

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

WINTER 2022

OLENTANGY GROWS TO FOURTH LARGEST IN STATE



This past fall, Olentangy Schools welcomed 22,573 students into our schools to kick off the 2021-2022 school year. From brand new kindergartners entering the classroom for the first time, to high school seniors beginning their last year, the continual growth in student enrollment has propelled Olentangy Schools to the fourth largest K-12 school district in Ohio.

“A primary benefit of Olentangy Schools becoming the fourth largest district in the state, is the representation Olentangy will have on the Ohio School Board Association. With board member Mrs. Mindy Patrick as Olentangy’s representative, we will have a stronger influence on the direction the OSBA takes on academic and legislative education issues,” shared Superintendent Mark T. Raiff.

The District’s facilities committee relies on enrollment projections in forecasting student population growth and planning the buildings necessary for educating all of Olentangy’s students. The District’s sixth middle school, located in Delaware County south of Berlin High School along Piatt Road, is funded through the spring 2020 bond issue. Jeff Gordon, Director of Business Management and Facilities, reports that construction is currently progressing on schedule.

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FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT
Mark T. Raiff

CELEBRATING OUR DISTRICT

As we cross the mid-way point of the 2021-2022 school year, I continue to be proud of our students, staff and parents who have collaborated each day to help achieve our mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student.

Over the past two years, it has been natural for some to focus on the challenges and the negativity. However, our “win” here has been the ample opportunities for our students to learn and exemplify our Portrait of a Learner dispositions – purposeful, resilient, curious, and kind.

Shanahan Middle School vocal music teacher, Mrs. Katie Silcott, shared with me how she has witnessed the impact of these lessons in middle school students.

See CELEBRATE Page 3

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS GETS PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS

When Governor DeWine signed HB 169 into law in December, \$20 million in federal funding was earmarked for Olentangy Schools. Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act equates to approximately 4.16 mills in operational funding. Olentangy Schools is developing a spending plan for these funds in accordance with applicable guidelines. More information will be shared at future Board of Education meetings.

WHAT’S INSIDE



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NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Olentangy Schools Board of Education welcomes in Dr. Kevin Daberkow and Mr. Brandon Lester



Dr. Kevin Daberkow

Dr. Daberkow grew up west of Cleveland and settled in Central Ohio. He has been teaching as an elementary school teacher since 2001, teaching on the Southside of Columbus. Shortly after beginning his teaching career, Dr. Daberkow began his doctoral work in school finance and economics and completed his Ph.D. at Ohio University. He is passionate about school funding in Ohio. “I am blessed with a great family that includes my wife (who is also an educator), two younger children that

attend Olentangy Schools and my oldest daughter that graduated from Otterbein in the spring of 2021,” said Dr. Daberkow.

In addition to teaching math to 5th graders in Columbus City Schools, he also teaches in higher education at Ohio University, Ashland University and is a doctoral advisor and dissertation committee member at Franklin University. The Daberkow family is actively involved with Worthington Christian Church and spends most of their free time supporting their children's sports activities. He is thrilled to raise his family in Delaware County as his children thrive attending Olentangy Local School District.

“Olentangy Local School District is the premier school district in the state of Ohio,” remarked Dr. Daberkow. “The reason I ran for Board of Education is that I know the excellence we enjoy in our school district is not by accident. The hard work of every family and educator in Olentangy catalyzes our success. With my experience as an educator, I can help support this success on the Board of Education,” explained Dr. Daberkow. He is excited to serve on the Board and to contribute to the effort to secure fair funding for Olentangy Schools. Dr. Daberkow is thrilled to be part of a team that will facilitate maximum learning for every student within the context of responsible fiscal policy.



Mr. Brandon Lester

Mr. Lester is an attorney who currently serves as Senior Associate General Counsel at The Ohio State University, specializing in faculty and academic issues, as well as complex matters involving constitutional law, policy, litigation, crisis management, Title IX, compliance, dispute resolution and more. Previously, he practiced labor and employment law and litigation in private practice, represented state entities on major appeals in the Appeals Section of the Ohio Attorney

General’s Office and served as a law clerk for the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer of the Supreme Court of Ohio. He provides pro bono legal services, serves as a mentor, coaches youth soccer, and speaks to classes about legal and writing issues. He and his wife Jennifer are the proud parents of two Olentangy students.

“When we moved to the district a little over five years ago, we immediately felt welcomed into the Olentangy community,” said Mr. Lester. “As someone who has always been passionate about both public education and public service, I was excited about this opportunity to give back to such a wonderful district. While the last few years have been challenging for schools across the nation, I see these challenges as opportunities to come together and build up our community,” Mr. Lester explained.

His top priorities include supporting the mental health of students, teachers and staff. “We have to continue to find ways to build a culture of support without stigma,” Mr. Lester remarked. “I am looking forward to engaging the community in building our future. We have to ensure that our schools are supportive environments for all so that every student is empowered to do their best, and that all depends on building a culture of communication and respects,” said Mr. Lester.

OLENTANGY GROWS

FROM PAGE 1

“The Robertson Construction team is completing the building envelope (walls and roofing), which will enclose the building and allow crews to continue to work through the winter,” shared Mr. Gordon. “We are very fortunate that our construction partners prepared for long material lead times and are not facing supply chain delays,” said Mr. Gordon.

The sixth middle school will add 46 classrooms and space for up to 1,000 students in grades 6-8. It is projected to open for the 2023-2024 school year, in time to prevent a deficit in middle school classroom space across the District. The timeline for opening the 17th elementary school also funded in the spring 2020 bond issue, has been extended to the 2025-2026 school year.

In their annual report to the Board of Education on October 2021, the Facilities Committee projected a need for the 18th and 19th elementary schools in 2027 and 2030, respectively. Enrollment projections do not reflect a demand for another Olentangy middle school or high school in the next 10 years.



Aerial photograph of the sixth middle school taken on December 13, 2021.

TRADEMARK LICENSING PROGRAM ROLLOUT

In partnership with the implementation of the new trademarked school brand identities, Olentangy Schools has established a licensing program for the use of both district and school logos.

First steps of the licensing program took place in December 2020, when the Board of Education approved a contract with K12 Licensing. The District will now profit from the sales of Olentangy trademarked products while K12 Licensing will protect and promote the use of Olentangy branded items.

The second step in the licensing process has been partnering with local vendors to create products with Olentangy’s brand identities or partnering with a school, group or team as well as third-party vendors.

“The vendor license agreement is essential in ensuring that all gear, signage and other promotional items follow our brand identity guidelines,” shared Chief Communications Officer Mrs. Krista Davis. “The process has already improved our communication with vendor partners and will strengthen those relationships in the community.”

The final step in using the trademarked brand identities is the completion of a brand project request form, which approves all uses of the district and school names, logos, initials, mascot and buildings. “Volunteers, staff members and vendors submit a request form for approval, as a checks and balances for the proper use of all trademarked materials,” stated Mrs. Davis.

The licensing program is a part of the District’s strategic plan to establish a brand identity, while also creating a modest revenue stream for the District, creating consistent visual representation of our schools and fostering pride across the community. The use of an Olentangy Schools name, logo, initials, and/or building for advertising and promoting products or services is not permitted unless the District has authorized its use. In addition, the use of a logo may not imply that Olentangy Schools endorses or is part of a product, service or company.

If a vendor would like to become an approved licensed vendor, they may contact Olentangy Communications at BrandRequests@olsd.us.



CELEBRATE

FROM PAGE 1

QUICK LOOK BACK

- Opened and staffed a **brand new elementary school**, Shale Meadows, and welcomed 598 students.
- Several of our schools achieved national and state recognition through **US News & World Report’s annual Best Schools Report**, with three of our high schools ranking in the top 30 in the state compared to over 600 high schools (Berlin High School is not yet eligible for this ranking).
- Twenty-five high school seniors were recognized as **National Merit Semifinalists**, and 35 additional seniors received Letters of Commendation.
- **Met 18 out of 21 indicators on the state report card.** These indicators measure proficiency percentages for how our students performed on the Ohio state tests last spring.

“During the past two years, students have learned the challenges and beauty of resilience in demonstrating patience and grace; we cherish our performances more than ever and are purposeful with these opportunities; we have been curious in hearing opinions that both align and differ with our own views; and students are approaching one another to ask for help, give words of encouragement and demonstrate kindness more than ever,” shared Mrs. Silcott. I am proud to share that Mrs. Silcott was recently selected as a top 10 finalist nationwide for the GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

Our schools have celebrated many accomplishments since August 2021. (See *QUICK LOOK BACK* at left). These are just a few highlights of the many our community has experienced. While we continue to persevere and find new ways to manage fresh challenges, we focus on the overwhelming amount of positive occasions to celebrate. I encourage us all to find resilience and the opportunities to learn and grow in 2022.

I am thankful to be a part a school community that is active, caring and passionate about children and their education. Our Olentangy community continues to grow which enriches and increases the opportunities available to our students. I look forward to more moments of celebration in the year ahead.

ONE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE: LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

Started in 2014 as a day-long, in-person event to provide a learning opportunity focused on supporting students with a variety of needs, the ONE Community Conference has evolved into a four-part event series. Culminating in a mini-conference and student keynote on April 23, the 8th annual conference encourages reflection and learning from the past to grow together as One Olentangy and ensure a strong future.

As a result of January's MLK Day of Service, participants learned what temporary economic hardship, food and diaper insecurity, domestic violence, homelessness, hospice and grief, refugee/immigrant transition, neglect/abuse and poverty look like in Central Ohio. Students, staff and Olentangy families donated items to local organizations working to make a difference in the lives of families in crisis.

Join the District for one or all of the upcoming ONE Community Conference events. These events include a district-wide Read In that highlights African American authors and illustrators as well as characters and stories that elevate the African American experience. Additionally, the service plunge encourages learning through the support of local organizations and the mini-conference includes workshops in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion as well as TED-talk style presentations from Olentangy students about their personal experiences in the District.

For more information, visit Olentangy Schools social media and district website at: www.olentangy.k12.oh.us.

ONE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN READ IN
Black History Month (February)
Elementary Reading Calendar
Middle and High School Book Studies

VIRTUAL AUTHOR PANEL
February 28, 6-7:30 p.m.

DISTRICT SERVICE PLUNGE
March 19, All Day Event

MINI-CONFERENCE & STUDENT KEYNOTE
April 23, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Liberty High School

OLENTANGY EARNS HIGHEST RECOGNITION IN GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL REPORTING



Olentangy Schools once again has been named a recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The award, considered the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, is for the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2020. "The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report," the GFOA wrote in a release announcing the award. This is the 20th consecutive year Olentangy Schools has received the coveted award.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (Certificate Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The attainment of this award represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

OTHER NOTABLE AWARDS



Olentangy Schools selected for 2021 Auditor of State Award with Distinction



Ohio School Public Relations Association (OHSPRA) selected Olentangy Schools for three Mark of Excellence Awards 2021



Forbes recognized Olentangy Schools as one of America's Best-In-State Employers 2021

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Visit www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/board-of-education/board-meetings for information on board meeting dates and more.

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