

## ALUMNI HOMECOMING GATHERINGS

Olentangy Schools graduates were invited to attend an alumni gathering at their alma mater before a Friday night football game this fall. Olentangy High School, Orange High School and Berlin High School held pre-game gatherings during their homecoming weekends, and Liberty High School welcomed alumni on Friday, October 14 as part of their community tailgate.

The events brought alumni together to look through yearbooks, enjoy yard games, receive giveaways, and connect with one another. Alumni were invited to join the football game following the gathering and were recognized during the game announcements.

This was the first year of this annual event, and each high school will continue to partner with the Olentangy Schools Alumni Association to welcome alumni back each year. This winter, dates and information will be announced for the 2023 alumni gatherings.



Alumni Gathering at Olentangy High School on September 23rd.

## ENROLLMENT TOPS 23,000; SCHOOLS PLANNED FOR CONTINUED GROWTH

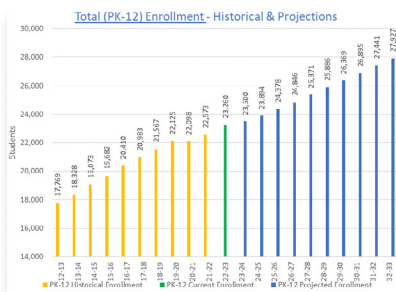
The facilities committee presented student enrollment projections over the next ten years to the Olentangy Board of Education at the October 6, 2022 meeting. Olentangy's current preschool through 12th grade enrollment is at 23,260 for the 2022-2023 school year. In looking forward ten years to the 2032-2033 school year, the facilities committee is projecting a growth of just under 5,000 students to 27,927.

District-wide enrollment is currently consistent with the overall population growth in Delaware County, with the area averaging 788 new home starts each year.

The facilities committee's forecast demonstrates the need for elementary schools 17 (planned for 2024-2025), 18, 19 and 20 in the next ten years. Even with the opening of Berlin Middle School

in 2023, they also forecast that middle school 7 will be needed for the 2029-2030 school year. High school capacity will be a focus by 2032 and discussions for a potential fifth high school due to growth will take place over the next ten years.

Projections for the 2030-31 school year reflect every class of students in grades 4-12 surpassing 2,000 students. The full facilities report is posted to Olentangy's district website.



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Dear Olentangy Schools Alumni,

The District's strategic plan is the framework for how we create a unique learning experience for all. Olentangy is proud to focus on the strategic plan goal of expanding community involvement and partnerships, by piloting a program that bridges the gap between K-12 school districts and the business community. Olentangy: BridgED creates opportunities for impact in workforce development, internships and hiring, philanthropic giving and scholarships.

Workforce opportunities in Central Ohio are plentiful, with 16 Fortune 1000 headquarters and 52 college campuses. Central Ohio is expected to add between 145,000-200,000 new jobs by 2032. Columbus is first in Midwest population growth and is anticipated to grow by one million people by 2050. Numerous opportunities exist to connect learners with jobs that align with their interest and passion.

Through the Olentangy: BridgED program the District is partnering with five businesses: JP Morgan Chase, Honda, Elford, Worthington Industries and Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Over 50 engagement opportunities have been identified for our students, staff and families with these companies. Students will have the chance to speak with employees who hold different

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: IAN HARRISON

**What schools did you attend at Olentangy, and when did you graduate?**

I attended Arrowhead Elementary School, Shanahan Middle School, Olentangy High School for two years and then Berlin for two years, where I graduated in 2020.

**Is there a staff member from your time at Olentangy that impacted your professional path?**

The two most influential teachers I had were Mark Nori and Erin Gibbons.

**What experiences contributed to you choosing to go into musical theater? Any highlights from your high school theater productions?**

I only did one show my senior year of high school, Cinderella, with the Berlin Theatre. During the show I

built up a lot of confidence in myself that allowed me to branch out.

**Can you give us a summary of your life since Olentangy, and what has led you to The Voice?**

I have just been figuring it out as I go! There have been a lot of changes and fast moving parts. I was in the workforce for a year, then attended college, and now competing on The Voice.

**Do you have a favorite moment from being on the show so far?**

My favorite moment has been singing on that stage. There is no adrenaline rush quite like it. When that first chair turns it's very emotional and one of the greatest feelings.

*Watch for Ian Harrison on The Voice this fall on NBC, Monday & Tuesday evenings.*



## ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL ACCOLADES

### CLASS OF 1992

**Claudia Hetrick-Wade (OHS)** is in her 27th year in education, and currently works as an internship coordinator at Olentangy's STEM Academy to coordinate engineering and biomedical internships. Her son, Carter, will graduate from Olentangy High School next year.

### CLASS OF 1994

**James (Jim) Reardon (OHS)** began his career with the Liberty Township Fire Department back in 1991, and after holding numerous positions from Firefighter/Paramedic, to Captain, to Assistant Chief; he was named the 8th Fire Chief to serve Liberty Township. Chief Reardon resides in Columbus with his wife of 22 years, Jill, and their two children Kaiti and Brendan.

### CLASS OF 2009

**Grace (Moore) McAllister (OHS)** is in her 10th year of teaching in Columbus

City Schools, and is currently teaching choral music at Whetstone High School. Her choir earned a Superior rating at state competition in 2022. She serves as the Ohio Music Education Association (OMES) District 15 President, and is a wife to her husband of five years, Xavier, and mom to two children, Jack and Faye.

### CLASS OF 2012

**Ali Phillips (OOHS)** is now teaching first grade at Walnut Creek Elementary where she was once a student!

### CLASS OF 2016

**Celeste (Clark) Miller (OHS)** is teaching math at Olentangy Berlin High School.

### CLASS OF 2018

**Dylan Penka (OOHS)** plays the sousaphone for The Ohio State University Marching Band. He had the honor of "dotting the i" in the script Ohio for the OSU football game vs. Rutgers on October 4, which is

an accomplishment he has worked towards since his time in Olentangy. (see photo below, Dylan Penka, Dr. Ishbah Cox, Michael Penka)



### CLASS OF 2019

**Shazia Waggoner (OOHS)** is currently studying architecture at Kent State and was the student winner for Voices of Design through The Center for Architecture and Design.

### CLASS OF 2020

**Emily Brace (OOHS)** is in her third year at Miami University studying to become a high school teacher.

Submit accolades & milestones to: [OLENTANGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)



The Olentangy Education Foundation (OEF) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the education experience for the students in Olentangy Schools.

The foundation does this through a variety of programs, with the primary focus on providing classroom grants for innovative programs and learning opportunities that fall outside school budgets.

In 2022, OEF awarded more than \$53,000 in grants to classrooms across the district. These grants will provide a wide range of opportunities for Olentangy Students ranging from a middle school robotics team, to instruments and equipment for an elementary music program.

For a full listing of the grants awarded, more information on other OEF initiatives, or how to get involved, visit the OEF website:

[olentangyeducationfoundation.org](http://olentangyeducationfoundation.org)

jobs within each company as well as explore internship opportunities, experience hands-on learning and be exposed to careers which they may previously have not been aware. Additionally, we hope to engage interested alumni with these companies, too.

This is just the beginning for Olentangy. Our plan is to add five more companies over the next year to grow the group, allowing students and staff to explore even more opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Raiff

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The OHS Class of 1983 is planning its 40th reunion, to be held on Saturday, August 5, 2023 starting at 5 p.m. The class has a Facebook page - Olentangy Braves Class of '83 - where details will be shared. Those without Facebook can send an email to [ohsdelawareclassof83@gmail.com](mailto:ohsdelawareclassof83@gmail.com).

### *Reconnect At Your Class Reunion*

Holding a class reunion? Make sure to register the reunion to be shared through the Olentangy Alumni Association by sending the reunion details to [alumni@olentangyef.org](mailto:alumni@olentangyef.org). We will feature class reunions on our Olentangy Alumni Association social media sites, webpage and in the Alumni Connection!

## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH



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[alumniolentangy](https://www.instagram.com/alumniolentangy)



[www.olentangyeducationfoundation.org/](http://www.olentangyeducationfoundation.org/)



[alumni@olentangyef.org](mailto:alumni@olentangyef.org)



**OLENTANGY SCHOOLS**