



Olathe Public Schools Annual Report • 2018-19



## A Message from our Board of Education

The 2018-19 school year was a memorable year for numerous reasons; our district welcomed its 10th middle school, Summit Trail, and broke ground on our 36th elementary school, Canyon Creek, which opened August 2019. District leadership embarked on a forward-looking strategic plan, Portrait of a Graduate, which begins with the end in mind – high school graduates in the year 2032. What skills and attributes will these students need during their time in our schools? How can we best support a changing workforce while advancing innovative teaching practices?

The work of our school district is a responsibility that is not taken lightly. In educating the next generation, we're preparing students for careers that don't yet exist. As the Olathe Public Schools Board of Education, we appreciate the support of the communities in our district.

We are proud public servants and are eager to serve our constituents with honesty and transparency. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to earn your trust while our district prepares students for their future.



### 2018-19 Board of Education

*(front row, left to right). Brent McCune, Rick Schier,  
LeEtta Felter, President Shannon Wickliffe  
(back row, left to right) Amy Martin,  
Vice President Joe Beveridge, Brian Geary*

## Strengths: What we stand for!

### Our Mission:

To provide a safe, positive environment where all students acquire knowledge and skills to be productive citizens.

### Our Vision:

Students prepared for *their* future!

### Our Purpose:

Student learning

### Our Beliefs:

- All children can learn
- Together we achieve more

### Our Core Values:

- Data-driven continuous improvement
- Life-long learning

### Strengths of the Olathe Public Schools

- Outstanding staff
- Community support
- Parental involvement
- The Olathe Public Schools Foundation
- Civic group support



## A Caring Community • A District of Excellence

Olathe Public Schools is the second-largest district in the state, and the largest in the Kansas City metropolitan area. For more than 40 years, the district has shown an increase in students — a fact no other district in the state can match.

Home to more than 30,000 students and 4,600 dedicated staff members, the Johnson County, Kansas district southwest of Kansas City serves students in Olathe and parts of Lenexa, Overland Park and Shawnee.

It's a caring district and one that strives for student achievement in all areas.

The district is rich in math, science, fine arts and innovative 21st Century Academies.

It's a district with small-town values in an ever-expanding city. It's a district that looks after its own with an expansive heart.





## A Growing School District: At a Glance

**Enrollment:** 30,145 (September 2018)

- Second-largest district in Kansas

**Number of Staff:** 4,637

- 2,594 — Certified staff
- 2,043 — Classified support staff
- 15 years — Average experience of classroom teachers
- 7 — Kansas Teachers of the Year
- 19 — Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching
- Olathe Public Schools is the 14th-largest employer and the 4th-largest public employer in the KC metro area.

### **Schools and Programs:**

- 36 — Elementary schools (Grades K-5)  
\*The 36th elementary school, Canyon Creek Elementary, opened in fall 2019
- 10 — Middle schools (Grades 6-8)
- 5 — High schools (Grades 9-12)
- Claire Learning Center
- Harmony and Heartland early childhood centers for students with special needs
- Mill Creek Campus
- Olathe Advanced Technical Center
- Prairie Learning Center
- West Dennis Learning Center



# Strong Foundation of Learning and Student Involvement

## Learning Results

- 2018 ACT composite average: 23.9
  - Kansas average: 21.6
  - National average: 20.8
- 11 National Merit finalists in 2018
- 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholar

## Accreditation

All schools accredited by the state of Kansas

## Graduation Rate

91.2 percent

## Programs

- Elementary weekly technology instruction
- Tiered math instruction at the middle level, including advanced classes
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for increasing college readiness at all high schools

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century High School Academies in Animal Health, e-Communication, Engineering, Computer Science, Public Safety and more
- Two-year Career and Technical Education programs at the Olathe Advanced Technical Center
- College level classes — Advanced Placement and College Now courses (dual-enrollment for college credit)
- eAcademy online education
- Physical fitness offerings at all levels
- Fine arts offerings at all levels — visual arts, general music, choral, orchestra, band and theatre

## College Level Courses

- 18 Advanced Placement courses
- 40 College Now courses
- 5 College Board College Level Equivalency Program (CLEP) Assessments offered

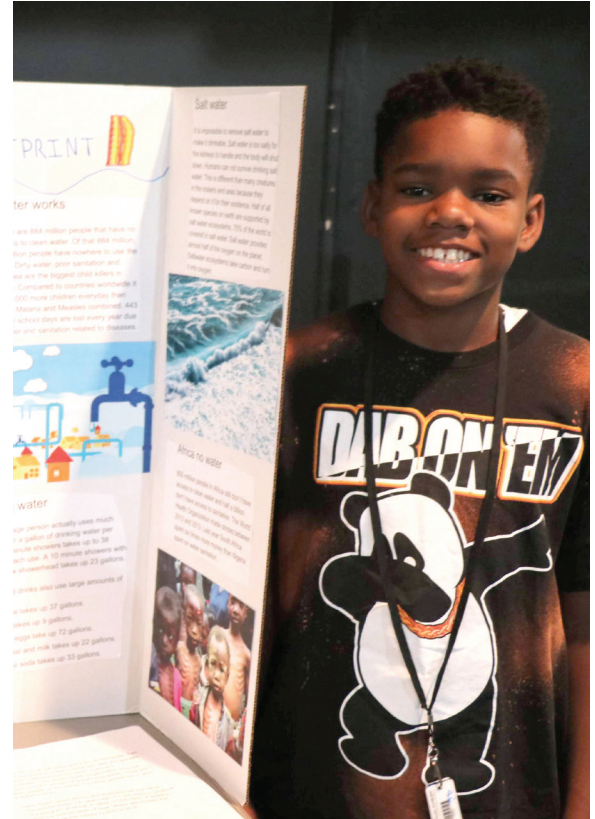
## Activities and Athletics

- 80 percent of students in grades 5-12 are involved in one or more activity or athletic opportunity
- Olathe's rich activity and athletic programs create a well-rounded student population



## Outstanding Students

- Olathe South High School junior Rebecca Porter was named Dean's List winner by the Greater Kansas City Regional for FIRST Robotics.
- Emily Martin, senior at Olathe North High School, was elected to serve as an International Thespian Officer. Martin is one of six students who will represent the International Thespian Society for the upcoming school year.
- LyLena Estabine, junior at Olathe Northwest High School, was selected to be a member of The Coterie's annual Young Playwrights' Roundtable.
- Three Olathe East High School students were named to the National Association for Music Education's 2018 All-National Honor Ensemble: Nolan Ralph, senior, was named to the All-National Honor Ensembles Concert Band; Cora Miller, senior, was named to the All-National Honor Ensembles Mixed Choir; and Evan Kappelman, senior, was named to the All-National Ensembles Jazz Ensemble.
- Akerth Jain, freshman at Olathe North High School, was selected as one of 100 student participants nationwide for the Disney Dreamers Academy.





## Outstanding Students

- The National Center for Women & Information Technology, NetApp of Wichita and Northwest Missouri State University recognized two Olathe students: Riley Delancy, senior at Olathe East High School, named Honorable Mention recipient and Emily Hemsath, senior at Olathe Northwest High School, named Rising Star recipient.
- The Olathe North High School Scholars Bowl team earned the Kansas 6A state championship.
- Manu Sripathi, a fourth-grade student from Regency Place Elementary, won the Olathe Spelling Bee.
- The Olathe North High School Science Bowl team won the Kansas regional Science Bowl competition.
- Three students at Olathe North High School received medals in the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Renee Born, junior, received a silver medal for short story. Katelyn Gillette, junior, received a gold medal for flash fiction and Paiton Stith, junior, received a silver medal for a sci-fi/fantasy story, a silver medal for flash fiction and a gold medal for another sci-fi/fantasy story.



## Perfect ACT Scores

- Seven students earned a perfect score on the ACT Exam: Cory Zink, Olathe Northwest High School; Dallin Armstrong, Olathe Northwest; Eddie Dai, Olathe North High School; Arjun Garapaty, Olathe North; Savindu Buluwana, Olathe North; Kaiya Scott, Olathe Northwest; and Ryan Moddesette, Olathe Northwest.





## Outstanding Staff and Schools

- Olathe Public Schools Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations John Hutchison was selected to receive the International Eagle Award from the Association of School Business Officials International. This award is the highest honor in school business.
- Matthew Peterie, Engineering Academy facilitator at Olathe Northwest High School, and Andrew Edmondson, science teacher at Olathe Northwest, were selected to the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics 2018-19 Master Teacher Policy Fellowship class which brings together K-12 physics and physical science teachers from across the United States.
- Bruce Wellman, chemistry and engineering teacher at Olathe Northwest High School, was selected to be a member of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.
- Nancy Smith, Bentwood Elementary School first-grade teacher, was named the 2019 Janet Sims Memorial Kansas Agriculture Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.
- Ohio Northern University, in collaboration with The Ohio State University and Olathe Northwest High School, has received a substantial grant from the National Science Foundation to implement engineering design activities into high school science classrooms.
- The Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals recognized Frontier Trail Middle School Principal Rod Smith with the Middle School Principal of the Year award.
- Olathe South High School theater director David Hastings was elected to serve on the Educational Theatre Association Board of Directors.
- Three Olathe music educators earned honors from the East Central Kansas Music Educators Association. Frontier Trail Middle School band director Sara Smitko was selected as the Middle Level Band Teacher of the Year. J.J. Wallace, Olathe West High School orchestra director, was selected as the High School Orchestra Teacher of the Year and Olathe West assistant band director John Wickersham was selected as the High School Band Teacher of the Year.



## Caring, Quality Educators

- Melinda Waldron, communications teacher at Olathe North High School, received the inaugural First Class Teacher Award presented by 99.7 The Point and First National Bank.
- The Olathe National Education Association has recognized Erik Erazo, Olathe Public Schools migrant director/Hispanic student services, as its first Racial and Social Justice Advocate of the Month winner.
- Olathe Northwest High School English teacher LuAnn Fox was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English Outstanding High School ELA Educator award.
- Alicia Jackson, counselor at Olathe West High School, was named Kansas School Counselor of the Year by the Kansas School Counselor Association.
- Manchester Park Elementary Principal Sean Bohon was named the 2018 Kansas School Counselor Principal Advocate of the Year by the Kansas School Counselor Association.



## Staff Awards

- Briarwood Elementary fourth-grade teacher Ariel Jankord received the Making IT Happen award from the International Society for Technology in Education.
- California Trail Middle School center-based resource teacher Jess Petrie was named a Community Champion through the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City.
- The Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals recognized Frontier Trail Middle School Principal Rod Smith with the Middle School Principal of the Year award.
- Woodland Elementary center-based resource teacher Jamie Van Scyoc was awarded a Read to Achieve award from the Kansas chapter of the National Education Association and KCTV5.
- Olathe West High School science teacher Kelly Kluthe was awarded a \$2,000 classroom grant by the Kansas City Chapter of the Association for Learning Environments.



*Ariel Jankord*



*Rod Smith*



*Jamie Van Scyoc*

- Olathe Northwest High School history teacher Jon Krug was named Outstanding Teacher of American History by the Olathe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- The Counseling Department of Olathe Public Schools named its winners of the Olathe School Counselor of the Year awards. Tisha Halfert, Green Springs Elementary counselor, earned the Olathe School Counselor of the Year award; Mitchell Cloud, Fairview Elementary counselor, earned the Olathe Counselor Promise award; Jaime Englis, Summit Trail Middle School counselor, earned the Olathe Secondary Counselor of the Year award; Todd Wheat, Green Springs principal, earned the Olathe School Counselor Principal Advocate award; and Cindy Hey, Prairie Trail Middle School counselor, earned the Olathe Counselor Hall of Fame award.
- Chisholm Trail Middle School math teacher and boys basketball coach Zach Reed was named the Kansas Middle School Coach of the Year by the Kansas Coaches Association.
- Jennifer Cullen, counselor at Regency Place Elementary, was selected as the Kansas School Counselor Association Promise Award winner.

## Staff Awards

- Olathe North High School math teacher Terry Link was selected as a Jedel Excellence in Mathematics Education award winner. Link is one of 16 educators in the Kansas City metro area to receive the honor.



Terry Link



Tisha Halfert, Mitchell Cloud and Jaime Englis



Kelly Kluthe



Jess Petrie



# Outstanding Athletes: CHAMPIONS!



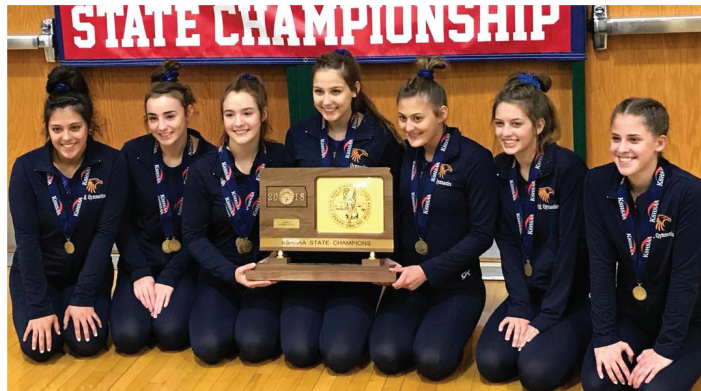
Olathe West  
6A Bowling  
State Champion



Olathe East  
6A Soccer  
State Champions



Olathe East  
6A Gymnastics  
State Champions





## Outstanding Athletes: CHAMPIONS!

- The Olathe School District's five high school junior varsity and varsity volleyball teams banded together for a good cause raising \$10,395 for the Side Out Foundation.
- The Olathe East High School gymnastics team earned the 6A Kansas state title in gymnastics.
- Liz Wasinger, Olathe East High School junior, won an individual state gymnastics title in the balance beam.
- The Olathe North High School boys cross country team earned the Kansas 6A state title.
- The Olathe East High School boys soccer team earned the Kansas 6A state title.
- The Olathe East High School Talons dance team earned the Junior Varsity Pom National Champions title.
- The Olathe North High School Eaglettes dance team earned the Large Varsity Pom National Champions title.
- The Olathe Northwest High School Raven Dance Team won three national championships in the large varsity team competition at the National Dance Alliance Championships.
- The Olathe East High School boys swim team earned the Kansas 6A state championship in the 200-Yard Medley Relay.
- Olathe West High School freshman bowler Mike Anderson earned the Kansas 6A bowling state title.
- Phillip Costello, Olathe East High School, earned the Kansas 6A state championship in the 100-Yard Breaststroke.
- Olathe North High School wrestler Keegan Slyter earned the Kansas 6A state title in the 126-pound weight class.
- Emily Bachelor, Olathe East High School, earned the Kansas Diving 6A state championship.
- Madeline Righter, Olathe Northwest High School, won the Girls High Jump state title.
- Jacob Vermillion, Olathe East High School, won the Boys 800-Meter Run state title.
- Cade Heikes, Olathe North High School, won the Boys 1600-Meter Run state title.
- Jalessa McWashington, Olathe Northwest High School, won the Girls 300-Meter Hurdles and the Girls Long Jump state titles.
- Olathe Northwest Boys 4x800-Meter Relay team of Braeden Beard, Bret Beard, Andrew Tracy and Cole Morris won the Kansas 6A state title.



## Financial Statement

### Mill Levy

General Fund . . . . .	20.000
Supplemental General . . . . .	15.836
Capital Outlay . . . . .	8.000
Special Liability . . . . .	0.135
Extraordinary Growth . . . . .	7.800
Cost of Living . . . . .	3.476
Bond & Interest . . . . .	15.050
Special Assessments . . . . .	0.368
Total . . . . .	70.665

### Sources Of Revenue (Operating Funds)

Local & County Taxes . . . . .	48,028,846
State Funds . . . . .	238,459,506
Federal . . . . .	7,401,157
Total . . . . .	\$293,889,508

### Assessed Valuation

\$2,357,434,726

### Base State Aid for Student Excellence (BASE)

2017-18 . . . . .	\$4,006
2018-19 . . . . .	\$4,165
An increase of 3.82%	

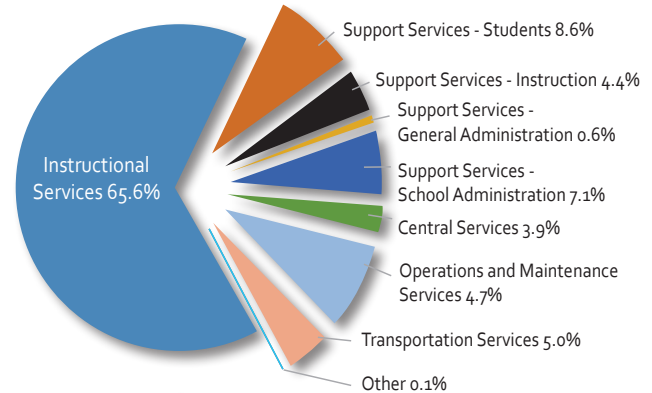
### Operating Fund Expenditures By Function Area

Instructional Services . . . . .	193,149,040
Support Services - Students . . . . .	25,239,873
Support Services - Instruction . . . . .	12,962,824
Support Services - General Administration . . . . .	2,154,512
Support Services - School Administration . . . . .	20,925,052
Central Services . . . . .	11,370,336
Operations & Maintenance Services . . . . .	13,970,718
Transportation Services . . . . .	14,582,226
Other . . . . .	235,193
Total . . . . .	\$294,589,775

### Operating Fund Expenditures By Object Area

Salaries & Benefits . . . . .	252,475,393
Professional & Technical Services . . . . .	3,544,322
Purchased Property Services . . . . .	3,082,384
Other Purchased Services . . . . .	5,718,659
Supplies & Materials . . . . .	7,132,749
Equipment/Property . . . . .	801,432
Utilities . . . . .	7,134,230
Transportation . . . . .	14,582,226
Other . . . . .	118,378
Total . . . . .	\$294,589,775

## Percent of Budget





# Students Prepared for *Their* Future!



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913.780.7000  
[www.olatheschools.org](http://www.olatheschools.org)

**Notification Statement of Non-discrimination:**

The Olathe Public Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Access Act of 1984 and other relevant state and federal laws as amended. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to race, ethnicity, gender, age discrimination, sexual orientation, gender identity or equal access may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Support Services, 14160 S. Black Bob Rd. Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone (913) 780-7000. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Assistant Superintendent of Support Services. (03/19)