



Oak Park Elementary
School District 97



OPEF and D97 Partnership:
Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate

Dear Oak Park Community,

Learning happens everywhere in Oak Park and for 12 months a year!

We recognize the central importance of out-of-school time learning, including during the summer — that's why we're excited to collaborate to share the *Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate* as a frame for youth development this summer.

The *Portrait* serves as a blueprint for the key skills and qualities we strive to cultivate in every student by the time they leave eighth grade. There are eight Portrait dimensions: Career Explorer, Change Agent, Creative Dreamer, Digital Navigator, Financially Savvy, Global Connector, Holistically Well and Powered by Literacy.

These dimensions are not only essential for academic success but also for personal growth, leadership, and lifelong learning.

Out-of-school time is a powerful extension of classroom learning, and we're proud to partner to ensure that ALL children in our community have meaningful opportunities to grow. Together, we're working to build a seamless connection between school and community—one that supports every student in becoming their best, most well-rounded self.

We're aligning the school district's *Portrait* dimensions to Oak Park out-of-school learning opportunities for youth. **You'll see icons throughout this guide marking activities designed to reinforce these dimensions**, helping students achieve learning standards everywhere they go. From fostering teamwork on the field to inspiring creativity through art and music, these opportunities offer children a chance to deepen their skills while exploring their passions in a fun, supportive environment.

To learn more about the *Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate*, visit www.op97.org/ourportrait or scan the QR code included in this guide.

We share a commitment to ALL youth in Oak Park and are excited to innovate to achieve universal student success -- thank you for being part of that journey with us!

Ushma Shah
Superintendent, Oak Park District 97

Latonia Baker
Executive Director, Oak Park Education Foundation



Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate 2024-25

Global Connector



Digital Navigator



Powered by Literacy



Financially Savvy



Creative Dreamer



Career Explorer



Holistically Well



Change Agent

