



Van Wert City Schools

2022-2023 Quality Profile

OUR VISION

In partnership with our community, Van Wert City Schools will ensure that all students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to thrive in post-secondary education, careers and civic life.

OUR MISSION

Van Wert City Schools will continue to be a source of Cougar Pride while providing each student a quality education through innovative instructional methods and technology.

OUR COMMUNITY

The Van Wert City School District is made up of two communities: the city of Van Wert (approximately 11,045 people) and the village of Ohio City (approximately 760 people) located in Van Wert County, Ohio. These communities are surrounded by farm ground with agriculture being a major industry in Van Wert County. A variety of industries and businesses offer employment for business, professional, skilled and unskilled workers.

AN AWARD-WINNING EDUCATION



Van Wert City Schools is on the forefront of education as a PBL (Project Based Learning) district, bringing education to life with innovative instructional methods. Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is 2,202 students who are served by five schools: the Early Childhood Center (Pre K - K), Van Wert Elementary (1-5), Van Wert Middle School (6-8), Van Wert High School (9-12), and Van Wert School at the Goedde (alternative 6-12). Our district attendance averages 96.75% and the class of 2021 far exceeded the national average with a 95.7% graduation rate.

PBL

[Project Based Learning]

District-wide learning initiative; play-based learning in our youngest grades

PBIS

[Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports]

District-wide initiative that recognizes and rewards students for displaying positive behavior and actions

S.T.E.A.M.

[Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math]

70+ STEAM courses offered throughout VWCS

Whole Child

[Approach to Learning]

VWCS focuses on social-emotional well-being for all students



1,600+

average meals served daily



887

students transported daily with 21,024 miles traveled by bus annually



177

students identified as gifted learners



294

employees

13:1

student-to-teacher ratio district-wide.

67%

of VWCS teachers have advanced degrees.

VWCS teachers average

14.38

years of experience.

34

Special Services teachers support 18% of our student population.

1:1

laptops provided for all students grades 1-12.

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY

14%

Student population of non-Caucasian or a different ethnic background

24

ESL learners

(English as a second language)

4

Languages spoken fluently at VWCS

(in addition to English)

45%

Economically disadvantaged

VAN WERT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

VWECC serves our youngest learners (3, 4, and 5 year olds) with *all-day* preschool and kindergarten where students are encouraged to create, move, sing, discuss, observe, read, and play every single day. The ECC is proud to be a 5-Star Step Up To Quality school since 2016, as well as a 2018 & 2019 Ohio Department of Education "All A" and "Overall A" award winner. In addition to board-adopted curricula, all students learn in a play-based environment using Literacy Collaborative, Creative Curriculum, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Lucy Calkins Writing, and Big Ideas Math with the Numbers Talk framework.

LC [Literacy Collaborative]	Heggerty Phonemic Awareness	All-Day [Preschool & Kindergarten]	5-STAR [Step Up to Quality] since 2016	"ALL A" "OVERALL A" 2018 & 2019
Engaging method to enhance literacy across the PK-4 curriculum	One of the best early predictors for reading success	3, 4 and 5 year olds experience a full day of Play Based Learning	The highest rating given; recognizes and promotes learning and development programs	Ohio Department of Education recognized VWECC with "All A" and "Overall A" awards

VAN WERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Serving grades 1-5, VWES implements the Literacy Collaborative framework at all five grade levels. VWES is proud to have been designated a Heart Safe School through Project ADAM during the 2021-2022 school year. Our student Wellness Program is unmatched with several opportunities for students to lead an active life and learn about healthy living through the Walking Program, 100 Mile Club, Roadrunners, Fall One Mile Fun Run, Healthy Heart Corner, Nutrition Education, Jumpin' Jammers, Brain Breaks, and Cooking 101.

LC [Literacy Collaborative]	OAESA'S Assistant Principal of the Year	Heart Safe School	9 Wellness Initiatives	OAESA Hall of Fame 2017, 2023
Engaging method to enhance literacy across the PK-4 curriculum	OAESA recognized Tracy Wehner as "Assistant Principal of the Year"	VWES earned its designation as a Heart Safe School through Project ADAM in 2021	Offering students a variety of methods to lead a healthy and active life	VWES recognized for its positive school culture

VAN WERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

A true middle school, Van Wert Middle School is a 2021-22 PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Distinguished School serving grades 6-8. In addition to core curriculum, students experience Discovery classes such as art, music, engineering, STEM, physical education, life skills, and technology. Several extra-curricular opportunities are available to promote student involvement: athletics, 4-H, History Club, Quiz Bowl, Robotics Club, Cougar Leaders, LifeWise Academy, Campus Life, Taking Care of Business (TCB), and PINK & BLUE. PAWS is a designated 30 minutes set aside each day for students to complete work, get organized, and seek out teachers for additional instruction or any other needs.

PLTW [Project Lead The Way]	PBIS Dens	TCB [Taking Care of Business]	11 Athletic Teams	OSTW [Ohio Schools to Watch] since 2005
The Gateway to Technology class provides students with hands-on learning and real-world challenges in engineering	School-wide student groups that focus on displaying positive behaviors & actions; 4 "Dens" compete to earn the most points for rewards	Before- and after-school opportunity for middle school students to receive extra help and support	Middle school students can participate in 11 school-sanctioned sports	VWMS continues to excel at being a diverse, high-performing, growth-oriented school

VAN WERT HIGH SCHOOL

Van Wert High School is a pioneer in career readiness with its unique CEO (Career Education Opportunities) Program, which allows for seniors to gain high school credit while interning with one of our many community partners during the school day. PLTW offers two career pathways for students: engineering or biomedical sciences. The innovative Robotics program goes above and beyond the classroom, providing students with an after-school opportunity to compete against other schools. The new PBIS program has been very successful at the high school level, recognizing and rewarding students who display positive behavior and actions in school. VWHS students are encouraged to take an active part in their high school career by participating in any of the 11 clubs or 22 athletic programs offered.

PLTW [Project Lead The Way]	CEO Program [Career Education Opportunities]	100+ [Elective Courses]	8 A.P. [Advanced Placement]	C.C.+ [College Credit Plus]
Hands-on learning offers 2 career pathways starting in middle school	Community supported internship program for high school seniors	High school students can build their schedule with a variety of elective course offerings	A.P. courses offer high school students the ability to obtain college credit <i>*Qualifying credit subject to individual college's credit policy</i>	Students earn high school and college credit at the same time by enrolling with a participating college or university

Renaissance	22 Athletic Teams	11 Clubs	PAWS - RTI [Response to Intervention]	"Best High Schools" since 2018
Philosophy of academic, attendance, and attitude excellence embracing all activities	High school students can choose from 22 school-sanctioned sports	Students are encouraged to participate in any of the 11 clubs offered	A daily 30-minute intervention period allowing teachers and students to build relationships and work together on academic and behavioral skills	U.S. News & World Report continues to rank VWHS as a top high school

2021-2022	137	Academic Award winners	CLASS OF 2022	
	2	PLTW state champion groups won first place (\$10,000 each) at the Believe in Ohio State Competition	54%	2-4 year school
	\$1.9	million earned in scholarships	40%	Employment or trade
			4%	Military
			2%	Undecided

VAN WERT SCHOOL AT THE GOEDDE

Van Wert City Schools prides itself on its dedication to meet every student at their level and is excited by the work being done at Van Wert School at the Goedde. This new "opportunity" school opened its doors to students in grades 6-12 in August 2021. VWSATG is an extension of Van Wert High School and Middle School, providing students with a classroom structure more suited for their learning style. High school students are encouraged to become active citizens in the community with a daily work-study schedule, while middle school students share their skills in the form of volunteerism. Students host several events throughout the school year and some of these events, such as the Thanksgiving feast, are shared with the community, making the life skills lab a crucial component of their education.

FAST FACTS

- Nickname: Cougars
- Mascot: Claw'd
- School Colors: Scarlet & Grey
- Athletic Affiliation: Northwest District OHSAA D-II (Football D-IV)
- Conference: WBL (Western Buckeye League)
- High school students are permitted to dual-sport

Dual-sport allows students to participate in more than one sport during the same season

223 students recognized as Scholar Athletes for the 2021-2022 school year

135 high school student-athletes participated in more than one sport during the 2021-2022 school year

36% high school students participate in athletics

28% middle school students participate in athletics

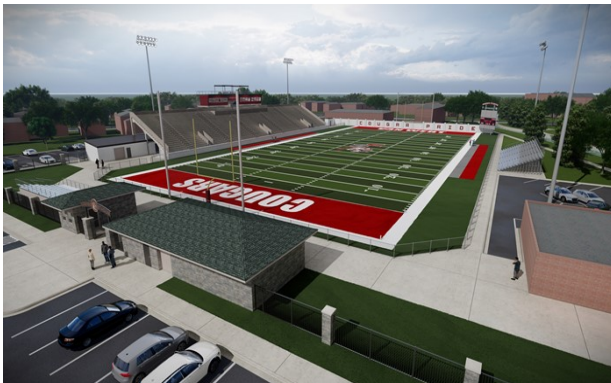
EGGERSS STADIUM RENOVATION PASSES

Months of campaigning and spreading information paid off at the polls with the passage of a bond issue to renovate and improve Eggerss Stadium in downtown Van Wert. More than two-thirds of voters in the Van Wert City School District said "yes" for plans to renovate historic Eggerss Stadium.

"The Van Wert City Schools and Board of Education are appreciative of the community's overwhelming support in the passage of the bond issue for improvements to Eggerss Stadium. We want to also thank the Stadium Committee led by John White and Eric McCracken for their leadership during this time. Cougar Pride has been on display throughout our town for the past several months.

The work begins now to improve the stadium and help the city of Van Wert become a destination for families and our community to gather for years to come."

Mark Bagley,
VWCS Superintendent

**VWHS Athletics****Boys - 10**

*Baseball
Basketball
Bowling
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Soccer
Swimming & Diving
Tennis
Track & Field*

Girls - 9

*Basketball
Bowling
Cross Country
Soccer
Softball
Swimming & Diving
Tennis
Track & Field
Volleyball*

Coed - 3

*Cheerleading - Fall
Cheerleading - Winter
Wrestling - Winter*

VWMS Athletics**Boys - 5**

*Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Track & Field
Wrestling*

Girls - 4

*Basketball
Cross Country
Track & Field
Volleyball*

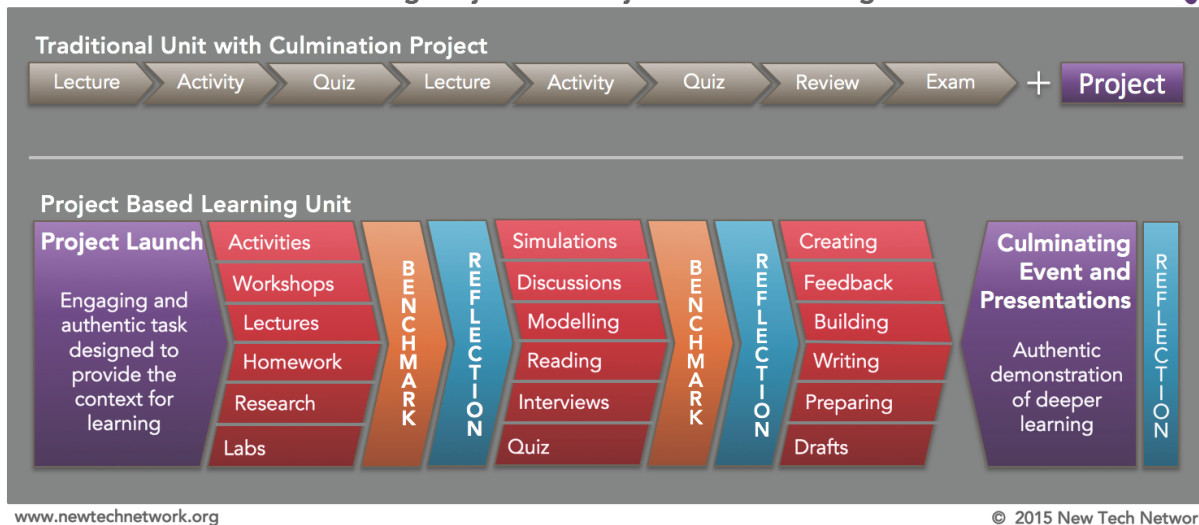
Coed - 2

*Cheerleading - Fall
Cheerleading - Winter*

PBL [Project Based Learning]

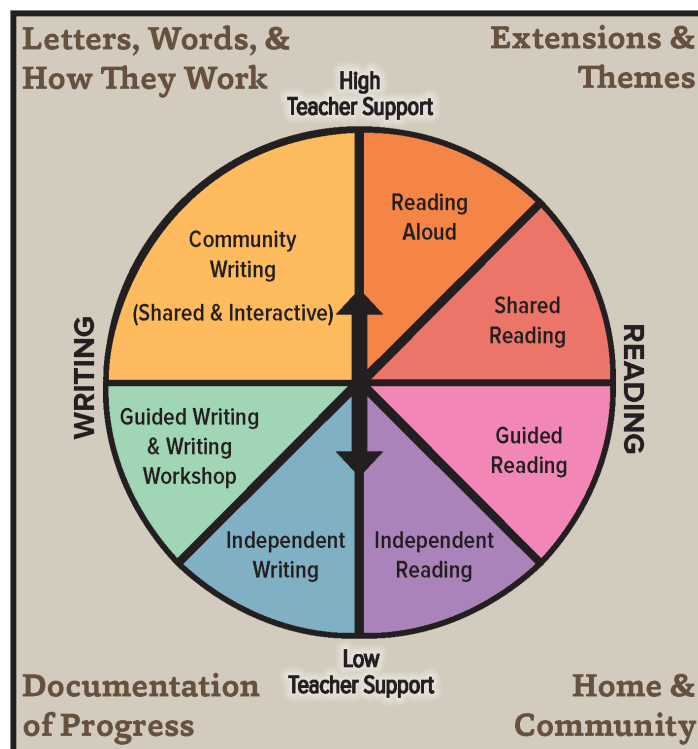
Project Based Learning (PBL) is a unique learning environment, dedicated to developing critical thinking skills to ensure all students become college and career ready. Within Project Based Learning, teachers focus on Ohio's New Learning Standards, putting that content within the context of a real-world scenario or problem. As a result, students are engaged in the classroom and understand the purpose behind their work. Within a project, students develop skills such as written and oral communication and collaboration. In addition, they are introduced to the concept and development of a growth mindset, tackling what it means to take ownership over one's learning and grow through effort, practice, and challenge, not only in the classroom but in all settings.

Doing Projects vs. Project Based Learning



LC [Literacy Collaborative]

Literacy Collaborative is a reading framework currently used by Preschool - 4th grade students at VWCS. This method engages students in authentic reading and writing across the curriculum. The framework consists of interactive reading aloud, shared reading, guided reading, independent reading, community writing, writing workshops, and phonics, spelling, and word study. Students begin with high teacher support but as they progress in their learning, their independence is nurtured with self-guided reading and writing activities.



A student enjoys exploring mysteries during a "book tasting" where a variety of genres are sampled.

PLTW [Project Lead the Way]

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a curriculum designed to teach students problem-solving strategies, critical thinking skills, communication, collaboration, and perseverance through hands-on learning. PLTW empowers students to be successful in the classroom by providing lessons that focus on today's real-world challenges.

Van Wert Middle School is a national PLTW Distinguished School, offering the Gateway to Technology program that covers topics such as design and modeling, automation and robotics, energy and environment, science of technology, and green architecture, which lays a foundation for the two education pathways provided at Van Wert High School: Pre-Engineering and Biomedical.

The Pre-engineering track offers four courses, each focusing on different aspects of engineering including, but not limited to, the design process, mechanisms, strength of structures and materials, automation, circuits, and combinational and sequential logic, which then culminates with a year-long project that is designed to solve a real-world problem. Biomedical Sciences prepares students interested in pursuing a career in the health or science fields. Working with the same tools used by professionals in hospitals and labs, students engage in compelling, hands-on activities and work together to find solutions to problems.



High school Biomed students observe as members of Van Wert Fire/EMS conduct a simulation where a patient is found unresponsive and treated on-scene before being transported to the hospital by ambulance.

CEO [Career Education Opportunities] Program

The CEO Program provides "real-life" exposure and experiences to high school seniors who have an interest in a respective career field. Students report to their assigned business for 75-80 minutes during the school day and earn high school credit for their time working in these professional environments.

The goal is to respond to local business demand by utilizing student talents and skills. Likewise, the partnerships also lend the opportunity for students to enhance soft skills, technical skills, and overall employability skills. The hope is to foster relationships where students may be able to gain employment beyond high school.

The CEO Program was created by Kerry Koontz, Van Wert High School counselor, in 2015 and has since been extended to the seniors of Crestview and Lincolnview.



Madison Couch, a 2022 graduate of VWHS, made an impression on Van Wert Area Economic Development during her internship as part of the CEO Program. She has recently been named their new program assistant.

PBIS [Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports]

PBIS is a district-wide initiative designed to recognize and reward students for displaying positive behaviors and actions in school. Launched in the fall of 2021, the program has already seen tremendous success, thanks in part to several donors who actively support this program.

Donors include:

- Van Wert Cinemas
- Laudick's Jewelry
- Brewed Expressions
- VWCS Teachers & Staff Members
- Private / Individual Donations

Thank you for your support!



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