

# EMPOWERING

THE OFFICIAL WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

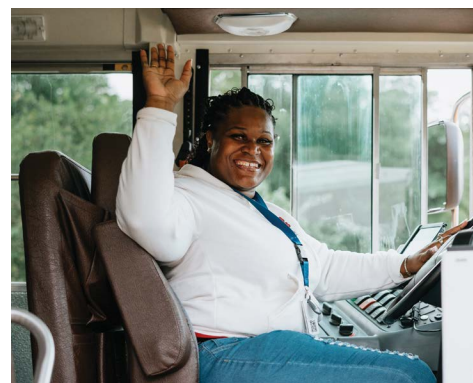


Empowering a community of learners  
who will change the world!

FALL 2026



## WELCOME TO THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR



### Dear Worthington Families + Community,

Whether a student is starting kindergarten or their senior year, there's a familiar energy that comes with the first weeks of school: new backpacks, new friendships, and no shortage of first-day photos on the front porch.

Our mission has not changed. We continue to empower a community of learners who will change the world. You'll see that mission in action all year long, in our classrooms, on our stages, and on our fields, carried out by the people who show up for our kids every single day.

Thank you for trusting us with that work.  
Here's to a great year ahead.

Sincerely,

**DR. TRENT BOWERS**

Superintendent • Worthington Schools





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Worthington Schools welcomes several new administrators this year, bringing fresh energy and experience to our school district. We asked them what they're looking forward to most. Here's what they said.

**"GETTING TO KNOW OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND STAFF AND MAKING SUTTER A PLACE FILLED WITH CONNECTION, LEARNING AND FUN!"**



**MISSY GRIMMETT**  
*Principal, Sutter Park Preschool*

**"BRINGING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH THE SHARED EXCITEMENT OF ATHLETIC EVENTS."**



**JEFF GOOD**  
*Athletic Director, Thomas Worthington High School*

**"GETTING TO KNOW STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES IN A MEANINGFUL WAY AND ATTENDING AT LEAST 1 GAME FOR EVERY TEAM!"**



**KIRSTEN DYER**  
*Assistant Principal, Worthington Kilbourne High School*

**"MEETING ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF."**



**TRICIA WINLAND**  
*Principal, Evening Street Elementary*

## FULL CIRCLE MOMENT

For Lisa Janusz, a second grade teacher at Worthington Estates Elementary, her final year before retirement has brought a special full-circle moment.

In 1997, Lisa welcomed Meg Alexis into her very first class. Nearly 30 years later, Meg is now a band director at McCord Middle School, and her husband, Ryan, is a band director at Kilbourne Middle School. Now, Meg and Ryan's son, Ben, is a student in Lisa's final second grade class.

From her first class to her last, this special connection is a fitting reminder of the relationships teachers build and the impact they can have across generations.



# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: ON TO PHASE 3



Scan the QR code to learn more about Phase 3 of our MFP and be part of the process

Worthington's school buildings range from 1938 to 1991. Over the last 10 years, the district has been implementing its Master Facilities Planning (MFP), a long-term effort funded by two community-approved bonds: \$89 million in 2018 for middle schools and \$234 million in 2022 for high schools.

With Phases 1 and 2 complete at our middle and high schools, the MFP now turns to our elementary schools for Phase 3.

Just as in the past, the community will have a direct hand in shaping what comes next. Preparatory work, including debt limit review, facilitator selection, and enrollment updates, runs through October 2026. Phase 3 officially begins in January 2027 with a 14-month community engagement process, giving families and residents the same kind of voice that helped guide Phases 1 and 2. The Board of Education is expected to accept a Community Plan by March 2028, with a potential ballot issue as early as November 2028.

Thank you to this community for its continued investment in our students. Updated, modern buildings mean safer facilities, better learning spaces, and schools that are a source of pride for our students and staff for decades to come.

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

More than 1,100 neighbors came out for Worthington's Back-To-School Style Drop & Family Resource Fair this summer. Together, they took home roughly 14,000 clothing items, all donated and organized by community volunteers to help families gear up for the new school year.

Alongside the clothing giveaway, families connected with local resource partners and kids got free haircuts, all part of a full-circle effort powered by neighbors helping neighbors.

None of this happens without the volunteers and community partners who make Style Drop possible year after year. It's Worthington, taking care of Worthington.





**Worthington Schools**  
200 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.  
Worthington, OH 43085

#ItsWorthIt



worthington.k12.oh.us



STAY CONNECTED



# UNDERSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES AND REAPPRAISAL

Property taxes are a source of real tension right now, and that frustration is understandable. What is hard to find is a clear explanation of how the system actually works, so let me try.

Franklin County is in the middle of its "triennial update," a state-required review of all property values. It isn't the full reappraisal that happens every six years, but it serves the same purpose: keeping values fair and current across similar properties. You should have received a postcard from the county auditor with your tentative value, and you can look it up at [auditor.franklincountyohio.gov](http://auditor.franklincountyohio.gov).

What does this mean for your tax bill? For most people, very little. Ohio law protects homeowners by reducing the tax rate as values go up, so the average homeowner pays about what they paid the year before. There are exceptions. If your property value rises more than average, your tax bill may increase, while another property owner's may decrease. Overall, the total amount collected stays about the same.

Rising values do not mean more revenue for school districts, which is also why districts have to return to voters periodically for operating levies.

This process runs through the county, not the district. But because schools make up about three-fourths of your bill, you deserve to hear from us. Why so high a share? The state's portion of school funding hasn't kept pace with inflation, and more of the local burden has shifted from businesses to homeowners.

Think your value is wrong? Request a property review from the county auditor. Most owners can do it in person or virtually in about 20 minutes.

Property taxes in Ohio are confusing. I'm happy to answer any questions. Just call or email.

**TJ CUSICK**

*Treasurer • Worthington Schools*

