

# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Educational partnerships foster excellence and quality. In the Olathe Public Schools, partnerships may be implemented in many ways. Some partnerships are short term; some are long-term on-going relationships.

To further the Olathe Public School’s mission, the Board of Education approves and encourages the school, business and community partnerships. Partnerships foster a spirit of involvement and mutual respect between educators and business and community representatives for the ultimate benefit of students. Such cooperative endeavors promote the spirit of involvement and make our school system stronger. Working together promotes quality.

## Partnerships are:

- Voluntary alliances which are mutually beneficial to all parties involved.
- Consistent with the mission, and beliefs of the Olathe Public Schools.
- Responsive to educational needs.
- Supportive of the Board-adopted curriculum.
- Reflective of educationally balanced and unbiased views.

School, business and community partners voluntarily share services, resources, knowledge, personnel and/or financial support with schools. These partnerships enhance learning. Schools benefit from increased human and/or material resources, services, and activities.

## Ingredients for Effective Partnerships:

- Effective partnerships result from a commitment by each partner to complete mutually beneficial projects and develop a mutually respectful relationship.
- Investment in Olathe students generates a high rate of employability skills for future leaders.

## What does it take to have a positive, fully functioning, sustainable partnership?

- Win-win philosophy
- Trust and honesty
- Appreciation
- Written description of roles and responsibilities
- Point person identified to manage partnerships
- Time to understand each other’s culture and procedures
- Clearly defined goals (whether short or long term) and expected outcomes
- Open, two-way communication
- Full participation on both sides
- Recognition
- Mutual respect

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# HOW TO CONNECT



If you are interested in a partnership opportunity, please contact:

**Community Development  
913-780-8233**

Please visit our district website to learn more about the Olathe Partners In Education opportunities:

**[www.olatheschools.org](http://www.olatheschools.org), Community tab**

The Olathe Public Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Access Act of 1984 and other relevant state and federal laws as amended. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to race, ethnicity, gender, age discrimination, sexual orientation, gender identity or equal access may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Executive Director of Special Services, 14160 S. Black Bob Rd. Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Assistant Superintendent, Operations. (05/22)



# PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Adopt-a-School



The Olathe Adopt-A-School partnership allows for developing a relationship between an outside organization and a particular school. Partnership examples include mentoring, student learning enrichment opportunities, weekend back snack programs, building landscaping improvements, community service learning and much more. The goal is to pair each site with a business, faith, civic and parent group partner. Routine partnerships help fulfill the Olathe Public Schools' mission to "Their Future is Our Future."

For information about school partnerships, please contact Community Development at 913-780-8182.



## Volunteers Serving Schools



This program serves as a connection to provide mentors or classroom support for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Youth Mentors provide social, emotional, educational or career mentoring support. Mentors encourage students to become the best they can be as they prepare for their future. Mentoring occurs during the school day on school grounds.

Classroom helpers support district staff and students in a variety of ways. They provide support to teachers in the classroom by helping with bulletin boards or other projects. Volunteers also assist students with reading, writing, phonics, math, science, and art.

There are also opportunities for volunteers to help with district special projects, script pals, and after school enrichment programs.

For information or an application, please contact the Volunteers Serving Schools office at 913.780.8237.



## Watch D.O.G.S.



The Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program is mainly for dads within a school but several sites need additional support for promoting positive male figures in the school setting. Volunteer duties include helping in the lunch room, dismissal support and small group helpers. Contact your local school for details.



## Olathe Transition Supports Program



The Olathe Transition Supports Program (OTSP) provides opportunities for students to acquire skills that support a successful transition after high school through work-based learning experiences. OTSP partners with local businesses to provide real-world vocational training for students with developmental disabilities. With the support of a job coach, students complete various tasks at the community business. For additional information, please contact OTSP at 780-7065.

## Career Pathways



Community partners can also provide Work-Based Learning Experiences that provide students with real-world workplace preparation. Career Pathways include students that are part of the 21st Century Academics, Career and Technical Education Pathways and/or Olathe Advanced Technical Center programs. For additional information, please contact the Career Pathways department at (913) 780-8042.