



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS
Flourish Here.

College Application Process

Senior Parent Meeting 2026



SM

OLENTANGY:BridgED



WHAT IS OLENTANGY:BridgED

Olentangy:BridgED: BridgED is a program designed to bridge the gap between K-12 and the business community by creating experiences with our industry partners designed for career exploration.

ACCESS: internships, job shadowing, classroom presentations, building experiences, teacher/staff externships, field trips, pre-apprenticeships

AWARENESS - industry needs and trends, workforce data from across Ohio

UNDERSTANDING - multiple pathways to career success



Molly Preston - Asst. Director of Strategic Partnerships molly_preston@olsd.us



BridgED: PARTNERS

 **accenture**

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

FORGE
BIOLOGICS


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER
 **PERFORMANCE COLUMBUS**
Family of Dealerships

COLUMBUS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 **NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S**

 **THE OHIO SOCIETY OF CPAs**
ADVANCING THE STATE OF BUSINESS



FANNI HOW

 **OhioHealth**

JPMorganChase

 **WORTHINGTON STEEL**



‘BRIDGING THE FUTURE’



**Wednesday, September 16th
6-8PM**

Olentangy High School

- Guest speaker **Dr. David Harrison, President of Columbus State**
- Panel discussion with industry leaders
- Partner showcase with hands on experiences and opportunities for direct conversations

Discover how Olentangy is bridging the gap between education and industry, creating real-world student experiences that build **ACCESS, AWARENESS, and UNDERSTANDING** of future career paths.

Register today!



**SCAN THIS TO DOWNLOAD A DIGITAL
VERSION OF TONIGHT'S
PRESENTATION**



OLHS COUNSELORS

- ★ Kelley Zebrowski - Counselor (A-Da)
 - kelly_zebrowski@olsd.us
- ★ Jill McGrew - Counselor (Db-H)
 - jill_mcgrew@olsd.us
- ★ Beth Uniacke - Counselor (I-Mn)
 - beth_uniacke@olsd.us
- ★ Brittany Vallier - Counselor (Mo-Sc)
 - brittany_vallier@olsd.us
- ★ Bobbie Sisko - Counselor (Sd-Z)
 - bobbie_sisko@olsd.us



Counselor Website & Instagram

Counselor Corner: OLHS

Olentangy Liberty High School

Add Materials ▾ Options ▾

All Materials ▾

Patriots

- ★ The Guidance Department has a Schoology Course called Counselor Corner: OLHS - all students have access to this course
- ★ Use the site to access up-to-date important information, student services forms, links, resources, seminars, announcements, etc.
- ★ Follow us on Instagram @olhs_counselors



Presentation Goals

- ★ Application process
- ★ ACT/SAT Testing
- ★ Scholarship & Financial Aid
- ★ SchoolLinks



APPLICATION PROCESS



Where Do We Start?

- ★ Help your child narrow down their top choices
- ★ Have a list of schools to not limit options
 - The list should include a combination of reach, match and safety schools
 - Do not go overboard - applying to 10 or more schools can be excessive and expensive
- ★ Schedule campus tours either virtually or in-person



Application - Required Items:

- ★ Submit the online application for each school
- ★ The High School Transcript
- ★ Test Scores (if applicable)
- ★ Letter(s) of Recommendation (if applicable)
- ★ Personal Statement/Essay

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE

The Application

- ★ First visit the university website for application instructions
- ★ School Specific Application
- ★ Common Application www.commonapp.org
- ★ Coalition Application www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

KEEP TRACK OF DEADLINES



Transcript

- ★ Must be sent from Liberty High School to be official
- ★ Transcripts will be posted in SchooLinks for students to view
- ★ We will send transcripts through SchooLinks for each college/university on a student's Final Application List
- ★ Schools must be added to the students application list in SchooLinks 10 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO the schools application deadline
- ★ Includes all courses taken/currently taking, GPA, and credit information
- ★ Does NOT include class rank
- ★ Student fees **must** be paid before transcript will be sent



Test Scores

- ★ Many Ohio schools are remaining test optional, but some have reinstated ACT/SAT requirements for Fall 26 applicants (including OSU Columbus Campus). Please check college websites for requirements.
- ★ Arrange to have scores sent at the time of registration (free)
- ★ Must be sent from the testing agency
 - ACT - act.org
 - SAT - collegeboard.org
- ★ Counselors do NOT send test scores
- ★ AP Exam scores are NOT used for admissions purposes



Recommendations

- ★ Teacher Recommendation - 1-2 teachers (varies by college/university)
 - Do they want a core teacher? Elective? Coach?
- ★ Counselor Recommendation - all counselors will complete the Common App counselor forms - please be sure the school specifically states a LETTER of RECOMMENDATION from the school counselor prior to requesting
- ★ All requests for letters of recommendation will be made in SchooLinks - **10 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE**



Personal Essay

- ★ Required by most colleges
- ★ Can be a vital component of the application
- ★ Shed light on what's behind the GPA and test scores
- ★ Reveal personality, passion and values



Admission Plans

★ **Early Decision**

- Student has a clear top choice
- Can only apply to 1 school ED
- BINDING - the student must commit if accepted

★ **Early Action**

- Student can apply to as many schools EA
- Usually linked to academic scholarships
- NON-BINDING

★ **Regular Admission/Decision**

- Varies by school - apps are usually due by early-to-mid January

★ **Rolling Admission**

- Colleges assess application as they receive them
- No firm deadline - sooner the better



NCAA

- ★ Students planning to participate in Division I and Division II athletics are required to register with the NCAA eligibility center (ncaa.org)
- ★ Submit necessary documentation according to NCAA Eligibility Center requirements
- ★ Once registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center (**MUST BE THE PAID ACCOUNT**), the high school will automatically upload your transcript to the portal every time grades are stored
- ★ Work with your counselor and coach to be sure you are taking eligible courses
- ★ All student fees must be paid before documents will be uploaded



Rank

- ★ Due to the competitive nature of Liberty High School, students are not ranked for college admissions purposes
- ★ Our school profile accompanies every transcript and details the rigor of our school and the GPA deciles so a school can see where a student would fall in comparison
- ★ Very select schools may request rank and a student can request their rank be posted to the transcript (form in student services) - would only recommend to top 10% of students
 - DUE Friday, September 18th



ACT/SAT Testing



ACT/SAT

- ★ Most students have taken the ACT/SAT at least once by now
- ★ Colleges will take either test
- ★ October will be the last test students can register and still meet most early action deadlines
 - Student **MUST** select to send scores during registration
- ★ Test Optional - Should I send my score if my school is test optional?



ACT Updates

What's Changing



Reduced Number of Questions



Shortened Test Time



More Time Per Question



Reduced Answer Choices for Math Questions (5 to 4)



Science Test is Optional

What's Staying the Same



ACT Scale and Benchmarks Remain Unchanged



Prior Test Scores Will Remain Unchanged



No impact on Predicting First-Year College Success



Both Paper and Online Tests Still Offered



ACT 2026-2027 Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

2026-2027 Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Late fee applies after this date)	Late Deadline	Photo Upload & Standby Deadline	Paper Initial Score Release
September 19, 2026	August 14	September 1	September 14	October 6
October 17, 2026	September 11	September 29	October 12	October 27
December 12, 2026	November 6	November 29	December 7	December 22
February 27, 2027	January 22	February 9	February 22	March 16
April 10, 2027	March 5	March 23	April 5	April 20
June 12, 2027	May 7	May 25	June 7	June 23
July 10, 2027	June 4	June 22	July 5	July 20



SAT 2026-2027 Test Dates (National) & Registration Deadlines

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Aug. 22, 2026	Aug. 7, 2026	Aug. 11, 2026
Sept. 12, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026 Register	Sept. 1, 2026
Oct. 3, 2026	Sept. 18, 2026 Register	Sept. 22, 2026
Nov. 7, 2026	Oct. 23, 2026 Register	Oct. 27, 2026
Dec. 5, 2026	Nov. 20, 2026 Register	Nov. 24, 2026



Scholarship & Financial Aid



Scholarships

- ★ Merit/Talent Based
 - application/audition
- ★ Primarily awarded by colleges/universities
 - upon admissions
- ★ SchoolLinks - list updated regularly
- ★ [OLHS Local Scholarships](#) - updated in December

MANY COLLEGES HAVE EARLIER APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION!

Financial Aid

- ★ Need Based
- ★ Must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- ★ Grants
- ★ Scholarships
- ★ Student Loans
- ★ Work-Study



Financial Aid/FAFSA

- ★ OLHS is planning to host another Financial Aid/FAFSA informational presentation this year. Information about this event is forthcoming.



SchooLinks



SchooLinks



- ★ What is SchooLinks?
 - College and Career Readiness Platform to prepare students for what comes after graduation
- ★ How do I log into SchooLinks?
 - Students have a SchooLinks icon on their myOLSD portal and will be automatically logged in



SchooLinks

★ What can SchooLinks do?

SchooLinks helps students discover their interests and strengths, explore colleges and careers, and create a personal graduation plan that best reflects their post-secondary goals.

- Access career interest, strength and mindset surveys
- Explore 2-year and 4-year colleges
- Take virtual reality college campus tours
- Search for scholarships / learn about financial aid
- Explore traditional, emerging and military career fields
- Create digital portfolios/resumes
- Log volunteer hours
- Track college applications
- Request transcripts / letters of recommendation
- Track graduation requirements



**Parent Webinar
Intro to SchooLinks
Wednesday, October 14
6:30-7:15 p.m.**



Important Dates

- ★ October 19, 2026 - Transcript/letter of rec request deadline for November 1 deadline
- ★ November 13, 2026 - Transcript/letter of rec request deadline for December 1 deadline
- ★ December 7, 2026 - Transcript/letter of rec request deadline for January 1 deadline
- ★ May 1, 2027 - National College Declaration Day
- ★ May 16, 2027 - Graduation Day @ 12PM



Final Thoughts

- ★ Counselors are here to help!! Please have your student talk to their counselor when they have questions!
- ★ Seniors will have seminar and work on SchoolLinks on September 3rd
- ★ Transcripts will not be ready to send until the 3rd week in September at the earliest
- ★ College Application Boot Camp
 - Tuesday/Thursday during 11th/12th period - October
 - In Student Services





THANK YOU