



# EMPOWERING

NOVEMBER 2023

THE OFFICIAL WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### DEAR WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS COMMUNITY,

We're well into this academic year, and I wanted to share some updates and highlights from our school community.

Our fall athletes are lighting up the fields, tracks, and courts with dedication and spirit. Their performance showcases their competitive spirit and underscores our values of discipline, teamwork, and personal growth. It's a reminder that the scope of school extends beyond classroom walls.

In the classroom, there's a clear focus. Students are engaged and showing notable progress. Our educators continue to excel in guiding them. In Worthington, our guiding principle remains "Be Kind to Kids," and it's evident in our student-centric approach.

We're making solid progress with construction and renovation projects at our high schools, natatorium, and sports facilities. This would not be possible without our amazing and supportive community!

A key project this year is the "Portrait of a Learner." We're exploring the attributes and skills our community wants to see in our graduates. It offers a comprehensive view of our students' potential and readiness for the future. I hope you'll participate in upcoming discussions and provide your valuable feedback.

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
Let's make this year another memorable one for Worthington!

Sincerely,

**DR. TRENT BOWERS**

Superintendent,  
Worthington Schools



Empowering a community  
of learners who will  
**CHANGE THE WORLD!**







# WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS SECURES OVER \$1M IN GRANTS FOR DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT AND CYBERSECURITY

Over the last two years, Worthington Schools' Technology team has secured over one million dollars in grants to improve technology for student learning and enhance cybersecurity measures. In September 2021, the district received \$510,000 from the Emergency Connectivity Fund to support connected devices and broadband for students in need. In September 2023, we secured another \$539,000 grant for Chromebooks, furthering our goal of integrating technology into the classroom.

In addition, Worthington Schools has recently focused on increasing cyber security measures. The district has implemented new staff training and communications, implemented multi-factor authentication measures, increased password strength, and new device and email protections. The district is also working with the Ohio National Guard's Cyber Reserve Unit and other partners to increase cyber security measures. As part of the increased efforts, the district was awarded a state grant to help fund these initiatives.

Worthington Schools is committed to harnessing technology for educational excellence while ensuring a safe and secure digital environment for all. These grants and collaborative efforts help create an innovative and safer learning space for the school community.



**FINANCIAL UPDATE** TJ CUSICK CFO/Treasurer • [tjcusick@wscloud.org](mailto:tjcusick@wscloud.org) • 614-450-6171

## MAINTAINING MEDICAL PREMIUMS AND ENHANCING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE DISTRICT



As a service sector employer, our top investment is our staff, comprising 80% of our operating costs. We're proud to report that through effective management of the District's employee medical insurance program, premiums for 2024 will remain stable for both employees and the employer. Over the last decade, our annual premium increases averaged 2.84%, well below the industry average of 6.8%. This reflects the Board's prudent decision to become self-insured in 2014, as well as the countless hours staff members serving on the insurance committee spend understanding the medical industry and engaging in active plan management. This reduces future projected costs by \$1.6 million annually and will be reflected in our upcoming five-year financial forecast. We remain committed to cost-effective stewardship of taxpayer funds.



## PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER:

# SHAPING FUTURE LEARNERS TOGETHER



The district and community are in the process of developing Worthington Schools' "Portrait of a Learner," which is a locally developed set of school- or district-level aspirations for what every learner will know and be able to do when they leave school.

The design team, is made up of staff, students, and community members who are focused on the following questions:

- What are the hopes, dreams, and aspirations that our community has for our young people today?
- What are the skills and mindsets that our children need for success in this rapidly changing and complex world?
- What are the implications for the design of the learning experiences and equitable access to those experiences we provide in our school systems?

Our goal is to realize our district mission of empowering a community of learners who will change the world! For the latest information, make sure to follow us on social media and visit the website.



## MASTER FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE

Exciting times are ahead for students, staff, and residents of Worthington Schools as major developments are happening in the construction and renovation plans of our high schools, natatorium, and athletic facilities.

### Thomas Worthington

Thomas Worthington High School has started Phase 1 construction focusing on the Academic Area, targeting completion by August 2024. Following this phase, updates to Student Dining, Administration Offices, and Arts and new baseball/softball fields and gym renovations are planned.

### Worthington Kilbourne

Worthington Kilbourne will receive significant renovation to the media center, band, choir, main gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, the commons area, science labs, and black box theatre. Also, new spaces will be built for the wrestling room and fine arts. This work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024.

### Natatorium Development on Track

The design documents for the Natatorium project were shared with Ruscilli Construction last month. With the recent commencement of public meetings with the City of Worthington Architectural Review Board, construction is expected to start in April 2024 concluding by August 2025.

### Turf Fields and Lacrosse Wall Updates

TWHS students have a new turf field with calibrated lighting and adjacent fresh grass. The lacrosse wall at this location is nearing completion. At WKHS, the turf project faced delays due to soil conditions but is projected to conclude by the end of October. The lacrosse wall at this site is also progressing, with final grading underway.





## WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

200 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.  
Worthington, OH 43085



At Brookside Elementary, students delved into the world of base-ten numbers. By realizing that counting by tens is a more efficient method, they skillfully tallied popsicle sticks, cubes, counting bears, and seeds in groups of ten. A hands-on exploration of a foundational math concept!



At Sutter Park Preschool, our imaginative play area transforms into a classroom where young minds take the lead. Here's Quinn perfecting her writing, while Wyatt confidently points out last week's accomplishments. Even at ages 3, 4, and 5, our little learners delve into the concepts of Maslow, discovering ways to nurture their own needs.

STAY CONNECTED

