



OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD 233

School News

Spring 2023



Congratulations,
Westview Elementary!

Father's Club Expands

Dual-Language
Immersion Program
Offered at Olathe
Public Schools

14160 Black Bob Road
Olathe, KS 66063

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OLATHE, KS
PERMIT NO. 2



Birth center
Surgery
Heart Care
Primary Care
ER

EXPERT CARE in your neighborhood

AdventHealth South Overland Park, a full-service hospital located at 165th and 69 Highway. We're bringing new doctors and more specialties to Johnson County so you can stay whole for your whole life.



HOSPITAL at
165th and U.S. 69


AdventHealth
South Overland Park



A Message From **SUPERINTENDENT DR. BRENT YEAGER**

Olathe Public Schools community,

The second semester of the 2022-2023 school year is in full swing. One of the themes of this year is “back to normal, but better.” This quarterly magazine is one of our efforts to give you a peek into what that theme looks like in action districtwide. Although we can’t share every story, we want to share the stories of the initiatives, academics, community outreach and most importantly — the people — that make Olathe Public Schools a great place to be. Read more about that award on page 6.

In this issue of School News, you will learn about two of our programs that ensure we are investing in our students for *their* future. Read about our efforts to “Grow Our Own” by encouraging interested students and support staff to pursue education as a career path on page 4 and the growing Spanish dual-language immersion program on page 5. As we continue to welcome families and community members back into our schools, we have seen an expansion of the Father’s Club, which you can read about on page 7. You can also read about the many ways our schools served the community last semester on page 8. Finally, I am so excited to share with you that Westview Elementary School was named a National ESEA Distinguished School — an honor that only 55 Title I schools in the United States share.

As we inch closer to the spring, I want you to know how grateful I am for this community of students, staff members and patrons. Every day we all collectively choose to invest in the next generation, which will prepare all of our students for their future. Whether they give back to the community that has given so much to them or return someday as an educator in our district, our students are ultimately why we are all here and invested in OPS. Let’s continue the year the way we started it — together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brent Yeager
Superintendent

Follow us for up-to-date information:



olatheschools



olatheschools



olatheschoolsks



OlathePublicSchools233

In This Issue...

- 4** Grow Our Own: How OPS Encourages Support Staff and Students to Pursue Teaching as a Career
- 5** Olathe Offers Dual-Language Immersion Program
- 6** Westview Elementary Named National ESEA School
- 7** Father’s Club Expands to Middle Schools
- 8** Olathe Students Serve the Community

Olathe Public Schools

14160 S. Black Bob Road,
P.O. Box 2000
Olathe, KS 66063
(913) 780-7000
www.olatheschools.org

Board of Education

Shannon Wickliffe, *President*
Brad Boyd, *Vice-President*
Joe Beveridge
Brian Connell
LeEtta Felter
Robert Kuhn
Julie Steele

Superintendent

Dr. Brent Yeager

School News is a newsmagazine published quarterly during the school year. Editorial and photography is created by the Communications Department of Olathe Public Schools and produced by NPG Newspapers. To advertise in *School News*, call Teresa Marrow at (913) 294-2311.



PASSPORT Event



FE Crew



Saturday Scholars

Grow Our Own: How OPS Encourages Support Staff and Students to Pursue Teaching as a Career

Director of Teacher Induction and University Partnerships Dr. Ann Addison and Recruiter Liaison Amy Hillman work alongside the Learning Services and the Human Resources divisions to not only increase the number of new teachers applying to work in the district, but to support the creation of an inclusive staff that honors and mirrors the current demographics of the student population.

“As we invited student teachers to see Olathe for themselves, we quickly realized that our future teachers were right in front of us,” Addison said. “We wanted to ‘grow our own!’ We wanted to help our support staff become certified teachers and encourage our students to pursue teaching as a career.”

Addison and Hillman recognized the talent that already existed in the paraeducators, aides and support staff in the schools. However, these employees may not have the time or resources outside of work to connect with universities and explore their programs.

“We wanted to bring the opportunities right to them at our PASSPORT event,” Addison said. “This helps employees navigate their choices as they wish to become certified educators and come back to work for USD 233. Last fall, we had 41 attendees who were able to connect with seven colleges and university partnerships. We want all our employees who should be in the classroom teaching to have every opportunity to do so.”

They continue to work with these employees throughout their further education to provide resources and support. During the 2022-2023 school year, there are 26 employees currently in a college or university pathway and 57 employees ready to be launched into their own classroom as teachers.

Hillman believes that the Future Educator (FE) Crew and Saturday Scholars are key to encouraging students to pursue teaching as a career.

Every middle and high school has a FE Crew, where teachers and administrators identify and inspire current students who would make excellent educators to join the club. The culmination of the year is the FE Crew Summit where members are invited to a half day of coaching and teaching by mentor teachers in the district and a half day visiting, assisting and teaching a lesson with a local elementary classroom in their middle school and high school’s feeder pattern.

“We are finding the next generation of excellent educators right in our classrooms,” Hillman said. “We want our middle school and high school students to open their eyes to becoming an educator — a champion for kids. FE Crew and Saturday Scholars does just that.”

Saturday Scholars provides opportunities for eighth grade through high school students, whether they are involved in the Future Educator Academy or not, who motivate, mentor and move identified Santa Fe Trail Middle School students to action. They spend their Saturday morning engaging as a mentor and building their leadership skills while helping middle schoolers master their academic skills.

Every interaction and event that Addison and Hillman are a part of is an intentional effort to encourage and support the underrepresented demographic groups of students and classified staff members to become educators and return to work for Olathe Public Schools.



Olathe Offers Dual-Language Immersion Program

Students in Olathe’s dual-language immersion program spend half of the day learning in English and half of the day learning in Spanish. Under the instruction of two teachers, students learn science, social studies, language arts, and math in both languages. This program is hosted at Black Bob Elementary School and Manchester Park Elementary School.

“Although half of their day may be instructed in a different language than their home language, it does not lead to gaps in their education,” Manchester Park Elementary School Principal Jenny Steele said. “They are keeping up with all state standards and district curriculum, while also being able to engage their brain in learning a second language.”

Students start in kindergarten and learn to read and write in two languages as they progress through elementary school. Research shows that students who take part in an immersion classroom consistently develop native-like levels of comprehension, such as listening and reading skills, in their second language.

“We know that we need provide our students a world-class education in Olathe, offering them different experiences to help them succeed and this program is one of them,” Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager said. “My dream is that our students will be competent and competitive in a global world. With our students graduating bilingual or trilingual in some cases, this sets them up for tremendous life success no matter what path they choose.”

The founding class of the Spanish dual-language immersion program are now in second grade. Students remain with their

classmates in the immersion program during all years of elementary school, building on their progress together.

“At the beginning of the school year, it is very one step at a time with so many visuals and repetition,” Black Bob Elementary Spanish kindergarten teacher Melissa Thorsell said. “But after about a month, they were able to understand Spanish in a conversational way. Every day I am surprised by how much our students know and how they can interact with the language.”

Incoming kindergarten students for the fall of 2023 interested in being a part of the immersion program will enter an application into a lottery system in the spring prior to their kindergarten year. The enrollment process is based on a lottery system. Some seats will be saved for students living in the elementary attendance area of Black Bob and Manchester Park and other seats will be open to families wanting to transfer into the program from other attendance areas of the Olathe School District.

“Not everybody has this opportunity, but we know that these kids who do are going to make the best of it and leave fifth grade bilingual,” Black Bob Elementary Spanish second grade teacher Veronica Spires said. “Just seeing their growth from the beginning of the year to now — it is something to celebrate every single year.”

The lottery enrollment period for the 2023-24 school year will close on April 14. Families can apply and learn more about the program at <https://www.olatheschools.org/immersion>.



Westview Elementary Named National ESEA School

Westview Elementary School is one of the top 55 Title I schools in the United States for its exceptional student achievement in 2022.

The National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act State Program Administrators (NAESPA) named Westview Elementary School a National ESEA Distinguished School. They were recognized in category 2, which celebrates the school's ability to close the achievement gap between student groups, as determined by the state of Kansas.

"We are so proud of Westview Elementary School students, staff, families and community partners for this outstanding achievement," Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager said. "Our Westview Elementary educators go above and beyond every day to ensure that their students are prepared for their future through collaboration and individualization with specific outcome goals."

Principal Cindy Kapeller believes Westview is a special place. Not only do they serve a diverse population where 50% of the student body receives ELL services, but also 76% of their students reach the threshold for free or reduced lunch. Although they face challenges as a Title I school, that has never stopped them from reaching their goals.

"We wanted to focus on improving Tier I instruction, and our targeted intervention programs, while making really smart and informed decisions on what is best for our kids according to the data," Kapeller said.

According to title math teacher Sarah Jost, the student data

helps identify the challenges that lie ahead for educators. This is discussed as a group with not only grade-level teachers but all support staff who support student learning, during built-in data meetings where they can analyze the information and find the highest-impact strategies that can help students grow.

"As we and our students are working toward these goals — we are held accountable, we monitor progress and we reflect," fourth grade teacher Jen Allen said. "For example, we can look back on second quarter and see how we did as a class. The kids are honest when we talk about what we need to work on and how we can do better next time."

Kapeller noted that while the data drives their instructional decisions, they remember the students behind the data and they know in order for students to learn, their social and emotional needs must be met.

"Our school is like a family — our staff is very close and with a smaller school, we are extremely close with our students too," Kapeller said. "There is an incredible sense of a shared investment not only in the success of our students but also in each other by helping each other grow and improve. Using our human capital in the smartest ways to have the greatest impact on our students is a key to our success."

Both Fairview Elementary School and Washington Elementary School have been awarded this title. Olathe Public Schools is the only district in the state of Kansas to have three or more National ESEA Schools.

Father's Club Expands to Middle Schools

Father's Club has a presence at all five Olathe high schools and has expanded into the middle school level this year, launching chapters at California Trail Middle School, Chisholm Trail Middle School and Santa Fe Trail Middle School.

"Father's Club is a dad-led organization focused on getting fathers or father-figures intentionally involved in the lives of our kids and our community," Father's Club regional director Mike Davisson said. "We are focused on letting the students know that they matter right here, right now."

This local organization often shows up with breakfast, a high five, an encouraging comment and a calming presence. The fathers were quick to add that they also bring a "dad joke."



We are focused on letting the students know that they matter right here, right now.

Mike Davisson

Father's Club regional director



"Being in the schools is an opportunity for every student to know in a tangible way that 'We see you and you matter.' We believe when dads are connected to other dads, and show up in the lives of our kids, then our community is better," Olathe East High School Father's Club co-chair Ryan Kapple said. "Typically, dads are encouraged to get involved in elementary school and by the time they get to high school it feels like the distance is insurmountable. As a father of four, I can tell you that high school kids still want their dads engaged. They may put up a front that it's embarrassing, but when has that ever stopped a dad?"

Earlier this semester, both Olathe North High School and Santa Fe Trail Middle School hosted an inaugural Father's Club event by serving breakfast for all of their students. They served free breakfast from local community partners asking for nothing in return but a fist bump.

"We are so excited to have the Father's Club in our school," Santa Fe Trail Principal JJ Libal said. "It is awesome to have

more adult role models for our students other than just their amazing teachers. Their presence was felt throughout the school. You could tell the kids were excited to see their smiles."

Olathe Public Schools Board of Education member and parent Brian Connell was excited to participate in the inaugural event at Olathe North.

"We had dads from all the different clubs — about 40 dads — come out to hand out over 2,000 food items to students. A bunch of the dads afterward were able to walk through the building and everyone seemed happy. From the bottom of my heart, having a kid at that school, I am just so thankful."

With that in mind, Davisson's goal is to expand to all 10 middle schools.

"The impact on the greater community as a whole is a story that is still to be written," Davisson said. "It's a time for dads to get off of the sidelines and get involved when it comes to being involved with our children and our neighbor's children, their education and their mental health on a more consistent basis."

Olathe Students Serve the COMMUNITY

Olathe Public Schools students found several opportunities in the first semester to give back to the community.



Olathe South High School theater students held a haunted house food drive prior to Halloween to benefit the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. They led tours of visitors through the “haunted hallways” as costumed theater students scared attendees.

Anyone who donated five food items got in free. Theater teacher David Hastings estimated at least 350 people participated and more than 1,000 pounds of food was collected.

“This was a fundraiser for our theater program and part of the Kansas Thespian community service event called Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat,” Hastings said. “It was a major success on all counts.”



The Ravenwood Elementary School Tiger Service Club organized a Thanksgiving meal food drive to serve the Ravenwood community and beyond. Each grade level was responsible for bringing a specific part of a Thanksgiving meal. The school created “Thanksgiving in a Box” for Ravenwood families in need and made donations to Mission Southside and New Hope Food Pantry in Olathe.



A.J. Vance, a student at Olathe South High School and Olathe Advanced Technical Center organized a food drive to benefit New Hope Pantry. He reached out to the organization to learn what they needed, which was side dish items for Thanksgiving meals. After organizing a competition between the OATC programs, A.J. and his OATC classmates collected two truck beds full of food in one week.



Scarborough Elementary School's SC in Action Team, a student group led by gifted teacher Belinda Phillips and counselor Lori Crowther, held a Thanksgiving food drive. Each grade level was asked to bring specific traditional Thanksgiving food items. Staff donated money to help purchase six turkeys for identified Scarborough families. After filling boxes of food for the families, the remaining food was donated to a local food pantry.



The Olathe Public Schools Food Services staff decorated gift bags and filled them with items for Head Start students. Thanks to the generosity of Food Services staff across the district, each Head Start student received a hat, pair of gloves, toothpaste, toothbrush and two pairs of socks. This is an annual tradition for Food Services staff going back at least 30 years, according to Cindy Jones, assistant director of Food Services general administration.



The Manchester Park Elementary community stepped up in a huge way to provide holiday gifts for 87 area foster children by participating in the Red Bag Project. In early December, nearly 70 students, 35 parents and 20 staff members wrapped more than 700 gifts in less than 90 minutes and packed them in red bags for delivery. The community also provided a handmade, no-sew blanket for each of the 87 children.

ADVERTISE

Targeted
Local
Advertising



With us

Reach an engaged and affluent local audience when you promote your business in the Olathe **School News** magazine.

Call 913-706-8865 to advertise!

75166533

99%

job and graduate
school placement
rate

#1

college in Kansas
for return on
investment

#1

college in Kansas
for preparing
graduates
to get a job

Discover whether **Baker** is right for you.



BAKER
UNIVERSITY

1858

Request info today!

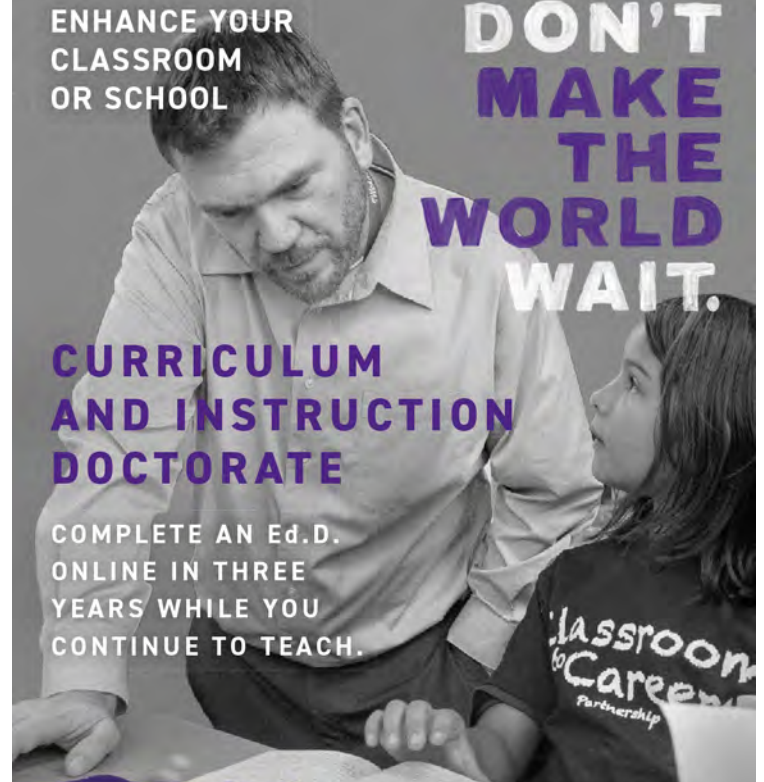
75163412

ENHANCE YOUR
CLASSROOM
OR SCHOOL

DON'T MAKE THE WORLD WAIT.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION DOCTORATE

COMPLETE AN Ed.D.
ONLINE IN THREE
YEARS WHILE YOU
CONTINUE TO TEACH.



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Education

COHORTS START EACH SUMMER,
BUT YOU CAN JOIN US ANYTIME.

[online.k-state.edu/campaign/
curriculum-instruction/](https://online.k-state.edu/campaign/curriculum-instruction/)

75165778

MNU IS –

Relational | Integrative | Experiential | Transformative

PURSUE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Choose from over 60 undergraduate
majors and minors and a variety of
preprofessional programs.



VISIT TODAY

(913) 971-3380

mnu.edu



MIDAMERICA
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

75165809





UNIVERSITY
of SAINT MARY
OVERLAND PARK CAMPUS

ACCELERATE
YOUR CAREER

Graduate Education Programs

- + Doctor of Education
- + Master's in School Counseling
- + Master's in Education
- + Master's in Elementary Education
(Leads to Licensure)
- + Master's in Secondary Education
(Leads to Licensure)

stmary.edu/teach

75165812



OPENING

Visit the all new Downtown Library
this spring at 260 E. Santa Fe St.
Learn more at
OLATHELIBRARY.ORG/DTLIBRARY.

SOON



OLATHE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

OlatheLibrary.org

75166095



SPRING INTO
SOCCER IN OLATHE

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FOR BOYS & GIRLS AND TAKE PLACE
AT HOMEFIELD – OLATHE & GARMIN OLATHE SOCCER COMPLEX



1-HOUR SESSIONS TO HELP
REACH DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES



PRESENTED BY
Sporting Stripes
Kansas City

2-6 Years Old



JOIN A RECREATION TEAM WITH
FRIENDS & PLAY SOCCER



Pre-K – 2nd Grade



COMPETITIVE SOCCER CLUB



U8-U13 Boys & Girls



SportingKCYouth.com
SportingCW.com

[@SportingKCYouth](https://www.facebook.com/SportingKCYouth)
[@SportingCW](https://www.facebook.com/SportingCW)
[@SportingKCYouth](https://www.instagram.com/SportingKCYouth)
[@SportingCW](https://www.instagram.com/SportingCW)
[@SportingCityWest](https://www.instagram.com/SportingCityWest)

75163484

CHOOSE UMKC

MORE THAN
\$190 million

IN FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO STUDENTS EVERY YEAR

*Automatic
scholarships
available*

125+

ACADEMIC AREAS
TO EXPLORE

NAMED ONE OF THE

159

BEST MIDWESTERN COLLEGES
— Princeton review

UMKC

Office of Admissions

ATTERBURY STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
5000 HOLMES ST.
KANSAS CITY MO, 64110
816-235-8652
800-775-8652 (TOLL FREE)

UMKC.EDU/ADMISSIONS

UMKC

UMKC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.

75161745

ADM 21085660



OLATHE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.

885 S. PARKER STREET ♦ OLATHE, KANSAS 66061
(913) 393-9891 ♦ WWW.OLATHEYOUTHBASEBALL.COM

Let's PLAY BALL

Family – Respect – Character – Integrity – Tradition

Olathe Youth Baseball is not affiliated with Olathe Park and Recreational, all we do is provide baseball for Grades 3 thru 12 - Olathe Youth Baseball has been an asset to the Olathe community since 1953.

Grade 3 is player/coach pitch baseball, No machine pitch, Rules on our web-site.

Olathe Youth Baseball will also provide a structural clinic for Managers/Coaches.

Registration begins Monday, January 2, 2023 thru March 13, 2023 (Deadline). Players register by Grade. Managers/Coaches must register as well.

Registration fees for 2023 are the same as last year fees, No Rate Increase.

Grades 3 thru 6 = \$230.00 - Grades 7 thru 12 = \$250.00

*14 Game schedule - Game balls provided Trophies for 1st and 2nd place winners

Our season with practices and games begin in late March thru Mid-June

*Designated practices fields with Permits

*Jerseys/Hats are provided (if needed)

*At season end is followed by a City Championship Trophies for 1st and 2nd place with extra prizes for coaches

*All Star Game, for each Division, Medals for each participant

For more information, please call **913-393-9891**, or e-mail us at olathebaseball@sbcglobal.net or come by the office at 885 S. Parker Olathe, 66061

Interested in being an **umpire** (14 yr older) call the office number

75189900

EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE AND COMPLETE TEACHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS ONLINE IN 12 MONTHS.

**DON'T
MAKE
THE
WORLD
WAIT.**

18-MONTH RESIDENCY PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

Now with Three Convenient Start Dates: August, December, and May
online.k-state.edu/campaign/master-of-arts-teaching/

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

75165779

Lisa
Host mother

Maria
AFS daughter from Argentina

Bring the world to your home

Join our global family. Host an international student.

Each year, more than 1,000 exchange students from 80 countries come to the U.S. on AFS programs to study in high schools and live with host families.



Questions?

Talk to a local AFS KC representative about the AFS experience:
Frank Russo at 913.948.2293 or frkjrusso@gmail.com

1-800-AFS-INFO
afsusa.org/host



AFS-USA is supported through funding from the U.S. Department of State.
AFS-USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

75166004



FOR TEACHERS

- M.S. - EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
- M.ED - READING SPECIALIST
- M.A.C. - SCHOOL COUNSELING
- READING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE

FOR PARAS & CAREER CHANGERS

- B.S. ELEMENTARY ED UNIFIED (WITH LICENSURE)
- M.S. ELEMENTARY ED UNIFIED (WITH LICENSURE)
- TRANSITION TO TEACH RESTRICTED LICENSURE CERTIFICATE

TUITION DISCOUNT

- FOR OLATHE SCHOOLS EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY
- SELECT BUSINESS, COUNSELING, EDUCATION & NURSING PROGRAMS

Contact

913.971.3800
PGADMISSIONS@MNU.EDU
MNU.EDU/CONNECTS

75165811

We Support Olathe Public Schools



Robert
BROGDEN'S
Olathe Kia

OlatheKia.com
130 North Fir Street, Olathe
(913) 390-6800

**Kansas #1 Volume
City's GM Dealer**



Robert
BROGDEN'S
OLATHE BUICK GMC

1500 E. Santa Fe Street, Olathe
(913) 782-1500

ROBERTBROGDEN.COM



KANSAS RUSH SOCCER CLUB

Nonprofit providing opportunities for youth to play soccer since 1980



Olathe Rush
Recreational Soccer
K thru High School



Kansas Rush
Competitive Soccer
3rd thru High School



Junior Rush
Pre-Kindergarten Ages 3-5



**Competitive
Tryouts for 2023-4
Soccer Year**

dates TBD but usually the
1st or 2nd weekend in June

**Summer 2023
Rec League**
k-4th grade
6 games in July and
August

**Junior Rush
Summer 2023
Session**
ages 3-5

2023 Summer Camps

see website for dates and more info



Visit our website
to register or for more info
913 764 4111
officestaff@kansasarush.com
623 N Lindenwood, Olathe

or
Scan QR
Code to
register



www.kansasarush.com



Healthcare at the speed of life.

What's important to you is important to us. So no matter what your healthcare needs, we're here for you with expert primary care that works for your busy life.

- **Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics**
- **5 Urgent Care locations**
- **Early morning, evening and weekend hours**
- **Telehealth appointments**
- **24/7 online scheduling**



Find a doctor, make an appointment or learn more.
913-782-2224
olathehealth.org