



Licking Heights Local Schools

# QUALITY PROFILE

2022-2023



**Honoring *Our Legacy.*  
Inspiring *the Present.***

# Ready for the Future.



**A Letter from the Desk  
of Superintendent,**

**DR. KEVIN  
S. MILLER**

## Meet the Board of Education

Brian Bagley, **President**  
Tiffany Blumhorst, **Vice President**  
Paul Johnson  
Mark Rader  
Tracy Russ

Dear Licking Heights Community,

I begin this Quality Profile by thanking you for allowing me to serve as Superintendent of Licking Heights Local Schools. It has been a pleasure to oversee all of the changes taking place throughout the district, and I am sincerely moved by the continual support our community provides to this great school system.

I joined Licking Heights in August of 2022 as the new Superintendent. My team and I are looking forward to many more years of student success and triumph as our district continues to grow and develop. In this school year we set out in earnest to manage our growth and construction projects, concentrate on our teaching and learning, and develop a strategic plan to ensure our Hornets Take Flight at each stage of their educational journey. Thank you for making my first school year so fulfilling and for continuing to value our students, our staff, and our schools.

Quality Profiles are popular among Ohio public school districts as a compliment to the State Report Card from the Ohio Department of Education. While the data in the State Report Card is helpful for districts and families, it does not share the stories of students and staff behind those numbers—the unique, driven, creative students in our classrooms and their hardworking teachers who support their educational journeys. A Quality Profile is a district's chance to share the experiences only they can offer.

Inside this Quality Profile, you will meet the students and staff who make Licking Heights such a wonderful place to learn and grow. From the volunteerism of our student-athletes, to the classroom commitment of our teachers K to 12, to the deep passion and desire to build inclusive, diverse, equitable spaces shared by both our students and our staff, our district is developing community-minded individuals who will build a bright future for Central Ohio and our nation at large.

I invite you to learn more about our academics, the special programs we offer, the pathways of our students, our community partnerships, and our plans to accommodate regional and student growth. Please enjoy this 2022-2023 Quality Profile of Licking Heights Local Schools. We are thrilled to share it with you.

**Sincerely,  
Dr. Kevin S. Miller, Superintendent**



## OUR SCHOOLS

Licking Heights educates students from preschool to 12th grade in six different schools, with a wraparound program offered through the YMCA.



**#Hornets  
TakeFlight**



### Licking Heights High School

4101 Summit Road  
Pataskala, OH 43062  
Grades: 9-12  
Principal: Mrs. Angel King  
(740) 964-9005

### Licking Heights Middle School

4000 Mink Street  
Pataskala, OH 43062  
Grades: 7-8  
Principal: Mr. Kevin Tooson  
(740) 927-9046

### Central Intermediate School

6565 Summit Road  
Pataskala, OH 43062  
Grades: 5-6  
Principal: Miss Sandra Phillips  
(740) 927-3365

### South Elementary School

6623 Summit Road  
Pataskala, OH 43062  
Grades: 1-4  
Principal: Mr. Kurt Scheiderer  
(740) 964-1674

### West Elementary School

1490 Climbing Fig Drive  
Blacklick, OH 43004  
Grades: 1-4  
Principal: Mrs. Michelle Copeland  
(614) 864-9089

### North Elementary School

6507 Summit Road  
Pataskala, OH 43062  
Grades: PreK-Kindergarten  
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Brandi Wade  
(740) 927-3268

# OUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



## HIGH SCHOOL



Tyler Hennen, Dean of Students; Angel King, Principal; David Moore, Assistant Principal; Michael Shipton, Assistant Principal

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



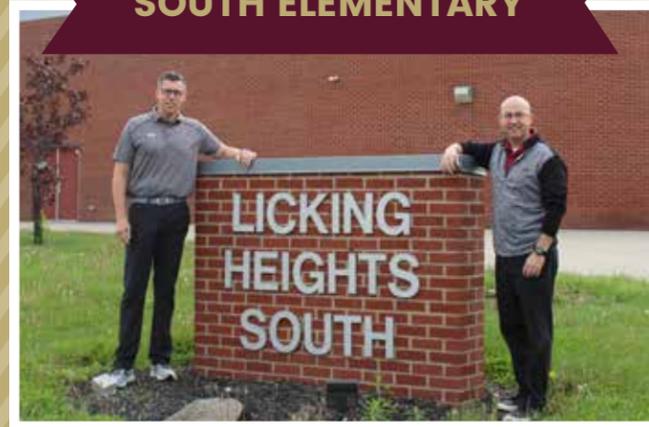
Brian Evans, School Safety Officer Supervisor; Evelyn Woods, Assistant Principal; Kevin Tooson, Principal; Rick Hamann, Dean of Students

## CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE



Sandra Phillips, Principal; Kate Bigley, Assistant Principal

## SOUTH ELEMENTARY



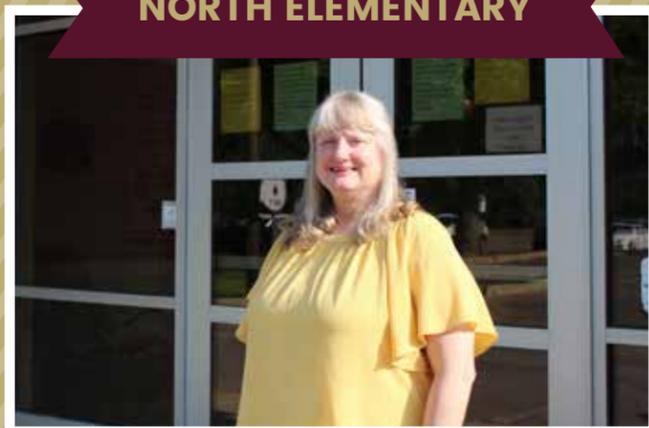
Kurt Scheiderer, Principal; Brian Wilkinson, Assistant Principal

## WEST ELEMENTARY



Colleen Wildenhaus, Assistant Principal; Michelle Copeland, Principal

## NORTH ELEMENTARY



Brandi Wade, Principal

# DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Our rapidly growing district is rich in diversity, experiences, and cultural expression.



5,158

Enrolled Students

19%

English Language Learner Students



47

Home Languages Spoken

Top Three Home Languages Spoken: Nepali, Somali, and Spanish



17%

Students with Special Needs

11%

Gifted Students



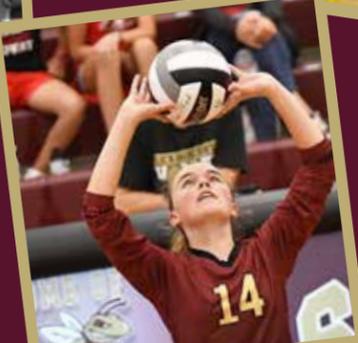
66%

Students of Color



## ENROLLMENT BY BUILDING

- High School: 1,429
- Middle School: 723
- Intermediate School: 812
- South: 784
- West: 857
- North: 393
- Preschool: 160



# FISCAL STEWARDSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

Our schools belong to our community, and we value our taxpayers' trust and investment in the future of our district.

## Our Advocacy for Public Schools



State Representative Thaddeus Claggett represents House District 68, which includes Licking Heights. Our district invited Representative Claggett to visit our schools and see what makes our students and teachers so unique.

Providing our students with a robust, well-rounded education that meets their varied needs is our priority. We believe that advocating for equity in public schools so that all Ohio students have access to this right is our responsibility. Our leadership continues to advocate for full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan, including:

- Meeting with Ohio State Representative Thad Claggett and State Senator Tim Schaffer
- Testifying at the Ohio Statehouse before the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and the Senate Education Committee
- Educating our students, families, and community about what the Fair School Funding Plan means for our district
- Collaborating with our colleagues for advocacy work



Scan the QR code to watch our School Board President, Brian Bagley, testify with Superintendent Miller and District Treasurer, Todd Griffith.

SCAN ME

## What is the Fair School Funding Plan?

The Fair School Funding Plan is an objective, transparent, data-based school funding plan that includes:

- A base cost of educating a typical Ohio student
- Additional costs to serve the needs of students with unique needs (special needs, ELL, gifted, etc.)
- An objective formula for determining state and local shares of school funding based on local property values and income levels



#Hornets TakeFlight



## The Cost of Educating a Licking Heights Student

Per Pupil Expenditure at Licking Heights in 2022:

**\$10,588.24**

State Avg. Expenditure Per Pupil in 2022:

**\$14,214.86**

Avg. Expenditure Per Pupil in Districts Similar Size to Licking Heights:

**\$14,153.09**

**32.3%**



Current Funding Received from the State

**67.7%**



Current Funding Received from Local Community

**51.6%**



Percentage of Community Funding Received from Residential/Agricultural Tax

**48.4%**



Percentage of Community Funding Received from Commercial/Other Tax

## Our Groundbreaking

Licking Heights hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony to kick off our various building projects in November 2022. Festivities included performances from the high school Marching Hornets, high school ensemble choir, and fourth grade music classes, along with speeches from district administrators and student-leaders at the high school, middle school, and Central Intermediate.



State Senator Tim Schaffer represents District 20, which includes Licking Heights. Senator Schaffer visited our district and spent time sharing about his political and policymaking career with Ms. Daniels' AP Government class.

## Construction Project Updates

Licking Heights Schools is one of the fastest-growing districts in Ohio, nearly tripling its enrollment since 2003. As a result of local economic development and business growth, we are projected to grow to nearly 6,000 students by 2029.

In May 2022, our community passed a zero tax increase bond issue to build:

- An elementary school for 900 students
- An addition to the high school to accommodate another 350 students
- A Division I athletic complex
- A transportation center

While this area's growth is exciting and something to celebrate, it is also posing challenges as the district competes for skilled workers and materials in a busy construction market. Current supply chain delays in addition to a highly competitive local construction market where many large projects are vying for a small pool of qualified vendors are causing delays in the project timeline. Despite these pressures, the district is working diligently to keep the original dates of opening in 2024 for the elementary school, athletic complex, and transportation center.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to visit our Hard Hat Hornet Hub on the District Website and learn about our construction progress.

# ACADEMICS & CAREER PREPARATION

Our district offers a vibrant career and college preparation curriculum to help students achieve their postsecondary goals. Providing students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the modern world starts in our elementary schools and continues throughout their years here.



**12**  
Advanced Placement courses offered

**70**  
Students in National Honor Society

**24**  
Middle School Students in National Junior Honor Society

## COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

**205** Students Participate  
**3** Higher Education Partnerships

**51**  
Students Committed to Attend C-TEC in the Fall

**9**  
Seniors Graduating with an STNA License

**69**  
Seniors Graduating Summa, Magna, or Cum Laude

**52**  
Honors Diplomas Earned by the Class of 2023



**1.** In partnership with C-TEC, Licking Heights offers a satellite State Tested Nurse Aide (STNA) education program at the high school. Students earn STNA credentials while completing their high school education. This year's class completed their practicum at Tuscan Gardens in Pataskala.

**2.** The Fab Lab at Licking Heights High School is a workshop funded through a Meta/Facebook grant. The lab utilizes technology and machinery to create merchandise for students and teachers, signs promoting school events, stickers, graduation banners, and much more. Here, a student explains a board game project to State Representative Thad Claggett during a school visit.

**3.** Vicki Willett, Technology Integration Specialist, regularly visits elementary classrooms to lead kindergarten through fourth grade students in interactive STEM activities. Students learn skills like coding, robotics, and applied science.

**4.** Licking Heights Central Preschool passed a vigorous and thorough inspection process to earn a five-star Step Up to Quality rating from the state of Ohio, the highest possible rating for early learning centers and childcare providers.

## What Is Your E?

Licking Heights counselors guide students as they prepare for their E following graduation:

- 1 ENROLL** in a postsecondary institution
- 2 ENLIST** in the Armed Forces
- 3 EMPLOY** with earned skills and credentials



## Our Award-Winning Team

We could not have outstanding students without outstanding teachers. Some notable accomplishments from our staff this year include:



**Chris Sommerkamp**, fourth grade Gifted Intervention Specialist, joining the inaugural international class of Limitless Space Educators



**Kathy Gamertsfelder**, high school math teacher, winning a Leaders for Learning award from the Licking County Foundation



**Denise Nugent**, English language arts teacher, winning the Coughlin 'You Made a Difference' Award

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Ensuring each of our students is valued, included, and celebrated

With a student body of over 50% students of color and 47 different languages spoken across the district, diversity, equity, and inclusion are three building blocks to our values and curriculum—from preschool to high school.



**1.** Culture Day is a favorite event of Licking Heights students at all schools. Here, middle school students show off their traditional cultural attire at one of four Culture Days held throughout the year. The event itself was a creation of Deepshika Nepal and Dikshya Adhikari, two middle school students.

**2.** South Elementary's Student Diversity Council won the Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award at The Ohio State University–Newark's Community Intercultural Relations Conference. The students were recognized for their work in planning their school's Culture Day and promoting events like Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Autism Awareness Month.

**3.** North Elementary students share about their favorite family holidays as part of a Culture Day classroom lesson.

**4.** Black History Month celebrations include in-class activities, hallway displays, and events like Diaspora. Here, West students honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by creating posters about racial and social justice.

**5.** Two Somali students read a poem about their cultural experience at the annual Diaspora celebration.

# STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP

From athletics to the arts, classroom education to extracurriculars, Licking Heights provides students with an extensive range of after-school activities to enhance student learning.



**1.** Licking Heights Power of the Pen hosted a district tournament for the first time in the club's 10-year history. Students Dominic Mollinaro, Emma Brown, Kate Banks, and Naomi Gymah all advanced to the regional tournament, with Naomi advancing to state.

**2.** High school Interact members regularly work with the Pataskala Rotary to serve the community with a variety of events like the Battle of Broad Street Food Drive and the YMCA Daddy Daughter Dance. Here, students host the Rotary for a joint meeting at Licking Heights High School.

**3.** DECA students honored Black History Month with an American Red Cross blood drive dedicated to sickle cell disease awareness. The event collected enough blood to save over 100 lives.

**4.** Central Intermediate started its first Chess Club with Mrs. Meeks, Library Aide. Students learn the basics of chess,

practice different game strategies, and challenge their classmates to a game.

**5.** The high school Model UN club visited the state Model UN Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to participate as the nations of Ethiopia, Liberia, Nepal, and Somalia. One thousand students from across Central Ohio participated over three days to run a full mock UN session.

**6.** The Licking Heights Quiz Bowl Team competed in a total of 30 matches against nearby schools this season. In 2022, they were the Licking County League runner-up.

**7.** Diaspora is Licking Heights' annual celebration of all cultures represented throughout the district. Organized by the high school's Cultural Identity Club, over 150 students participated in songs, dances, poetry readings, and fashion shows.

# ATHLETICS

With 13 different sports offered throughout fall, winter, and spring, Licking Heights has a proud tradition of developing well-rounded, motivated, accomplished student-athletes through our programs.

## ATHLETICS AT A GLANCE

13

High School Sports Offered

9

Middle School Sports Offered

14%

Students Participating in a Sport

3.101

Student-athlete average GPA (high school)

188

Multi-sport Athletes

18

High School Seniors Signing with Colleges

## Playing With Purpose

Serving the community is just as important as sports for Licking Heights student-athletes. Along with regularly participating in team community service activities, several teams hosted special events, including:

- **Boys basketball**—alumni game for Stitched Together and volunteering at the Salvation Army
- **Girls basketball**—annual Alzheimer's Awareness game for the Central Ohio Alzheimer's Association, Veteran's Day Preview event, and Pediatric Cancer Awareness Game
- **Girls soccer**—Breast Cancer Awareness game and Epilepsy Awareness game
- **Girls volleyball**—Breast Cancer Awareness game
- **Football**—Working with Interact and Rotary for the annual Battle of Broad Street can drive, with over 6,000 cans collected for families in need

## Licking County League: Player Honors Earned

4	Girls Volleyball	8	Cross Country
5	Girls Soccer	11	Football
5	Boys Soccer	3	Girls Basketball
1	Wrestling	5	Boys Basketball
5	Softball	5	Baseball
3	Track	3	Boys Volleyball

## Licking County League Coach of the Year Shaun Fountain, Varsity Boys Basketball



1. Both the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams had undefeated seasons and won the Licking County League 2023 championships.

2. The boys varsity basketball team made history in 2023 when they won the Licking County League championship for the third year in a row and won a Division I sectional title.

3. Both the track and swim teams broke multiple individual and team records throughout their seasons.

4. The girls volleyball team was sectional champions for the second year in a row.

5. The football team qualified for the 2022 OHSAA postseason.

6. High school cheerleaders were commended for their kindness towards other squads throughout the 2023 basketball season, which included teaching cheers to the Licking Valley squad.

7. Thanks to the generosity of Fleet Feet Columbus, each high school track athlete received a free pair of Saucony track shoes.

8. For the second year in a row, DJ Fillmore was the state champion in long jump. DJ also took home the state title in the 200 meter sprint. He will attend The Ohio State University in the fall as a member of their Track and Field team.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Licking Heights has a vibrant scene for students interested in both performing and fine arts, including multiple types of band and choir, a districtwide art show, and a theatre club that presents one play and one musical a year.



2

3

4

5

7

6

8

1. The theatre club performed the musical *Catch Me If You Can* on March 23-25. The students also participated in the 2022-2023 CAPA Marquee Awards, a Tony-style showcase for Central Ohio high school theatre students. Licking Heights earned three nominations: Best Actor in a Leading Role (Ayden Kerg and Carter Russ), Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Ryann Schindler), and Best Musical Production.

2. The middle school Wind Ensemble made history in 2023 when they were selected to perform for the first time at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Professional Development Conference. Seventh and eighth grade also garnered accolades through OMEA District 10 Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble, and Large Group Adjudicated contests.

3. The District Art Show included over 2,000 pieces of art. This year's show took place from March 27-29 and attracted students, families, and community members.

4. Central Intermediate artists Shiloh Stephens, Emily Holland and Parker LaMarr were selected for the 2023 Central Ohio Art Education Association K-12 Central Region Art Exhibition, "Central Growth," at the Blockfort Gallery in Columbus.

5. The Marching Hornets spent Spring Break in Disney World, where they marched in a parade through Magic Kingdom.

6. All three high school bands excelled at the OMEA District Large Group competition and qualified for OMEA

## Musical Opportunities for Licking Heights Students

Starting in the 6th grade, students have the opportunity to participate in specialized music courses like:

6th Grade Band

Middle School Wind Ensemble

Intermediate/Middle School Choir

Concert Band

Symphonic Band

Wind Ensemble

Treble Chorus

Tenor-Bass Chorus

Chorale

Treble Chorale



State Large Group—which was hosted at Licking Heights High School—and where they earned Superior ratings, the highest possible rating.

7. The high school choirs had a successful year with Excellent and Superior ratings at OMEA Solo and Ensemble, District Level Large Group, and State Large Group competitions. Individual students were also selected for District 10 Honor Choir and Otterbein Honor Choir. Throughout the year, students worked with prestigious guest conductors from The Ohio State University, the University of Toronto, the Columbus Children's Choir, and Capital University. The choir will travel to London, England in 2024 for the London International Choral Festival.

8. For the fall play, the theatre club performed Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* on Nov. 3-5.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & STUDENT WELLBEING



## Licking Heights PTO

Our PTO is a team of parents, teachers, and administrators who work together to provide the best educational experience for students in grades K-6. This includes conducting purposeful fundraising, providing interactive activities for students and adults, and supporting classroom teachers.



## Student Health Center

Thanks to a partnership between Licking Memorial Health Systems (LMHS) and our district, starting in 2023-2024 students can access necessary health care right at the high school. Licking Memorial is providing the financial and staffing investments needed to create a secure student Health Center inside the school. Students from kindergarten to 12th grade will be able to receive treatment with parent/guardian permission. The Clinic will first serve our students, but will grow to become a resource for all district families.



## Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Licking Heights Local Schools, along with I Am A Warrior Against Suicide, installed signs at the middle school, high school, and Central Intermediate with the national suicide prevention phone number and text line.



## Curriculum Nights for the Whole Family

Our elementary schools actively engage families in what their students are learning by regularly hosting themed Literacy Nights and Math and Science Nights. This includes events like Camp Learn-a-Lot at North and Travel the World Through Books at West. Each event brings between 600-700 people to the elementary schools.



## Ollie the Therapy Dog

Meet Ollie, Central Intermediate's certified therapy dog. Ollie visits once a week to meet with students in the counseling office.



## Welcoming All to Our Community

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office maintains partnerships with local organizations that serve immigrants, and their families. This includes partnering with Community, Refugee, and Immigration Services to create school murals in different languages and with Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services for after school tutoring with Central Intermediate students.



## Honoring Our Veterans

Central Intermediate, the middle school and the high school host an annual Veterans Day breakfast and ceremony to celebrate veterans among district families and the local community. Students across the district attend and the band regularly performs, too.



1. The Licking Heights Music Boosters is composed of families and alumni who are committed to supporting the band and choir programs through volunteering, fundraising, and donating resources to band and choir.

2. The Licking Heights Athletic Boosters generously volunteer time and resources to provide fundraising, donations, and operational support for middle and high school sports at Licking Heights.

## Sharing How Our



#HornetsTakeFlight

In response to requests from the community, Licking Heights launched a new mass communication strategy this year including bi-monthly districtwide email newsletters to all families, weekly email newsletters from school principals, quarterly print newsletters to all district residents, and a vibrant, active social media presence built on the hashtag #HornetsTakeFlight.



**THANK YOU**



**Donors!**

Thanks to the generosity of community donors, our district is able to meet the needs of our students academically and socially. Donations during the 2022-2023 school year included:

**\$20,330.50**

Athletics Donations

**\$15,000.44**

Academics Donations

**\$3,999**

DC Trip Donations

**\$977**

Miscellaneous Donations



SCAN ME

**Sign Up  
for Hornet  
Highlights**

Scan the QR code to join our email list for bimonthly district updates!

**Follow Us on  
Social Media**

**Follow Licking Heights  
Local Schools across  
social media!**

Licking Heights Local Schools

@LHLocalSchools

@lhlocalschools

## Meet the Fountain-Collier Family



**Hornet  
Pride**

**Hornet pride is a family affair for Shaun and Carmen Fountain—every member of their family has either graduated from, works for, or is a student at Licking Heights.**

Left to right, front row: Alexis Collier, Treyaun Fountain, Addison Fountain. Left to right, back row: Kalea Collier, Reece Collier, Carmen Fountain, Shaun Fountain.

