



# EMPOWERING

FALL 2023

THE OFFICIAL WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



## DEAR RESIDENTS:

As we are at the start of the new school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the importance of each and every one of us in making Worthington Schools the best it can be.

Our school district has a long and rich history, dating back to 1854. Over the years, we have grown and evolved, but one thing has remained constant: our commitment to providing all students with a high-quality education.

Today, we serve nearly 11,000 students in a 20-square-mile area. That's a lot of people, but it's also a lot of potential. Each and every one of us has the power to make a difference in the lives of our students and families.

That's why I'm so excited to introduce the idea of "20 Square Feet." 20 Square Feet is a way of thinking about each person's sphere of ownership and impact. It's the idea that we all have a responsibility to make our corner of the world a better place.

This idea has its roots in the teachings of Tim Kight, a 1971 graduate of Worthington High School and current owner of Focus 3 consulting. Tim, a star hurdler during his time in Worthington, grew up right here on Riverglen Drive and attended Colonial Hills Elementary. His influence has since gone national, and perhaps you've heard about his teachings on the "R" factor, which tells us that an Event plus our Response to that event equals the Outcome ( $E+R=O$ ).

"20 Square Feet" is not just a measurement of space; it's a mindset. It signifies each person's sphere of influence, their area of ownership, and accountability. The magic happens when we take control of our own 20 Square Feet, cultivating it into a space of positivity, learning, and support.

Together, we can make Worthington Schools the best it can be.

Sincerely,

**DR. TRENT BOWERS** • Superintendent

**20** SQUARE  
feet  
**TO IMPACT**  
**20** SQUARE  
miles



**EMPOWERING A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD!**

# REAPPRAISAL AND WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS

Property taxes are calculated based on the underlying value of the property. Since property values change over time, Ohio has a process in place to periodically reappraise every property. Franklin County, like other parts of Ohio, is experiencing historic property value increases based on a vibrant central Ohio economy, population growth, lack of housing stock, and outside investment in the area.

The important thing to know though, is that there is not a one-to-one relationship between property value increases and taxes. That's because Ohio enacted a law in the 1970's, House Bill 920, that protects homeowners from a rise in taxes simply due to an increase in property value. It works by reducing what is called the "effective millage", or tax rate, so that, when multiplied by the higher property value, the owner pays roughly the same amount as they did the year before, all other factors being equal.

The more complicated part is that not all areas and properties are reappraised and impacted the same. It's all about how each property compares to the average increase. If a property is reappraised higher than the average, that owner will pay more taxes whereas a property that reappraised lower than average will experience a tax decrease. The School District receives roughly the same in total. The process is rooted in fairness and protection for all property owners and why it's often called "equalization".

There is a small portion of the tax rate, called "inside mills" that does grow with reappraisal. It's the first 10 mills (Worthington Schools share is 4.5 mills) and represents only about 11% of this past year's total mills in our District.

Lastly, for Worthington Schools specifically, voters approved an incremental levy in 2022, so independent of the reappraisal process, the tax rate itself will go up next year (although because of the reappraisal process it won't be the full 2 mills).

Franklin County Auditor Michael Stinziano has done a tremendous job providing outreach and educational sessions for residents to better understand the property tax reappraisal process, including a calculator to help estimate your future taxes.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions, and contact the auditor's office if you feel your property valuation is inaccurate, as you play an important role in the reappraisal process.



**TJ CUSICK**  
CFO/Treasurer  
tjcusick@wscloud.org  
614-450-6171



**WORTH THE JOURNEY**

## WORTH THE JOURNEY: OUR NEW PODCAST!

This year, Assistant Superintendent Angie Adrean and Human Resources Director Jeff Maddox launched their own podcast!

In the latest episode of Worth The Journey, the two interview Greg Witt. Greg is the longest-serving certified staff member currently in Worthington Schools. He's one of three staff members who have earned rocking chairs because of their service, and he's the second staff member to be featured in our Rocking Chair Heroes series on the Worth The Journey Podcast.

Listen as Angie and Jeff talk to Greg about his years in Worthington Schools and hear him confess a few practical jokes from the past.

**LISTEN NOW**



Checkout the podcast at  
[worthington.k12.oh.us/worththejourney](https://worthington.k12.oh.us/worththejourney)



**TERESA MORRIS**



**GREG WITT**



**TIM GEHRING**

## CELEBRATING SENIOR STAFF

Convocation is the event for all staff members that kicks off the beginning of a new school year. One of the traditions of convocation is celebrating our most-seasoned staff members. Teresa Morris is our most seasoned classified employee. She has been driving a school bus for Worthington Schools since February of 1982. Tim Gehring is our longest serving administrator. He is the director of Facilities Management and has been since 1985. And, finally our senior teacher is Greg Witt. Greg has been teaching in Worthington since 1984.

The commitment of these three make Worthington a better place for our students! Thank you Teresa, Tim and Greg.

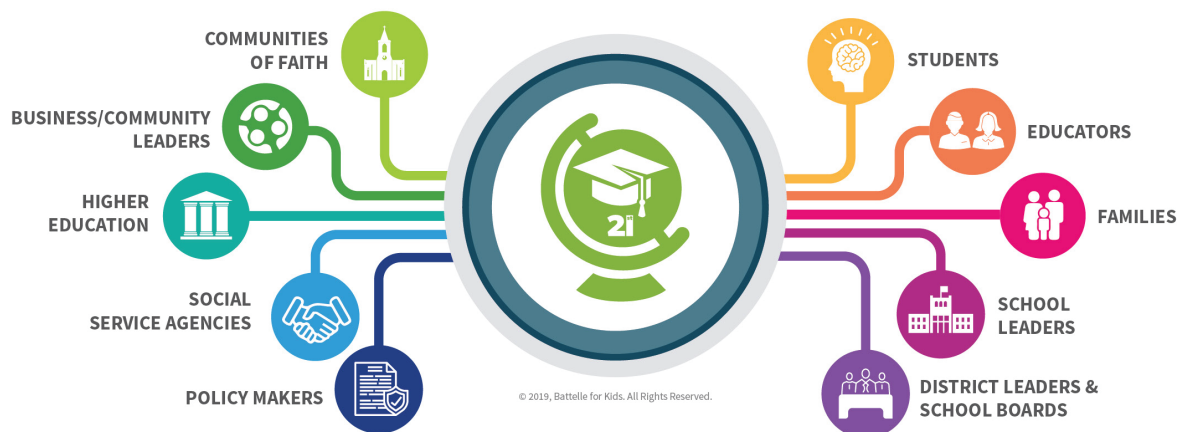


# SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH THE 'PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER'

Worthington Schools is thrilled to embark on a transformative journey for the future of education in our community: the "Portrait of a Learner" initiative. This is a collaborative effort that is both locally developed and globally positioned, setting the stage for our educational vision.

Our mission is to collectively answer pivotal questions about the future we envision for our students. These questions include:

- **What are the hopes, dreams, and aspirations our community has for its students?**
- **What skills and mindsets do our children need to thrive in an ever-changing, complex world?**
- **How can we design learning experiences that are both impactful and equitably accessible?**



The District held the inaugural Design Team meeting on Wednesday, September 13th. It was a highly productive session focused on how the global landscape is changing and what that means for the skills and mindsets our graduates will need to thrive in the future.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

We are already encouraged by the significant community involvement—165 committed members—and we welcome more! For those who are interested, the subsequent Design Team meeting dates are:

- **October 3rd | 6-8 pm**
- **October 25th | 6-8 pm**
- **November 16th | 6-8 pm**

If you want to be a part of this crucial conversation and design process, please reach out to Angie Adrean at [aadrean@wscloud.org](mailto:aadrean@wscloud.org).

We look forward to creating a future for Worthington Schools that is as exceptional as the community it serves!





**WORTHINGTON  
CITY SCHOOLS**

200 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.  
Worthington, OH 43085



STAY CONNECTED



DEI Director Toya Spencer visits Slate Hill 5th Grade – a day of learning, laughter, and bright futures ahead!