Academics | Portrait of a Graduate | Finances | Community Engagement



SUPERINTENDENT



The most successful people are those who take time to reflect on both their achievements and their challenges. At West Clermont Schools, we strive to do the same so that we can be the strongest school system possible. The result is this Quality Profile, which highlights all of the ways we moved further down our superhighway during the 2022-23 school year.

From our various community engagement activities to new curriculum and business partnerships to our award-winning staff and students, we continue to Learn. Lead. Succeed.

We couldn't do what we do without all of you. I'm always encouraged by how our board, staff, students, families, partners, and community members come together to celebrate and support our learners. YOU are what makes West Clermont an On the RISE district, and I can't wait to see what's next for our Wolves!

Sincerely,

Natasha Eldams

Superintendent and CEO

VISION

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Together, We are, ON THE RISE.

R: Relationships

I: Innovation

S: Student-Centered

E: Empowerment

STRATEGIC THEMES

- Equip & Engage Every Learner
- Grow Academic Achievement & Educational Opportunity
- Embrace Innovative Learning
- Optimize Partnerships & Align Resources

GOOD NEWS



Enhancing Safety and Security With New Staff

Thanks to a state-level grant, West Clermont welcomed an elementary-focused School Resource Officer this year!



Wolves Wellness Center Removing Barriers for Students

On Nov. 10, 2022, HealthSource of Ohio formally launched its Mobile Dental Treatment Team with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Summerside Elementary. All Wolves now have access to both preventative services and treatment, right in their school!



District Supports Local Pantries

West Clermont sponsored two district-wide food and hygiene drives last year. The first was our annual #LoveWC Pack the Closet drive in February and the second was Hunger Doesn't Get a Summer Break food drive challenge in May. All items donated benefit our local community through the Wolfpack Closet and IPM Food Pantry.



WT Celebrates Incredible Kid Day

Camp Fire, an organization that promotes innovative youth programs, created Absolutely Incredible Kids Day in 1997. Last year, Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary took the celebration to an all-new level. As students entered the school, they were greeted by music playing while staff members, parents, and community members cheered, waved, held signs with positive messages, and provided words of encouragement. We awarded prizes throughout the day and closed out our celebration with a schoolwide dance party and visits from local Cincinnati mascots, including Gary the Lion from FC Cincinnati, Rosie Reds from the Cincinnati Reds, Who Dey from the Cincinnati Bengals, and our very own Westley the Wolf from West Clermont High School!

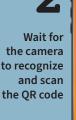






HOW TO SCAN THE QR CODES













ACADEMICS

New Math Curriculum Rolls Out

West Clermont has been on a multi-year, districtwide research journey to see what modern math instruction looks like for today's students. As a result, the district invested in new math materials and resources for the 2022-23 school year.

Professional development for teachers supported the rollout of this updated curriculum, and our instructional coaches provided job-embedded coaching.





Gifted Summit Fosters Collaboration

The Winter Gifted Summit brought fourth and fifth grade students from across the district together to work on activities that challenged them to grow their leadership, group work, creativity, and engineering skills. They also forged new friendships that will help them transition to middle school and beyond.

High school students from West Clermont's Teacher Academy also joined the summit. The event helped highlight what it's like working with gifted students for these future educators.

Science Curriculum Assessed, Adapted

K-12 science teachers formed the West Clermont Science Course of Study Team last school year. They reviewed science achievement, Ohio Science Learning Standards, and instructional research, and elicited feedback from students and parents to develop a West Clermont Science Vision and Philosophy Statement that aligns with our Portrait of a Graduate outcomes. West Clermont staff developed new course outlines for all grade levels to better support hands-on, inquiry-based standards.







Wolf Pups Preschool Awarded 5-Star Step Up to Quality Award

Through developmentally appropriate environments and learning experiences, West Clermont's preschool program prepares its youngest learners for kindergarten. Our Willowville and Holly Hill Elementary Wolf Pups Preschool programs continue to grow. Combined, they featured 11 preschool classes during the 2022-23 school year.

Additionally, West Clermont's Preschool Program was awarded a 5-Star Step Up to Quality rating, the highest possible, by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Holly Hill Holds Market Day

Third graders at Holly Hill Elementary wrapped up their economics and financial literacy unit with a Market Day where they took turns being consumers and sellers with products they made themselves.





Subject	Increase in Proficiency	Comparison to State Average
3rd grade ELA	◆ 15.9% since 2021	8% higher than the state average
3rd grade Math	• 9.1% since 2021	4.5% higher than the state average
6th grade ELA	◆ 9% since 2021	3% higher than the state average
6th grade Math	• 9.8% since 2021	2.5% higher than the state average
7th grade ELA	◆ 9.8% since 2021	
7th grade Math	△ 6.5% since 2021	
8th grade ELA	◆ 15.5% since 2022	
8th grade Math	△ 19.4% since 2022	
8th grade Science	12.2% since 2021	12.4% higher than the state average
High School ELA II	△ 6.9% since 2022	13.1% higher than the state average
Algebra I	◆ 8.4% since 2021	15.8% higher than the state average
Geometry	△ 6.2% since 2022	3% higher than the state average
Biology		10.8% higher than the state average
American History		8.3% higher than the state average
American Government		5.6% higher than the state average

STUDENT-CENTERED

STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

About 30 K-12 educators participated in our Student-Centered Learning Ecosystem Fellowship last school year. Through the Fellowship, teachers spent time studying the strengths and assets that they, their students, and community partners bring to the school environment. Then, they leveraged those strengths to develop projects that engaged students in more relevant, authentic, and community-connected ways. This work takes us one step closer to achieving our Portrait of a Graduate!









High school chemistry students work with Engineering Tomorrow to learn about drug delivery systems, how they work, and how to improve patients' lives. They test their new knowledge by designing a pill with a delayed delivery response, then meet with engineers to get feedback on their product.

DISCOVERY CLASSES CONNECT STUDENTS WITH FUTURE CAREERS

Discovery classes help students see a link between what they are learning and their potential future work. Students make career connections as early as kindergarten.



Amelia Elementary students exercise their creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration skills while starting new flower beds, planting wildflowers, and building bird feeders and baths for their outdoor garden and learning space.



Third graders at Amelia and Clough Pike Elementary Schools take on a Discovery Cornerstone Project titled Tech Take Apart where they disassemble donated electronics to see how they work. Students in Mrs. Kunkel's class at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary plan and build bridges using marshmallows and toothpicks.



LEARNING

WEST CLERMONT EXPANDS WHOLE LEARNER SUPPORT

West Clermont has worked hard to build community partnerships and access available supports needed to ensure students are healthy, safe, supported, challenged, engaged, and experience success in school. The district's Whole Learner Network has worked to align district policies, practices, and partnerships to achieve this goal. A few highlights from this work:

- In partnership with the Clermont County Educational Service Center and Clermont County Job and Family Services, two Resource Coordinators are assisting families, students, and school teams with overcoming barriers so students can grow their learning.
- The district was one of 10 in Ohio selected to partner with the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development to engage district and building teams in consultation, strategic planning, and professional development focused on student attendance. The district continues to make progress in helping students to overcome barriers to their attendance and engagement in learning. West Clermont is partnering with 25 community agencies that are active participants in our Whole Learner Network. Together, we are increasing access to support for our students and families.



RESOURCE COORDINATORS MAKING IMPACT ON STUDENT GROWTH, **PROGRESS**

In partnership with the Clermont County Educational Service Center using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding through Clermont County Job and Family Services, West Clermont welcomed two Resource Coordinators to the district last school year. Kimberly Rhyan

and Hope Hughes provided front-line resources for our students, families, and staff that led to higher academic achievement, attendance, and growth for students.



APPALACHIAN CHILDREN'S COALITION NAMES WEST CLERMONT

INAUGURAL PARTNER

The goal of the Appalachian Children's Coalition (ACC) is to build the capacity of Ohio's Appalachian counties to provide behavioral and mental health services for children. Thanks to West Clermont Schools' efforts to build a more responsive and comprehensive behavioral and mental health model, the ACC named the district its first official school partner. This means the ACC will provide funding for student internships, college scholarships, and advanced degrees, and will assist with recruitment and retention of school counselors and school psychologists.



Our Portrait of a Graduate is our North Star and guides all that we do inside and outside of the classroom each day. We strive to teach our students the durable skills they need so they are prepared to:

- Create the lives they desire
- Turn ideas into action
- Be courageous in the face of challenge
- Pursue personal happiness and joy
- Do what is right even when no one is watching

Learn more about our Portrait of a Graduate by scanning the QR code on the right or by visiting westcler.org/pog



W@ YOUR FUTURE



Military & First Responders Career Fair

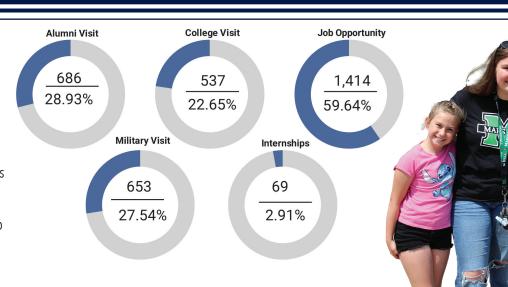
West Clermont held its first Military & First Responders Career Fair in February. Thank you to the following organizations who helped show and tell our students what a career in the military or as a first responder is all about.

- University of Cincinnati ROTC
- Central Joint Fire Department
- Pierce Township Police
- Clermont County Sheriff
- Clermont County Corrections/Jail
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Air Force
- Union Township Police

- Union Township Fire
- U.S. National Guard
- Miami Township Police
- Miami Township, Citizens Police Academy Alumni
 Association
- State Highway Patrol
- Union Township Paramedic, EMT
- Pierce Township Fire

Career-Based Learning

West Clermont introduced career-based learning at the high school last year. This allows students to leave school during the day to work or participate in an internship. Students must submit documentation of their time away from school, and in return, they receive credit on their high school transcript. Nearly 80 students had an internship during the 2022-23 school year. All high school students also had a variety of learning experiences related to their future, whether through job fairs, college visits, alumni visits, or military visits.



PORTRAIT PROGRESS

During the 2022-23 school year, we further defined how our graduates possess and have developed attributes in areas such as:

Academic & Life Skills

A West Clermont Student Can:

- Successfully master rigorous learning standards and digital competencies
- Use time wisely to set goals, prioritize and complete tasks, and manage projects
- Collect, assess, analyze, think critically, and respond to relevant information
- Reason through and weigh evidence to reach logical conclusions

Communication & Collaboration

A West Clermont Student Can:

- Carefully consider and respect others' ideas and contributions through active listening
- Collaborate with others and work in teams to resolve challenges and achieve goals
- Articulate thoughts and express ideas effectively using oral, written, visual, non-verbal, and interpersonal communication skills

Character & Integrity

A West Clermont Student Can:

- Demonstrate empathy, compassion, and respect for others
- Act responsibly, reliably, and honestly through words and actions
- Seek and respond productively to feedback, praise, and setbacks
- Lead themselves and others

Innovative & Creative Thinking

A West Clermont Student Can:

- Be curious and ask thoughtful questions
- Take risks, embrace change, and explore new ideas
- Identify, define, and work with authentic problems
- Elaborate, refine, and analyze ideas

Resiliency & Adaptability

A West Clermont Student Can:

- Be flexible when new and challenging situations arise
- Persist to accomplish difficult tasks
- Demonstrate confidence and humility in thoughts and actions
- Embrace failure as a learning opportunity and keep moving forward

Also, check out the ways we expanded our WC Your Future programming last year to help our students get closer to achieving our Portrait of a Graduate competencies.

Manufacturing Career Awareness Month

As part of Manufacturing Month in October, West Clermont students, parents, and community members explored careers and discussed job opportunities with representatives from 20+ manufacturing companies.

"Our Manufacturing Career Awareness Day was one example of how WC Your Future supports our students as they identify their passions and aspirations, make connections, and discover new ideas."

-Nathan Mahon, WC Your Future Coordinator, West Clermont Local Schools

h community members explored uring companies.

Teacher Academy

West Clermont completed its first Teacher Academy during the 2022-23 school year. The program provided 42 juniors and 25 seniors interested in a career in education the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in classrooms across the district.

Senior students worked as interns in each of West Clermont's elementary schools and middle school. They also had the chance to participate in instructional rounds with the Building Leadership Team, which helped them gain a better understanding of the role administrators play in supporting teachers, and presented at the Educators Rising state conference in March.

Crime Scene Investigation Course

Students can pursue their passions and develop Portrait of a Graduate competencies through our Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) course at the middle school. This year, students challenged one another to a memory game to experience how difficult eyewitness accounts and testimony can be. They also had the opportunity to analyze hair and fiber samples under a microscope.





WEST CLERMONT'S FINANCIAL OUTLOOK



DANIEL M. ROMANO, TREASURER AND CFO

Our latest 5-year forecast shows that we remain on track with our promise to not return to voters before 2024. Current projections suggest that we could return to the ballot with a new levy request in 2025. This is the result of a couple of key factors.

BIENNIUM BUDGET

Governor DeWine signed into law Ohio's next biennium budget on July 4. The Fair School Funding Plan, approved as part of the state's last budget bill, continues to be funded in this budget

cycle. Early estimates show West Clermont will receive a slight increase in funding in fiscal year (FY) 24 but then will return to FY23 levels in FY25.

COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

West Clermont has received \$14 million in COVID-19 relief funding since FY20. This funding will cease in FY24.

Spending Priorities

We are continuing to invest in our Onward and Upward initiative, which is bringing new and improved curriculum to West Clermont students, and returned essential opportunities like Discover (music, physical education, art, and Discovery) to our elementary schools.

Additionally, we have increased our per pupil expenditure, meaning more resources are being directed back into the classroom.

We will continue to prioritize our spending on improving the educational experience of our students, while also keeping in mind our district's current realities - aging facilities, increased enrollment, workforce shortages, and the need to rethink the purpose and design of school.

Looming Speed Bumps

We are keeping a close eye on our facility needs, particularly at Merwin Elementary, Holly Hill Elementary, and West Clermont Middle School. In addition, the biennium budget also established a Property Tax Committee at the state level. This was in response to escalating property values and their impact on homeowners across the state.

PER PUPIL SPENDING Compared to Similar Districts



Grants Help Enhance Culture of Safety

The district received two significant safety grants last year, including an Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant for \$261,945 and a U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for nearly \$1 million as part of the STOP School Violence Program.

Educational Foundation Supports Classroom Initiatives

The West Clermont Educational Foundation was established in 2013 as an independent nonprofit organization. The group, made up of residents and local business leaders, continues to raise funds and issue classroom grants that support innovation in academic opportunities.



INVESTING IN EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

Nationally, teacher burnout rates are higher than ever before, and teacher and school staff retention rates are lower. That's why West Clermont Schools has worked hard over the past year to invest in its staff by creating Wellness Connections, a unique and evidence-based employee wellness program. In particular, the district has accomplished the following:

- Established Wellness Champions at each building
- Implemented districtwide challenges and activities such as water challenges and on-site exercise classes
- Incentivised wellness with staff access to the HealthPlex

In addition, the district's Human Capital Management team has been working to recruit and retain the highest quality staff for West Clermont. Over the past year, they have hosted surveys, focus groups, and recruitment and retention meetings. They have also proactively partnered with Northern Kentucky University, Miami University, University of Cincinnati, and Mount St. Joseph University to build a pipeline of future educators.

Collectively, these initiatives are designed to find the best talent to teach and grow our students while providing meaning and purpose to our staff. Programs like Wellness Connections are shown to improve an employee's overall health, making them more productive and improving their performance in the classroom.

** AWARDS ***



Patricia Emery, a kindergarten teacher at Summerside Elementary, was featured on the

local news at the beginning of the school year for starting her 49th year in education! Scan the QR code on the right to hear her story!



Channel 12 features educators in the tri-state area based on nominations from viewers. Last year, these teachers were picked as Educators of the Week:



Paula Blatt Merwin Elementary



Beth Testa
Clough Pike Elementary



Eric Hagen
West Clermont Middle Schoo



Zachary Poller
Clough Pike Elementary and
Merwin Elementary

The WCHS Athletic Department

received the Bruce Brown Award of Excellence for 2022-23 from the Ohio High School Athletic Association and Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association. The award recognizes athletic departments that are purposely educating and supporting the mission of education-based athletics in Ohio.



Congratulations to
Merwin Elementary fourth
grade teacher **Kim Rees** for being named
Educator of the Year by
Clermont Soil and Water
Conservation District.



Larry Parece,

Director of Technology for West Clermont Schools, was recognized as one of the Top 100 Influencers in EdTech for his work in cybersecurity. Scan the QR code below to learn more about his accomplishments in the field.







West Clermont High School joined Amelia Elementary, Merwin Elementary, Willowville Elementary, and West Clermont Middle School in being named a Purple Star award recipient in April. The Purple Star Award, given by the Ohio Department of Education, recognizes a school's efforts to provide extra support to military-connected families.



THETICS



District Hosts Open House for Real Estate Professionals

In May, West Clermont hosted an event for local real estate professionals so they could learn more about the district and how we can partner to build a stronger community. They had the opportunity to:

- Network with students, key administrators, and staff
- Learn about current initiatives that could help them make their next real estate deal
- Understand the district's challenges and leverage one another's ideas to improve the educational model and local business partnerships to keep graduates in the community, ultimately growing the local real estate market
- Celebrate the progress within our community and our district being on the RISE

CAC Studies Safety

The West Clermont Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) was established in 2021 to conduct research and report findings on issues of importance to the district. During the 2022-23 school year, the CAC studied student and staff safety and security. They met with several subject matter experts and outside agencies, administered a School Safety Survey for all fifth through twelfth grade students, and conducted a comprehensive safety assessment of all school buildings in partnership with Shawn Riley, Hamilton County Educational Service Center safety administrator. Riley found that West Clermont buildings met and/or exceeded industry standards. One recommendation made was to install planter barriers for enhanced safety at school entrances. Thanks to a safety grant that the district received, these barriers were installed at several schools before the end of the school year.



Over the past year, West Clermont has offered more than 50 community engagement opportunities such as Town Hall meetings and focus groups. Key stakeholders have had the chance to learn more about where we've been, our current challenges, and offer input to help move our district forward.

Staff Parents Business Leaders Social Service Agencies

PARTICIPANTS

Virtual & In-person

One meeting completed at each school except Clough (scheduled for Sept. 2023)

Focused on 5 Challenges, and Journey of a Student

Senior Anna Swisshelm Named LaRosa's MVP of the Week

Senior basketball star Anna Swisshelm scored 1,500+ points and pulled down 500+ rebounds during her West Clermont career. She also helped lead the Wolves to their first-ever ECC championship. She was named ECC Offensive Player of the Year, first-team all-SWO District, first-team all-Ohio for Division I, and was selected to play in the Ohio-Kentucky all-star game. Way to go, Anna!







SAM KLOSTERMANGIRLS SOCCER COACH

SEINI HICKSGIRLS BASKETBALL 2nd Team All-Ohio

BOYS BASEBALL District Champions



OHSAA STATE WRESTLING



GAEL RAMIREZ

State Qualifier



JOY STEINMETZ

State Qualifier



FAITH STEINMETZ

State Qualifier





Business Advisory Council Making Strides

West Clermont's Business Advisory Council (BAC) is made up of district leaders and local business professionals and is designed to:

- Advise our school system on changes in the economy and job market and the areas in which future jobs are most likely available;
- Advocate for employment skills most critical to businesses and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills; and
- Aid and support West Clermont by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses and educators.

Over the last year, the BAC has made significant progress by implementing a volunteer form, hosting events such as manufacturing and first responder-military fairs and speed mentoring, holding oneon-one counselor meetings, and developing an internship process, among other things.

Business Advisory Council by the Numbers

visited UC Clermont

visited the John R. Jurgensen Company

participated in the district's inaugural First Responder and Military Fair, and roughly 1,800 students were in attendance

are part of our Community Share database

WC Your Future

ioined our Partners in • Education Celebration

WC Builds Stronger Ties With Alumni

Throughout the year, many Amelia, Glen Este, and West Clermont alumni returned to WCHS to share their experiences after high school. For example, Allyzandrea Delmendo visited Employment PACKs to discuss her path from Glen Este to owning her own business. Tyler Taktak, a current student at Thomas More University, shared about his college transition and experiences being a student-athlete. And Glen Este alum and criminal defense attorney Brandon Fox spoke to Mrs. Hauer's Law & Criminal Justice classes in April.

Additionally, we hosted two alumni-focused events this year. The Bring Back the Bell Alumni Celebration was held in September in conjunction with homecoming. Alumni and school leaders watched as the bell returned to its permanent home at West Clermont High School. Similarly, The Bell Returns Home event celebrated the past, present, and future of West Clermont and included a grand unveiling of the permanent installation of the historic Amelia-Glen Este bell inside West Clermont High School.

Alumni! Scan the QR Code to stay connected to fellow alumni and keep up-to-date on all things West Clermont.



Marching Band Grand Champions

The West Clermont Marching Band was named Best in Class at the 21st Annual Mason Invitational and won the categories of Music, Visual, and General Effect. They were also named grand champions, winning best overall Music, Visual, and General Effect. This is the first time in West Clermont history that the group has won a class or grand championship.

Scan the OR code to hear them perform!



West Clermont High School students perform "The Little Mermaid."



Monster Making

Second graders at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary created monsters on paper. Students from West Clermont High School's Computer Graphics class helped bring the monsters to life through color and effect!





Instrumentalists Earn Superior Rating

Our middle school band students performed at the OMEA District 14 Solo and Ensemble Festival where they received a Superior rating, the top given by the Ohio Music **Education Association!**





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SEPT. 28 2023

6:00 PM Clough Pike Elementary **OCT. 25** 2023

6:00 PM Holly Hill Elementary NOV. 28 2023

6:00 PM Merwin Elementary JAN. 18 2024

6:00 PM West Clermont Middle School

For more information, visit westcler.org/townhalls.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thanks to our Board of Education's leadership, we continue to be an **on the RISE district!**

Listen to our new ON THE RISE podcast, where we examine our core values of relationships, innovation, student-centeredness, and empowerment.





View our Roadmap Reports

at westcler.org/roadmapreports to learn more about where West Clermont Schools have been, our current challenges, and our path forward.