OLENTANGY SCHOOLS
Flourish Here.

College Application Process

Senior Parent Meeting 2025

OLENTANGY:BridgED

WHAT IS OLENTANGY:BridgED

Olentangy:BridgED is designed to bridge the gap between K–12 education and the business community. BridgED addresses the core challenges of aligning companies and school districts to foster meaningful collaboration that supports both workforce development and student success.

ACCESS - internships, job shadowing, classroom presentations, building experiences, teacher/staff externships, field trips, pre-apprenticeships

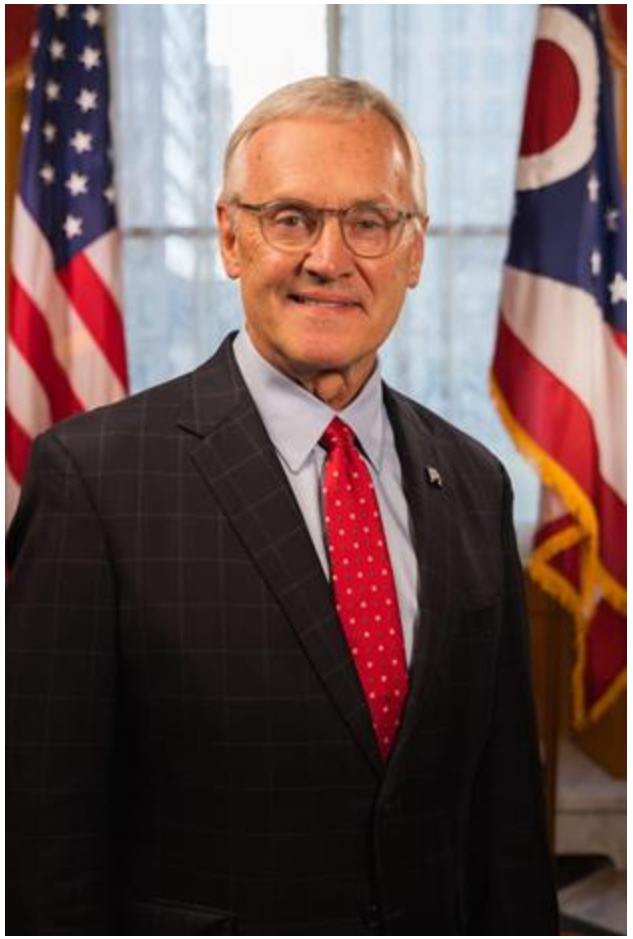
AWARENESS - industry needs and trends, workforce data from across Ohio

UNDERSTANDING - multiple pathways to career success

Molly Preston - Asst. Director of Strategic Partnerships molly_preston@olsd.us

BridgED: PARTNERS

‘BRIDGING THE FUTURE’



Thursday, September 18th
7-8:30PM
Olentangy High School

- Guest speaker **Lt. Governor Jim Tressel**
- Economic and jobs data presented by **One Columbus**
- Industry partner showcase

Discover how Olentangy Schools are bridging the gap between education and industry, creating real-world experiences that build **ACCESS**, **AWARENESS**, and **UNDERSTANDING** of future career paths.

Register today!

SCAN THIS TO DOWNLOAD A DIGITAL VERSION OF TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION

OLHS COUNSELORS

- Zach Miller - Counselor (A-Da)
  - zachary_s_miller@olsd.us
- Jill McGrew - Counselor (Db-H)
  - jill_mcgrew@olsd.us
- Beth Uniacke - Counselor (I-Mn)
  - beth_uniacke@olsd.us
- Brittany Vallier - Counselor (Mo-Sc)
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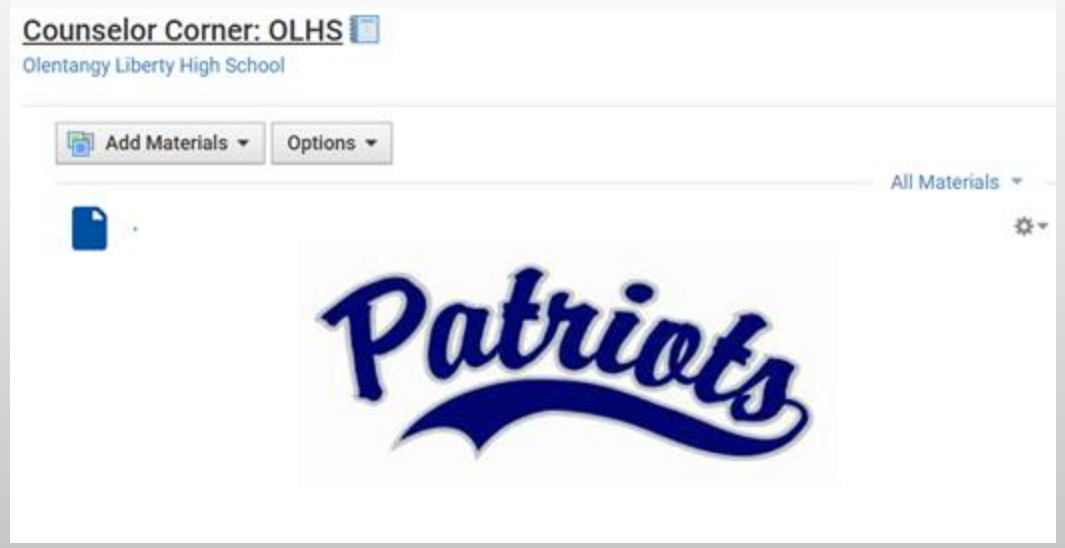
- Bobbie Sisko - Counselor (Sd-Z)
  - bobbie_sisko@olsd.us

Counselor Website & Instagram



- ★ The Guidance Department has a Schoology Course called Counselor Corner: OLHS - all students have access to this course
- ★ Use the site to access up-to-date important information, student services forms, links, resources, seminars, announcements, etc.
- ★ Follow us on Instagram @olhs_counselors

Presentation Goals

- Application process
- ACT/SAT Testing
- Scholarship & Financial Aid
- SchooLinks

APPLICATION PROCESS

Where Do We Start?

- Help your child narrow down their top choices
- Have a list of schools to not limit options
  - The list should include a combination of reach, match and safety schools
  - Do not go overboard - applying to 10 or more schools can be excessive and expensive
- Schedule campus tours either virtually or in-person

Application - Required Items:

- ★ Submit the online application for each school
- ★ The High School Transcript
- ★ Test Scores (if applicable)
- ★ Letter(s) of Recommendation (if applicable)
- ★ Personal Statement/Essay

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE

The Application

- First visit the university website for application instructions
- School Specific Application
- Common Application www.commonapp.org
- Coalition Application www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

KEEP TRACK OF DEADLINES

Transcript

- Must be sent from Liberty High School to be official
- Transcripts will be posted in SchooLinks for students to view
- We will send transcripts through SchooLinks for each college/university on a student's Final Application List - **10 DAYS PRIOR TO DEADLINES**
- Includes all courses taken/currently taking, GPA, and credit information
- Does NOT include class rank

Test Scores

- Many Ohio schools are remaining test optional, but some have reinstated ACT/SAT requirements for Fall 26 applicants (including OSU Columbus Campus). Please check college websites for requirements.
- Arrange to have scores sent at the time of registration (free)
- Must be sent from the testing agency
  - ACT - act.org
  - SAT - collegeboard.org
- Counselors do NOT send test scores
- AP Exam scores are NOT used for admissions purposes

Recommendations

- Teacher Recommendation - 1-2 teachers (varies by college/university)
  - Do they want a core teacher? Elective? Coach?
- Counselor Recommendation - all counselors will complete the Common App counselor forms - please be sure the school specifically states a LETTER of RECOMMENDATION from the school counselor prior to requesting
- All requests for letters of recommendation will be made in SchooLinks - 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE

Personal Essay

- Required by most colleges
- Can be a vital component of the application
- Shed light on what's behind the GPA and test scores
- Reveal personality, passion and values

Admission Plans

- **Early Decision**
  - Student has a clear top choice
  - Can only apply to 1 school ED
  - BINDING - the student must commit if accepted
- **Early Action**
  - Student can apply to as many schools EA
  - Usually linked to academic scholarships
  - NON-BINDING
- **Regular Admission/Decision**
  - Varies by school - apps are usually due by early-to-mid January
- **Rolling Admission**
  - Colleges assess application as they receive them
  - No firm deadline - sooner the better

NCAA

- Students planning to participate in Division I and Division II athletics are required to register with the NCAA eligibility center (ncaa.org)
- Submit necessary documentation according to NCAA Eligibility Center requirements
- Once registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center (MUST BE THE PAID ACCOUNT), the high school will automatically upload your transcript to the portal every time grades are stored
- Work with your counselor and coach to be sure you are taking eligible courses

Rank

- Due to the competitive nature of Liberty High School, students are not ranked for college admissions purposes
- Our school profile accompanies every transcript and details the rigor of our school and the GPA deciles so a school can see where a student would fall in comparison
- Very select schools may request rank and a student can request their rank be posted to the transcript (form in student services) - would only recommend to top 10% of students

ACT/SAT Testing

ACT/SAT

- Most students have taken the ACT/SAT at least once by now
- Colleges will take either test
- October will be the last test students can register and still meet most early deadlines
  - Student MUST select to send scores during registration
- Test Optional - Should I send my score if my school is test optional?

ACT Updates

What's Changing

- Reduced Number of Questions
- Shortened Test Time
- More Time Per Question
- Reduced Answer Choices for Math Questions (5 to 4)
- Science Test is Optional

What's Staying the Same

- ACT Scale and Benchmarks Remain Unchanged
- Prior Test Scores Will Remain Unchanged
- No impact on Predicting First-Year College Success
- Both Paper and Online Tests Still Offered

ACT

ACT 2025-2026 Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

National Test Dates

2025 | 2026

Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 6, 2025	**August 1**	August 19
October 18, 2025	**September 12**	September 30
December 13, 2025	**November 7**	November 24
February 14, 2026	**January 7**	January 21
April 11, 2026	**March 6**	March 24
June 13, 2026	**May 8**	May 27
July 11, 2026*	**June 5**	June 24

SAT 2025-2026 Test Dates (National) & Registration Deadlines

Scholarship & Financial Aid

Scholarships

- Merit/Talent Based
  - application/audition
- Primarily awarded by colleges/universities
  - upon admissions
- SchooLinks - list updated regularly
- OLHS Local Scholarships - updated in December

MANY COLLEGES HAVE EARLIER APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION!

Financial Aid

- Need Based
- Must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Grants
- Scholarships
- Student Loans
- Work-Study

Financial Aid/FAFSA

- OLHS is planning to host another Financial Aid/FAFSA informational presentation this year. Information about this event is forthcoming.

SchooLinks

SchooLinks

- What is SchooLinks?
  - College and Career Readiness Platform to prepare students for what comes after graduation

- How do I log into SchooLinks?
  - Students have a SchooLinks icon on their myOLSD portal and will be automatically logged in
  - Parents will receive a personalized login to view their student's SchooLinks page via InstaConnect

SchooLinks

- What can SchooLinks do?

  SchooLinks helps students discover their interests and strengths, explore colleges and careers, and create a personal graduation plan that best reflects their post-secondary goals.

  - Access career interest, strength and mindset surveys
  - Explore 2-year and 4-year colleges
  - Take virtual reality college campus tours
  - Search for scholarships / learn about financial aid
  - Explore traditional, emerging and military career fields
  - Create digital portfolios/resumes
  - Log volunteer hours
  - Track college applications
  - Request transcripts / letters of recommendation
  - Track graduation requirements

Parent Webinar TBA

Important Dates

- ★ October 20, 2025 - Transcript/letter of rec request deadline for November 1 deadline
- ★ November 12, 2025 - Transcript/letter of rec request deadline for December 1 deadline
- ★ December 8, 2025 - Transcript/letter of rec request deadline for January 1 deadline
- ★ May 1, 2026 - National College Declaration Day
- ★ May 30, 2026 - Graduation Day @ 3PM

Final Thoughts

- Counselors are here to help!! Please have your student talk to their counselor when they have questions!
- Seniors will have seminar and work on SchooLinks on September 5th
- Transcripts will not be ready to send until the 2nd week in September at the earliest
- College Application Boot Camp
  - Tuesday/Thursday during 11th/12th period - October
  - In Student Services

THANK YOU