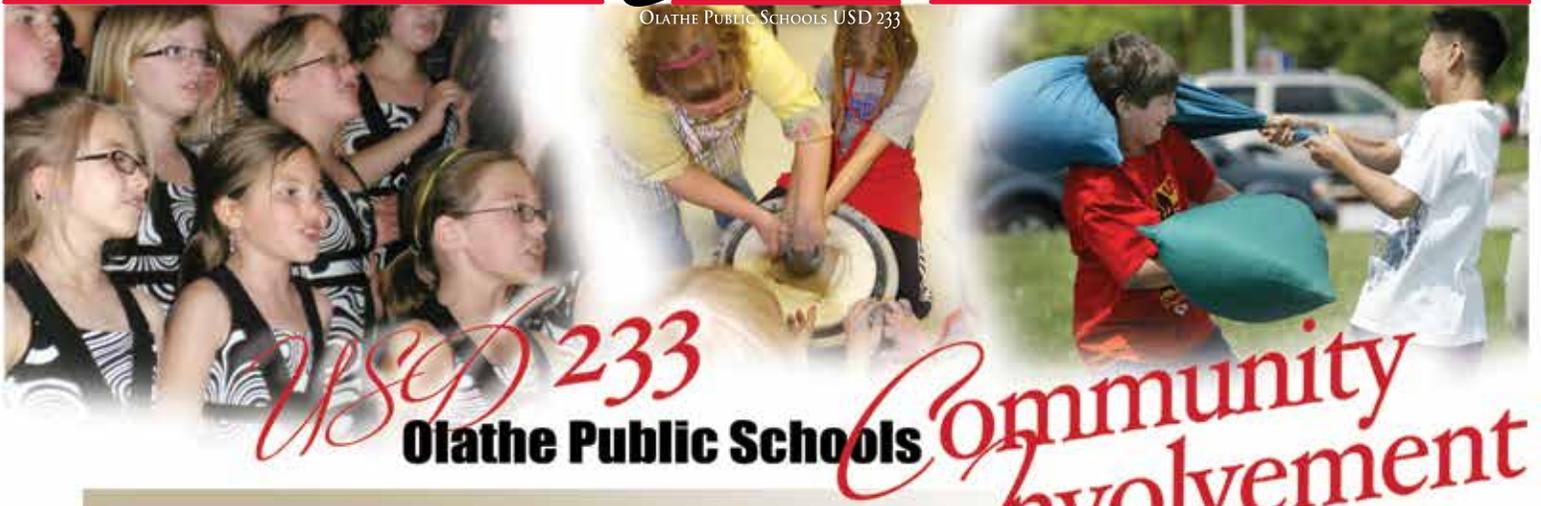




OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD 233



USD 233 Olathe Public Schools Community Involvement

Community Involvement

Parent and community involvement are an important component of the school district, and chosen as one of the district's four Strategic Directions: *The Olathe Public Schools will proactively inform and engage stakeholders (school community and staff) to support and ensure student success.* Here are some ways you can get involved in the Olathe Public Schools!

Activity Passes for Seniors

District activity passes are available to senior citizens who live in the Olathe district and to grandparents of an Olathe student. The passes will allow them free admission to middle school and high school athletic and performing arts events for the upcoming school year.

Passes may be picked up at any of the middle and high schools, at the Education Center (14160 S. Black Bob Road) or prior to a sporting event at either of the two athletic complexes.

The passes are valid for regular season home games for all middle and high school athletic events and for drama productions, musicals and other performing arts events. They are not accepted for Kansas State High School Activities Association post-season events or Sunflower League tournaments.

Alumni Association

The Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association is governed by a board of directors and its executive committee. The Alumni Association created a mission statement in 2005 to support reunions, provide scholarships and recognize alumni.

Major events of the association include the Wall of Honor banquet each fall, and designing/installing a historical timeline of the district in the Education Center.

Community Development

The Community Development Department links schools and community through business, faith and civic partnerships. Goals of business partnerships:

- Learning opportunities for students
- Opportunities for business, faith and civic organizations to enhance their community involvement through an Adpot-A-School connection
- Job opportunities for graduating students
- Learning opportunities for businesses through internship experiences with schools
- Fostering a climate of involvement, interaction and respect between schools and community partners
- Learning opportunities for educators through externship experiences





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Olathe Public Schools Foundation

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation, founded in 1997, is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization providing grants, scholarships and recognitions for the teachers and students of the Olathe School District. The Foundation brings students, parents, alumni, small businesses and corporations together to create opportunities to support continued excellence in Olathe Schools. The Foundation works to build supportive relationships between our schools and the business community through many cooperative events and programs.

Since 1997 the foundation has provided over \$7.3 million in support to Olathe school staff and students. The Foundation has assets in excess of \$3.1 million dollars and has an annual operating budget of \$1.4 million.

The Foundation is managed by a staff of four professionals and a board of directors consisting of 23 community volunteers. They work with corporate sponsors and individual donors who wish to establish or contribute to programs through ongoing sponsorships, annual pledges, one-time gifts, lifetime gifts, or legacy gifts.

For more information call the Olathe Public Schools Foundation at (913) 780-8222.

Retired Employees Association

The Retired Employees Association was formed in 2001 to provide opportunities for retired district employees to keep in touch with former colleagues, make new friends through social activities, and continue to serve the students of the district.

Volunteers Serving Schools

The Olathe Public Schools volunteer program, Volunteers Serving Schools, has many opportunities for adults who want to support the classroom or serve as positive role models. Volunteers Serving Schools connects adult volunteers to activities such as classroom helper, lunch buddy, reading or math tutor, after-school homework helper, mentor, and special projects. Olathe's volunteer program brings the community into the classroom. Typically, adults meet with students one-on-one or help in a classroom once a week.

There are students at each grade level who are on a waiting list to connect with an adult mentor or who need tutoring support. Volunteers and schools work together to schedule the best volunteer time such as during lunch or a class period.

Classroom helpers assist teachers as needed whether it be helping students in a small group setting with reading, math and spelling, or assisting teachers with bulletin boards, cutting, making packets, copying, and much more.

Community Liaison Heather Schoonover said volunteers help students meet their academic and personal goals as well as assist teachers with classroom needs.

The volunteer department offers training during the school year for adults who have applied and been accepted into the program. A background check is completed for each applicant.



Volunteer Opportunities

The Olathe School District is fortunate to have a high level of parent participation in many school activities ranging from parent-teacher conferences to after-prom and Project Graduation events. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's school community, and to show their support of quality education by assisting with after-school events or joining school councils and committees.

