

# Southwest Local Schools

## Quality Profile Report, 2018-2019

### Academic and Social Growth for ALL students, EVERY DAY!



A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of your school district in areas that matter most to our community.



## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Fiscal Stewardship, and staff / district recognitions. This truly is "...the rest of the story" – of which, we are extremely proud!

The mission for the Southwest Local School District is "Academic and Social Growth for ALL students, every day!" Living this mission with intentionality takes much time and effort – by many folks. From pre-school through college and career, our 390+ staff members and 10,000 parents / guardians help us to graduate our students ready for their next phase in life.

The Quality Profile (QP) is published by school districts throughout the state of Ohio, often in unison with the State of Ohio local report card. The purpose of the Quality Profile is to provide a more thorough depiction of both the academic AND social growth taking place in our schools on an annual basis. The QP is supported by the Alliance for High Quality Education, an ongoing consortium that works to improve educational opportunities for students and represents member districts on both educational policy issues and funding initiatives.

This profile demonstrates first hand the overall educational value of Southwest Local Schools in areas that extend beyond standardized and state-mandated assessments to include areas that matter most to the SLSD community: Academics, Fine Arts, Visual Arts, Parent / Community Involvement, Student Leadership, Community Outreach, Student Services,



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**JOHN C. HAMSTRA,**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**

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# Academics

Our district's academic program provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

- Nearly 200 academic, athletic, and military scholarships were awarded to members of the class of 2019 totaling \$1,000,000.
- Wm. Henry Harrison High School was named by *Newsweek Magazine* as one of America's Top Public High Schools for 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- 327 students enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses in 2018-19 (a 55% increase in AP Participation since 2014).
- Unique Pipelines Program with specialized course tracks available for college and career readiness in S.T.R.E.A.M. (science, technology, robotics, arts, mathematics), business, medical and health professions, human services (law, education, public safety, social work, military, cosmetology, etc.), arts/design, and manufacturing/construction
- 9 high school credit opportunities for advanced middle school students
- Talented and Gifted Services in grades 2-8 reading/math.
- 21 Advanced Placement Opportunities: AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP Capstone: Seminar, AP Capstone: Research, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Physics C: Mechanics, AP Psychology, AP US History, AP Government, AP World History, AP Human Geography, AP Music Theory, AP Art History, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A
- World languages offered - Spanish and French in grades 7-12
- STEAM Curriculum in place for grades K-12
- 1:1 Computing in all schools
- Differentiated instruction provided to meet the needs of *all* learners in grades K-12.
- ACT : 254 students took the ACT in 2018-19. Although this year's averages have not yet been published, this data is current as of August 2017:
  - Average Composite: 21.5
  - Average English: 20.5
  - Average Mathematics: 21.3
  - Average Reading: 22.0
  - Average Science: 22.0
- Our ACT averages have held steady over the past three years with Composite Scores of 21.5 in 2015, 21.7 in 2016, and 21.5 again in 2017.



2018-19 DECA Participants: A record 113 were invited to compete in the Ohio Career Development Conference in the Spring of 2019.

# Our Core Values:

## TRUST



WVE Principal Mia Neckel welcoming a student back for the first day of school.

## RESPECT



Veteran's Day Assembly at WHHHS.

## OWNERSHIP



Above, district teachers and administrators who presented their expertise at the November Teacher Inservice training. Right, Miranda Meibers receiving the Hamilton County Celebrate Excellence award for Southwest Local Schools.

## LEADERSHIP





## Arts

Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

- Band programs begin in elementary through high school, with opportunities available at the secondary level for Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Pep Band with contest opportunities through the Ohio Music Education Association and the Mid-States Band Association.
- Elementary chorus and secondary choir opportunities available with specialized programs at the secondary level for Concert Choir, A Capella, Women's Choir, Junior School A Capella with contest opportunities available through OMEA.
- Art programs available for K-12 with advanced opportunities in high school specializing in Digital Arts and Design, Drawing and Painting, AP Art History, Advanced Portfolio, Digital Photography, and Ceramics.
- Performance and display opportunities are provided throughout the community with special events like Showcase, Coffee Peddler art exhibitions, Harrison tree lighting ceremony, and of course, our famous school musicals!





## Citizenship and Service

Teaching our students how to be good citizens and servant leaders in our community is a priority.

Southwest Local students are excellent citizens. While instilling our core values: TRUST, RESPECT, OWNERSHIP, and LEADERSHIP, we also teach our students the importance of serving our community and those in need, and of servant leadership. This year, Southwest Local Schools, in conjunction with the Harrison Rotary Club, organized multiple service projects that took place all over the SLSL community in our district-wide "Day of Service." A myriad of volunteers - students, parents, teachers, school administrators, athletic teams and coaches, church groups, and many other adult community members - came together in the spirit of servant leadership to beautify our community. Projects such as building lending library boxes, painting playground equipment, sanding and painting picnic areas and benches, and landscaping were just some of the many service projects accomplished across the community. In addition, the school and community worked together with the Harrison Mayor's Fund Canned Food Drive and our local churches to organize and distribute over 25,000 non-perishable food items, plus turkeys from JTM, warm winter clothing, and Christmas gifts to needy families from across our community.



# William Henry Harrison High School

Academic and Social Growth for ALL students  
EVERY day is our mission. Here's how we live it.

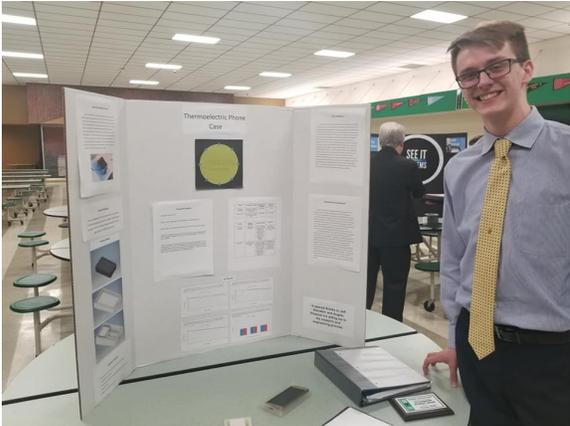


### Academic Growth:

Harrison High School is laser-focused on providing a multitude of curricular offerings and supports to our students in order to prepare them for post-secondary success. Our high school staff continues to hold high academic expectations while developing and implementing curriculum that challenges students to be 21<sup>st</sup> century learners.

### Social Growth:

We pride ourselves in having a myriad of clubs and activities, including athletics, that students can participate in. We strive for 100% extracurricular participation from our student body and monitor this throughout the school year. Socially we have had several highlights throughout the 2018-19 school year. We began our year with our student-led acceptance week, which focused on accepting **all** students. This week was so successful that we were selected by Channel 9 as a "School of The Week" and received \$1000, which was accepted by our special Education Department. The high school also was involved in the community-wide Day of Service, with over 300 students participating, and the Harrison Mayor's Fund Canned Food Drive. These events above couldn't have happened without strong leadership from both individual students and leadership organizations, such as Student Council. Athletics, National Honor Society and Key Club, just to name a few. Our student leadership is also modeled in our many academic pathways, such as Business (DECA), Health Sciences (HOSA) and Engineering (Robotics). We look forward to watching each of these organizations compete each year on the local, state and National level. Whether inside or outside the classroom, our goal remains to develop lifelong learners who have the ability to give back to their community.



## Athletics:

In the 2018-19 school year, there were 464 total High School athletes, representing nearly 45% of the total school population. Harrison High School has led the Southwest Ohio Conference in the highest number of students-athletes taking their athletic talents to the collegiate level with 83 college-bound athletes over the last four years. Additionally, 20 of the Top 25 graduating seniors from 2019 were student-athletes. Our athletic department is proud to say that our high school athletes have maintained a 3.5 GPA as an athletic department, earning a ranking of ALL-ACADEMIC for the Southwest Ohio Conference!



# **Harrison Junior School**

Academic and Social Growth for ALL students  
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## **Academic Growth:**

Harrison Junior School has made great strides in creating unique opportunities that allow Middle School students the option of earning high school credits within their Junior School years. During the 2018-19 school year, Harrison Junior School students earned high school credits in Algebra 1, Geometry, Health, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, French 1, French 2, and Biology. This affords students the ability to then take more advanced and elective courses in high school that build to their future career aspirations.



Our STEAM program continues to grow, develop, and lead our community and other school districts in providing in depth problem-solving and critical thinking skills to invent, develop, and improve products of student interests. This culminates in our bi-annual STEAM Fair where students are able to present the incredible projects that they created throughout the school year.



## **Social Growth:**

During the 2018-19 school year, our students were leaders within our community by participating in the Southwest Local School District Day of Service.

In addition, our Student Council led our school and partnered with schools from around Southwest Local School District to raise money for The Leukemia and

Lymphoma society. This leadership led to a \$25,000 donation from our schools to help find a cure. Through this program, students met their goal by partnering with their teachers and "Teacher Dares."



## **Student Leadership:**

Harrison Junior School was excited to welcome a new chapter of students into our Honor Society program. This program focuses on student leadership, service, and academics. Harrison Junior School welcomed over 100 students into this program during the 2018-2019 school year.

This past year, Harrison Junior School also participated in its Annual 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip. Over 170 students visited Gettysburg, the Washington Mall, The Smithsonian Institute, and Mt. Vernon. We look forward to taking even more students each year.



# **Crosby Elementary School**

**Academic and Social Growth for ALL students  
EVERY day is our mission. Here's how we live it.**

## **Academic Growth:**

At Crosby Elementary, our teachers work hard to create unique and challenging learning experiences for our students. For example, as part of a unit on habitats and ecosystems, 5th graders built their own Bat Houses.



First grade students designed and constructed a catapult to launch coins into a cauldron as part of a St. Patrick's Day STEAM project.



Kindergarten students explore Sun Rock Farm to learn about the character traits and adaptive behaviors of living things.

Again this year, Mrs. Margie Brown, Crosby Math teacher, accompanied twenty-five fifth grade students to compete in the Perennial Math

Competition. The Crosby students showed their outstanding problem solving skills by placing second and third in both the team and individual portions of the competition which included several schools from around the Tri-state.



This year, Crosby was awarded the "Overall A Award" by the Ohio Department of Education for its high performance on the State Report Card.

## **Social Growth:**

Our goal is to have 100% of our students participating in a sport, club, or other extra-curricular activity. At Crosby, students can participate in: Skills and Drills Basketball Camp, Basketball Club, Volleyball, Running Club, the Unicycle Team. Crystal Clear Science, Engineering Club, Math Challenge Club, Math Game Club, Math Camp, Starting Artist and Lego Club.



## **Student Leadership:**

Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills in many ways. 1st and 2nd grade students are nominated by their teachers to join the Leadership Club and meet monthly to work on service-related projects such as planning the Veteran's Day celebration, helping with the Mayor's Fund Canned Food Drive, participating in the Day of Service, writing rule reminders to post around the school, writing letters to police officers, and sending Valentines to nursing home patients.



# Harrison Elementary School

Academic and Social Growth for ALL students  
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## Academic Growth:

Both students and teachers embraced STEAM learning in the classrooms this past school year. Students were provided many hands-on opportunities to stretch their learning and delve deeper into many state standards. Throughout the building, students were observed conducting experiments in our STEAM Lab and inside their classroom. Activities included students' designing their own new school buildings to constructing cup pyramids using only string and cups.



The Ohio Department of Education awarded Harrison Elementary the Overall A Award for 2018. There were only 23 schools in all of Hamilton County to receive this prestigious award.

As an Overall A Award winner, our school's report card shows Harrison Elementary School as demonstrating high academic performance and building bright futures for students of every background and ability level.

## Social Growth:

For the 2018-19 school year Harrison Elementary took our District Goal of 100% participation in extra-curricular activities very seriously. Besides many of our usual activities – karate, dance, baton, game clubs, chess club and recycling club we added several more new and exciting opportunities for students. A morning Art club, Orators Club, Music Club and after school Math Club were all introduced and well attended.



The staff at Harrison Elementary believe that it is very important to enrich the minds both academically and socially of each student. Talks are already taking place for new clubs in the upcoming school year.

## Student Leadership:

Last year our fifth grade students really stepped up and made protecting the environment a high priority. Each Friday, during their lunch/recess time, students went from classroom to classroom picking up recyclables. These students were members of the Harrison Elementary "Green Team". Students at Harrison Elementary are taught from day one in the cafeteria how to recycle their trash and extra lunch items. The Green Team takes this a step further and educated the

students about their day-to-day classroom materials. In order to accommodate all of the fifth grade leaders who wanted to help we changed at the semester.



# Miamitown Elementary School

Academic and Social Growth for ALL students  
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## Academic Growth

Miamitown is a National Blue Ribbon School. In 2018, Miamitown received the Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for the third year in a row, and also was named a "High Progress School of Honor." These awards were presented by State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, who also toured the school and interviewed the students and staff.



State Superintendent DeMaria presents Mr. Kelly with the "High Progress School of Honor" award.



K'Nex Club activity

## Social Growth

Miamitown had a 90% participation rate in school activities. Clubs consisted of the following: Volleyball; Running Club; Basketball; Lego; K'nex Club; Rocket Club; and the Paranormal Investigation Club.

## Student Leadership

Miamitown has several leadership teams that meet and perform day to day activities. The announcement team does all the morning announcements and spends the day at Eagle Radio Station. The Green Team does the schools recycling. The fifth-grade tutoring team helps kindergarten students with reading and math activities.



Rocket Club activity



5th grade Tutoring

# Whitewater Valley Elementary School

**Academic and Social Growth for ALL students  
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## Academic Growth:

Whitewater Valley Elementary students made huge strides academically throughout the 2018-19 school year and earned the "Overall A Award" last year from the Ohio Department of Education.

The RTi program at Whitewater Valley Elementary provided small group, intense instruction targeted on student academic gaps. Grade level teachers were supported by academic aides and support personnel to help each student grow. We also added a summer reading program, Grow to Know, for students to continue reading over summer vacation and combat the "Summer Slide". Parents and guardians were invited to curriculum and technology nights to learn first-hand about grade level expectations and how to better support their children at home.



## Social Growth:

Whitewater Valley Elementary has a 90% participation rate in extra-curricular activities such as Karate Club, Lightning Squad, Jump Rope Club, Girls on the Run, and Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts/Brownies.

## Student Leadership:

Students have the opportunity to demonstrate and grow in their leadership skills by participating in Peer Tutors, Safety Patrol, the News Crew, Miami Savings Bank Tellers, and by participating in Acceptance Week.



Girls on the Run Team, Spring 2019



Above, Awareness + Change = Acceptance

Whitewater Valley teachers, students, & staff members participated in Acceptance Week in collaboration with Harrison HS!

Right, Fifth grade students are invited to join safety patrol. The students work with Whitewater Valley's SRO, Officer Lutterbie, to help direct traffic and escort students across the cross-walk safely!

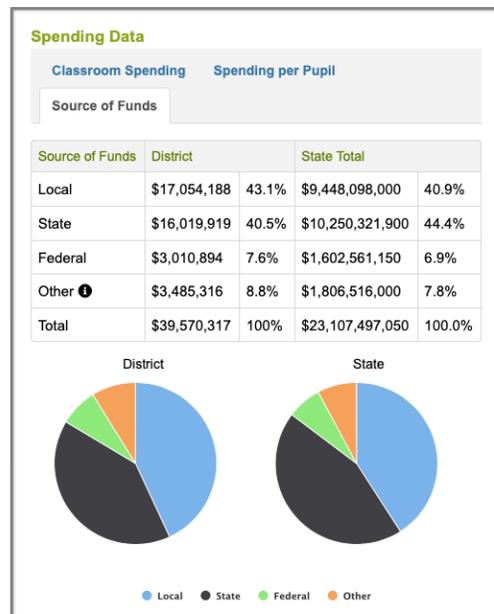
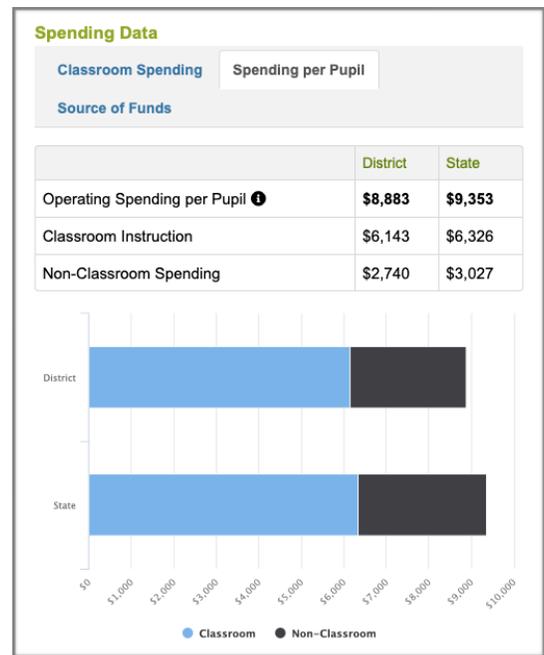
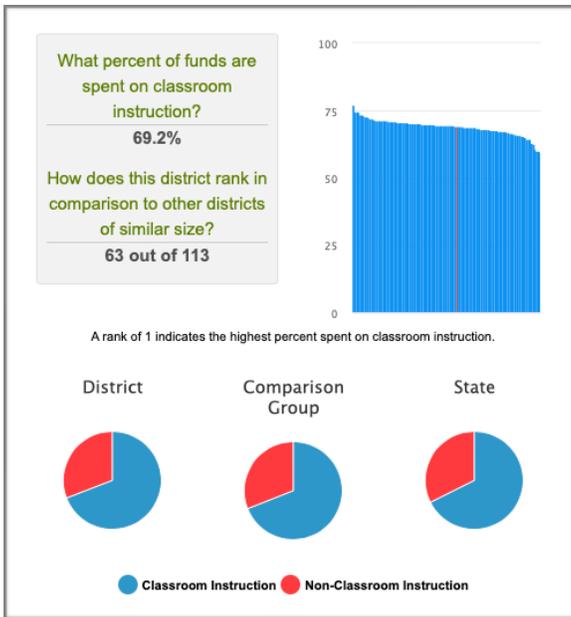


# Fiscal Stewardship

Financial responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction.

**Southwest Local School District works diligently to manage District funds in a fiscally responsible manner.**

- Spending per pupil: \$10,605.69 (4th lowest in Hamilton County in 2018)
- Percentage spent on instruction: 63.5%; SLSD is ranked 46th out of the 607 districts in the state. This puts the district in the top 7% of instructional spending per dollar spent while remaining in the bottom 1/3 of total per pupil spending.
- The district out-performed the state average per pupil, spending by over 11%, and the district is within .5% of peer spending.
- FY 2018-19 State Report Card





## **Parent & Community Involvement**

Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school district and community.

- Our incredible parent booster groups provided hundreds of volunteer hours with organizations like PTA, After Prom, Athletic Boosters, Drama Boosters, and Music Boosters to ensure that our students have the best possible educational experience in Southwest Schools.
- Our community and business partners support our schools and organizations. They include: Harrison Police and Fire Departments, Life Spring Church, Church on Fire, Legacy Christian Church, JTM Food Group, Whitewater Community Credit Union, Remke, State Farm Insurance, Home Depot, FCN Bank, the Bier Haus, Grey Oak, the Coffee Peddler, Adopt-A-Plant, Nationwide Insurance, Back's Drive-Thru, Acra Landscaping, Harrison McDonald's, Cheviot Savings, F&M Mafco, Steve's BP, Whitewater Crossing Christian Church, Walgreens, Main Source Bank, Lake's Sporting Goods, 4D, Cincinnati Savings, Cronin Ford, Hubert Distributing, Harrison Building and Loan, Brater Funeral Home, Crosby Township Senior Center, Skyline, Miami Savings & Loan, Hamilton County Parks, Super Cuts, PCS Phosphates, Nease Chemical Co., Mercy Hospital, SHP, Skanska-Megen, and Dunkin' Donuts.





## Summary

In Southwest Local Schools, we take pride in the outstanding opportunities that we make available to our students. We live our mission of helping our students to grow academically and socially every single day through our core values: trust, respect, ownership and leadership.

Our staff is passionate about empowering our students to become innovative global citizens and life-long learners, and we are committed to ensuring excellence through our academic programming, leadership opportunities, arts, athletics, extracurriculars, student support, community outreach, and fiscal stewardship.

All of these elements combined together are truly what makes a school district successful in providing a well-rounded educational experience to our children for college and career readiness, as well as ensuring that they are equipped to participate in a global society as leaders, ready to make a difference in the world.



Southwest Local School District  
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Harrison, Ohio, 45030  
513-367-4139  
www.southwestschools.org

Superintendent: John C. Hamstra  
Treasurer: Thomas Lowe

<b>Southwest Schools Directory</b>	
District Office .....	513-367-4139
Harrison High School .....	513-367-4169
Harrison Junior School.....	513-367-4831
Harrison Elementary School.....	513-367-4161
Crosby Elementary School.....	513-738-1717
Miamitown Elementary School.....	513-353-1416
Whitewater Valley Elementary School.....	513-367-5577

