ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE | 1407 CLAREMONT AVE., ASHLAND, OH, 44805 | (419) 289-1117

Arrows in Action: Building Tomorrow's Innovators

State Representative Melanie Miller
State Senator Mark Romanchuk

As Superintendent & Treasurer of Ashland City Schools, we are proud to share how continued support for public education provides meaningful opportunities that challenge and inspire our learners. One area where this impact is especially evident is in our support for gifted students and advanced learning pathways.

At the high school level, we have expanded Advanced Placement offerings by adding two new courses this year, with another course planned for the 2027–2028 school year. These courses provide students with increased access to rigorous, college-level learning while still in high school. As a result, students are better prepared for the expectations of postsecondary education and future careers. These expanded offerings also allow students to explore their interests in greater depth, strengthen critical thinking skills, and build confidence in their academic abilities.

At the middle school level, students have meaningful opportunities to extend their learning beyond the traditional classroom. Through the Kettering Scholars program, students focus on advanced scientific concepts and gain exposure to STEM fields by working directly with professors from Ashland University. In the Ashbrook Scholars program, students study American history and government in greater depth and strengthen their understanding of civic responsibility and historical analysis. In addition, students participate in the K'NEX STEM Competition, where they apply engineering principles, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to real-world challenges. These experiences are supported by honors coursework and opportunities to earn high school credit, ensuring that students are both challenged and well-prepared for future academic success.

In grades 4–5, students begin developing advanced academic skills through engaging and collaborative learning experiences. Cross-grade STEM projects in honors courses allow students to work with peers across grade levels, encouraging mentorship, creativity, and hands-on problem solving. These experiences build confidence while strengthening both academic and social skills. At the elementary level, gifted clusters of students have access to special resources such as advanced book sets. These early opportunities foster curiosity and engagement, helping to identify and support gifted learners as they progress through their education.

These opportunities are the direct result of thoughtful investment in public education. Through the Fair School Funding Plan, districts receive categorical funding to support gifted learners and expand access to advanced programming. In the 2021–2022 school year, Ashland City Schools received $423.37 per gifted student; however, due to cost inputs not being updated in the most recent biennium budget, that funding is projected to decrease to $288.14 per student by the 2026–2027 school year. Sustained investment at appropriate levels is essential to ensure we can continue to provide rigorous programming and meaningful opportunities for our advanced learners.

We respectfully ask for your continued support of public education funding so we can sustain and expand these opportunities for our students. Continued investment in programs like these ensures that Ohio's future workforce is prepared, innovative, and ready to lead.

Sincerely,

Steve Paramore
Superintendent
Ashland City Schools

Kyle Klingler
Treasurer
Ashland City Schools