



OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD 233

School News

STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Summer 2023



First Student Leadership Summit

Olathe Public Schools
Named 12th Best Mid-Size
Employer in the Nation

Black Student
Union Connections

14160 Black Bob Road
Olathe, KS 66063
PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OLATHE, KS
PERMIT NO. 2



EXPERT CARE in your neighborhood

AdventHealth South Overland Park is located in the Bluhawk Development at 165th and 69 Highway. Our hospital is committed to caring for your whole self and offers a full range of medical and emergency services.



HOSPITAL at
165th and U.S. 69


AdventHealth
South Overland Park



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

Have you heard? We were ranked No. 12 on the *Forbes* list of mid-size employers in the nation! We are so proud of this latest accomplishment and we want you to share in the excitement with us. This community is a very special place to be and it is because of people like you.

In this issue of School News, you will read about the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) that we have in place to ensure students are able to access any early intervention that they may need. On page 8, read more about the Black Student Unions and how they are growing at all five of our high schools. Find out more about the inaugural Student Leadership Summit and how it positively impacted the juniors who attended on page 6. To read about the incredible all-district *Frozen* the musical debuting this summer, go to page 7. Finally, to read more about that amazing nationwide list we landed on, turn to page 4.

This is the last issue of School News for the 2022-23 school year. Thank you for another wonderful year of learning, excelling and growing together. Congratulations to the class of 2023! I wish you the best in your future. For the rest of you, we will see you in August. Have a restful and FUN summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brent Yeager
Superintendent

UPCOMING GRADUATION DATES

May 19, 2023	Olathe West High School Graduation	7:00 p.m.
May 20, 2023	Olathe North High School Graduation	2:00 p.m.
May 20, 2023	Olathe South High School Graduation	7:00 p.m.
May 21, 2023	Olathe East High School Graduation	2:00 p.m.
May 21, 2023	Olathe Northwest High School Graduation	7:00 p.m.

Follow us for up-to-date information:



olatheschools



olatheschools



olatheschoolsks



OlathePublicSchools233

In This Issue...

- 4** *Forbes* Names Olathe Public Schools 12th Best Mid-Size Employer in the Nation
- 6** Olathe Public Schools Holds First Student Leadership Summit
- 7** Districtwide *Frozen* Musical
- 8** Black Student Unions Provide Place to Connect at All Five High Schools
- 9** MTSS Provides Early Academic Intervention

Olathe Public Schools

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

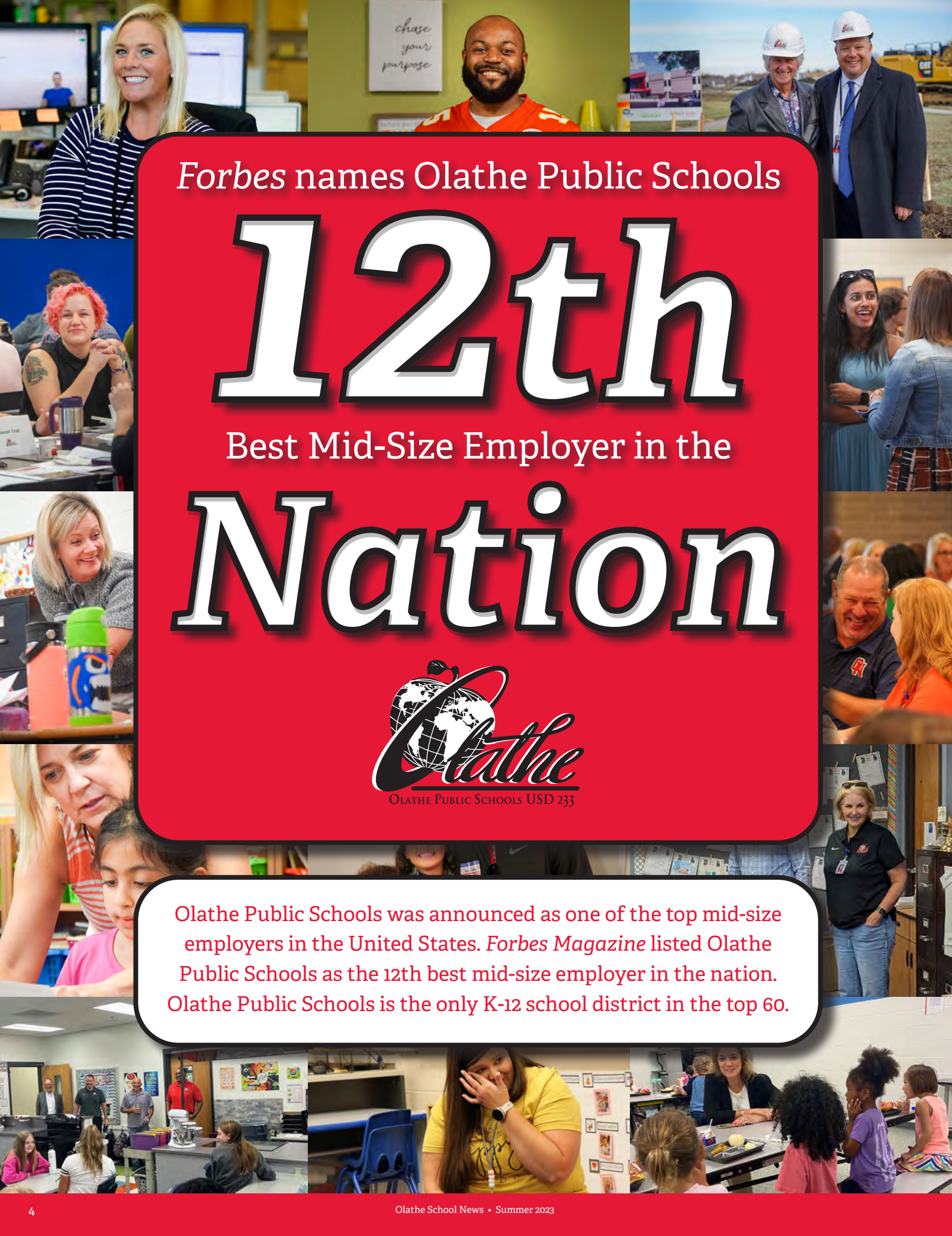
Board of Education

Shannon Wickliffe, *President*
Brad Boyd, *Vice-President*
Joe Beveridge
Brian Connell
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.



Forbes names Olathe Public Schools

12th

Best Mid-Size Employer in the

Nation



Olathe Public Schools was announced as one of the top mid-size employers in the United States. *Forbes Magazine* listed Olathe Public Schools as the 12th best mid-size employer in the nation. Olathe Public Schools is the only K-12 school district in the top 60.



"We are extremely proud to be among the top mid-size employers nationwide," Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager said. "This type of honor is only possible because of the community that we have built together. With the common goal of preparing our students for their future, we have been able to create an environment that people want to be a part of."

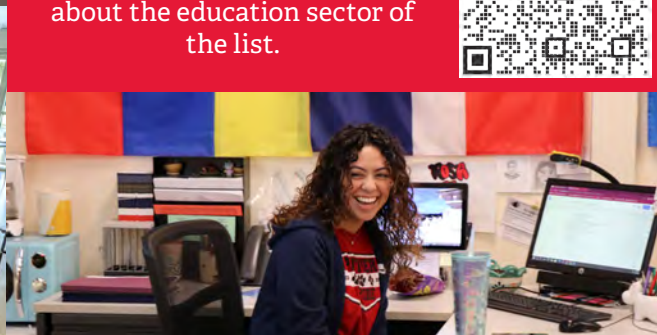
The prominent list is presented by *Forbes* and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider, and recognizes top companies across the country in varying industries based on feedback from employees. *Forbes* compiles the list by partnering with the market research firm Statista to survey about 45,000 workers at American companies and institutions with 1,000 to 5,000 employees. Participants were asked if they would recommend their current employers to friends and family (on a scale of 0 to 10) and to cite any other employer they would also recommend. The final list ranks the 500 companies that received the most recommendations.

Olathe Public Schools' vision is "Preparing Students for *Their* Future." This vision is only accomplished through the commitment of the nearly 5,000 staff members and the families of the 30,000 students.

The district's strategic plan includes Olathe Public Schools' Portrait of a Graduate and outlines the goals of the district in the areas of high academic expectations, behavior and social-emotional development, human capital and effective systems and prioritized resources.



Read more about Olathe Public Schools ranking No. 12 in the nation in this *Forbes* article about the education sector of the list.





Olathe Public Schools Holds First Student Leadership Summit

On March 8, juniors from across the district gathered to work toward the same goal: becoming strong student leaders. The theme of the day was “Leadership without Limits,” centered on reimagining the function of a leader. The day featured engaging dialogue, interactive workshop sessions, and opportunities for students to network with other student leaders and local professional leaders in the community.

“Offering a formalized setting where we’re able to bring together all the high schools from around the district — that was a really important concept,” Assistant Director of Culture and Belonging Marquis Harris said. “It was an exciting opportunity for students to enjoy themselves and also build new connections that they probably wouldn’t have built had this opportunity not been available.”

The students came together in a common space and were split up into teams, where they got to meet and interact with student leaders from other schools. From there, they split into breakout rooms, with a guest speaker in each room assigned to engage the students in interactive dialogue and networking.

One of the takeaways for the students was that leadership is something you must work on in the real world — you can’t just simply attend an event and end it at that. The summit provided great tools and networking opportunities for the students, but it is important that they use those tools when they go back to their schools and out in the real world.

“Leadership is not an easy thing. As you go through life your definition of leadership will change,” Director of New Educator Induction and University Partnerships Dr. Ann Addison said. “When you get out into the real world, your philosophies will change.”

After their breakout sessions, the students were treated to lunch and a panel discussion with leadership professionals: Cindy VonFeldt, executive director of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation; Rogeana Patterson-King, retired DEA assistant

special agent in charge; Tim Danneberg, City of Olathe director of external affairs & issues management; and Erica Andrade, chief program officer at El Centro Inc. The panel talked about what it takes to be a leader with stories from their own experiences. Students were able to listen and ask questions at the end.

“Recognizing leaders and encouraging leaders makes leaders,” Olathe East High School junior Elissa Almaguer-Smith said. “This event answered a lot of my questions and tackled each aspect of being a leader. I felt like it was cool that it really tackled the philosophy of being a leader and the mindset of a leader, as opposed to just the actions.”

Olathe West High School junior Connor Lyons learned that leadership starts from within.

“One of the challenges you can have as a leader is finding time for yourself,” Lyons said. “When you focus on yourself you can self-reflect, and that makes you become a better leader when you go back to your group.”

Olathe South High School junior Skylar Saragusa was inspired to spread the message of the Student Leadership Summit to her peers.

“The main thing that I want to do is, yes, I want to build a career for myself, but I also want to take people along with me and uplift others in the process,” Saragusa said. “I feel like I can go back to my school and really facilitate that and teach others what I’ve learned here.”

Scan here to watch a short video about the Student Leadership Summit.



Olathe to put on first district-wide production with



While summer is heating up this August, Olathe will embrace the magic of “frozen” as students and staff embark on the first-ever district-wide theatre production of Disney’s *Frozen, The Broadway Musical*. The production, overseen by David Tate Hastings, director of theatre at Olathe South High School, and Edward Shafer, director of theatre at Olathe East High School, consists of 87 students and counting before crew, across 41 different Olathe schools.

This districtwide production is the result of a national contest called the “United States of Frozen,” put on by The Educational Theatre Association, Music Theatre International and Disney Theatrical Group. Last summer, the contest selected one high school from each state to be the first to produce a full-length version of *Frozen*. The nationwide competition challenged schools to use the theme “Love is an Open Door” as an opportunity to strengthen school communities, provide outreach to underserved groups, and to support inclusion and diversity in productions.

Olathe won the contest for the state of Kansas, and for Hastings, what better way to embrace the contest and strengthen school communities than to put on a production where all schools and grade levels are able to participate. Auditions were open to any student enrolled in grades K-12 in the Olathe Public Schools.

“The goal is to have one student from every one of the elementary, middle and high schools, and we’re very close,” Hastings said. “All these schools are fabulous and have fabulous theater programs. What if this wasn’t just about us at Olathe South, but just about all of Olathe Public Schools, and we could showcase how great Olathe is?”

For such a big show with so many moving parts, it’s certainly not easy to pull off. With the youngest cast member in first grade and the oldest being a senior in high school, the biggest challenge is getting everybody on the same page with schedules and direction.

“I’ve never worked with middle school students and I’ve never worked with elementary school students,” Shafer said. “This is the first time I’ve ever been a part of something this big and I’m really excited about it...I’ve always known that Olathe had a lot of superior talent, but when we were here

during callbacks to see it all together, it was breathtaking. As a director, working with that many talented people, it’s actually going to make my life pretty easy.”

Aydree Willnauer, a third grader at Meadow Lane Elementary, is proud to be the only one representing her school. She will be playing Young Anna and is excited that she gets to perform with students of all ages across the district.

“It feels really great that we get to come together and make this great musical,” Aydree said. “I’m most excited that I get to be in my first musical and my first lead role.”

Dana Davis, director of theatre at Prairie Trail Middle School and community relations manager for the production, sees firsthand how excited the students are to create an amazing show.

“Being a part of theater is magic, and it’s such a joy as an educator to bring kids together and watch them explore and discover,” Davis said. “Watching all the excitement and energy, it’s just such a joy to be a part of.”

A lot of the pride and excitement comes from being able to create something that is bigger than each individual school, and even bigger than Olathe.

“I think it’s really fulfilling to be a part of something that’s bigger than yourself, and I think that’s what theater teaches us,” Shafer said. “It’s even bigger than Olathe Public Schools because it’s premiering for the state of Kansas.”

There is still much work to be done, with stage setup beginning in June and students starting rehearsal in July. Along with a great production staff, cast, and crew, the Olathe Youth Symphony will run the orchestra.

If there is one word that’s been shared between the staff and cast members, it’s “magic.”

“No matter what challenges you have in the show, the kids are above all of that,” Hastings said. “They form these lifelong, magical relationships. You’ll see it on stage and you’ll feel it....This will be the best show that you’re going to see around Kansas City this summer. It will be absolutely unbelievable.”

Show dates are set for Aug. 17-20 at Olathe South, with five showings total. Tickets and more information is available at www.frozenpremiereks.com.



Olathe East High School students read to Ridgeview Elementary students in the library.



Olathe Northwest High School Black Student Union members make a Black History Month poster.



Olathe North High School students and staff speak about Juneteenth at an assembly.

Black Student Unions Provide Place to Connect at All Five High Schools

At Olathe high schools, clubs provide an important role in connecting students with their peers who share their passions and beliefs. The Black Student Union (BSU) is one of the clubs growing in popularity at all five high schools. The BSU provides a space where students of color can connect in a safe and positive environment and share about their culture and life experiences.

“I am thankful that my school offers BSU as a club to its students because it is very important for all students of color to have a place where they can go and relate to others like them,” Olathe Northwest High School freshman Maya Dawson said.

Olathe South High School senior Deborah Kelecha believes being a member of the BSU has been vital to her school experience and success as a student.

“Diversity groups are fundamental to the happiness and mental health of the students they serve. I know having the space to speak about Black issues in a 100% safe environment is comforting in a way things haven’t been before,” Kelecha said.

Olathe West High School senior Nadiya Dillard went from signing the club creation sheet to serving on the leadership team since its founding in 2021.

“We have really accomplished a lot these last few years and I am proud to say that. I love the ambition our group has and their drive to stand up for what’s right,” Dillard said. “I love watching their ideas come together and grow into something more. I truly appreciate our group’s resilience and power.”

Each BSU has its own unique projects, initiatives and events they host and participate in annually. Olathe East High School sophomore Mercy David says that the BSU aims to make Black students feel accepted, heard and seen in a community that

supports them.

“As a club, we take part in organizing assemblies like the Inclusion assembly. We have volunteered to read to elementary school students, and we hope to volunteer with food pantries, homeless shelters, women’s shelters and support local Black-owned organizations,” David said. “We worked with the Young Allies club to create a Black History Month lesson for all classes, and we are working with Marquis Harris (OPS Assistant Director of Culture and Belonging) to plan an event that will include all BSUs in Olathe.”

According to senior Nyla Dean, the Olathe North High School BSU wants to help their members realize their potential and become the best versions of themselves through community.

“We encourage our members to step out of their comfort zone and take more advanced classes, go tour colleges and reach for things they normally wouldn’t go for,” Dean said. “As a club, we have hosted potlucks, movie nights, and we like to host lots of community events for everyone in our school, not just BSU members. Black History Month is a huge deal for us. We decorate, make announcements, have a spirit week, and this year we spoke to Santa Fe Trail Middle School about BSU and the importance of Black education.”

The Olathe Public Schools Strategic Plan outlines the importance of actively including and valuing all students and staff to meet their unique needs by providing equitable opportunities to develop students’ understanding and respect of differences, thus preparing them to live in an inclusive, global community and world. The BSUs are just one example of how our high schools are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all students.

MTSS Provides Early Academic Intervention

In Olathe Public Schools, staff utilize a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to ensure all students are prepared for *their* future. According to the Kansas Department of Education, “MTSS is a set of evidence-based practices implemented across a system to meet the needs of all learners. Kansas MTSS and Alignment builds a system of prevention, early intervention and supports to ensure that all students are learning from the instruction.”

MTSS is the way Olathe Public Schools staff approach learning both academically and behaviorally with all K-12 students. Positive Behavioral Instructional Supports (PBIS) is the behavioral piece to MTSS. To read more about PBIS, visit www.olatheschools.org/PBIS.

One of the first steps in MTSS is the initial academic screenings that all students take. Those screenings help identify the concepts on which a student may need more dedicated instruction. Teachers are able to take the results of the screenings and respond accordingly.

“MTSS is for every single student throughout their school career. It helps us identify who needs help and what kind of help is needed so they are prepared for their future,” Director of School Improvement, Curriculum and Assessments Dr. Julie Veatch said. “Every building is individualized to their unique needs but overall each school sets aside approximately 30 minutes which is built into their schedule for students to receive the intervention and instruction they need. For teachers, they know that this will be addressed not only in their classroom but in their schoolwide intervention time. This allows all of us to work together as a community to make sure students are ready for the next step.”

The academic core of MTSS focuses on math and reading in three separate tiers. Tier 1 represents everyday classroom instruction that all students receive, while Tier 2 and Tier 3 represent more individualized intervention either one-on-one or in small groups to ensure students are able to conquer grade-level concepts. OPS Math Coordinator Spencer Brown believes that early intervention is key to students being able to build on their mathematical skills throughout their K-12 school career.

“Without deep knowledge of basic quantity and base 10 number systems, the pursuit of understanding additive operation patterns becomes very challenging and may necessarily lean more procedural than holding conceptual value to the student,” Brown said. “The more quickly we can identify any misconceptions or gaps of knowledge, the smaller the gap



of understanding is, allowing the opportunity to close it and best equip students to build upon any concept that is currently missing.”

K-12 Literacy Coordinator Kim Dahl believes that early reading intervention is critical so that students can “crack the code of phonics.” Teachers are able to identify students who are struggling with those foundational skills and provide additional explicit and systematic phonics instruction. The earlier this happens, the stronger the impact on future reading success for that student.

Each school has access to MTSS support specialists, paraeducators, building aides, and, of course, teachers, that partner together to administer intervention instruction. MTSS support specialist Shelley Todd has witnessed MTSS work for students.

“A student moved here from another district in second grade with many needs in literacy,” Todd said. “We put her in a phonics intervention group and added some one-on-one work with a para to practice automaticity. From August to December, she moved from high risk on the screener to proficient all because of MTSS.”

Every school receives the data from the screenings with the goal for each student to reach proficient in their grade-level concepts. Students can receive the short-term or long-term support they need due to the priority of MTSS in Olathe Public Schools.

“At the end of the day, we all need some help at some point in time and that is totally OK,” Veatch said. “That’s why we are all here. We are here to educate students. With the MTSS intervention, students can receive both regular instruction and more individualized instruction, without missing class time, to prepare them not only for the rest of the year, but the rest of their K-12 education and beyond.”

Scan here to access the
MTSS Handbook.





GARMIN
OLATHE SOCCER COMPLEX



PREMIER SOCCER CLUB IN OLATHE + KC
U5-U19 BOYS & GIRLS ALL LEVELS

KCSGSOCCER.ORG
INFO@KCSGSOCCER.ORG

75167648

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

Request info today!

75167475

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

75167515



FOR TEACHERS

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

READY TO BECOME A LICENSED TEACHER?

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

RISE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATION, BUSINESS, COUNSELING, & NURSING PROGRAMS. APPLY TODAY!



MNU
PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Contact
913.971.3800
PGADMISSIONS@MNU.EDU
MNU.EDU/CONNECTS

75167476

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.

ADM 21085650



We have great summer jobs....



Apply today!

- *Camp Counselors*
- *Seasonal Park Workers*
- *Sports Officials*
- *Beach & Marina Staff*
- *Lifeguards*
- *& more!*



Call 913-826-3054 or visit JCPRD.com/jobs



JCPRD is an equal opportunity employer, a nationally accredited agency, and a National Gold Medal for Excellence Award Winner!

7516770



SPORTING CITY WEST

PRE-TRYOUT CAMP: JUNE 5-7 | TRYOUTS: JUNE 9-11

Sporting City West, an official Academy Affiliate of Sporting Kansas City, is the premier competitive soccer opportunity for **Boys & Girls, U8 (2016) – U14 (2010)** in Olathe, KS and Kansas City, KS.

Why Sporting City West?

- Experienced and diverse coaching staff
- Positive and supportive playing environment
- Personalized development plan for each player
- Practices at Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex
- Unique Sporting KC opportunities and experiences
- And more!



SportingCW.com

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@SportingCW](#)

75167296



Power a House Full of Devices with Xfinity's 10G Network

4 p.m. is a busy time at the Hernandez house. Everyone needs to be online simultaneously: Mom for a work video call, dad for a telehealth visit, and the kids for homework and gaming. That's why having a network that can keep up is more important than ever. Thanks to Comcast's Xfinity 10G Network there can be enough capacity, speed and gigabytes to go around.

By the end of 2025, the Xfinity 10G Network's full capabilities will reach more than 50 million homes and businesses in the country – including here in Olathe.

Comcast recently unveiled plans for a guaranteed increase for in-home WiFi support, and a new device with cellular and battery back-up to help keep customers connected even when the power goes out.

The Xfinity 10G Network technology delivers multi-gig speeds, the nation's largest network of WiFi hotspots and a gig-WiFi gateway that can seamlessly connect hundreds of devices. To learn more about Comcast Xfinity 10G Network and what this means for Xfinity customers check out this video: <https://midwest.comcast.com/network>

75167467

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



75167512

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

75167516



**NOW
OPEN**

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



**OLATHE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

OlatheLibrary.org

75167617

75167511

**Provide
support
guidance
limits**

for your teen.

**Not
alcohol.**

**The average boy takes his first drink at age 11,
the average girl at 13. Talk. It Matters.**



WE SUPPORT OLATHE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Home of the
90 DAY
Money Back Guarantee



130 N Fir Street, Olathe
913-390-6800
OlatheKia.com



Robert
BROGDEN'S
OLATHE BUICK GMC

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

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



75167474

www.kansasrush.com



...IT'S FUN!



OLATHE RUSH SOCCER CLUB

Kansas (Olathe) Rush Soccer Club is a **nonprofit** that has been providing opportunities for youth to play soccer since 1980 when we began as Olathe Soccer Club.

Our recreational program is designed to be fun and help kids develop both mentally and physically.

We have both **recreational and competitive** programs. From pre-k to adult leagues, our goal is to give all ages a chance to enjoy the beautiful game.

To the right are just a few of the programs we offer.

visit our website, call 913 764 4111, or email officestaff@kansasrush.com for more info



www.kansasrush.com

Fall 2023 K-2nd Recreational League

- Early Bird Registration opens June 1st for K-2nd grade
- Focus is putting kids with classmates
- One practice per week
- 8 games - end of Aug thru Oct
- Lone Elm Soccer Park

Summer 2023 Camps

- K-7th grade
- Camps in June and July
- Choose morning or late afternoon sessions
- Skill development and FUN!
- At Lone Elm Soccer Park

Summer 2023 Junior Rush

- Soccer for pre-kindergarteners
- Three age groups - age 3, 4, and 5
- Lone Elm Soccer Park
- Choose your day and time

Competitive/Premier Team Tryouts

- Check our website for dates/times
- Tryout dates and when all clubs can open registration are set by KSYSA
- Once KSYSA announces the dates we will have them on our website

or Scan QR code to register





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