

# STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS WHATEVER IT TAKES



## QUALITY PROFILE 2021-22



# MESSAGE

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Strongsville Community:

This past year and a half has been very challenging for school districts in the state and around the country. The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to rethink our approach to learning environments and ways to deliver instruction to students.

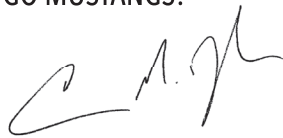
I am proud of our District's approach to meeting and tackling the challenges presented to both our staff and students. New technology was learned and utilized, learning plans were developed for all students, including critical social and emotional support for our kids. Teachers and students continued to work together in a variety of learning frameworks.

Through all of the challenges our District faced, we all came together to support one another, our students, and our community. We did whatever it took to not only get the job done, but to push ourselves to grow and develop to meet rapidly changing demands so that we could effectively meet the needs of our students.

We are taking this "Whatever It Takes" mindset into the 2021-22 school year and beyond. This mindset will help us continue to push to be a premier school district in Ohio. We are committed to using our new learning as the foundation to best meet the needs of our students in 2021 and beyond.

This Quality Profile details some of the examples, both inside and outside of the classroom, of doing "Whatever It Takes" for our students and continuing to build strong partnerships with our community.

GO MUSTANGS!



Dr. Cameron M. Ryba, Superintendent  
440.572.7010  
cryba@scsmustangs.org



### **Strongsville City Schools Administrative Offices**

18199 Cook Avenue, Strongsville, OH 44136

440.572.7000 | [www.strongnet.org](http://www.strongnet.org)

Superintendent: Dr. Cameron Ryba

Treasurer: Mr. George Anagnostou

Assistant Superintendent: Mrs. Jenni Pelko



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# ACADEMICS

“Throughout the year, our team truly lived the motto, “Whatever It Takes” to provide our students with positive learning experiences. No matter the moment, all staff worked together to provide high-quality instruction that supported the ever-changing learning environment. We adapted to new learning platforms and discovered innovative instructional strategies. Although faced with many moments of unforeseen challenge, our students and staff rose to the occasion, bettering both ourselves and our practices with every new day.”

- Brianne Tabar, 3rd Grade Teacher at Chapman Elementary



“Strongsville educators not only adapt, but we innovate. We teach engaging, collaborative lessons with critical thinking activities, while also being able to utilize a MakerSpace cart for creative solutions or even to include gaming tools to reach all students. In a time of inconsistency, we encouraged school connectedness, individual inquiry and class accountability through Project-Based Learning. As a teacher-based teams coach, a technology coach, and a curricular leader in my department, I can assuredly say that Strongsville High School students are in good hands as our educators are doing whatever it takes to deliver curriculum in the best possible way during this ever-changing time.”



- Mary Giaimo, English Teacher at Strongsville High School



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

### MISSION

Strongsville City Schools, in partnership with the community, will ensure all students reach their fullest potential through challenging curriculum and activities, provided by a highly qualified, motivated staff in a safe, supportive environment with up-to-date facilities and technology.

### CORE BELIEFS

- Data-based decisions and evidence-based practices
- Shared leadership and collaborative problem-solving
- An approach to teaching and learning that is engaging, exciting, and fun for students
- All students accessing innovative, high quality instruction in all classrooms
- Meeting the individualized learning needs of our students
- The ability of all students to grow and achieve

### THE *Mustangs* MINDSET

Strongsville City Schools continues to build a collaborative culture with a goal of creating a special place where all staff and students can learn, work, and grow. Three values are at the core of the Mustang Mindset: Be Your Best, Pursue Excellence, and Build Strong Connections.



#### **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



#### **Surrarrer 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: Mr. Glen Stacho



#### **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 Winger



# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

**“Strongsville City Schools is committed to being the best stewards of the dollars and resources that our community has generously provided. Our District has proactively worked to maintain financial stability, while providing a premier educational experience for our students. We continue to look for efficiencies and cost savings measures in managing the finances of our District.”**

*- George Anagnostou, Treasurer / Strongsville City Schools*

**Strongsville City Schools has been nationally recognized since 2016 for their financial reporting, budget presentation, and overall fiscal transparency.**

- Recipient of the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Meritorious Budget Award for budget presentation (5 straight years)
- Recipient of the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (5 straight years)
- Recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (5 straight years)
- SCS was also recognized for the 2nd straight year with the 2020 Auditor of State Award with Distinction for its Financial Audit

**Treasurer Reports, including the District's annual budget and the five year forecast can be found on the District website: (<https://www.strongnet.org/departments/treasurer/financial-reports>)**

**SCS Financial Fact: Moody's Investor Service reaffirmed the Aa2 General Obligation Unlimited Tax (GOULT) rating for Strongsville City Schools and revised the District's credit outlook to 'positive' in August of 2020.**

Similar to a homeowner refinancing the mortgage on their home, this tax rating and revised credit outlook allowed our District to refinance the outstanding debt on the \$81 million bond issue passed in 2012.

This refinancing will reduce Strongsville taxpayers' investment by 0.5 mills beginning in collection year 2022, providing an **annual savings of approximately \$17.50 on a \$100,000 house** and will **save the taxpayers a total of \$14,524,342** over the remaining life of the bond.





# STUDENT SERVICES



“Throughout the past 12 months, we’ve faced numerous challenges, but we’ve used them as an opportunity to learn and grow. As a result, we now have a toolkit that includes numerous technological tools, different grouping strategies, and new ways to connect with our students. We have learned that collaboration is key and that we will be stronger if we face our problems together.”  
- Tara Rivera, Intervention Specialist at Strongsville Middle School



“While it is always crucial to build strong and positive relationships with our students every day, this past year has shown how truly invaluable those relationships are to support our students and our families in an unprecedented environment. Everyone’s experiences over the past year have been different and challenging in their own way and finding ways to connect with my students that were engaging and consistent, and continuing to see them grow as students and individuals has been extremely rewarding and shown me how incredibly resilient my students are. Whether it was introducing new activities that could be used across learning models or modifying some of our traditional activities that they were familiar with, it has helped me grow as a Speech-Language Pathologist by looking at my therapy in a different way and also helped my students become more flexible, creative, and build problem-solving skills!”  
- Kara Schuster, Speech-Language Pathologist at Muraski and Kinsner Elementary Schools



“Over the past year as an educator the ability to think flexibly and adjust almost instantaneously to various learning environments became a MUST to ensure our students received the best education we could provide in a variety of settings. As a teacher for students with special needs, our team prepared hands-on materials that could be picked up by parents to meet the needs of our learners who required tactile resources in addition to online learning resources. Communication with parents was integral to providing a safe learning environment where students continued to be challenged to reach their potential and finding opportunities to conference with parents or create videos for reference of how to access resources was key in the success of student learning during remote and hybrid models. Our team embraced the mindset of “Whatever It Takes” to meet the needs of our diverse learners!”  
- Ann McDevitt, Special Education Instructional Coach & Intervention Specialist





# ARTS

“Being involved in Theatre Club and the theatre department is a real honor and a privilege. It’s very fulfilling to not only have the opportunity, but to be able to participate in a hobby you love, such as theatre. When I am able to associate with a group of people I relate to, I feel I have a place and I have the support to continue and share my passions.”

- Mia Papatonis, SHS Class of 2023 & Co-President of SHS Theatre Club

The pandemic caused the SHS Theater Club to rethink the way it presented their performances during the 2020-21 school year. Their winter performance became a “radio play” of A Christmas Carol with students live streaming their performance, and reading their lines from socially distanced places on stage. The Spring Musical gave students the opportunity to record in advance “The Little Mermaid Jr.” with film editing and audio mixing experiences, much like an actual movie, as they also live streamed this performance.

“Strongsville is fortunate to have a successful music program in our District. It continues to be recognized at both the State and National Levels with prestigious awards. The Strongsville Instrumental Music Boosters role is to support the dedicated students and directors of Strongsville City Schools award-winning music program. The dedication of our students, directors, and the families who volunteer as part of SIMB, emphasizes the word “STRONG” in Strongsville’s music program.”

- Bill Burdick, President of Strongsville Instrumental Music Boosters

Dylan Eshbaugh, SHS Class of 2022, was recently selected as one of six high school students for the Cleveland Institute of Music’s Musical Pathway Fellowship program, recognizing outstanding Black and Latinx pre-college music students. This is a full-scholarship curriculum-based program that prepares students to pursue music at the college/conservatory level.

“I was amazed at the creativity and resilience of the SHS Choral Program during the challenges of the last year. Under the direction of Vickie Eicher, students received outstanding vocal training and multiple performance opportunities, providing these dedicated high schoolers with a much-needed creative outlet that kept them connected and motivated.”

- Carol Gregory, Strongsville Choral Boosters

A record-setting number of SHS Band & Orchestra students earned spots in several prestigious groups. Fifteen students were selected as members of the 2021 Northeast Regional Orchestra, which is an auditioned honors orchestra consisting of the best student musicians from Northeast Ohio. Nine musicians from the Strongsville High School Symphony Orchestra were selected as members of the 2022 All-State Orchestra, making this the 18th year in a row an SHS Orchestra student has been selected for this elite ensemble. The All-State Orchestra consists of the best high school orchestra musicians from all of Ohio.





# ATHLETICS

“In 22 years of coaching, all in Strongsville, I have seen young men and women develop not just academically, but as individuals that have honed their skills as leaders and innovators because of the experiences of extracurriculars. Student-athletes overcome adversity on the field or track or court, they wake up when everyone else is sleeping to get into the weight room, and show up to practice when their classmates might be enjoying a vacation or holiday. They do whatever it takes for something that is bigger than them in order to achieve a goal or outcome. These are the lifelong skills that our extracurricular opportunities provide the young men and women of Strongsville.”

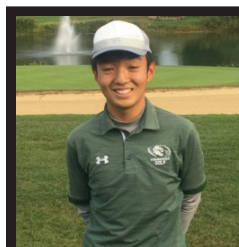
- Chris Koval, Head Coach for Boys Track & Field

“Being a student athlete means combining my two worlds; Athletics and Education. I think being a student athlete has helped me mature and grow into the person I am right now. It has helped me immensely with time management skills, my self worth, and leadership. Time management is the biggest part of being a student athlete - learning how to use every moment wisely. My self worth has also grown. I have the confidence to carry on a mature conversation without feeling timid. I feel like I can go up to anyone new and introduce myself with my head up. Being a student athlete has finally helped me become a leader. For the last two years I have had the opportunity to be the number one spot on the girls varsity golf team. I help the team other than just scoring low. I can help teach good practice habits, course management, and just how to enjoy the game. I plan on taking all I've learned from being a student athlete to my next level. I plan on playing college golf and becoming a big animal veterinarian.”

- Natalie Kostalnick, SHS Class of 2024 and member of the SHS Varsity Girls Golf Team



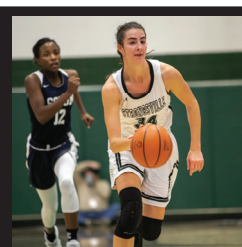
The SHS Girls Varsity Soccer Team won their fifth Division I State Championship and finished the season with a perfect 20-0-0 record and recorded an amazing 14 shutouts. They were also named the #1 girls soccer team in the nation by [topdrawersoccer.com](http://topdrawersoccer.com).



Michael Lee



Julia Isham



Reagan Bass

**In 2020-21, four SHS student-athletes earned GCC Player of the Year recognition:**

Michael Lee for Boys Golf, Julia Isham for Girls Cross Country, Shelby Sallee for Girls Soccer, and Reagan Bass for Girls Basketball.



Todd Church



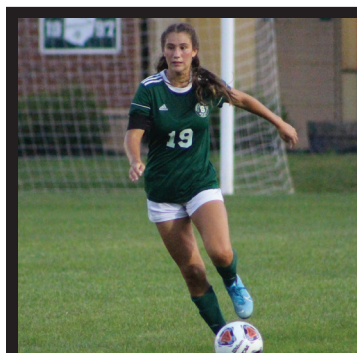
Dawn Thall



Tom Stacy

**Three SHS Coaches earned Coach of the Year Honors in 2020-21:**

Todd Church - GCC Coach of the Year (Girls Soccer), Tom Stacy - Division I Coach of the Year for the Northwest District (Boys Swim), and Dawn Thall - GCC Coach of the Year (Girls Basketball).



Peyton Felton



Shelby Sallee

Shelby Sallee earned All-American recognition for the 2nd straight year for girls soccer and was also nominated for the Northeast Ohio Female Athlete of the Year. Peyton Felton was named to the All-Central Region Team by the United Soccer Coaches Association.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES



## THE DERBY

The Derby is a brand new spirit shop at Strongsville High School. The Special Education, Business, and Career Tech departments have collaborated to create this space for students with disabilities, to develop workplace readiness skills in the school community. Several grants, generous donations from the community, and support from multiple departments within the District led to the development of this unique learning opportunity for students.

“The Derby provides an environment for students to gain employment skills and model an inclusive setting for Strongsville High School. We are looking forward to bringing our students, staff, and the entire school community together for this common goal of inclusiveness. Together, we are continuing to strive to create a shared environment that is accepting of all.”  
- Cheryl Bizub, SHS Transition Coordinator and Special Education Department Chair.



## ENGLISH HONORS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The English Department at Strongsville High School has started an English Honors Mentorship Program, providing 9th grade honors students guidance from senior AP English students. The program is designed to help incoming freshmen stay on the honors pathway, prepare for AP testing, and also learn valuable tips from seniors to assist with writing and analyzing literary works.

“The English honors mentorship program was established to build a community of learners who take part in discussions and activities on reading analysis and the process of writing. It benefits seniors who can become leaders and reflect on their learning while giving advice; it benefits freshmen because they are motivated by a peer to see from other perspectives and apply that to their work. We took a creative approach to provide as many opportunities for authentic learning and so far, it has paid off!”  
- Kelly Ribblett, Strongsville High School English Department Chair.



## BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR *Award*



**Jill Bush**, Strongsville City Schools bus driver since 2008, received The George Sontag, Jr. School Bus Driver of the Year Award for 2021. This annual award recognizes bus drivers who exhibit outstanding leadership and professional conduct in the school transportation field, both in the district they represent, as well as in the State of Ohio.

## ART EDUCATION LEADERSHIP *Award*



**Carla Ganim**, Strongsville Middle School Art Teacher, was 1 of just 15 individuals nationally recognized with an Art Education Leadership Award by Artsonia in 2021. This annual award is given to visionaries who continually inspire their peers in the art education community through their online school gallery on Artsonia.

# DISTRICT AWARDS



Strongsville High School was named a 2021 **U.S. News "Best High School"** and earned the #41 spot in rankings of Ohio high schools, moving up 74 spots in the past four years. This puts Strongsville High School in the top 5% of all high schools in the state of Ohio.



Strongsville City Schools was honored for the eighth 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 686 school districts nationwide to be recognized by NAMM, and one of just 20 school districts in Northeast Ohio to have received this prestigious award in 2021.



Strongsville Middle School was recognized as a **Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School** in 2020-21. SMS was 1 of only 176 PLTW Gateway programs recognized across the country. This was the third straight year SMS received this honor for inspiring students with hands-on learning experiences and project-based activities.



Whitney Elementary School received **Purple Star** renewal designation from the Ohio Department of Education in 2021. This designation recognizes military-friendly schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military.



# PARENT / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



“The PTA gives families the opportunity to help support and enrich EVERY student's educational experience within the district by partnering with each of our schools as well as the District overall. From funding unique grants, to helping with school-based activities, to lending support to our educators within the building, our partnership with the district is rewarding to the students, the staff, and the PTA members. We're always excited to lend our extra sets of helping hands and open hearts to make Strongsville City Schools the best educational environment it can be for our kids!” - Kelly Becker-Jungeberg, President of PTA Council

In 2020-21, PTA Council and its nine individual units approved over \$40,000 in grants that included classroom and building materials and resources. Strongsville PTA also awarded 15 scholarships totaling \$7,500 to the Class of 2021. Throughout a very challenging year, PTA volunteered a total of 5,625 hours for the benefit of the children, staff, and schools of Strongsville.

“The mission of the Strongsville Education Foundation is dedicated to raise and disburse funds to support and foster creativity, innovation and outstanding achievement for the students, the teachers and the community served by the Strongsville City Schools. This partnership is vital as it allows students and teachers to benefit both financially and educationally from scholarship and grant dollars raised. The Foundation made some adjustments to our normal fundraising efforts over the last year as we realized that we needed to do whatever it took to continue to support the students, teachers and the district. We are excited to continue these efforts and support of the Strongsville City Schools for many years to come.” - Dustin Hayden, President of Strongsville Education Foundation

The Strongsville Education Foundation awarded over \$14,000 in scholarships to Strongsville High School students in the Class of 2021. In addition, since the formation of the Foundation, more than \$267,000 in grant dollars has been donated to the teachers and staff of Strongsville City Schools for innovative educational initiatives.

“I have always seen athletics as a great opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, if it's through learning new skills or being a part of a team or even gaining leadership skills. I am proud of Strongsville schools, from the administration to the coaches to the student-athletes, for doing all that was necessary to make sure that the sports seasons not only went on during a pandemic, but to give the kids a chance to flourish and achieve great things even when times were anything but normal.” - Keith Housum, President of Strongsville Athletic Boosters

Through local business partnerships and fundraising efforts, the Strongsville Athletic Boosters continue to give back to the teams, student-athletes, and our District. Through these efforts, new state-of-the-art scoreboards have been installed in the Main Gym and on the baseball and softball fields at Strongsville High School.





**STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTR**  
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Strongsville, OH 44136-5216

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DISTRICT

STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS



Mustangs

ACADEMICS   ARTS   ATHLETICS

GOALS



**Academic Achievement & Growth**  
Engage learners in rigorous curriculum and quality instruction that will maximize achievement and growth across all academic areas and enable all students to graduate from high school prepared for success in college and career.



**Financial Prudence**  
Ensure sound financial management practices while maintaining high-quality educational experiences for all students through the alignment of district resources to district initiatives and investments.



**Community Engagement**  
Actively partner and communicate with our parents and residents to strengthen school-community bonds.

WE ARE STRONGSVILLE

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