

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LEADS OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN CLASSROOM INVESTMENT

Olentangy Schools is proud to rank 9th out of 607 traditional public school districts in the state for our commitment to classroom spending, allocating 74.6% of our per-pupil budget directly to instruction.

“These direct investments in classroom instruction are made possible through the ongoing support of the Olentangy community,” stated Superintendent Todd R. Meyer. “We are committed to our strategic goal of modeling fiscal responsibility and transparency and sharing with our community how we continue to invest taxpayer dollars.”

Investing in People: The Backbone of Education

The heart of Olentangy’s investment in education is our dedicated staff. “Our mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student goes beyond the efforts of our classroom teachers,” said Dr. Michelle Blackley, Chief Academic Officer.

“It extends to our transportation team, who greet students each morning, our food service staff, who provide nutritious meals, and the specialists and aides, who offer one-on-one and small group support, among many others.”



Treasurer Ryan Jenkins presented the district’s Five-Year Forecast in 2024, emphasizing that school districts are service organizations, with 82% of 2024 expenditures dedicated to personnel services and employee benefits.

Professional Development: Investing in Educators

Ensuring staff members continue to grow professionally is a top priority for the district. The academic calendar includes three dedicated professional development days, scheduled

[See CLASSROOM INVESTMENT, Page 2](#)

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025: SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

We can’t wait to celebrate our Class of 2025 on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at The Schottenstein Center!



Commencement start times:

Orange High School at 9:00 a.m.

Berlin High School at 12:00 p.m.

Olentangy High School at 3:00 p.m.

Liberty High School at 6:00 p.m.

As we eagerly anticipate celebrating the Class of 2025 this May, we also want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible accomplishments of last year’s graduates — the Class of 2024. Their hard work, resilience, and achievements continue

to inspire us, and we can’t wait to see all they accomplish in the years ahead.

A Look Back at the Class of 2024

1,871
Total Graduates

3.575
Average GPA

23.5
Average ACT

1258.1
Average SAT

7,926
Graduation Seals
Earned

193
College & Universities
Attended

SUPERHEROES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Local school boards play a significant role in establishing policies and practices in public schools, and in Olentangy Schools, our five-member Board uses their superpowers to guide and support the district. Our passionate Board members serve as champions of public education and the One Olentangy community, and their vision and passion in areas such as curriculum, policy, fiscal responsibility, and advocacy efforts ensure Olentangy Schools facilitate maximum learning for every student.



Dr. Libby Wallick — Superhero for Educational Excellence

As a superhero for educational excellence, I'm passionate about supporting the high academic standards we've established in Olentangy. One of the areas I'm especially attuned to is how we adopt new curriculum. As a former classroom teacher and someone who still works in professional development for instructional leaders, I know how important it is to have a thoughtful, thorough vetting process. It's exciting to be part of selecting high-quality

materials that truly enhance student learning — not just trying to see what sticks, but making intentional, research-based choices that will enhance the learning for our students.



Dr. Kevin Daberkow — Superhero for Legislative Advocacy

As a superhero for legislative advocacy, I'm committed to fighting for fair school funding and ensuring Olentangy receives its fair share from the state. Right now, too much of our locally generated revenue—90%—goes to the state and never comes back to support our schools. For me, fair funding is the number one issue impacting every taxpayer in the One Olentangy community. Families move here because of our educational excellence, and I — along with

the rest of the Board — will continue advocating at the state level to make sure we can maintain the high-quality student experience our community expects and deserves.



Kevin O'Brien — Superhero for Fiscal Responsibility

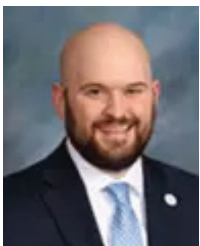
As a superhero for fiscal responsibility, I'm proud of how our Board and district have consistently prioritized smart, responsible spending. Olentangy has a proven track record of achieving outstanding student performance at a very competitive cost per pupil. That balance — high performance at an efficient cost — shows that we are making thoughtful investments that drive the right outcomes for our students and community.



Lizett Schreiber — Superhero for Policy Adoption

As the newest member of the Olentangy Board of Education, I'm proud to serve as a superhero for policy adoption. My previous volunteer work on the district's policy committee gave me a deep appreciation for how policies guide our district's work and set clear expectations for how we operate. Well-crafted policies not only help ensure compliance with state and national laws — they also reflect our district's values and promote a culture of respect

and accountability. When everyone — the Board, district staff, and our community — is on the same page, it helps ensure transparency, clarity, and consistency in everything we do.



Brandon Lester — Superhero for Community Advocacy

As Board members, I believe it is essential that we stay in touch with the community. We are Board members, but first and foremost, we are community members ourselves. Listening to and engaging with the community helps us make informed decisions about the strategic direction of Olentangy Schools. It is an honor to serve as a superhero for public education and this district, and on behalf of the Board, we are committed to upholding the trust our community has placed in us.

CLASSROOM INVESTMENT *Continued*

collaboration time, and access to OPDA courses for continuous learning. Superintendent Meyer reinforced the value of these efforts, stating, "Show me a school district where adults are learning, and I will show you a school district where students are learning."

Innovative Curriculum Resources and Pedagogy

A high-quality, dynamic curriculum is another pillar of Olentangy's investment in student learning. "We provide resources for professional development and innovative teaching strategies aligned to our academic continuous improvement plan," shared Dr. Blackley. "This allows for consistency across buildings that fosters student engagement, critical thinking, and is able to be personalized to meet the evolving needs of our students."

In 2023, the district introduced the Bridges math curriculum in all K-5 classrooms, providing differentiated instruction opportunities with a focus on hands-on learning. Additionally, the district is piloting two new literacy curricula based on the science of reading.

Beyond core subjects, Olentangy boasts a broad range of specialized programs and courses to meet our students' interests. Examples include the district's STEM Academy and Teacher Academy, as well as 26 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College Credit Plus (CCP) and a marketing pathway for students to receive a head-start on college-level learning.

Enhancing Learning Through Technology

This curriculum is implemented using research-based learning tools to enhance classroom experiences. For example, the district invests in the Lexia Core5 Reading application to enhance literacy development for K-5 students, while PowerUp Literacy assists grades 6–12 students who may be at risk of falling behind. Additionally, the district has invested in over 1,200 ViewSonic interactive displays in recent years, which foster collaboration and engagement in classrooms.



COMING FULL CIRCLE: OLENTANGY GRADS SHAPING DISTRICT'S FUTURE

A great school district like Olentangy doesn't happen by chance. It's the result of a bold mission and smart strategy carried out by a passionate team, and a highly engaged community that continuously supports the school district's endeavors. Olentangy is proud to return its students back into its ranks as staff members to further the mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student. Since 2016, over 200 graduates have been hired to work and teach in Olentangy Schools. Get to know some of the district's dedicated team members and hear what brings Olentangy grads back to Olentangy Schools to serve as teachers and staff in this incredible community.

"Overseeing 3,000+ employees, I work with a district leadership team that prioritizes creating the conditions for all our employees to be successful in each of their respective roles. When our staff are happy and thriving with the most positive employee experience, ultimately our students will benefit and thrive under these same conditions." — **Nancy (Sedlacek) Freese, Olentangy Schools Chief Human Resources Officer, OHS Class of 1986**

"I am responsible for the heating and cooling in all 31 facilities. My contribution to the education of our students is as simple as comfort." — **Dana Buell, Olentangy Schools Mechanical Lead, Olentangy Delaware JVS, Class of 1979**

"My work helps bridge students' classroom education to long-term career success. We partner with high schools, such as Olentangy, through the BridgeEd program to educate students about potential paths after high school. Whether it's starting a career right out of high school or pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree, we aim to provide valuable insights. We also participate in career-related events to showcase the diverse career opportunities at Honda, which are conveniently located for Olentangy students in central Ohio and across the United States. These opportunities span across various fields, including manufacturing, engineering, purchasing, finance, IT, human resources, and more." — **Daniela (Echeverria) Evans, College Relations, Unit Manager, American Honda Motor Co., OHS Class of 2008**

"What I loved the most about my educational experience in Olentangy schools was the connection I made with my teachers, and I wanted to come back and work in a district that valued their teachers. As a high school English teacher, my goal is to create a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where every student feels valued and capable of succeeding." — **Ellie MacDowell, Olentangy High School English and Journalism Teacher, OLHS Class of 2019**

BRIDGED PARTNERS BRING TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS BACK TO THE CLASSROOM



Since its launch, Olentangy Schools' BridgED initiative has empowered thousands of students through immersive work-based learning experiences, shaping the next generation of innovators. However, the work district partners haven't only focused on the students. Through professional development, teachers and counselors also get a unique opportunity to step outside the classroom and explore the in-demand and ever-changing careers awaiting their students.

"Through partner externships, our teachers and counselors are connecting with professionals in various industries and gaining valuable insights into the skills and knowledge needed for success in today's job market," said Molly Preston, Olentangy's assistant director of strategic partnerships. "These immersive experiences help our staff better understand the real-world applications of classroom lessons, ensuring they can guide students more effectively in choosing career pathways."

Over the past two years, partners from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, OhioHealth, Elford Construction, and The Superior Group have hosted educators for externships, offering firsthand insights into industries such as healthcare, construction, and business. These Externship Days not only allow educators to learn about current trends and opportunities across different professions, but also equip them with the knowledge and skills to help students make more informed career decisions.

Thanks to strategic partnerships fostered by Olentangy:BridgED, our educators are gaining new perspectives that directly enhance the guidance and support they provide to students — empowering them to better navigate the diverse college and career pathways waiting for them.



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Olentangy is now on Nextdoor!
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*****ECRWSEDDM*****

Postal Customer

Olentangy Schools residents that do not have children in our district can receive periodic email updates by registering for our digital Community Connections:



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

DISTRICT DATES

CONFERENCE EXCHANGE DAY, NO SCHOOL

April 18, 2025

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION

May 18, 2025

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

May 22, 2025 (two-hour early dismissal for K-5)

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT CARDS AVAILABLE

May 30, 2025

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

May and June

SUMMER ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCE

June 2-12, 2025

SUMMER SCHOOL

June 2 - July 11, 2025

ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

August 18, 2025

2025-26 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

August 20, 2025

Attention all Olentangy alumni



Join the Olentangy
Alumni Association



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

