Executive Summary

In Olathe, students continue to score above the nation and state on all standardized assessments given (ACT and SAT). State assessment results in reading, writing and mathematics continue to be above the state average as well.

Awards and Recognitions (2020-21)

Accomplishments

Olathe Public Schools are known for innovative programs, excellence in teaching, technology rich classrooms and well maintained buildings and grounds. With a strong reputation for educational excellence, community and parent support.

- The Olathe Public Schools had 15 students named National Merit Semifinalists. All 15 of the semifinalists advanced to become finalists.
- Three Olathe students received a Thespy Award from the International Thespian Society as part of the International Thespian Festival.
- Seven Olathe students received various recognitions at the Blue Star Awards by Starlight Theatre.
- The Olathe School District recommended 22 students to receive the Seal of Biliteracy based on their academic achievement in English and a foreign language.
- Malakhi Hill, Olathe North High School, was named the 2021 Olathe Unity Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s National Youth of the Year program.
- The Olathe East High School Thespian Troupe received the Gold Honor Troupe award at the Kansas Thespian Festival.
- Olathe North High School students Isobel Li and Menaka Garapaty won the open division of the Sunflower Novice Debate Championship.
- The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) recognized Olathe Northwest students Carlie Scheer and Alana Schmaltzried-Lugo for their accomplishments and aspirations in computing and technology.
- Garrett Li, a seventh-grade student from California Trail Middle School, won the Olathe Spelling Bee in 10 rounds and represented the district at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- Out of 93 finalists in the 2021 Shooting Star Awards, presented by the Arts Council of Johnson County, 28 were students in the Olathe School District.
- Students in Olathe Northwest’s Engineering Academy earned the REACH Challenge Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.
- The Kansas State Department of Education named seven Olathe high school students as 2021 Kansas Career and Technical Education (CTE) Scholars.
- Four Olathe Public Schools seniors earned top prize in the 70th Greater Kansas City (virtual) Science and Engineering Fair.
- Olathe North High School’s Arjun Garapaty was the national winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen award and scholarship contest.
- Olathe North High School’s Khushi Kohli was named a 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholar.
- The following students received perfect ACT scores: Nathan Zhang, Olathe East; Akerth Jain, Olathe North; Jenna Lindsey, Olathe Northwest; Liam Moore, Olathe Northwest; Connor Schroeder, Olathe Northwest; Caleb Cooper, Olathe Northwest; and Emily Yan, Olathe West.

- The Olathe North High School theatre program received the Outstanding Overall Production award for “Bright Star” at the Blue Star Awards by Starlight Theatre.
- All five Olathe high schools were named to the U.S. News and World Report’s 2021 Best High Schools Rankings.
- Olathe South High School was recognized as a Gold Standard School for Financial Literacy Education by Next Gen Personal Finance.
- The Santa Fe Trail Middle School 2019-20 school yearbook was named a Gold Medalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- Meadow Lane Elementary was selected to receive the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Model School Gold Award.
- The Olathe Public Schools attained the highest level of achievement in providing services to children and youth with disabilities.
- Brougham Elementary was named a Leader in Me Lighthouse School by Franklin Covey Co.
- Jenny Whitney, Olathe Parents as Teachers parent educator, was selected as one of two recipients of the Parent Educator of the Year award.
- Kody Willmayer, music teacher at Regency Place Elementary, was named the 2020-21 East Central Kansas Music Educators Association (ECKMEA) Elementary Music Educator of the Year.
- Nicole Chapple, band teacher at Oregon Trail Middle School, was named the 2020-21 ECKMEA Middle Level Band Director of the Year.
- Gretchen Harrison, choir teacher at Frontier Trail Middle School, was named the 2020-21 ECKMEA Middle Level Choir Director of the Year.
- Elise Peterson, choir director at Olathe South High School, was named the 2020-21 ECKMEA High School Choir Director of the Year.
- Olathe East High School Theatre Director Eddie Shafer was named winner of the Heart of the Arts award from the Kansas State High School Activities Association.
- Amy Hillman, teacher at Santa Fe Trail Middle School, was named a winner of the 2021 Randy Dix Junior High Science Teacher Award.
- Elise Peterson, choir director at Olathe South High School, was named the 2020-21 KMEA Teacher of the Year.
- Santa Fe Trail Middle School Principal J.J. Libal was named the 2020 Kansas School Counselor Association Principal Advocate of the Year.

Results such as these do not just occur. It takes the dedicated leadership of administration and staff, as well as the efforts of students and parents. The community and Board of Education support the concept of continuous improvement, high standards and accountability.
XIV. Performance Measures

Kansas State Assessment

The Kansas State Department of Education provides students the opportunities to measure their learning in grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 in English Language Arts and Mathematics and in grades 5, 8 and 11 in Science. Olathe students regularly score well above the state averages in every subject area and at every tested grade level. Schools and the district use these summative results to improve programs for its students.

- Olathe West High School soccer coach Matt Trumpp was selected as the 2019-20 Midwest Section Boys Soccer Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- Olathe West High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Pat Butler was named the 2021 Kansas Athletic Director of the Year by the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.
- Olathe West High School senior Alex Birge was named the Kansas winner of the Heisman High School Athletic Scholarship.
- The Olathe West High School girls cross country team earned the Kansas 6A state title.
- Olathe North High School freshman Anjali Hocker Singh won the Kansas 6A individual cross country state title.
- The Olathe Northwest High School Raven Dance Team won the inaugural Kansas 6A state title for Division III dance.
- Charlie Matthews, Olathe East High School, earned the 6A state diving championship.
- Micah Leslie, Olathe East High School, earned the 6A state championship in the 100M Butterfly.
- Keaton Kristoff, Olathe East High School, earned the 6A state championship in the 500M Freestyle.
- The Olathe East 200M Freestyle Relay team earned the 6A state title. Team members include Keaton Kristoff, Luke Hagan, Zach Davidson and Micah Leslie.
- Nicole Redmond, Olathe South High School, earned the 6A girls wrestling state title in her weight class.
- Makayla Rivera, Olathe West High School, earned the 6A girls wrestling state title in her weight class.
- Blake Jourret, Olathe South High School, earned the 6A boys wrestling state title in his weight class.