

# **W** WESTLAKE City Schools



## **A Great Value in Education**

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 Westlake City Schools in areas that matter most in our community.

*We Educate for Excellence. Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives and to contribute to society.*

## **2016 WESTLAKE QUALITY PROFILE**



## Strategic Planning

In 2015 and 2016, a dedicated group of residents, business and nonprofit leaders, higher education representatives, civic representatives, parents and staff came together and shared their ideas and priorities to create our Strategic Plan. As the Westlake Schools sets its course for the future, it is critical to understand how our stakeholders perceive our priorities and the role of the schools in the community. The goal of the strategic planning process is a document outlining goals and initiatives to help the district position itself to best prepare students for their lives beyond graduation.

### The Goals:

- **Finance:** Maintain a constant and appropriate long-term funding stream to achieve the educational mission of the Westlake City Schools.
- **Curriculum & Technology:** Create a systematic framework to develop an all-inclusive learning environment aimed at educating the whole child, which empowers every Westlake student to positively and purposefully contribute to society and to strive for excellence.
- **Facilities:** Have a 21st century learning environment where form follows flexible function and accommodates safety, curriculum and technology.
- **Communication & Community Partnerships:** Build a sense of pride, confidence and trust through communication and partnerships.
- **Culture & Environment:** Build a culture of inclusion, collaboration, open-mindedness, respect and inspiration, so every student, faculty and community member feels welcomed and inspired to do their very best.

*Learn more about the Strategic Plan at [www.wlake.org](http://www.wlake.org).*

## Academics

Rigorous academic standards, a variety of curricular opportunities and highly qualified teachers are critical to the success of our students. We are proud to offer opportunities designed to engage learners and develop 21st century skills through collaboration, shared knowledge and mutual respect.

### Class of 2016 By The Numbers:

- Average ACT score = 24.6
  - State average = 22
  - National average = 21
- Average SAT = 1740
  - State average = 1657
- 8 National Merit Commended students
  - 1 National Merit Finalist
- 83% of graduates enrolled in higher education
  - 74% are attending 4-year colleges
  - 9% are attending 2-year colleges.
- Advanced Placement awards were earned by 102 students
  - 14 students were named National AP Scholars
  - 39 qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award
  - 16 qualified for the AP Scholars with Honors Award
  - 33 qualified as AP Scholars
- 62% of students taking AP exams scored 4 or 5
- 88% of students taking AP exams earned scores of 3 or higher
- WHS offers a variety of academic coursework and programs, including:
  - 17 Advanced Placement courses
  - 14 International Baccalaureate courses
  - College Credit Plus courses
  - West Shore Career-Technical programs

### At Lee Burneson Middle School:

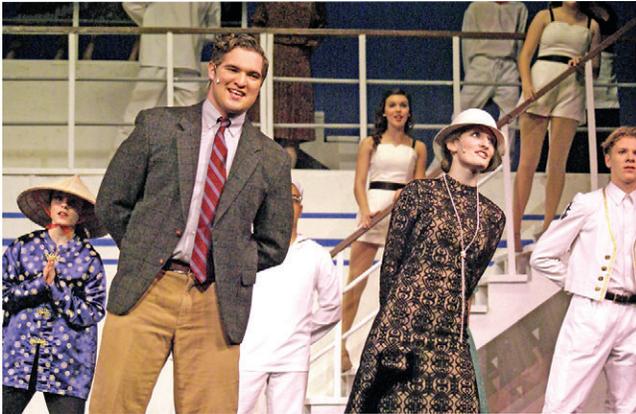
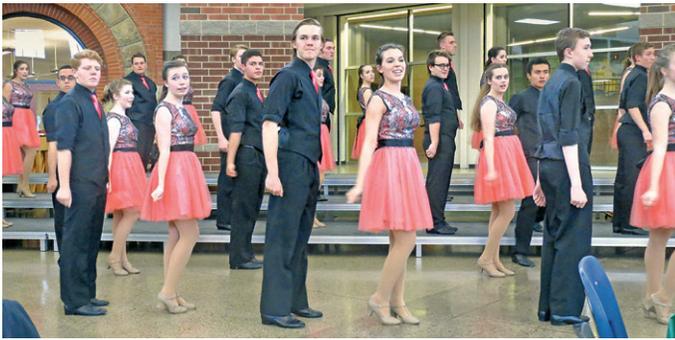
- 58 students participated in Honors Physical Science
- 60 in Honors Geometry
- 110 8th graders participated in World Language
- 136 6th–8th grade students participated in Algebra
- 8 8th graders participated in Algebra II
- World Languages are offered in French, German, Latin and Spanish.



- Second language learning begins in 1st grade, with world language choices offered at the intermediate, middle and high school levels.

### Notable Accomplishments

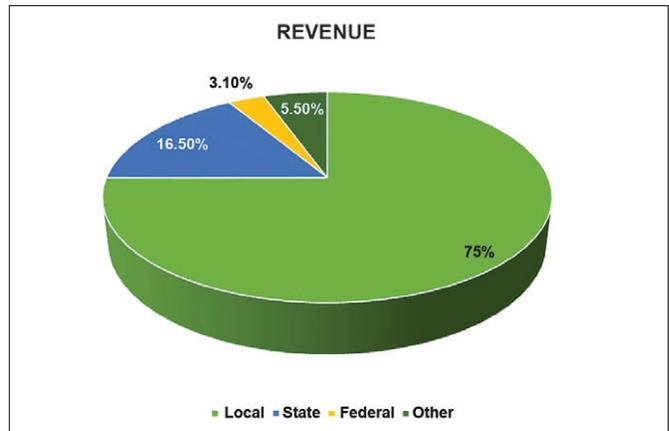
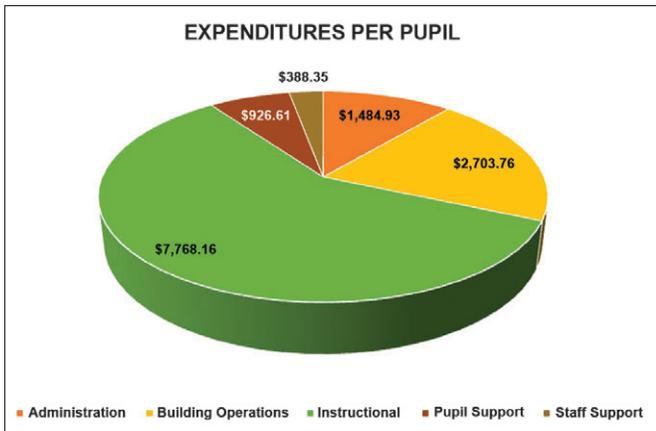
- Hilliard and Dover Elementary Schools, along with the Westlake City School District as a whole, were recognized by the State Board of Education with Momentum Awards.
- A WHS senior was selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.
- World Language students were recognized for their performance on the 2016 National Spanish Examinations, 2016 annual Grand Concours national competition and 2016 National German Exam.
- LBMS pre-engineering students brought home the top awards in the Junior Solar Sprint race.
- A WHS sophomore was named the National 2016 U.S. Geography Olympiad Junior Varsity Champion.
- A Dover Intermediate School 6th grade student took 3rd place in Ohio in the Library of Congress' Letters About Literature 2016 Contest.
- All 4 of our elementary schools are International Baccalaureate World Schools. The Primary Years Programme curriculum model uses a combination of inquiry and instruction to help students develop academic knowledge and skills, and apply what they know in new situations.



## The Arts

Student participation in extracurricular activities is a sign of both leadership and a well-rounded student. Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The Westlake City Schools provide a variety of opportunities for our students in the arts.

- Five WHS vocal and instrumental ensembles received Superior and Excellent ratings in the Ohio Music Education Association High School State Large Group Contests.
- A WHS junior's art was selected for the 2016 Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Exhibit.
- 14 WHS art students earned 18 awards in the 2016 Cuyahoga County Region Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
- 6 WHS art students earned recognition in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Art Program.
- 5 WHS students won recognition in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Writing Program.
- A WHS freshman's animated short film was accepted as part of the Cleveland International Film Festival.
- 24 students participated in the pit orchestra for WHS Center Stage Players performances.
- 77% of Dover Intermediate School students enrolled in at least one music class (band, orchestra, choir, adaptive music).
- Hilliard Elementary School's Honors Choir performs at school events, as well as the Oberlin Choristers Honor Choir Festival.



## Fiscal Stewardship

The Westlake community expects us to run a lean operation and to direct funds to the classroom. The Westlake City Schools provide a good value for our taxpayers' investment in our schools. Our school district has been recognized at the regional, state and national levels for our efforts in fiscal stewardship.

- Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from Ohio Association of School Business Officials.
- 23 consecutive "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" awards from the Government Finance Officers Association
- The Westlake City Schools have been able to save money on school bus purchases and other items as a member of the Ohio Schools Council's Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- The Westlake City Schools were awarded a \$38,898 grant through the Ohio Department of Education to identify and support teachers as they obtain the qualifications to teach post-secondary courses at the middle and high school levels.
- The Westlake City Schools earned a clean audit report from the Auditor of State for its excellent record keeping, paving the way for another Auditor of State Award with Distinction.
- The new Westlake High School and Lee Burneson Middle School both achieved LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- The Westlake City Schools were recognized by the Ohio Treasurer as a leader in government transparency for being among the initial 100 public entities to join the state's OhioCheckbook.com program.
- 67.7% of funds are spent on classroom instruction.





## Partnerships

Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school district and community. The Westlake City School District has a long and valued tradition of strong partnerships with parents and the broader school community. When students feel supported by the adults in the community, they believe they have the ability to achieve:

- The Westlake Council of PTAs and individual building PTA units provide support for numerous programs for both students and parents.
- The Westlake Music Boosters support and promote the arts through musical education and performance in our schools, for all students, in all grades, and in all forms.
- The Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters is a community-based organization that supports Westlake's athletic teams in grades 7-12.
- The Dover/Westlake Alumni Association raises funds for an annual scholarship and helps to promote and enhance the learning and community experience at Westlake High School.
- Hyland Software collaborates with the Westlake Schools on field trips, summer HyTech camps, Tech Club activities, internships, a Hack-a-Thon, Innovation Showdown competition and classroom presentations.
- The WHS stadium turf project was the culmination of collaboration by the Westlake Athletic Development Foundation and many corporate and private donors, including University Hospitals St. John Medical Center as the Hall of Fame donor.
- The Westlake City Schools maintain a cooperative relationship with local government and safety forces, including School Resource Officers at our high school and middle school.



- Five Lee Burneson Middle School 7th grade Language Arts students took home awards in a poetry contest sponsored by the City of Westlake Engineering Department and the Westlake Water Shed group.
- A WHS freshman won 1st place in the Rotary Club of Westlake/Bay Village annual speech contest.
- The Westlake City Schools, in partnership with the Westlake Kiwanis, Westlake Porter Public Library and the City of Westlake, host an annual Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner.
- Hilliard and Holly Lane Elementary Schools partnered with child-friendly Westlake businesses for the school-wide literacy program One School, One Book.
- 3 WHS student researchers participated in Cleveland Clinic's Science Internship Program.
- Westlake High School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, adopting the Diploma Programme. WHS partners with 2 neighboring school districts to offer an integrated curriculum that encourages global awareness and meets international benchmarks.





## Student Services

A variety of services provide options to ensure all students receive individualized instruction, enrichment and support. The Westlake City Schools differentiate services for each child based on individual needs. Specialized programs for gifted and special education ensure each child has the opportunity to achieve their personal best.

- Westlake City Schools provides special education services to 548 students, including students attending private schools.
- Westlake City Schools employ 17 licensed service staff members to assist students throughout the district :
  - 8 speech-language pathologists
  - 2 school nurses
  - 2 OT/OTA
  - 1 physical therapist
  - 4 school psychologists
- 10.9% of students identified as gifted received services in our school district.

- Students with special needs are serviced within the least restrictive environment that is best suited or adapted to meet an individual's needs.
- Our English as a Second Language Program helps English Language Learner students overcome their linguistic, cultural and language difficulties to assure they receive an equal educational opportunity.
- The Westlake preschool program serves children ages 3–5 who demonstrate developmental delays or disabilities in language development, motor skills, cognition, socialization, behavioral/emotional growth, and/or adaptive behaviors. The program also provides services to typically developing peers.
- The Project Link Community Education program provides before- and after-school and summer enrichment programming to more than 1,000 students annually, as well as Adult Community Education programming to hundreds of residents.

**Westlake City School District**  
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## Student Leadership & Activities

A well-rounded education includes a variety of opportunities. The Westlake City Schools believe there is more to our students than what they score on state tests. Athletics and extracurricular activities build character, teamwork and engagement.

- Westlake High School students are able to participate in 40 clubs and activities, and 23 interscholastic sports.
- More than 80% of WHS students are involved in at least 1 club, activity or team.
- The LBMS Math Club brought home a state trophy in the Ohio Mathematics League Challenge, ranking 6th in the state.
- The Dover Intermediate School Math Club placed 4th in the region and 7th in the state in the Ohio Math League Contest.
- WHS' Math Club placed 1st at the 2016 Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Tournament, ranking them 8th in Ohio.
- The WHS Academic Challenge team clinched the championship title at the 2016 Southwestern Conference Tournament.
- A WHS senior competed in the first season of Lifetime's Project Runway Junior.
- WHS' Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter earned the 2nd place SADD National Chapter of the Year Award.
- WHS Technology & Engineering Department students participated in the 17th annual Goodyear STEM Career Day sponsored by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company at the University of Akron. A WHS team won 4th overall in the Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge.



- 8 WHS AP Art History and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students were involved in the Cleveland Museum of Art Museum Ambassador program.
- WHS teams took 5 of the top 10 awards in the 19th annual Student Model Home Design Contest.
- A WHS team won the Best in State Award and was one of the 2016 Best in Region winners in the Verizon Innovative App Challenge for their PING app.
- An LBMS 8th grade student was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by the Corporation for National and Community Service for achieving 250 service hours.
- A team of WHS students won 1st place in the Hyland High School Innovation Showdown.
- A Hilliard Elementary 4th grade student took 3rd place in the environmental category in the regional Invention Convention contest.

Westlake City Schools will continue to educate for excellence. We will empower all students to achieve their educational goals. We will be flexible, adaptable and forward thinking in our educational and financial planning, and we will ensure that our students have the resources they need to succeed.