

2020-21

Olathe Public Schools Annual Report



A Message from our Board of Education

The 2020-21 school year was, in so many ways, a year unlike any other. Together, we faced new challenges as we navigated a new kind of education amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As a community, we celebrated successes both big and small - and through it all, you, our Olathe community, continued to serve as champions for our students.

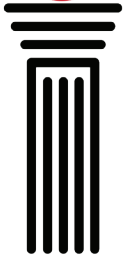


Our teachers and support staff demonstrated unwavering commitment to "Preparing Students for *Their* Future," whether that meant supporting students remotely or in-person. Families partnered with the district in new and unprecedented ways as we all navigated learning environments both at home and in classrooms. And most importantly, our students exhibited incredible resiliency, integrity and so many of the characteristics you outlined as a community in the district's Portrait of a Graduate.

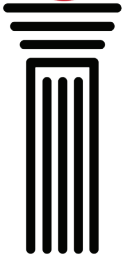
As we look to a new school year and fresh beginnings, we remain committed to earning your trust through honesty and transparency in all that we do. Olathe Public Schools holds a special place in each of our hearts as the place we are proud to call home, and that is thanks in large part to the people who make up this community. We thank you for your continued support of Olathe Public Schools and look forward to the many opportunities to support our mission of students prepared for *their* future in the year ahead.



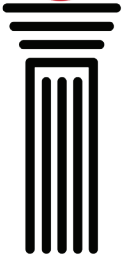
Portrait of a Graduate



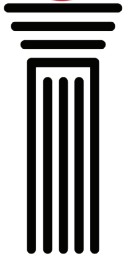
**High Academic
Expectations
for All**



**Behavior and
Social-Emotional
Development**



**Human
Capital**



**Effective Systems
and Prioritized
Resources**

Integrity Vision Accountability Resilience Innovation Inclusivity

The Olathe Public Schools Strategic Plan outlines the district's goals and core values to set the road map to help students achieve great success. The Strategic Plan was approved in October 2019, will be refreshed in fall of 2021, and will also include plans around diversity, engagement and inclusion. District staff and the Board of Education, with much community input, created a Portrait of a Graduate (POG) to outline what we want our students to know and be able to do when they graduate from our schools.

The new Strategic Plan provides the path and steps the organization needs to follow to help our students achieve the competencies outlined in the POG: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Resilience and Social and Emotional Well-Being; Creativity and Innovation; Communication; Initiative and Self-Direction; and Social and Cross-Cultural Skills.

A Caring Community • A District of Excellence

What do we want our students to know and be able to do?

The competencies included in the district's Portrait of a Graduate include: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation; Initiative and Self-Direction; Resilience and Social and Emotional Well-Being; Communication; and Social and Cross-Cultural Skills.

The competencies set the tone for our strategic plan, which drives our future work as a district and as a community.



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.

Home to nearly 30,000 students and more than 4,500 dedicated staff members, the Johnson County, Kansas district southwest of Kansas City serves students in Olathe and parts of Lenexa and Overland Park.

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: 29,446

- Second-largest district in Kansas
- Largest school district in Kansas City metro on either side of the Kansas-Missouri state line

Number of Staff: 4,972

- 2,840 – Certified staff
- 2,157 – Classified support staff
- 15 years – Average experience of classroom teachers
- 7 – Kansas Teachers of the Year
- 16 – 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)
- 10 – Middle schools (Grades 6-8)
- 5 – High schools (Grades 9-12)
- Claire Learning Center
- Harmony and Heartland early childhood centers and Head Start Program
- Mill Creek Campus
- Olathe Advanced Technical Center
- Prairie Learning Center
- West Dennis Learning Center



Strong Foundation of Learning and Student Involvement

Learning Results

- 2020 ACT composite average: 22.6
 - Kansas Average: 20.4
 - National Average: 20.6
- 15 National Merit finalists in 2021
- 2021 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
- 21st Century Academies
- 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
- Spanish Immersion programs at two elementary schools

College Level Courses

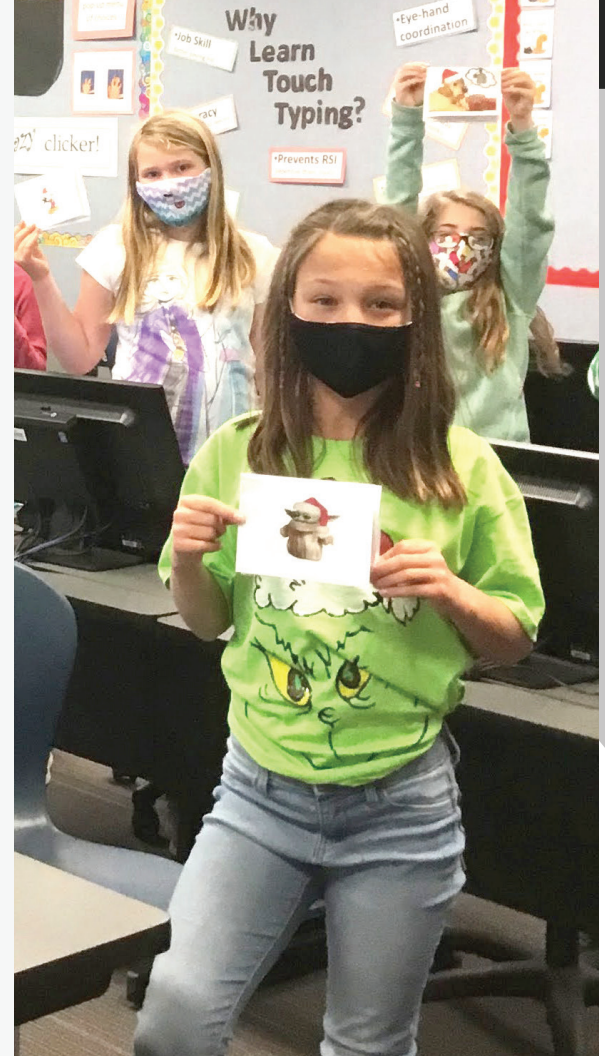
- 18 Advanced Placement courses
- 46 College Now courses
- 2 QuickStep classes through Johnson County Community College

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

- The Olathe Public Schools had 15 students named National Merit Semifinalists. All 15 of the semifinalists advanced to become finalists.
- Three Olathe students received a Thespy Award from the International Thespan Society as part of the International Thespan Festival.
- Keegan Kaiser, Olathe Northwest High School senior, was selected as a member of the 2020 National Association for Music Education All-National Jazz Ensemble.
- Seven Olathe students received various recognitions at the Blue Star Awards by Starlight Theatre.
- The Olathe School District recommended 22 students to receive the Seal of Biliteracy based on their academic achievement in English and a foreign language.
- Malakhi Hill, Olathe North High School sophomore, was named the 2021 Olathe Unity Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year program.
- Fifth grade students at Rolling Ridge Elementary designed ornaments for the National Christmas Tree display in Washington, D.C.
- The Olathe East High School Thespan Troupe received the Gold Honor Troupe award at the Kansas Thespan Festival, which is the highest award a thesperian troupe can receive at the state level.
- Olathe North High School senior Khushi Kohli was one of 300 students named as a scholar in the Regeneron Science Talent Search.



Outstanding Students

- Olathe North High School students Isobel Li and Menaka Garapaty won the open division of the Sunflower Novice Debate Championship.
- Two Olathe students were elected as Kansas Thespians State Officers. Olathe East High School sophomore Ellie Eisele was elected to vice chair and Olathe North High School junior Chase Ellis was elected at-large.
- The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) recognized two Olathe students for their accomplishments and aspirations in computing and technology: Carlie Scheer, sophomore at Olathe Northwest High School, and Alana Schmalzried-Lugo, sophomore at Olathe Northwest.
- Garrett Li, a seventh-grade student from California Trail Middle School, won the Olathe Spelling Bee in 10 rounds and represented the district at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- Out of 93 finalists in the 2021 Shooting Star Awards, presented by the Arts Council of Johnson County, 28 were students in the Olathe School District.
- Students in the Engineering Academy, located at Olathe Northwest High School, earned the REACH Challenge Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.
- Four Olathe Public Schools seniors earned top prize in the 70th Greater Kansas City (virtual) Science and Engineering Fair and were awarded the opportunity to participate in the virtual Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair in early May. All four Olathe Grand Award winners participate in 21st Century Academies at Olathe North High School. They are: Demetrius Bush, Andrew Paget, Khushi Kohli and Samuel Liu.



Perfect ACT Score

- Olathe East: Nathan Zhang
- Olathe North: Akerth Jain
- Olathe Northwest: Jenna Lindsey, Liam Moore, Connor Schroeder and Caleb Cooper
- Olathe West: Emily Yan





Outstanding Staff and Schools

- The Communications Division of the Olathe Public Schools earned two recognitions for digital presence and in-house video in the 2020 Publication & Digital Media Awards presented by National School Public Relations Association.
- The Olathe North High School theatre program received the Outstanding Overall Production award for “Bright Star” at the Blue Star Awards by Starlight Theatre.
- The Olathe Public Schools and Johnson County Mental Health Center received a grant from the Kansas Department of Education to hire two therapists to work together and provide mental health services to Olathe Public Schools families.
- All five Olathe high schools were named to the U.S. News and World Report’s 2021 Best High Schools Rankings. Four Olathe high schools were named to the top-25 in the U.S. News and World Report’s list of Best Kansas High Schools. Olathe Northwest High School ranked fifth, Olathe East High School ranked 17th, Olathe South High School ranked 20th and Olathe North High School ranked 22nd.
- The Association of School Business Officials International awarded the Olathe School District its Meritorious Budget Award for the 2020-21 budget year. This was the 24th consecutive year the Olathe School District has received this honor.
- Olathe South High School was recognized as a Gold Standard School for Financial Literacy Education by Next Gen Personal Finance. Olathe South is just one of 1,247 high schools in the nation to receive this honor.
- The Santa Fe Trail Middle School 2019-20 school yearbook was named a Gold Medalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- Meadow Lane Elementary was selected to receive the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Model School Gold Award for their continued excellence in physical education.
- The Olathe Public Schools attained the highest level of achievement in providing services to children and youth with disabilities. Each year the district’s Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) plans are evaluated by the state based on nearly 20 performance indicators categorized as “results” or “compliance.” Some of the performance indicators are graduation and dropout rate, least restrictive environment, participation and proficiency in assessment testing, timely evaluations of students, and transition to post-secondary life. The state’s performance plan and evaluation of individual districts are required by the U.S. Department of Education.
- The Olathe Northwest High School Raven Jazz I ensemble was among 15 groups nationwide chosen for the 2021 Jazz at Lincoln Center Essentially Ellington Festival.

Caring, Quality Educators

- Meg Richard, former Summit Trail Middle School and California Trail Middle School science teacher, was selected to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.
- Jenny Whitney, Olathe Parents as Teachers parent educator, was selected as one of two recipients of the Parent Educator of the Year award. This recognition typically honors two parent educators from around the world.
- Dena Steen, third grade teacher at Ravenwood Elementary, was named one of three state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.
- Olathe East High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Kaleb Stoppel was named the January Sports Under 40 honoree by the Coach & A.D. and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.
- Kody Willnauer, general music teacher at Regency Place Elementary, was named the 2020-21 East Central Kansas Music Educators Association (ECKMEA) Elementary Music Educator of the Year.



Kaleb Stoppel, Olathe East

- Gretchen Harrison, choir teacher at Frontier Trail Middle School, was named the 2020-21 ECKMEA Middle Level Choir Director of the Year.
- Nicole Chapple, band teacher at Oregon Trail Middle School, was named the 2020-21 ECKMEA Middle Level Band Director of the Year.
- Elise Peterson, choir director at Olathe South High School, was named the 2020-21 ECKMEA High School Choir Director of the Year.
- Olathe East High School Theatre Director Eddie Shafer was named winner of the Heart of the Arts award from the Kansas State High School Activities Association.
- The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center named Amy Hillman, teacher at Santa Fe Trail Middle School, a winner of the 2021 Randy Dix Junior High Science Teacher Award.



Gretchen Harrison, Frontier Trail Middle

Staff Awards

- Cody Kennedy, Communications and Media Manager with the Olathe Public Schools, was named one of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Top 35 under 35.
- Olathe Public Schools Director of Staffing and Talent Acquisition Cathy Donovan was elected to serve as the 2020-21 president of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators.
- Olathe North High School Principal Jason Herman was named High School Administrator of the Year by the Three Trails District of the National Speech and Debate Association.
- Olathe South High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Matt Johnson was named the Kansas nominee to the Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.



Jason Herman, Olathe North

- Elise Peterson, choir director at Olathe South High School, was named the 2020-21 KMEA Teacher of the Year.
- Santa Fe Trail Middle School Principal J.J. Libal was named the 2020 Kansas School Counselor Association Principal Advocate of the Year.
- The Olathe School District had 28 students named to the KMEA High School All-State Mixed Choir, 19 students named to the KMEA High School All-State Treble Choir, 26 students named to the KMEA All-State High School 5/6A Band, 20 students named to the KMEA All-State High School Orchestra, four students named to the All-State High School Jazz Band, 12 students named to the KMEA All-State Middle Level Choir, 10 students named to the KMEA All-State Treble Honor Choir and three elementary students named to the KMEA All-State Elementary Choir.
- Olathe West High School soccer coach Matt Trumpp was selected as the 2019-20 Midwest Section Boys Soccer Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.



Elise Peterson, Olathe South

Staff Awards

- Olathe Public Schools Fine Arts Coordinator Martha Gabel was named President-Elect for the Southwest Division of the National Association for Music Education Members.
- Olathe West High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Pat Butler was named the 2021 Kansas Athletic Director of the Year by the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.
- Jennifer Stoskopf, Prairie Trail Middle School assistant principal, was selected as the ECKMEA district nominee for Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) Administrator of the Year.



Martha Gabel, Fine Arts Coordinator



Outstanding Athletes: CHAMPIONS!



*Olathe West
Alex Birge:
Heisman High School Athletic
Scholarship*



*Olathe North
Anjali Hocker Singh:
Kansas 6A
Individual Cross
Country Title*



*Olathe Northwest
Raven Dance Team
Kansas 6A State Title*

Outstanding Athletes: CHAMPIONS!

- Olathe West High School senior Alex Birge was named the Kansas winner of the Heisman High School Athletic Scholarship.
- The Olathe West High School girls cross country team earned the Kansas 6A state title.
- Olathe North High School freshman Anjali Hocker Singh won the Kansas 6A individual cross country state title.
- The Olathe Northwest High School Raven Dance Team won the inaugural Kansas 6A state title for Division III dance.
- Charlie Matthews, Olathe East High School, earned the 6A state diving championship.
- Micah Leslie, Olathe East High School, earned the 6A state championship in the 100M Butterfly.
- Keaton Kristoff, Olathe East High School, earned the 6A state championship in the 500M Freestyle.
- The Olathe East 200M Freestyle Relay team earned the 6A state title. Team members include Keaton Kristoff, Luke Hagan, Zach Davidson and Micah Leslie.
- Nicole Redmond, Olathe South High School, earned the 6A girls wrestling state title in her weight class.
- Makayla Rivera, Olathe West High School, earned the 6A girls wrestling state title in her weight class.
- Blake Jouret, Olathe South High School, earned the 6A boys wrestling state title in his weight class.
- The Olathe North girls softball team was named runner up in the Kansas 6A state title game.
- The Olathe North Track & Field team earned the Kansas 6A state title.
- Kennedy Cline, Olathe West, earned the 6A state title in the 200 M Dash and the 400 M Dash.
- Anjali Hocker Singh, Olathe North, earned the 6A state title in the 3200 M Run.
- Kaiya McKie, Olathe North, earned the 6A state title in the 100 M Hurdles.
- The Olathe North 4 x 100 M Relay team earned the 6A state track and field title. Team members include Saniya Simmons, Ka'Liyah McGinnis, Ashlyn Alloway and Kaiya McKie.
- The Olathe West 4 x 400 M Relay team earned the 6A state track and field title. Team members include Destiny Lassiter, Bree Newport, Charis Robinson and Kennedy Cline.
- The Olathe West 4 x 800 M Relay team earned the 6A state track and field title. Team members include Bree Newport, Kathryn Miller, Paige Baker and Charis Robinson.
- Riley Vandaveer, Olathe South, earned the 6A state title in the 800 M Run and the 1600 M Run.
- Ben Gutekunst, Olathe Northwest, earned the 6A state title in javelin.



Financial Statement • Percent of Budget

Mill Levy

General Fund	20.000
Supplemental General	15.956
Capital Outlay	8.000
Special Liability	0.124
Extraordinary Growth	6.769
Cost of Living	3.610
Bond & Interest	14.377
Special Assessments	0.302
Total	69.138

Sources Of Revenue (Operating Funds)

Local & County Taxes	51,460,012
State Funds	255,809,231
Federal	7,920,847
Total	\$315,190,090

Assessed Valuation

\$2,611,372,492

Base State Aid Per Pupil

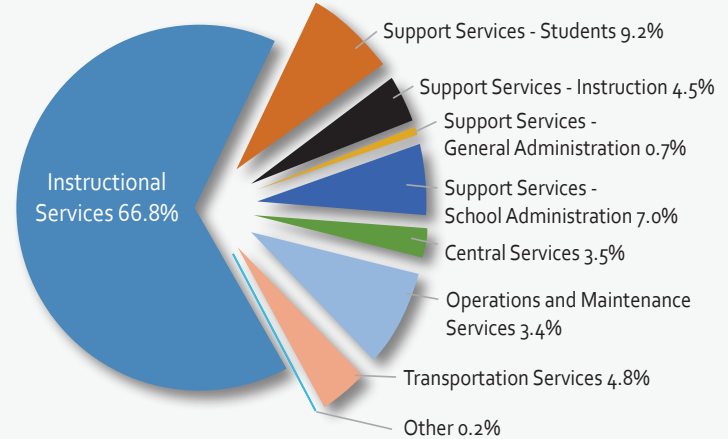
2019-20	\$4,436
2020-21	\$4,569
An increase of 2.91%	

Expenditures By Function Area

Instructional Services	213,410,028
Support Services - Students	29,402,066
Support Services - Instruction	14,534,570
Support Services - General Administration	2,656,488
Support Services - School Administration	22,541,444
Central Services	11,217,420
Operations & Maintenance Services	11,042,353
Transportation Services	15,391,969
Other	149,375
Total	\$320,345,713

Operating Fund Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	282,208,012
Professional & Technical Services	3,178,704
Purchased Property Services	534,158
Other Purchased Services	5,260,983
Supplies & Materials	6,429,921
Equipment/Property	716,846
Utilities	6,508,419
Transportation	15,391,969
Other	116,701
Total	\$320,345,713





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Students Prepared for *Their* Future!

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 the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, 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, reports of specific complaints, or alleged discrimination may be directed to Olathe Public School's Compliance Coordinator, John Hutchison, Deputy Superintendent, or to Chris Pittman, Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, 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 contacting Dr. Jim McMullen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. (08/21)