

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SUMMER 2026



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 bond, approved by voters with no increase

[See PLANNING FOR GROWTH, Page 2](#)

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.](#)



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.

PLANNING FOR GROWTH *Continued*

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.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALEX SHEEN

Alex Sheen, an Olentangy graduate and a current Olentangy resident, is the founder of *because I said I would*, a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to bettering humanity through promises made and kept. Sparked by the loss of his father, Alex and his organization send “promise cards” to anyone anywhere in the world at no cost. Alex is someone who truly honors commitment. He once walked over 240 miles across the entire state of Ohio in 10 days to fulfill a promise. In just two years, *because I said I would* has sent over 12.3 million promise cards to over 153 different countries. The promises written on these cards have made headlines around the world. Alex is a five time Tedx Talk speaker and his charitable work has been featured on ABC World News with Diane Sawyer, CNN, The Today Show, NPR, The Los Angeles Times and many other programs.

What schools did you attend at Olentangy, and when did you graduate?

Alex: I started at Olentangy back when kindergarten through 12th grade was all in a single building. I went to Olentangy Elementary when it was the only elementary school in the district, and then moved over to Wyandot Elementary when it opened while I was in third grade. From there, I went to Olentangy Middle School and Olentangy High School back when there was still just one of each. What I’m trying to say is that I’m an old man. I had to ride a brontosaurus to get to school. It was tough.

Is there a staff member from your time at Olentangy that impacted your professional path?

Alex: There were quite a few teachers who left a mark on me. One is my sixth-grade teacher, Mr. Davidson, who I stay in touch with to this day. He gave me a detention because I was hopping from desk to desk “playing Spiderman.” But he explained his disciplinary actions in a way a kid could understand. That’s a tough skill to develop. Another HUGE influence was Mr. Rees and Mr. Fitzgerald, my business/DECA teachers. The skills I learned in their classes really built the foundation for my professional path and success in my field.

What experiences contributed to your career path?

Alex: Playing on the very first middle school lacrosse team in the district was a major experience for me. The conditioning training I went through as a lacrosse player taught me that I could achieve more than I thought was possible.

The biggest gamechanger for me, though, was DECA. Competing in those tournaments and winning at the state level gave me the

real-world entrepreneurial skills I needed to run an organization at a young age. I even remember going out and setting up my very first business bank account and legally forming an LLC when I was 17 because of what I learned in that class.

Tell us about your life post-Olentangy.

Alex: After Olentangy, I went to the greatest university in existence, Ohio University, where I earned my Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. A lot of people say their education did not connect to their career, but that has not been true for me at all. My education, from Olentangy all the way through Ohio University, was pivotal.

Today, I am the founder and CEO of *because I said I would*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people with resiliency skills and mental health habits to face the adversities of life. I started the charity after my father died of lung cancer in 2012. As part of our work, we operate a 92-acre camp located about an hour east of the Olentangy school district where we help grieving families after a tragic loss. We are always looking for fellow Braves who might be interested in volunteering with us!

What made you return to the Olentangy community?

Alex: I returned to the area to be closer to our 92-acre Retreat Center and to be near my family, especially my three nieces. Shout out to Lennon and Eloise Sheen, who attend Olentangy Schools!

Do you stay connected with other Olentangy alum?

Alex: I have had the exact same best friends since about seventh grade, and they were all lifers

at Olentangy. Out of all the incredible things my education at Olentangy gave me, the absolute most valuable by far are Josh, Widge, Ricky, Beau, and John. Comparing those friendships to gold would be an insult to their value.

What’s next for you?

Alex: Right now, we are actively developing new youth camps focused on building resiliency skills and mental health habits at our charity’s camp, and I am really excited about it. We have to help the next generation develop the strength and resilience needed to face life’s challenges. When you look at the statistics, like the CDC reporting that 13.3% of high school girls have attempted suicide, it is clear just how urgent and vital this work really is.



ALUMNI GATHERING DATES

Berlin High School
October 2, 2026

Liberty High School
September 25, 2026

Olentangy High School
October 2, 2026

Orange High School
October 9, 2026

WELCOME, OLENTANGY SCHOOLS ALUMNI

Graduates of all Olentangy
High Schools are members
of the Olentangy Schools
Alumni Association.

We invite you to stay connected
to former Olentangy classmates,
Olentangy Schools and the
Olentangy community by
scanning the QR code below.



LEGENDS OF OLENTANGY

AWARD PRESENTATION
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 AT
OLENTANGY LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

Join us for our second Legends of Olentangy
award presentation, as we celebrate
outstanding alumni and community members
for their accomplishments.



5:30pm Refreshments, commons
6:00pm Award Ceremony, auditorium
7:00pm Homecoming football game, stadium

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH



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www.olentangyeducationfoundation.org/alumni



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