

St. Clairsville

News for you



St. Clairsville-Richland City School District / Fall 2023



Superintendent's Message



Welcome to our first community-wide newsletter!

Through this publication, we aim to provide you, our residents, periodic updates about the great things happening at the St. Clairsville-Richland City School District.

I'm happy to report that the 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start and I can't wait to see what our students and staff will accomplish this year.

Speaking of accomplishments, we are focusing this year on improving the safety and well-being of our staff and students thanks to more than \$300,000 in grants we've received and by expanding our behavioral health services programming. Learn more on page 2.

Also, state report cards were just released. We're proud of the hard work of our staff and students. See how we stack up later in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy learning more about what St. Clairsville has to offer its students and community. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Dr. Walter Skaggs
Superintendent



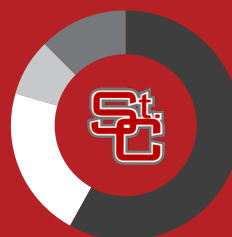
Scan the QR code to sign up for our e-newsletter!



Treasurer's Message



St. Clairsville Schools strives to be good stewards of its financial resources. The first step in reaching this goal is being transparent with our community about how we are funded. As many of you may know, Ohio's schools are funded by local, state and federal dollars. What you may not know is what this breakdown looks like. Here is a snapshot.



● 21.3% STATE	● 12.4% OTHER
● 8.1% FEDERAL	● 58.2% LOCAL

As part of our efforts to provide a well-rounded education to our students, we spend 71.9% of our funding on classroom instruction. Only 22 out of 261 districts of similar size in Ohio spend more than St. Clairsville Schools on classroom instruction.

71.9%
of funding goes directly back to the classroom

23 out of 261
districts of similar size on funds spent on classroom instruction

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our staff and students.

Amy Porter
Treasurer



Safety Improvements

The safety of our staff, students and broader school community is our top priority. In recent months, we've received more than

\$325,000 in safety grants.

The funds have been used on the following safety measures for the district:

- Interior video surveillance system (78 new cameras)
- Lockdown system for all exterior doors and select interior doors
- Keyless entry system
- 2-way radio system
- New 911 radio in School Resource Officer's office



Student Wellness Key to Learning

We know that students must feel safe and mentally and emotionally well to reach their highest potential in the classroom. As a result, additional emphasis has been placed on student wellness in schools nationwide in recent years.

At St. Clairsville, we provide the Student Assistance Program (SAP), a comprehensive, school-based framework designed to present and support K-12 students experiencing non-academic barriers to learning. Our staff helps students manage intense feelings and build social skills, stay connected, and maintain healthy habits. Staff also have age-appropriate conversations with students about online safety.

Thanks to House Bill 123, passed in 2021, we are also adding the following programs:

- Signs of Suicide
- Teen Mental Health First Aid
- Erika's Lighthouse
- Starts With Hello
- Say Something
- Harmony House

St. Clairsville also received a grant for nearly \$63,000 from the Ohio Department of Education's Stronger Connections Grant in the program's latest round of awards. The grant is designed to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments. The dollars will be used for professional development for staff to build stronger connections with students, families and the community.

The district is also adding a mental health counselor in partnership with Cedar Ridge Behavioral Health Solutions and additional services will be used through Cedar Ridge as part of this grant opportunity.

“**We know that a child's progress in school is directly tied to the positive relationships in their lives and their mental and emotional wellness,”** said Assistant Superintendent Christina Laudermilt. **“We are grateful for this opportunity to expand our current mental health initiatives to help our students achieve success now and in the future.”**”



What Are You Doing in My Swamp?

The middle school Musical Theatre Club, featuring fifth through eighth graders, recently performed Shrek Jr. The show, filled with comedy, whimsical characters and catchy music, highlighted 39 actors and actresses and a dozen crew members.





Ohio Department of Education Releases 2022-2023 School Report Cards

State report cards, issued annually by the Ohio Department of Education, tell key stakeholders how well a district is performing. Five categories, including Achievement, Gap Closing, Progress, Graduation, and Early Literacy, are rated on a 5-star scale, with one being the lowest and five being the highest.

St. Clairsville Schools received an overall rating of 4.5 stars. Most notably, we received a rating of 4 stars in Achievement, which represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on state tests overall. Also, the district received five stars in the area of Gap Closing, which measures the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups.

While this is just one indicator of success, St. Clairsville Schools is proud of its growth across all categories and will continue to use this data to work toward continuously improving.

Achievement

Represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on state tests overall.



Gap Closing

Measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups.



Overall ★★★★★



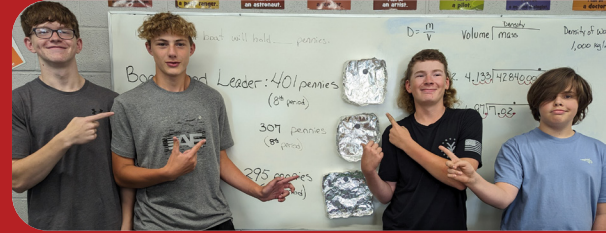
Fall Sports Wrapup

Congratulations to our fall student-athletes!

- The high school boys' cross country team are OVCCCL champs, Buckeye 8 champs, back to back Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC) champions, and district runners-up; runner Ben Shields is the OVCCCL, Buckeye 8, OVAC and district champion; and runner Cassidy Horan is this year's Buckeye 8 champion
- Our golf team are Buckeye 8 and OVAC title holders for the third straight year; golfer Andrew Able is the OVAC champ; and golfer Olivia Baker is the first-ever girls OVAC champion and state qualifier for the second year in a row



Middle School Launches STEM Exploration



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is more than a buzzword. Hands-on STEM projects are shown to improve students' understanding of these key disciplines and build their problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. That's why the middle school launched a STEM Exploration rotation this year! To date, students have completed lessons on Hoop Gliders, Aluminum Foil Boats, and learned how to save Fred!



2023 Homecoming Court

Congratulations to this year's homecoming court! King candidates, from left to right: Owen Schumacher, Brennan Stout, Cole Thoburn, Harison Kazmirski, Marcus Bush, and Braylen Blomquist. Queen candidates, from left to right: Makenna Moran, Ashlynn Stock, Makenna Booth, Angelina Applegarth, Brooke Biancarelli, and Alivia DaRe'.



The king and queen were crowned at the homecoming game on Oct. 6.



**St. Clairsville-Richland
City School District**

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New Phonics Curriculum Instilling Love of Reading and Writing

We are upgrading and enhancing our phonics instruction based on the latest research on how to best teach students to read and write.

Reading and writing are fundamental to a student's success and understanding of basic concepts must start at a young age.

Now, all students will be learning language by ear (listening), mouth (speaking), eyes (seeing), and hand (writing).

This new curriculum helps St. Clairsville Schools meet Ohio's new requirement that districts have multisensory instruction.



Band Traveling in Style Thanks to Donation of Trailer



On Aug. 29, the St. Clairsville High School band received a surprise: the St. Clairsville Chick-fil-A, owned and operated by Stacy Austin, donated a new trailer to replace the current one, which had seen better days.

Austin said the band has a great history, and anything they can do to support education and have a positive impact on the community helps grow the community.

This year, the band is scheduled to perform at The Ohio State University and compete in the Grand Nationals in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium. Justin Schwertfeger, band director, said, "To get our equipment to these competitions, it takes trailers that aren't going to fail us. This is so exciting for our students and community."