

UNITED MAGAZINE

DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS ~~~~~ Summer 2025

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Picture Perfect

#AthletesinAction

From walk-off wins to record-breaking runs, our spring athletes brought skill, spirit, and heart to every game, match, and meet. These snapshots capture the **energy and dedication** of Dublin City Schools' student-athletes in action.





Who is New Solutions K12?

New Solutions K12 (NSK12) is a national consulting firm that helps school districts raise achievement, improve teacher support, and operate more efficiently — all while honoring the unique context of each community.

Dublin City Schools partnered with NSK12 to take a fresh, expert look at how we serve English Learners, gifted students, and students with disabilities. This work directly supports our Responsible Staffing Plan and Journey 2030 Strategic Plan by helping us meet growing needs while using resources responsibly.

The NSK12 team includes former superintendents, educators, and strategic advisors with deep experience in public education. Founder Nate Levenson has worked with more than 300 districts, and is nationally recognized for his practical, student-centered approach.

When used thoughtfully, consultants like NSK12 can be powerful partners. They bring outside perspective, research-based practices, and clarity to complex challenges. In Dublin, they've helped us focus on what matters most: doing what's best for students, supporting staff, and strengthening our schools for the future.



Always Growing What we learned from NSK12

Dublin City Schools partnered with New Solutions K-12 (NSK12) this year to review services for English Learners (EL), Gifted Education, and Special Education. Led by the Department of Student Services, this work focused on ensuring every student receives what they need to succeed—academically, socially, and emotionally. The review included classroom visits, interviews, and data analysis.

While many long-term improvements will take time, several key actions are already underway, aligned with the district's Responsible Staffing Plan and Journey 2030 strategic plan. "Our mission is to prepare every student for success," said Chris Ondrus, Executive Director of Student Services. "That means designing programs that meet students where they are, while also honoring our commitment to operate as efficiently and responsibly as possible."

More updates will be shared as additional recommendations are evaluated and implemented.

"This is just the beginning," Ondrus added. "We're committed to growing our programs in ways that are educationally right and operationally responsible."

Key Recommendations and Next Steps

ENGLISH LEARNERS | BUILDING A TEAM TO SUPPORT GROWTH

English Learner enrollment in Dublin City Schools has grown nearly 20% since 2019. With that growth, NSK12 confirmed what the district had already sensed: additional leadership capacity is essential. “This job has become too big and requires more focus to meet the needs of our students,” said Ondrus. “We simply need more support to administer these services.” In response, the district created a Director of EL position and hired an additional EL Coordinator. These leaders will help develop customized support plans based on each school’s language needs. “For example,” Ondrus explained, “a high school with a large number of Spanish-speaking students might have a math class that is taught at least partially in Spanish. This would help students grow in math while building their academic language in English.”



GIFTED SERVICES | BROADENING IDENTIFICATION, DEEPENING SUPPORT



The NSK12 review identified two key opportunities to strengthen Gifted Services as well. One action already planned is expanding student identification. The district will use Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment data at each building to identify students who may qualify for cognitive giftedness testing. This will complement teacher and parent referrals, especially for students who may not be identified through traditional pathways. Second, to meet the needs of students with exceptionally high ability—those in the top 1–2%—the district will implement more deeply challenging programming, including potential single-subject or whole-grade acceleration. “About 30% of our students meet the state definition of gifted,” said Chris Ondrus, “but this next step is not for most gifted students — we’re talking about the top 1–2%.”

SPECIAL EDUCATION | MORE TIME, MORE SUPPORT

NSK12’s review affirmed the strength of Dublin City Schools’ Specialized Learning Centers (SLCs) for students with significant disabilities but identified two areas for immediate improvement. First, the district will adjust schedules to ensure struggling readers receive all core instruction with their classroom teacher, IEP services separately, and additional small-group support—creating a three-layered approach without sacrificing instructional time. Second, the district will reallocate internal resources to add another behavior analyst. These professionals provide direct and consultative support for students with behavioral challenges and equip special education staff and teachers with effective strategies.



Appreciation in Action

Celebrating WHO Makes Us Better Together

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is more than a spring tradition—it's a powerful reminder of the deep respect and gratitude our community holds for the educators who shape the future of Dublin City Schools.

Observed nationwide from May 5–9, 2025, with National Teacher Day on May 6, the week serves as an opportunity to say thank you to the people who bring compassion, expertise, and steady guidance to classrooms every day. What began as a grassroots campaign in the 1950s, spurred by letters to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, has grown into a nationwide celebration led by school communities and families alike.

In Dublin, we take it one step further: ***we turn appreciation into action.***



ONE DISTRICT, MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS

Across Dublin City Schools, PTOs, administrators, families, and students worked together to recognize staff through creative and heartfelt gestures. From handwritten notes and themed decorations to surprise lunches and treat carts, every school community found its own way to say “we see you.”

At Deer Run Elementary, the week began with a warm breakfast and wrapped up with a coffee truck visit that brought both caffeine and smiles. Sells Middle School featured Buckeye Donuts and a visit from Lady Sprinkleton the Third ice cream truck. Scottish Corners Elementary transformed its staff lounge daily with muffins, snack tables, brunch from Catered by Chaneice, a gift card grab bag, and a soup lunch to close out the week.

Olde Sawmill Elementary delivered daily gifts, snacks, and thank-you notes—culminating in a festive Mexican lunch and Graeter's Ice Cream. At Dublin Coffman High School, staff found their names on shamrocks throughout the building. The PTO provided boxed lunches from Jason's Deli, while students stocked the lounge and gifted succulent plants. The week ended with a City BBQ meal served by administrators. And at Emerald Campus, an island-themed celebration included tropical breakfasts and lunches, daily affirmations, and colorful swag.

These are just a few of the countless ways schools across the district created meaningful moments of recognition. The message was clear: our educators matter.





APPRECIATION AS A CORE VALUE

While Teacher Appreciation Week shines brightly each May, our commitment to recognizing educators is embedded in who we are. In fact, it's part of our Culture Playbook under the value Better Together, where we're reminded to "tap into the power of appreciation."

We believe saying thank you is more than polite—it's a sign of respect and a way to build belonging. We work every day to celebrate an attitude of gratitude, because our people are what make Dublin City Schools an elite learning community. Throughout the year, our Better Together Calendar

helps us highlight key national celebrations and educator-focused appreciation days. From National School Counseling Week to Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, from Custodian Recognition to National Principals Day, our calendar ensures that gratitude isn't reserved for a single week but reflected consistently in our culture.

In Dublin City Schools, appreciation is more than a moment. It's a mindset. And every thank-you note, shared meal, and joyful hallway decoration reflects a community that values the people behind the work of education.



Celebrating the Class of 2025

Three schools. One district. Prepared for Success.



Graduation day in Dublin is always one to remember—and this year was no exception. On Sunday, May 25, the Schottenstein Center at The Ohio State University was filled with cheers, applause, and proud tears as families and friends gathered to celebrate the Dublin City Schools Class of 2025. Nearly 1,350 graduates from Coffman, Jerome, and Scioto High Schools crossed the stage in three ceremonies held throughout the day.





“The steps you take across this stage mark the beginning of your new amazing journey, a journey that will be as unique as each of you.”

– Dr. John Marschhausen, Superintendent

Not all journeys begin on a college campus. Some graduates are enlisting in the military. Others are heading straight into the workforce or launching entrepreneurial ventures of their own. In Dublin, we celebrate all post-secondary pathways—enrollment, enlistment, employment, and entrepreneurship—because every student's path is worthy of pride. During his remarks, Superintendent Dr. John Marschhausen reminded students of just that: “The steps you take across this stage mark the beginning of your new amazing journey, a journey that will be as unique as each of you.”

Each year, graduation reminds us how fortunate we are to be part of a district that grows leaders, dreamers, and doers. To the Class of 2025: your Dublin community is proud of you. We're cheering you on, just as we did when your name was called and you stepped across that stage. As Dr. Marschhausen shared, “We know you are prepared for success. **You've got this.**”



Each commencement brought its own energy, but all shared a common spirit: one of pride, gratitude, and excitement for what comes next. Principals from all three high schools reflected on the students' many accomplishments and the lasting impact they've had on their schools and community. The Class of 2025 leaves behind more than impressive resumes. They've led teams, clubs, performances, and community projects. They've earned scholarships, launched initiatives, and supported one another through challenges large and small. In every school, in every corner of the district, this class has made its mark.

This fall, Dublin graduates will head to 176 different colleges and universities across the country—39 states in total. While many are staying close to home at Ohio State, Columbus State, or Miami University, others are venturing farther: to Brown University in Rhode Island, the University of California—San Diego, Arizona State University, and even McGill University in Quebec.

By the Numbers: Class of 2025

 **1,348**
TOTAL GRADUATES

ATTENDING
 **176**
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
(in 39 states + Canada)

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS:

1. The Ohio State University
2. Columbus State Community College
3. Miami University–Oxford
4. University of Cincinnati
5. Ohio University
6. University of Kentucky
7. Purdue University
8. Bowling Green State University
9. Otterbein University
10. University of Dayton

POST-SECONDARY PATHS:

College–Athletes: **67**
Military Enlistments: **27**
IB Diploma Candidates: **28**
Honors Diplomas: **516**
President's Education Awards: **464**

 **440**
AP SCHOLARS

54 with Honors
80 with Distinction

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION:

Finalists: **38**
Commended Scholars: **40**
African American Recognition: **6**
First Generation Recognition: **4**

Honoring Commitment: Dublin's Largest Military–Bound Class

On May 15, the Union at Emerald Campus was filled with pride and patriotic spirit as Dublin City Schools honored its largest-ever group of military-bound graduates. This year's Military Commitment Ceremony recognized 26 seniors from Coffman, Jerome, and Scioto High Schools who have chosen to serve their country through enlistment, ROTC programs, or military academy appointments.

Hosted by Colonel Bo Cunningham, an Emerald Campus teacher, Ohio Air National Guard officer, and U.S. Air Force veteran, the evening offered a moving tribute to students preparing to take on one of the most selfless roles imaginable. "Service before self," he said, "is one of the greatest principles I've carried with me. Today, we honor these students for embracing that call."

After the Presentation of Colors by the American Legion, the Scioto Choir performed the National Anthem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Superintendent Dr. John Marschhausen addressed the students, praising their courage and commitment to one of Dublin's core values: Take Responsibility. "We are proud of your commitment to defend our freedoms," he said.





Keynote speaker Chad Jenkins, a 1997 Coffman graduate, West Point alum, former Army Ranger, and FBI Special Agent, shared personal stories of leadership and sacrifice, thanking families for instilling the values that led their children to service. High school principals presented military cords to each student, and the Nick Rozanski Memorial Foundation awarded challenge coins in memory of Capt. Rozanski, a 1994 Dublin graduate who gave his life in service.

The most emotional moment of the evening was saved for last, as each student presented a white rose to a loved one in appreciation for their support. The ceremony closed with the Armed Forces Medley, where students and veterans proudly stood for their branch's anthem, followed by a reception honoring the graduates and their families.



Congratulations, and immense gratitude, to the 26 seniors from the Class of 2025 who have committed to serve.

COFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Cameron Frazier – Navy ROTC, University of Minnesota
Gabriella Garcia – Air National Guard
Kiley Gynn – Army National Guard
Andrew Haid – Navy ROTC, University of Utah
Daniel Harrass II – United States Marine Corps
Akimasa Hotta – Army, U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Livi Komine – Air National Guard
Camren McInton – United States Air Force
Thomas Merriman – Air Force ROTC, University of Cincinnati
Jacob Naples – Army ROTC, The Citadel
Alec O'Sullivan – Air Force ROTC, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Ian Quan – Navy ROTC (Marines), The Ohio State University
Reid Rogers – United States Marine Corps
Amari Valerio-Hudson – Army, U.S. Military Academy at West Point

JEROME HIGH SCHOOL

Nikolas Avramov – Air Force ROTC (Space Force), North Carolina State
Jack Beal – United States Naval Academy
Carter Brewer – Air National Guard
Ryan Davis – United States Air Force
Breandan Duffy – United States Air Force Academy
Amit Kamath – Air Force ROTC, University of Michigan
Gavin Korb – Air Force ROTC, The Ohio State University

SCIOTO HIGH SCHOOL

Rida Berrada – United States Marine Corps
Lisa Chiang – Air Force ROTC, Purdue University
Karla Hernandez – United States Marine Corps
Karla Larin-Membreno – Army National Guard
Yuka Scott – United States Navy

'24-'25

Another Year of Celebration, Connection, and *Growth*

As the 2024–2025 school year came to a close, students and staff across Dublin City Schools marked the final quarter with events that celebrated learning, community, and the future of our growing district.

TRESSEL CONNECTS AT GRIZZELL

The spring season kicked off with a visit from Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel, who joined students, staff, and local officials at Grizzell Middle School to mark Ohio's 222nd birthday. The event featured a wide range of hands-on learning stations organized by the school's social studies team, highlighting topics like the Underground Railroad, Ohio's role in aviation, state symbols, and Native American Earthworks. Mayor Chris Amorose-Groomes and Superintendent Dr. John Marschhausen also attended. It was a meaningful way for students to connect classroom learning with real-world history (and a real-life politician!).



KARRER AND THE GOLDEN SHAMROCK TURN 25



Later in the spring, Karrer Middle School celebrated its 25th year in Dublin City Schools. The school community marked the milestone with spirit days, staff recognitions, and a schoolwide open house on March 19. Visitors explored the building, enjoyed student-led performances and activities, and participated in scavenger hunts and photo stations. A student-run café added to the festive atmosphere. The event also served as a welcome for incoming students and families who will join the Karrer community next year due to redistricting.

SCIOTO BREAKS GROUND ON ADDITION

The year wrapped up with a major milestone at Dublin Scioto High School. On May 22, the district officially broke ground on a significant expansion project that will add more than 60,000 square feet to the building. Plans include a new two-story academic wing with 27 classrooms and an expanded dining commons with indoor and outdoor seating. The project will provide needed space to support enrollment growth and enhance opportunities for student learning and connection. Construction is scheduled to be completed by August 2026.

From engaging classroom experiences to milestone celebrations and long-term planning, these events reflect the continued evolution of our district and the shared work that goes into supporting students across all grade levels.



Dodge Because You Can

Annual Dodgeball Tournament Unites Schools and Supports Local Families

On Friday, May 9, Coffman High School Stadium hosted a favorite district tradition: the Annual DCS Dodgeball Tournament. Organized by Community Outreach Specialist Tawnya Ewert and supported by the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, the event brought together students, staff, and families from across Dublin City Schools—and raised more than \$29,000 for Kateswell, a Dublin-based nonprofit supporting cancer patients and families in Ohio.

This year marked the 15th anniversary of the tournament, which has now raised over \$229,000 for local organizations since it began in 2009. Student advisory members helped promote the event and selected Kateswell as this year's beneficiary.

Kateswell's mission is to provide support to cancer patients in Ohio during their treatment journey. The organization distributes funds to local nonprofits, provides direct financial assistance to individuals, and offers practical resources for families navigating cancer. All proceeds from the event will stay in Ohio, directly benefiting families in the Dublin area.

The tournament featured five divisions: elementary, middle, and high school students, staff teams, and community partners. Crowds filled the stands to support their schools and enjoy a sunny evening of friendly competition.

"This event is one of the best examples of how our district comes together to give back," said Ewert. "It's community-focused, student-supported, and always about helping others."





2025 SPONSORS

Emerald: Danis Construction

Gold: Raising Cane's, Mikey's Late Night Slice, Columbus Aesthetic & Plastic Surgeons, Clarity Eyecare, Consortium

Silver: OhioHealth, Stanley Steemer, Tropical Smoothie Café, Rolland Insurance Solutions, Baise Printing

Bronze: Hurricane Productions, Market District, Hidaka USA, Ice Miller

DIVISION WINNERS

Elementary School: Glacier Ridge Elementary

Middle School: Karrer Middle School

High School: Coffman High School

Staff: Davis Middle School

Community Partners: Rolland Insurance Solutions





Beyond the Basics

How Grants and Giving Elevate Learning in Dublin's Schools

In Dublin City Schools, some of the most engaging and innovative learning opportunities wouldn't happen without the generosity of others. Thanks to partners like the Dublin Education Foundation (DEF), T-Cetra, PTOs, and local donors, educators are turning bold ideas into everyday experiences that help students connect, grow, and thrive.



Breaking Down Language Barriers

At Scottish Corners Elementary and Davis Middle School, PockeTalk translation devices are transforming how students and teachers communicate. These small, handheld tools allow for two-way conversations across dozens of languages, offering real-time translation that supports both classroom instruction and family engagement.

With students in Dublin speaking more than 80 languages and representing nearly 100 countries, the need for tools that bridge language gaps has never been greater. Dublin's English Learner (EL) population is now the sixth largest in Ohio, with Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese among the most commonly spoken languages. Thanks to a \$3,500 grant from T-Cetra—along with additional support from DEF and the Scottish Corners PTO—the elementary school is just five devices away from placing a PockeTalk in every classroom. Davis Middle School has also expanded its supply this year, with more to come as demand grows.

These tools are more than just helpful—they're essential. By making communication more inclusive, they help ensure that every student and family feels heard, supported, and connected.



Bringing History to Life at Scioto

In addition to funding tools and technologies, DEF and local community leaders also support project-based learning initiatives across the district. One standout example is the annual Immersive Experience at Dublin Scioto High School—now in its sixth year of engaging elementary visitors with hands-on history.

DEF's ongoing support helps bring large-scale, student-led projects like this to life. Led by educator John Witt and supported by colleagues Dr. Santanello and Mr. Kuhn, the experience turns research into reality. Students collaborate across departments—blending theater, art, science, and engineering—to design interactive exhibits that make the past come alive. This year's theme: the Titanic.

Each year, Scioto students develop the experience from start to finish. They choose a historical topic, conduct in-depth research, and transform their findings into 12 interactive sections complete with set design, props, and activities. Once the exhibit is ready, elementary students from across the district take a field trip to Scioto, rotating through each station in small groups for a fully immersive learning experience. Families are also invited to visit the interactive exhibit during a public viewing period, allowing the broader community to engage with the students' work.

Younger students climbed aboard a handmade ship, tested foil boats in a buoyancy challenge, and experienced the urgency of evacuation through a lifeboat simulation—just a few examples of how the Titanic story was brought to life this year.

A Community That Invests

These projects—and many others like them—reflect what makes Dublin City Schools exceptional: an elite learning experience supported by a community that believes in going above and beyond for students. Through philanthropic partnerships and grant-funded programs, our schools are delivering opportunities that far exceed what's expected in public education.

Dublin City Schools is grateful for the many businesses, families, foundations, and organizations that invest in our students' futures. Together, we're making sure every learner has the chance to do more, explore more, and become more.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Skates *and* STEM Students Earn National Recognition

Dublin students **Saanvi Basireddy** and **Abbey Judson** are making waves far beyond the classroom—one through innovation, the other through sport—and both are earning national recognition for their achievements.

Saanvi, a 7th grader at Karrer Middle School, invented the Scrapee, a device that turns paper scraps into reusable sheets. Her idea took First Place in Ohio's 2024 Invention Convention State Finals and secured her a spot at the Henry Ford Invention Convention U.S. Nationals. She was also invited to National Kid Inventor Day at the Ohio Statehouse and will return to Nationals in June 2025 to represent Dublin once again.

Abbey, a student at Jerome High School, took center ice at Nationwide Arena during the Columbus Blue Jackets' "Hockey is for Everyone" night. As a sled hockey athlete with the Columbus Blades, she's spent nearly a decade growing in confidence and strength—discovering a passion that started as a spark during an intermission exhibition when she was eight years old. This full-circle moment was a tribute to her resilience and her commitment to giving back to the sport that changed her life.

We're proud to celebrate Saanvi and Abbey for the example they set and the inspiration they offer.

Have a student you think we should spotlight in the next issue? Send your suggestion to info@dublinschools.net—we'd love to hear their story!

After the Tassel: Alumni Spotlight

Legacy Fund Charts Career Path for Sisters

Chloe and Kaylie Ivey, 2023 graduates of Dublin Jerome High School, knew early on that their future wouldn't follow a traditional four-year college path. Instead, the sisters focused on turning a shared passion for beauty and design into careers in cosmetology.

With support from the Dublin City Schools Legacy Fund, Chloe and Kaylie enrolled in the Cosmetology program at Paul Mitchell The School Columbus, a well-known training ground for students preparing for careers in the beauty industry. There, they completed intensive, hands-on instruction in haircutting, coloring, skincare, nail care, and makeup—all while meeting Ohio's state licensing requirements.

Within a year, both sisters passed the Ohio State Board of Cosmetology exam and earned their licenses. Their training also opened the door to real-world experiences as well, including the opportunity to attend the North American Hair Awards (NAHA) in Orlando, where they connected with top professionals in the field.



DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS
Legacy Fund

ABOUT THE LEGACY FUND

The Ivey sisters are among a growing number of Dublin graduates choosing career and technical education after high school—pathways valued equally alongside college enrollment, military service, and immediate employment.

The Legacy Fund, established in partnership with The Columbus Foundation and the DCS Alumni Association, helps remove financial barriers for students entering skilled trades or non-traditional programs by covering training costs, certification fees, and required materials.

To learn more or give, email info@dublinschools.net









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