

School NEWS



OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD 233

FALL 2018



DISTRICT'S 10TH MIDDLE SCHOOL, SUMMIT TRAIL, OPENS TO STUDENTS

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**DISTRICT UPDATES GRADUATION
DATES AND TIMES**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO
CANYON CREEK ELEMENTARY**

**DISTRICT BEGINS STRATEGIC
PLANNING PROCESS**

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A Message From **SUPERINTENDENT JOHN ALLISON**

It has been both a successful and busy start to the school year. I am always impressed as I walk through the halls of our schools to witness the teaching and learning that happens in our buildings each day. This outstanding start to the year is a tribute to our hardworking staff and dedicated students who work tirelessly each and every day.

Our school year has gotten off to a particularly exciting start as we have opened Summit Trail Middle School, our 10th middle school. Summit Trail is featured in this issue with photos and an interview with the principal. We're proud of the innovation of the building and educational spaces that will provide the Summit Trail Sabercats with a fantastic place to learn. Summit Trail is located near 119th Street and Sunnybrook Boulevard.

Next school year, August 2019, we will open Canyon Creek Elementary, our 36th elementary school in the district. Canyon Creek will help ease high enrollment at Cedar Creek Elementary. Beginning this fall, district staff will be working with the community to put together a boundary proposal for the Board of Education. More information will be coming about this process.

I am also thrilled to begin work with our staff and board on the development of a new strategic plan. This process will involve gathering feedback from our stakeholders as we look to the future and what we want our students to be able to accomplish.

It's an exciting time in the Olathe Public Schools. Thank you for your support.

**John Allison,
Superintendent**

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DISTRICT UPDATES GRADUATION DATES AND TIMES



As 2019 is the first year for the Olathe School District to have five high schools holding a graduation ceremony, district leadership is altering the graduation schedule to better serve families and guests. All 2019 graduation ceremonies will take place at College Boulevard Activity Center (CBAC) – located at 11031 S. Valley Road. Olathe Northwest High School, directly across Lone Elm Road from CBAC, will serve as the indoor facility for all graduations in the event of inclement weather. The graduation schedule will be:

- **Olathe West High School:** Friday, May 17, 2019, at 7 p.m.
- **Olathe North High School:** Saturday, May 18, at 2 p.m.
- **Olathe South High School:** Saturday, May 18, at 7 p.m.

“The move outdoors allows unlimited seating for our graduation ceremonies. Weather permitting, each family will be able to enjoy graduation outdoors and sit together.”

- Jim McMullen
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

- **Olathe East High School:** Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m.
- **Olathe Northwest High School:** Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m.

Olathe Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Jim McMullen said that this will help with traffic flow and will help better serve attendees.

“As the district has continued to grow, the demand for graduation tickets has increased,” McMullen said. “The move outdoors allows unlimited seating for our graduation ceremonies. Weather permitting, each family will be able to enjoy graduation outdoors and sit together.”

In addition to family convenience, Olathe Public Schools staff and resources will be better utilized when efforts are concentrated at one outdoor facility.



IMAGINE
THAT!

THE ALLY PROJECT

The initial members of The Ally Project (Ally Baier third from right) will begin their work later this fall.

Residents of Kansas City are known as resilient, caring people who look out for one another. Especially in difficult circumstances, the community rallies around each other.

The Future Teachers Academy, located at Olathe East High School, is piloting a program that provides virtual mentors and tutoring to children receiving care at Children's Mercy Hospital. The Ally Project draws inspiration from a student enrolled in the academy.

Ally Baier, freshman at Olathe East, was accepted into the Future Educators Academy when she was an eighth-grader at California Trail Middle School. Baier is currently undergoing treatment for cancer at Children's Mercy Hospital. The Ally Project benefits students like Baier who may be affected by an illness that causes extended periods of school absences.

On Wednesdays over lunch periods, students in the Future Educators Academy will provide virtual assistance to patients at Children's Mercy Hospital via Google Hangout. A total of nine students will be a part of the initial phase of the project, including Baier.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation provided funding to Children's Mercy Hospital to purchase technology and equipment to help bring this project to fruition.

"The Kauffman Foundation funding provides the technology and materials needed for our virtual tutor sessions," hospital-based school teacher Shawna Mazeitis said.

Students who volunteered to be a part of the project attended training and test sessions over the course of the spring and summer so that they would be ready for launch later this fall. In order to be properly trained in hospital protocol, students experienced extensive training from Children's Mercy officials. The training is similar to what hospital volunteers experience.

Three school teachers are on staff at Children's Mercy Hospital. As some patients face extended stays, young learners can continue to receive their school work and stay on course with their class.

"Our patients who participate in this innovative program are identified by our teachers," Mazeitis said. "Our teachers will also assist the Olathe students as they plan tutoring sessions and begin to plan lessons."

These teachers are not only educating patients in the Missouri hospital location, but mentoring Olathe students geared toward becoming educators. When Future Educators Academy students are engaged in online tutoring sessions, hospital teachers will be monitoring the sessions to help further student development.

How will this program look moving forward?

"We are hoping the program will grow and expand so that all Future Educators Academy students will be able to get involved," said Future Educators Academy Facilitator Michelle Staples.

"Shawna and Michelle have been so great about making Ally a part of the planning of this project," said Ally's mom Crysta Baier. "Not just in name only but helping it get started and to thrive."



LOOKING FORWARD TO CANYON CREEK ELEMENTARY



Renderings of the new Canyon Creek Elementary show how the front entrance is designed.



Canyon Creek Elementary rendering from a bird's eye view.

Lenexa will be home to the district's newest elementary school in August 2019. Canyon Creek Elementary, 24001 W 97th Terrace, Lenexa, will be the 36th elementary school in the Olathe School District. Before the spring semester of the 2018-19 school year, district leadership will announce Canyon Creek's first

principal. In spring 2019, the mascot and colors will be chosen and announced.

"There is a lot of excitement building for the opening of Canyon Creek Elementary," Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Tim Reves said. "With the expanded growth in our attendance area, Canyon Creek allows us to better serve our community."

A large group of middle school students are walking through a modern school hallway. They are wearing backpacks and casual clothing. The hallway has a light-colored floor and walls with vertical slats.

DISTRICT'S 10TH MIDDLE SCHOOL, SUMMIT TRAIL, OPENS TO STUDENTS

Summit Trail Middle School students excitedly walk into school.

The first day of school this year was extra special for a group of students and staff at Summit Trail Middle School as the school opened for the first time. Summit Trail is the district's 10th middle school and it opened near 119th Street and Sunnybrook Boulevard to more than 500 students. Enrollment is expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

"The experience of opening a new school was a unique and exciting opportunity," Principal Sarah Guerrero said. "Our goal has been to make Summit Trail an amazing place built around the core values of family, high expectations and a place where students love to learn."

The opening of Summit Trail relieved enrollment growth in the northwest part of the district, specifically at Mission Trail and Prairie Trail middle schools.

"We are grateful to the Board of Education and superintendents who knew that Mission Trail and Prairie Trail would need relief," Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Jim McMullen said. "We are excited about the leadership here and the quality staff. Add to that the great students and parents and you have a magical place for learning."

Summit Trail offers a variety of exciting features, including flexible learning spaces throughout the building, such as learning pods to allow for large and small group instruction, learning stairs in the commons and flexible furniture. Natural light throughout the building helps provide outstanding places for learning.





Summit Trail Middle School gymnasium.



Flexible furniture is a feature of Summit Trail's library.



Summit Trail is led by (from left) Assistant Principal Nate Kremer, Principal Sarah Guerrero, and Assistant Principal Keri Snyder.

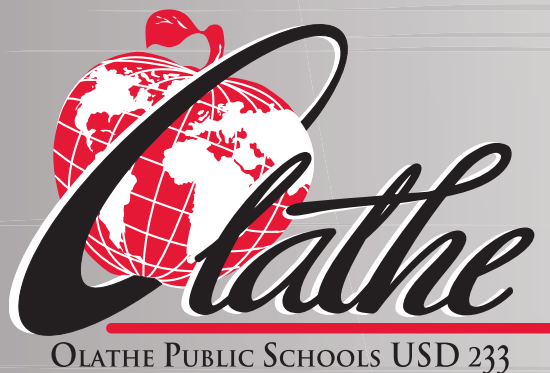


Flexible pod spaces allow for innovative learning opportunities for teachers and students.



Learning stairs are adjacent to the commons.

DISTRICT BEGINS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD 233

As the district looks to develop a strategic plan to guide its direction and focus in the coming years, staff and board members plan to begin with the end in mind. An important focus of the Olathe Public Schools Strategic Plan will be the development of a Portrait of an Olathe Public Schools Graduate. What do we want our students to know and be able to do? Decisions around the Portrait of a Graduate will guide strategic planning for the entire district.

“Understanding what we want our end result to be – what we want for our graduates – will help us understand the direction of our educational programs and focus,” Superintendent John Allison said. “Bringing together all of our district and community stakeholders to provide input into this important process will be vital.”



August 2018

Engage Stakeholders

- Form Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Committee composed of broad and diverse stakeholders
- Create Communications Plan and Branding Campaign



Late September 2018

Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Meeting #1

- Identify District goals for Olathe graduates
- Research 21st Century Competencies
- Create Draft Competencies
- Create survey to elicit feedback

District staff will create an advisory committee to assist with the development of a Portrait of a Graduate. This group will meet throughout the fall to provide input, with the development of the plan throughout the winter. It is the goal of district staff to finalize the plan in late spring and have Board of Education approval in summer in order to start implementation during the 2019-20 school year.

Once developed, the strategic plan will be utilized to set priorities, focus energy and resources, and strengthen operations. The plan will become an established agreement around intended outcomes and will help district staff assess and adjust the direction in response to a changing environment and meeting the needs of 21st century learners.

“This is an exciting process as we work to create a plan that helps us prepare students for their future,” Allison said.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROPOSED TIMELINE



October 2018

Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Meeting #2

- Distribute and analyze survey results
- Finalize Portrait of a Graduate Competencies
- Finalize plans for Board of Education approval



January-February 2019

Strategic Planning Overarching Goals

- BOE Members each select two committee members and identified district leaders
- Set Priorities based on Portrait of a Graduate
- Define what must be achieved and long-term strategic objectives



March-April 2019

Define Subgoals & Measurement Tools

- Create subgoals from overarching goals
- Set Organization-Wide goals and measures
- Select key performance indicators to track progress



May-July 2019

Finalize Strategic Plan for Approval

- Distribute draft to stakeholders for feedback
- Finalize Strategic Plan
- Submit plan to Board of Education for final approval

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