



Licking Heights Local Schools

QUALITY PROFILE

2023-2024



Elevating Every Learner
to New Heights.



A Letter from the Desk of Superintendent,

DR. KEVIN S. MILLER

Meet the Board of Education

- Tiffany Blumhorst, **President**
- Tracy Russ, **Vice President**
- Mark Rader
- Paul Johnson
- Hannington Tsikiwa

Dear Licking Heights Community,

What a year it has been for Licking Heights Local Schools! From the development of our first-ever Strategic Plan, to a full district rebranding project (including new names for our PreK-6 schools), to preparing for the opening of our new elementary school, transportation center, high school addition, and athletic complex, we are grateful for your continued support of our great school system.

Thank you for trusting me to serve as Superintendent of Licking Heights Local Schools. It is a pleasure to oversee all of the changes taking place throughout the district, and I look forward to many more years of student success and triumph as our district continues to elevate every learner to new heights.

Quality Profiles are popular among Ohio public school districts as a complement to the State Report Card from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. While the State Report Card provides helpful data, it does not share the stories of our unique, driven students and their hardworking teachers and staff. A Quality Profile is a district's opportunity to bring to life our school community.

Throughout this Quality Profile, I invite you to meet some of the students and staff who make Heights a wonderful place to learn and grow. We will showcase the incredible changes happening across our district and share the triumphs of our students—from preschool to graduating seniors—as they go higher.

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 through this Quality Profile. We are thrilled to share it with you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kevin S. Miller, Superintendent



OUR SCHOOLS

We educate students preschool to 12th grade in seven different schools, including a new elementary school, Lima Ridge Elementary, opening October 2024.



#Hornets TakeFlight



Licking Heights High School

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

Licking Heights Middle School

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

Summit Station Intermediate

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

Broad Peak Elementary School

6623 Summit Road
Pataskala, OH 43062
Grades: K-4
Principal: Mr. Brian Wilkinson
(740) 964-1674

Everest Elementary School

1490 Climbing Fig Drive
Blacklick, OH 43004
Grades: K-4
Principal: Mrs. Colleen Wildenhaus
(614) 864-9089

Lima Ridge Elementary School

3693 Summit Road SW
Pataskala, OH 43062
Grades: K-4
Principal: Mr. Kurt Scheiderer
(740) 927-3268

Pathfinders Preschool

6565 Summit Road
Pataskala, OH 43062
Grades: PreK
Principal: Mrs. Brandi Wade
(740) 927-3268



TELLING OUR STORY

As our student population grows and changes, so does our district. This year, we embarked on a rebranding project that honored our history while celebrating the next era of our district. This process included the voices of our staff, students, alumni, community, and families. Together, we all Go Higher.



WHO WE ARE

No matter your aspirations, Licking Heights will help you achieve your personal goals at the highest level possible. Go Higher.

Our District Story

Welcome to Licking Heights.

A place where a caring community helps students find their unique path.

A place where all cultures are welcomed, embraced, and celebrated.

A place where you roll up your sleeves to take advantage of what growth offers.

A place where you become a member of a vibrant, passionate, and diverse community.

A place with a rich tradition and an unlimited future.

Join us as we create a special place where you can be your absolute best.

Pillars of Success

We Provide The Right Opportunity.

We Are Welcoming.

We Celebrate Diversity.

We Adapt to Change and Growth.

We Commit to Strong Communication.

New School Names

Central Preschool → **Pathfinders Preschool**

South Elementary → **Broad Peak Elementary**

West Elementary → **Everest Elementary**

New Elementary → **Lima Ridge Elementary**

Central Intermediate → **Summit Station Intermediate**



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

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



5,336

Enrolled Students

18%

English Language Learner Students



51

Home Languages Spoken

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



19%

Students with Special Needs

11%

Gifted Students



Our English Language Learner program is one of the biggest in Ohio. We were featured by the Ohio Newsroom in a statewide report about ELL students.



ENROLLMENT BY BUILDING

- High School: 1486
- Middle School: 791
- Summit Station Intermediate: 838
- Broad Peak: 780
- Everest: 863
- North: 382
- Pathfinders: 196



ACADEMICS & CAREER PREPARATION

From career pathways to college prep, learning to read to AP English Literature, our district shapes students into the best and the brightest they can be—and helps them choose their own unique path that suits their talents and interests.



Choose Your Own Path with The New Heights Program

This year, we received a \$2.2 million Career Technical Education Equipment Grant from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) for our New Heights career preparation program. This program will enhance student access to careers and college, create specialized labs and classrooms, expand course offerings, and allow students to earn industry recognized credentials.

Pathways in the program include:



Logistics and Supply Chain Management



Cybersecurity and Software Development



Arts and Visual Design



Healthcare and Medical Careers



Information Technologies



Business and Marketing



Students can also complete the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal for graduation, enhancing their resumé with real-world experiences and transferable skills. Finally, the special education Life Skills program will be expanded to include a student-managed in-school coffee shop and store.

ACADEMICS AT A GLANCE

275

Students Earning College Credit Through College Credit Plus/Advanced Placement Courses

8

Students Who Earned a College Board National Recognition Award



1

Student, Devin Lawson, Attending the University of Chicago on a Full Ride

1

Student, Richard Hill, Who Earned Illuminate USA's First Scholarship



2

Students, Ali West and Natalie Ampadu, Who Completed The Requirements for a Global Scholars Diploma

49

Students in National Honor Society



77

Students Attending C-TEC



66

Seniors Graduating Summa, Magna, or Cum Laude



33

Seniors Graduating with an STNA License

63

Honors Diplomas Earned by the Class of 2024



Our Award-Winning Staff



Ms. Rubino, Outstanding Ohio Art Teacher



Mrs. Weaver, Licking County Leader for Learning



Mrs. O'Ryan, You Made a Difference Award



Pathfinders Preschool, Five-Star Step Up to Quality Recipient



Mrs. Richardson, Licking County Educational Service Center Excellence in Education Award

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

From an internationally recognized choir program, to a Superior-rated marching band and color guard, to seven CAPA Theatre Award nominations, to a student art show with over 4,000 pieces, Heights students are passionate for creative expression and serve as leaders across the state in their craft.



The choir was invited to march in the London New Year's Day Parade and participate with fellow nationally acclaimed choral groups at the London International Choral Festival.



3 Superior Ratings at OMEA States and Districts for all HS bands

3 Superior Ratings at OMEA Large Group for all MS bands



1 OMEA MS Solo and Ensemble contest hosted by MS bands, with 20 Superior ensemble ratings and 61 Superior solo ratings earned



7 MS students personally selected for honor bands

6 Summit Station students featured in Columbus art galleries



1 Student, Gillian Busch, featured in collegiate art gallery

7 CAPA Marquee Award nominations for theater department's production of *The Wedding Singer*



4 HS choirs that advanced to the OMEA State Large Group competition

2 Superior Ratings at OMEA States for HS choir



ATHLETICS

Hornet athletes succeed as competitors, community leaders, and students.

ATHLETICS AT A GLANCE

21
High School Sports

13
Middle School Sports

2
LCL Players of the Year

2
LCL Coaches of the Year

37
Athletes Earning All-Licking County League Honors

8
Athletes Signing With Colleges



The Seeman sisters, Lauren and Lilli, made history by being the first-ever members of the girls wrestling team to qualify for the state championships.



Varsity volleyball won the LCL Championship for the third time in school history and earned Player of the Year (Alyssa Hill) and Coach of the Year (Tara Stout) honors.



Varsity boys basketball won the LCL Championship for the fourth year in a row and earned Player of the Year (Aliou Ceesay) and Coach of the Year (Shaun Fountain) honors.



Addison Caudill and Alex Amarty qualified for the Indoor State Track Meet last winter. In the fall, Addison set a new LHHS cross country record, while Lucas Limbrick set a new record for middle school cross country.

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

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

Continuing Our Advocacy for Fair School Funding

We believe all Ohio public school students should have access to an equitable, well-rounded education. Our leadership advocates for fair school funding across the state by regularly meeting with legislators, testifying at the Ohio Statehouse, and collaborating with fellow public school districts and organizations for advocacy work.



The Treasurer's Office earned the Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction for excellence in financial reporting in FY 2022. Less than 5% of publicly funded institutions in the state receive this honor.

The Cost of Educating a Heights Student (FY 23)

Per Pupil Expenditure

\$11,229.23

State Avg. Expenditure Per Pupil

\$15,498.95

Average Expenditure Per Pupil of Similarly Sized District (4,000 students - 6,000 students)

\$15,512.28

Revenue Sources

35.7% State Funding
64.3% Local Community Funding

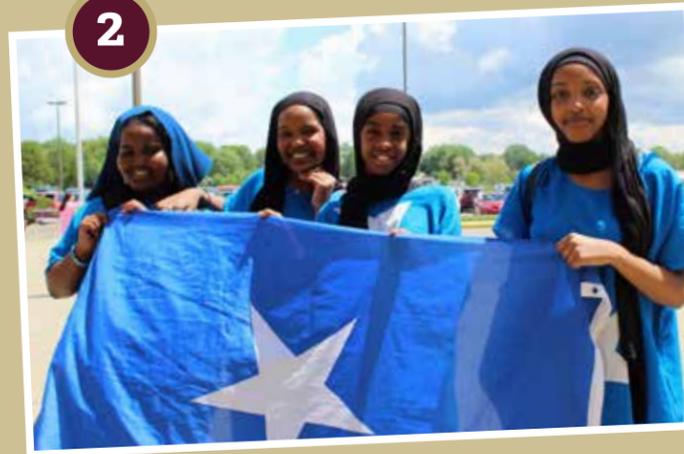
Local Funding Sources

84.3% Community funding received from resident/agriculture tax
15.7% Community funding received from commercial/other tax

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

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

Heights students are part of only 14% of students in the United States who attend a truly integrated, diverse, multicultural school. Celebrating diversity is one of our Pillars of Success, ensuring every student, family, and staff member feels welcomed, included, and supported in our community.



Our Completed Construction Projects

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Heights passed a bond issue in May 2022 to fund an extensive construction project. This year, we are thrilled to announce the official opening of our new buildings:

- A full-service **Transportation Center**, opened July 2024
- A Division I **Athletic Complex** holding 5,000 people, opening August 2024
- **Lima Ridge Elementary**, our new elementary with a capacity of 900 students, opening October 2024
- An **addition to the high school** holding 350 students, opening November 2024



Captions:

1. Family Engagement Specialist Jhuma Acharya connects school administrators to parent groups in our Somali, Nepali, African, and Spanish-speaking communities.
2. The annual Culture Fair is a free event open to all and brings together families, local businesses, and community organizations.
3. Diaspora is a signature Heights event, staged entirely by the high school Cultural Identity Club and showcasing traditional cultural dances, songs, poems, and fashion.
4. Each building has a Student Diversity Council that coordinates quarterly events like Culture Day.
5. Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) partners with the district for social welfare needs and projects like this flag mural at Broad Peak Elementary.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND STUDENT WELLBEING.

We believe families are active partners in educating students. Our Pupil Services team maintains a wide network of resources to support our students—and their families—both at school and at home.



**Hornet
Pride**



Supporting Our Students



Our social workers coordinate with social service organizations and manage in-house wraparound services, including a full food pantry, for PreK-12 students and families.



The Licking Memorial Health Center at Licking Heights, located at the high school, is a full-service clinic providing treatment to students, staff, and community members.



Generous companies like TS Tech, Amazon, Google, and Meta/Facebook regularly donate money and essentials for students in need.



Each school hosts an annual Veteran's Day celebration for family members and the community. Broad Peak Elementary also earned Purple Star Designation from the state for their work to support military students and families.

STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP

From canned food drives to community cleanups, social service to cultural expression, aspiring professionals to creative geniuses, spelling superstars to model citizens, Heights students are actively involved on and off campus as local leaders.



1



2



3



Captions:

1. Te'Lario Watkins was nationally recognized by Hormel Foods and the Young Heroes Project for his work to end food insecurity in Central Ohio. An urban farmer, Watkins has donated over 300 pounds of produce to local food banks.
2. The Pataskala Rotary Club partners with students for projects like an annual canned food drive to benefit Licking County families in need. Heights collected nearly 7,000 cans in 2023.
3. For his Eagle Scout project, Lucas Gleim coordinated an instrument drive for the band department.

Connect with Licking Heights

Follow Us Across Social Media!

- @Licking Heights Local Schools
- @LHLocalSchools
- @lhlocalschools
- @Licking Heights Local Schools



#Hornets TakeFlight



THANK YOU DONORS!

Thank you to all families, staff, and community members who contributed to our brick paver fundraiser. **We raised over \$20,000 to support our Music Boosters, Athletic Boosters, and PTO.**



Sign Up for Hornet Highlights

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

