

OUR SCHOOL REPORT



Olmsted Falls School District

Spring/Summer 2023

TRIPLE A EXPERIENCE SHINES BRIGHT AS 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CLOSES

By Superintendent Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.



Olmsted Falls Schools had a spectacular finish to the 2022-2023 school year. From the sendoff of our class of 2023 to art shows, field trips, author visits, career days, and awards galore, the Triple A experience was spotlighted through every activity and event. You can read more about this and more throughout this newsletter.

Before you know it, we will be gearing up for the next school year. Our families, particularly our student-athletes, may notice some improvements to the stadium when you return. Work to resurface the track and other surrounding areas is currently underway.

Speaking of back to school, a special edition of the “School Report” will be coming later this summer and will have all of the information you need to know to kick off the school year right.

The achievements of our staff, students, and collectively as a district, would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our entire staff and the support of our families and community members. As you read this newsletter, I encourage you to remember that you play a part in each one of these celebrations. For this, I say thank you.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable rest of the summer, and we look forward to seeing our staff, students, and families in August!

Dr. James Lloyd
Superintendent

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR NAMED

At the end of each school year, staff members are invited to nominate colleagues for Olmsted Falls’ annual Employee of the Year awards. A special committee of local Kiwanis Club members then reviews the nominations and makes a final selection.

Congratulations to this year’s Employees of the Year, Pam Madak from Olmsted Falls High School, and Pete Workman from Olmsted Falls Intermediate School! Both of these staff members received multiple nominations and truly exemplify The Bulldog Way. Thank you, Pam and Pete, for all that you do for our school community.



OLMSTED FALLS BOASTS STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the boys lacrosse team for winning the Division II lacrosse state championship! The team defeated Columbus St. Francis DeSales in the Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus on June 3.

Olmsted Falls student-athlete Katie Clute added two more state titles to her high school athletic career as well. On June 3, she captured the state championship in both the Division I 1600-meter and 3200-meter races, making this her third and fourth OHSAA state championships. Her 3200m victory makes her a back-to-back state champion in this event, which she claimed with a personal record of 10:18.50.

Combined with her fall 2022 DI state cross country championship, these latest wins helped Katie capture the distance Triple Crown. Katie finished her career at Olmsted Falls High School with some of the highest recognition and success that any athlete has attained.

We are so proud of these student athletes and their exceptional accomplishments this season! Way to go Bulldogs!



LATEST SIX SIGMA COHORT EARNS YELLOW BELT

Congratulations to the third cohort of Olmsted Falls High School students on earning their Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt certification! Their belts were formally presented to them at the Board of Education meeting on May 31.

By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, a total of 46 Olmsted Falls students had earned this elite certification following a series of specialized training sessions with Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt Steve Wall, in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace University's Center for Professional Development. Six Sigma is a set of techniques and tools for process improvement, and is correlated with higher earnings as it reduces defects and errors in the workplace.

Thank you to the Cleveland Clinic Fairview and Key Bank headquarters in downtown Cleveland for providing the on-site experiences during this latest cohort. Congratulations to this latest group of Yellow Belts, which consisted of 15 juniors:



- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Nora Barnard | Claire Culler | Rafael Lofton |
| Carmine Boscarello | Isabella DeCaprio | Isaiah Mills |
| Sabrina Brancatelli | Jameson DeMarco | Olivia Thach |
| Danielle Cameron | Loai Eqrai | Benjamin Walker |
| Marley Cashin | Dillon Foulkes | Veronika Zak |

OLMSTED FALLS REPRESENTED WELL AT STANDOUTS AWARDS

Olmsted Falls boasted several finalists and one winner at this year's Cleveland Plain Dealer's cleveland.com High School Standouts Awards. At the awards ceremony, presented by University Hospitals Drusinsky Sports Medicine Institute, stories and triumphs of northeast Ohio's high school students from on and off the field were shared. Finalists and award winners were recognized for their dedication, teamwork, perseverance, and passion in the classroom, on the field, and outside our community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BULLDOGS!

Camden Burkhard and Ryan Davis
Top Scientific Mind category finalists

Kaylee Kolokoske
Rising Entrepreneur finalist

Rae Alexander
Top Coach finalist

David Vidovich
Math Hero finalist

Katie Clute
Top Female Athlete finalist

Olmsted Falls Varsity Girls Basketball Team
Top Female Athletic Team winner

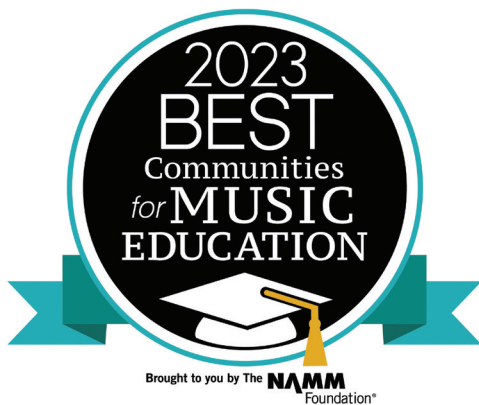
Ava Vidovich
Debate Champion finalist

All finalists were invited to walk the Red Carpet at the awards ceremony, held June 8 at the Agora Theater & Ballroom in Cleveland. The Cavaliers Scream Team presented the Top Female Athletic Team Award to our Bulldog players. Additionally, as last year's winner of the Best Band in the Land category, the Olmsted Falls High School Drum Line represented Bulldog country with a special performance as they helped announce the award for this year's Best Band.



Photo Credit: David Petkiewicz, Photographer from Cleveland.com

MUSIC PROGRAM RECEIVES TOP HONORS



Olmsted Falls City Schools was recently presented its 17th consecutive 2023 Best Communities for Music Education Award (BCME)! Our Triple A district recognizes the value of music education and acknowledges the multitude of benefits it offers students.

Thank you to our exceptional music educators, talented students, families, and community who continue to foster and endorse the longstanding legacy of top-notch music education in our schools.

AUTHOR STOPS BY OLMSTED FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



On June 2, Author Margaret Peterson Haddix dropped in at Olmsted Falls Middle School where she gave an engaging talk on her career, books, and writing experience. Olmsted Falls entered a contest and was selected as a winner as part of Peterson Haddix's national tour for her latest book, "Falling Out of Time," the long-awaited sequel to "Running Out of Time." Many students left the event with an autographed copy of the new book after a special book signing.

A special thanks goes to Library Media Assistant, Terri Tantanella, and Teacher Kate LaMarca for coordinating the event.



VEHICLE DAY A VROOMING SUCCESS

Students at our Early Childhood Center had a great time at the 9th annual Vehicle Day on May 24. More than 17 community members brought their work vehicles to the event. Students got to:

- Climb into a semi truck
- Operate a cement mixer via remote control
- Sit inside a SWAT truck
- Explore the inside of a premium Mercedes limousine
- Use the lift of an Olmsted Falls special needs school bus

Thank you to all of this year's participants for creating such a fun and exciting experience for our Itty Bitty Bulldogs!



DISTRICT SAYS SO LONG TO RETIREES

Olmsted Falls wished seven longtime educators farewell at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Combined, the teachers and staff members had a total of 155 years of Bulldog service. Thank you for your commitment to serving our district, we wish you the best!

Debbie Henton
9 Bulldog years

Pam O'Conke
31 Bulldog years

Molly Reeves
9 Bulldog years

Paula Schiely
25 Bulldog years

Kathy Suvak
21 Bulldog years

Liz Vasco
22 Bulldog years

Pete Workman
38 Bulldog years



**Not pictured: Molly Reeves and Pete Workman*

TRACK RESURFACING PROJECT NEARING THE FINISH LINE

The Olmsted Falls High School stadium is closed this summer but for good reason! The track surrounding Vitamix Field, as well as the high jump pad, pole vault and long jump runways, are being resurfaced.

The long-awaited project's total cost is \$600,000. Thank you to the Olmsted Falls Athletic Boosters for their generous \$50,000 donation to the project.



LESSONS AHEAD OF D.C. TRIP BRINGS SPECIAL MEANING TO MEMORIAL VISIT

Before eighth grade students left for the school's annual trip to Washington, D.C., social studies teachers led them on a journey through time, highlighting the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, one of the many stops made on their 3-day trek to our nation's capital. They also shared stories of local soldiers whose names appear on the wall, including Gary Martell, 1966 alumni of Olmsted Falls High School, and encouraged them to reach out to their family and friends ahead of the trip to learn about veterans in their networks.

While visiting the wall, students had the opportunity to make an etching of specific soldiers' names. Many chose Mr. Martell and left the etching with a note of thanks. The Washington, D.C. trip remains a unique and memorable experience for our

Bulldogs. Thank you to our staff, families, and guides who make this opportunity possible, and above all, thank you to our service men and women for your dedication and sacrifice.



JUMP ROPE CLUB JUMPING INTO SECOND SESSION

The second session of the Falls-Lenox Primary School's Jump Rope Club took place this spring. The club consists of second and third grade students who meet weekly to practice their jump roping skills, promote a healthy lifestyle, and create new friendships. Led by the fearless Mrs. Wallo, the club is a place where everyone's talents and skills are appreciated.



KINDERGARTENERS EXPLORE NATURE

Field trips are an important part of the Bulldog experience. As the school year wrapped up, Ms. Doyle's kindergarten class had the opportunity to visit the Rocky River Nature Preserve. From exploring to hiking to seeing different plants and trees, these Bulldogs enjoyed every minute of being in the great outdoors.



CANDY OR MOLECULE? THAT IS THE QUESTION

Sixth grade students in Ms. Hollingsworth's science class wrapped up their unit on atoms and elements at the end of the year by working with a lab partner — and the candy of their choice — to build at least three different molecules of varying difficulty. Toothpicks were used to represent bonds connecting the elements. What a fun and collaborative way to put into practice what they have learned!



FALLS-LENOX STUDENTS PRETTY TERRIFIC

Students in the Terrific Kids Club at Falls-Lenox Primary School wrapped up the school year with a special celebration, complete with cookies and notes of gratitude brought by Olmsted Falls Kiwanis Club members.

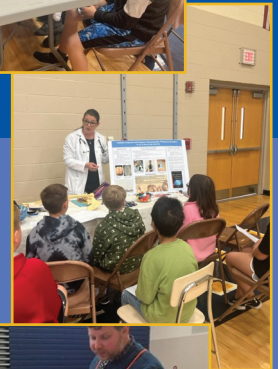
The club is free to all students in grades 1-3 and focuses on helping students become leaders through their actions, words, and good deeds. This year, these TERRIFIC students led successful sock and pet supply drives, sent notes to those in local senior communities, helped restock our pantry for those in need and spread kindness throughout the school.



CAREER DAYS SPARK CURIOSITY

On May 12 and 19, fourth and fifth grade students rotated between stations learning about various careers they can one day pursue at annual Career Day events at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School. Occupations represented varied widely, from air traffic controller, fireman, and popcorn shop owner, to engineers, attorneys, writers, communication managers, medical professionals, salespeople, and more!

Thank you to Mrs. Schmid for coordinating the event and to all of our Career Day presenters who volunteered their time to connect with students and spark their curiosity.



STUDENTS SHINE AT BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Two Olmsted Falls Middle School students were recently recognized at the Ohio Middle Level Association Breakfast of Champions. Both students were nominated by Olmsted Falls staff.

Luther Lofton was awarded for his leadership in the pre and post-assembly activities for the all-school assembly with Dr. James Knight on the topic of Cultural Humility. He is also a member of the Principal Advisory Council where his reflectiveness, thoughtfulness, and insightfulness allow him to be the ears and voice for his peers.

Claire Mallory is described by her teachers as mature, honest, communicative, and humble. She is a member of the Bulldog

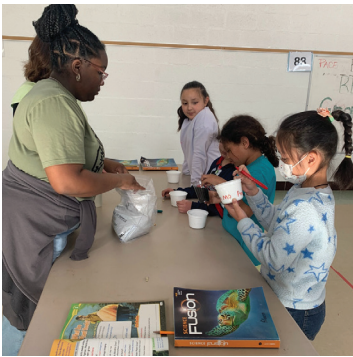
Theatre Company where she is a talented performer, achieving leading roles in recent musicals, "Matilda" and "Cats." Whether she is assisting with actors and their microphones for a Monologue Showcase, or giving back to the Company in the form of her Eagle Scout project, her leadership is always on full display.

Congratulations Luther and Claire, we are proud of your accomplishments!



STUDENTS GIVE BACK AS PART OF EARTH WEEK

The Environmental Club at Olmsted Falls High School celebrated Earth Week this year by walking to Falls-Lenox Primary School and picking up trash along the way. Once there, they met with Mrs. Gommel's second grade class to help them plant seeds and teach them fun facts related to their planting unit. It's never too early to start caring for our planet!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS REFLECTIVE OF BULLDOG SPIRIT

Ninety volunteers, special education staff, and of course, the Bulldog mascot, were all on hand to cheer on Olmsted Falls' more than 50 Special Olympics participants this year. Each building had a special clap-out to send off our athletes with encouragement and excitement. With 12 districts participating in this year's regional event held at Ely Stadium in Elyria, it was one of the best yet!





TREASURER'S UPDATE: PRIORITIZING CONTINUING EDUCATION, FISCAL STEWARDSHIP AND TRANSPARENCY

Being excellent stewards of our taxpayer dollars is a top priority of Olmsted Falls City School District. The Olmsted Falls Treasurer's office is dedicated to continuing education to ensure the district is up to date on the latest trends and is maintaining the Triple A experience at a good rate of return to taxpayers.

Treasurer/CFO Brett Robson and his staff, joined by members of the district's Human Resources team, recently attended the annual Ohio Association of School Business Officials conference in Columbus, Ohio. Sessions covered topics such as legal updates, school budget and finance, ways school districts can maximize efficiency and effectiveness in operations, and the Auditor of State's latest compliance regulations.

The treasurer's office is also currently working on a district financial update that will hit homes later this summer. Be on the lookout for this important document, which shares in-depth information on the district's current financial status.



A LOOK AT THE CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to the 280 members of the Olmsted Falls class of 2023! This year's commencement ceremony took place June 1 on Vitamix Field at Charles Harding Memorial Stadium in front of packed stands filled with family, friends, and members of our school community. Speakers included:

- Holly Neumann, president, Olmsted Falls Board of Education
- Dr. Jim Lloyd, superintendent, Olmsted Falls City Schools
- Leo Spagnola, principal, Olmsted Falls High School
- Trevor Patton, president, class of 2023
- Madison Oberacker, Phi Beta Kappa, class of 2023

The OFHS band helped celebrate our graduates with outstanding performances throughout the event.

Members of the class of 2023 were awarded an impressive 328 scholarships through the Olmsted Falls Local Scholarship Program, totaling a record-breaking \$148,605. This year's Local Scholarship Program awards came from a total of 49 sponsors and 41 alumni endowments/memorials. Thank you to our generous sponsors and community partners for investing in the future of our Bulldogs.

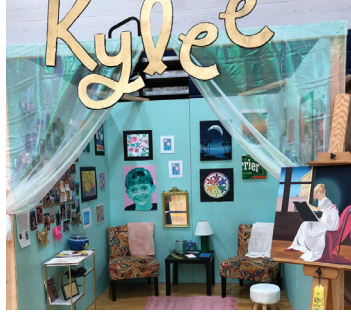




ART SHOW WOWS

On May 12, the Olmsted Falls High School gymnasium was transformed into an art gallery for the annual Art Show. Artwork from students in grades 9 to 12 in a variety of mediums was on display for fellow students, staff, families and community members to enjoy. Always a highlight of the event, this year's show featured 19 custom booths created by seniors in the Portfolio Prep class. The booths featured a collection of the students' favorite pieces. We are proud to have such talented Bulldogs!

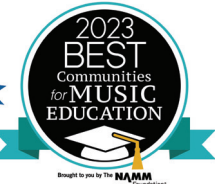




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OUR SCHOOL REPORT



17th Consecutive Year!

IS PUBLISHED TO MAINTAIN A REGULAR LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

NEWS AS IT HAPPENS: OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & TWITTER

There are great things happening **every day** across the Olmsted Falls City School District! Keep up with the news and information via the district's social media channels.

-  [olmstedfallsschools](#)
-  [ofcsdistrict](#)
-  [OFCSDistrict](#)

OLMSTED FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Holly Neumann **Vice President:** Phil Eckenrode
Members: Jodi DeMarco, Justin Funk, Kelly Walker

BOARD OF EDUCATION LEARNS ABOUT STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Throughout the school year, each building takes turns presenting at regular Olmsted Falls Board of Education meetings to share and highlight programs, projects, and activities directly with Board members. At the April meeting, board members got a firsthand look at the student experience as the Early Childhood Center staff and students shared what a day in the life of our youngest learners is like through five interactive stations “taught” by students.

Additionally, students from Olmsted Falls Intermediate School joined Principal Don Svec at the Board of Education meeting on May 31 to present on clubs and other activities available to students at their school.

Our Bulldogs did an amazing job sharing information with Board members!

