

Board of Education Members



Brandon Atwood  
Alice Rericha  
Debbie Cole  
*(President)*  
Amber Ballard  
Michael Taylor  
*(Vice-President)*

**Debbie Cole** (President) attended Norwood View and NMS through the 7th grade. Debbie's family returned to Norwood in 1997. She is married to John Cole (class of 1982) and they have two sons. Debbie's son graduated in 2020, and a second son graduated in 2023.  
[cole.d@norwoodschoools.org](mailto:cole.d@norwoodschoools.org)

**Michael Taylor** (Vice-President) has lived most of his life in Norwood. Michael played football, and is a 1997 Norwood graduate and has been involved with the Athletic Boosters and Little Indians for many years. Michael has two sons, his oldest graduated in 2019, and his youngest in 2023.  
[Taylor.m@norwoodschoools.org](mailto:Taylor.m@norwoodschoools.org)

**Amber Ballard** is a 2002 Norwood graduate. Amber truly believes the "it takes a village" and all community members serve a valid role in raising Norwood strong citizens.  
[ballard.a@norwoodschoools.org](mailto:ballard.a@norwoodschoools.org)

**Alice Rericha** has lived in Norwood with her family for fifteen years. She has two daughters who attend Norwood schools. Alice is very community oriented and is involved in many Norwood Civic organizations.  
[Rericha.a@norwoodschoools.org](mailto:Rericha.a@norwoodschoools.org)

**Brandon Atwood** is a 1994 Norwood graduate. Brandon and his wife Carissa are the parents of a son who graduated with the class of 2018 and a daughter who graduated with the class of 2021.  
[Atwood.b@norwoodschoools.org](mailto:Atwood.b@norwoodschoools.org)

DISTRICT RECOGNITION

*We take pride in the recognition our district receives thanks to our expert and caring staff, high qualified administrators, committed board of education members, involved parents, and community.*

2023 Best Community for Music Education

We are thrilled to announce that Norwood City School District has been named as one of the **Best Communities for Music Education** by the NAMM Foundation for 2023. We are receiving this honor for the second time. The first time was in 2020. Congratulations to our incredible music teachers for bringing this honor to our district, **Allison Marshall, Jacob Lee, Adam Robinson, Betty Bothwell, Kathleen Gellert & Joe Waked.** We appreciate the way they share their gifts with the entire Norwood community.

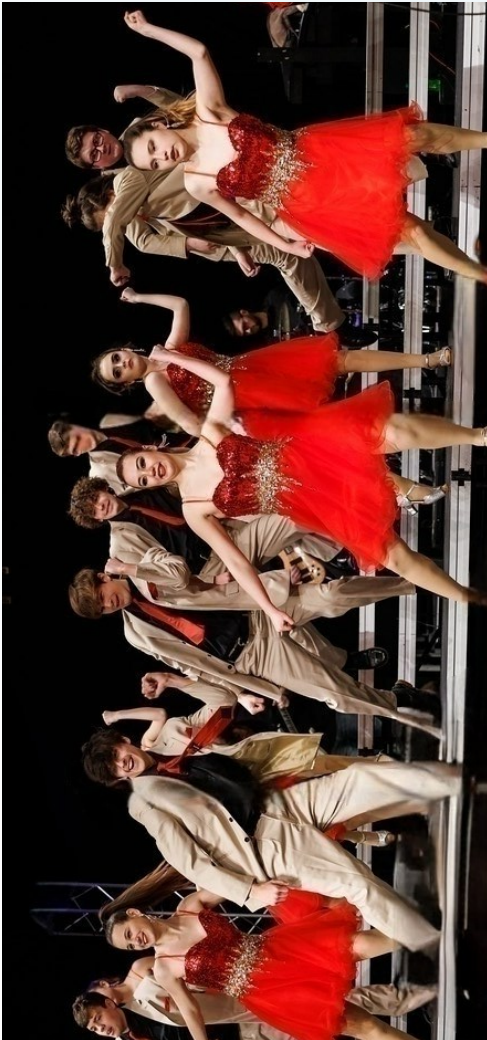
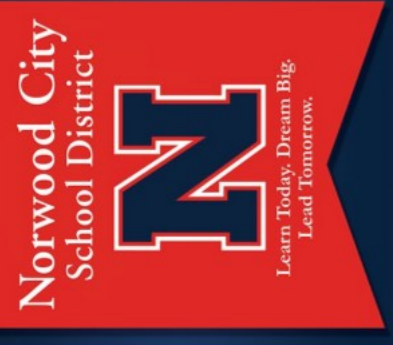


Norwood City School District

Board of Education  
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THANK YOU  
Norwood Community!



2023  
QUALITY PROFILE



# CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

## NORWOOD ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

- Left to Right
- Mrs. Julie Kaumphaus**  
*Treasurer*
- Mrs. Mary Ronan**  
*Superintendent*
- Mrs. Kristina Chesson**  
*Director of Curriculum*
- Mrs. Amanda Havlin**  
*Supervisor of Special Education*
- Mr. Chuck Richardson III**  
*Director of Athletics*



### Dear Norwood Families and Residents:

I am happy to share with you our great opportunities in the Norwood City School District. We understand the critical connection between our schools and the vitality of our community. We offer preschool in all our elementary schools to get students off to a great start. Our elementary schools have gifted instruction plus STEM programming connecting math and science standards in a powerful manner. We also have a growing Montessori School that is expanding from preschool to second grade for next year. All our historic buildings have been renovated with air-conditioning and high speed technology access.

The high school currently offers 10 Advanced Placement (AP) classes and two College Credit Plus classes; this is in addition to Norwood students attending Scarlet Oaks for career technical training and apprenticeship programs. We prepare students for the real world long before they enter the workforce. The Norwood High School Scholarship Foundation and alumni groups award approximately \$280,000 annually in college scholarships to our graduating seniors.

We take our responsibility to meet the needs of all children seriously. Because we concentrate on the development of the whole child and not just test scores, we have invested in on-going professional development for our staff to address the learning needs of every student.

I am proud to report the recognition we received in the area of music education. Norwood City School District has been honored with the “Best Communities for Music Education” designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education in our elementary schools and we include band and orchestra in High School. In addition to the arts, we are proud of our athletic opportunities that we offer for students. Currently, we have 13 sports offered at the Middle School and 22 at the High School. And we have a strong After-School program provided at the Elementary, Middle and High School with a variety of clubs and activities for students.

Norwood is full of individuals, groups, and businesses that care deeply about our students’ success. Xavier University works with our teachers to increase their skills and Norwood Ready Kids, funded by Shepherd Chemical, supports our birth to five year olds to be ready to start school. We welcome your children and entire family to the Norwood City School District.

*Mary Ronan*

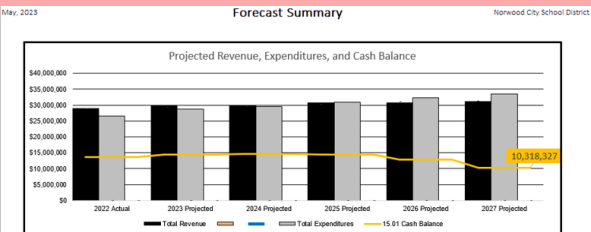
## TREASURER’S CORNER

### TO OUR NORWOOD CITY SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

We have made great strides to reduce costs while maintaining a high quality education for each child enrolled at Norwood City Schools. I’m proud to say we have reduced our general fund operating budget from \$30 million in 2019 to \$26.2 million in 2023. We will continue to watch for ways to reduce spending for our taxpayers.

We refunded bonds in 2021, reducing direct payments from our taxpayers by more than \$3.4 million over the life of the bonds! This spring, the Hamilton County Auditor reduced bond millage by 20% in response to the district’s refunding of debt.

We are finishing up our building renovation project originally titled Warm, Safe, and Dry, under budget and on time. We should be complete by the end of this summer. As we recognized savings during the project we added elevators, safer drop off lanes, and historically accurate window replacements that have updated both the look and energy efficiency of our buildings.



As always, the safety of our staff and students is first followed by transparent and fiscally responsible finances. The Five-Year Forecast provides the district’s estimated financial trend over time and a roadmap for decisions aimed at encouraging financial sustainability and stability.

# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Families choose the Norwood City School District to provide a well-rounded and excellent education experience for their children.

## Early Education

Young families living in Norwood have the opportunity to participate in **Early Education** offerings through our **Norwood Ready Kids** collaborative for children birth to age 5 years old. Parents can access early development visits, at home curriculum, play and learn groups, and connect via parent support networks.

## Preschool

We have **Preschool** available in every elementary building in the district. Find the location that works best for your child via our website. We have earned a 5-star rating in all our preschools in the district.



## Montessori

A growing area in the district is our Montessori program. After many successful years in the preschool, we now have opened **The Norwood Montessori School**.

## Small Class Sizes

**Classroom sizes** are small and diverse. Children receive individualized attention as they grow, and they get to know their peers and teachers easily.

## Fine Arts

Norwood remains committed to **Fine Arts** experiences for all of our students. From a young age, children enjoy art and music classes or clubs to enrich their brain development. Each year we host a Fine Arts Festival that spans two buildings to display student artwork K-12 and to highlight musical performances throughout the event. We offer a wide variety of visual arts opportunities to students at the high school from drawing to sculpture courses.

## STEM & Progress Based Learning

**STEM**, or **Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics**, is a key focus for students and teachers grades K-12. We prepare students for tomorrow’s workforce by teaching them to discover and problem solve in these areas. Our high school has advanced science labs, a planetarium, and a TV studio where students can explore STEM principles. Our elementaries offer STEM activities throughout the school year. Our middle school offers a technology course and pre-engineering course.

## Performing Arts

Our award winning band, orchestra and vocal programs provide musical instruction to our students. Students participate in general music programs in the elementary level. Students are offered band, orchestra and vocal options beginning in grade 6 and throughout high school. We have many ensembles and music opportunities. There are multiple vocal groups, chorus and the longstanding high school show choir, Silhouettes at the high school.



## Athletics

Norwood has **22 Athletic teams** at the High School and 13 athletic teams at the Middle School. Students can choose fall, winter, or spring sports.



Additional information found on our website [www.norwoodschoools.org](http://www.norwoodschoools.org)

# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

## Advanced Courses

High School students can participate in **10 AP Courses** (advanced placement) and **College Credit Plus** classes including Engineering and English. Earning college credit while still in high school provides savings for families beyond high school.

## Scholarship Foundation

The **Norwood High School Scholarship Foundation** and local organizations give approximately \$280,000 dollars to eligible high school seniors each year. This is an incredible start for young people to help with postsecondary education costs.

## Business Connections

Currently we offer pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships to students. We are a member of the **Hamilton County Business Advisory Council** which provides opportunities for students to participate in internships, job shadowing and pre-apprenticeships in our region.

## Great Oaks Partnership

We have a technical and vocational partnership with **Great Oaks** which allows our students an additional educational opportunity beginning in 11th grade. We had 41 students take advantage of that opportunity this year.

## RECOGNITIONS OF EXCELLENCE

### STAFF RECOGNITION

#### Norwood City School District Teacher of the Year



Emily was honored at the Hamilton County Educational Service Center Celebrate Excellence Breakfast with teacher of the year educators from the region. Pictured here is Emily with Anthony Munoz, who served at master of ceremony.

**Emily Hutchison** is a master educator who cares deeply about everyone she encounters. A lifelong learner, Mrs. Hutchison is trained in Orton-Gillingham, LETRS, Math Recovery, Number Talks, Trauma-Sensitive classrooms and more. Mrs. Hutchison teaches at Sharpsburg Primary and Elementary. She often leads meetings in which she shares detailed information about each student. Mrs. Hutchison is a teacher of all, not just young learners. She has mentored several of Norwood School’s strongest teachers and continues to do so. She is a valued peer, mentor, friend, coach, counselor and teacher.

**Derek Alsip** was recognized as the MVC Co-Coach of the Year 2023. Mr. Alsip has been a coach for the Norwood wrestling program for 10 years. This is the 5th time he has received this recognition. Our wrestling program has over 40 students in the program at the middle school and high school level.



**Leslie Hadaway**, NHS science teacher, is on the Curriculum Advisory Committee for Biology through Ohio Department of Education. Mrs. Hadaway has been with Norwood for 31 years and is the teacher of the year from 2019. This committee reviews newly developed items for Ohio’s State Tests and make recommendations about grade and content appropriateness.

**Kaitlin Sodd**, NHS science teacher, is a member of the Ohio State Testing Biology Rubric Validation Committee through Ohio Department of Education. Kaitlin is in her 6th year of teaching with Norwood.

