



**ALL
IN**



Oakwood
CITY SCHOOLS

oakwoodschoools.org

Our Mission



The Oakwood Schools mission statement reflects our shared purpose:

*Together we learn. Together we achieve.
Together we prepare students for tomorrow.*

U.S. News & World Report Rankings

TOP
10

Ohio High Schools

Oakwood High School ranked 9th among high schools in Ohio.

TOP
15

Ohio Middle Schools

Oakwood Junior High School ranked 14th among middle schools in Ohio.

Ohio School Report Card

5
STAR

5-Star Overall Rating

Oakwood Schools earned the highest overall rating, significantly exceeding state standards.

OAKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Oakwood Community,

As you review this update to our community, I hope you feel the same sense of pride that I do. This publication reflects our shared commitment to being "All In" for our students, our schools, and our future. At Oakwood, this theme defines who we are. We are fully invested in providing the best possible opportunities and support for every learner in our district.

Much of our work this year has been focused on several key areas of progress. We are bringing our Portrait of a Learner to life, ensuring every student develops essential mindsets and skills for their future. At the same time, we are innovating our classrooms through enhanced STEM opportunities and the responsible integration of Artificial Intelligence. We also remain dedicated to fostering a culture of belonging, where the 3R initiative of Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships ensures every student feels supported.

Finally, we are building and investing in our future through Phase 2 of our Master Facilities Plan. This investment is a direct reflection of our commitment to fiscal stewardship. By partnering with the state for a 29% match on approved costs for our elementary school renovations, we are maximizing our resources to provide the best environments for our students. Your continued support has made this possible. Thank you for being a vital part of the Oakwood Schools story.

Sincerely,

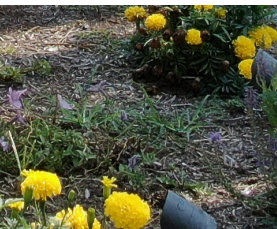


Neil Gupta, EdD
Superintendent



See Our Mission in Action

Scan the QR code to watch our
State of the Schools video series.



Introducing the Portrait of a Learner

Preparing students for tomorrow means defining what matters today. Our Portrait of a Learner is a vision built on our collective hopes and dreams. It is the compass we use to design lessons and support every student.

Academic excellence remains one of our core values, but today's students also need to think critically, solve complex problems, communicate effectively, and be good team players and citizens. The district's recently unveiled Portrait of a Learner serves as our roadmap for moving beyond traditional learning to build the specific mindsets and skills required for success in a changing world. We are expanding our focus to ensure students are ready for the future, no matter which path they choose after graduation.

OUR PORTRAIT DESIGN PROCESS

1

Research and Explore

Last Fall, a Core Team consisting of students, staff, parents, and community members began to explore what a Portrait of a Learner should look like for Oakwood.

2

Analyze Input

The Core Team analyzed feedback from surveys, listening sessions, and forums to ensure the Portrait reflects the values of the community.

3

Craft and Share

With input from across Oakwood, the Core Team and district leaders collaborated to create a clear collection of skills and mindsets to be incorporated into the Portrait.

At Oakwood, this Portrait will become known as the standard we strive for in every building. It provides the framework for how we support students and prepare them for life. By integrating these skills into the fabric of our schools, we are turning our community's shared vision into a reality where these mindsets are intentionally taught, practiced, and celebrated at every grade level.





PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER



RESILIENT LEARNER

- Responds productively to feedback
- Reflects upon their own personal journey to improve
- Accepts and adapts to challenges
- Embraces failure to move forward



CRITICAL THINKER

- Identifies, defines, and solves problems
- Collects, assesses, and analyzes relevant information to challenge ideas
- Understands how decisions impact other parts of a system
- Generates multiple solutions



TEAM PLAYER

- Balances personal goals with group goals
- Values the contributions of others
- Works cohesively towards a common goal
- Takes responsibility for actions



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

- Seeks to understand
- Adapts to the needs of the audience
- Articulates thoughts through written, oral, and non-verbal skills
- Shares perspectives respectfully



EMPATHETIC CITIZEN

- Values diverse cultures and unique perspectives
- Seeks opportunities to serve the community
- Advocates for self and others
- Pursues an understanding of the world around them



Innovating the Classroom

True learning happens when curiosity meets opportunity. At Oakwood Schools, we believe high-quality education goes far beyond traditional textbooks. We seek opportunities to place our students and educators on the cutting edge of educational innovation, equipping them with the tools to excel and thrive.

Leading with Responsible AI

As Artificial Intelligence reshapes our world, Oakwood Schools is being proactive, not reactive. Launched this year, our AI Task Force, made up of forward-thinking Oakwood teachers, staff, and administrators, is working with global AI experts to create a comprehensive roadmap to master these new and evolving tools.

The goal of the task force is simple, to empower our entire staff to confidently guide students in harnessing AI for opportunity. We are building a secure, innovative environment where teachers help students use technology responsibly, ensuring AI enhances human potential rather than replacing it.

The AI Task Force is laying the groundwork to ensure our students and staff have the tools and resources they need for a future where Artificial Intelligence technology serves as a partner in growth and learning.

STEM Champions: Strategies That Engage the Mind

Oakwood Schools is redefining STEM as *Strategies That Engage the Mind*. Our STEM Champions act as the vital bridge between this district-wide vision and the classroom. By partnering with JASON Learning, these teacher-leaders provide our staff with high-quality resources across all subjects and grade levels that fuel student passion while meeting rigorous state standards.

Our goal is to cultivate a "STEM mindset" in every student. Whether they aspire to go into a medical field or become a teacher

or engineer, our students must be persistent problem-solvers. At the elementary level, we have aligned STEM activities with our Bridges in Mathematics and Wit & Wisdom curriculum to weave hands-on learning into daily lessons. In our secondary schools, STEM appears in unexpected places: Algebra students design amusement parks while English Language Arts students master digital animation. By providing a library of world-class tools, we empower our teachers to focus on what they do best: inspiring the next generation of creators.



STEM and Career Pathways District of Distinction Award

Oakwood Schools was named a national finalist for the STEM District of Distinction Award. This honor celebrates our K-12 ecosystem and the 300+ volunteers who provide hands-on learning for students.

STEM Credential from JASON Learning

AASA and JASON Learning awarded Oakwood Schools with the Emerging STEM Credential, an award that recognizes the district's progress and leadership in building a strong STEM learning culture.

Fostering a Culture of Belonging

Belonging at Oakwood Schools starts with the fundamental promise that every student enters an environment where they are seen, heard, and valued. This connection ensures students have a supportive foundation to focus on their personal growth. From our earliest learners at Lange to our seniors at Oakwood High School, we prioritize a culture where students feel supported by their peers and the broader community.



Timber

At our elementary schools, Timber creates a bimonthly space for students of all ages to connect and grow together. This inter-grade experience nurtures a deep sense of belonging while teaching the skills needed for healthy minds and strong relationships. When our students feel supported, they are better prepared to succeed in both life and learning.



Hope Squad

Mental health and connection go hand in hand. Our Hope Squad empowers junior high and high school leaders to provide vital peer-to-peer support, fostering a culture of care. Complementing this, the Wellness Center at OJH/OHS offers a calm, caring sanctuary where students can recharge, study, and connect in a peaceful environment.



Little Buddies

Through Little Buddies, high schoolers visit our elementary schools to engage with younger students during recess. These older students share in play, build genuine connections, and serve as positive role models for others.



ROX (Ruling Our Experiences)

ROX empowers girls across multiple grade levels through evidence-based programming at Oakwood. This special experience helps them build confidence, navigate social dynamics, and develop strong leadership skills.



Acorns & Achievements

Acorns & Achievements brings the unique talents of our community volunteers into the kindergarten classroom. By teaching a craft or a new skill, these mentors create a bridge between our schools and supporters.



BELONGING IS OFTEN FORGED THROUGH THE POWER OF THE TEAM, WHERE COMPETITION BUILDS LASTING BONDS THROUGH SHARED GOALS AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

Belonging is at the heart of our competitive spirit, where teammates become a second family. This culture is evident across our academic and athletic landscapes. Our Speech & Debate, Academic Decathlon, Destination Imagination, and Math Competition teams are just a sampling of the groups that achieved remarkable success this year. These learners discover that while individual talent is a start, the team's collective strength fuels our victories.

Our athletic programs have also reached historic heights. This fall, our students competed at the state level in tennis and cross country, highlighted by Oakwood's first girls' cross country State Championship. Perhaps most impressively, 133 of these athletes are scholar-athletes who excel both in the classroom and on the field.

These shared experiences provide more than just accolades; they provide a place where students truly fit in. At Oakwood, being part of a team means being part of something bigger than yourself.

Our culture of belonging is anchored by our 3R initiative, emphasizing Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships. These values define how we, as a district, interact and grow together.



Building and Investing in Our Future

We have been excited about the work we are doing to move forward on the next phase of our Master Facilities Plan. Following the community's support of the 2025 bond issue, we have worked diligently to maximize every dollar and deliver the best possible learning environments for our students.

Harman School and Smith Elementary Renovation Plans

Our plans for Harman School and Smith Elementary have improved significantly. While we initially focused on targeted renovations for critical needs, a partnership with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) allowed us to pivot to complete renovations. With the state covering 29% of approved costs, we can expand our work beyond basic infrastructure like HVAC and roofing. These co-funded updates now include new windows, floors, furniture, and security, ensuring these iconic buildings serve Oakwood for years to come.

Targeted Work Progress Across the District

While major renovations at the elementary schools enter the design phase, other improvements are moving forward. Last summer, we updated the OJH/OHS Wellness Room. At Lange School, HVAC replacements were completed during Spring Break, while new dumbbells for the OJH/OHS Weight Room are on their way. This summer, we anticipate starting work on our baseball and softball fields, followed by updates to Mack Hummon Stadium next summer to enhance facilities for our athletes and guests.

Harman and Smith Construction Project Timeline*



Project Approval From State
Office of Budget and Management
Controlling Board project approval



Design Begins
Procurement of architects, engineers,
and construction managers



Fiscal Strength and Strategic Funding

Oakwood Schools remains committed to strong fiscal management and transparency. In preparation for our recent bond sale, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the district's credit rating from Aa2 to Aa1. This elite rating allowed us to sell our bonds for a lower interest rate in January 2026, securing the local funding needed to complete Phase 2 of our Master Facilities Plan.

At the March Board of Education meeting, we received approval for a total project budget of approximately \$63 million. This investment combines our local bond dollars with nearly \$18.4 million in co-funding secured from the state. By leveraging these outside funds, we are able to complete total renovations of our elementary schools without asking for additional local tax dollars beyond the original bond.

**Timeline subject to change*



Construction Begins

Full-renovation construction work begins at Harman and Smith



Construction Ends

Anticipated Phase 2 substantial completion date



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Oakwood, Ohio 45409



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Oakwood City School District serves
Oakwood, Montgomery County, Ohio.