



BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In schools and classrooms across Olentangy Schools, growth isn't something on the horizon—it's already here. As families continue to move to Delaware County and enroll in Olentangy Schools, growth continues to define our district's story. And with it comes a shared focus on what matters most: opportunity—opportunity for our students to learn, connect, and flourish in spaces that are equipped to support our growing community.

Over the next few years, Olentangy Schools will open two new buildings—Deer Haven Elementary (Elementary School 18) in 2027 and High School 5 in 2028—marking Olentangy's next chapter. These schools are more than just buildings; they represent a vision for what learning will look like for Olentangy students in the years ahead.

"Growth has always been part of Olentangy's story," said Superintendent Todd Meyer. "But what makes this moment special is how our community continues to come together to thoughtfully plan for it. These new schools represent our shared commitment to providing educational excellence for an exceptional value—not just today, but well into the future."

And that future is coming quickly.

In 2025, 1,193 building permits were issued for both single-family and multi-family housing within District boundaries. Since the start of the current school year, enrollment has increased by more than 130 students in preschool through 12th grade. As of October 2025, 3,927 acres of vacant developable land remain within Olentangy's school boundaries. Current projections suggest that steady growth could continue into the 2040's.

That growth is felt across the district at all building levels—in classrooms, hallways, and school communities that are continuing to stretch, adapt, and grow together.

At the elementary level, Indian Springs and Liberty Tree have entire grade levels using alternative learning spaces in modular or connector classrooms to maximize space and maintain learning environments. At the secondary level, Berlin Middle School is filling up quickly, while two high schools have enrollment above 2,000 students.

Olentangy Schools 2025 no-new-millage

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

School years tend to fly by in a blur of projects, activities, and performances, and it can be hard to reflect on everything in the moment. On the Board, though, we constantly evaluate the district's successes and challenges, remaining focused on innovation, improvement, and excellence.

Olentangy is one of Ohio's model districts, even while rapidly growing to nearly 25,000 students. We are the only district over 10,000 students to receive five stars for academic excellence on Ohio's school report card. Further, we remain one of the best bang-for-your-buck districts, demonstrating fiscal responsibility by spending less per pupil overall than the average district. We also send 75% of funding directly to the classroom, and offer extensive support services despite spending less proportionately on per-pupil administration than over 96% of districts.

Still, challenges remain. The state continues to shift its school-funding responsibility to the local community. Ohio's growing teacher shortage will impact all districts moving forward. Meeting the community's diverse mental health needs remains a paramount concern. And our growth presents resource issues, even as new families enrich the educational experience.

We're meeting these challenges head on, realizing over \$54.3 million in recent efficiency savings and cost avoidance, advocating for fair funding, identifying opportunities with local partners to manage growth smartly, pursuing strategies like last fall's no-new-millage bond that

2026 STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

Olentangy’s annual State of the Schools community event was on Wednesday, February 4, celebrating what makes our district a special place to learn and live. The school showcase featured unique programs, initiatives, and groups from all 27 schools, along with our Olentangy Teacher Academy, OASIS, Ozone Robotics, and the Olentangy Education Foundation.

There were six impressive student performances, featuring the wide array of talent and opportunities available, followed by three panel discussions on important topics to our district—our new district-wide elementary literacy curriculum, career pathways and awareness, and how our facilities committee enhances the Olentangy student experience.

We appreciate our staff, students, families, and community for attending to support and learn more about our schools and district.



ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

Olentangy Schools is excited to introduce a new “A Day in the Life” series on the *Hello, Olentangy* podcast, where the authentic Olentangy student experience takes center stage. Each episode highlights how students in elementary, middle, and high school flourish through creativity in the arts, energy on the field, and meaningful connections built across our classrooms, programs, and clubs. This new series complements our ongoing efforts to elevate student voice through our Superintendent Student Advisory Council, expanded opportunities for student leadership, and an emphasis on choice in the classroom. Together, these platforms ensure students are not only learning—they are being heard, supported, and empowered.



Listen to the *Hello, Olentangy* podcast on Spotify and Apple podcasts.



BOE PRESIDENT Continued

allowed for new high and elementary schools without increasing the tax rate, obtaining state behavioral health certification, and so much more.

As always, we encourage you to ask questions, learn about the issues, and share your thoughts—we want to work collaboratively to make Olentangy the best district it can be. On behalf of the entire Board, thank you for the privilege of serving this amazing community!

Sincerely,
Brandon Lester, President



PLANNING FOR GROWTH Continued

bond, approved by voters with no increase to the tax rate, funds the addition of both new buildings. This is one example of the district’s commitment to fiscal responsibility within its One Olentangy community.

Superintendent Meyer added, “Olentangy’s ability to deliver on its mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student is thanks to our community’s trust and investment in our schools. That same investment creates the opportunities for students to flourish in the classroom, arts, athletics, and other areas.”

The community is invited to help shape what comes next. The Board of Education named Deer Haven Elementary School, Olentangy’s 18th elementary, at the April 9 board meeting. The school is located near Bean-Oller and Sawmill Road and will open its doors in Fall 2027. The principal has been selected, construction is already underway, and the school name, colors, and mascot will be determined by the end of this school year.

“Opening a new elementary school is an incredibly exciting opportunity. I’m honored to serve as the inaugural principal of Olentangy’s 18th elementary school,” shared Anne-Marie Rhodes, newly announced principal of Deer Haven Elementary. “I look forward to building a school community where students feel welcomed, supported and inspired to reach their full potential.”



Just down the road, High School 5, opening in Fall 2028, represents the next opportunity for the community to build something together. Following its groundbreaking on Thursday, June 11, families, students, and staff will be invited to help define the school’s identity—from its name and colors to its mascot.

In Olentangy, growth isn’t just about numbers. It’s about our One Olentangy community coming together to build what we want—what’s next—for its children.

A PLACE TO FLOURISH—HOW OLENTANGY FOSTERED MY STUDENT COMMUNITIES

Special Column by Olentangy Orange High School Senior Abigail W.



Finding a community is the goal of anyone, especially high school students. In a district as opportune as our own, this goal is extremely reachable, made possible by the immense selection of clubs, sports, the arts, and other extracurricular activities. Throughout my time in the district—from elementary to high school—I have floated in and out of many of these groups.

The group that impacted me the most is choir—from middle school performances, where our families made up most of the audience, to high school productions where we received awards at the district and state levels and performed in front of hundreds of people. Every choir I have been a part of in Olentangy Schools has been filled with noise, sometimes even more than our music. Our sound fills homes, parties, and phone calls. Excited chatter filled the room when solos were announced, but also when one of us passed a nursing exam. It’s something I think about often—our choir-kid lack of silence. Because it’s more than music. It’s the sound of support.

This beautiful expression of support and community can be seen in so many other aspects of life within the district. For me, I found a similar feeling within Olentangy Orange High School’s newsmagazine, *The Courier*. Throughout my time as a writer and editor for the magazine, I have not only learned from many wonderful students but also grown because of the opportunity to work alongside them. Even more than that, the mentorship of our advisor, Mrs. Phillips, has given me the experience and ability to shape and work toward the dreams I have for my future, both within journalism and in life.

All of this shows that Olentangy is more than schools with tests and grades; it is truly a place for students to flourish in every aspect of life.



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LEGENDS OF OLENTANGY



Each year, the Olentangy Alumni Association and Olentangy Education Foundation celebrate outstanding alumni or community members for accomplishments following their high school graduation in three categories: Distinguished Alumni Award, Young Alumni Achievement Award, and the Community Service Award.



**Nominations
Accepted
Through July 1**

**Scan to Nominate
a Legend of
Olentangy**

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Visit www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/board-of-education/board-meetings for information on board meetings.

DISTRICT DATES

MEMORIAL DAY, NO SCHOOL
May 25, 2026

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
May 28, 2026

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION
May 30, 2026

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING
June 2026

**SUMMER ENRICHMENT
EXPERIENCE**
June 1–11, 2026

SUMMER SCHOOL
June 3–July 10, 2026

**FOURTH QUARTER REPORT CARDS
AVAILABLE**
June 5, 2026

ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE
August 18, 2026

2026-27 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
August 20, 2026

