

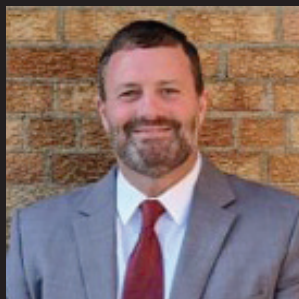


# QUALITY PROFILE

2024-2025



# From the Superintendent



Newark City Schools  
Community,

I'm excited to share with you the first Newark City Schools Quality Profile. This publication is designed to give our community a clear picture of

the progress and achievements from the past year. While test scores and state data provide part of the story, we know our schools are defined by much more.

Inside, you will find highlights from across our district: accomplishments of the Class of 2025, recognition earned by students and staff, updates on our curriculum, and the many ways our students excel in athletics and the arts. You will also see how we continue to partner with families and community organizations to support learning. A financial snapshot is included as well, so you can see how resources are being managed to best serve our students.

As this is our first Quality Profile, we view it as a starting point — a way to reflect, celebrate and look ahead together. Newark City Schools is proud to be A Community of Opportunity and Learning, and this report shows just some of the many opportunities our students experience every day.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our schools and, most importantly, of our students.

**David L. Lewis**  
*Superintendent*

## Newark City Schools Board of Education

Thank you to our school board, who help set policies, oversee finances and ensure an overall quality experience for Newark City Schools students. Special congratulations to Tom Bline, who was recognized last year by the Ohio School Boards Association for 15 years of service!



Cindy Neely, President; Tom Bline; Mark Christenberry; Daniel Hunt; and Joe Quackenbush

## Stay connected!



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# NEWARK CITY SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE



**5,938**  
students



**506**  
teachers



**13**  
schools

## CLASS OF 2025



**398**  
graduates



**47%**  
attending a 2 or  
4-year college or  
university



**\$353,000**  
scholarship funds  
awarded through A Call  
to College and Licking  
County Foundation



**8**  
enlisted in  
the military

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

**14**  
AP  
classes

From innovative classes to field trips and classroom presentations to college visits and job shadow opportunities, we are giving our students — across all grade levels — the chance to discover their next step!

### Workforce Development Connects Students With Employers

Newark High School's Workforce Development Program, led by Lori Mye, helped connect students with local employers in many different ways. More than 1,250 high school students attended our Job Fair and Skilled Trades Celebration events last year. Fifty-nine employers participated in hiring events, including the job fair, skilled trades celebration and additional events.

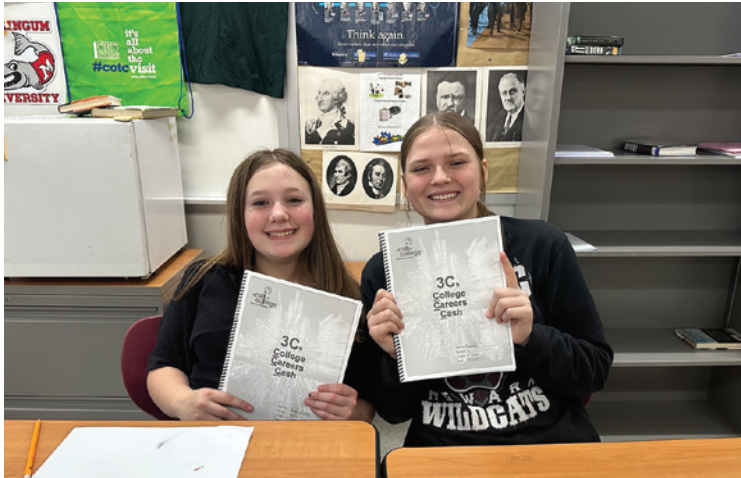
### A Career in Shoes? Who Knew!

Mike Roundhouse, vice president and general manager of XTRATUF, spoke with Liberty Middle School students about a career in footwear, tying their classroom learning about designing and marketing shoes to the real world.



## 3C Curriculum Giving Students Leg Up

Eighth grade students at Heritage Middle School learned about local college options, explored careers that match their interests, and began to unpack the relationship between education and earning power — all part of our 3C's — College, Careers and Cash curriculum.



## Fifth Graders Join Ribbon Cutting

Fifth graders helped with the ribbon cutting of JA Biztown's Newark campus. As part of the event, they tried out a career and received an introductory lesson in managing their finances.



## A Taste of Campus Life

In partnership with A Call to College, more than 350 sixth graders visited one of seven central Ohio colleges as part of the Kids2College program! Similarly, high school juniors took a tour of The Ohio State University Newark and Central Ohio Technical College, where they learned about the different programs and majors offered.



## Partners Teach Valuable Skills

Thanks to our partners at THK Manufacturing of America Inc., our students learned how to build something by reading a blueprint as part of Manufacturing Month in October.



## A Day in the Life

Select juniors and seniors were chosen to participate in a Job Shadow Day with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Students spent time at parks around central Ohio learning about careers in wildlife biology, environmental science, engineering, and more.

## Field Trips Galore!

Field trips expand learning and give students a peek into potential careers. Check out all of the locations our students traveled to last school year!



Columbus Metropolitan Museum of Art



The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium



Infirmary Mound Park



Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch

## Signing Day

Seniors who wanted to share and celebrate their plans after high school participated in a Signing Day!



# ACADEMICS



## Literacy Lab Helps Students Soar Ahead in Reading

A new Literacy Lab introduced last year paid off in a big way. Participating students made seven times the reading progress compared to typical ninth and tenth grade students.

## PBIS Continues to Build Character

PBIS or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports continues to be taught throughout our schools. The framework is designed to create safe and effective learning environments by teaching and reinforcing positive social, emotional and academic behaviors for all students.



*Hillview Elementary students celebrate their fourth quarter PBIS incentive.*

## Piloted House System a Success

The House System concept was created by the Ron Clark Academy and has a proven track record of creating a positive school climate and culture. The program was piloted at Carson and Cherry Valley Elementary last year. Students were randomly placed in one of four houses. This gives them a smaller group of students within the larger school community to connect with, giving them a better sense of community and accountability.

The Houses earn points by going above and beyond through academic achievement, character, school spirit and uplifting others. Congratulations to House Reveur, winners of this year's first House challenge at Cherry Valley Elementary.



## New Language Arts Curriculum Setting Students Up for Success

Wit & Wisdom, a comprehensive K-8 English Language Arts curriculum, was introduced in all of our elementary schools in the 2024-2025 school year. It helps students build the knowledge and skills they need to be successful readers, exceptional writers and effective communicators. Ben Franklin Elementary welcomed Olentangy Local Schools staff to see the curriculum in action.



# AWARDS

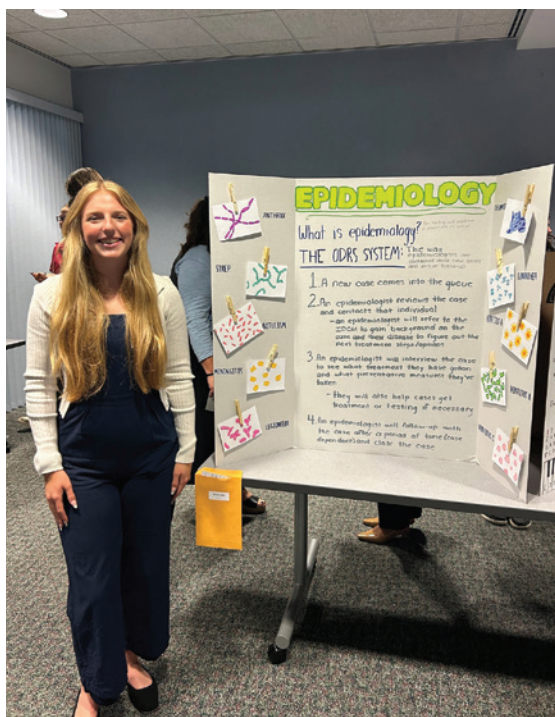
## Commended Scholars



Adam Drake and Hope Misel were named Commended Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

## Student Recognized for Mentorship

Emma, a Newark High School student, was selected for a mentoring opportunity with Licking County's Communicable Disease Program thanks to a partnership between the Licking County Health Department and Licking County Regional Educational Service Center. She was highlighted at the Licking County ESC Mentorship Breakfast in May.



## Leaders in STEM

Rylie Shonebarger, Gunner Bobo and Ariana Morris, all students at Hillview Elementary, were declared winners of the Ohio STEM Learning Network's 2025 STATE Challenge in the elementary age group with their presentation on Ohio Sustains Space. Meanwhile, Jennifer Keene was honored as the FIRST Lego League State Volunteer of the Year.



## Star Staff

Newark High School English teacher Kim O'Dell was honored with a Leaders for Learning award from the Licking County Foundation.



# EXTRACURRICULARS

## 21 High School Clubs

### JROTC Rare Opportunity for Ohio's High School Students

Newark High School's Air Force JROTC donated new flags to the Cedar Hill Cemetery Veterans Memorial, raising them before last year's Memorial Day service. They were also recognized as a Distinguished Unit with Merit and a National Champion Air Force Color Guard.



### Key Club Wows All Year Long

Key Club is the largest student-led international organization for high school students that promotes community service, leadership development and friendship.

As part of Key Club's District Leadership Conference in March, Jacob Snow was installed as Lieutenant Governor, while Carmen Baker was named Ohio Key Club Member of the Year. The group also placed second in the video contest.

Konner Jewell was also named the recipient of the Key Club B. David Whiteman Scholarship, and last but not least, several of our Key Club members represented Newark at the Key Club International Convention in Orlando in July. This event draws 1,000 high school leaders from across the country for leadership and service activities. Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Newark for helping sponsor our students!

Key Club also raised \$5,557 through its annual WildcatThon event to benefit families dealing with childhood cancer.



### Sources of Strength Focuses on Social-Emotional Well-being

A student-staff basketball game closed out last year's Sources of Strength Week. Club members also presented a session titled "Empowering Student Voices: A Peer Leader Panel on Creating Change Through Sources of Strength" at the American Association of Suicidology Conference in Columbus.



### High School Students Give Back With Community Clean Up

Nearly 300 high school students from JROTC, National Honor Society, Key Club, band, Science Club, and the football, basketball, and track teams participated in the 10th annual NHS Community Clean Up. They laid mulch, painted over graffiti, picked up trash, and the list goes on!



# ATHLETICS

# 12

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

# 11

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SPORTS

# 13

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SPORTS

# 7

CO-ED SPORTS

## Sophomore Clearing Hurdles, Setting Records

Sophomore Roy Price Jr. broke a two-decades old Newark record during the spring track season and was the Division I regional champion in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.45 seconds.



## Student-Athlete Signs With Major University

Austin Rose is continuing his baseball career and education at The Ohio State University!



## Fall All-Ohio Recognitions

### Makayla Meister

2nd Team All-Ohio  
Volleyball

### Austin Rose

Honorable Mention All-Ohio  
Football

### Drayson Peterson

2nd Team All-Ohio  
Football

### Bill Franks

State Coach of the Year  
Football

## Winter All-Ohio Recognitions

### Emma Quackenbush

Honorable Mention All-Ohio  
Basketball

### Jake Quackenbush

Honorable Mention All-Ohio  
Basketball

### Braylon Morris

Honorable Mention All-Ohio  
Basketball

### Calli Geller

Special Mention

## 2024 State Coach of the Year



## All Ohio



Calli Geller



Emma Quackenbush



Braylon Morris



Jake Quackenbush

# ARTS



**The Pride of Newark Marching Band** has qualified for state competitions for a record 45 consecutive years.



**Newark choirs** have qualified for state competitions for 60 consecutive years.



**Our orchestras** performed at the Royal Ontario Museum in 2024 and four students qualified for the Regional Orchestra.



**Newark's drama students** performed Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, and 8 Minutes Left in recent years.



**We offer 15 Fine Arts courses** at Newark High School, including photography, drawing, ceramics, painting, digital design, and more.



Congratulations to these Newark High School musicians for a spectacular performance in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Regional Honors Orchestra last fall!

**Addy Tracy**, cello

**Sarah Warner, Leeanne Hohmann**, violas

**Gavin Iden, Hayden Wells**, trumpets

**Nate Mitchell**, tuba

## Bands Earn Multiple Superior Ratings

Both our concert and symphonic bands earned superior ratings at the OMEA Large Group competition in March.

## Students Qualify for All State Band

Congratulations to senior Hayden Wells and sophomore Gavin Iden, both trumpet players, who traveled to Cleveland to perform as members of the OMEA All State Band last winter.



## Drama Students Left No Crumb Behind

Our talented drama students performed The (Almost) True Story of Hansel and Gretel!



# ARTS

## Artists Gain Recognition

Several of our elementary students were recognized during the Youth Art Month Flag/Graphic awards ceremony through the Ohio Art Education Association. Congratulations!



## Talent Shines Bright at Spring Choir Concert

Our choir members took their spring concert to the next level with their Sounds of the '60s theme!



## Singers Sing Their Way to Victory

At the large group adjudicated event, our concert choir (Class A), treble ensemble and The Brotherhood of Newark (both Class C) all earned superior ratings. This is the 60th year in a row the Newark choir program has qualified for state.



# FINANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS



Newark City Schools ended the 2024–2025 school year in a strong financial position. In the May five-year forecast, both revenue and expenditures came in higher than expected, but the district's overall outlook remained 96.2% on target with original estimates.

Our primary sources of funding are federal, state, and local dollars, with the majority of expenditures allocated to staff salaries and benefits.

The state budget (House Bill 96) and other pending legislation continue to create challenges for Ohio's public schools. We are closely monitoring these changes and will make adjustments as needed to protect opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your continued support of Newark City Schools.

**Julio Valladares**  
*Treasurer*

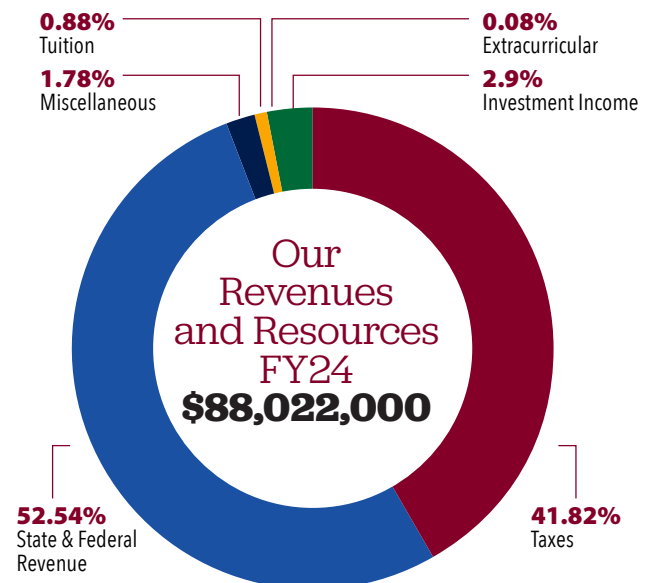
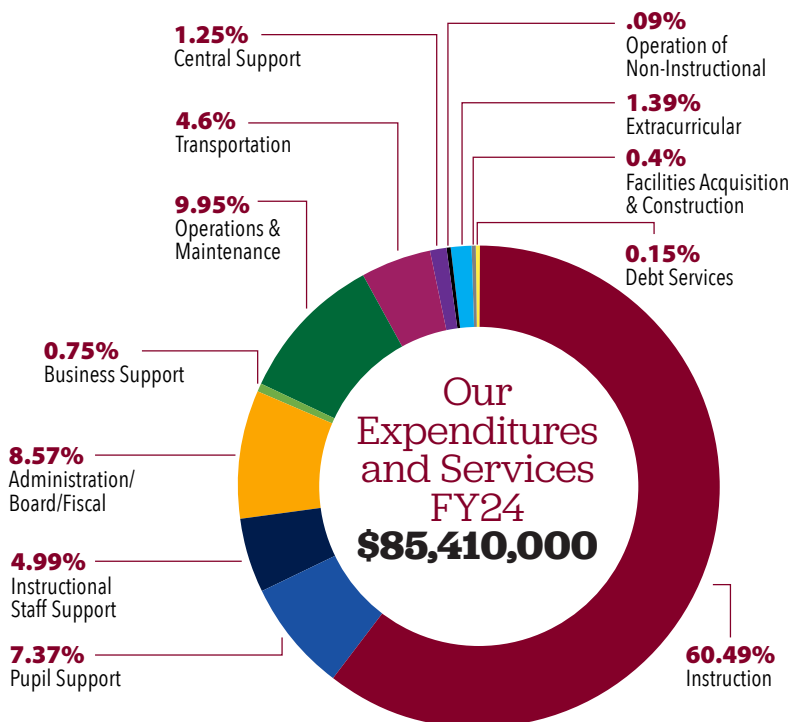
The Newark City Schools Treasurer's Office once again received the Auditor of State Award of Distinction for a clean audit.

## Grants, Partnerships Help Support Student Experience

Last school year, the iSee Program held a two-day clinic where 58 students from several schools across the district received free eye exams. More than 50 of those students needed glasses and received a free pair!



Additionally, the district continuously seeks grants and alternative sources of funding to introduce new programming and enhance current opportunities. The AEP Foundation and AEP Ohio support our robotics and STEM programs at the elementary and middle schools. To date, they have donated a combined \$13,000.





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