schools has a long-term student potential analysis performed to measure the impact that housing development has, and will have, on Olentangy's student enrollment. This analysis informs the work and decisions of the Facilities and the Attendance Boundary Committees, which are both comprised of community members. The ten-year projections also ensure student programming is in place and anticipates the potential impact on transportation.

Overall, Olentangy Schools will continue to see growth throughout the next 20 years. As currently zoned, 78%

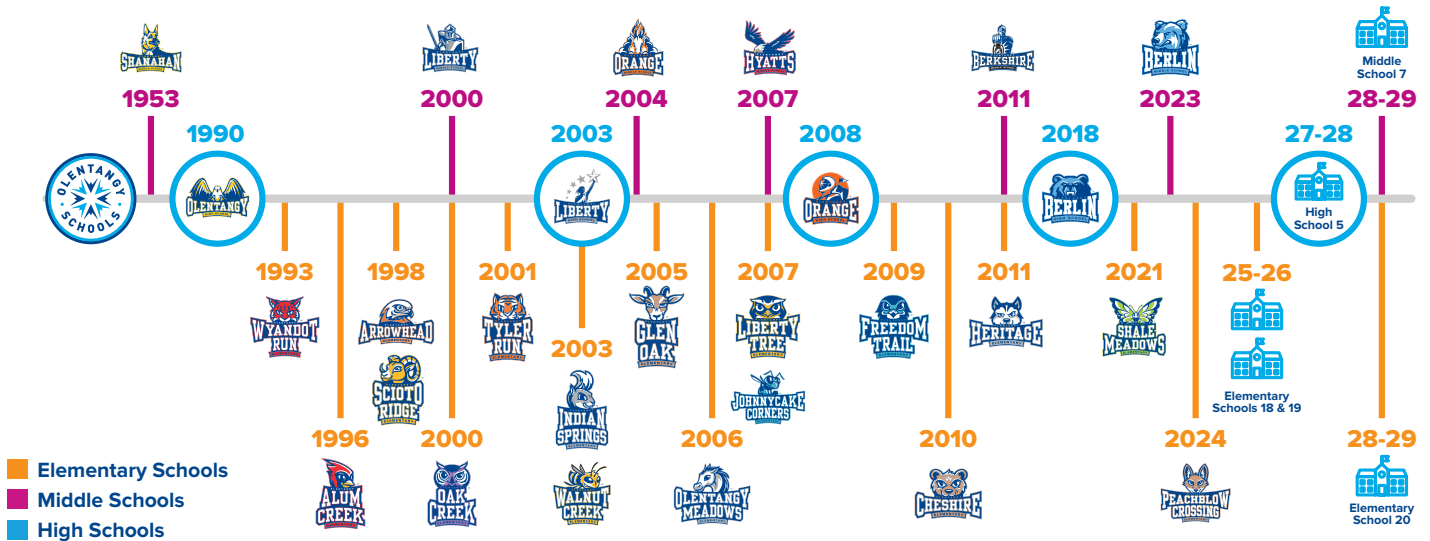
of the land within the 95 square mile Olentangy Schools attendance area is built out. Once all the currently planned development is complete, providing that nothing else comes online, the district will advance to 87% developed.

The housing study reviewed planned neighborhood development, different types of housing, and the age of homes in the district to forecast potential housing units and student yield. Utilizing this model, the additional development could produce another 12,000 housing units over the next 10-15 years. Olentangy's Facilities Committee presented student enrollment projections and

future facility needs. Below is a look at Olentangy's student enrollment history and a ten-year projection.



BUILDING GROWTH



SUPERINTENDENT Continued

boundaries, but your unwavering support in the past has helped us address increased enrollment, expand learning opportunities, and deliver educational excellence at an exceptional value.

Olentangy Schools is on the March 2024 ballot, and the District is projecting the enrollment growth for five new buildings. We are on the ballot because there is an immediate need, and I can assure you Olentangy Schools is not, and would not, ask for more than what is needed.

I am proud to serve as superintendent of Olentangy Schools, and I want to thank the families and community members in our district for entrusting us as diligent stewards of taxpayer dollars and allowing us to facilitate maximum learning for every student – past, present, and future.

With Gratitude,
 Todd R. Meyer
 Superintendent





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



www.olentangy.k12.oh.us

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ONE MISSION COMMUNITY OLENTANGY

Know the Facts



Election Day is

March 19, 2024

Early Voting Begins February 21

Scan for more facts
about the Olentangy Schools
upcoming levy



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

DR. KEVIN DABERKOW
VICE PRESIDENT
(740) 657-4150
kevin_daberkow@olsd.us

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

MS. LIZETT SCHREIBER
BOARD MEMBER
(740) 657-4093
lizett_schreiber@olsd.us

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

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

DISTRICT DATES

ONE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE
February 3, 2024

CLASSIFIED INTERVIEW DAYS
February 7, 2024
March 6, 2024

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS
February 28, 2024

END OF THIRD QUARTER
March 7, 2024

OLENTANGY WELLNESS WORKSHOP
March 9, 2024

SPRING BREAK
March 25-29, 2024

CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION
May 19, 2024
Liberty High School: 9 a.m.
Orange High School: 12 p.m.
Berlin High School: 3 p.m.
Olentangy High School: 6 p.m.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
May 23, 2024

