



CHARTIERS VALLEY

SCHOOL DISTRICT | *Inspiring excellence.*

CELEBRATE CV!

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



THE CV MISSION

The mission of the Charters Valley School District, a community dedicated to shared leadership, is to graduate students who achieve personal success by providing an exceptional academic foundation in a safe, nurturing environment that inspires creativity and innovation while embracing diversity.

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Letter from Superintendent



Dear Friends,

What a tremendous year it has been!

There have been so many exceptional achievements. Middle School students and staff enjoyed the first full school year in their new building, while the High School successfully moved from the old building to the new.

We celebrated as our girls basketball team won a state championship, our musicians were ranked among the best in the region, and our dance troupe placed 8th in the nation. We applauded our students' academic achievements and honored several faculty and staff members for receiving awards and recognitions. We came together as a community to "Celebrate CV" and raised over \$30,000 for charity. We designed a beautiful school crest, named our first Distinguished Alumnus, and launched a new website.

I am deeply proud of what our school district has accomplished this year and look forward to building upon these accomplishments in the 2019-2020 school year. I am confident that Chartiers Valley will continue to serve as the cornerstone of our communities and provide an exceptional educational experience for our children.

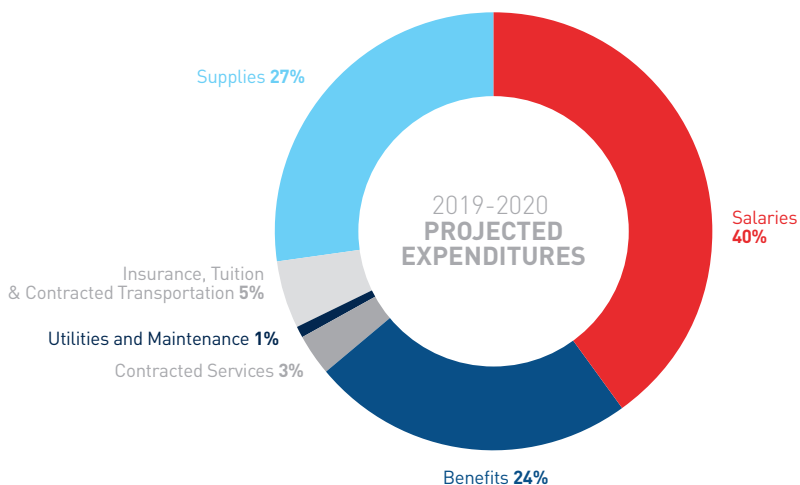
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johannah M. Vanatta".

Dr. Johannah Vanatta
Superintendent of Schools



Communities that invest in youth prosper!

The Chartiers Valley School District approved the 2019-2020 final budget during the June 25, 2019 school board meeting. The final budget totals \$67,371,819.



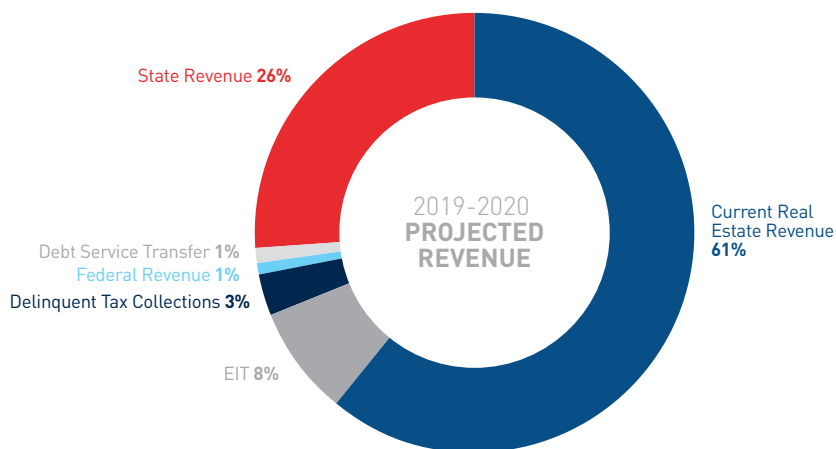
Beginning this year, the average \$132,400 homeowner will pay about \$5.39 more per month in property taxes, with the new millage rate of 17.5595. The current millage rate is 17.0710.

As presented at several public board meetings, public schools in Pennsylvania encounter many mandates, both from the state and federal levels. Chartiers Valley is not alone as schools face significant contributions to the state pension system (PSERS), charter school tuition payments, and other mandated costs that are not under the school's control.

Unfortunately, state and federal funding does not match the cost of providing mandated services and benefits, leaving a large gap to be filled by local taxpayers.

Despite the increase, Chartiers Valley School District remains one of the lowest millage rates in Allegheny County.

To view the 2019-2020 budget, [visit www.cvsd.net](http://www.cvsd.net).



New Courses Offered in 2018/2019

CVHS added Advanced Placement (AP) Research to its course offerings this year. The year-long course, when taken after AP Seminar, allows students the opportunity to earn AP Capstone. AP Capstone is a diploma program designed to compliment other AP courses.

Biomedical Innovations is a new course which is the capstone for the Biomedical Science program at CVHS. Science teacher Mrs. King spent two weeks at NMSI training and preparing to teach the class. The four-year Biomedical Science program prepares students to study and work in the science field after high school.

The Primary School is offering three new programs with a focus on social/emotional education. They are:

- Mindfulness: Music to Calm
- Art Expressions
- Mindfulness through Movement



Student Performance

3,296
Total Students

2018 % Free/Reduced Lunch:

28.4%

75.1%
2018 PSSA % Proficient

Class of 2019 Average QPA

3.44

2018 SAT Average

Reading/Writing	Math	Total
557	551	1,108

NOCTI Career & Technical Standardized Exam

79%
pass rate

Average 2018-2019 PSSA Scores

Math 51%

(state average 42%)

English/LA 73%

(state average 61%)

Science 73%

(state average 65%)

AP Honor Roll

Courses with **95% Scoring a 3 or Higher** on AP Exam

Calculus BC
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Physics C: Mechanics
AP Seminar
Art 2-D Design Studio
Art 3-d Design Studio
Studio Art: Drawing

This past school year, our students accomplished many great things in the areas of academics, community, athletics, and music and the arts.

ACADEMIC

National Math + Science Initiative

More than 90 current CVHS students were awarded for scoring a 3, 4 or 5 on Science, Math and/or ELA Advanced Placement Exams. Students earned \$100 per qualifying score from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), with a total award of \$23,400.00!

Placing High in Pittsburgh Magazine Rankings

Pittsburgh Magazine published their rankings of Pittsburgh's suburban school districts, and CVSD tied for sixth place out of 45 districts with a score of 3.2 out of 4. The rankings were based on average SAT scores, Advanced Placement offerings, full-day kindergarten, and school tax millage rates. Chartiers Valley offers 21 AP courses and full-day kindergarten. Students score an average of 1075 on combined Math and Reading SATs.



CV Common Sense Schools

Thanks to the hard work of several faculty, all CV schools qualified as a "Common Sense School" for teaching young how to be safe, responsible digital citizens.

CV Performs Well in DECA

DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America, is a 70-year-old international organization which prepares student leaders and young entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.



At the DECA District 2 competition, over half of the CV squad earned first or second place scores and qualified for the state level competition in Hershey, PA. First-place winners include Logan DeSalle, Ashton Franks, Anthony Chiurazzi, Honora Armfield, Allison Moses, Hailey Kumpf, Ashlynn Gulakowski, Paige Banas, Mary Fisher, Brittany Gallo, Cora Schaab, Sean Banas, and Adam Weiss.

Second-place winners include Aum Patel, Andrew Windsheimer, Grayce Woodrum, Jada Khalil, Sara Katonka, Eve Hawthorne and Noah Hughes. These students traveled to Hershey, PA on February 21 for the state competition.

Logan DeSalle earned a perfect score and the title of State Champion in the Accounting Applications division. Jada Khalil and Sara Katonka placed second in Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making. The three medallion winners qualified for the National DECA Competition in Orlando in April.

Paige Banas and Mary Fisher placed fifth in the state for Sports and Entertainment Marketing and collected a medallion. Bailey Donofrio and Anthony Chiurazzi were medallion winners in Restaurant and Food Service Management and Automotive Services Marketing, respectively.



Adebisi Accepted to Prestigious Program

Through a very competitive selection process, Global Scholar Victoria Adebisi was accepted to the prestigious Governor's School for Global and International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh this summer.

Middle School Global Minds

Several High School students successfully achieved the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) Global Scholars honor. This prestigious distinction recognizes students who exhibit a commitment to learning another language and take other courses with an international/global focus. Students also completed 20 service hours, participated in related extracurricular activities and wrote analytical reviews of world literature and media. Many of the students traveled abroad too.



Senior Class Success

The Class of 2019 celebrated Commencement on June 5, 2019. The Class of 2019 earned a combined total of \$1.5 million in scholarships from 51 different colleges and universities. Of the seniors, 56% were accepted to four-year programs, 19% to two-year programs, and 26% chose to pursue military and career options.

Battle of the Books

The Bridgeville and Scott Township Libraries held a Battle of the Books. CVIS's own "Literally, The Best Team Ever" was literally, the best team, as they won the battle! Congratulations, Char Svihla, Lexi Flowers, Shaffer Kinnee and Eva Hornych!



Odyssey of the Mind

Two CV Odyssey of the Mind teams qualified for state finals in the Pocono Mountains in April. Team McAleer took first place and Team Williams took 3rd place.



Robotics Team Prep for Competitions

Horsepower 4991, the CVHS Robotics Team, had a surprise visit from Congressman Conor Lamb. Horsepower spent "build season" preparing for participation in regional and national FIRST Robotics competitions.

Winners in STEM Competition

STEM Club competed in the PA Junior Academy of Science Regional meet. Megan Debski won 1st place and a 6-year perseverance award and competed in the State Competition in May. Second place winners included Madeline Debski, Brendan Nangle, Jack Radzanowski and Natalia Santilli.

Students win National Fluid Power Challenge

Several Middle School students competed in - and won - the National Fluid Power Association Challenge hosted by Carlynton High School. The 8th grade team took first place overall, and the 7th grade team won the Best Design Award. Both teams used the knowledge of hydraulics, pneumatics and engineering as well as their developed problem-solving and teamwork skills contributed to their success. The teams included students Brooke, Samantha, Hannah, Grace, Shannon, Madison, Caitlin and Delaney, and coaches Mr. McAleer and Mr. Warren!



Parkway West Students Honored

Two CV students were selected as the Parkway West CTC Student of the Month earlier this year. Austin Zigmond, who studies Electrical Systems Technology, was selected for January, and Justin Fries, who also studies Electrical Systems Technology, was selected for February.

Four CV students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Congratulations John Gajewski, Nathan Grasha, Alexandra Wilson and Jessica Wright!

Awards and Accolades

(Continued)

COMMUNITY



Junior Achievement

Fifth-grade student Jenna Sexton represented CV at the groundbreaking of Junior Achievement's new BizTown in Bridgeville! Jenna was named the first honorary President of a BizTown company, Vector Security. BizTown is scheduled to open in the Fall.

Celebrate CV 2019: The Future of CV

The Future of CV was celebrated when school and community organizations joined forces to showcase the new high school and celebrate STEM, arts, culture and the future of Chartiers Valley. Booths were exhibited in the Commons of the new CVHS with student and community representatives, games, robots, sports, art projects and more.

AIA Architectural Award

Matt Hansen of IKM Architecture Firm presented the AIA award for the CV Middle School design, which was greatly influenced by the CVSD community.



ATHLETICS



Girls Basketball Wins Championships

CVHS Girls Basketball celebrated an undefeated season, including both PIAA and WPIAL championship titles.

Girls Tennis in Playoffs

The Girls Varsity Tennis Team qualified for team WPIAL playoffs for the first time in school history! The team captain Kara Joseph also competed in individual WPIAL playoffs for the second year in a row.

Girls Volleyball Section Title

Girls' Varsity Volleyball secured their first ever section title with a 3-0 win over rival South Fayette.

Cross Country Qualified for States

Elias Zajicek and Kiki Thorton qualified for the PIAA State Championships.



Indoor Track Championships

Indoor Track sent 28 athletes to the Tri-State Championship Meet.



WPIAL Hall of Fame Award

Alumnus and former tennis star Ryan Michael Estatico was honored with the 2019 Courage Award and by the WPIAL Hall of Fame. He was inducted in June.

MUSIC & ARTS

CV Hosts Band Fest

Music teachers Mr. Holl and Ms. Ralston hosted over 150 students from 60 schools for the PMEA District 1 Elementary Band Fest.



Regional/State Conferences

Geoffrey Madge (Oboe) performed with the most talented HS musicians in the eastern region at the NAFME Conference. Mirra Rasmussen (Cello), Luke Pedersen (String Bass) and Riley Fichtenmayer (Violin 2) performed at the PMEA conference with the best musicians in Pennsylvania.

Music Education Award

Chartiers Valley was honored with NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) as one of the nation's 2019 Best Communities for Music Education. The award recognizes the commitment and dedication of CVSD to music and the arts as innovative learning opportunities for a well-rounded education.

Pittsburgh Public Theater Performance

Sixth-grader Wesley Madge performed at the Pittsburgh Public Theater in front of a live audience and a panel of professional actors. Wesley competed against 41 actors who were selected from a pool of 1,000 late last week. He won the competition after his speech from King Henry V.



Gene Kelly Award

Sam Kagle was selected by the Gene Kelly Awards as Best Supporting Actor for role as Eddie Souther in the High School musical, Sister Act.

Placing in National Dance Championships

The Dance Troupe placed 8th in the nation for Hip Hop and 1st for Jazz in the Universal Dance Association National Championships in Orlando, Florida.

Band Highlighted on Skylights

The Showband won the title of WPXI Skylights Band of the Week twice this year!



TEACHER/STAFF ACCOLADES

School Resource Officer Ed Povirk was awarded the National Exceptional Service Award from the National Association of School Resource Officers.



CVMS's Head Custodian Dona Gaudio was granted the 2019 Champion of Learning Award at a ceremony at the University of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Gaudio was selected among a group of admirable nominees from throughout the Pittsburgh area.

The Middle School hosted the PAMLE Western Regional Pennsylvania Middle Level Educators conference. Principal Adrienne Floro and several other CV faculty presented to middle school educators from all over Western Pennsylvania.

Middle School Art teacher Shana Colwes was featured on delish.com for her unique kitchen art.



Principal Adrienne Floro and teacher Dina Roberts were selected to present at the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) National Conference in Orlando this October. Adrienne will present on the I & E period, while Dina will present on Mastery Learning and Creating a House Culture.

Kindergarten teacher Nicole Lloyd presented at the PA Conference for Kindergarten Teachers. Her presentation, "Revving Up Reading with Multi-Sensory Instruction," focused on teaching foundations of reading.

Intermediate school teacher Amanda Beckett was chosen by Slippery Rock University to represent the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program at the PSMLE (PA State Modern Languages Association) Conference.

A New Secondary Campus for Chartiers Valley

So much has changed since the first public school opened in America. What has remained constant is the need for schools to prepare students for future success remains the same. What has substantially evolved is how we educate students and the space in which we do it.



The round buildings which served as Chartiers Valley Middle and High Schools opened as a High School in 1973. After nearly 40 years, the buildings began to experience many infrastructure issues. In 2013, when it became apparent that the heating and cooling system, electrical systems, plumbing and roofs all needed to be replaced, the District initiated a process to determine how to improve these systems and reduce our ongoing utility and maintenance costs.

In conjunction with architects and engineers, it was determined that the school would need significant upgrades to remain safe and operable. Over time, after exploring all options, the District decided to pursue a complete renovation and replacement of the Secondary school buildings. School leaders acknowledged that a project of this significance required public input and a transparent process from start to finish.

Beginning in 2014, together with IKM and BLRB Architects, CVSD invited the entire Chartiers Valley community to participate in a series Community Summit for Facilities and Design Advisory Teams. Over 70 attendees represented teachers, administrators, staff, school board members, parents, students and residents. This incredible community involvement provided insightful ideas and raised issues that needed to be addressed from the community's perspective.



Through extensive research and profound discourse on how we understand and define what learning means in our District, we developed a plan for buildings which would best facilitate effective learning and how we instruct our students to prepare them for the future.

Following the official groundbreaking in May 2016, construction began on the new, state-of-the-art Middle and High Schools. The Middle School was completed in Spring 2018, and the High School opened in January 2019.

Both schools were designed based on the idea of student-centered learning. Teachers become guides and allow students to take charge of their own learning and enjoy it in the process. This applied learning, such as project-based learning, draws a parallel between theoretical knowledge and real life problems that students are likely to face. By directing their own study, students become active participants and less dependent on their teachers to impart crucial knowledge.

Learning studios, or “houses,” as the CV community have named them, allow for students to experience their classrooms as invigorating and inspiring environments they look forward to going to and hate to leave.

Each house is equipped with several high-tech classrooms, a common space, a small group study room, lockers, and restrooms. The flexibility of the houses provides endless possibility for hands-on, collaborative learning. A few instructors from varying curricular departments share an office space within each house as well, allowing for collaboration and communication to flow.

The buildings boast state-of-the-art science labs and art studios, and an abundance of natural light. A large, open common area in each building provides a beautiful space for breakfast and lunch and a myriad of other events both during and after school hours.

As construction continues on the main entrance and High School administration offices, CVSD looks forward to an official ribbon cutting later this year.

AIA PITTSBURGH AWARD WINNER



AIA
Pittsburgh

In October 2018, the Chartiers Valley Middle School won the Certificate of Merit in Architecture Award from American Institute of Architects Pittsburgh. The AIA Awards are intended to honor projects throughout the region that exemplify excellence in various areas of design. Matt Hansen of IKM said, “We are very proud of this project largely because the students, faculty, administration and community at large played such an important role in shaping the vision and principals for the design.”

Charitable Giving

CVSD Raised over \$30,000 in Monetary, Food and Gift Donations for Charity This Year.

Orange Out—Manolo Strong/ CVHS Students organized an “Orange Out” which raised over \$5,000 for their classmate Jacob Manalo who is battling Leukemia. WPXI’s Scott Harbaugh covered the game.

Caring Place/ Primary students raised over \$900 for The Caring Place.

Flood Relief/ The CV Boys Soccer team raised nearly \$300 for Bridgeville Flood Relief.

Thanksgiving Donations/ Middle School students raised \$2,500 – enough to purchase Thanksgiving dinner grocery cards for 51 CV families.

Mammogram Fund/ MS students raised \$730 for the St. Clair Hospital Mammogram Fund.

Meals on Wheels/ Intermediate students and staff collected thousands of food items for the local Meals on Wheels.

Four Diamonds/ National Junior Honor Society & Student Council raised \$3,500 for Four Diamonds.

CV Gift Cards/ Administrative Office personnel gave over \$600 in gift cards to CV families in need.

Cancer Research/ A District-wide “Pink Out” raised over \$800 for breast cancer awareness and research.

Diabetes Research/ CV hockey teamed raised about \$1300 for Juvenile Diabetes Research Funding.

Toy Drive/ Community resident, Dr. Linda Hippert and the Cherry Hill Ladies Book Club donated gifts and toys for CV children in need.

Jump rope for Heart/ The Primary School raised \$11,713 for the American Heart Association.

CVPS/ Students raised \$410 for the Guillian Barre Syndrome Foundation in honor of teacher Shelley Territ.

Scott Township’s Kane Hospital/ Seventh graders prepared over 100 bags of candy and valentine cards for the residents.

The Select and Cadenza Chorus/ Raised \$200 and the Charvalettes, Dance Troupe and Majorettes raised \$900 for a teacher’s family in need.



Events

CELEBRATE CV

Celebrate CV 2019: The Future of CV was an excellent evening in which school and community organizations joined forces to showcase the new high school and celebrate STEM, arts, culture and the future of Chartiers Valley. There were booths with student and community representatives, games, robots, sports, art projects and more! The event took place in the Commons of the new Chartiers Valley High School.



HOMECOMING

Homecoming Queen and King
Abigail Alauzen and James Lang were Crowned Homecoming Queen and King this past year.

Homecoming weekend kicked off with a carnival with booths set up by all of the District's clubs and organizations, and the homecoming court was recognized and crowned during the football game. High School students enjoyed the Homecoming Dance on Saturday evening.



GRADUATION

The Class of 2019 celebrated Commencement on June 5, 2019. The Class of 2019 earned a combined total of \$1.5 million in scholarships from 51 different colleges and universities. 56% were accepted to four-year programs, 19% to two-year programs. 26% chose to pursue military and career options. We had 17 students complete the ASVAB (military entrance exam), most with an IIIA or higher entry score.



Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Program Honors Past Graduates

Chartiers Valley launched the Distinguished Alumni Award Program this year to recognize alumni who have achieved success and impacted their CV and global communities. Dr. Johanna Vanatta said, “The program is also a way to say thanks to the teachers that taught these wonderful people that are contributing so much through all of their communities, the nation and the world.”

Nominations were accepted year round, and the selection process begins in December. A committee of board members, administrators, and Vanatta evaluated the nominees using a point system rubric. While there were several highly qualified and impressive candidates, Commander Jason Deichler was ultimately chosen as the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus.

After graduating from CVHS in 1995, Deichler went on to earn a degree in Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University.

He was commissioned in the Navy and went through the Navy Nuclear Propulsion program as a submariner. His career took him to the USS West Virginia, then to Charleston, S.C., where he served as an instructor of a prototype training unit. Commander Deichler has been all over the world, serving in various capacities, from engineering officer to most recently, the Commander of the USS Pittsburgh.

Commander Deichler was nominated by high school teacher Frank Brown who has followed his former student’s career over the years. Deichler is a true ambassador not only for the United States Navy, but for Chartiers Valley too. He credits much of his success to the strong foundation he received at CVSD. Commander Deichler recalls his football coach Gus Marquis telling him he could be a leader in the military, and math teacher Richard “Dick” Schubert sharing stories from his submarine days in World War II.

“It’s a reflection of how great Chartiers Valley is as a school,” he said of all he’s done. “And for me to be able to spread that word globally is great.”

As Commander Deichler was on assignment during the 2019 Academic Excellence Celebration, his sister Kristin Deichler accepted the award on his behalf.



School Board of Directors

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Elected by the community, members of the Charters Valley School Board of Directors serve for a term of four years.

Collectively, the School Board hires and evaluates the Superintendent. The Board also votes on school matters including academics and student achievement, human capital, finance and support operations.

The School Board of Directors strives to operate with the following goals in mind:

1. Function with integrity and transparency.
2. Increase community engagement.
3. Advocate for the school district in the community/region.

CVSD School Board policies can be found on the district website, www.cvsd.net.

(left to right): Lewis Colabine (student rep), Robert Kearney, Madison Mulligan (student rep), Brian Kopec, Darren Mariano (VP), Mark Kuczinski (president), Sandy Zeleznik, Jeff Choura, Tony Mazzarini, Eric Kraemer. Not pictured: Julie Murphy





THE SEVEN CORE VALUES OF THE CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

1. Demonstrate genuine care, concern and fondness for students.
2. Adopt an education-centered focus where students come first, followed closely by the needs of their parents.
3. Develop and nurture healthy, productive and cooperative relationships with colleagues.
4. Communicate regularly and clearly with students, their families and the community.
5. Create and cultivate a district-wide Learning Community where all employees and educators are valued.
6. Encourage innovation and creativity.
7. Embrace community, regional and global partnerships.



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