

Created for Bulldog Parents
and Caregivers
by Julianne Allen,
OFCS Director of Family &
Community Engagement

IN THE LOOP WITH LINK

FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 9/4 OFMS WEB Tailgate & BBQ- 5:00 PM @ OFMS Cafetorium
- 9/7 Labor Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- 9/9 OFHS College 101- 6:00 PM Rm. 606
- 9/10 OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @Falls-Lenox Cafeteria
- 9/14 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM at MS Media Center
- 9/14 ECC Wellness Week Begins
- 9/15 OFMS Fundraiser Begins (ends on 9/30)
- 9/16 OFHS College Common App/Essay Writing- 6:00 PM Rm. 606
- 9/17 ECC Family Fitness Night- 5:30 PM @ECC
- 9/21 OFIS PTA Mtg.- 6:30 PM @IS
- 9/21-9/25 OFIS Book Fair
- 9/22 OFMS Picture Day
- 9/23 OFHS College Financial Aid Night- 6:00 PM @ Rm. 606
- 9/23 Falls Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @FL
- 9/24 OFIS Picture Day
- 9/28 OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @HS Media Ctr.
- 9/29 ECC Picture Day
- 9/30 Falls-Lenox Picture Day



Check www.ofcs.net or call your school for
details about these and other events!

From the Editor

Happy First Full Month of School!
If this is your first time reading In The
Loop, welcome! Consider this your go-
to resource for staying connected and
engaged in your child's learning—from
preschool through Grade 12.

Each month, I'll share important dates,
helpful resources, ideas for getting
involved at school, and a little
encouragement about the important
role you play in your child's success—
no matter how old they are.

By asking questions, helping with
homework, attending school events,
and simply emphasizing the importance
of education, you're sending your child
a powerful message: school matters.

Your kids may not always agree,
especially when you're waking them up
before they're ready! But I promise
they'll thank you for it someday. 😊

Here's to a great school year!
Julianne Allen, Director of Family &
Community Engagement



NUMBERS THAT COUNT

32%

**Roughly 32% of U.S. youth aged 4 to 17 have
accessed generative AI apps on personal
devices, with usage climbing sharply
alongside age.**

Per the study, "The widespread use of GenAI apps
among youths, including vulnerable younger users,
underscores the urgent need to understand its potential
developmental and mental health implications."

The study goes on to say, "GenAI use among
participants is especially common after school, perhaps
to support (or circumvent) academic work. Without
careful scaffolding, GenAI can undermine learning." (See
[this study](#) from the American Psychological Association
for more on adolescent well-being and the use of AI.)

If like many parents you are unsure how to talk to
your child about how to responsibly use AI, see the
"LINK APPROVED" resource at right for tools!

Source: [National Library of Medicine](#)



DayofAI.org



Love it, hate it, or maybe even fear it,
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here and your
children are probably already using it.
(How many times have YOU talked to Alexa
or Siri today?) Day of AI was created in
2021 by faculty and researchers at MIT
RAISE (Responsible AI for Social
Empowerment and Education) to prepare
K-12 students of all backgrounds to thrive
in an AI-powered world.

Day of AI has partnered with one of my
fave "LINK APPROVED" resources,
Common Sense Media, to provide an **AI
Literacy Family Toolkit**, with videos,
activities, and resources to watch, do,
and learn together as a family.

Don't be
afraid (at
least not
yet)!

Empower
yourself and
your kids
with
information
and be ready
for what
comes next!



AI Literacy Family Toolkit
By Day of AI and Common Sense Media

This free resource is designed to help families build foundational AI knowledge together at home. The toolkit includes short videos,
conversation cards, and simple, hands-on activities that make it easy for parents and caregivers to spark meaningful conversations about
artificial intelligence. Use this table as a guide. All videos and resources can be found here: [Family Resources](#)

If You Want To...	Start With This Video	Then Try...	Best For
Introduce AI in a simple, family-friendly way.	"What Is AI for Parents?"	Conversation Cards + AI Scavenger Hunt	All ages
Help children think critically about algorithms and recommendations	"What Is AI for Parents?"	AI Predictions Activity	Grades 4-8
Talk about privacy, misinformation, and fairness	"Privacy, Fairness, and Responsibility"	Safe Sharing Sort + Fact-Check Challenge	K-8
Discuss bias and fairness in AI	"Privacy, Fairness, and Responsibility"	Bias Test	Grades 3-8
Set healthy boundaries for AI use	"Using AI Wisely for School Success"	Family Tech Planner	All ages
Help children use AI responsibly for homework	"Using AI Wisely for School Success"	Before-During-After Homework Check	Grades 3-8
Encourage independent thinking instead of overreliance on AI	"Using AI Wisely for School Success"	Human vs AI Explanation Challenge	Grades 3-8
Discuss emotional safety and AI ethics	"Using AI Wisely for School Success"	AI vs Human Role-Play	K-8



So...How Was Your Day?
By Julianne Allen,
Director of Family & Community Engagement

Welcome to September! So...what did you do this summer? I'm sure if we were actually talking- and not just pretend-conversing in my head- you would tell me all about your summer. The highs, the lows, the laughter, the tears...in fact, I probably couldn't get you to shut up about it! (Not that I'd want to shut you up, Dear Reader!)

This gets me thinking about a regular routine in many homes: the nightly "How was school today? What did you do?" conversation. You try your best to encourage your children to share, and they do their best to keep their responses to three words or less. "Fine", "Nothing", and "I don't remember" are some of the most popular choices. (All children are apparently taught to use these responses in utero so they come out of the womb fully prepared to disappoint their parents.)

Now, you know that they did SOMETHING. They learned SOMETHING. Odds are good that they did not spend seven hours at school sitting in a meditative trance.

Fortunately, having amnesia about the activity of one's day seems to be a temporary affliction. After all, do you know any adults who, when asked what they did at work, say, "Nothing"?

Perhaps it's just me, but when my husband asks about my day, I actually have to follow him throughout the house to finish my story. In fact, I'm usually still recounting the highs, lows, laughter, and tears when he's pulling out of the driveway, pretending we need milk.

Since you're asking about your child's day because you really want to know (and not just to be polite, like my husband, probably), it may be helpful to try a few of these questions instead:

- **What made you laugh today?**
- **What was the most interesting thing you learned?**
- **Who did you talk to today?**
- **What was harder than you expected?**
- **Did you help anyone?**
- **Did anyone help you?**
- **What's something you want to know more about?**
- **What are you looking forward to tomorrow?**



Now, you still may get short answers, but that's OK. By asking questions and getting kids to think about their school day, you're reinforcing that school is a big deal and that you support their education. It's an easy way to stay engaged in their learning while also connecting with them.

On that note, I'm waiting for my husband to get home so he can ask me about my day. In the meantime, if your kids don't open up right away about school, don't give up. Keep asking. I promise it will pay off one day.

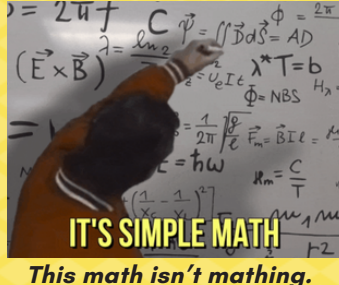


Have a great year, Bulldogs! Julianne



SCHOOL FUNDING: It's Complicated \\(ツ)//

A new feature to help explain the inexplicable



In an effort to make an often convoluted subject a bit more understandable to not only Bulldog Parents and Caregivers, but to Yours Truly, I am starting a new feature this year to help us all muddle through this hot topic. Fortunately, I have enlisted a much more qualified “explainer” to assist me. Our Treasurer/CFO Mr. Patrick Goclano hasn’t realized it yet but he is thrilled to help us out.

My first question for Mr. G is:

“How much funding does the State of Ohio provide to OFCS and does this number keep pace with inflation?”

Mr. G responds:

“The state provides roughly 33% of our annual revenue to educate students, which equates to approximately \$18 million. Unfortunately, this funding does not keep pace with inflation. The graphic below captures this clearly, as the saying goes, “a picture is worth a thousand words.”

The current funding formula relies on base cost inputs from the FY22 school year (2021-2022). Those inputs are now four to five years outdated, while the cost of goods and services has risen significantly.

Furthermore, the state's "fair share" percentage has been steadily decreasing since FY22. When state funding fails to meet constitutional expectations, the burden shifts directly to local taxpayers. This is not a matter of local financial mismanagement, it is a clear reflection of a broken state funding system.”

Well, when you put it that way...I’m not sure how much I am enjoying this new feature so far. I was hoping for better news, but as they say, those are the facts! Aren’t you glad I asked? Tune in next month when we learn more about school funding (assuming Mr. G is still taking my calls!)

Fiscal Year	State Share Percentage	Base Cost Inputs Used	Notes/Impact
FY99	45.7%	-	First year after DeRolph ruling
FY22	41.6%	FY18	First year of Fair School Funding Plan
FY23	40.6%	FY18	Inputs not updated; decrease in state share
FY24	43.3%	FY22	Base cost inputs updated
FY25	38.4%	FY22	Inputs not updated
FY26	35.0%	FY22	Inputs not updated
FY27	32.2%	FY22	Inputs not updated

Source: Dr. Howard Fleeter's testimony to the House Education Committee, March 4, 2025

Want to learn more? Check out the Treasurer’s website <https://www.ofcs.net/our-district/treasurer> .

PLAN ON IT!

Plan on checking out these events and opportunities!

The College Application Workshop Series is back to answer your burning questions! All sessions take place in OFHS Room 606 at 6:00 PM. Visit Counselors' Corner for more info. Thanks, OFHS Guidance!

College 101 - Wednesday, September 9, 2026

An informative session for parents on the college application process including how to apply, order transcripts and test scores, letters of recommendation and Naviance. Parents of all grades are welcome, but most ideal for senior parents.

College 201: Common Application/Essays - Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Get guidance on how to complete the Common Application and write a winning college/scholarship essay. This workshop will be interactive and students should bring their Chromebooks. All grades are welcome, but the workshop is most applicable to current seniors and parents. * Seniors have a comparable lesson during PLC day on October 5th.

Financial Aid Night- Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Learn about the financial aid process (FAFSA) and scholarships from the financial aid experts at LEAF. Parents and students in all grades are welcome, but most ideal for juniors/seniors and parents.

Support Your School!



SCAN ME

JOIN
PTA

everychild.onevoice.

Becoming a PTA member is one of the easiest ways to support our schools. By joining, you help promote the health, well-being, and education of every student. Our five Olmsted Falls PTAs are active, valuable resources for students, teachers, and the community. Be part of the nation's oldest and largest child advocacy organization—join today! Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to visit the PTA website. Tell them LINK sent you! :)



Picture Day!



Olmsted Falls Middle School
9/22/2026

Olmsted Falls Intermediate School
9/24/2026

Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center
9/29/2026

Falls Lenox Primary School
9/30/2026

Olmsted Falls High School
10/8/2026

Loading ...



Save
THE
Date

October 21, 2026

Something BIG is coming! The entire school community is invited to an evening showcase of what makes Olmsted Falls City Schools DIFFERENT ON PURPOSE! Mark your calendars NOW! You don't want to miss this first of its kind event! Save the Date and Tell a Friend! More info coming SOON!

GOOD STUFF

STAY
"IN THE LOOP"
ON INSTA!
@OFCSLINK
@OFCSDistrict



"TOTALLY QUOTABLE" Q

*"Education is a better
safeguard of liberty than
a standing army."*

EDWARD EVERETT



NO BAD JOKE

LIKE A DAD JOKE!

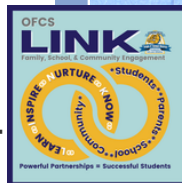
A cringeworthy feature inspired by
bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Why can't your nose be 12
inches long?

A. Because then it
would be a foot!

WHAT IS LINK?

LINK is an acronym for Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. LINK is a district-wide family-community engagement resource. The goal of LINK is to connect the Olmsted Falls School District with parents and families, to encourage two-way communication, and to help parents support the education, growth, and well-being of their children at home.



SERIOUSLY
COMICAL

My Kid After School



www.hedgerhumor.com

HAPPY GRAND PARENTS DAY

September 13 is Grandparents Day, and it's the perfect time to shout out all grandparents who support their grandchildren with their education, childcare, homework, transportation, and LOVE!

We are especially grateful to those grandparents who do all that and more...serving as the primary caregivers for grandchildren is no easy task. Your school staff wants to support you, so please call us if you aren't sure how to help your grandchild at school.
Happy Grandparents Day!

Earn incentives, win prizes, and
have FUN by attending school!



STAY ^{IN THE} GAME!

KEEP LEARNING, EVERY DAY