

STRONGVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Mustangs

BE THE DIFFERENCE

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DEAR STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

This school year, we have challenged our teachers and staff to **"Be The Difference"** for our students. They are stretching themselves by remembering **"There is No Finish Line for Learning"** and taking an active part in professional development and training opportunities. We are modeling for our students a love of learning and encouraging them to be creative, curious, and critical thinkers. In order to better connect with our students, we remind our teachers and staff that **"Everyone Has A Story."** Getting to know our students and their unique backgrounds is an important part of developing strong relationships, leading to better classroom learning environments for all students. Before any of this can happen, our teachers and staff must dedicate themselves to the mindset of **"Change Starts With Me."** We cannot make the positive impact we want to have with our students without being willing to make changes and become the best version of ourselves.

Our goal at Strongsville City Schools is to build and strengthen a collaborative atmosphere and a positive culture, dedicated to always working in the best interest of our students. When we are successful in the development of our students at every grade level, we build a stronger community. Partnering with our community is extremely important for our District to continue reaching our shared goal of excellence for our students and community. We appreciate the important connections being made between our schools, students, teachers, staff, and our overall community.

This Quality Profile details some of the examples, both inside and outside of the classroom, of how our entire SCS Team continues to **"Be The Difference"** for our students.

GO MUSTANGS!

Dr. Cameron M. Ryba,
Superintendent
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cryba@scsmustangs.org



Strongsville City Schools Administrative Offices

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440.572.7000 | www.strongnet.org

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#BeTheDifference

#WeAreStrongsville



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DISTRICT OVERVIEW

"Everyone Has a Story" - We strive to create spaces where there is belonging for all.

"THE MODEL MUSTANG"

Strongsville City Schools is committed to building "Model Mustangs." Over the past few years, our teachers and staff have been teaching and developing the following skills in all of our students - Innovative, Resilient, Collaborative, Global, and Empowered - as part of "The Model Mustang," which is the foundation for our District's Instructional Plan. These are the necessary skills for all of our students in grades PreK-12 to build success in the classroom. Perhaps more importantly, developing these skills will lead to success long after our students graduate from Strongsville High School.

We Support a Diverse Group of More Than 5,655 PreK-12 Learners Including:

278

LEARNERS

(4.9% of our students) who speak 30 different languages (English is not their primary language)

913

LEARNERS

(16.1% of our students) who are enrolled in the Free/Reduced Lunch Program

598

LEARNERS

(10.6% of our students) who are provided Special Education Services & Supports

892

LEARNERS

(15.8% of our students) who are identified as Gifted

THE MODEL MUSTANG



INNOVATIVE

- Identifies and evaluates authentic problems
- Learns from experimentation
- Thinks flexibly
- Sees uncertainties as opportunities
- Pursues imaginative and creative solutions



RESILIENT

- Overcomes personal/academic barriers to meet goals
- Persists to accomplish difficult tasks
- Learns from mistakes and failures
- Implements a plan
- Responds in a disciplined way



COLLABORATIVE

- Values individual contributions and teamwork
- Listens actively
- Communicates effectively
- Gives and receives feedback
- Works with others to accomplish a goal



GLOBAL

- Seeks cultural understanding
- Embraces diversity
- Acts with empathy and compassion
- Resolves conflict peacefully
- Demonstrates service to both local and larger community



EMPOWERED

- Develops a learning pathway
- Analyzes problems and outcomes
- Seeks out answers
- Acts responsibly
- Reflects on learning experiences



Strongsville Early Learning Preschool

19543 Lunn Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44149
440.572.7046

Coordinator: Mrs. Megan Surso



Chapman Elementary School

13883 Drake Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44136
440.572.7140

Principal: Mrs. Kaylee Harrell



Kinsner Elementary School

19091 Waterford Pkwy.,
Strongsville, OH 44149
440.572.7120

Principal: Mr. Steve Diedrick



Muraski Elementary School

20270 Royalton Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44149
440.572.7160

Principal: Mr. Mike Griffen



Surrarer Elementary School

9306 Priem Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44149
440.572.7170

Principal: Dr. Sally Raso



Whitney Elementary School

13548 Whitney Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44136
440.572.7180

Principal: Mrs. Katie Hawk



Strongsville Middle School

13200 Pearl Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44136
440.572.7090

Principal: Mrs. Jessica Boytim



Strongsville High School

20025 Lunn Rd.,
Strongsville, OH 44149
440.572.7100

Principal: Mr. Bill Wingler

SAFETY & SECURITY

Mustangs

Safety and security for our students and staff continues to be of the highest priority of our District.

Strong partnerships and collaboration with both Strongsville Police and Strongsville Fire has led to continued improvements in our District's safety plans and our emergency response readiness and training. We are working to ensure we are doing everything possible to provide safe and secure learning environments.

We are proud of the work being done with the city's safety forces to provide the safest environments for our students and staff.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Our District has full time School Resource Officers (SROs) at both Strongsville High School and Strongsville Middle School. In addition, we have officers who rotate among our elementary and preschool buildings. The presence of our SROs not only provide safety and security in our buildings, but these officers are also building relationships with our students. They are actively participating in activities both inside and outside of the classroom.



INVESTING IN SAFETY & SECURITY

Did you know that over the past five years our District has invested over \$1.5 million in safety and security for our school buildings?

BE THE DIFFERENCE

Five-Year Investment in Safety & Security



\$1,556,304

As part of this total, we have also been awarded **over \$400,000 in safety grants**. Some of the grant money has been used to:

- Purchase BOLO sticks for classrooms in our District. The BOLO sticks provide reinforcements on doors if there is a situation that necessitates a lockdown.



- Purchase the ENVOY visitor management system for each of our buildings that provides instant background checks on all of our visitors before being granted access to our Main Office areas.
- Add window coverings on exterior windows, interior windows, and vestibule doors at our buildings. The coverings feature SCS artwork that not only adds to the exterior look of our buildings, but they also provide privacy and contribute to the safety for those inside our classrooms and schools.



STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

ACADEMICS

"There's No Finish Line for Learning" - We embrace the importance of learning and have the courage to push beyond what is comfortable.



Strongsville High School had 14 students qualify for the DECA National Competition, held in Atlanta, GA. This group of national qualifiers finished in the top five in the team and individual state competitions, consisting of a written test and role play presentations. DECA is the only national student organization operating in the nation's schools to attract young people to careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and entrepreneurship.

Strongsville City Schools was in the **TOP 5%** of School Districts in Ohio

based on State Report Card results for 2022. This was the first year of the new State Report Card, which measures different components through a rating system of one to five stars..

ACHIEVEMENT ★★★★★ FIVE STAR RATING
Significantly Exceeds State Standards

PROGRESS ★★★★★ FIVE STAR RATING
Significantly Exceeds State Standards

GAP CLOSING ★★★★★ FIVE STAR RATING
Significantly Exceeds State Standards

GRADUATION ★★★★★ FOUR STAR RATING
Exceeds State Standards

EARLY LITERACY ★★★★★ FOUR STAR RATING
Exceeds State Standards

SHS STUDENT WINS STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE WITH POLARIS TEAM



The Business Professional & Office Technology program at Polaris took **1st place in the Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge** at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. The winning three person team included **Faisal Hassan** (senior at SHS). Over 300

students from schools throughout Greater Cleveland took part in an action-packed competition where high school students experience the feeling of standing on the trading floor of the NYSE. Other members of the team included Logan Gomez (Olmsted Falls High School senior) and Mason Fiorilli (North Olmsted High School senior).

QUALITY PROFILE 2022-23

Strongsville High School has **National Merit Finalists** in back-to-back years. Students qualify for this prestigious national program based on their PSAT scores, as well as an application process. National Merit Finalists are **among the top .4% students in the country** and compete for thousands of dollars in college scholarships.



SHS Class of 2022 National Merit Finalists: **Kristin Johnson, Cole Smith, Jacob Huber, Benjamin Hawke**



SHS Class of 2023 National Merit Finalists: **Bhavya Anoop, Avery Scullin, and Raina Sinha**



SHS SPORT MANAGEMENT CLASSES CREATE VIDEO ADVERTISEMENTS FOR STRONGSVILLE BUSINESSES

Mr. Bent's Sport Management classes at Strongsville High School have had the opportunity to develop video commercials for SCS District partners Serpentine Chevrolet and Raising Cane's. Several SHS students in the class starred in the thirty second spots which showcased fall sports student-athletes. The class developed the advertisements from start to finish, from initial concept and ideas through post-production editing.

TWO MURASKI 2ND GRADERS SELECTED TO APPEAR ON STORYVOICE LIVESTREAM



Mrs. Timko's 2nd grade class at Muraski Elementary joined students from around the country on a Storyvoice live streaming event. Storyvoice hosts events of actual real-life authors sharing their published works through a read-aloud that is broadcasted nationwide. In a previous Writer's Workshop hosted by Storyvoice, students were guided through some prompts to create their own personal memoirs about where they are from. Out of hundreds of memoir submissions from students around the country, TWO 2nd graders from Muraski - **Lillian Harvey** and **Hailey Evcic** - were chosen to read aloud on the LIVE Storyvoice broadcast. Muraski was one of just five classrooms across the country with student authors being highlighted!

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

National Recognition for Financial Reporting & Transparency
Strongsville City Schools has been nationally recognized for their financial reporting, budget presentation, and overall fiscal transparency since 2016.

- Recipient of the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) **Meritorious Budget Award** for budget presentation (**7 straight years**)
- Recipient of the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of **Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) (**7 straight years**)
- Recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for **Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) (**7 straight years**)
- SCS was also recognized for the **4th straight year** with the 2022 Auditor of State Award with **Distinction for its Financial Audit**



MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICE RATING

Last year, our District received another **enhanced credit opinion** from Moody's Investor Service - improving from Aa3, to Aa2, to Aa2 with a positive outlook, to **Aa1 - the second highest rating that can be earned.**

This credit opinion is based on our District's strong financial position, the continued support of our community, and the **strong financial stewardship** of our District.

This rating has also supported our District's refinancing efforts for the 2012 Bond project - **saving taxpayers a total of \$14,524,342** over the remaining life of the bond.

OUR DISTRICT CONTINUES TO INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:

Academics - Addition of Technology Resources, Instructional Coaches, Curriculum Supervisors, and Ongoing Professional Development for Teachers in Early Literacy

Opportunities - Addition of Intramural Program at Strongsville Middle School, Expanding Elementary Extracurriculars, Continued Instrument Repair and Replacement for District Music Programs

Wellness - Addition of School Counselors at Every Elementary Building, Enhancements of Safety Measures, Continued Partnerships with Mindfully, Cleveland Clinic, and Hope Meadows for Support of Students

TREASURER REPORTS

Our District's annual budget and the five year forecast can be found on the SCS website:
<https://www.strongnet.org/departments/treasurer/financial-reports>

STRONGSVILLE TAX RATE

Of the 31 school districts in Cuyahoga County, Strongsville ranks 25th in residential effective tax rate. Strongsville is in the bottom quarter of taxes paid for residential properties, for all District levies - Operating, Permanent Improvement, & Bond Retirement.

Meaning, a homeowner in Strongsville will pay less school taxes in comparison to 77% of other school districts in Cuyahoga County with the same home valuation.



Strongsville City Schools November 2022 Five-Year Forecast (in millions)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Beginning Cash Balance	\$32.6	\$41.7	\$53.1	\$62.3	\$68.5	\$71.6	\$68.4	\$58.9
Total Revenues	79.8	85.3	83.8	86.6	87.0	83.0	79.0	79.8
Total Expenditures	70.7	73.9	74.6	80.4	83.9	86.2	88.5	90.5
Revenues over Expenses	9.1	11.4	9.2	6.2	3.1	-3.2	-9.5	-10.7
Ending Cash Balance	41.7	53.1	62.3	68.5	71.6	68.4	58.9	48.2
Encumbrances	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Unencumbered Balance	39.8	50.9	60.3	66.5	69.6	66.4	56.9	46.2
Property Tax - Renewal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	9.8	9.8
Unencumbered Balance	\$39.8	\$50.9	\$60.3	\$66.5	\$69.6	\$71.3	\$71.6	\$70.7

SPENDING PER PUPIL

Our District is prudent in our spending per pupil, while continuing to achieve great results for our students.



NORTH OLMSTED	\$17,217
OLON	\$16,639
ROCKY RIVER	\$16,162
WESTLAKE	\$16,139
BEREA	\$15,104
BRECKSVILLE	\$14,270
STRONGSVILLE	\$14,052
OLMSTED FALLS	\$13,020
NORTH ROYALTON	\$12,876



Our District offers music opportunities beginning in elementary school with choir, band, and orchestra. Students can continue to develop their music abilities - vocal and instrumental - through a number of courses at both the middle school and high school, including some that are select audition groups. Our music groups consistently earn high marks in the competitions in which they regularly participate.



THE ARTS



SHS INSTRUMENTALISTS NAMED TO PRESTIGIOUS 2022-2023 REGIONAL & STATE PERFORMANCE GROUPS

The Strongsville High School Instrumental Music program had ten students selected as members of the 2022 Northeast Regional Orchestra. This group is an auditioned honors orchestra consisting of the best student musicians from Northeast Ohio. Four musicians from the Strongsville High School Symphony Orchestra were selected as members of the 2023 All-State Orchestra, making this the 19th year in a row an SHS Orchestra student has been selected for this elite ensemble. Two students were also named to the 2023 All-State Band & 2023 All-State Jazz Band.



STRONGSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S DRAMA/ THEATER CLUB CONTINUES TO GROW.

Both a fall play and a spring musical are part of the club's major activities. These performances not only provide opportunities for students on stage, but also for students interested in working on the backstage crew with set design, and for students interested in being a part of the instrumental music accompanying the performances.



SMS SHOW CHOIR EARNS FIRST PLACE IN "MUSIC IN THE PARKS" COMPETITION

The Strongsville Middle School Show Choir earned 1st place in the middle school division of the 2022 "Music in the Parks" competition at Cedar Point. This group is an extracurricular club at SMS, that practices after school with help and guidance from members of the SHS "Mustang Express."



SHS STUDENT ARTWORK FEATURED IN ANNUAL GALLERY CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Strongsville High School National Art Honor Society students, under the guidance of **Ms. Trussa**, have consistently had their artwork featured in an annual gallery celebrating Black History Month. The gallery features artwork from local students and is displayed at the Cuyahoga County Justice Center.

STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

ATHLETICS



NATIONAL SIGNING DAYS Over the past two years, nearly 50 Mustang student-athletes have participated in National Signing Days, making their commitments to further pursue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.



SHS BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING TEAM SETS SCHOOL RECORD

The Strongsville High School Boys Swimming and Diving team finished their 2022-2023 regular season undefeated (15-0) and earned their 4th consecutive conference championship. The 15 wins set a school record for most wins in a season. Throughout their 4 years, this senior class has tallied an unbelievable meet record of 48-1!



SHS GIRLS SOCCER - STATE RUNNER-UPS

The Strongsville High School Lady Mustangs Soccer team finished the 2022 season as State Championship Runner-Up. The girls battled Cincinnati Seton in a 1-0 hard fought match. (PHOTO CREDIT: SCOTT MAYBERRY)



SHS DANCE TEAM - STATE RUNNER-UPS

The Strongsville High School Dance Team earned State Runner-Up honors at the 2023 State Championship. The team placed 2nd in the State in Lyrical (only .17 points away from 1st), 3rd in Pom, 6th in Hip-Hop, and 6th in Jazz.



PAIGE APPLEGATE EARNS OLYMPIC SILVER MEDAL



Paige Applegate, a Strongsville High School senior, was a member of Team Ohio's 3v3 Women's Basketball Team, and earned a silver medal (2nd place finish) in the recent 2022 Special Olympics Summer Games. Paige, along with another Special Olympian from Brunswick became the first athletes from the Strongsville Special Olympics program to represent Team Ohio in the National Games' 40-plus year history. There were over 5,500 athletes from the U.S. and Caribbean countries participating in these games.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

STRONGSVILLE BUILDS COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND INCLUSION WITH UNIFIED SPORTS

Throughout the past two school years, Strongsville has participated in and hosted several Unified Sports events. Unified Sports is a team sports program that eliminates barriers and stereotypes in a fun way that engages the whole community. Unified Sports goes beyond sports training and competition to promote social inclusion and meaningful connections. Spirit Squads and SHS students have been part of the events hosted at Strongsville High School.



"Change Starts with Me" - Change is not about creating comfort, but creating growth.



SHS STUDENT BILLY WILLIAMS GIVES BACK THROUGH HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Billy Williams completed his Eagle Scout project and provided a long-lasting gift to the Early Learning Preschool. Billy built a Communication Board on the preschool's playground which provides students an additional way to communicate. The board features pictures and words to assist students who may be non-verbal or may need assistance in communicating to teachers, staff, and classmates.



KINSNER 4TH GRADERS LEARN ABOUT THEIR GLOBAL IMPACT

Kinsner 3rd grade teacher **Mrs. Yates** created a Project Based Learning (PBL) assignment for her students. Students worked in groups to answer how plastic affects the environment and determining their solution to the plastic problem. One of Mrs. Yates' students wrote to 4Ocean, an apparel company that uses recycled plastic to create bracelets, in addition to their education and awareness efforts on recycling. 4Ocean responded to Mrs. Yates class by sending bracelets and stickers to encourage the students to continue thinking about ways to positively influence our environment.



WHITNEY ART TEACHER STEPS UP TO SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED

Mrs. Kerr, Art Teacher at Whitney Elementary, went above and beyond to assist those at the elementary school she attended. In response to a devastating fire at her former school in Parma, Mrs. Kerr enlisted the help of Whitney students to help those affected by the fire. Utilizing her planning and lunch time, her art room was packed with excited and engaged 4th graders, who made supportive bookmarks for the students and made donations of school supplies, books, and teaching supplies.



SMS LEADERSHIP BREAKFASTS

Strongsville Middle School has hosted two leadership breakfasts in the past year, connecting local business leaders with SMS students. The representatives from the business community were able to share their experiences and advice on building leadership skills with our students.



MUSTANGS LACROSSE PLAYERS DELIVER "CUDDLE BEARS" TO KIDS AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The Strongsville High School Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams raised money for a "Cuddle Bear" drive. The money raised was used to purchase books and stuffed bear sets for children at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. Usborne Books matched all fundraising efforts by 50%, so the lacrosse teams were able to purchase a total of 124 book and bear sets (worth \$3,100!). The teams personally delivered the book and bear sets to University Hospital in downtown Cleveland.



SMS RAISES OVER \$11,000 IN THEIR ANNUAL "SMS GIVES BACK" EVENT

Strongsville Middle School's annual "SMS Gives Back" event during the holiday season consistently raises more than \$11,000 for Strongsville families in need. Students and staff participate in a variety of ways through generous donations in this "spirit of giving" campaign, including a trip to Target by the 8th grade Dragons Team where students purchase holiday gifts for families and wrap the gifts at the Rec Center.

DISTRICT AWARDS



EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Cameron Ryba, Superintendent of Strongsville City Schools, received the **Exemplary Leadership Award** for this region from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. Dr. Ryba was recognized for his commitment to his profession, his innovative mindset, the example he sets for his peers, and his community involvement.



The 6th Grade Captains Team at Strongsville Middle School was honored in 2022 by the Ohio Middle Level Association as the **"Middle School Team of the Year."** This is the most distinguished honor the OMLA awards each year to an interdisciplinary team of middle level teachers, recognizing its accomplishments with students and contributions to middle level education. SMS Captains Team Teachers include: **Mrs. Stacey Armstrong, Ms. Cassidy Arsenault, Mrs. Lori Coulter, Ms. Katie Glueck, Mr. John Lipowski, Mrs. Joanne Scott, and Ms. Audrey Smolik.**



In 2022, Strongsville City Schools was honored for the **ninth straight year** with the **"Best Communities for Music Education"** designation from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Strongsville was one of 738 school districts nationwide to be recognized by NAMM, and one of just 16 school districts in Northeast Ohio to receive this prestigious award in 2022.



Strongsville High School made the annual list of **US News Best High Schools**. SHS ranked #51 in the state and #18 in the Cleveland area in 2022.

STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTR
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