

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SUMMER 2025

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 May 2025, 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 collaboration time, and access to courses for continuous learning. Superintendent Meyer reinforced

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!



Olentangy celebrated our Class of 2025 on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at The Schottenstein Center. While we honor the 1,787 members of 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

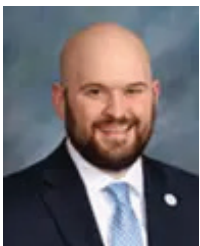
As a superhero for fiscal responsibility, I'm proud of how our Board and district have consistently prioritized smart, responsible spending. Olentangy has a proven track record of achieving outstanding student performance at a very competitive cost per pupil. That balance — high performance at an efficient 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*

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.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JORDAN CROSBY

Meet Jordan Crosby, a graduate of Olentangy High School, Worthington resident, and broker/owner of Di Lusso Real Estate — a luxury real estate brokerage focused on helping clients buy and sell in the rapidly growing central Ohio market.

Q: What schools did you attend in Olentangy, and when did you graduate?

A: I attended Alum Creek and Oak Creek for elementary school, Shanahan and Orange middle schools, and then, Olentangy High School.

Q: Is there a staff member from your time in Olentangy that impacted your professional path and coming back to work in Olentangy?

A: Mrs. Katie (Peterson) Middleton was my math teacher. I wasn't necessarily the best student, and I had a tendency to push my limits when it came to rules. I remember her doing a good job of being stern with me, but also having respect for me. [She] would communicate with me like a normal person instead of just yelling at me when I would make her mad.

Q: What experiences contributed to your career path? Any highlights of business courses, school clubs, athletic teams, etc. that pushed you towards real estate?

A: Unfortunately, I didn't take any business classes in high school or even college. In reality, I had no interest in real estate, being a business owner, or any other career while in high school. Looking back, I wasn't really sure of who I was in my teens. But the relationships I made being an Olentangy Lifer, either through sports or the classroom, have continued to pay dividends in my professional life. I have multiple real estate agents at my brokerage that I went to school with and many clients who were classmates. Those closings are always special when you've known the person since you were skateboarding through neighborhoods in middle school and now you're helping them buy a home for their family.

Q: What have you done professionally post-Olentangy?

A: I went to OSU Delaware campus for political science and worked a sales job at Tru-Green Lawn Care. That showed me that I can make as much money as I'm willing to work for in sales and planted an entrepreneurial seed in my mind. I was also able to buy my first home when I was 21, and I rented rooms to friends. At some point, my parents and I mutually decided that the college thing wasn't worth continuing, as I was practically failing every class. After a few years of home ownership, I realized how much the value of that home had increased and it made me want to

buy another rental. I started dabbling in real estate investing in my free time, which led me to get my Real Estate Salesperson License and my Real Estate Brokers license. I explain more about my real estate journey on this [podcast episode](#).

Q: Why have you stayed a part of the Olentangy community for this long?

A: I was an Olentangy Lifer, and I didn't move away after school. Almost all of my friends and acquaintances either went to Olentangy or knew people from Olentangy. So naturally my sphere was always going to be tied to Olentangy in some form or fashion as I got older. Also, the area is growing so much and it's one of the most desirable parts of town to live in, so it made it very easy to stay a part of the community.

Q: What's next for you — either personally or professionally?

A: My goal professionally is to continue to grow my real estate brokerage and real estate portfolio. Personally, my wife and I plan to start a family at some point over the next few years and have our children attend Olentangy Schools.



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 our 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**



ALUMNI GATHERING DATES

Olentangy High School
September 19, 2025

Berlin High School
September 26, 2025

Liberty High School
October 3, 2025

Orange High School
October 3, 2025

NEW FOR 2025!

LEGENDS OF OLENTANGY



Nominate a Deserving Alum or Community Member as a Legends of Olentangy

Deadline for submissions is July 1, 2025

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH



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[Olentangy Schools District Website](https://www.olentangyschools.org)

