



Olathe  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# School News

Summer 2025



## Ready for Kindergarten

Kansas Master  
Teacher Winner  
Open Enrollment





## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. BRENT YEAGER

### Olathe Public Schools Community,

As we approach the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible accomplishments of our students, staff, and community. This has been a year filled with growth, perseverance, and achievement, and I am deeply proud of all that we have accomplished together.

Our vision, "Their Future is Our Future," has guided us all year long. Every step we take as a district, every challenge we face, and every success we celebrate, is centered around our students' futures. We know that when we invest in their academic growth and all-around well-being, we are also investing in the future of our community and society. We remain committed to providing our students with the knowledge they need to lead in an ever-changing world when they graduate.

Speaking of graduation... A special congratulations goes out to the Class of 2025. This is a momentous time for our seniors, and I want to commend them for their hard work. They have overcome challenges, embraced opportunities, and have emerged stronger, ready to take on the world. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to celebrating their successes in the coming days. Their graduation is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the support of families, educators, and the entire community.

As we look ahead to the summer, I encourage everyone to take time to relax and recharge. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your ongoing support. Your commitment to excellence in education makes all of this possible. It is through your partnership that we continue to provide the best opportunities for our students to thrive. See you in August!

Your very proud superintendent,

**Dr. Brent Yeager**

*Superintendent*

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Dr. Brent Yeager

**#OPS  
MAKE  
TODAY  
COUNT**

The district will use #OPSMakeTodayCount on social media to document our growth together. Follow along on social media by clicking the hashtag on Facebook, Twitter/X or Instagram, and be sure to tag #OPSMakeTodayCount in your social media posts!

Follow us for up-to-date information:



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# Olathe Northwest Educator

## NAMED 2025 KANSAS MASTER TEACHER

Olathe Northwest High School science and engineering teacher Andrew Taylor was named a 2025 Kansas Master Teacher on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

The Kansas Master Teacher awards, established by Emporia State University (ESU) in 1954, recognize educators who demonstrate exceptional teaching qualities. A committee including representatives from the Kansas Association of Principals, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas State Board of Education, Kansas Parent Teacher Organization, Kansas National Education Association, United School Administrators, ESU's Kappa Delta Pi student organization, and the 2024 Master Teacher class selected the recipients.

Taylor learned of the honor through a phone call from Dr. Sara Schwerdtfeger, interim dean of ESU's Teachers College.

"We are incredibly proud that Andrew Taylor was named an ESU Master Teacher," said Dr. Brent Yeager, Olathe Public Schools superintendent. "This is a huge accomplishment for a teacher in our state, and we want to congratulate Andrew on this achievement! It is clear he is not only a role model in education for his students and colleagues at Olathe Northwest, but also in the state of Kansas."

Taylor teaches biology in the Engineering Academy at Olathe Northwest, a four-year, STEM-focused program. The program admits students through an application process, and they take science and engineering courses with the same cohort each year. He also coaches the FIRST Robotics Team 1710, The Ravonics Revolution, which regularly excels at regional and national competitions. Taylor is known for promoting student curiosity and empowering students to be problem solvers.

"Learning in my classroom always starts with student questions as they observe phenomena such as infectious disease, cancer, and trendy workout regimens," Taylor said. "As I guided students through questioning strategies, I witnessed their thinking evolve as they made deeper observations, formulated their own questions, and developed explanations. While not all students will pursue science, the strategies learned and utilized in my classroom help every student engage their curiosity as they seek to understand the world around them."

Olathe Northwest Principal Chris Zuck expressed pride in Taylor's achievement, noting that this is the first time a

teacher from the school has received the Kansas Master Teacher honor.

"We are so proud of Mr. Taylor and this major accomplishment," Zuck said. "Mr. Taylor spends countless hours at Olathe Northwest to lead and support student learning. Every day, he shows up with a commitment to excellence and a visionary approach that make him an incredible educator and uniquely qualified for this distinguished honor. Our school community and the greater Olathe community should take great pride in Mr. Taylor's contributions to our students."

Colleagues, administrators, and students wrote letters of nomination to support Taylor's selection. Hudson Hurtig, a 2022 Olathe Northwest graduate and former Robotics team member, wrote that Taylor had a profound impact on his life.

"By virtue of ingenuity in Mr. Taylor's classroom, there was seldom the question, 'When or how am I going to use this?'" Hurtig said. "In every unit, there was a real-world problem we could point to and apply fundamental concepts to and imagine ourselves toward a better future. This fundamental strategy carried me far beyond high school and high school robotics. Less than two years later, I was giving my final presentation and was offered a full-time job at Tesla at 18 years old."

Through the support of the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Taylor received a \$1,000 check. The 2025 Master Teachers were honored on Master Teacher Day this spring at Emporia State University.

"...the strategies learned and utilized in my classroom help every student engage their curiosity as they seek to understand the world around them."

**ANDREW TAYLOR**

OLATHE NORTHWEST BIOLOGY TEACHER





YOU'RE A STAR!



READY FOR   


# KINDERGARTEN



## GETTING KINDERGARTEN READY

As the first day of kindergarten approaches, preparing your child for this exciting milestone is key.

- Get enrolled! Please contact your child's future school to enroll in kindergarten.
- Prepare your child for kindergarten by establishing a consistent bedtime and wake-up routine a few weeks in advance to adjust to the school schedule.
- Read to your child and engage in fine-motor activity play such as painting, coloring, using scissors, or playing with Legos and blocks to develop essential skills.
- Encourage independence by practicing simple tasks like opening snack bags, putting on shoes, zipping up jackets, using the restroom, dressing themselves and using a water bottle.
- Establish a transportation plan and update all emergency contacts for a smooth start.
- Visit the school playground to familiarize your child with the environment in a fun way.







HELLO, NEW ADVENTURES!

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN KINDERGARTEN

Starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone for children, filled with new friends, supportive teachers, and the thrill of structured learning. To help ease this transition, Olathe Public Schools has a special first-week program called "Camp Kindergarten," which introduces students to the basics of a school day through interactive play and activities with their grade-level classmates. This program, which has been a part of the district for over 15 years, is now districtwide, giving all kindergartners the opportunity to acclimate to their new environment.

- Connect with the school community during the first few weeks through communication with your child's teacher, following your school on social media or engaging with the Parent Teacher Organization.
- In the beginning, plan to spend quiet one-on-one time with your child and keep the family schedule simple to help with their adjustment to a busier schedule.
- Use these early weeks to help your child feel comfortable and confident as they begin their kindergarten journey.

## SUPPORTING LEARNING

### THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Whether at home or at school, maintaining consistent attendance and connection are crucial to your child's academic success and social-emotional growth.

- Missing just 10% of school — about one or two days every few weeks — can significantly impact a child's ability to gain foundational reading and math skills, build relationships, and develop good attendance habits.
- Showing up on time every day sets your child up for success, ensuring they don't miss important lessons and social interactions that support their growth.
- Maintain open communication with your child's teacher to stay aligned on progress.
- Play! Make learning a part of everyday life by reading regularly to your child, encouraging play, and incorporating counting, letter recognition, and color identification into everyday activities.

ENROLL YOUR  
STUDENT HERE!







# Be Informed.

## OLATHE INNOVATION CAMPUS: A LOOK AHEAD

The Olathe Innovation Campus is set to redefine career and technical education with new, state-of-the-art facilities designed to meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's industries. Thanks to the support of bond voters in April 2022, this new building will house six high-demand career pathways: Animal Science & Research, Culinary Arts, Construction Technology, Healthcare Sciences, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Electronics & Avionics.

The modern facility, built to industry standards, offers expanded space for increased enrollment and hands-on experience with the same equipment professionals use. Students will benefit from cutting-edge technology, specialized labs, and simulation spaces, including professional-grade kitchens and advanced avionics labs. The EMS and Healthcare Science academies will feature real-world medical simulation labs, while Construction Technology will have a large workshop adjacent to the district's Operations Service Center, allowing students to gain valuable internship experience with experts in their field.

The Olathe Innovation Campus will also house the district's HELP Clinic and the Olathe Transitions Supports Program (OTSP), which teaches life skills and work-based learning for students ages 18-21. With the move, the HELP Clinic will have increased capacity to see more students after school and during the summer for mental health services, play therapy space to support our youngest learners and flexibility to convert designated rooms from training spaces for mental health professionals to therapy spaces. OTSP will also gain a much-needed expanded space to meet the unique needs of

all students and will allow increased opportunities for students to work on independence and self-advocacy skills.

With a focus on sustainability, flexibility, and collaboration, the Olathe Innovation Campus is poised to provide students with the skills they need for success in the world's ever-changing job market. The Olathe Innovation Campus is scheduled to be completed in the 2025-26 school year, with programs gradually moving from their respective buildings to the new campus.





# Get Involved.

MAY 2025

5-9

**MAY 5-9**

Educator Appreciation Week

15

**MAY 15**

Last Day for Seniors

16

**MAY 16**

GRADUATION

Olathe West High School  
at 7 p.m.

17

**MAY 17**

GRADUATION

Olathe North High School  
at 2 p.m.  
Olathe South High School  
at 7 p.m.

18

**MAY 18**

GRADUATION

Olathe East High School  
at 2 p.m.  
Olathe Northwest High School  
at 7 p.m.

19

**MAY 19**

Senior Graduation  
Walks at all Olathe  
Elementary Schools

21

**MAY 21**

Last Day for Early Childhood

22

**MAY 22**

Last Day for Grades K-11

28-30

**MAY 28-30**

Summer Conference



Scan here  
to sign up

## THANK YOUR EDUCATORS

This spring, let's spread kindness and show our appreciation for the dedicated staff members of Olathe Public Schools! Educator Appreciation Week runs from May 5-9, and we're offering our entire community the chance to send a note of gratitude to any employee in the district.

To participate, simply fill out the form by May 9, 2025, and your message will be delivered before the end of the school year. Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/OPSThankYouCard>.

*Disclaimer: Please ensure the form is completed accurately to guarantee your card reaches the right person at the right building. The form will close at 11:45 p.m. on May 9, 2025. Submissions with incorrect formatting or inappropriate content may be rejected.*



Scan for  
Thank Your  
Educators  
Form



# OUT-OF-DISTRICT?

With a vision of “Their Future is Our Future,” we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience that prepares students for success in both college and careers because we know when our students thrive, we all thrive both today and in the generations to come. Our world-class programs, led by dedicated educators, inspire and support students at every stage of their academic journey.

We offer a wide range of opportunities, from advanced middle school courses in math and reading to high school programs like AVID, Advanced Placement, College Now courses, and Career Pathways. Our focus on preparing students for a successful future extends beyond the classroom with strong fine arts, athletics, and extracurricular programs, where more than 60% of our students participate. Additionally, our 2024 graduates earned over \$50 million in scholarships, a testament to the high-quality education and support they receive at Olathe Public Schools.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT FAMILIES

Olathe Public Schools is proud to offer Open Enrollment to families who live outside the district, allowing non-resident students to attend our schools. This opportunity, in line with Kansas House Bill 2567, gives your child access to the same high-quality education that has made Olathe a district of choice. Once admitted, students may continue attending Olathe schools through 12th grade, provided they maintain good standing.

- Non-resident Applications Open:  
**January 1 – June 15, 2025**
- District Enrollment Capacity Determined:  
**On or before May 1, 2025**
- Non-resident Open Enrollment Applications Reviewed: **June 16 – June 20, 2025**

## READY TO APPLY?

Visit <https://bit.ly/OPSOpenEnrollment>

## QUESTIONS?

Call 913-780-7000 and ask for General Administration for more details.

Join Olathe Public Schools today - where your child's future truly is *our* future!

# ENROLL IN OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS





Forbes No. 12 best mid-size employer in the nation

Voted the Best Public School District in Kansas City Magazine's "Best of KC" edition

2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year winner

2024 and 2025 Kansas Master Teacher winner

\$50 million in scholarships offered to 2024 graduates

# DISCOVER THE OLATHE ADVANTAGE

Visit <https://bit.ly/OPSOOpenEnrollment>



**RIGHT WHERE  
YOU BELONG**

[olatheschools.org/humanresources](https://olatheschools.org/humanresources)