



NEW ALBANY - PLAIN
LOCAL SCHOOLS

QUALITY PROFILE

2020-21



2020-21

A SCHOOL YEAR LIKE NO OTHER...

**Superintendent
Michael Sawyers**



The 2020-21 school year was a test and challenge for all school districts. At New Albany - Plain Local Schools we rose to the challenge to work through many situations that would impact our school attendance model, the safety and security of students and staff, academic achievement and most of all the well-being of our students and staff.

Through it all we never strayed from our district's purpose *to create a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student*. That is always our focus.

This Quality Profile (QP) highlights the roller coaster of our year and illustrates how students, staff, families and community came together to ensure a successful school year despite the many challenges that were faced.

For 2021-22, we are a testament to the belief that we are stronger together as we have all students back on campus for in-person learning while following the health and safety protocols to keep as many students in school where they belong. It was our goal to provide many updates throughout the year to keep people informed, prepared and confident that we can adjust and adapt and make a difference as we continue the journey.



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Our District

The New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS) is located 10 miles northeast of downtown Columbus, in the beautiful City of New Albany. The school district serves 5,134 students, preschool through twelfth grade, and covers an area of 23 square miles, including the City of New Albany, Plain Township, and neighborhoods within a portion of the City of Columbus. NAPLS features a unique learning environment for its students, with all of its schools and support facilities located on an 80-acre college-style campus. The schools are designed in a Georgian architectural style, connected by tree-lined walkways and surrounded by a 120-acre nature preserve. The learning environment is as unique as it is functional, creating outstanding educational opportunities for our students.

The District continues to follow our purpose statement to guide the work moving forward from the 2020-21 school year. There are seven components to the District Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) which may be found at napls.us. The QP illustrates many of these components throughout this document.

Commitment to Excellence

The New Albany-Plain Local School District is committed to creating a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student. The District aspires, by September 2023, to be ranked in the top 10 or higher of all public school districts for student achievement in the State of Ohio as reported by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Performance Index Ranking. As our long term commitment, we aspire to become and remain the best rated school district in the State of Ohio.

Focus

All employees will be accountable for implementing research-based practices including a rigorous and aligned curriculum, common assessments, focused instruction and data-driven decisions to achieve the best academic and developmental outcomes for every student within a fiscally sustainable budget.



Our
PURPOSE

To create a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student.





2020-21

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Since state testing was optional during the 2020-21 school year, school districts were not issued a full report card from the Ohio Department of Education. However, New Albany - Plain Local Schools still had an opportunity to assess the level of growth for students based on MAP testing at various grade and subject levels.

MAP 2021 Spring Assessments

As a District, 82.4% of all students taking the Spring MAP Growth assessment in Reading and Math earned a score at or above the proficiency cut score for an equivalent Ohio State Test. This results in the district meeting the benchmark as outlined in the Continuous Improvement Plan.

The Class of 2021 includes thirteen National Merit Finalists and seven commended scholars, eight students committing to serve our country in the armed services, and 37 students committing to take their education and game to the next level in collegiate athletics.

The New Albany-Plain Local Schools are committed to providing opportunities for students to flourish beyond the classroom. Students perform at the McCoy Center for the Arts in band, choir, orchestra and theater. In 2020-21 this was no exception despite the many safety protocols in place and limited seating. Students still had the opportunity to experience these concerts and productions. In addition, studio art, ceramics, painting, drawing, photography and more provided students with a way to express their creativity and talent.

2020-2021 Theater Productions

New Albany High School

She Kills Monsters

Smokey Joe's Cafe (*Marquee Award for best student orchestra by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts)

New Albany Middle School

Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr.

A Year of Champions

Students excelled on the field, on the court, in the pool, on the track and on the course in 2020-21.

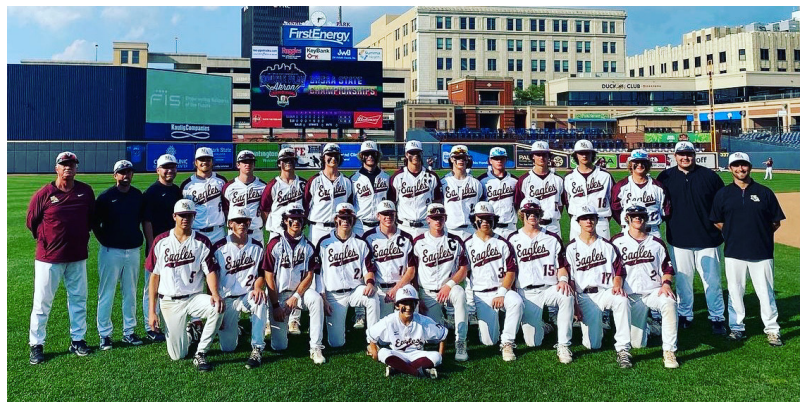
State Champions include:

Boys Baseball

Girls Golf

Girls Swimming

Boys Tennis Doubles





2020-21

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

A world of opportunities exist for students across the district to help expand their experiences, develop a caring culture, take on personal responsibility and embrace the power of giving back to the community. Student-driven ideas, concepts and campaigns help to support not only people living in the central Ohio area but extends to support those around the world, including our service men and women. From canned food drives at the high school to elementary students bringing in candy from trick-or-treat to be shipped to military bases around the world, New Albany students care and want to make a difference.

The New Albany Lecture Series sponsored by the New Albany Community Foundation featured;

- *Michael Phelps, focus on mental health
- *Chris Christie & David Axelrod, focus on civil discourse and debate, and
- *Margaret Trudeau, focus on mental health.

In 2020-21, the Lecture Series went virtual; an entirely new format based on the pandemic and it reached an even broader student and community audience.

The Author-in-Residence Series was once again sponsored by donors through the New Albany Community Foundation, Parent Teacher Organizations, New Albany Women's Network and The White Family: Randy Ribay (grades 9-12) Eliot Schrefer (grades 7-8) Margaret Peterson-Haddix (grades 3-6), Loren Long (grades K-2).

Many of our students expand their learning and experiences by participating in clubs and extracurricular activities.

Community Commitment

Fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency. These are expectations we hear often from the taxpayers of the New Albany-Plain Local School District, and rightly so. The Board of Education and Administration clearly understand the burden that the over-reliance on personal property taxes created by the State funding model for public schools impacts our residents today. The Board, administration, and staff have collectively worked to reduce expenditures and control the rate of expenditure growth while also increasing academic achievement, student growth, and student well-being.

Five Year Forecast

The May 2021 forecast for our school district included \$69.2 million in revenue with projected district General Fund expenditures of \$69.90 million for FY22. An increase in real estate and income tax sharing revenue, coupled with reductions enacted by the administration, increased our forecast ending cash balance from a projected \$-1.2 million deficit to \$6.1 million positive in the fifth year of the revised forecast. The deliberate cost savings measures strengthen our fiscal position and permit the school district to continue to push out the need for an operational tax levy to 2024 or beyond.

Auditor of State - Keith Faber

Treasurer/CFO Jenkins and the finance team once again qualified for the Auditor of State Award with Distinction for financial excellence.

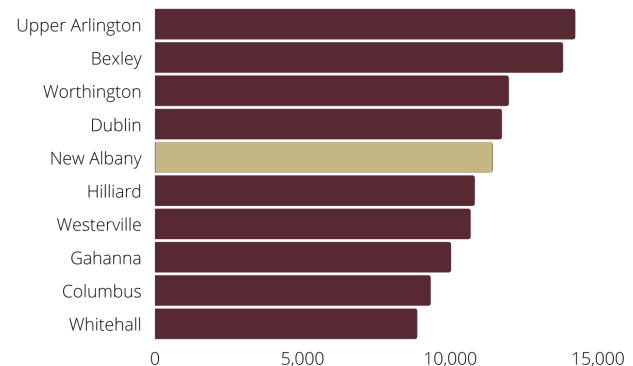


**Treasurer/Chief
Financial Officer
Rebecca Jenkins**

NAPLS State & Local Funding FY21



Per Pupil Spending



GFOA Award

Treasurer/CFO Rebecca Jenkins and the finance team were presented an award of excellence in financial reporting from the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA). This is the ninth consecutive year the district has received this recognition.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resiliency and Progress

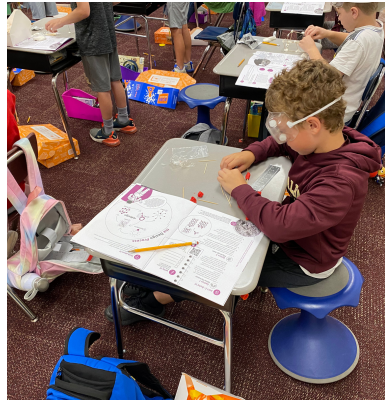
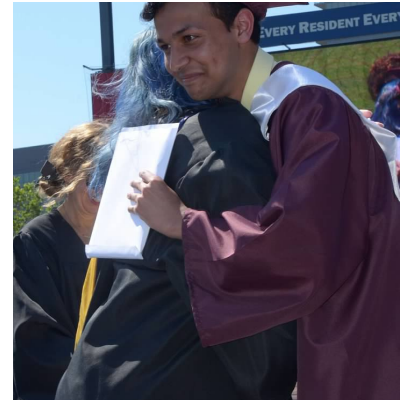
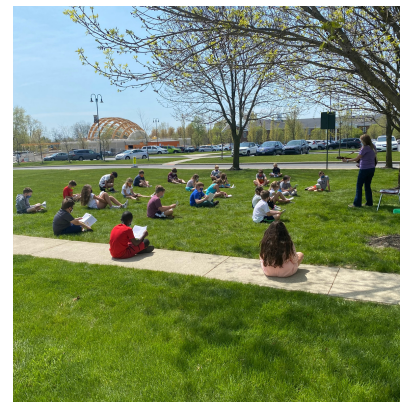
NAPLS teachers, staff and students were not the only ones to show resilience during the 2020-21 school year. The New Albany - Plain Local Schools Board of Education continued the work uninterrupted to guide the district forward throughout the pandemic. Based on a temporary change to Ohio law for public meetings, school board meetings shifted to virtual for a majority of the school year via Zoom and were also live streamed through the District's YouTube Channel. Superintendent Sawyers presented comprehensive updates for health and safety protocols and the "Responsible Restart" regularly.

Community and School Engagement

NAPLS School Board members also serve in liaison roles within the district and greater community. They work with both the City of New Albany and Plain Township, Building Parent Teacher Organizations, New Albany - Plain Local Joint Park District, District Finance Committee and business organizations.

NAPLS Board of Education: (L-R)

Paul Naumoff, Debbie Kalinosky - Vice President, John McClelland - President, Phil Derrow and Mike Busch





2020-21

DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, WE ACHIEVED...

During the 2020-21 school year, everyone, including schools, was challenged in unprecedented ways by the pandemic. Although each one of us encountered twists, turns, and sudden drops during the COVID-19 rollercoaster ride, the district learned to adjust and adapt. We discovered opportunities on how to better meet the needs of students, all while adhering to the health and safety protocols required to keep students, staff, and the community safe.

The mantra "stronger together" was never more evident and the district was a leader for in-person attendance throughout central Ohio (see data below) while also creating a Virtual Learning Program (VLP) for about 30% of the student population.

Mode of Attendance	# of Days	% of School Year
Calamity	1	0.57%
Hybrid	36	20.69%
Everyone	127	72.99%
All Students eLearning	10	5.75%
	174	100.00%
STUDENT ENROLLMENT		
IN PERSON		3,774
VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM		1,274

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-21

Resiliency

The district faced an incredibly challenging year due to COVID-19 and the various precautions the district had to put into place for a Responsible Restart and in-person learning options for students. The district began the school year with a hybrid model dividing students into maroon and gold groups by alphabet. Alternating days on campus were offered for each group.

Virtual Learning Program

The district also operated a Virtual learning Program (VLP). Approximately 30% of students selected this option to learn from home and it was staffed by NAPLS staff.

Support by the Numbers

Across the district, we saw tremendous learning and growth with much to celebrate as we fulfilled our district purpose. The district's 356 teachers, 296 support staff, 34 administrators, 5 Board of Education Members, over 10,000 parents, and our communities have partnered to increase student achievement, student growth, and student well-being for over 5,000 students this past school year.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee

We proudly celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff this school year. For a third year, we achieved a 100% passage rate on the state's Third Grade Reading Guarantee.



Seniors 2021

Even with a bit of a twist in 2020-21, Seniors completed their Senior Seminar projects while displaying diligence, passion, and enthusiasm for their projects. 54 students were recognized with Distinguished Honor Awards. Congratulations to the Project of the Year Award Winner, Gavin Fancher; Internship with Form 5 Prosthetics and Project of Excellence; Meghana Karthic, Internship at Wright Patterson Air Force Base Research Lab. (Pictured above)

5-Star Rating - ELC

The New Albany Early Learning Center welcomed 148 preschool students for the 2020-21 school year. With hard work and dedication the preschool staff and administration earned a 5-Star Quality Rating, the highest rating possible with the Ohio Department of Education for the ELC Preschool Program.



MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-21

Focus on Student & School Culture

Creating safe, supported and connected schools is paramount and requires daily effort in the school district and the community at large. The local, state, and national events that occur often impact students at school. While the personal and political beliefs may vary among adults in the community, the district has common ground for all to expect that our students have the right to come to school daily in a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment - an environment where all students belong and are treated with kindness.

Focus on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The district convened Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees in the 2020-21 school year with building and district-based collaboration. The committees met virtually throughout the school year to honestly discuss the challenges and opportunities of school and community cultures.

The district invites the community to join us in working together to build an inclusive campus culture where all students belong, treat each other with kindness, and feel safe, supported and connected at school, at home and in the greater community.

The R-Factor Continues...

The pandemic provided a real world example to practice the R Factor and the six disciplines we teach our students. Specifically, the district was not in control of all the events (E) that occurred or the timelines of when information was available to schools; however, we could control how we choose to respond (R) to directly influence the outcomes (O) produced to meet student, staff, and family needs. Together, as community partners, we successfully navigated the coronavirus rollercoaster in NAPLS.

Traditions Continued

Additionally, we were able to continue traditions and opportunities for our students. The safe return of the performing arts at the McCoy Center for the Arts for high school, middle school and elementary choir, band and orchestra students, middle and high school theatre programs, National Honor Society Induction, BizTown for fifth grade, Entrepreneur Day for fourth grade, sixth grade Sidewalk Chalk Celebration, Carnival of the Animals for first grade, Lunch on the Lawn, Clap Outs, Bubble Day, Dance Party and other celebrations for our kindergarten and preschool students and so much more.





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