

LEARN MORE ABOUT
WEST CLERMONT'S

- Academics
- Community Engagement
- Partnerships
- Finances

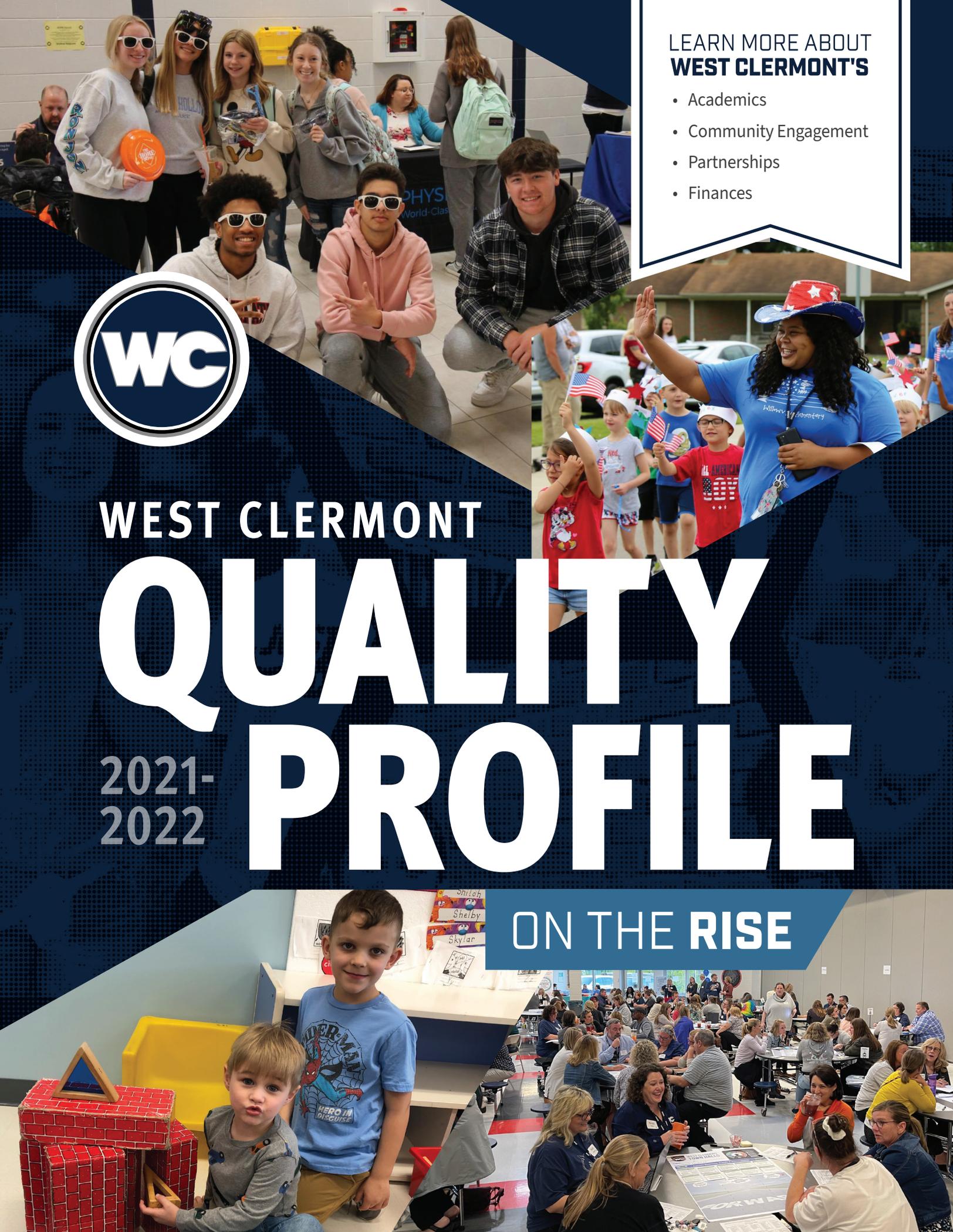


WEST CLERMONT

QUALITY PROFILE

2021-
2022

ON THE RISE





LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

NATASHA L. ADAMS, SUPERINTENDENT AND CEO

Our credo is “On the RISE.” We can’t be a district that is On the RISE unless we are constantly evolving and seeking ways to improve. This Quality Profile is a reflection of the many footholds we gained throughout the 2021-2022 school year that are inching us closer and closer to our destination.

From our new math curriculum and Discover classes to the creation of our Citizens Advisory Commission, community asset mapping exercise, State of the Schools, and safety enhancements, our goal remains to help students create the lives they desire.

One of the biggest reasons we remain On the RISE is our staff. I am in awe of all that they have accomplished—and overcome—the past two years. The 2021-2022 school year brought more pandemic-related challenges, yet they continued to make our students their top priority inside and outside of the classroom. From our custodial and cafeteria staff, bus drivers and maintenance team to our teachers, you will see throughout this Quality Profile all the ways they have gone above and beyond, and in many cases, have been recognized at the state level for their efforts.

West Clermont is *your* school district. We are so grateful for the overwhelming response to our Town Hall meetings and all the ways you’ve helped our staff and students celebrate their victories this past year. Your continued feedback is helping us plot our next moves and plan for needed resources so that our students can fulfill our West Clermont Portrait of a Graduate.

I look forward to continuing on this journey alongside you. We’ve only just begun.

Sincerely,

Natasha L. Adams

Natasha L. Adams | Superintendent and CEO

THE WCL ROADMAP FOR SUCCESS



OUR VISION

*Together As One Community,
We Learn. Lead. Succeed.*

OUR MISSION

*Commit to excellence
with every learner,
every day, every way.*

OUR CORE VALUES

Together We are, ON THE RISE.

R: Relationships

I: Innovation

S: Student-Centered

E: Empowerment

ON THE RISE

OUR STRATEGIC THEMES

Equip & Engage Every Learner

Grow Academic Achievement & Educational Opportunity

Embrace Innovative Learning

Optimize Partnerships & Align Resources



HOW TO SCAN THE QR CODES IN THIS QUALITY PROFILE

WHAT'S THIS?



1

Open your camera on your smartphone and point it at the QR code



2

Wait for the camera to recognize and scan the QR code



3

Click on the banner or notification when it appears on your screen



4

Enjoy enhanced content from our Quality Profile!



ON THE RISE IN ACADEMICS

West Clermont is making significant progress in its academics



90%

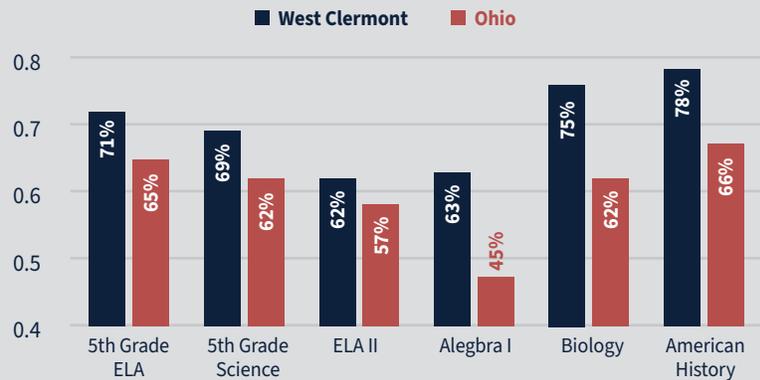
We have had a 90% graduation rate over the past five years compared to the state average of 85%.

- SCAN ME -



West Clermont state test scores are considerably higher than the state average.

Subjects Where Students are Above State Proficiency Level



PROGRAM OFFERINGS

We aim to provide a variety of curricula and extracurricular opportunities that help students find their passion and reach their fullest potential.



ACADEMICS

12

Advanced Placement courses and 9 College Credit Plus courses

738

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement/College Credit Plus courses during the 2021-2022 school year

EXTRACURRICULARS

29

Varsity-level sports

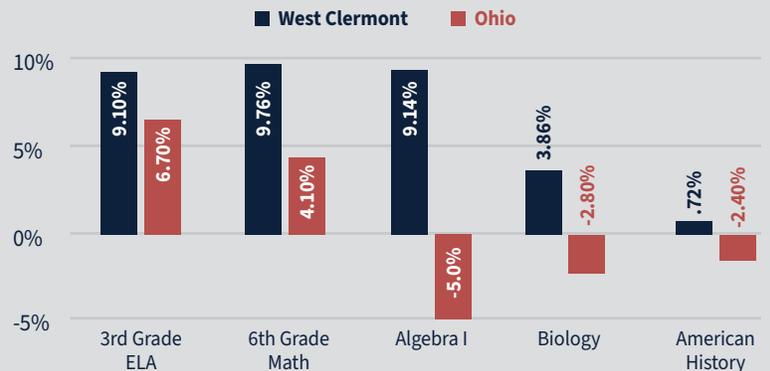
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Clubs and teams offered across grades K-12

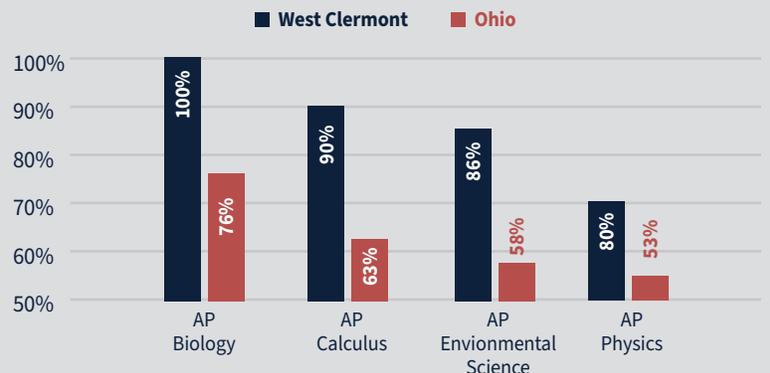
59

Visual and Performing Arts courses offered at the middle school and high school

Gains on 2022 Ohio State Test in Percent of Students Proficient vs. Statewide Gains



Percent of Students with 3 or Above on the 2022 AP Tests vs. Statewide Proficiency





Teachers and students collaborate with community partners on a project to develop solutions to a problem within the community.

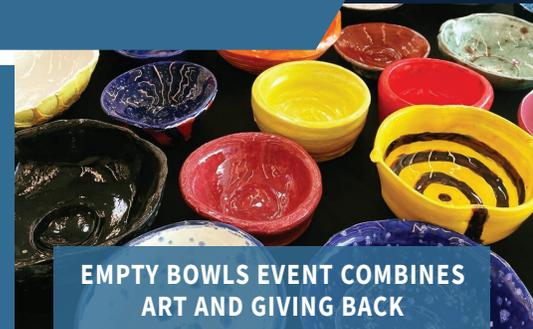
STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

BRINGS OUR WC PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE TO LIFE

This year, a group of teachers who are deeply passionate about reimagining and working toward what the future of West Clermont can be, spent time exploring the four key areas of a student-centered learning ecosystem: partnerships, instruction, environment and digital technologies. As part of the fellowship, each teacher partnered with local community members to co-design real-world learning experiences for students.

For example, high school students in Mrs. Fannin's Financial Literacy course completed a "Shark Tank Entrepreneurship" project-based learning experience where they created and then presented a business plan to solve a community or school problem. Students analyzed examples of modern entrepreneurs and worked alongside community partners connected to the University of Cincinnati's College of Business, LEAD Clermont, and the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce.

Other projects included a memorial restoration on the campus of West Clermont Middle School, a food waste analysis at Merwin Elementary, a school garden at Amelia Elementary, and a "A Day in the Life" time management project at West Clermont High School—just to name a few.



EMPTY BOWLS EVENT COMBINES ART AND GIVING BACK

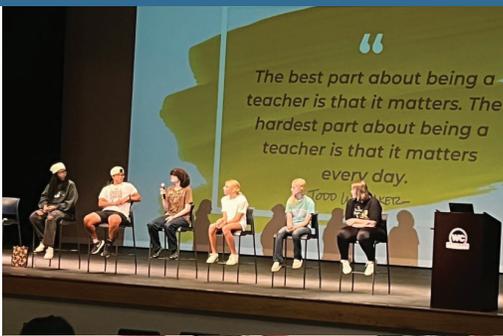
Our students love combining educational experiences with the opportunity to give back. The 2022 West Clermont High School Empty Bowls event was a huge success thanks to all of the talented student artists and guests who came together to raise funds for those in need.

The event was another example of how working with local partners can enhance school activities and events. Thank you to the Inter Parish Ministry for their ongoing support.



STUDENTS EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS THROUGH GEOFAIR

This year, eighth grade students researched and created projects on geology before presenting them at a GeoFair. They learned how geology is relevant to our everyday lives and about possible careers/jobs in the field.



ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

What better way to be student-centered than by including students in the decision-making process!? Last year, West Clermont made a concerted effort to increase student voice through student panels, focus groups with Superintendent Adams, and student leadership teams at the elementary and middle schools.

LIVING OUT OUR WC PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

To help teachers and students connect with our community, West Clermont has adopted a new digital program called CommunityShare. The purpose of this platform is to help communities build strong relationships with youth by using the community as a human library for students to explore. Through the online network, community members, industry professionals, parents, educators and students can co-create real-world learning opportunities that help us live out our Portrait of a Graduate.

Join us by visiting the **Community** section of our website at westcler.org.



SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

Four West Clermont Schools Awarded Purple Star Designation

Amelia Elementary, Merwin Elementary, Willowville Elementary, and West Clermont Middle School have been recognized as Purple Star Schools by the Ohio Department of Education. *Each Child, Our Future*, Ohio's strategic plan for education, recognizes the importance of supporting the needs of the whole child. To be successful in school and when transitioning between school settings, Ohio's military-connected youth require support to ensure their unique social, emotional, and academic needs are met.

The Purple Star award that these schools received signified that West Clermont Schools demonstrated commitment to serving these students and families.

Ohio's Purple Star Advisory Board established a set of important criteria that schools must meet in order to be considered for a Purple Star designation.



West Clermont High School students had the opportunity to connect with more than 30 local businesses at a job fair in March. The participating companies were seeking part-time, summer, and career-focused candidates.

Staff helped the students develop their resumes before the event, and students enjoyed gaining career insights from the business professionals present. This event was made possible thanks to sponsorship from the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce.



DISTRICT CONTINUES TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

In October of last year, West Clermont got word that we were the recipient of a \$21,000 grant from the State Library of Ohio Board. The grant is part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Outreach grants and allowed the district to replace K-8 books that were not returned throughout the pandemic. The new books are already in the hands of our young readers and will allow West Clermont Schools to continue growing its library collection.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUN RUN IN THE BOOKS

The West Clermont Education Foundation's annual Fun Run returned this spring. More than 130 runners representing grades K-8 participated. The Foundation uses the proceeds from this event to support the district through scholarships and teacher grants.



DOING GOOD BRINGS GOOD BACK TO STUDENTS

Advanced Health Class and Club students try to do their part each year by encouraging blood drive donations. This year, others took notice. Kiss 107 presented the students with \$3,000 for their efforts. They will use the monies to continue the blood drive next year, expand the carnival for Aspire students at West Clermont High School, coordinate a bigger food drive, and continue their other community outreach efforts.



FOUNDATION HELPS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Last June, the West Clermont Education Foundation sponsored a workshop for juniors to help prepare them for the college application essay writing process. Fourteen students participated and said it went a long way toward helping them get accepted at the college of their choice.



GRANT MAKES OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS SAFER

Holly Hill Elementary was awarded \$16,000 from the Casey's Cash for Classrooms Grant Program in February 2022. With the funds, a new turf field is being installed in the school's outdoor play space. This will provide a safer surface that more adequately meets the safety and accessibility needs of special education students who attend Holly Hill.

AWARD-WINNING STAFF, AWARD-WINNING STUDENTS

At the Making Schools Work Conference in July 2022, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) presented West Clermont High School with the **Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award**.

Pacesetter Awards recognize outstanding middle schools, high schools and technology centers that have implemented SREB's school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to graduation, readiness and credential attainment.

West Clermont High School provided evidence of implementing school improvement strategies related to engaging instruction, aligned curricula, career pathways, and systems of support or leadership for continuous improvement. The school also produced documented evidence of student achievement.

Congratulations to the staff and administration of West Clermont High School for this noteworthy accomplishment!



Child Nutrition Coordinator Tiffany McCleese was presented with the Encourage the Heart Award for Health from Child Focus last fall.

In March of this year, Ansh Patel won the state championship in the Principles of Finance competition.

Our Willowville and Holly Hill Elementary Wolf Pups Preschool programs furthered our reputation of providing a high-quality education by earning Five Star Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) ratings from the Ohio Department of Education. The SUTQ program recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed preschool licensing and school-age child care licensing health and safety regulations. Five stars is the highest rating given by the SUTQ program.



Madison Birr and Neal Larter, both AP United States Government and Politics students, won awards in the Ohio Education Association's Design Ohio's Future Contest.



Staff member Andrea Taktak received a grant from Western Governors University to support learning experiences for students in her sports medicine classes.



Dr. David Fultz, Chief People Officer, recognizes Robin Hater, West Clermont Middle School guidance counselor, at a Board meeting for being named Ohio's Middle School Counselor of the Year.



Eighth grade student Lily Workman poses with Superintendent Adams at a Board of Education meeting where she was recognized for being chosen as Youth of the Year for the Jeff Wyler Boys & Girls Club.



Molly Kohus, an eighth grader, received the Clermont County Salute to Leaders Up and Over Youth Leadership award.



Staff member Linda Mehas received the Clermont County Salute to Leaders Career Prep Educator of the Year award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



BOARD ESTABLISHES CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION TO STUDY DISTRICT ISSUES

We recognize that West Clermont cannot be a district that is **ON THE RISE** unless we're addressing the needs of the entire community. This is one of the reasons the Board of Education established a Citizens Advisory Commission in the fall of 2021.

The commission is made up of district parents, community members, and educators that are representative of the community at large. They are responsible for researching priorities the Board of Education has identified. Their first task was studying and making recommendations related to the middle school start time.



BUILDING MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Imagine the community of West Clermont as a human library. We were reminded during COVID-19 that learning can happen beyond the walls of the school. All it takes is a community working together to make it happen.

As a result, we brought parents, business leaders, government officials, social services, pastors, educators, and lawyers together to discuss how best to create engaging experiential learning for students that will enhance their experience and give them hope for the future. Our focus is to create opportunities for students to gain access to different experts and community members and businesses to explore areas of interest and solve problems that they find important.

Working together with our community partners will help us create great citizens who can turn ideas into action and create the lives that they desire.



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

- Amelia Elementary—Empower Youth
- Clough Pike Elementary—St. Veronica Church
- Holly Hill Elementary—Calvin Presbyterian Church
- Merwin Elementary—Inter Parish Ministries
- Summerside Elementary—Jeff Wyler Boys & Girls Club
- Willowville Elementary—First Baptist Church of Glen Este
- Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary—WT PTO
- WCMS 6th—Cincy Kids 4 Kids
- WCMS 7th/8th—Mt. Carmel Christian Church
- WCHS—Total Quality Logistics and American Modern Insurance
- West Clermont School District—Child Focus

West Clermont board members, administrators, and Mercy Health partners celebrate the grand opening of the Field House.



OPTIMIZING PARTNERSHIPS:

WEST CLERMONT FIELD HOUSE SPONSORED BY MERCY HEALTH

Last October, our Field House, sponsored by Mercy Health, officially opened. The 6,000-square-foot facility houses batting cages, a driving range, and flexible space for use by all sports teams and our marching band.

We are thankful for our community partnerships, such as that with Mercy Health, that support excellence in education on and off the field.

LOCAL VETERANS SUPPORT OUR FUTURE LEADERS OF AMERICA

Last year, several of our high school students participated in the Americanism and Government Test sponsored by Post 72 of the American Legion. The test was created in Ohio in 1936 and is designed to test an individual's knowledge of the U.S. flag, Declaration of Independence, Constitution, state, country, city, township, and village government in Ohio, as well as school district government in Ohio.

The test is administered and graded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the highest scorers, of which West Clermont had several, are eligible for awards and state and national honors.



FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Despite the COVID-19 challenges that continued throughout last school year, West Clermont remained committed to responsible fiscal management.

KEEPING OUR WORD



Daniel M. Romano
Treasurer and CFO

We made a promise to our residents during the 2020 levy cycle that we would keep a positive cash balance through fiscal year 2024 so that we would not need to return to local taxpayers for additional monies. We are happy to report that our latest forecast shows we are not only on track with this commitment but can extend this promise through fiscal year 2025.

SPENDING PRIORITIES

A West Clermont education continues to be a good return on investment. We put 71% of our budget into the classroom in the form of instructional and student support. Our funding per pupil is in the lowest 6% in the state and we remain committed to maintaining the right balance of spending while still providing staff and students with the resources necessary to learn and perform.

ONWARD AND UPWARD INVESTMENT PLAN

West Clermont's Onward and Upward Investment Plan is one tool that is helping us become a destination district; one that provides a unique, student-centered learning experience. Thanks to federal COVID-19 relief dollars, we were able to begin putting this plan into action last year by accomplishing the following:

- Implementing a new math curriculum
- Adding counselors to the middle and high schools
- Reinstating specials and Discover classes for elementary students
- Introducing summer school and other extended learning opportunities

Knowing that future state and local revenues may not be sufficient to align our Onward and Upward Investment Plan with our Strategic Plan and the needs of our community, our leadership team continues to:

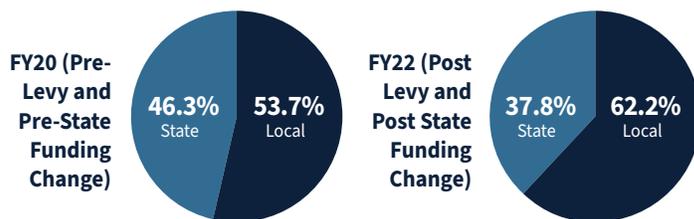
- Explore areas where we can gain greater efficiencies
- Advocate at the state level for a greater share of state funding
- Look for alternative funding sources, such as grants
- Grow and strengthen partnerships in our community

You can help us determine our future fiscal priorities by participating in an upcoming Town Hall meeting. Event information can be found on the back of this mailer.

FUNDING CHANGES

Fiscal year 2022 was the first year in which West Clermont received a full year of the 8.99 mill property tax proceeds approved with the passing of the 2020 levy. This growth in local revenue, combined with the changes to state funding as the result of the Fair School Funding Plan enacted in 2021, means the district is much more reliant on local taxpayers than it was prior to the passage of the 2020 levy.

SHIFTS IN OUR SOURCES OF REVENUES



DISTRICT SPENDING COMPARISONS

District	District Total Expenditure Per Pupil FY21
Indian Hill Ex Vill SD, Hamilton	17,199.59
Sycamore Community City SD, Hamilton	15,658.01
Felicity-Franklin Local SD, Clermont	14,603.14
Madeira City SD, Hamilton	13,405.46
State Average	13,386.70
New Richmond Ex Vill SD, Clermont	13,223.80
Loveland City SD, Hamilton	12,813.30
Similar Districts	12,739.78
Goshen Local SD, Clermont	12,673.82
Clermont-Northeastern Local, Clermont	12,663.65
Forest Hills Local SD, Clinton	12,470.21
Blanchester Local SD, Clinton	12,279.71
Milfold Ex Vill SD, Clermont	11,743.80
Little Miami Local SD, Warren	11,717.73
Western Brown Local SD, Brown	11,511.32
Bethel-Tate Local SD, Clermont	10,728.43
West Clermont Local SD, Clermont	10,424.87
Williamsburg Local SD, Clermont	10,395.17
Batavia Local SD, Clermont	9,701.99

Unfortunately, we expect this overreliance on local funding to continue. Under the Fair School Funding Plan, West Clermont is considered a "guarantee" district meaning our funding from the state is frozen at 2019 levels. Additionally, the new funding plan is being phased in over six years. This phase in approach has only been approved through the 2022-2023 budget cycle, however. Only time will tell if this model will continue to be funded in future state budgets, and if so, to what extent.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Mr. David Schaeff who served as a West Clermont Board Member from 2017-2022.



David Schaeff

WEST CLERMONT RECEIVES AWARDS FOR STRONG FISCAL MANAGEMENT REPORTING

West Clermont School District was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from both the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials for its Annual Financial Report.



West Clermont Board of Education

FRONT ROW:

Michele Delaney, Board Vice President and Tammy Brinkman, Board Member

BACK ROW:

Jim Rudy, Board President, Michael Chumley, Board Member, and Ryan Patton, Board Member



THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thank you to our Board of Education for their leadership and dedication to the students and families of West Clermont. This year continued to present challenges for school boards everywhere. Thanks to our Board of Education's vision and student-first approach, however, West Clermont continues to be a district ON THE RISE.



West Clermont School District
4350 Aicholtz Road, Suite 220
Cincinnati, OH 45245

SAVE THE DATE! BRING BACK THE BELL ALUMNI CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 23 • WEST CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Join us for this classic event to honor the history of Glen Este and Amelia High School. The celebration will begin with a parade at **5 PM**. Activities, food and games will follow the parade along with a dedication at **6:30 PM**. Don't forget to stick around for our homecoming game set to kick off at **7 PM!**

EXPLORE OUR REDESIGNED WEBSITE AT

westcler.org



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TOWN HALL MEETINGS: WRITING WEST CLERMONT'S NEXT CHAPTER



WEST CLERMONT TOWN HALLS

Last spring, West Clermont hosted two Town Hall meetings. These events gave community members a chance to provide input on the following topics: staff/student safety and well-being, programming, facilities, transportation, and purpose and design. The feedback and ideas gathered are invaluable and will help the district create a path forward that ensures all students are future-ready.

It's not too late to participate and make your voice heard!

- SEPTEMBER 22, 7 PM**
West Clermont High School (4101 Bach Buxton Road)
- OCTOBER 20, 7 PM**
Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary (3950 Britton Blvd.)
- NOVEMBER 10, 7 PM**
Merwin Elementary (1040 Gaskins Road)
- DECEMBER 8, 7 PM**
West Clermont Middle School (1341 Clough Pike)

