



CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NUMBER 1 *Collier Township Ranking*

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commissioner's corner

Take A Look.

Pittsburgh Magazine has released its second annual "Ranking Suburbia" list, grading 130 suburban municipalities situated around Pittsburgh city limits. This includes Upper St. Clair, Mt Lebanon, South Fayette, Sewickley, Fox Chapel as well as the popular bedroom communities of Murrysville and Cranberry and Peters Townships. The article can be found at <https://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/by-the-numbers-ranking-pittsburghs-suburbs/>.

To summarize this list, the municipalities are ranked from best to worst on 28 individual data points, all collected from official sources, which are added up to calculate which suburb is best in each of five categories: housing, neighborhood, schools, safety, and traffic.

I am proud to say that Collier Township was ranked very highly on "Ranking Suburbia" in a number of categories, including housing, neighborhood, and schools.

In the category of schools, Collier Township with its surrounding communities that comprise the **Chartiers Valley School District** was number

1. "Very few public school districts in the area can boast as many rigorous high school course offerings as Chartiers Valley, which ranks fifth with 25. And fewer still can match the South Hills district's performance in getting its students to take advantage of those courses, with 93 percent participating, which ranks third overall. With decent SAT scores and a full-day kindergarten program, Chartiers Valley is worth a closer look for house-hunting parents." See **By the Numbers: Ranking**

Pittsburgh's Suburbs 9-19-19 article. Highlights include:

- The District was recently ranked #1 suburban school by *Pittsburgh Magazine*, based on AP offerings and participation, SAT scores, and full-day Kindergarten offerings
- CV was honored by the National Associate of Music Merchants as one of the nation's 2019 Best Communities for Music Education.
- 75.1 percent of students scored Proficient or higher on PSSAs
- CVHS offers 26 AP courses, and 95 percent of students who took AP exams scored a 3 or higher. Before even graduating from high school, the class of 2019 earned 4 college degrees, collectively.
- The class of 2019 average QPA was 3.44 and they earned over \$1.5 million in scholarships.
- Our diverse student population

represents 39 countries from all over the world.

- The students and staff raised \$30,000 for charity last year
- The girls' basketball team went undefeated last year, winning both the WPIAL and State Championship
- The Dance Troupe placed eighth in the National Championship competition
- The brand new Chartiers Valley Middle School won the Certificate of Merit in Architecture Award from the American Institute of Architects in Pittsburgh

Regarding building/facilities offerings:

The 2019-2020 school year marks the first full year in the new Middle and High School buildings. 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 allow students to take charge of their own learning and enjoy it in the process.

Learning studios, or "houses," as the CV community has named them, allows 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 an 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.

Regarding initiatives new to CV this school year (2019-2020):

Construction

The final phase of the High School construction project is underway with an expected completion date of De-



cember 2019. The District continues to look towards improving our facilities and methods of grounds maintenance.

Primary School

Our primary school teachers are participating in a yearlong professional development with Apple iPads. This professional development provides further instructional practices, goals, action plans and strategies to engage students and staff as we continue to develop and improve our learning environments. Our discussions will lead to the development and focus on instructional practices using technology to meet the needs of our students as they access content, and focus on collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking skills to prepare our students for this ever-changing world. We will continue to keep you

updated as strategies and action plans unfold that will include students, staff and administrators in its development.

Intermediate School

Within the Intermediate School, we have received the PaSmart grant which will help launch some exciting new computer science opportunities for our students to further incorporate coding. The grant also assisted in



refreshing our student Chromebooks in the Intermediate School. Teachers have also been working hard to refresh our English Language Arts Curriculum. Lastly, we are excited to highlight a new lunch and recess schedule, which will hopefully reduce the number of total students in each lunch and recess period.

Middle School

We are excited to welcome Dr. Michele Welter to Charters Valley as our new Middle School Principal. Dr. Welter has an extensive background in public education, including administrative roles in middle, elementary and high schools. Throughout the school year, the Middle School will continue its focus on project-based learning and strengthening both academics and activities.

High School

As construction wraps up, our students and staff are enjoying their first full year in the new building. The teachers and administrators are settling in and truly making the “houses” into homes



for academic learning. The High School serves as the last step for our students before advancing to post-secondary endeavors; so, it is our goal to provide the highest quality opportunities and experiences which prepare students for success long after graduation.

Have you taken a look at the magnificent new middle school and high school? Please take a ride up there to see this amazing asset and learning center for our children.

In the category of housing, Collier Township was ranked 14 out of the 130 municipalities.

This category was determined by two key measures of the strength and vitality of the housing market: turnover and price appreciation. More specifically, it considers what share of all available homes was sold last year and how much the median sales price in 2018 exceeded the median sales price in the same suburb five years earlier. The median home sales price in 2018 was \$293,000, and the percentage of homes built since 2000 was 38.7 percent.

Collier landed at number 28 out of 130 municipalities in the category of neighborhood, which was determined by looking at the following factors: the share of adults with college degrees, voter turnout in the last election, how much of each suburb is covered by trees, whether it has a farmers market and a community library. In Collier, approximately 46 percent of individuals graduated from college, 65 percent of people voted in 2018 and 56 percent of the land in Collier Township is under tree cover, all of which contributed to a favorable neighborhood ranking.

What a great place to live and educate your children.

