winter 2024

OLDHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

OUR Schools — OUR Stories

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY







Igniting a passion for learning:

Teachers teaching teachers at the inaugural OCS Ignite Conference, sharing insights and strategies for student success.

OUR SCHOOLS, OUR STORIES:
connecting our community



I'm pleased to bring you the 3rd edition of Our Schools, Our Stories: Connecting Our Community.

In this issue, you will learn about the latest developments in our district aimed at enriching the student experience. Our facilities department is actively engaged in a series of projects designed to enhance both our athletic and educational environments. Recently, we completed significant upgrades to the soccer/field hockey/lacrosse fields at Oldham County High School and North Oldham High School. Work continues on new inclusive playgrounds at each of our elementary schools, and soon work will begin on new wayfinding signage at each school and campus that will bring a cohesive look to our schools. We look forward to breaking ground on a new facility on the Oldham County High School campus that will house a new spectator gym, Buckner High School, and Little Colonels Daycare. Looking ahead, South Oldham High School will undergo a major expansion starting this summer to accommodate our growing student body. These initiatives exemplify our dedication to excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts, ensuring safe and engaging spaces for all students.

I'm excited to share details about the inaugural Ignite Conference in Oldham County Schools, referenced on the front page of this publication. This conference was available to all secondary teachers just before the start of this school year on the NOHS/NOMS campus. This conference, as well as the Elevate Conference for elementary teachers, was designed to empower our teachers with skills and strategies to elevate student achievement. Teachers are the heart of education and their impact extends far beyond any curriculum or resource.

Community collaboration is vital for the success of our students, enriching their educational experience and connecting them to real-world opportunities. We are thrilled to see so many local businesses and organizations partnering with our schools to provide valuable skills, mentorship, and resources. These collaborations not only enhance learning but also empower students to envision their futures and develop essential life skills. By working together, we are creating a supportive network that prepares our students for success beyond the classroom.

I'm also excited to highlight the academic strides our schools are making through the adoption of high-quality instructional resources tailored to meet the unique needs of each student. Each school has engaged in thoughtful selection processes, integrating resources that not only enhance learning but also empower our educators to deliver impactful instruction. Together, we are building a strong foundation for our students' academic pursuits.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to nurture a thriving learning environment for all.

Dr. Jason Radford, Superintendent

The Oldham County Board of Education



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Elevating Education

THROUGH THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



Nick Stephens, Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial, spoke with the students in JAG about leadership and his career as a financial advisor.

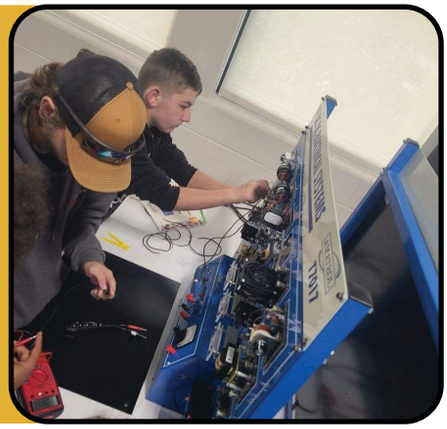
We are excited to announce the launch of the Jobs for America's Graduates Kentucky (JAGKY) program at Oldham County High School, a transformative initiative designed to inspire, empower and prepare Kentucky's youth for success in tomorrow's workforce. JAGKY is dedicated to helping students overcome barriers, ensuring they graduate from high school and seamlessly transition into the workforce, post-secondary education, or the military.

This community-based program thrives on the incredible support of the Oldham County community, which has rallied together to meet the diverse needs of our students. Through mentorship, skill development, and real-world experience, JAGKY equips young leaders with the tools they need to thrive. Join us in fostering a brighter future for our youth and the community at large!



JAG students have had guest speakers from the Air Force, Army National Guard, and Marines come and talk with them about being in the military and the doors it could open for them with employment, vocations, and education.

JAG students visit JCTC's Carrollton Campus to learn more about the Future 42 program, an innovative workforce development initiative offered through Jefferson Community & Technical College (JCTC) that creates direct pathways to high-demand manufacturing careers. This program combines college education with paid work experience at leading companies. Future 42 partners with industry leaders including DOW, LG&E-KU, NAS, NUCOR, and PMC to provide students with valuable opportunities in advanced manufacturing. Through the program's last-dollar scholarship funding, supported by these companies and Ohio Valley Charities, students can pursue degrees in high-wage, in-demand fields while gaining hands-on experience.



The Oldham County Education Foundation (OCEF) is dedicated to enhancing the educational experience for students in Oldham County Schools. Every year, OCEF diligently raises funds to meet the needs of the school district that fall outside of the state budget. Their support enables the adoption of new technology, innovative classroom projects, specialized equipment for student needs, and programs that extend beyond traditional core programs. Since its inception in 1989, the Pyramid Awards have been a cornerstone of OCEF, providing competitive grants of up to $1,250 to teachers for engaging classroom projects. In 2023, a record $46,512 was awarded, contributing to over $500,000 granted throughout OCEF's 30+ year history.



Mrs. Downing's class dives into programming using Scratch in the Camden STEM lab. Thanks to a Pyramid Award, students are using Makey Makey invention kits and MIcrobits to bring their programs to life in Scratch!



Centerfield Elementary students are learning the joy of playing the ukulele. The ukulele, with its simple structure and joyful sound, is the perfect first instrument because students can quickly learn simple chords and play songs they recognize.



Through "Biology in Action," NOMS students are able to witness life in various ecosystems right in their classroom. Science students in Ms. Cole's class are observing the tropical rainforest ecosystem of tree frogs. The students will compare the frog's ecosystem with a different ecosystem found on Earth, such as desert or tundra.



Camden students learn how to design LED light sequences and have Microbits talk to each other.

FACILITY UPGRADES: *Elevating* THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

In a concerted effort to elevate the student experience across the district, Oldham County's facilities department has taken on several projects in order to enhance educational and athletic environments. With a commitment to excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics, these upgrades reflect the district's dedication to ensuring safe, engaging, and inclusive spaces for all students.

We are pleased to announce that recent enhancements to the soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse fields at Oldham County High School and North Oldham High School have been successfully completed. Upgrades at both facilities include:

- ☑ New turf
- ☑ Advanced lighting
- ☑ Comfortable bleachers
- ☑ Secure fencing
- ☑ New restrooms, press box, concession stands, ticket booth, team benches and scoreboards

These upgrades are all done to ensure our student athletes, spectators, and visitors have the best possible environment for sporting events and practices.









In partnership with OCS, Oldham County students playing for Racing Oldham and LouCity Oldham are able to train locally throughout the winter on the new fields.

FRONT ENTRY PERSPECTIVE:



SOCIAL STAIR PERSPECTIVE:



Starting this summer, South Oldham High School will begin a major expansion renovation project to support our growing student body. These upgrades will increase the student capacity of the building by 500. This will include:

- ☑ New classroom wing
- ☑ New auditorium
- ☑ New fine arts wing
- ☑ New kitchen and cafeteria
- ☑ New 2-story media center
- ☑ Complete interior renovation of classrooms and gymnasiums

Renovations will also include further athletic improvements in addition to what has been done inside Mitchell Irvin Stadium. These developments reflect our commitment to providing exceptional resources for both athletics and academics.

This past summer, we outlined work for a new facility on the Oldham County High School campus that will house a new spectator gym, Buckner High School, and Little Colonels Daycare. The gymnasium, which is slated to seat approximately 3700 spectators, will present enormous possibilities for not only the students and staff of Oldham County High School, but our entire district. Once work is started on that project, our facilities department design team will begin planning major interior renovations to the core building at OCHS. These renovations will significantly enhance the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the school.







Playgrounds at each of our elementary schools are slated to be modernized and upgraded by July of 2025. While each school's playground will differ, they all include new play surfaces, accessibility, and inclusive features. The Oldham County Board of Education has taken on this district-wide project in order to provide students with safe, engaging, and inclusive environments that promote physical activity, social interaction, and healthy development for all children.



PLAYGROUND AT LA GRANGE ELEMENTARY



The Oldham County Preschool is excited to announce the addition of a new multipurpose space designed for instruction, gatherings, and indoor play when weather is uncooperative. Emphasizing the importance of physical development in early childhood this vibrant area will enhance the preschool experience through physical activity choice time. The addition is slated for completion in May 2025.

ELEVATING EDUCATION *for Teachers + Students*

In August, Oldham County Schools held the inaugural Ignite Conference, available to all secondary OCS teachers. The Ignite Conference offered sessions planned by teachers, for teachers in Oldham County. These sessions provided evidence-based strategies and innovative approaches and tools to bolster our instructional practices to enhance student learning and engagement in the classroom. It was an excellent opportunity to learn from and with colleagues, share experiences, and discover new ways to support every student during the 2024-25 school year.







Teachers were able to choose from a diverse range of sessions that identified with their interests and professional goals. There are plans to expand this even further next year and invite teachers from surrounding school districts to learn best practices from OCS teachers.

Elementary teachers had the opportunity to participate in the Elevate Conference to explore strategies designed to enhance teaching and student learning across disciplines. Sessions focused on understanding shifts in literacy and tailoring lessons to diverse student needs while maintaining the integrity of the resource. The knowledge gained there enriched lessons and empowered attendees to make informed decisions.



Liberty Academy's first graduate, Dayly Rodriguez Munoz, with her student of the month award.

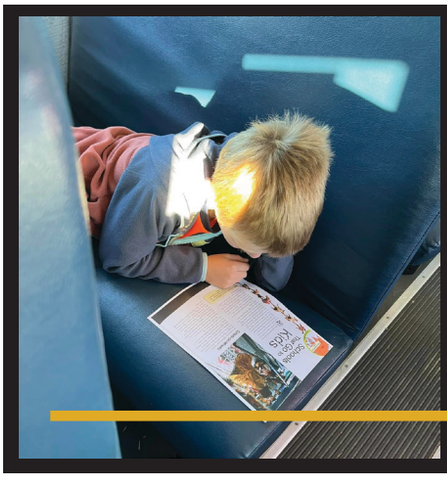
Student Spotlight

LIBERTY ACADEMY

We are thrilled to introduce Liberty Academy, our innovative virtual school designed to meet the diverse learning needs of today's students. Liberty Academy provides a flexible, personalized learning environment where students can thrive at their own pace while maintaining rigorous academic standards. Our dedicated teachers support our students as they utilize interactive learning platforms enabling students to pursue their education in a way that best suits their individual circumstances. Whether they are advanced learners seeking acceleration, athletes balancing training schedules, or students who simply excel in a more flexible learning environment, we can meet their needs. While the setting may be virtual, our commitment to educational excellence and student success remains firmly rooted in the proud traditions of Oldham County Schools.

What better way to celebrate Liberty Academy's first year than with the success of our first graduate? With her eye on starting dental hygienist school as soon as possible, Dayly Rodriguez Munoz jumped at the opportunity to attend Liberty Academy where she knew she would be able to accelerate her studies and graduate early. She also appreciated the flexibility of the program where she was able to work mornings and attend classes in the afternoons. This schedule enabled her to complete all necessary coursework for graduation, and she is now set to start her next chapter as a college freshman at University of Louisville in January.

Senate Bill 9, also known as the “Read to Succeed” bill aims to promote evidence-based literacy instruction and increase student success in reading. The district remains committed to ensuring literacy success for every student and has responded to the needs of students and teachers by allowing each school to adopt high-quality instructional resources that fit their needs. By actively listening to teachers and incorporating their feedback, the district works to ensure that selected materials meet the specific challenges and strengths of each student population. This collaborative approach aligns with Oldham County Schools commitment to reading, setting up students for success with evidence-based curricula.



Kenwood Station 2nd graders experienced learning on a bus, just like students at the Doorstep School in Mumbai, India. Students discussed how our classrooms have lots of technology and resources, while the Doorstep School makes the most of a mobile learning environment with fewer materials. This activity helped students appreciate both the similarities and differences in how education happens around the world.

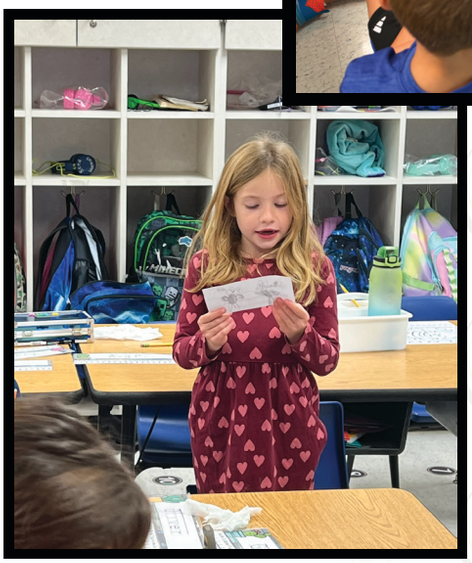


EXCEPTIONAL Children Services

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 at 502-222-3737. Our goal is to ensure every child has the support they need to thrive and excel.

Crestwood students read together in small groups and share their questions and thoughts on characters and storylines. By discussing in groups, students are actively collaborating as they learn, creating a deeper understanding of the story.





In Ms. Dorsey’s first grade class, students discuss the challenges faced by the book’s main character in the story. By exploring how we learn about characters, students develop their ability to empathize with characters, as well as make connections to the world around them.

Empowering our STRATEGIC PLAN Through Effective Budgeting

The Oldham County Schools budget serves as a vital tool that empowers our strategic plan, ensuring that our vision for educational excellence becomes a reality. By allocating resources effectively, we can enhance student learning, support innovative programs, and invest in the professional development of our educators. This fiscal overview not only highlights our commitment to transparency but also demonstrates how every dollar is strategically directed to fulfill our mission of providing a high-quality education for all students in an environment where they can thrive and succeed.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

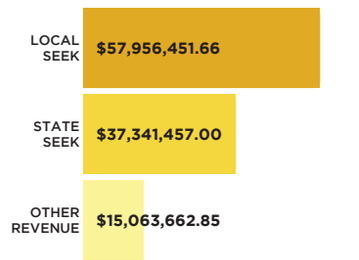
In concluding the 2024 fiscal year, Oldham County Schools demonstrated a robust general fund balance, marked by revenues that exceeded projections and expenses that were judiciously managed under budgetary constraints. Revenues were reported at 10% over budget and expenses were under budget by 4.6%. In addition, OCS gave a 2% salary increase to all staff and also offered a one-time stipend payment of $1500.00 for all full-time employees and $750.00 for all part-time employees.

For fiscal year 2025, staff received a 7% salary increase and a stipend of either $2000.00 for full-time employees or $1000.00 for part-time employees. However, our work is not done. We will continue to look for ways to cut expenses in order to offer our staff a competitive salary while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

TAX RATE BREAKDOWN

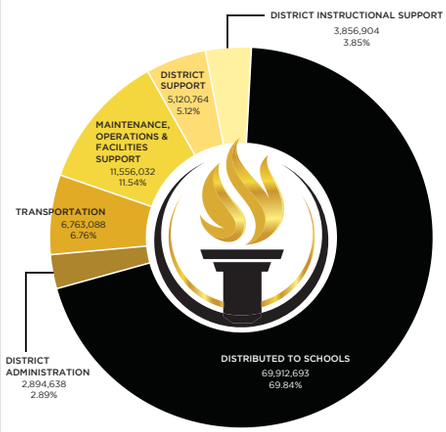
Total Tax Rate	81.2
Restricted for Facilities	20.0
General Fund	61.2

FY 2023-24 OC ACTUALS



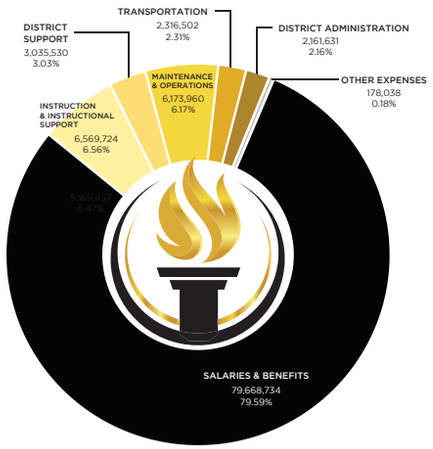
Total General Fund Revenue	$110,361,571.51

EXPENSES BY LOCATION



Total General Fund Expenses	$100,104,119

EXPENSES BY TYPE



Total General Fund Expenses	$100,104,119

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