Purpose of This Document

The district's vision for our students is to INSPIRE and EMPOWER them. The primary purpose of this document is to clearly articulate why we have chosen to communicate certain data points within our strategic plan to those that the district believes it is most accountable to--members of the community whose tax resources continue to keep our schools strong. This document is meant to act as a support to the "scorecard" for **Olmsted Falls High School**.

While Ohio Law requires the Ohio Department of Education to enact an accountability system, we believe that the current system fails to deliver on a number of different fronts. These include:

1. **Failure to Predict Long-Term Success.** Ohio's accountability system is heavily reliant on standardized tests. While we recognize these assessments are part of the process of schooling, there is no evidence to suggest that they are accurate at projecting a student's long term success in life. We believe that they are overemphasized, and as a result, they have the potential to limit a student's instructional experience.

2. **Lack of Timeliness**. Ohio's current accountability system is based on a set of assessments that measure a student's performance on a particular day in the Spring and the results from those assessments do not arrive until after the school year is over. In short, they do not provide teachers, students, parents and others with timely results to support and enhance learning.

3. **Lack of Relevance to Stakeholders**. The District has spent considerable time working with all of the stakeholders to create a strategic plan that guides our work with students, families and our community. We believe that our vision of inspiring and empowering others is supported by the 4 core pillars within our plan: *Student Success*; *Aligned Resources*; *Technology Enabled* and *Community Partnerships*. We felt a duty to provide evidence to our stakeholders that we are remaining vigilant and working towards ensuring our students are benefiting from the Olmsted Falls City School District experience.

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In Olmsted Falls, we are deeply passionate about Inspiring and Empowering students. Our intention is to be the best in the world at designing engaging work to support this passion and we strongly believe that we can make our dream become a reality through a dedication to a comprehensive schooling experience that includes <u>A</u>cademics, <u>A</u>rts and <u>A</u>thletics. Our "Triple A" brand seeks to impact the whole child, and it is of value to our parents and greater community. This experience has been the ongoing legacy of an Olmsted Falls Education. It is why families have moved into our community and why they continue to remain residents.

<u>OFHS Student Success: Career</u>

Student Career Success at OFHS is about further exploring individual preferences coupled with real-world opportunities to help make informed decisions related to course work and college/career planning. We believe that our role is to help students learn and grow; part of that includes knowing likes and dislikes, and then recognizing how to leverage the "likes" to get the most out of high school.

1. **Career Planning Opportunities**
   a. **Freshman**
      Freshman utilize the Naviance tool to complete a career inventory to further explore and illuminate careers that might be of interest.
   b. **Sophomores**
      Sophomores participate in Polaris Career Center exploration activities which includes a site visit.
   c. **Juniors**
      This represents the number of Juniors that took part in an individual planning meeting with the District's College and Career Counselor.
   d. **Seniors**
      This represents data as to what the graduating seniors did after graduating from OFHS.

<u>OFHS Student Success: Academic</u>

Student Academic Success is more broadly defined at OFHS.

2. **Unweighted GPA**
While colleges and other post-secondary institutions use standardized test scores for acceptance and placement purposes, these measures do not accurately predict a student's long term success. There is considerable research that demonstrates a student's grade point average is the best predictor not only of freshman grades in college, but of four-year college outcomes as well.

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While a student's grade represents how the student achieved in a particular class, the GPA represents all grades and a higher is generally attributed to work ethic, perseverance, ability to manage time efficiently and school attendance.

3. Advanced Placement
Generally speaking, AP courses a challenging and rigorous; improve college admissions chances; save families money and help to sharpen a student's writing skills, teach critical thinking and improve problem-solving abilities.

4. College Credit Plus
The state of Ohio developed a system for students to earn college credit while attending high school. Formerly known as Post-Secondary Options, courses identified as College Credit Plus are courses that, upon successful completion, will directly transfer to Ohio public universities. Teachers of CCP courses serve as both OFHS faculty members and adjunct faculty members at the university level.

5. Extracurricular Opportunities
Citizenship and service to others is part of the Olmsted Falls School District experience. In addition, the District's focus is on providing opportunities at school to develop the whole child through Academics, Arts and Athletics. When students are engaged with the school their probability of success increases significantly.

6. Total Local Scholarships Awarded
Student success is supported by parent, student, and community involvement. Our community provides generous support to our students in the form of local scholarship dollars.

OFHS Community Partnerships

We believe that a strong partnership between the schools and community is critical for student success--not only for those that have children attending the district's schools, but all those who reside within the community. This is especially important because the majority of the citizens who contribute their taxes to support the schools do not have children that attend them (approximately 70%). Providing accurate information pertaining to how the school district and community works collaboratively with one another is important to us.

9. Service Projects
One of the skills identified as important by the district's Portrait of an Olmsted Graduate Committee was Citizenship. Having students take part with service projects within the community is one way to develop an understanding of others' perspectives and needs.

10. Gold, Blue and White Partnerships

While the district appreciates receiving financial donations from others, we value partnerships that benefit our students and those organizations seeking a relationship with the schools. As a result, we created a way to deeply evaluate the quality of our relationships and use 5 indicators to test the degree of depth: 1) number of students involved; 2) length of the partnership; 3) whether the partnership benefits the school and organization; 4) the district benefit of the partnership and 4) the community benefit of the partnership. Gold partnerships have the highest degree of depth followed by Blue and White.

11. Scholarships

The total number of scholarships provided to graduating seniors is an extension of the total scholarship dollars category. Last school year, students could apply for 267 scholarships, each one providing financial support, and every one funded by a local business or family. We feel this further highlights the opportunity for every student to feel supported in their endeavors after high school.

OFHS Technology Enabled

The measures that are included here represent our first attempt at measuring the district's ability to ensure we are enabling technology. In the future, our goal is to report on a defined set of skills that measure technology proficiency for both our students and staff, along with how technology is being used to substitute, augment, modify and redefine teaching and learning.

11. Devices

Our goal is to integrate technology meaningfully into instruction. Our initial measure demonstrates that every student has a device available to them when technology is needed to enhance teaching and learning.

12. GAFE (Google Apps for Education)

Our goal is to infuse technology along with the curriculum and provide a content management system for students to keep track of information and access content at any point in the day.

13. Integration

Teaching and technology go hand in hand when delivering content and providing meaningful instruction. Google Docs is a product that students and teachers can use to reinforce the importance of collaboration, create original work, and promote the process of writing.