



Quality Profile

Challenge and support every student, every step of the way

MARCH 2026



Dear Upper Arlington residents,

At the start of this school year, I challenged our staff to think about the power of both the big and the little everyday moments that have an impact on our students. Drawing inspiration from a book by Chip Heath and Dan Heath, we set out to **spark the moments that matter for our students** — and celebrate those moments throughout this school year. Such moments lay the foundation for our vision of *uniquely accomplished students who are prepared to serve, lead and succeed* and support our mission to *challenge and support every student, every step of the way*.

In our classrooms and various activities outside of the school day, students are encouraged to take risks, explore new ideas and discover their strengths. These experiences reflect the focus of our Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan: cultivating environments that foster curiosity and meaningful learning for all students.

To better understand our strategic plan and our progress toward the priorities identified within it, we are proud to share our Quality Profile, an annual accountability report that gives our community a clear and transparent look at what's happening in our schools. I encourage you to spend some time with this document and see how our daily work — and how sparking moments that matter — connect to our long-term vision.

Your partnership and support are the foundation of our success. Together, we will continue to spark moments that matter for our students and ensure that every day offers opportunities for learning, growth and connection.

Sincerely,

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Upper Arlington Schools



2026 Upper Arlington Board of Education

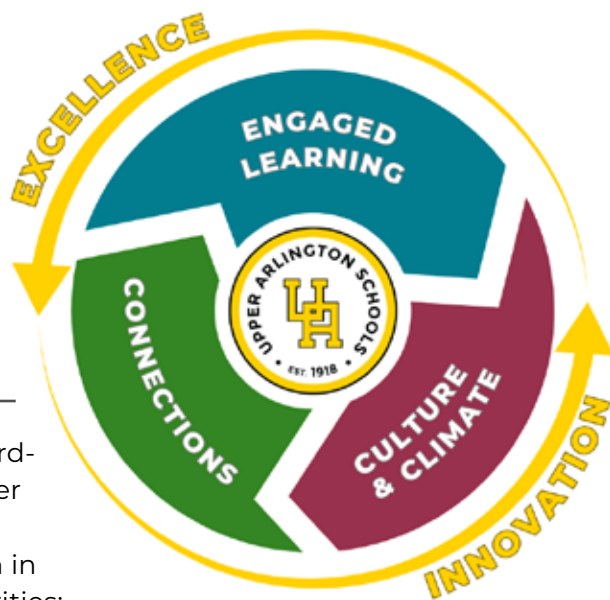
From left, Lori Trent, Liz George Stump, Kip Greenhill, Nidhi Satiani and Jenny McKenna

The Board of Education is proud to serve the Upper Arlington School district. We invite all residents to stay connected with the schools and to reach out with questions.



EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION 2030

Upper Arlington Schools Strategic Plan



The Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan is a forward-thinking roadmap for our district that is designed to further our commitment to challenge and support every student, every step of the way. Approved by the Board of Education in January 2025, this strategic plan centers on three key priorities:



Our students thrive when they are actively engaged in their education. This priority is rooted in our Profile of an Engaged Learner, emphasizing the creation of meaningful and challenging learning experiences that inspire curiosity, critical thinking and a love of learning. By personalizing education and fostering innovation in the classroom, we aim to prepare every student for personal success in an ever-changing world.



We are committed to fostering an environment that values the unique experiences and perspectives of all students, staff and families. This priority focuses on building systems and structures that amplify student and staff voices and strengthen school culture. By prioritizing authentic representation and supporting individual needs, we create a school community where everyone feels they belong and can thrive.



Strong relationships are the foundation of a thriving school community. This priority emphasizes the importance of those relationships with families, community members, businesses and local organizations. By working together, we can enhance opportunities for students and strengthen the connections that make our schools and community such a unique place.

Wrapped around the plan is our unwavering focus on Excellence and Innovation. These guiding principles are embedded in everything we do, ensuring our district remains a leader in educational excellence while embracing new ideas and practices to meet the evolving needs of our students.



Profile of an Engaged Learner

Threaded throughout the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan is the Profile of an Engaged Learner, which was developed with input from students and all teachers across the district. The Profile of an Engaged Learner identifies six skills and characteristics that we believe will prepare our students to serve, lead and succeed in Upper Arlington Schools and beyond: **Solution Seeker**, **Creative**, **Skilled Communicator**, **Open-Minded & Empathetic**, **Responsible & Resilient**, and **Well-Balanced**. This serves as a framework for staff as they create lessons and provide learning experiences for students to develop these skills.



Engaged Learning

Our students thrive when they are actively engaged in their education. This priority is rooted in our Profile of an Engaged Learner, emphasizing the creation of meaningful and challenging learning experiences that inspire curiosity, critical thinking and a love of learning. By personalizing education and fostering innovation in the classroom, we aim to prepare every student for personal success in an ever-changing world.



Upper Arlington Schools is bringing the Profile of an Engaged Learner to life through authentic learning experiences that challenge students to think, create, collaborate and serve.

Through these opportunities, students are applying the skills and characteristics identified in the Profile of Engaged Learner — Solution Seeker, Creative, Skilled Communicator, Open-Minded & Empathetic, Responsible & Resilient, and Well-Balanced. Meaningful projects such as Tremont Elementary’s indoor gardening initiative (above), Wickliffe Progressive Elementary’s bird migration station and a jewelry service learning project at Upper Arlington High School demonstrate how students are connecting academic learning to real-world contexts while researching, designing, communicating and contributing beyond the classroom. By blending rigorous academics with hands-on exploration and service, Upper Arlington Schools is redefining what engaged learning can look like.



“ It will always make me come to Wickliffe and say, ‘Oh hey I built that.’ It took a lot of time to do it, and it’s just something that makes me proud.”

Margaux R., bird migration station project at Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School



“ This project is kind of my first opportunity to make something professional ... and to me that is really special.”

Bella A., jewelry service learning project at UA High School

Sparking Moments That Matter

Hear from students in our new video series about some of learning opportunities that have inspired them this school year.



Excellence & Innovation in Engaged Learning

» Enhancing Foundational Literacy and Math

Strengthening foundational literacy and math remains a central focus for Upper Arlington Schools as the district continues building strong learning experiences for every student. This year, Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (Amplify CKLA) was implemented as a new resource for grades



K–5, supporting systematic phonics, knowledge building, and joyful reading and writing through themed units, while also creating opportunities to celebrate learning through experiences such as a Medieval Times Day or a poetry slam. At the same time, the district launched the first year of a five-year, collaborative curriculum review cycle focused on the K–12 math experience, bringing educators together to examine coherence, rigor and access to ensure instruction meets the needs of all learners.



“It’s more fun than an average day of reading and writing. It gives you a different perspective of how learning can impact you.”

Noah R., Medieval Times Day at Barrington Elementary School

» Strengthening Gifted Services

Upper Arlington Schools has completed a review of gifted services with Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development. The results affirm the effectiveness of the district’s services for gifted students while also recommending ways to improve services. As an initial step, the district has introduced cluster grouping through regular classroom instruction at the middle school level for students who are identified as gifted in a subject area or superior cognitive ability but previously had not received services. This has dramatically increased the number of students receiving gifted services at the middle level. The next step will involve looking for opportunities to improve and expand services at the elementary level.

54%

Middle school students identified as gifted in at least one area

98%

Middle school students with at least one identification area who are now served with the addition of cluster grouping

» High School Innovation

Upper Arlington Schools is continuing to create new opportunities for students — including an INCubatoredu entrepreneurship program working alongside real-world business experts and a new Innovations in Biotechnology & Medicine program through the UA Hub, both launching in 2026-2027.

» Emerging Technologies

Two new committees focused on STEM and AI are researching how to prioritize/increase STEM opportunities and define expectations for supporting balanced and safe technology use, preK-12. Working alongside them is a student advisory committee to help inform their work from the student perspective.



2024-2025 STATE REPORT CARD

District Snapshot

103.6

Performance Index
out of 120

#5 in central Ohio
#36 in the state



5 Stars Overall
for a 4th Consecutive Year

1 out of 7 districts
in central Ohio

1 out of 47 districts
in the state

24.01

Value-Added Composite Index
> 2 is exceeding growth

#4 in central Ohio
#6 in the state

54.8%

Remediation Free on ACT

#2 in central Ohio
#6 in the state

69.0%

Advanced Placement Participation

#4 in central Ohio
#14 in the state

44.8%

International Baccalaureate Participation

#1 in central Ohio
#1 in the state

46.8%

Students Earning an Honors Diploma

#5 in central Ohio
#24 in the state

96.9%

Four-Year Graduation Rate (Class of 2024)

#9 in central Ohio
#261 (tie) in the state

113.8%

Combined Percentage of AP and IB Participation

#1 in central Ohio
#1 in the state

60.2%

Percentage Earning a 3 or Higher on an AP Exam

#2 in central Ohio
#10 in the state

86.1%

College Enrollment Within 2 Years of High School

#3 in central Ohio
#8 in the state

6,631

Student Enrollment

#10 in central Ohio
#32 in the state

36.1%

Percentage Earning a 4 or Higher on an IB Exam

#1 in central Ohio
#1 in the state

46.8%

Percentage of Students Earning a 3 or More on 3+ AP or 4+ IB Tests

#2 in central Ohio
#7 in the state

77.7%

Funding Dedicated to Classroom Instruction

#1 in central Ohio
#1 in the state

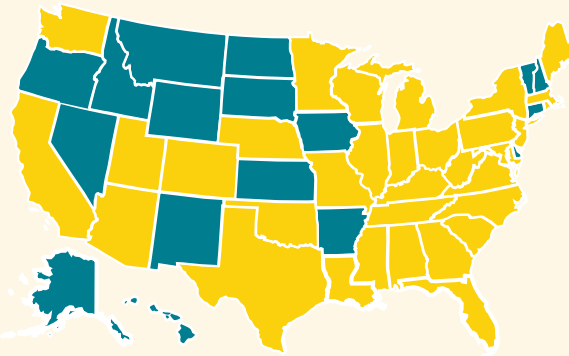


UAHS Class of 2025 Profile



93.5%

Class of 2025 graduates planned to attend a four-year or two-year college



132

colleges and universities across the country — plus 2 universities outside of the country



\$9,441,647
total scholarships awarded



1.1% Career Education / Vocational

1.1% Military

3% Employment

1.3% Gap Year

7 National Merit Finalists

21 National Merit Commended Scholars

25 International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipients



Ohio State Test Results

Tests taken with a score of proficient or higher

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

87.7% Elementary

84.1% Middle School

MATH

83.8% Elementary*

83.0% Middle School**

* Does not include Math 6 as it is a middle school level class

** Does not include Algebra I or Geometry as they are high school level classes

PSAT/NMSQT Mean Score

Class of 2026

1152
UA SCHOOLS

1029
STATE

997
NATION

ACT Average Score

Class of 2025

24.4
UA SCHOOLS

18.8
STATE

19.4
NATION

Average SAT Score

Class of 2025

1260
UA SCHOOLS

1018
STATE

1029
NATION

Highest possible composite scores: ACT, 36; SAT, 1600



Culture & Climate

We are committed to fostering an environment that values the unique experiences and perspectives of all students, staff and families. This priority focuses on building systems and structures that amplify student and staff voices and strengthen school culture. By prioritizing authentic representation and supporting individual needs, we create a school community where everyone feels they belong and can thrive.



Giving students a real voice in their education is at the heart of our Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan. This school year, Upper Arlington Schools has taken a big step forward with the launch of Amplify, a one-of-its-kind, district-level student voice committee.

Composed of more than 30 students in grades 7-12, Amplify empowers students to share their perspectives and gives them a voice in the district policies and procedures that influence their lives. This is just the start — the committee will be working with the Board of Education and district leaders throughout the school year and into the future to help shape the school experience for all students.



Sparking Moments That Matter

Hear from students on Amplify about why they wanted to be part of the committee and what they're excited for in the future.



“ I honestly just want to make the school a better place for everybody — just make it enjoyable, make school productive and fun for kids. I'm excited just to make a positive impact.”

Emilio H., Hastings Middle School



“ We have a great future, we have a great set of kids, we have great ideas bouncing around ... and I'm just excited about the real change.”

Ellen W., UA High School

Valuing Experiences and Perspectives

» Engaged Learner Well-Being Survey

Listening to students and responding to their needs is central to supporting every learner's growth. Upper Arlington Schools gathers student perspectives through both formal and informal feedback opportunities. This includes the Engaged Learner Competency and Well-Being Survey, an online survey administered twice a year. This survey provides staff with crucial information to enhance student programming and support services. Based on student feedback, the survey has evolved to incorporate questions with open-ended responses to allow students to offer deeper and more personal perspectives on their school experience.

Fall 2025 Engaged Learner Competency and Well-Being Survey

% Favorable Results

EMOTION REGULATION

69%

K-2

55%

3-5

65%

6-12

SENSE OF BELONGING

80%

K-2

69%

3-5

70%

6-12

PERSEVERANCE

93%

K-2

63%

3-5

72%

6-12

SOCIAL AWARENESS

89%

K-2

68%

3-5

76%

6-12

SELF-MANAGEMENT

84%

K-2

81%

3-5

82%

6-12

SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

94%

K-2

92%

3-5

91%

6-12

We asked our students, "What is one thing you would like to share with the adults in your building about your school?"

"Everyone wants to help get you where you want to be. They take the time outside of school to help. They really show that they care."

"I love my school, and I am excited to go and learn every day here."

"My school makes me feel very safe and respected."

"Our school has a lot of kind students."



» New Staff Well-Being Survey Tool

For the 2025-2026 school year, Upper Arlington Schools introduced a new staff survey tool to better understand and support the resilience and well-being of our employees. The survey provides a meaningful snapshot of how staff experience their work across several key areas — including finding purpose in their roles, managing stress, working collaboratively, and sustaining healthy habits. The insights gained are fostering thoughtful conversations within departments and encouraging small, people-centered actions that support a healthy, connected workplace culture.



Connections

Strong relationships are the foundation of a thriving school community. This priority emphasizes the importance of those relationships with families, community members, businesses and local organizations. By working together, we can enhance opportunities for students and strengthen the connections that make our schools and community such a unique place.



Launched in the fall of 2024, phase two of facilities master planning for Upper Arlington Schools focuses on shaping the future of the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. Guided by the principle that *your voice matters*, this phase has prioritized a transparent and inclusive process, ensuring all stakeholders could learn about the physical and educational needs of these schools and share their perspectives. With more than 5,000 touch points in the process as of the end of 2025, stakeholder feedback has been vital in helping the district move closer to a thoughtful plan that truly reflects the community's vision for these schools. As planning continues in 2026, the district remains committed to keeping the community informed, engaged and involved in finalizing a master plan, with a combined bond issue and operating levy expected in November 2026.

Commitment to Transparency

The district website chronicles every step of the planning process. You can find every presentation, meeting recording and feedback opportunity at www.uaschools.org/facilities.



BUILDING TEAMS

100 volunteers
13 meetings



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

10 total meetings

STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

4 surveys open to all
1 scientific survey



FOCUS GROUPS

3 with students
3 with residents

BUILDING TOURS

2 evenings of public tours at all 3 buildings



FACILITIES TASK FORCE

10 community experts
7 meetings

FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD

10 community experts
4 meetings




OVER 5,000

TOTAL TOUCH POINTS
IN THE PROCESS SO FAR

Fiscal Excellence and Responsibility

Upper Arlington Schools is committed to managing taxpayer dollars wisely while maintaining the high-quality educational opportunities the community expects. The district has a long history of utilizing expertise within the community — including the guidance of a Finance Advisory Committee — to support this work. This responsible approach aligns with the Connections strategic priority. By combining thoughtful collaboration with disciplined financial stewardship, Upper Arlington Schools ensures resources are used effectively to support student learning now and in the future.



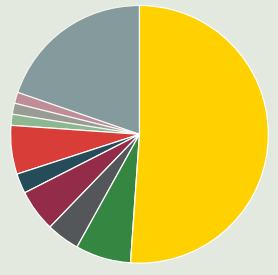
#1 in Ohio in the percentage of funding for classroom instruction

Ohio Auditor of State Award for 13 consecutive years



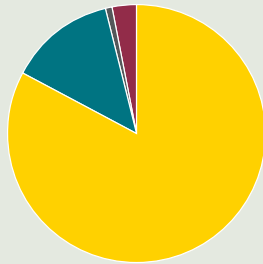

S&P Global AAA bond rating, the highest possible rating

51.3%* of general fund expenditures go toward instruction
FY 2025



7% pupil support; 4.1% instructional staff support; 5.3% administration; 2.4% business support/fiscal; 6.1% operation and maintenance; 1.5% transportation; 1.4% central support; 1.3% other; 19.6% transfers/advances to other funds*

82.8% of general fund revenue comes from local property taxes
FY 2025



13.5% state support; 0.9% all other operational revenue; 0.0% income tax; 2.8% investment income

** Amid the uncertainty around the state budget in June 2025, the Board of Education approved the transfer of funds to protect the community's investment in the district. Transfers were made to funds for capital projects, maintenance needs and benefits. Excluding transfers/advances to other funds, the percentage of general fund expenditures dedicated to instruction is 63.7%.*

School Property Taxes

A state law known as House Bill 920 ensures that, generally speaking, voted operating levies do not grow as property values increase. This is why the typical levy cycle for a school district like Upper Arlington is three years. After three years, expenditures typically begin to outpace revenue.

This graphic reflects local school property tax rates for tax year 2025. Upper Arlington Schools passed an operating levy in 2022 with a commitment to return to voters in three years. After successfully stretching those funds for an additional year, the district plans to return to voters in November 2026 with a combined operating levy and bond issue.

BEXLEY*	\$2,014
WORTHINGTON	\$1,808
DUBLIN	\$1,585
UPPER ARLINGTON	\$1,542
OLENTANGY	\$1,515
HILLIARD	\$1,501
WESTERVILLE**	\$1,359
NEW ALBANY	\$1,351
GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS	\$1,328
PICKERINGTON*	\$1,313
GAHANNA	\$1,243
REYNOLDSBURG*	\$1,187
COLUMBUS	\$1,122
WHITEHALL	\$1,022
GROVEPORT	\$985
SOUTHWESTERN	\$889

*The district's school income tax collection was converted into mills by dividing calendar year 2025 gross income tax distribution by tax year 2025 total property tax valuation and multiplying by 1,000. Information was obtained from the Ohio Department of Taxation website. School district income tax rates are: Bexley (0.75%), Pickerington (1%) and Reynoldsburg (0.5%).

** This amount only includes property tax for Westerville City School District and not a new 0.75% income tax starting calendar year 2026 since there was no income tax collection in 2025.




UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

1619 Zollinger Road
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

SERVE • LEAD • SUCCEED

www.uaschools.org

 @UpperArlingtonSchools

 @ua_schools



Quality Profile

Challenge and support every student, every step of the way



Upper Arlington Schools Fast Facts



2024-2025 State Report Card

5 Stars Overall
for a 4th Consecutive Year

1 out of 7 districts
in central Ohio

1 out of 47 districts
in the state



**Performance
Index
103.6**

#5 in central Ohio

#36 in the state



**Advanced
Placement
Participation**

69%

**International
Baccalaureate
Participation**

44.8%

#1 in the state
in combined AP & IB participation

77.7%
Funding dedicated
to classroom instruction



92%

Favorable rating from K-12
students on **supportive
relationships** at school

72%

Favorable rating from K-12
students on **their sense of
belonging** at school

*Source: Fall 2025 Engaged Learner Competency
and Well-Being Survey*



91.7%
Positive rating on
the **quality of education**
in the Upper Arlington Schools

*Source: November 2025 Scientific Community
Survey, conducted by Illuminology*



Connections with our community are essential to the success of our students and our schools.

Through open communication, transparency and opportunities for two-way dialogue, Upper Arlington Schools strives to build lasting relationships that strengthen our schools. We encourage you to stay informed and involved — to help us create an even brighter future for our district. Look for more opportunities to come during the 2026-2027 school year!



coffee & conversation WITH DR. HUNT

Join us each month during the school year for updates and conversation about our schools. Find upcoming opportunities at www.uaschools.org/CoffeeConversation.



What's Next in Master Planning

Your voice has been vital to the development of a master plan for our aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. Stay informed about next steps at www.uaschools.org/facilities.



Stay Connected With Our Schools!

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, browse our community calendar of events and learn how to obtain a Senior Citizen Activity Card — all at www.uaschools.org/community.

