



**hio**

**School  
for the Deaf**

*every child. every day.*



## Ohio | School for the Deaf

**Doug Lowery**

*Superintendent*

500 Morse Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
614.728.1424 || [www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org](http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org)

The Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) is located on a stately 138-acre campus in the north-central region of Columbus, our state's capital.

Our grounds showcase a state-of-the-art school that opened in the fall of 2013, new dormitories and hundreds of mature trees. We serve deaf and hard-of-hearing

students in kindergarten through grade 12 from across the state with post-secondary options, including residential services. We also have a preschool for local children as young as 6 weeks old.

The school campus is located at 500 Morse Road, two-and-a-half blocks west of Interstate 71, exit 116.

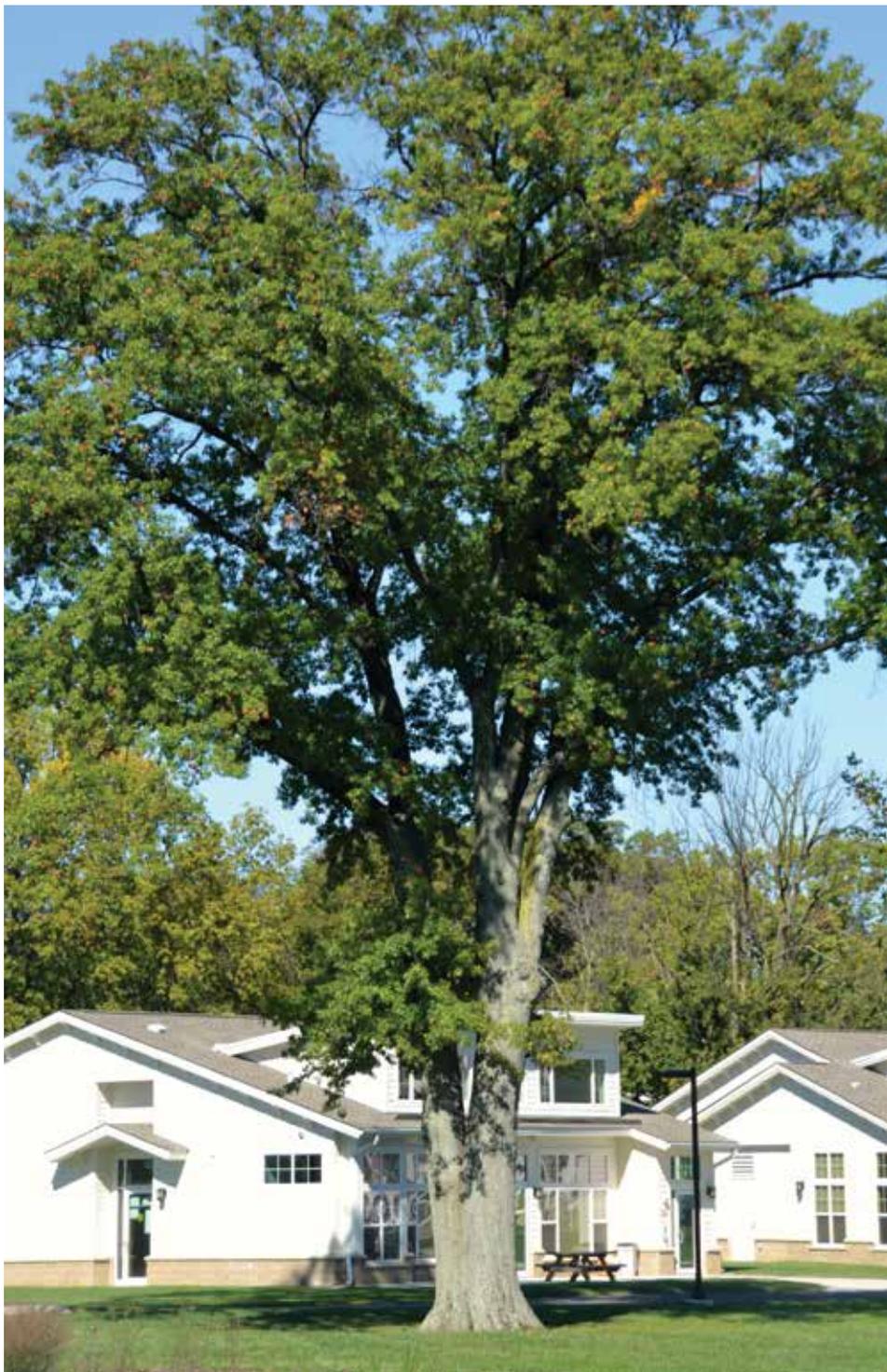
# We are OSD *every child. every day.*

Nestled near a wooded ravine on the former Wyandotte Golf Course, the Ohio School for the Deaf is the state's only owned and operated school for children with hearing loss. Students from across the state, including those who live here during the week, attend free of charge.

The gates of our campus give way to magnificent old oaks, sprawling athletic fields and three playground areas, symbolic of the energy that flourishes each day in our school buildings.

The Ohio School for the Deaf thrives on its rich history and belief that every student will achieve every day. We are fully accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement and seek guidance from professional associations such as the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf. All of our teaching staff members are recognized by the state as Highly Qualified in both deaf education and their individual areas of instruction.

The Ohio School for the Deaf was originally located in downtown Columbus when it was established in 1829 as the nation's fifth residential school for deaf or hard-of-hearing children. Originally housed in rented facilities, the first official building featuring Franco-Italian architecture was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. That campus is now home to a truly unique — and gorgeous — public topiary garden that commemorates the proud history of the school and depicts the Victorian characters in Georges Seurat's famous



post impressionist painting, "Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte."

The school moved from its downtown location to the Morse Road campus in 1953, and a new state-of-the-art school building and student dormitories were completed in 2013. Regardless of its location or the style of its architecture, the philosophy of our school remains the same. We will provide our students

with the best tools available to ensure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful, contributing members of society post graduation.

We invite you to stop by, visit our campus and walk our halls. We believe you'll find a great school and community for your child at OSD! Please call our school office to schedule a tour, 614.728.1424.

Ohio School for the Deaf is a great school that promotes rich deaf culture, better education leadership opportunities and challenges for every deaf or hard-of-hearing student. No child is left behind. — Luis Reyes, Jr., PSA president and father of Luis and Leigha, age 5



*We are passionate!*

## Inspired to learn from others

The hustle and bustle of the week begins early during the school year as those who live on campus arrive on Sunday evenings. Students who live nearby are transported each weekday morning by their home district.

The spirit and liveliness are infectious as staff greet children each day, from youngsters enrolled in the Alice Cogswell Preschool to the post-high school students who have elected to participate in the 4Plus transition program. The children and teachers in every classroom, laboratory and commonspace are ready, willing and waiting to learn.

OSD teachers and staff encourage their students to think creatively and critically as independent learners and teach them to work collaboratively with others to build knowledge, trust and relationships. Passion drives the work at the Ohio School for the Deaf, and as a result, we have fun when we learn from one another.

Many of the staff at the Ohio School for the Deaf are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). Teachers are well versed in all modes of communication used by children with hearing loss. There are no barriers at OSD because we believe all students will thrive in our school and through our individualized programming, access to communication and direct interaction with their teachers and caregivers.



We are a school without boundaries. We believe in educating every child, every day.

Our campus has 22 buildings. The main K-12 school is a 62,000-square-foot facility equipped with the right technology to enhance and diversify learning. We use a number of resources to compliment what we teach and the way we learn. We want to extend the walls of our classrooms, to bring the world to OSD and place it in the palms of our students' hands. We encourage our students to explore their talents so they can build their knowledge and develop their skills.

Our coursework is rigorous and designed for students to excel. Reading, language and writing are a major focus at all levels, while special emphasis is placed on developing literacy skills at the elementary level where our teachers and staff help the younger children build a strong foundation.

Our students are inspired and eager to learn.



*We are proud!*

## Building knowledge & skills

OSD students relish in the opportunities we are able to provide, whether learning about plant life in the greenhouse; studying motion, levers and physics at the playground or traveling as far as Europe as high school students to learn about other countries and cultures.

High school students can earn college credits through dual enrollment options, participate in interactive distance learning or take classes for specific trades at nearby career centers. Tutors, audiologists, and speech and language therapists fluent in ASL are always available and involved in helping our students meet their goals.

Our educational philosophy embraces and supports diversity. ASL and English are both rich languages that allow deaf and children who are hard of hearing to interact with their peers and adults, encouraging them to expand their knowledge, build lasting relationships and learn about experiences that may be different from their own.

The opportunities we provide students are truly endless.

[www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org](http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org)

Between her education with her hearing family at home and her deaf family at school, we know our daughter will blossom into the fullest potential of whoever she wants to become. — Brad and Lisa Pritts, parents of Michaela, age 5





*We collaborate!*

## Services to Schools & Families

The Center for Outreach Services at the Ohio School for the Deaf provides consultation, technical support and professional development to educators and families across the state on raising and educating children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Center believes that every child and family deserves a full understanding of the range of communication and education opportunities, and receives full access to all aspects of education and life.

Deafness is a low-incidence disability. According to the Ohio Department of Education, there are 2,200 school-age children who are deaf or hard of hearing and 47 who are deafblind. OSD extends its expertise statewide through the Center for Outreach Services by providing assistance to those families and schools whose children are not enrolled at OSD. For more information, call 614.995.1566 or email us at [OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov](mailto:OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov).

### *Parent Mentor Services*

For many hearing people, the first deaf person they will encounter is their own child. Families must grapple with a diagnosis of deafness and make choices and decisions

for which they feel unprepared. Choices like how will they communicate with their infant? Where will their child go to school? How will they interact with the world? What do parents have to do to help their child succeed? Parents also find themselves in meetings with a myriad of professionals, each one with expertise in an aspect of deafness, and it can be daunting to advocate for what they feel is best for their child.

The Center's Parent Mentor is available to meet with any parent or caregiver. The Parent Mentor also has a child who is deaf, and understands the challenges families face. The role of the Parent Mentor is to provide support, guidance and a common experience to families. The Parent Mentor can provide home or school visits, attend IEP meetings with the family, and help guide families through the special education process from a parent perspective. For more information, call 614.752.2647, 614.515.2925 vp or email [ParentMentor@osd.oh.gov](mailto:ParentMentor@osd.oh.gov).

### *Evaluation Services*

The key to educating children who are deaf or hard of hearing is knowing their strengths and also opportunities for



strengthening their abilities. OSD provides a comprehensive Multifactorial Evaluation (MFE) that results in an Educational Team Report (ETR). The ETR information helps schools and families tailor teaching and learning to the unique needs of the child. Evaluation services are available to any school-age child in the state of Ohio, and are provided at no cost to the family or district. A parent or school district may request evaluation referral information by calling the MFE Center at 614.728.6900 or 614.728.1424.

### *Alice Cogswell Center*

Children are the heart and soul of the programs we offer at the Ohio School for the Deaf. We cherish the opportunity to work with some of the state's youngest deaf and hard-of-hearing youth through our preschool program at the Alice Cogswell Center (ACC).

We offer a loving, language-rich environment that allows us to provide a personalized approach to educating infants and toddlers. Rather than a one-size-fits-all model to teaching, we use American Sign Language and Auditory Immersion in English that is directed by each child's learning style. The

ACC preschool is full of excitement day-in and day-out because we believe playing is learning, and we love every single minute.

### *4Plus Program*

Students between the ages of 18-21 who have met the state requirements to graduate but decide with the support of their IEP team to postpone accepting a diploma may enter the 4Plus transition program to continue their education and help them to adjust to life after high school.

4PLUS students may begin college classes, pursue vocational or technical training at a career center, or gain invaluable experiences through an apprenticeship, internship or a job. They are tested on career goals, math, reading and transition skills in order to ensure that learning does not stop after high school.

Every 4PLUS student has a completely unique experience because our goal is to meet their individual needs so they can be as successful as possible beyond our doors.



The Ohio School for the Deaf Staff-Parent Association is dedicated to improving the educational opportunities afforded to students. The organization's mission is to support teachers, students and families and make OSD a fun place to be!

*We are the Spartans!*

## The mighty, mighty Spartans

What is a school without sports and extracurricular activities? We're not sure, because our Spartans take to the field or court every season!

Athletics and team building play a vital role in the health and well-being of students and staff. We believe it's a great way to discover new interests, passions and talents.

Participating in athletics provides a fantastic opportunity for students to flourish as leaders. Involvement in sports fosters a sense of self-pride and accomplishment, while at the same time allows students to form strong bonds with others.

Our students have a number of opportunities to compete with and against their deaf and hearing peers. The match-ups often require exciting travel to schools in surrounding states.

In the fall, we offer soccer and volleyball at the high school level. In the winter, basketball and cheerleading are options for middle schoolers and high school students. Softball and track and field are choices in the spring at the high school level. Pee Wee soccer is available in the fall and spring for student ages 4 to 8.

The Ohio School for the Deaf is a member of the Central States Schools for the Deaf (CSSD) athletic organization.



*We are a family!*

## Student Life on Campus

We don't turn off the lights when the school day ends. There is a lot left in store.

Our students who live too far to commute to school each day from their home districts stay on campus in modern, well-equipped dormitories free of charge. Boys and girls are assigned to different buildings and grouped by age. Each dorm is assigned a youth leader to foster a caring and nurturing environment and serve as a liaison to parents.

Every dorm features a secured entrance, large living room with a flat-screen TV and entertainment center, multiple computer and research stations and a spacious eat-in kitchen with snacks and other essentials. The vibrant walls, bright decor and personalized trimmings make each building a special home away from home.

Two to three students are assigned to each bedroom. Every child is eager to personalize their space and pays careful attention to hang artwork, display photos of friends and family and bring bedding to make the rooms they share a special place.

Our staff are always ready to help with homework and give loving guidance. Our recreation staff develops programming throughout the school year to ensure a variety of age-appropriate activities are offered. They also plan special outings beyond the daily routine. We'll play in the snow, take a hike when spring bursts through the door and have water balloon fights under the hot sun.

A little work comes with the play which is where independence becomes the name of the game. Our students share responsibilities for small chores such as vacuuming, dusting and straightening up so they learn to value self-sufficiency.

For two weeks during the year, our 12th-graders are assigned to a Senior Apartment where they live on their own in groups of three boys or girls to manage their lease, cook meals, shop for food and live within a budget. Our 4PLUS students have separate dorms where they learn to finesse the art of preparing menus and meals, doing laundry, shopping for groceries, budgeting and focusing on other independent living skills.

The goal of our residential program is to help students learn to be independent productive citizens so they are successful as they create lives of their own. It's here, in our halls and in our dorms, where the students build memories of a lifetime.





*We want you to visit!*

## Come See for Yourself

Come for a visit. We would love to show off our beautiful campus! You'll meet the principal, tour the buildings, walk through classrooms, take a peek inside the dorms, visit with teachers and talk to students.

Give us a call at 614.728.1424. Tours also are available for educational professionals and college students majoring in deaf education or a related field.

Families considering OSD as an educational option will meet first with their child's IEP team to discuss placement. Home schools and the Ohio Department of Education also can provide a copy of "Whose IDEA Is This? A Parent's Guide to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004."

This is the Ohio School for the Deaf; where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive every day.

The Ohio School for the Deaf alumni are a very important part of our history and active in our school community. The OSDAA operates Columbus Colony Elderly Care and Columbus Colony, a housing facility for the deaf on a 100-acre, park-like campus.



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