



Olympia Summer Newsletter

2016-17 Olympia Highlights

Students and teachers celebrated many successes this school year, below is a sample:

- US News and World Report- Top 100 HS ranking
- OMS Principal awarded ISU Principal of the Year
- OHS teacher receives Teacher of the Year for Illinois Law-Related Education
- 15 Illinois State Scholars
- 3rd Place State Finish for OHS Wrestling Team
- OHS - State appearances Cross Country, Group Interp, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Track, Speech
- OHS - State Medalist in Girls Cross Country
- OHS - Three All-State Cast Members for Drama and Group Interpretation
- OHS - State Winner in FFA Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship State Proficiency
- OHS - State Runner Up in FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- OHS - Five State qualifiers (three medalists) for Individual State Wrestling
- OHS - Sectional Champions – Group Interpretation
- OHS - State Champions – Small School Set Contest Play
- OHS - Numerous District, Sectional, and State FFA awards
- OHS - Boys Basketball Regional Championship
- OHS - Final Four IHSA Student Showdown
- OHS - FFA National Finalist in Reporter Competition
- OHS - Boys and Girls Cross Country teams qualify for State
- OHS - Three earn Judge’s Choice at State Speech Contest
- OHS - Girls Softball Team Finishes Third in State
- OHS - 20 qualify for State Track Meet



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Olympia Board Approves NEW Strategic Plan

Over 50 members of Olympia’s learning community gathered from February 2017 to May 2017 to create a new strategic plan containing **4** overarching goals and **10** sub goals (next page), including **45** detailed **action plans** which reflect our purpose, mission, and values below

We have a clear purpose, a reason for being, as we are driven to:

- ◆ **ENSURE** every **STUDENT** has the **SKILLS** for **SUCCESS** in school, college, career, and life

The Olympia School District is unique in their approach to education, as it is our mission to:

- ◆ **EMPOWER** learners to **RECOGNIZE** and **ACHIEVE** personal **GROWTH** for **SUCCESS**

Olympia will carry out the Strategic Plan with the:

- ◆ Highest levels of **INTEGRITY**, cultivate a positive learning **ENVIRONMENT**, achieve goals through **TEAMWORK** as well as **COMMUNICATION**, and partnership with our **COMMUNITY**.

With a clear purpose, we accomplish our mission by:

- ◆ Promoting **LEARNING** of the heart, head, and hands.
- ◆ Ensuring **GROWTH** in the skills needed for success in college, career, and life.
- ◆ Unwavering **HIGH EXPECTATIONS** of self and others.
- ◆ Accountability for **ACHIEVEMENT** in academics, activities, citizenship, and development.

New Strategic Goals for 2017 and Beyond

Goal 1 - Increase student **ACHIEVEMENT** for student success in college, career, and life.

- ◆ All students will demonstrate achievement in multiple arenas (academic, extra-curricular, personal).
- ◆ All students will have the resources and the exposure to build, develop, and demonstrate key attributes/skills.
- ◆ All students will engage in a collaborative activity outside the classroom that will allow for personal growth.
- ◆ Each OHMS student will select a college-career pathway and develop a plan of study to achieve college-career goals.

Goal 2 - Provide employee **DEVELOPMENT** for student success in college, career, and life.

- ◆ Each teacher will engage in professional development to achieve personal growth leading to successful students.
- ◆ Each support staff member will engage in professional development to achieve personal growth leading to successful students.

Goal 3 - Provide **CONDITIONS** and **RESOURCES** for student success in college, career, and life.

- ◆ Provide conditions where staff create a variety of flexible learning spaces and schedules to maximize student achievement.
- ◆ Be agile in providing resources that foster skills for success.

Goal 4 - **DEVELOP, MARKET, and COMMUNICATE** a culture of **PRIDE** and **SUCCESS** throughout the learning **COMMUNITY**.

- ◆ Increase Olympia School Spirit and develop it into Olympia Community Spirit.
- ◆ Effectively communicate and market the Olympia story.

Congratulations to the 2017 Retirees



2017 Retirees: Trent Keller, Crystal Thompson, Sally Turner, Gerry Thornton, Debbie Aurelius-Muir, and Peggy Messenger, Monty Shaffer (not pictured)

The Olympia District would like to congratulate the retirees for 2016-2017. We want to thank these dedicated individuals for all they have done for the District. They have spent countless hours making sure the students of the District receive the best education possible. We wish them all a very lengthy, happy, and healthy retirement!

Olympia Earns Spot in Top 100

The Olympia CUSD 16 has earned a spot on U.S. News and World Report's Top 100 High Schools in Illinois. Olympia ranked 88th and earned a bronze medal.



2017 Olympia Hall of Fame Inductees

Keri Leach— 2009 graduate, Individual Outstanding Accomplishment at OHS. Keri earned 4 varsity letters in softball as well as additional letters in basketball and swimming. She pitched her team to a State runner-up title in 2008 and a State Championship in 2009.

Steven Cook— 1984 graduate, Distinguished Graduate. Steven graduated valedictorian of his class. After college, he went on to become the head of iTek Corporation, which develops software for local and global non-profits. Steven is also President and founder of Equitas, a non-profit that is building a school in Malawi, Africa.

Stanley Deal— 1982 graduate, Distinguished Graduate. Stanley graduated as a member of the National Honor Society and participated in various activities and clubs. He serves on the Board of Directors for Washington State Opportunity Scholarship and as Vice President and GM for Fairchild Aerospace. He also currently serves as Senior Vice President for Commercial Aviation Services for Boeing.

Thad Hallstein— 1995 graduate, Distinguished Graduate. During his time at Olympia, Thad was involved in various activities and had lead roles in school plays/musicals, was editor of the yearbook, & competed in State speech competitions. He is currently the resident designer and Technical Director of the Theatre of Western Springs.

Brent Orr— 1994 graduate, Distinguished Graduate. Brent was co-valedictorian & a varsity letter winner in multiple sports. He was a member of the NHS as well as several other clubs. Brent attended the University of Illinois and graduate with a MD, PHD in Neuroscience in 1998. Furthermore, he received various honors from the U of I College of Medicine, Carle Foundation Hospital, Johns Hopkins and Mid-west Breast Institute. Brent is currently an Assistant Member of the faculty and Director of Anatomic Pathology at St. Jude.

College, Career, and Life Focus

As we continue to focus on preparing students for college, career, and life, below are some new initiatives which you will be hearing more about in the near future:

Skills-Based Curricula - Employers and Universities want students with skills. For the majority of one’s life after high school, students will be evaluated on how well they perform tasks, not how well they memorize content. At Olympia, students will be taught knowledge; encouraged to experience and own learning; then asked to demonstrate the skills they have learned. Feedback will be provided to students and parents as a Four (Advanced Skill Demonstration), Three (Skill Attainment), Two (Approaching Skill Attainment), or One (Beginning Skill Attainment).

Spartan Skills - Employers and Universities also want students with “self skills” or “soft skills”, which we call Spartan skills. Last year teachers provided feedback to students on their responsibility, respect, perseverance, collaboration, and self-advocacy. This year, teachers will report back on the 5 Spartan skills above, but we will also begin introducing a few new Spartan skills such as empathy, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Every Student Involved - Employers and Universities also want students who have been involved in their school beyond their classroom. When students complete applications for employment and post high school education, they are asked about leadership experience, collaborative teaming experience, executive skills, and special talents/abilities. As a result, our goal is that every OHMS student, starting with this year’s Freshman class, be involved in something outside the classroom.

Every Student has a College/Career Pathway - Employers and Universities want students prepared for their track. As a result, every student coming out of middle school will select a college-career pathway. The pathway will provide recommended school courses which mirror their interest inventories. We will also encourage out of school experiences, such as internships, to expose students to real world applications. Students and parents will be able to plan utilizing Naviance, a one stop shop for all things college and career. Parent and student usernames and passwords will be issued this fall.

Upcoming Back to School Dates

Olympia students will begin the 2017-18 school year on Wednesday, August 16, with bus transportation, breakfast, and lunch available. Below are important dates and information regarding the start of school.

July 1-31 Online registration open for returning students. New students must register on August 2nd. If your family does not have Internet access, please register online at your local library after July 1 or at your school on August 2nd.

August 2 New student walk-in registration for Elementary and Middle School students is from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please call 309-379-5911 ext. 9023 for your new High School student appointment after August 1.

August 14-15 Back to School Night activities and MANDATORY student/parent technology meetings for students entering grades 6th through 9th. (see schedule to right)

August 15 Incoming Freshmen will attend Freshman Flight School beginning at 12:45 p.m. Bus transportation will be provided from bus stop locations only.

August 16 First day of school for students.

Returning students’ families will register online through Skyward Family Access with the same login and password they are currently using. If you do not know your password, please contact Tech Director Scott Powers at 309-379-6011 ext. 1110 or email at scott.powers@olympia.org.

Back to School Night & Technology Meeting Dates

- Aug 14 6th Gr Back to School Night—5:30pm to 6:00pm
- Aug 14 6th Gr Required Student/Parent Tech—6:00pm to 7:00pm
- Aug 15 Elem Gr 1st-5th Back to School Night—4:30pm to 6:00pm
- Aug 15 Kindergarten Open House—6:00pm to 7:00pm
- Aug 15 7th Gr Required Student/Parent Tech—5:30pm to 6:30pm
- Aug 15 7th Gr Back to School Night—6:30pm to 7:30pm
- Aug 15 8th Gr Back to School Night—5:30pm to 6:30pm
- Aug 15 8th Gr Required Student/Parent Tech—6:30pm to 7:30pm
- Aug 15 9th Gr Back to School Night—6:30pm to 7:30pm
- Aug 15 9th Gr Required Student/Parent Tech—7:30pm to 8:30pm
- Aug 15 10th-12th Gr Back to School Night—6:00pm to 7:30pm

Chromebooks for 6th-9th

All students entering grades 6th through 9th this fall will receive a Chromebook for educational use. The Chromebooks will provide students with access to technology and give them the ability to work on projects during the school day, as well as at home in the evening. All students scheduled to receive a Chromebook are **REQUIRED** to attend a student/parent technology meeting in August before the technology is issued.



Re-Defining Ready and Achievement

School districts have been judged for the last thirty years on how well students can regurgitate facts, dates, formulas, and other content which was memorized for a standardized test. If schools spent their class time on memorizing the material to be tested, students would be well prepared for the paper-pencil, multiple choice test, and schools would receive excellent scores. As such, your school would be an excellent school and would be compared on other schools on how well your students performed on the standardized assessment. This is still the way the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) operates, and school districts refuse to let ISBE continue to classify their students "college or career ready" based off a test score. As a result, many school Districts, including Olympia are looking at new measures to whether a student is "college and career ready". Many of these indicators are included in Olympia's New Strategic Plan. These measures include:

- ◆ Proficiency on the Demonstration of College and Career Skills
- ◆ Proficiency on the Demonstration of Self (Spartan) Skills
- ◆ Proficiency in AP Courses, Dual Credit Courses, and AP Exams
- ◆ Proficiency in Courses inside College and Career Pathways
- ◆ Proficiency on College Entrance Exam (ACT, SAT, or other)
- ◆ Attendance Rates
- ◆ Community and Workplace Experience and Credentialing
- ◆ Co-Curricular Participation

OHMS Media Centers to be Re-Furnished

One of the goals that came from the Strategic Planning Process was the need for learning spaces that allow for flexibility. Learning is no longer a "sit and get" proposition. Instead, teachers are challenging students with innovative projects, critical thinking, analysis, and project-based learning. Often times, students need to work, re-search, and collaborate in ways they have not traditionally done in the classroom. Learning spaces that



provide flexibility in seating, meeting, researching, and even building, allows students the opportunity to take their learning to the next level. To accommodate this need, Olympia is re-furnishing its media centers with a variety of seating options, all of which are easily moveable to be set up in a myriad of ways. There will be booths, conference tables, round tables, writeable surfaces, and large computer monitors, so that students can interact in any way necessary. This first phase will allow all teachers and students at OHMS the opportunity to access the flexible learning spaces by having them in the media centers. It is our plan to continue into elementary spaces, and classrooms at all levels over the next several years.

We would like to thank all of our constituents for supporting the District financially and educationally over the years.

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