

2025 SCHOOL REPORT



Olmsted Falls School District

Winter 2026

PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS

By Superintendent Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.



This school year, Bulldog student accomplishments have been nothing short of inspiring. A quick scroll through our Facebook, Instagram, or blog (ofalls.wordpress.com) reveals the wide range of meaningful learning experiences happening across all grade levels. What stands out most is the passion and dedication of our Bulldog staff—their commitment to students is

truly contagious. I'm honored to witness it every day.

One of our district's top priorities this year is completing a two-year Master Facilities Planning study. This collaborative process—led by a dedicated committee of community members and staff—will culminate in a spring presentation to the Board of Education. The resulting recommendations will help shape long-term decisions about our school buildings, just as a similar effort over 30 years ago led to the construction of our middle and intermediate schools and major improvements to the high school. Input from our community has played an important role throughout the Master Facilities Planning process. You'll find more information about this on the back page.

At the same time, we are carefully monitoring challenges that extend beyond our district. The way public education is funded in Ohio remains a pressing concern—especially the state's continued

overreliance on local property taxes. While property tax relief is warranted, state officials often shift the blame to local school districts. In reality, the core issue is the state's failure to meet its constitutional responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education.

For example, the state classifies Olmsted Falls Schools as a "wealthy suburb," leading to the belief that our community should shoulder the vast majority of the cost of educating our students. But in a district like ours—where a large percentage of property tax revenue (roughly 81% in Olmsted Falls) comes from residential homeowners rather than commercial or industrial sources—that burden is significant and very real.

With increased pressure for property tax relief—and five new bills signed by Governor DeWine aimed at addressing it—the core question remains: who will fund the education of Ohio's children? Meanwhile, state resources continue to shift toward private education options.

Regardless of these challenges, we will continue to be thoughtful stewards of the resources entrusted to us—always focused on delivering the high-quality, well-rounded, Triple A experience our students deserve. We remain committed to advocating for a fair and fully funded public school system that protects local control and eases the burden on our community.

CHOIR & CHEER AT COLUMBIA PARK

The OFIS Fifth-Grade Choir, led by music teacher Kelly McClellan, brought holiday cheer to Columbia Park with a festive performance of Santa's Holiday Hoedown. Thanks to support from our transportation department and a team of volunteers, the event was a hit, complete with proud grandparents in the crowd and residents already asking for an encore next year!



PROUD TO SERVE OLMSTED FALLS CITY SCHOOLS



PATRICK GOCLANO
Treasurer & CFO

I'm honored to join Olmsted Falls City Schools as your new Treasurer/CFO. With a deep appreciation for public education and a strong commitment to transparency, I look forward to building on the solid foundation left by my predecessor, Brett Robson.

Before joining Olmsted Falls, I served as Treasurer/CFO for Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools and worked with NEOnet, supporting multiple districts across Northeast Ohio. What drew me

here wasn't just the district's sound financial reputation; it was the people. Olmsted Falls is a place where students come first, staff are invested in, and community pride runs deep.

Always respecting the taxpayer's dollar, the district took an important step this past December to reduce the financial burden on our community. By carefully watching the financial markets and acting at the right time, the district refinanced older bonds and saved more than \$1 million for the community.

These bonds were originally issued in 2015 and 2017 to fund school facility improvements. Like refinancing a home loan, refinancing school bonds can lower interest rates and reduce payments.

The district replaced \$14,375,000 in bonds with a new bond issue of \$13,530,000—cutting the average interest rate from 4.42% to 3.59%. That change resulted in \$1,057,092 in total savings, which equals about \$826,800 in today's dollars. These savings are used to pay down the district's debt and will lower the amount that needs to be collected through property taxes.

It's important to know that these funds are legally limited to debt repayment. They come from voter-approved bond levies and cannot be used for day-to-day expenses like staff salaries, classroom materials, or programs.

At Olmsted Falls City Schools, we take our role as stewards of public funds seriously. Our goal is to find every opportunity to manage costs and stretch dollars in ways that directly benefit students and families.

Please know that I always welcome questions about OFCS school finances and encourage you to contact me at (440) 427-6000 or pgoclano@ofcs.net.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm proud to be part of a district that is truly "different on purpose."

STUDENTS STEP UP TO SERVE

Mr. Pellerite's Home Maintenance and Repair class at Olmsted Falls High School put their skills to work by helping a local veteran with drywall repairs after a sump pump flooded the basement. It was a meaningful opportunity for students to give back while gaining hands-on experience.



KINDER COUNCIL GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center's Kinder Council is made up of one student from each kindergarten classroom, recommended by their teacher and tasked with serving as student leaders within the school. One of this group's primary responsibilities is to organize community service projects. With the help of fellow ECC students and families, they collected over 300 pairs of socks for SOCKTOBER! Socks were donated to a local shelter for children in need. In November, Kinder Council collected donations for their annual food drive. In December, they had a clothing drive for hats, scarves and mittens. Month after month, the Kinder Council is giving back to the community in a big way!



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Olmsted Falls City Schools is proud to welcome three new Board of Education members to our Bulldog family. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome as they begin their tenure as Board Members, guiding our district forward for years to come.



Kelly Abood

Kelly Abood was appointed to fill a vacant seat and sworn in on January 14, 2026, bringing with her over two decades of experience in Operations and Digital Marketing. A resident since 2004, she and her husband have two sons in Olmsted Falls Schools. Mrs. Abood currently serves as Director of Customer Success at Advance Local. A dedicated volunteer, she's actively involved in classroom activities, field trips and Bulldog athletics.



Patrick Antos

Patrick Antos was elected to the Olmsted Falls Board of Education in November 2025 and began his term in January 2026. A 17-year resident, Mr. Antos has a daughter at Olmsted Falls High School. He works as a Realtor and Workforce Development Consultant and is involved in several civic and advocacy groups.



Amy Lauderdale

Amy Lauderdale joined the Olmsted Falls Board of Education in January 2026 following her election in November 2025. A 15-year resident, she and her husband have three children currently attending Olmsted Falls Schools. Mrs. Lauderdale brings experience in Human Resources, Student Affairs, and holds a Master's in Education. She previously student taught at Falls-Lenox and has been an active PTA leader, Key Communicator, and Facilities Master Planning Committee member.

Visit ofcs.net/our-district/board-of-education to learn more about all of our Board members.



JANUARY BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

January was Board of Education Recognition Month, and Olmsted Falls City Schools proudly celebrated the dedicated individuals who serve our district and community. Our Board of Education plays a vital role in supporting students, staff, and schools through leadership, advocacy, and service.

This year, in addition to honoring our current Board of Education members as part of this month of appreciation, we also extend a sincere thank you and farewell to our outgoing board members, Holly Neumann, Bob Perez, and Kelly Walker. We are grateful for their time, commitment, and contributions to Olmsted Falls City Schools.

Thank you to all of our board members—past and present—for your continued support of our schools and community.



2026 Board President Phil Eckenrode (back left) and 2026 Board Vice President Justin Funk (back right) acknowledged outgoing Board members Kelly Walker (front left), Bob Perez (back middle) and Holly Neumann (front right) for their dedicated service to the school community during their final meeting in December 2025.

GINGERBREAD GALORE

Mrs. Budzik's kindergarten class made gingerbread houses, gingerbread people, gingerbread playdough, gingerbread waffles, gingerbread traps, compared gingerbread stories, and enjoyed gingerbread cookies in class, topped off with hot cocoa to celebrate winter break.



POSTCARDS FROM THE WILD

To celebrate the end of their nonfiction reading unit, second grade students from Mrs. Timura's class wrote postcards from the perspective of an animal exploring different habitats. Each student imagined their animal's adventures, from a "wrong" habitat to the "perfect" fit, writing two creative postcards. Students then built models of their animal's ideal habitat, blending science, writing, and imagination to bring their learning to life.



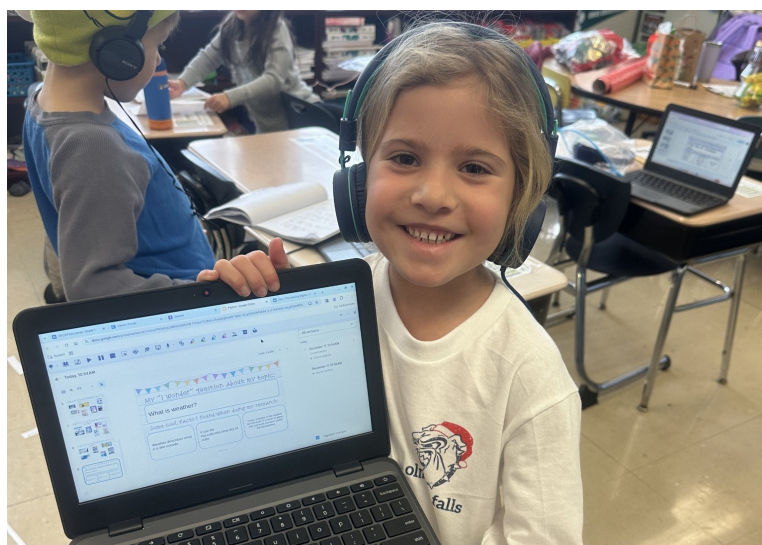
DISCOVERY DAY: WINTER "WONDER"LAND

Before winter break, Falls-Lenox hosted its second building-wide, student-led Discovery Day: Winter "Wonder"land. Throughout the year, students added questions to classroom Wonder Walls, then chose one to explore further. They researched, created presentations, and shared their learning on topics ranging from ocean depth and snow formation to pyramids, cheetah spots, and the galaxy. The day was a joyful celebration of curiosity, creativity, and student voice.



MEET OUR CLASSROOM PROFESSIONALS

Mrs. Valco's second graders stepped into the role of "classroom professionals" by applying and interviewing for jobs they were interested in for the full school year. After attending a job fair, and going through interviews - complete with firm handshakes - they embraced their roles with excitement, pride and a strong sense of responsibility.



BULLDOG FAMILIES DIVE INTO LEARNING

Parents and OFIS students worked side by side on engaging academic activities designed to deepen learning and strengthen connections. Families were invited to join the school day and rotated through interactive stations in math, science, and language arts, each offering hands-on opportunities to showcase student skills and encourage shared learning. These strong connections between school and home continue to benefit students, families, schools, and our community.



RECENT CHALLENGE COIN WINNERS

The Olmsted Falls Board of Education (BoE) Challenge Coin was established to recognize and reward exceptional performance, achievement, and service, and to symbolize excellence and commitment to [#TheBulldogWay](#).

Julianne Allen

At the November 5 Key Communicators meeting, Board of Education member Bob Perez awarded a Challenge Coin to Julianne Allen, Olmsted Falls City Schools' Family Engagement & Communication Specialist. "Julianne inspires, empowers, and elevates everyone around her," shared Mr. Perez. "She is truly worthy of the Board of Education Challenge Coin." Allen helps lead the district's Key Communicators group, a vital bridge connecting residents, families, school leaders, and local officials. She also keeps families informed and engaged through regular "In the Loop" updates and the Bulldog Blog.



Liam Kuzmickas

Olmsted Falls Board of Education member Bob Perez recently presented a Challenge Coin to eighth-grade student Liam Kuzmickas for his powerful essay, "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?" Liam earned the top spot out of 700 essays in the Ohio Elks Patriotism Contest. "Liam's words deeply inspired me," shared Mr. Perez, a veteran. "His insight, maturity, and passion reflect the very values we strive to instill. He is a shining example of what it means to inspire and empower others." Liam's essay reminds us that "true patriotism is rooted in love for country... in the belief that a nation can always become better."



Mike Sislowski

At a December 12 administrative leadership meeting, Board of Education member Bob Perez awarded a Challenge Coin to Olmsted Falls Middle School Principal Mike Sislowski. "Principal Mike Sislowski's leadership reflects the very heart of our district's mission—Empowering and Inspiring students," said Mr. Perez. "By intentionally creating opportunities for student voice, he ensures that our students feel heard, valued, and respected. That commitment strengthens school culture and helps develop confident, engaged learners."





CELEBRATING YOURSELF

Mrs. Santodomingo's, Mrs. Bosanac's and Mrs. Housel's students at Olmsted Falls Middle School spent a month talking about celebrating yourself. Students took a field trip to see the movie *Elf*, but the learning didn't stop there! Throughout the month, they explored what it means to be yourself, solved math problems for Buddy the Elf, and built themed STEM projects. Their presentations came to life as they proudly shared their work with families, students, and staff from across the district, celebrating creativity, learning, and being true to yourself.

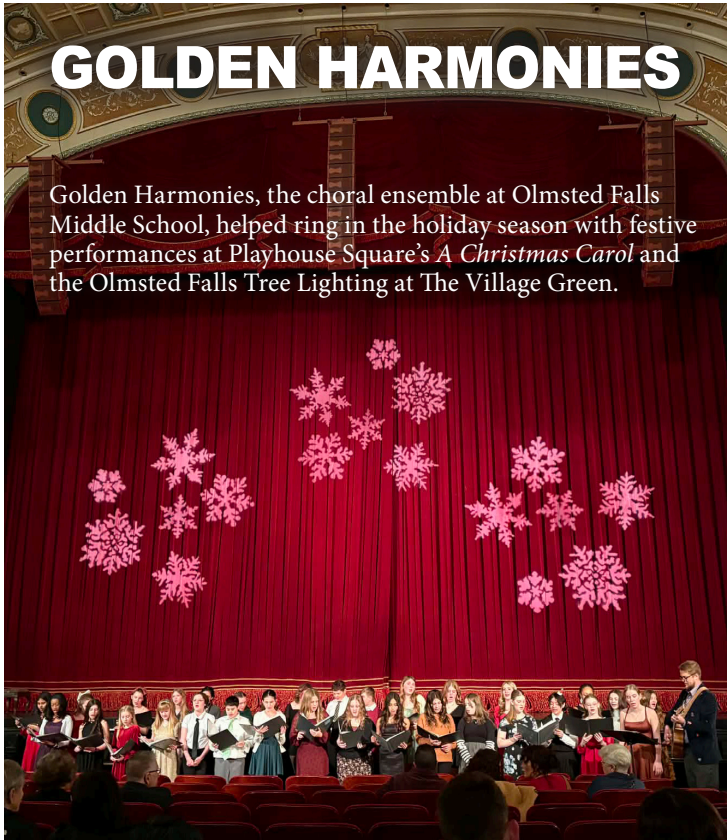
GIVING THANKS THE PBIS WAY

As part of a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Gratitude Lesson, eighth graders reflected on the people, experiences, and things they're thankful for. Led by math teachers, the activity included meaningful discussion and creating handmade placemats for local nursing homes. Students are also spreading gratitude within the school by submitting "grateful shout-outs" through the school resource page.



GOLDEN HARMONIES

Golden Harmonies, the choral ensemble at Olmsted Falls Middle School, helped ring in the holiday season with festive performances at Playhouse Square's *A Christmas Carol* and the Olmsted Falls Tree Lighting at The Village Green.



BULLDOG WRITERS EXCEL AT COMPETITION



Congratulations to our talented student writers from both the middle school and high school who competed at the recent JustWrite Regional Competition! Over 250 students attended the competition, including students from our OFHS Writing Team and OFMS Power of the Pen Team. Our Bulldogs truly stood out with incredible performances across multiple grade levels.

Impressively, OFHS senior Samantha Wu and junior Zoe Bruckner both scored a perfect 700 on their short stories! This year, the OFHS Writing Team qualified 10 students to compete in the State Tournament in May. This is the most in the history of the high school program!

MATH MEETS WINTER MAGIC

Honors Geometry students at OFHS are continuing a beloved tradition, building an Olmsted Falls-themed winter wonderland village. Using scale factor, proportion, similarity, and trigonometry, they designed and constructed miniature houses and local businesses that bring math to life.



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OUR SCHOOL REPORT



19th Consecutive Year!

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OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

NEWS AS IT HAPPENS: OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

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OLMSTED FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Phil Eckenrode **Vice President:** Justin Funk
Members: Kelly Abood, Patrick Antos, Amy Lauderdale

COMMUNITY VOICES SHAPE FACILITIES PLANNING

As reported in previous issues of *Our School Report*, Olmsted Falls City Schools is developing a master facilities plan to guide the future of the district's buildings. Community engagement has been central to this effort. The most recent opportunities to share updates and gather input from residents took place during two community forum events hosted by the Facilities Master Planning Committee. The first forum was held at Falls-Lenox Primary School in November, followed by a second forum at the Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center in January.

Attendees learned about the current condition of district buildings and the work of the Facilities Master Planning Committee, led by OFCS Director of Business and committee chair Heath Krakowiak. Each session included a presentation, a question-and-answer segment, and an exit survey designed to gather feedback. Guests at the first community forum also had the opportunity to tour the boiler room and view a portion of the crawl space beneath Falls-Lenox, providing an up-close look at areas of aging infrastructure.

In addition to the community forums, the committee held several focus group sessions with PTA leaders, Columbia Park residents, and key communicators. A professional phone survey also collected additional feedback from residents, helping shape the district's understanding of both perceived building conditions and public sentiment regarding potential facility solutions.

The Facilities Master Planning Committee will present its findings and recommendations to the Olmsted Falls Board of Education this spring.



Community forum attendees seeing Falls-Lenox Primary School's boiler room, mechanical systems and crawl space first-hand.