

2025 SCHOOL REPORT



Olmsted Falls School District

Summer 2026

LOOKING BACK WITH PRIDE, LOOKING AHEAD WITH PURPOSE

By Superintendent Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.



As another school year comes to a close, I want to congratulate the Class of 2026 and all of our Bulldog students, staff, and families on a successful year. Graduation season is always a meaningful time in Olmsted Falls. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate not only academic accomplishments, but also the growth, leadership, creativity, resilience, and relationships that define the Bulldog experience.

Whether our students are graduating, moving on to the next grade level, performing on stage, competing in athletics, serving their community, or discovering new passions in the classroom, we are incredibly proud of the many ways they continue to challenge themselves, support one another, and make a positive impact on those around them.

This newsletter highlights just a few examples of the outstanding work taking place across our district. From nationally recognized music and arts programs to academic achievements, community service projects, student leadership opportunities, and memorable learning experiences, our students continue to inspire us with their talents, dedication, and character. None of this would be possible without the commitment of our teachers, support staff, administrators, and families, who work together every day to create meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and succeed.

This spring also marked an important milestone for our district

as the Facilities Master Planning Committee presented its recommendations to the Board of Education following nearly three years of study, analysis, and community engagement. The committee's work reflects a thoughtful and community-driven effort to identify the most responsible long-term path forward for our facilities and our students. You can read more about the committee's recommendations and next steps on page 4.

This spring also brought another exciting step forward with the release of our Benefits-Based Accountability (BBA) publication. We believe our students are far more than a test score, and our community expects more from its schools than a state accountability label can capture. Through this work, we partnered with students, staff, and families to identify and measure the outcomes that matter most, while bringing our Portrait of an Olmsted Graduate to life by helping students grow as communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers, and meaningful contributors in a global society. Our goal is not simply to prepare students for a test, but to prepare them for life.

As we close another school year, I remain incredibly grateful for the support, partnership, and trust of our Olmsted Falls community. Together, we continue building a district that is truly "different on purpose," one that inspires and empowers students through meaningful experiences, strong relationships, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Thank you for staying connected and engaged with our Olmsted Falls City Schools.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND FUTURE PLANNING

By Patrick Goclano, Treasurer/CFO



At Olmsted Falls City Schools, we are committed to being responsible stewards of taxpayer resources. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the district earned a clean, unmodified audit opinion—the highest level of assurance possible in governmental auditing—and received the Auditor of State Award for excellence in financial reporting and accountability.

This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our entire staff, the finance and operations teams, and the district's ongoing commitment to transparency, responsible planning, and careful management of taxpayer dollars—all while keeping students at the center of every decision.

At the same time, we continue to monitor state-level discussions regarding school funding and property taxes. Like most Ohio public

school districts, Olmsted Falls relies heavily on locally approved property taxes to support daily operations and maintain facilities.

Organizers of the proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes announced they will no longer pursue placement on the November 2026 ballot. Instead, the campaign will continue collecting signatures with the goal of qualifying for the November 2027 general election ballot.

We also recognize the financial pressures many families and taxpayers are facing and remain committed to being thoughtful stewards of public resources. As always, we will continue to communicate openly and transparently with our community about the district's financial outlook and issues that may impact public education in the future.

THE TASSELS HAVE TURNED

With diplomas in hand and bright futures ahead, 287 OFHS seniors celebrated graduation during Commencement ceremonies at Vitamix Field at Charles A. Harding Memorial Stadium.

The ceremony featured messages from senior class president, Avery DeLisio, and Phi Beta Kappa Arjav Das. Also featured were performances by the OFHS Brass Choir and Hail to Thee, performed by seniors Nia Blain and Makenna Murphy, before graduates crossed the stage and officially joined the ranks of OFHS alumni.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

365 SCHOLARSHIPS. \$192,300 AWARDED. COUNTLESS FUTURES SUPPORTED.

The OFHS Local Scholarship Program once again showcased the incredible generosity of the Olmsted Falls community.

This year, graduating seniors from the Class of 2026 received 365 scholarships totaling \$192,300, thanks to 101 local scholarship sponsors who continue to invest in Bulldog futures.



RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS, WHICH AWARDED MORE THAN \$75,000 TO THE CLASS OF 2026.

A LEGACY OF JOY

Congratulations to Joy Iannicca, recipient of the 2026 Friends in Education Award.

Throughout her children's years in Olmsted Falls City Schools, Joy has made an extraordinary impact on students, staff, and families through her dedicated volunteer service. A longtime PTA leader, she currently serves as president of the Olmsted Falls Council of PTAs and has held numerous leadership roles at both the local and state levels.

Joy is also an active member of the Olmsted Falls Athletic Boosters, generously volunteering her time to support student-athletes and school events. This year, she also served as co-president of Post Prom, helping provide a fun, safe, and memorable experience for graduating seniors.

As her youngest son, Matthew, recently graduated from OFHS, it is especially fitting to recognize Joy for the countless hours she has devoted to our schools and community. Her generosity, leadership, and dedication have made a lasting difference, making her truly deserving of this honor.



Wren Timura

Joy Iannicca

20 YEARS OF MUSIC EXCELLENCE

Olmsted Falls City Schools has once again been named a **Best Community for Music Education** by The NAMM Foundation, earning this national recognition for the **20th consecutive year**.

As a proud Triple-A district, we value the important role music plays in helping students develop creativity, confidence, discipline, and collaboration.

Congratulations to our students, music educators, families, and community for helping sustain this tradition of excellence.



NEW OFCS CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Olmsted Falls City Schools staff officially moved into the district's new administrative offices in mid-May and are excited to begin serving students, families, staff, and community members from the new space.

The timing of the project was ideal, as debt associated with a previous HVAC equipment upgrade at Olmsted Falls High School has recently been retired. The annual cost of the new administrative building is comparable to that retired debt. No General Fund dollars were used for this project, and the project does not increase taxes or advance the district's need for a ballot measure.

The new facility provides a professional and accessible workspace for district administrative staff and community members, including a dedicated space for Board of Education meetings, professional development, and community gatherings. Since opening, the building has already hosted several events, including the May Board of Education meeting, a District Leadership Team meeting, Building Design Team Action Research Presentations, and the Chamber of Commerce State of the Schools Breakfast.

The overall project is approximately 80% complete. Phase 1, which included construction of the building itself, is nearing completion. The district was able to secure a Temporary Occupancy Permit, allowing staff to relocate while remaining work is completed.

Phase 2 is currently underway and includes demolition of the former administrative office building that served the district for more than 25 years, construction of an underground stormwater retention system, additional parking, and landscaping throughout the project area. This work is anticipated to be completed by July.

We look forward to welcoming and serving our constituents from our new offices for many years to come. Community members with questions are encouraged to contact the district administrative offices.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR STUDENTS



The Olmsted Falls Board of Education recently recognized Jeremy Polcar, head bus mechanic, with a Board of Education Challenge Coin for his dedication to students and service to the district.

In addition to keeping district buses safe and road-ready, Jeremy has stepped in as a reserve driver when needed.

Board of Education Member Patrick Antos shared, "Not

only does Jeremy keep our buses up and running and safe for students, he has stepped in as a reserve driver when needed, putting in very long hours to ensure students were able to get to and from home and events. He's done all of this without asking for anything in return. Jeremy truly represents being a servant leader for our school district."

OFHS SENIOR EARNS PRESTIGIOUS STATE PTA SCHOLARSHIP

Olmsted Falls High School senior Dominic Longo has been selected to receive the Ohio PTA Memorial Scholarship for Academic Achievement—an honor awarded to just two students per region.

Recipients are recognized for academic achievement, leadership, school and community involvement, and a written essay. Dominic was honored at the Olmsted Council of PTA's annual dinner in May.

This marks the second consecutive year an OFHS senior has earned the scholarship.

Dominic will attend Boston College this fall. Congratulations, Dominic!



FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING PROGRESS

Olmsted Falls City Schools continues to make meaningful progress on its long-term Facilities Master Plan, an important initiative that addresses aging infrastructure, supports evolving student needs, and creates modern learning environments for generations to come. The district Facilities Master Planning Committee hosted two community forums in November and January to share updates and gather input from residents. Since launching the process in 2023, the district has been working collaboratively with staff, families, and community stakeholders to explore solutions that reflect shared values and ensure our schools remain a source of pride for the Olmsted community.

As part of this process, Architectural Vision Group, which has a long-standing partnership with the district, completed detailed site assessments in Spring 2023. The assessments focused on several key facilities, including the Early Childhood Center (ECC), Falls-Lenox, the Middle School, High School, and the Transportation Facility. The findings revealed significant needs in multiple buildings, particularly at the ECC and Falls-Lenox. In fact, the estimated costs to renovate these facilities approach or exceed half or more of what it would cost to build new. For example, the renovation estimate for Falls-Lenox is approximately 78% of the cost of building new, while the ECC is about 55%.

To guide this work, a Facilities Master Planning Committee was assembled, comprised of parents, alumni, educators,

business owners, and community leaders, each bringing unique perspectives to the table. Members toured school buildings, reviewed district data, and visited newer facilities in nearby districts to help imagine what could be possible for Olmsted Falls Schools. Throughout this process, the focus has remained clear: ensuring that future facility investments are grounded in educational purpose and community priorities.

Community engagement has been central to this effort. In addition to the committee's work, the district held several focus group sessions with PTA leaders, Columbia Park residents, and Key Communicators. A district-wide phone survey gathered additional feedback from residents, helping to shape our understanding of both perceived building conditions and public sentiment about potential facility solutions. Notably, after learning more about the current state of our buildings, community members increased their support for options that prioritize long-term value. Survey results showed that 58% of participants would favor replacing the ECC and Falls-Lenox if expert analysis confirmed that building new would be more cost-effective than making ongoing repairs.

As a result of these conversations, several clear priorities have emerged from our community. Safety and security remain top of mind, along with the need for more flexible learning spaces, greater accessibility, improved infrastructure, and larger gathering spaces for both students and the broader community. There's also a shared understanding that maintaining aging buildings carries long-term costs, financial and otherwise, and that careful planning is needed to ensure we're investing wisely.

While no final decisions have been made, the district is actively exploring several responsible pathways forward. These include renovating existing buildings, replacing specific facilities, or potentially consolidating buildings, such as creating a new PreK through 3rd grade campus. Possible funding strategies include a bond issue, a permanent improvement (PI) levy, or a combination of the two. Any future steps will be designed to balance immediate needs with long-term financial stewardship, and the community will remain engaged every step of the way.

CELEBRATING OUR RETIRING BULLDOGS

Thank you to a remarkable group of Bulldogs whose combined service to Olmsted Falls City Schools exceeds 600 years. These retirees have helped shape The Bulldog Way and leave a legacy that will continue through the students, staff, and families they have impacted.

ELLEN BERTRAND

18 "Bulldog" Years

TRACY BLAKE

28 "Bulldog" Years

HOLLY CURRAN

30 "Bulldog" Years

WILLIAM DAVIS

22 "Bulldog" Years

KAREN DIXON

12 "Bulldog" Years

KELLY FISSEL

19 "Bulldog" Years

NANCY HUNT

32 "Bulldog" Years

JEFFREY KHO

29 "Bulldog" Years

JOSEPH MAGREY

24 "Bulldog" Years

TRACEY MCGRAIN

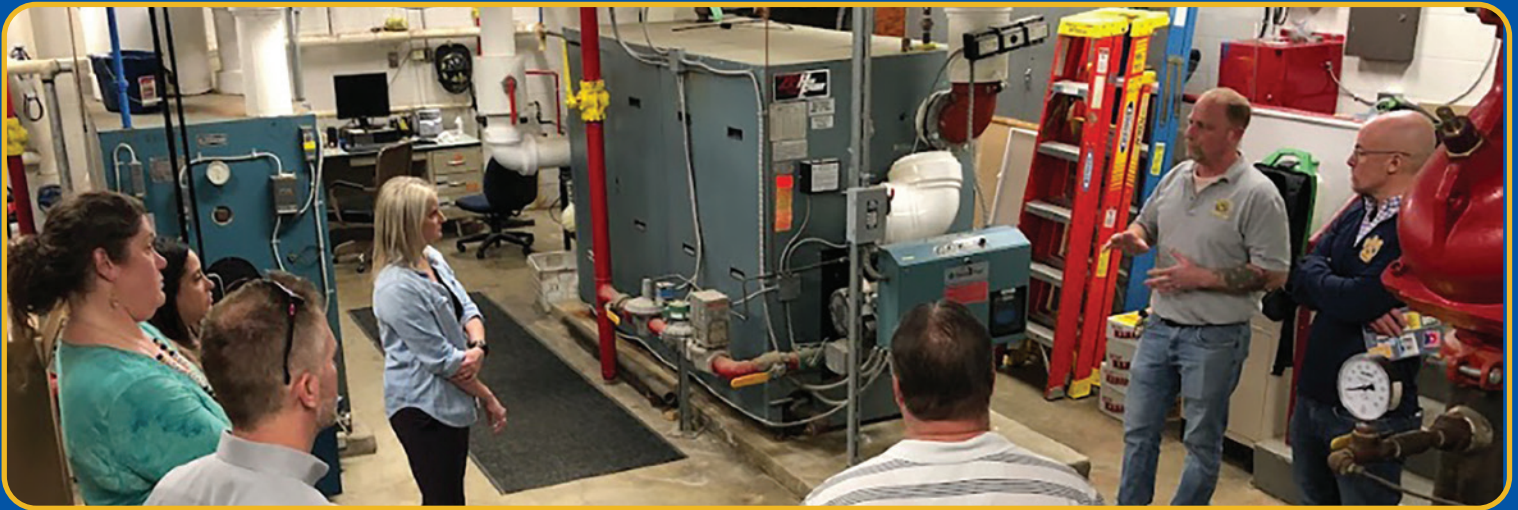
24 "Bulldog" Years

TERRY MCLELLAN

26 "Bulldog" Years

LYNN MORGAN

31 "Bulldog" Years



Community forum attendees learning about Early Childhood Center's mechanical systems.



Atkinson Transportation Facility



Pipe degradation at Falls-Lenox

TO
LEARN
MORE,
SCAN
THE QR
CODE.



DIANE NORRIS

29 "Bulldog" Years

KAREN STRAWSER

36 "Bulldog" Years

DEBORAH PATACCA

27 "Bulldog" Years

ANNE STATZ

34 "Bulldog" Years

BRETT ROBSON

6 "Bulldog" Years

DEBRA TRACY

16 "Bulldog" Years

SANDY SMITH

11 "Bulldog" Years

DAVID WILLSON

41 "Bulldog" Years

JOHN STOVER

40 "Bulldog" Years

NANCY WOMACK

37 "Bulldog" Years



Left to right:

John Stover, OFHS Head Custodian

Diane Norris, OFMS Teacher

Karen Strawser, ECC Kindergarten Teacher

Dave Willson, OFMS Math Teacher & Middle School
Athletic Director

*Please note that some retirees choose not to be listed.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

BOOK TASTING BUILDS READING EXCITEMENT

Kindergarten students explored new books through a fun and engaging “Book Tasting” experience. Students rotated through themed collections of books, sampling a variety of stories and topics while completing their own “book menus.” Students circled titles that sparked their interest and created personalized reading lists to enjoy over the summer.



CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO FIRST GRADE

The ECC celebrated its kindergarten students with special end-of-the-year Bridging Ceremonies. During the events, students performed songs, received certificates, and proudly crossed the “Goodbye Kindergarten, Hello First Grade” bridge as families cheered them on. The celebrations concluded with popsicles and photo opportunities, marking an exciting milestone as our kindergarten students prepare for their next adventure at Falls-Lenox Primary School.



FALLS-LENOX PRIMARY SCHOOL

MATH MEETS THE MARKETPLACE

Second-graders in Mrs. Timura’s and Mrs. Gommel’s classes recently transformed their classrooms into a bustling “West Side Market.”

Students created their own stores, stocked them with products, and welcomed parents as customers. As they shopped and sold, students put their money skills to the test and discovered how math is used every day.



PLANTING SEEDS OF LEARNING ON ARBOR DAY

Falls-Lenox first graders celebrated Arbor Day by learning how trees help our community grow and thrive.

Students explored the importance of trees through reading and poetry, heard an Arbor Day proclamation from Olmsted Falls Councilwoman Anita Greller, and got a closer look at trees that will be planted by the City of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township service departments.

The celebration also featured a drawing and coloring contest, with Sydney Guzzo, Anna Marshall, and Addy Brumley earning top honors for their creative entries.



OLMSTED FALLS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (OFIS)

STUDENTS TURN GRATITUDE INTO POETRY

Who inspires you? Students from the Baryliski, Eidam, Gibbons, and Sunkle team at OFIS recently answered that question through poetry. Each student wrote a heartfelt poem dedicated to a role model, recognizing the family members and mentors who encourage, support, and inspire them every day.



“BOOK DINER” SERVES UP SUMMER READING

During a special “Book Diner” experience in library class, OFIS students sampled a variety of books before selecting titles to add to their summer reading lists. Using a book menu, students visited themed tables featuring mystery, summer camp, historical fiction, sports, adventure, and friendship stories.



OLMSTED FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL (OFMS)

FIFTH GRADE BULLDOGS GET A PREVIEW OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eighth-grade WEB Leaders recently visited OFIS fifth graders to share what life is like at Olmsted Falls Middle School and introduce the WEB program—Where Everybody Belongs. Through fun activities, helpful advice, and plenty of Bulldog spirit, students got a sneak peek at what awaits them this fall and received an invitation to sixth-grade orientation.



STUDENT CREATIVITY TAKES CENTER STAGE

The first-ever OFMS Student Art Show transformed the school into a gallery of student talent, imagination, and creativity.

The exhibit featured artwork from Bulldog artists across grade levels, along with collaborative projects from Life Skills, Spanish, Power of the Pen, Robotics, and Music—highlighting the many ways students express themselves and share their unique talents.



OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL (OFHS)

FOOTBALL PLAYERS HELP PRESERVE MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION

In honor of Memorial Day, Olmsted Falls High School football players volunteered to help set up the Avenue of Flags at Sunset Memorial Park. Their service helped continue a meaningful community tradition that honors and remembers the men and women who proudly served our country.



STUDENT ARTISTS SHINE AT OFHS ART SHOW

The annual OFHS Art Show transformed the school into a gallery of creativity this May. A highlight of the event is the senior art booths, where graduating artists showcase pieces created throughout their high school journey. The tradition brings together students, staff, families, friends, and community members to celebrate their talent and artistic growth.



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OUR SCHOOL REPORT



20th Consecutive Year!

IS PUBLISHED TO MAINTAIN A REGULAR LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

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

There are great things happening **every day** across the Olmsted Falls City School District! Keep up with the news and information via the district's social media channels.



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*****ECRWSS*****

Local
Postal Customer

OLMSTED FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Phil Eckenrode **Vice President:** Justin Funk

Members: Kelly Abood, Patrick Antos, Amy Lauderdale



IMPORTANT BACK TO SCHOOL DATES

AUG. 17-19

Staff Professional Development

AUG. 20

First Day of School for Students in Grades 1 to 9* (*Freshmen Orientation Day @ OFHS)

Preschool Orientation (Students & Parents)

AUG. 20, 21 & 24

Kindergarten Orientation (Students & Parents, Day Assigned)

AUG. 21

First Day of School for Returning OFHS Students in Grades 10, 11 & 12

AUG. 24

First Day for Preschool Students

AUG. 25

First Day for Kindergarten Students

KIWANIS AND OFCS CELEBRATE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Seventeen staff members were nominated for this year's Kiwanis Employee of the Year Awards, with several receiving multiple nominations. Each year, the Olmsted Kiwanis Club partners with Olmsted Falls City Schools to review nominations and help select the award recipients.

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees for the positive impact they make on our students, schools, and community.

This year's winners include:

Larry Hamilton
Facilities Coordinator

Heath Krakowiak
Director of Business

Jeremy Polcar
Head Bus Mechanic

Jeff VanArnhem
OFHS Math Teacher

Dave Willson
OFMS Math Teacher &
Middle School Athletic Director

OLMSTED FALLS CITY SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

