



# SCHOOL REPORT

Olmsted Falls School District

[www.ofcs.net](http://www.ofcs.net)

Fall 2010

## STATE-FUNDED \$7.7 MILLION MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT OPENS ON-TIME AND ON-BUDGET FOR START OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR



Thanks to the \$7.7 million in State funding secured by the Olmsted Falls School District through the Ohio School Facilities Commission's Exceptional Needs Program, Olmsted Falls Middle School opened its doors this year with 17 new classrooms, an additional choir room, two additional band storage areas, an expanded wellness/fitness room and expanded locker room areas.

All of the new expansion to the Middle School was completed on-time and on-budget – and **without the need for additional, local tax dollars.**

*Pictured at left: Students settle into one of 17 new classrooms at Olmsted Falls Middle School thanks to \$7.7 million in State funding.*

*More photos of the new building expansion inside....*

## OLMSTED FALLS EARNS TOP RATING FOR ELEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR



For the 11th consecutive year, Olmsted Falls School District has been awarded the top rating on the Local Report Card issued by the Ohio Department of Education. This year, the District again earned the highest rating of ***Excellent with Distinction.***

“We have been fortunate in the Olmsted community to

be surrounded by residents who value the high quality educational program that has been built here,” said Superintendent Dr. Todd F. Hoadley. “It is our hard working students, dedicated staff, and supportive parents and community residents who make this consistent excellence possible.”

Olmsted Falls School District is **one of only seven districts in Cuyahoga County to earn the highest rating on the Local Report Card this year.**

## OFHS SCIENCE TEACHERS AWARDED \$3,000 TECHNOLOGY GRANT



Congratulations to Olmsted Falls High School science teachers Mrs. Lisa Whitney and Mr. Andrew Hoslar on being awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

*Details inside....*

## OFHS SCIENCE TEACHERS AWARDED \$3,000 TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Kudos to Mrs. Whitney and Mr. Hoslar for their initiative and success in bringing new funds into the District to support student learning. These two teachers identified and applied for new grant funds, on their own, to enhance their classroom instruction through a more extensive integration of technology. These funds will allow for the purchase of additional laptop computers to be dedicated to mastery learning and formative assessment strategies within their high school science classrooms. The more integrated use of technology within select science courses will allow for a high level of feedback for students as well as exposure to the use of technology across a variety of activities within each unit.

## STATE-FUNDED \$7.7M EXPANSION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPLETE



*Staff and students toured the new extended wing on the east end of Olmsted Falls Middle School, which includes 17 new classrooms, on the first day of school in August.*



*Middle School students admired the new music room facility which was added during the expansion project.*

## DISTRICT BLOG UPDATED WEEKLY

<http://ofalls.wordpress.com>

All District residents are invited and encouraged to visit the official Olmsted Falls School District blog featuring the latest District news and event information.

The “**Ofalls Blog**” was launched last year in an effort to increase the District’s ability to communicate with our community more frequently and in a real-time basis. Following positive feedback, the District’s blog is now updated each week (on Wednesdays). In addition to news and event information, **the District blog also features an interactive comments section where parents and residents can post questions and receive responses directly from District administrators.**

While Bulldog parents receive weekly notifications via e-mail when new information has been posted, **the District’s blog can be accessed by anyone at anytime by visiting: <http://ofalls.wordpress.com>.**

**Please note that the blog service being utilized by Olmsted Falls School District - “WordPress” - is a free service and does not require any expenditure of District funds.** We hope the Olmsted community will find this blog a beneficial tool for staying informed about our school community.

## DID YOU KNOW?

To save on printing and postage expenses, this year’s “Back-To-School” issue of the District’s *School Report* (August 2010) - which contained information and logistics for students and parents relating to the 2010-2011 school year - was mailed only to households with children attending Olmsted Falls Schools.

## ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

In an effort to comply with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Ohio Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the Asbestos Abatement Contractors Licensing Act, and the Ohio Public Employment Risk Reduction Act (PERRA), the Olmsted Falls School District recognizes the responsibility to maintain a program of periodic surveillance and inspection of facilities containing asbestos. To that end, Olmsted Falls Board of Education provides a “Notification of Progress of Asbestos Related Activities” report for review in all District buildings.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS APPROVE NEW FIVE-YEAR FORECAST AS STRATEGIC EVALUATION OF DISTRICT'S FUTURE NEEDS GETS UNDERWAY

The Ohio Department of Education requires by law all school districts across the State to submit current 5-year forecasts of district finances twice each year - in October and May. Current projections indicate that District officials should be able to stretch revenues from the recently passed 8.7 mill levy for the three years promised during the operating levy campaign last February. This new levy will begin generating revenue for the District beginning in January 2011. However, uncertainty regarding the upcoming State budget (with currently more than an \$8 billion deficit to be covered), the status of the All Day Kindergarten mandate, growing foreclosure and delinquency rates, and a still struggling economy, will continue to keep the financial security of our District in an extremely fragile position. The latest 5-year forecast for Olmsted Falls Schools, approved by the Board of Education on October 20, 2010, can be accessed and reviewed on either the District website ([www.ofcs.net](http://www.ofcs.net)) or the Ohio Department of Education website ([www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)).



The Olmsted Falls Board of Education has also embarked on a series of discussions, during regular meetings as well as special work sessions, to take a strategic look at where the District is on a number of different levels (i.e., educational programming, financial stability, facilities). The Board's strategic planning process ultimately seeks to establish a clearer picture of where the District would like to be in one year, three years, five years and ten years. With the completion of the new construction, and the passage of the operating levy, it could be tempting to sit back for a year and just recover from the flurry of activity. The Olmsted Falls Board of Education is being commended for taking a proactive approach to the District's future. As part of this process, the Board will be seeking input from staff, parents and community members. An on-line survey of parents was completed in October with more than 600 participants.

## SUPERINTENDENT AND TREASURER VOLUNTARILY INCREASE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH PREMIUMS

The Olmsted Falls Board of Education approved a new contract in July for current superintendent, Dr. Todd Hoadley. The new five-year contract (effective August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2015) includes a voluntary two-year wage freeze as well as a voluntary increase in the superintendent's personal contribution for health insurance.

The voluntary two-year salary freeze is a continuation of the administrative salary freeze put into place by the superintendent last year, and therefore maintains his salary at the level approved prior to the 2008-2009 school year. Additionally, the superintendent also increased his personal responsibility for the health insurance premium to 15% – an increase of 5% over the existing 10% employee contribution share in place for the Olmsted Falls School District.

The Board of Education also approved a request by District Treasurer Mark Hullman to increase his personal contribution to his health insurance premium from 10% to 15%. In addition, Mr. Hullman's salary remained the same as in the previous year.

Board President Frank Pedicini expressed appreciation to both administrators for their demonstrated leadership in helping the District reduce cost increases. "Health insurance in particular is an ever-increasing part of a school district's budget," said Mr. Pedicini. "Unfortunately, new federal health insurance programs will only further increase our health benefit costs. We are very pleased to see Dr. Hoadley and Mr. Hullman taking the initiative to increase their portion of responsibility in terms of insurance premiums, thereby lessening the burden on the District by decreasing costs."

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Olmsted Falls School District generates revenue through a bus maintenance partnership with Fairview Park City Schools.**

*(See Details Below)*

The Olmsted Falls School District entered into a contract to provide bus maintenance services to Fairview Park City Schools. This new partnership began last spring, generating a new revenue stream for our District while providing a much-needed service for nearby Fairview Park. This is not the first time Olmsted Falls School District's Transportation Department has entered into a regional agreement of this type. The District also provides maintenance and fuel services for Lakewood City Schools, as well as the City of Olmsted Falls.



## HOMECOMING 2010 EVENTS IN OCTOBER HIGHLIGHT BULLDOG SPIRIT

Homecoming weekend and the days leading up to it were packed with events for Bulldogs past, present and future.

More than 100 guests attended the Annual Golden Grads Reunion Lunch on Wednesday, September 29th for Bulldog alumni from the Classes of 1934 to 1968. Many traveled from out-of-town to attend and stayed through the weekend for a variety of reunion and Homecoming festivities.

On Friday, October 1st, the Bulldog football team brought fans a Homecoming victory with a 24-14 win over Brecksville-Broadview Heights. Go Bulldogs! A capacity crowd of current OFHS students attended the annual Homecoming Dance held Saturday night at the High School. Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Queen Jen Beck and Homecoming King Eddie Looby.

A special thank you to the Olmsted Falls Kiwanis Club for hosting a free pancake breakfast for the community on Sunday, October 3rd. This community event has fast become a Homecoming weekend tradition in the community.

Donations collected at pancake breakfast event benefit the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund for upcoming graduates from the OFHS Class of 2011.



*Bulldog Alumni enjoy annual Golden Grads Luncheon*



*OFHS Homecoming Queen & King, Jen Beck and Eddie Looby, at the 2010 Homecoming football game on October 1st.*

## “VEGGIE U” PROGRAM RETURNS FOR 4TH GRADE STUDENTS THANKS TO OLMSTED FALLS GARDEN CLUB



*Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Gina Pilko works with students as they taste test a variety of specialized vegetables provided by the Culinary Institute.*

Thanks to the generous support of the Olmsted Falls Garden Club, fourth graders at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School are participating in a unique program called “Veggie U” for the second consecutive year. “Veggie U” is taught as part of the 4th grade science unit on plants. Created by the Culinary Vegetable Institute in Huron, OH, the “Veggie U” program focuses on sustainable agriculture and how food is grown (i.e. importance of soil, composting, worm farms). Hands-on elements, such as taste testing and growing their own lettuce under special “grow lights,” are popular with students. The students recently got to taste test a variety of unique vegetables – including purple carrots and orange cauliflower – grown by the Chef’s Garden at the Culinary Institute for chefs all around the country.

Proceeds from the Olmsted Falls Garden Club’s annual plant sale were used to purchase all of the educational materials, related supplies and equipment for the implementation of the “Veggie U” program at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School. Many thanks to the Olmsted Falls Garden Club for its support of this innovative learning opportunity!

## HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH RECORDS 300TH VICTORY

Dawn Moses, head volleyball coach at Olmsted Falls High School, recorded her 300th victory this Fall as the team defeated Berea High School in October.

Mrs. Moses is in her 15th year as head volleyball coach and to go along with her 300 victories, she has won or shared the Southwestern Conference six times, was a seven time district champion, has two state final four appearances, as well as her most notable accomplishment – the 2008 Division I State Championship.

Over the course of her tenure at Olmsted Falls High School, she has had the pleasure of coaching fourteen All-Ohio girls and has been selected by her peers as the Southwestern Conference Coach of the Year three times, and Cuyahoga County Coach of the Year six times.

Congratulations to Coach Moses!



## OLMSTED FALLS STAFF MEMBERS HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Each year, Olmsted Falls School District recognizes employees for their years of service to the District. Congratulations to our veteran Bulldogs recognized for twenty-five years or more of service!



### 25 BULLDOG YEARS

L to R: Mrs. Mary Mariotti (Falls-Lenox), Ms. Chris Warren (High School), Mr. Bill McGrain (High School), Mrs. Cindy Bennett (Middle School) and Mrs. Nancy Gulden (Middle School).



### 30 BULLDOG YEARS

L to R: High School Choral Music Teacher Mrs. Judy Crandall and Director of Business Affairs Mr. Tim Atkinson.



### 35 BULLDOG YEARS

Mrs. Roberta Thompson (Middle School)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Olmsted Falls School District is the largest employer in the community.
- More than 43% of Olmsted Falls School District staff members live in the community.

## OFHS SENIOR BUILDS NEW SHED FOR BULLDOG FOOTBALL GEAR WITH HELP FROM COMMUNITY



The Olmsted Falls High School football team has expanded storage space for their practice gear thanks to Bulldog senior, and member of the varsity football team, Ben Coyle.

In addition to refurbishing the existing shed (pictured on the left), Coyle built a brand new shed (pictured on the right) which was quickly put to good use.

Coyle built the shed as his Eagle Scout Project and was able to complete the job thanks to the generous donations of local community businesses and the Olmsted Falls Athletic Boosters.

## SIXTH GRADE CHOIRS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY PROJECT

Sixth grade students at Olmsted Falls Middle School joined students across the country to celebrate National Anthem Day on September 14th.

On this day, Francis Scott Key penned “The Star-Spangled Banner” after witnessing American forces defend Fort McHenry from British troops.

The day serves as an excellent opportunity to educate students about the national anthem and to demonstrate to the community the important role music teachers play in passing on our cultural heritage.

The 6th grade choir classes assembled outside around the flag pole to sing the national anthem. Students throughout the nation participated in this special event celebrating this important day in American history.



## OFHS SCIENCE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE WORKSHOP AT BALDWIN-WALLACE COLLEGE



*BW:CSI Academy participants (pictured from left to right) OFHS Chemistry Teacher Mrs. Lisa Whitney, OFHS juniors Hannah Whitney, Sam Kuehn and Chelsea Horvath, and BW:CSI Director (and retired OFHS science teacher) Mr. Jim Emigh.*

Three Olmsted Falls High School students, along with their science teacher Mrs. Lisa Whitney, were among 52 area high school students and science teachers attending the B-W: CSI Academy, a day-long mock crime scene investigation utilizing forensic science technology and collection techniques.

This educational event took place on the campus of Baldwin-Wallace College on October 22nd. The high school teams were accompanied by B-W criminal justice and forensic science students, who worked as peer mentors, lab assistants, actors and crew.

Law enforcement officers from the City of Hubbard Police Department led participating students from 25 schools through mock crime scenes staged on campus. Students collected evidence and then processed it in labs under the direction of B-W physics, chemistry and criminal justice professors.

Funded primarily through Ohio Board of Regents' STEM initiatives, B-W: CSI Day is among several educational programs offered by Baldwin-Wallace College to high school students. Its goal is to educate high school students about careers in science, including the teaching profession.

## SUPERINTENDENT RECEIVES EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) awarded Olmsted Falls School District Superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley with the Exemplary Leadership Award at the organization's Fall conference in Columbus in October.

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding leadership which has resulted in the enhancement and improvement of educational opportunities for elementary and secondary students of Ohio.

Congratulations to Dr. Hoadley!



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME WELCOMES NEWEST INDUCTEES



Guests gathered at the German American Cultural Center on October 28th for the OFHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner. Six new inductees were formally welcomed into the OFHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Pictured from left to right are 2010 inductees: Vitamix Executive Chairman/CEO Mr. John Barnard (Class of '58); U.S. Navy Commander Michelle Reyes Hillmeyer (Class of '87); artist and teacher Mrs. Bonnie Bechtel Shoff (Class of '61); author and producer Mr. Lee Sheldon (Class of '68); psychologist and professor Dr. Joshua Hemmerich (Class of '93); and teacher Mrs. Anne Schmeing Matolyak (Class of '81).

Congratulations to each of this year's inductees!

## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL RECEIVES 2010 SOAR AWARD FOR HIGH PROGRESS

Olmsted Falls Intermediate School has been awarded a 2010 SOAR Award for High Progress by Battelle for Kids, a national non-profit organization focused on maximizing effective practices in schools. This annual award is designed to acknowledge Ohio schools participating in SOAR for their high academic progress in multiple grade levels and subjects over the most recent school year (2009-2010). As an award recipient, Olmsted Falls Intermediate School is among approximately the top 2 percent of schools (out of 542 participating SOAR schools) making exceptional growth with students.

SOAR is a statewide pilot project led by Battelle for Kids that provides value-added analysis and professional development to Ohio school districts. SOAR's purpose was to introduce value-added analysis to participating districts and demonstrate how progress information can be used as a diagnostic school-improvement tool.



*Front Row: Olmsted Falls Superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley, Director of Student Services Mrs. Merritt Waters, Intermediate School Principal Mr. Don Svec, Director of Business Affairs Mr. Tim Atkinson and Ohio State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mrs. Deb Delisle. Back Row: Battelle for Kids Executive Director Mr. Jim Mahoney, Olmsted Falls Board of Education Vice President Mr. Joseph Bertrand, Olmsted Falls Board of Education President Mr. Frank Pedicini, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jim Lloyd, Olmsted Falls Board of Education Member Mr. Jim Weisbarth and Battelle for Kids Sr. Vice President Mr. Tom Snowberger.*

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# OUR SCHOOL REPORT

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### STUDENTS EXPRESS THANKS TO OLMSTED FALLS KIWANIS CLUB



The District's littlest Bulldogs, along with teachers and administrators at the Early Childhood Center, expressed big thanks by sending this special photograph to the Olmsted Falls Kiwanis Club to recognize their recent donation of \$500 toward the purchase of new playground equipment at the ECC. Additional fundraising efforts are currently underway.

Thank you to the Olmsted Falls Kiwanis Club for its ongoing support of our schools!

### BULLDOG WRESTLERS HELP COMMUNITY WITH LEAF RAKING



Members of the OFHS Wrestling Team participated in their annual pre-season Community Service Project, "Bring a Rake Day," in November. The wrestlers canvassed the neighborhood along Fitch Road raking yards of community members.



The Olmsted Falls City School District hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in the educational programs and activities operated by the district.