

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS ALUMNI CONNECTION



LEVY PROJECTS, NEW ELEMENTARY ON SCHEDULE

Olentangy Schools appreciates the community's support last spring in the passage of the levy to fund necessary school improvements and respond to district growth.

Director of Business Management and Facilities Jeff Gordon recently provided an update on the District's bond commitments, and plans to complete the permanent improvement projects.

In the summer of 2021, the following projects will be completed:

- 15 elementary schools will receive playground updates.
- 16 security vestibules will be constructed within schools.
- A bus lane will be added to Hyatts Middle and Liberty Tree Elementary schools.
- Hyatts Middle School will undergo a parking lot expansion at the stadium.
- Classrooms will be modified into broadcast journalism suites at Berlin High School, Olentangy



Construction of Shale Meadows Elementary School is well underway. The school is among projects being funded by passage of the March 2020 levy.

High School and Liberty High School.

All Olentangy elementary school playgrounds will have the main structure replaced with a handicap accessible structure, and soft play surfaces will update the existing gravel.

Because of this construction, Olentangy elementary playgrounds will be closed during the upcoming summer of 2021.

The levy funds the building and operation of Middle School 6 and

Elementary Schools 16 and 17. Middle School 6 will be located north of Cheshire Elementary, along Glenmead Drive between Gregory Road and Piatt Road, and will be joined with Berlin High School. Construction of Middle School 6 will begin in June of 2021. Elementary School 16, Shale Meadows Elementary, is located in the future Berlin Meadows community off Peachblow Road in Delaware.

The school's layout

largely resembles the floorplan of Olentangy's other elementary schools, with six additional classroom spaces. New attendance boundaries were announced in March, and Shale Meadows Elementary will open for students for the 2021-2022 school year.

A few items funded by the 2020 levy will be completed in the summer of 2022, including the parking expansion at the west transportation center.



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
Mark T. Raiff

TO OUR INVALUABLE OLENTANGY ALUMNI

The creation of an Olentangy Alumni Association has been many years in the making.

When many of you attended Olentangy, it was just a one-building school district. Or maybe it had grown to a one or two high school district. At that time, there wasn't a need for a formalized association to unite our graduates. Olentangy was a close-knit community that stayed connected without the involvement of the school system.

Fast forward to today and we have coined the phrase "One Olentangy" to maintain that small community feel, while our district has expanded to four high schools that send nearly 2,000 graduates out into the world each May.

As we approach another graduation season, we are also spearheading efforts to connect our alumni,

DISTRICT ENTERS NEXT STAGE OF BRANDING PROJECT

Olentangy Schools has been engaged in work for the past two years to meet our strategic plan goal of establishing a brand identity, accompanied by a licensing program.

In April 2019, Olentangy's district-wide brand was launched and work on phase two, developing our

building brand identities, began shortly after. Our elementary schools and preschool revealed their new brand identities in August 2020.

Throughout the second half of 2020, our five middle school brand project teams worked virtually on their brand development, and kicked off the

second semester with the launch of their new mascots and marks.

Moving forward, each high school has also formed brand project teams and has begun the process to update their brand identities with an expected roll-out in Spring 2021.

The building level brand

project teams have spent considerable time discussing what it means to be a member of their community, and the images, symbols and words that describe their school and how best to represent all members of their school community.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: FROM BROADWAY TO ENTREPRENEUR

Meet Beth Johnson Nicely — a 2002 Olentangy graduate, former Rockette and Broadway performer turned virtual fitness instructor who has thrived over the past year through her company, The Limit.

What Olentangy schools did you attend?

I went to the original K-8 school, was redistricted to Wyandot Run Elementary when it opened, and then on to Olentangy Middle and High School.

What school experiences contributed to you choosing to go into musical theater?

I loved being in choir and show choir! Fun fact, I was in the high school production of Bye Bye Birdie when I was in middle school, but never did any musicals in high school because I was a cheerleader. But both cheerleading and choir



Beth Johnson Nicely, a 2002 graduate of Olentangy High School, who has performed on Broadway and as a member of the Rockettes, now operates her own fitness business.



have helped me in my musical theatre career.

What did you do after leaving Olentangy that led you to where you are now?

I went to New York City when I was 17 years old to audition for the Rockettes. I ended up in an audition for a Broadway show by chance, and after making it through every

round, was later cast in the National Tour of 42nd Street as an understudy for the lead, Peggy Sawyer. After that show, I became a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall for two seasons. I then received an invitation to audition for my first Broadway show, Spamalot. I've performed in five Broadway shows since: Young

Frankenstein, White Christmas, Bullets Over Broadway, Something Rotten! (my Broadway lead debut), and Chicago. I have also worked as a fitness trainer for 10 years, and was part of the choreography team for Netflix's The Prom.

What inspired your transition from Broadway to virtual fitness business?

With my experience as a fitness trainer, and Broadway shut down during the pandemic, my private training sessions and classes remained busy — so I founded The Limit, my own fitness business. To go from a live career surrounded by people to a virtual format is different, but I enjoy challenges and it's amazing to teach people from all over the world.

Tell us about the Limit and how it works.

The Limit has challenging workouts through live zoom classes and workouts on demand, inspired by my experience as a performer. Clients go to TheLimitFit.com and sign up for a live Zoom class, or subscribe to us on demand and can work out anytime, anywhere, from any device. When performing

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BRAND FROM PAGE 1

The district believes it is important to protect our new logos and marks. As a result, Olentangy Schools has established a new trademark and licensing program with K12 Licensing, which will ensure the quality and consistency of the district and the school logos and marks, as well as generate a modest revenue stream for the district. The revenue will be used to support and enhance programs throughout the district. The licensing program will also create a cooperative and positive working relationship with the manufacturers and retailers that work with the district.



ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL ACCOLADES

Submit accolades and milestones to:
[Olentangy Alumni Association News](#)

CLASS OF 1965

• **Marvin Haywood**, OHS, retired as Parts Manager from Acura Columbus after 28 years, and is a Navy Vietnam Veteran.

CLASS OF 1967

• **Sandy (Thibaut) Thompson**, OHS, has turned her love for antiques into a career, and has been buying and selling antiques for many years.

CLASS OF 1970

• **Laura (May) Hardie**, OHS, retired as a Hearing Officer for Social Security Disability.

CLASS OF 1993

• **John R. Cornely**, OHS, was appointed the first Public Defender for Delaware County on February 26, 2021.

CLASS OF 1995

• **Emily (Truitt) Robinson**, OHS, is the President Elect for the Olentangy Education Foundation.

CLASS OF 2000

• **Benjamin Hamm**, OHS, owns Absolute Contracting Plus LLC, a family operated roof, siding and gutter company. He currently operates the location in Nashville, and there is a local location in Lewis Center.

CLASS OF 2001



• **Meghan (Thompson) Butcher** (above), OHS, is a Teacher Leader at Canal Winchester Local Schools.

CLASS OF 2003

• **Bethany (Dewese) Bratten**, OHS, received a master's in both Curriculum and Educational Technology, and is currently working on her Gifted Endorsement. She has been teaching middle school for 14

years, including 11 years at Orange Middle School.

CLASS OF 2005

• **Erin Everitt**, OHS, received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing Degree in 2009, and has been working as a RN since 2010.

• **Ryan Montgomery**, OLHS, is a social studies teacher at Delaware Hayes High School, and has been the head baseball coach there for 8 years.

CLASS OF 2007

• **Kim (Mowrey) Klenk**, OHS, is leading growth at Branch Insurance, a local Columbus start-up insurance company that works to make insurance cheaper and simpler.

CLASS OF 2009

• **Meghan Feasel**, OHS, has been teaching in Las Vegas for 8 years.

• **Alyssa Feyh**, OHS, has spent the last 5 years working at two startup psychiatric hospitals in Columbus. She has been working on her masters of social work at the Ohio State University, and working at NAMI and the National Suicide Prevention Association.

CLASS OF 2010

• **Courtney (Wilke) Shafer**, OLHS, is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Kettering Health Network, and helps patients learn how to communicate and swallow after a stroke, TBI, or other neurological condition.

• **Andrea (Karl) Byrum**, OLHS, graduated with a B.S. in Biochemistry from Denison University in 2014. She earned her PhD. in Molecular Genetics and Genomics from Washington University in St. Louis in 2019, and is currently a post-doctoral scientist at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

CLASS OF 2011

• **Skye Johnson**, OHS, (next column) has funneled her passion for music and research into a podcast called 2 Bit Musicologists, where her and her business partner dive deep into the eccentric footnotes of classical music and musical theater. The podcast

can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts and on the website [2bitmusicologists.com](#).



CLASS OF 2012

• **Alex Petrak**, OHS, graduated medical school from University of Toledo, College of Medicine & Life Sciences, and will be moving to Visalia, CA in July to complete her training as a General Surgeon.



• **Melissa (Sandahl) Everett** (above), OLHS, joined and graduated from Teach for America Southwest Ohio, and still teaches first grade at the school where she was placed.

CLASS OF 2013

• **Tim Hawk**, OOHS, is working at Amazon in Columbus and coaches tennis at Reynoldsburg High School.

CLASS OF 2015

• **Angel Merrick**, OOHS, works as an esthetician.

• **Keanan Fomich**, OHS, is a Construction Manager for M/I Homes.

CLASS OF 2016

• **Victoria Anderson**, OOHS, is the Drama Director at Orange Middle School.

• **Hannah Inbody**, OHS, teaches American History at Whetstone High School in Columbus City Schools.

CLASS OF 2017

• **Kristen Koehrsen**, OOHS, is graduating from Ohio University

in May of 2021, has made the Dean's List for five semesters, and served as Fundraising Chair for the Ohio University Child Life Student Organization. She will begin Ohio University's Masters of Child and Family Studies program this upcoming summer, and participate in a Practicum at Akron Children's Hospital.

• **Emily Jones**, OOHS is graduating from Miami University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a minor in Spanish this May. She is a co-author on an international conference poster, and is working on two articles to be submitted for publication in peer reviewed journals.

CLASS OF 2018

• **Dylan McWilliams**, OOHS, is in his third year of pharmacy school at Ohio Northern University and involved in 10+ different organizations, ranging from new student orientation and Residence Life, to professional organizations such as the American Pharmacists Association and Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. He currently works as a Pharmacy intern for Meijer.

CLASS OF 2020

• **Max Goldring**, OLHS, will be working as an intern for the OHSAA.

• **Jillian Martz**, OLHS, made Dean's List at Ohio State University, and received her first hospital job as a PCA at the Ohio State University Brain and Spine Hospital.

• **Brianna Cruz**, OBHS, is studying Marketing, German and Management at the University of Cincinnati, and has been a project manager on three separate projects during her first year in the Lindner College of Business.

• **Alexandria Davis**, OOHS, is pursuing a Linguistics degree at The Ohio State University.

• **Eryn Temby**, OLHS, is on the medical staff at a cat shelter while studying at Columbus State Community College.

• **Monica Stanford**, OHS, is attending Ashland University.

• **Nitish Dashora**, OLHS, is a NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Intern, an Undergraduate Machine Learning Researcher, and Schmidt Futures AI Fellow.



ALUMNI PERSONAL MILESTONES

CLASS OF 1965

• **Marvin Haywood**, OHS, has been married to his wife, Pat Chambers Haywood, for 52 years. He is father to three and grandfather to six.



• **Pat (Chambers) Haywood** (above), OHS, has been married to her husband, Marvin Haywood, for 52 years. She is mother to three, and grandmother of six. Pat is active in church service, singing in the choir, Sunday School teacher, volunteering as a teacher's aide at a Christian school, and has served on the election board for 20+ years.

CLASS OF 1967

• **Sandy (Thibaut) Thompson**, OHS, is the mother to two daughters, grandmother to four and great-grandma to one, and has lived in 5 different countries and traveled to many more.



CLASS OF 1970

• **Laura (May) Hardie** (above), OHS, has raised two children, volunteers for Dog Rescue and helps plan the class reunions.

CLASS OF 2000

• **Benjamin Hamm**, OHS, has three children, with the youngest graduating from high school next year, and just bought his first home.

CLASS OF 2003

• **Bethany (Dewese) Bratten**, OHS,



is mom to a Hyatts Middle School sixth grader (above).

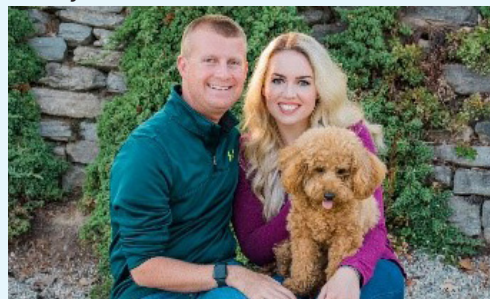
CLASS OF 2005

• **Erin Everitt**, OHS, resides in Northern Arizona and is busy raising two boys ages 4 and 6.

CLASS OF 2010

• **Andrea (Karl) Byrum**, OLHS, was married in 2016 and is the winner of several marathons and road races.

• **Courtney (Wilke) Shafer** (below), OLHS, married another OLHS 2010 grad, Aaron Shafer, in May of 2019. They now reside in Beaver Creek, Ohio with their miniature goldendoodle, Finley.



CLASS OF 2012

• **Melissa (Sandahl) Everett**, OLHS, was married in February 2021, amidst the pandemic.

CLASS OF 2016

• **Victoria Anderson**, OOHS, was a touring soloist for BGSU's top choir.

CLASS OF 2020

• **Maddie Flanagan**, OLHS, is currently studying abroad in Costa Rica and has learned Spanish while experiencing a new culture.

• **Kate Bambeck**, OLHS, pledged to the Delta Zeta sorority and was Deans List her first semester at college.

• **Ariyana Suchora**, OLHS, joined Pi Beta Phi while studying at Ohio University.

OEF CONNECTS OLENTANGY ALUMNI, SUPPORTS DISTRICT PROGRAMS

The Olentangy Education Foundation (OEF) was started in 1990 as a non-profit, independent foundation. OEF's initiatives are focused on providing teacher, staff and classroom grants for innovative programs and learning opportunities for which tax dollars are not available. We achieve our mission primarily through annual fundraising events (ZOOlentangy and OEF Golf Outing) and through donations, sponsorships and planned giving.

OEF looks forward to guiding the establishment of the Olentangy Alumni Association to enable past Olentangy graduates



to stay connected and engaged with the Olentangy community. Whether you graduated from Olentangy High School, Olentangy Liberty High School, Olentangy Orange High School or Olentangy Berlin High School - you are forever a part of #OneOlentangy.

For more information about OEF, please visit our website at www.olentangy-educationfoundation.org.

RAIFF FROM PAGE 1

both with one another and back to your alma mater. Through our alumni association and this quarterly newsletter, the district aims to keep you informed with the exciting and new initiatives taking place across Olentangy Schools, celebrate the incredible

accomplishments of our distinguished alum, and provide you with a professional and personal resource.

We look forward to exploring more ways to highlight the talents of our great Olentangy alum in our mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student, and connect you with each other and your hometown community.

SPOTLIGHT FROM PAGE 1

in shows, I was always asked to do things I never thought I was capable of, but ended up doing them! I want clients to realize they are capable of more than they believe. There is Dance Cardio, Cardio Tone (Dance, HIIT, Tone), and Trampoline

— we would love you to come join!

It seems that you are flourishing in this new format. Will you go back to Broadway?

I have learned there are no guarantees in show businesses. I will go back to Broadway if it works out but, I've always done Broadway and fitness so I know how to balance both.

