



Van Wert City Schools

Education • Innovation • Tradition

2023 - 2024 Quality Profile





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Board of Education



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Board President



Julie Burenga
Board Vice President



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Board Member



Greg Blackmore
Board Member



Scott Mull
Board Member

Van Wert City School District

OUR MISSION

We continue to be a source of Cougar Pride while providing each student a quality education through innovative methods and technology.

OUR VISION

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

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 farmland, 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.

OUR SCHOOLS

Van Wert City Schools is at the forefront of education as a PBL (Project Based Learning) district, bringing education to life with innovative instructional methods. Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is 2,125 students who are served by five schools: the Early Childhood Center (Pre K - K), Elementary (1-5), Middle School (6-8), High School (9-12), and School at the Goedde (alternative 6-12).



Superintendent's Message

Van Wert Cougar Community -

In 2018, a diverse group of community members, school staff, and administrators joined forces focusing on the future of our district and devised a comprehensive five-year plan. The result was a strategic plan built on five amended district goals. We are committed to ensuring that all actions by administrators, staff, and students in our district, and this Quality Profile will highlight some of the great work happening in each goal area:

- **Academic Achievement & Educational Innovation:** Van Wert City Schools prioritizes academic achievement through state-of-the-art instruction, technology, and facilities. VWCS creates an innovative teaching and learning environment through resources that inspire student learning and engagement.
- **Community & Family Wellness:** Van Wert City Schools implements strategies that promote wellness in all areas of family and community living: life skills, nutrition, mental health, physical activity, and prevention and awareness.
- **Community Engagement & Public Relations:** Van Wert City Schools is a vital part of the Van Wert community and will provide opportunities for two-way engagement and communication.
- **Funding and Resources:** Van Wert City Schools maximizes financial efficiencies and growth while continually establishing new opportunities for support.
- **Facilities & School Safety:** Van Wert City Schools employs all available resources to provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for students, staff, and the community while also maintaining and improving district infrastructures.

Additionally, Van Wert City Schools strives to be a model district for all to follow, and this Quality Profile allows us to promote the superior opportunities available to all students beyond the basics. VWCS will always be a We > Me and Culture > Strategy district that will love, serve, and care to give ourselves a chance. We value a positive culture and understand that, as both professionals and role models, our behavior can impact the overall effectiveness of Van Wert City Schools.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at 419-238-0648 or m_bagley@vwcs.net.

Go Cougars!

Mark Bagley
Superintendent
Van Wert City Schools





Student Success

An Award Winning Education

Van Wert City Schools is an award-winning school district that serves students of all ages, from preschool through twelfth grade.

Van Wert Early Childhood Center offers all-day preschool and kindergarten for 3, 4, and 5-year-olds. They focus on learning in a play-based setting and have been a 5-Star Step Up to Quality school since 2016. They use a variety of curricula, including Literacy Collaborative, Creative Curriculum, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Lucy Calkins Writing, and Big Ideas Math with the Numbers Talk framework.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

5-STAR STEP UP TO QUALITY SINCE 2016

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2x OAESA HALL OF FAME SCHOOL SINCE 2017

MIDDLE SCHOOL

OHIO SCHOOLS TO WATCH SINCE 2006

HIGH SCHOOL

U.S. NEWS "BEST HIGH SCHOOLS" SINCE 2018

SCHOOL AT THE GOEDDE

2023 SERVE OHIO AWARD WINNER



ECC students at play



VWES students recognized for showing kindness, empathy, and respect to students and staff



VWMS students participate in Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



VWHS Robotics Club



Goedde students host annual Thanksgiving Feast

Van Wert Elementary School offers unique health and wellness programs for students in grades 1-5, including the 100 Mile Club, Road Runners after-school program, Jumpin' Jammers, classroom brain breaks, health fairs, fun runs, and nutrition videos. The school has received the OAESA's Hall of Fame award twice since 2017 for its positive school culture, and Assistant Principal Tracy Wehner was named OAESA's Assistant Principal of the Year.

Van Wert Middle School, an Ohio School to Watch since 2006, serves students in grades 6-8. As a Project Lead the Way Distinguished School, VWMS excels at integrating STEM subjects into the daily schedule. Students have access to over 10 "Discovery" classes, including arts, music, engineering, fitness, technology, and consumer sciences. The school also offers various extracurricular activities such as athletics, Cougar Leaders, 4-H, History Club, Pink, Quiz Bowl, and Robotics Club.

Van Wert High School is a pioneer in education with its unique CEO (Career Education Opportunities) Program, where seniors can earn high school credit while interning with local community partners. VWHS offers students over 100 elective courses, eight AP courses, and College Credit Plus classes for grades nine through twelve. Additionally, 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. VWHS has received awards for its female representation in AP Computer Science and has been recognized as one of U.S. News & World Report's "Best High Schools" since 2018.

Van Wert School at the Goedde is an alternative school for students in grades 6-12, providing a tailored learning environment to meet each student's needs. 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. In 2023, Van Wert School at the Goedde was selected as one of the five outstanding volunteers, groups, and initiatives presented with an award for impactful service throughout Ohio.



Building Lifelong Success

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 allow 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 Van Wert High School careers counselor Kerry Koontz in 2015. It has since been extended to the seniors in Lincolnview and Crestview school districts and has partnered with more than 120 local businesses.



Showcasing Success

Gracie Gunter, a 2021 Van Wert High School graduate, spent her senior year interning with HB Salon and Touch of Grace through our CEO Program. It was through this opportunity that she earned her Ohio Boutique Service license as a high school senior! Fast-forward to March of 2023, Gracie graduated from The Ohio State Beauty Academy and is currently licensed and employed at HB Salon.

“The CEO program led me to my dream job and so much more. During my internship, I learned about all things hair and how the business side of it worked. I was able to attend cosmetology school after graduating from Van Wert and continue an internship at HB Salon. At the end of my 14 months of cosmetology school, I officially started at HB Salon and have been there ever since.”

I’ve been involved with the salon since my senior year, starting in 2020. Almost four years, crazy! My favorite thing about being a hairstylist would have to be making clients feel confident and heard. It’s important to do a thorough consultation to make sure you understand what your client is expecting from you. The end result is always beautiful and so awesome to see their face light up in confidence.”

- Gracie Gunter





Collaborative Culture



Staff complete Project ADAM Heart Safe CPR/AED training



VWES Jumpin' Jammers perform for fans during half time of a varsity boys basketball game



6th graders in Healthy Choices learn safe knife skills while preparing vegetable trays



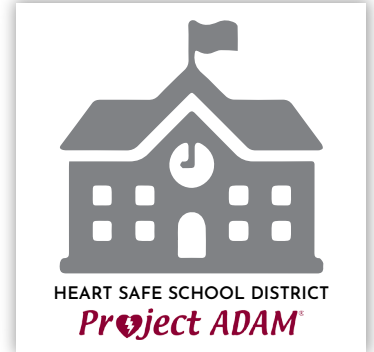
Local law enforcement complete on-site simulation training



Students enjoy a visit from a facility service dog

Wellness, Mental Health, and Safety

School safety is the top priority at Van Wert City Schools. Our mission is to enhance safety, security, and emergency plan development in accordance with the School Climate Guidelines, School Safety/Emergency Operations Plan Template, and Ohio Law. The goal of Van Wert City Schools is a total commitment in supporting all of our schools to ensure the safety of students, employees, and visitors through effective policies and procedures, training, and community and interagency involvement.



In 2023, Van Wert City Schools was among those selected to receive funding support for physical safety and security upgrades. This was made possible through the Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program, a testament to our commitment to ensuring the highest level of safety for our students, employees, and visitors.

During the 2022-2023 school year, all five buildings in the Van Wert City School district became Heart Safe Schools designated by Project ADAM, a national effort to provide training and resources to respond to cardiac events in schools, while increasing the number of AEDs throughout the district to 33, eight of which are portable and can be used for extracurricular activities off-site.

In addition to our team of school psychologists and counselors, Westwood Behavioral Health Center, in conjunction with Van Wert City Schools, provides clinical counseling and consultation services to students in need.

Our student Wellness Program is comprehensive and designed to cater to all aspects of a student's health. It offers several opportunities for students to lead an active life and learn about healthy living through the Walking Program, 100 Mile Club, Cougar Club Holliday Carnival, Roadrunners, Healthy Heart Corner, Jumpin' Jammers, Brain Breaks, and Nutrition Education. We believe a healthy student is a happy student, and we are committed to their overall well-being.

Whole Child Focus

Van Wert City Schools focuses on social-emotional well-being for all students by developing resilient individuals, motivated by a culture of continuous growth, who are given space to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Whether a student is preparing for a Friday night football game, a musical performance, or growing their artistic skills - extracurricular activities are essential to our Van Wert City School District's focus on the whole child.

Students learn how to become resilient problem solvers, communicators, and critical thinkers by participating in activities beyond the classroom.

Arts and Athletics

MUSIC

Van Wert City Schools has a strong music education program, including award-winning vocal and instrumental performers in both middle school and high school. Vocal and instrumental awards earned during the 2022-2023 school year include:

High School

- 2023 OMEA State Honors Choir Member: Mackenzie Jones
- 2023 OMEA District III HS Large Group Contest: Freshmen Choir- Excellent; Sophomore Women- Superior (Qualified for State); Concert Choir- Superior (Qualified for State)
- 2023 OMEA HS STATE Large Group Contest: Sophomore Women- Excellent; Concert Choir - Excellent
- Three students were selected for 2023 OMEA District III HS Honors Choir
- 2022 OMEA State Marching Band Finals - Excellent
- Five students were selected for 2023 OMEA District III Honor Band
- Solo and Ensemble Instrumental: 13 Superiors
- 2023 OMEA State Finals: Symphonic Band- Superior

Middle School

- 2023 OMEA District III MS Large Group Contest: 8th Grade Choir - Excellent
- 2023 OMEA District III MS Large Group Contest: 8th Grade Band - Excellent
- Solo and Ensemble Instrumental = 19 Superiors and 3 Excellents

THEATRE

Create, perform, and inspire through the theatrical arts. The Van Wert High School Theatre Department performs two productions each year, a fall play and a spring musical. Over 60 students in grades 6-12 are involved with support from the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

ATHLETICS

VWCS has a great athletics tradition, offering 11 athletic programs in middle school and 22 athletic programs in high school. Several high school athletes qualified for OHSAA State Championships during the 2022-2023 school year. Athletics highlights from 2022-2023 school year include:

- VWHS Boys Golf - WBL Champions
- VWHS Boys Cross Country State Qualifier: Drew Laudick
- VWHS Girls Bowling State Qualifier: Mercades Hammond
- VWHS Boys Swimming State Qualifiers: Jayden Welker (100 Yard Butterfly); Sam Houg (200 Yard Freestyle)
- VWHS Track & Field State Qualifiers: Rylan Miller, Owen Scott, Freddy Behm, Gage Springer (Boys 4x800m Relay); Kendra Deehring (Girls 100m Dash); Owen Scott (Boys 3200m Run)
- VWHS Track & Field State Medalists: Kendra Deehring, Macy Johnson, Danesha Branson, Sofi Houg (Girls 4x200m Relay-2nd place); Sofi Houg, Macy Johnson, Danesha Branson, Kendra Deehring (4x100m Relay-3rd Place)



Mackenzie Jones, All State Choir



VWHS Golf, 2022 WBL Champions



VWHS Girls 4x100m Relay



Cougar Pride Marching Band



*The Wizard of Oz,
2023 VWHS Spring Musical*



Community Engagement

Connected to Community

Van Wert City Schools is committed to building relationships with our community members and providing them with information. With our heavy social media presence and newly revamped website, we are able to reach thousands of community members and provide them with information regarding district operations, announcements, and student accomplishments.

At every grade level, students engage with the community on a regular basis. Some examples are below:

ECC KISS Days - Kids Invite Someone Special

The ECC hosts KISS days for students to invite someone special to join them in the school for one hour and make a special craft together.

Elementary VIP Days - Very Important Persons

The elementary hosts VIP days for students to invite one very important person to spend time with them either during the morning walking program or for 30 minutes during the school day.

ECC & Elementary PTO - Parent-Teacher Organization

The PTO promotes open communication between the administration, faculty, parents, and the community. PTO supports teachers, staff, and faculty in their educational and recreational needs through fundraising and family activities.

Van Wert Middle School Business Fair

In 2023, VWMS hosted its first-ever VWMS Business Fair and opened it up to community members for two days (an hour and a half per day). 8th grade students worked through the entrepreneurial process to develop, market, and sell a product using the Van Wert City School Library's Makerspace. Students then donated a percentage of sales to one local non-profit organization of their choice, selecting the Van Wert County Humane Society.

Extracurricular Activities - Student Involvement

Both Van Wert Middle School and High School offer many different areas of interest in which students can get involved. Organizations like student council (or Cougar Leaders in middle school), the scholastic bowl, FCCLA, and band help students find others with common interests and build relationships that will last a lifetime. Students are encouraged to enjoy their middle school and high school years by being active in these organizations in order to contribute to their school and community.

PBIS Program - Positive Behavioral Interventions and 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 the support from local businesses and personal donors. ***Thank you for your continued support!***



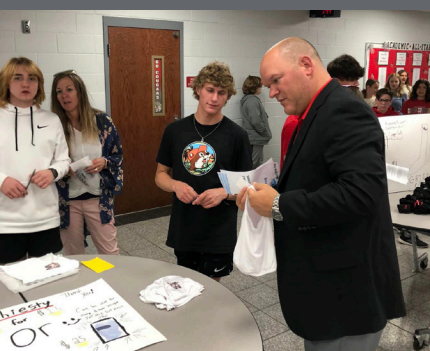
VWECC KISS Day



VWES VIP Day



VWMS students prepare for business fair



VWCS Superintendent Mark Bagley shops at business fair



VWHS students earn FCCLA National Competition Awards

SERVE OHIO

Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Students Making an Impact

Nominated by the United Way of Van Wert County, Van Wert School at the Goedde was selected as one of the five outstanding volunteers, groups, and initiatives presented with an award for impactful service throughout Ohio.

Students and staff work hard every year to provide a Thanksgiving feast for community members, cooking the food from scratch using ingredients from their hydroponic farm and serving the meal. In addition, students at the Goedde regularly support local organizations in need by assisting in the form of community service projects, such as raking leaves for elderly neighbors, caring for the community garden, and much more.

Van Wert School at the Goedde opened up its very own "Goedde Boutique," which is a 100% donation-based retail store. The boutique is available to shop by appointment and welcomes all members of the community, offering a wide range of items including clothing, shoes, accessories, and more, all provided free of charge.



Most recently, Goedde students and staff packaged nearly 400 meals along with a truckload of clothing and supplies from the Goedde Boutique and delivered them to the Lighthouse at Indian Lake in Russells Point, following the devastation caused by the March 14 tornado that left a trail of severe damage in Logan County.

"Volunteerism is an extremely important piece of what makes the Goedde special, and our students have several opportunities to get out of the classroom and help others through local community service initiatives," said Van Wert School at the Goedde Director, Rhonda Cunningham. "Our purpose behind all is to show our kids that even though you don't know somebody who was affected by this, there's always somebody who needs help and in doing so, it allows our students to practice social skills, build self-esteem, and develop empathy for others."



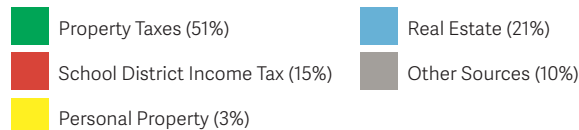
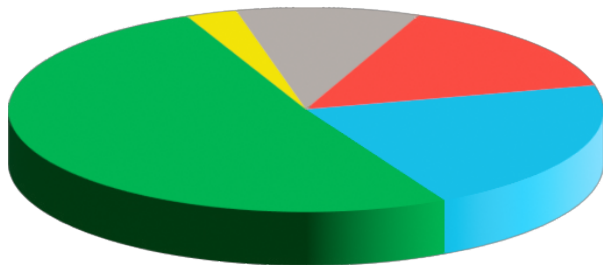


Fiscal Responsibility

Fiscal Year Review

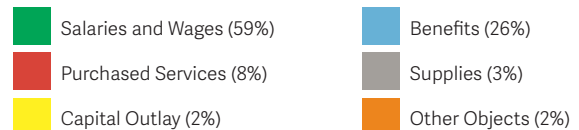
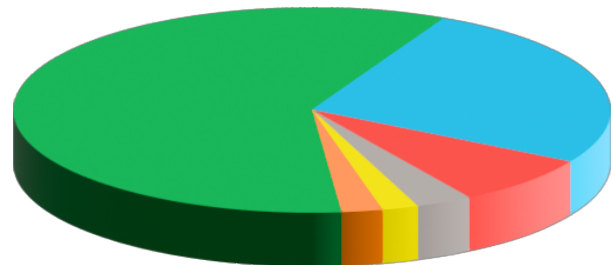
VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS FISCAL YEAR 2023

Revenue: \$26,331,317



VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS FISCAL YEAR 2023

Expenditures: \$23,426,189

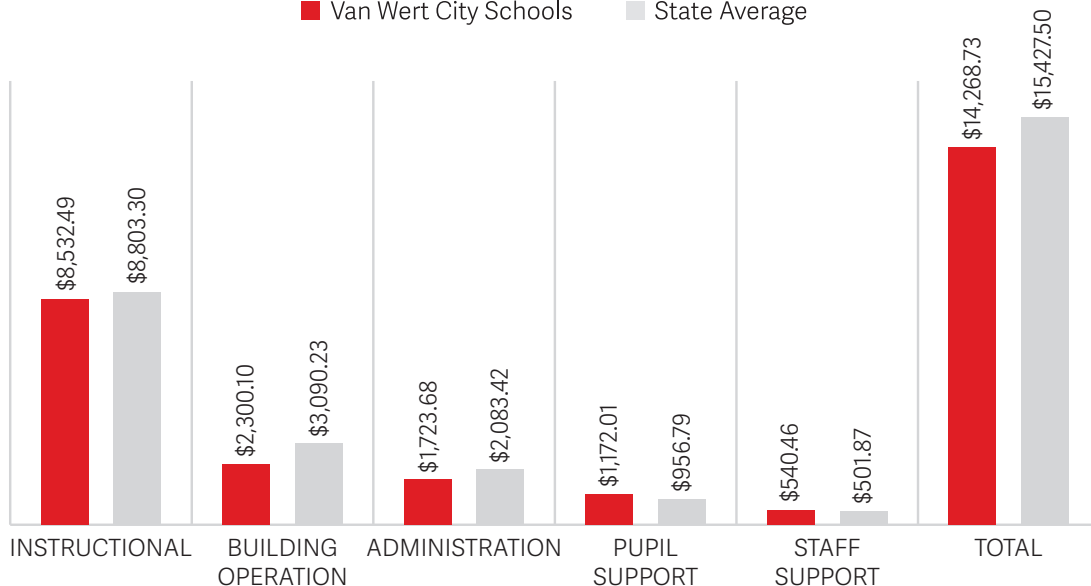


Academic Excellence and Financial Accountability

Van Wert City Schools is committed to providing an exceptional educational experience while adhering to a fiscally responsible budget. Fiscal responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction, resulting in an excellent return on investment for community members. In addition to investing more in classroom instruction, Van Wert City Schools has lower building operation and administration costs than the state average, resulting in a lower total cost overall.

OPERATING EXPENSES PER STUDENT

■ Van Wert City Schools ■ State Average



DATA FROM 2023 CUPP REPORT COLLECTED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

FY 2023 VWCS Financial Facts



Full-Time Employees

VWCS employs 296 full-time staff.



General Fund Revenue

39% of VWCS General Fund Revenues come from local taxes.



General Fund Budget

VWCS operates on a \$23.4 million dollar General Fund Budget.



Ohio Auditor of State Facilitates Annual Audit

VWCS is audited annually, fostering accountability of our community's resources.



Student Enrollment

VWCS provides educational opportunities to more than 2,100 students - THANK YOU!



A Note From the Treasurer

A review of the fiscal year 2023 general fund operations shows that 85% of our \$23.4 million operating budget was expended on salaries and fringe benefits. The remaining 15% was used to support and supplement our educational programs, which includes items such as classroom textbooks and materials, technology related equipment and software, contracted educational support services, audit fees, and for services & supplies related to our facility, transportation, and equipment programs. In budgeting and planning for each educational year the Board of Education and administration strives to operate in an efficient manner without sacrificing the overall delivery of the quality educational programs that we provide to our students. As stewards of our taxpayers resources, we are entrusted to keep our students and community in focus as we plan and invest in education for generations to come.

Thank you for your support of our school system.

Troy Bowersock, Treasurer
Van Wert City Schools
Phone: 419-238-5432
Email: t_bowersock@vwcs.net





Stay Connected!

We value the input of every member of our Van Wert City Schools community. Stay connected to the district, and get involved in making our schools and community even better. Scan the QR code on the left to visit our website or follow us on social media!



vwcs.net



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Van Wert City Schools

Education • Innovation • Tradition

Van Wert Early Childhood Center

Preschool - Kindergarten

1120 Buckeye Drive
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: 419-238-0384

Van Wert Elementary School

Grades 1 - 5

10992 State Route 118 South
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: 419-238-1761

Van Wert Middle School

Grades 6-8

10694 State Route 118 South
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: 419-238-0727

Van Wert High School

Grades 9 - 12

10708 State Route 118 South
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: 419-238-3350

Van Wert School at the Goedde

Alternative - Grades 6-12

205 West Crawford Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: 419-238-6540

Van Wert City Schools

District Office

205 West Crawford Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: 419-238-0648



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APPLY NOW: 419-238-0648

Van Wert City Schools Needs You! Paid Training - Hiring Now