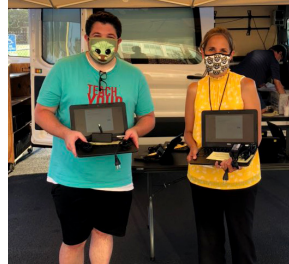
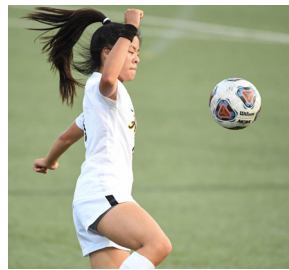




# CH-UH City Schools Quality Profile 2020



CLEVELAND UNIVERSITY **HEIGHTS**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



# DEAR CH-UH COMMUNITY

## *From the Superintendent*

I began my first year as the Superintendent of the CH-UH City School District excited to return to my hometown of Cleveland and begin working with the students and educators of the storied Heights Schools. I kicked off the year with meet and greet events around town, getting to know the families, staff, students and residents of the Heights. We convened a committee in January 2020 to lead a refresh of our 5-year strategic plan that had been formed in 2015. Plans were coming together and the wheels were in motion for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

I couldn't have imagined that I'd wrap up my first year as superintendent in the midst of a global pandemic. Throughout the confusion and chaos of the spring school shutdown, I saw educators, support staff, school leaders and students rise up to the challenges ahead of them. Our cities and partner organizations snapped into action to help us take care of our families and students. I knew from the start that the Heights was a special place; the things we accomplished together as the world was turning upside down has cemented that belief for me.

I am proud to share this Quality Profile with you. It tells the story of our District during this unique moment in time. I hope it makes you that much prouder to be part of Tiger Nation.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Kirby* Superintendent



## *From the Board President*



In my mind and probably in yours too, the 2019-2020 school year has a clear divide - before the pandemic and after the pandemic. Our students, staff and community members did amazing things during both. As you'll see later in this profile, I was honored to join several of them in Columbus back in early 2020 to testify against unfair school funding laws that have been draining our schools of millions of dollars each year. Several task forces were formed or continued their charge, from Advocacy to Equity to College and Career, all led by volunteer members of our school community. And despite the adversity they faced, our graduating class of 2020 earned millions of dollars of scholarships and have headed out into the world prepared for any challenges they face.

I am honored to be part of this community. I hope you are as excited as I am to see where the future takes Tiger Nation.

Sincerely,

*Jodi Sourini* 2020 Board of Education President

## CH-UH MAKES AP DISTRICT HONOR ROLL



The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District was one of 250 school districts in the U.S. and Canada, and one of nine in Ohio, honored by the College Board with placement on the 10th Annual AP® District Honor Roll in 2019.

To be included on the Honor Roll, Cleveland Heights High School had to, since 2017, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

“Equity is a major, defining factor in the work we do, so this honor proves to me that we are on the right track in preparing all of our students for success,” said Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby.

## RENOVATED MIDDLE SCHOOLS REOPEN



After two years at the Wiley campus swing space, students and staff returned to beautifully renovated Monticello and Roxboro middle schools. Improvements to both buildings include new HVAC systems, lighting and flooring, and 21st century technology in classrooms.

## 5-STAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



The preschool programs at Gearty, Noble, and Oxford elementary schools each have been awarded five-star ratings by the Ohio Department of Education’s Step up to Quality Division, the highest possible rating. Gearty Preschool received its most recent five-star rating in April 2020, Noble received its in October 2019, and Oxford in December 2017.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT HONORED

The District’s finance department has been awarded ASBO International’s Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2019 CAFR. The CAFR, or Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, informs stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district.

The Association of School Business Officials International’s COE recognizes districts that have met the program’s high standards for financial reporting and transparency.



# HEIGHTS GRADS ARE GOING PLACES

The Class of 2020 are attending the following institutions or have enlisted in the U.S. military.



## MILLION

The Heights High School Class of 2020 combined to earn more than **\$12 million in college scholarships**, earning acceptance letters from nearly **200 post-secondary institutions**. The Guidance Department has a dedicated College Scholarship Office to help students secure funds that offset the cost of attending college.

Arizona State University  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Boston College  
Bowling Green State University  
Central State University  
Clark Atlanta University  
Cleveland State University  
Columbus State University  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Defiance College  
Denison University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Eureka College  
Fayetteville State University  
Full Sail University  
Hampton University  
Harrisburg University of  
Science and Technology  
Heidelberg University  
Hiram College  
Hondros College of Nursing  
Howard University  
John Carroll University  
Kent State University  
Kent State University at Stark

Kentucky State University  
Lakeland Community College  
Los Angeles City College  
Miami University  
Michigan State University  
Morehouse College  
North Carolina A&T State University  
Northeastern University  
Notre Dame College  
Ohio Dominican University  
Ohio Technical College  
Ohio University  
Otterbein University  
Owens Community College  
Pace University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pennsylvania State University -  
Behrend College  
Point Park University  
Pratt Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Shaw University  
The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University  
at Mansfield  
The University of Akron  
Tufts University  
U.S. Air Force  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Marines  
U.S. Navy  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Dayton  
University of Findlay  
University of Mount Union  
University of Oregon  
University of Pittsburgh -  
University Honors College  
University of Rochester  
University of Tampa  
University of Toledo  
University of Toronto  
Ursuline College  
Vermilion Community College  
Walsh University  
Warren Wilson College  
Wilberforce University  
Wright State University



AP<sup>®</sup>

 CollegeBoard

34

AP  
Scholars

More than **50 members of the Heights High School** Classes of 2020 and 2021 were recognized by the **College Board as AP Scholars**.

The College Board, which administers Advanced Placement tests, honors students who score at a consistently high level on the annual exams. Heights High had 34 students named as AP Scholars for earning scores of **3 on three or more exams**.

AP Scholars  
with  
Honor

10 students were recognized as AP Scholars with Honor for earning **an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken**, and scores of **3 or higher** on four or more exams.

10

8

AP Scholars  
with  
Distinction

Eight students were named **AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an average score of 3.5 or higher on all exams taken**, and scores of 3 or higher on five exams. The school has **an additional 8 students who've earned an average score of 4 or higher** on all exams taken.

## GEAR UP

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Heights High's Class of 2023 is gearing up for the future thanks to their participation in GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. The grant-funded program follows one cohort of students from 7th grade through the completion of their first post-high school year with the intention of increasing college attendance and retention rates. The program is a partnership grant, which means that the students have the support of a College and Career Access Advisor from College Now Cleveland.

In December 2019, the Link Crew hosted an after-school study session to help the freshmen prepare for their final exams. **Two-thirds of freshmen attended and studied alongside tutors, mentors and teachers.**

2/3  
OF FRESHMEN

# EDUCATORS ARE MASTER TEACHERS



KENNETHIAN GREEN



MARIAN STEPHENS

Teachers Kennethian Green and Marian Stephens earned their initial Ohio Department of Education Master Teacher designation in 2020. Ms. Green is an English teacher at Heights High School, and Ms. Stephens is an instructional coach at Roxboro Middle School.

A Master Teacher demonstrates excellence inside and outside of the classroom through consistent leadership and focused collaboration to maximize student learning. Candidates, who have worked at least seven years under a teaching contract, apply to earn this designation through a portfolio they develop throughout the school year.

# BOULEVARD EARNS MOMENTUM AWARD



Boulevard Elementary School was recognized in early 2020 by the Ohio Department of Education with the Momentum Award. This honor was given to 173 schools across the state who earned all A's in every applicable subgroup of the Value Added categories, which include all students, gifted students, students with disabilities, and students in the lowest 20% of achievement.

This award means that every category of students at Boulevard performed better than expected, showing greater than average growth, on all of the state-required standardized tests. Other area schools earning this recognition include Rocky River High, Bay Village High, Solon High, and middle schools in Westlake, Solon, and Orange.



# STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS



AVA COLLYER



ROHAN BRUCE

Heights High student Rohan Bruce ('20) was named a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist in 2019. Nationally, 16,000 Semifinalists were recognized, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors. Ava Collyer ('20) was named a Commended Scholar, placing among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who qualified for the competition by taking the 2018 PSAT test.

## HEIGHTS HOSTS ROBOTICS COMPETITION



The Heights High Robotics Team hosted their first regional VEX Robotics event, the Tower Takeover Competition on January 25, 2020 in the competition gym. Around 50 high schools from northeast Ohio sent teams to vie for awards in several categories: design, build, excellence and driving skill. Teams designed, programmed and built a robot to stack blocks and perform other tasks in a set amount of time.

Forty students from Heights High participated on six teams. Teams from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High and the Akron STEM School shared the top ranking as tournament champs.

# CH-UH RESPONDS TO COVID-19



Like all schools across Ohio, CH-UH Schools faced a mandated district-wide shutdown in March 2020 in order to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Originally intended to be short-term, the school closure ultimately lasted the remainder of the academic year.

District educators expertly pivoted to delivering instruction remotely, and families shifted their lives to a new normal. And true to form, Tiger Nation found creative ways to celebrate its students' achievements in a year like no other.

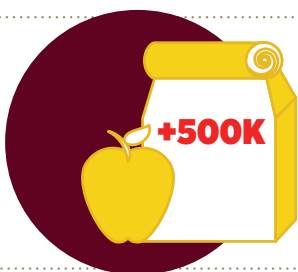


## CALLS MADE

Support staff, teachers and administrators **called each District family** to be sure they had what they needed - for school, basic needs, and support.

## CHROMEBOOKS DISTRIBUTED

More than 1,700 **devices were distributed** to students from March - May 2020.



## MEALS SERVED

The District's Food Services Department (AVI Fresh) distributed more than 500,000 **free meals to children in the Heights community** from March 2020 - August 2020 during the school closure and summer break.

### Social-Emotional and Mental Health Needs

40%

In a May 2020 survey to all District families, 40% responded that the District had assisted their student with **social-emotional/mental health needs** during the extended closure.

### Food Needs

52%

In the same survey, 52% responded that the District had assisted their student with **food needs** by providing the **free meal pickup**.





**THE DISTRICT CELEBRATED ITS TEAM MEMBERS FROM AFAR**, too, announcing the annual Staff Awards virtually. Each building selected a Teacher of the Year and Helping Hand of the Year, and finalists were then selected through

district-wide voting. The Teacher of the Year and Helping Hand of the Year overall winners were determined following panel interviews. The Administrator of the Year finalists and winner were selected by the Superintendent's Cabinet. *(Photo Left to Right):*

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

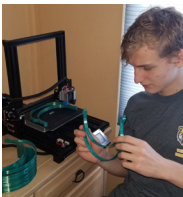
Greg Nachman - Engineering Teacher, Heights High School

**HELPING HAND OF THE YEAR**

William Porter - Head Custodian, Boulevard Elementary School

**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Christina Bauer - Coordinator of Information Technology



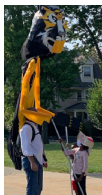
Heights High engineering teachers Cassie Budin and Greg Nachman enlisted a team of more than 20 CH-UH **STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO 3-D PRINT** the components of roughly 100 face shields a week.

The shields were used by specific school district employees, several essential workers in the Heights area, and donated to the Cuyahoga County Department of Health for distribution to health care workers. "This is what engineering is all about," said Ms. Budin. "Seeing a problem or a need and figuring out how to fill that need or fix that problem. It makes me very proud and happy to be part of Tiger Nation."



The District was chosen to receive **400,000 POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO GIVE TO FAMILIES** and community members through the Farmers to Families program. Heights High School served as the pickup spot for 5 days in May and June. The free boxes contained items such as apples, potatoes, carrots, onions, and strawberries. This initiative was thanks to

Mr. Ted Copeland, father of Roxboro Middle School teacher Dani Copeland. Mr. Copeland owns Perfect Pact, which received a grant from the USDA to make the District a site for Farmers to Families.



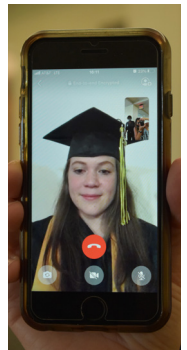
Several schools celebrated their students with **SOCIALLY-DISTANCED ACTIVITIES**, such as neighborhood parades and drive-in movie nights, in the spring. Teachers and support staff created videos for their students to express how much they miss seeing them in person.



**THE 2020 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION** was changed to a smaller ceremony with staff members planting '2020 NHS Inductee' signs in the yards of all 72 inductees.

Sophomores and juniors with a 3.5 weighted cumulative GPA are eligible to be invited to apply for membership.

The Heights High AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Signing Day Ceremony was held remotely with the 78 AVID graduates, their families, and the AVID teachers attending from home. Despite the situation, the ceremony was still a joyous celebration of academic achievement, with each student announcing their college destination. The number of AVID graduates more than doubled from 2019 when 33 AVID seniors graduated.



The Heights High Class of 2020, their families, and community members gathered on Lee Road to celebrate and **HONOR THE GRADUATES ON JUNE 22** for the Senior Class Car Parade. More than 60 decorated vehicles participated with graduates and family members waving, honking, and celebrating. The parade began at the corner of Scarborough and Lee Roads and traveled north through the Cedar Lee business district.

The following day, graduating seniors walked the stage at Heights High during assigned times and livestreamed, allowing for family members to watch the hallowed tradition in a safe setting.

Members of the Class of 2020 received yard signs announcing their status as graduates. The signs were delivered and installed by CH-UH bus drivers.



Heights students are regularly **HONORED FOR THEIR ARTISTIC TALENT**, and 2020 was no different. Heights High artists were recognized locally at the Scholastic Art Awards, Beachwood Arts Council and the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions contest, in addition to a student-curated virtual show in conjunction with Heights Arts.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020

## Student Musician Receives Highest Honor



Heights High student musician Charlie King performed as the soloist in the Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto with The Contemporary Youth Orchestra in January 2020. Fellow Heights musicians Zelda Thayer-Hansen (violinist), Katrina Palmer (violinist), Marissa Vecchia (cellist), Lily Waugh (flutist), Franco

Casucci (trombonist), also performed with Charlie.

Under the teachings of Robert Woolfrey of the Cleveland Orchestra, Charlie earned the 1st clarinet seat in the OMEA All-State Orchestra, the highest honor a high school musician can achieve in the state.

## District Musical Showcases Talent



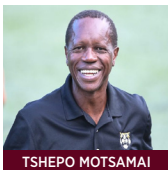
The fall 2019 production of *Damn Yankees* was a colorful display of Tiger Nation musical talent, including dozens of elementary and middle school singers and the Heights High

orchestra. The "baseball love story" set in 1950s Washington D.C. featured strong vocals and full-production dance numbers, including mambo, tango, waltz, and tap.

## Four Coaches Named LEL Coach of the Year



PAT GLEBA



TSHEPO MOTSAMAI



MAC STEPHENS



SCOTT MCNULTY

Four Heights High fall season coaches received the Lake Erie League Coach of the Year award in December 2019. The season was McNulty's and Gleba's first as coaches for their respective teams.

**Pat Gleba:** Girls Soccer  
**Mac Stephens:** Football

**Tshepo Motsamai:** Boys Soccer  
**Scott McNulty:** Cross Country

## Senior Named "Broadway All-Star"



Heights High senior Kristen Lyons was part of the ensemble cast of Disney's *Frozen Jr.* that won Best in Music at the 2020 Junior Theater Festival competition in Atlanta. Kristen, who played the role of Elsa, performed with the Mercury Theater Company's Junior Company. Kristen was named one of two "Broadway All-Stars" for her show-stopping performance in *Frozen Jr.*

## Barbershoppers Win Awards at National Competition

The Heights High Men's and Women's Barbershoppers won two awards at the Barbershop Harmony Society Midwinter Convention in Jacksonville, Florida in January 2020. The men won the Presenters Award and the women won the Next Generation Junior Chorus Award Plateau A.

And, the groups were featured in a Next Generation video about the power of vocal music, which was shown at the conference. Students participated in several master classes with leading barbershop instructors, valuable feedback from judges, and a lecture recital.





## Heights in the 2020 Super Bowl Spotlight



A photo of Olivia McKay and India Pulphus appears in the ad at 0:49. The 60-second advertisement for the Surface tablet celebrates female leadership in football, specifically San Francisco 49ers coach Katie Sowers. Sowers made history as the first woman ever to coach in the Super Bowl.

It was a great night as well for Heights grad Travis Kelce, who celebrated his first Super Bowl win. Kelce ('08) is a tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs. His brother Jason, center for the Philadelphia Eagles, helped his team win Super Bowl LIII in 2018 along with fellow Heights alum Shelton Gibson.

## HFA Connects Families to Resources, One Another



The District held its fourth Heights Family Academy at Heights High in February 2020. The HFA is a conference-style event where CH-UH families forge meaningful connections with their schools.

Breakout sessions for caregivers focused on transitions, including moving from middle school to high school, while students were able to attend writing and art sessions or explore course offerings at Heights High. Participants also enjoyed a summer opportunity fair featuring local community partners.

## Heights Football Introduces 'Build the Bridge'



The brainchild of Heights High's offensive coordinator Kahari Hicks, teams from more than 60 schools have signed up to take the Build the Bridge challenge. The program pairs teams of different racial, socio-economic, religious or geographic backgrounds so they can connect with one another and discover that they likely have more in common than just a love of football.

At the kickoff event held at the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, students participated in an open discussion of the social and racial issues of the day, followed by a workout and a barbecue. Build the Bridge provides lesson plans, video suggestions and conversation starters while encouraging each school's coaches to plan their own specific events.

## Students Create Wigs for Cancer Patients

Heights High cosmetology students hand-crafted and donated 10 handmade wigs for cancer patients at the Cleveland Clinic Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center in East Cleveland. Students in the cosmetology program have made this project an annual tradition since 2016.

"Losing your hair is just one of the difficult aspects of cancer treatment," said cosmetology teacher Donna Pollard. "We hope that by creating these wigs for patients, we can make them feel a little bit better."

Cosmetology is a two-year course for juniors and seniors and is part of the Heights Career Tech program. Seniors in the program take the Ohio exam to earn the state cosmetology license.



**The Heights CTE program launched its new website, [heightscareertech.com](https://heightscareertech.com), in the fall of 2020. The site contains comprehensive, accessible information on each of the consortium's programs and locations, along with beautiful photos and new logos.**

## CH-UH Students, Staff, Board Members Testify at Statehouse

Students, administrators and Board of Education members from the CH-UH City School District were among the hundreds who testified in front of a Conference Committee at the Ohio General Assembly in February 2020 regarding the financial impact of EdChoice vouchers on local districts.

While the District does not oppose the EdChoice program, the current funding system is draining millions of dollars from its state funds every year. Students explained to the committee what their schools mean to them.

“Growing up in the District, I have been introduced to countless opportunities and programs intended to help me enter the workforce as a productive and responsible citizen. In many ways, these programs have helped me find some of the happiest parts of my life. I fear that the students that come after me will not have the same chances,” said Heights High School sophomore Cassandra Sisson.

## English Classes Express Tolerance Through Song



Two Heights High English classes tied for first place in the 2020 Maltz Museum Youth Sing Out Competition, a program that invites middle and high school students to use their voices to become agents of change. Dr. Feldman's College Composition class wrote "We Can Change our World" and Mr. Jurns' freshman Honors English class wrote "E.T.A.H." The classrooms won a \$5,000 prize to be used toward anti-bias education and performed their songs at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in December 2019. *Photo courtesy Cleveland.com*

## Athletes Earn Nearly \$1.5 Million in College Scholarships



A dozen Heights High student-athletes signed their official college letters of intent at the school's National Signing Day ceremony held in front of a large crowd inside the Heights High gymnasium on February 5, 2020. The group included 10 football players, one boys basketball player, and one girls swimmer. Later in the year, two additional students signed letters to run girls track. The 14 students earned a combined \$1.46 million in college scholarships.

## Rox EI Named PTA School of Excellence



Roxboro Elementary was named a National PTA School of Excellence, one of only 16 schools in Ohio to receive the honor in 2019. The yearlong process required the school's stakeholders to take a survey that identified areas of strength and weakness. A committee of parents, teachers and administrators then had to choose one of the weaknesses as their focus for the year.

They chose the issue of connecting the school's families to community resources, which has also become a primary focus at the district level. They've since launched a speaker series for community members to introduce their programs at PTA meetings.

## Grant Helps Staff Achieve Dreams

The district's Human Resources Department has committed to increasing the pool of diverse, qualified applicants. That's why the HR team is utilizing a portion of its \$50,000 Human Capital Strategies Grant from the Ohio Department of Education to "grow its own."

The goal of the Grow Your Own program is to identify current classified employees who are interested in pursuing teacher certification and providing them with scholarships to Cleveland State University, who is partnering with the district on the project. Classified staff include bus drivers, cleaners, secretaries/assistants, lunch aides, and paraprofessionals. In '19-'20, eight employees enrolled in courses at CSU using the grant.

## Heights Schools Foundation Hosts "Shark Tank"



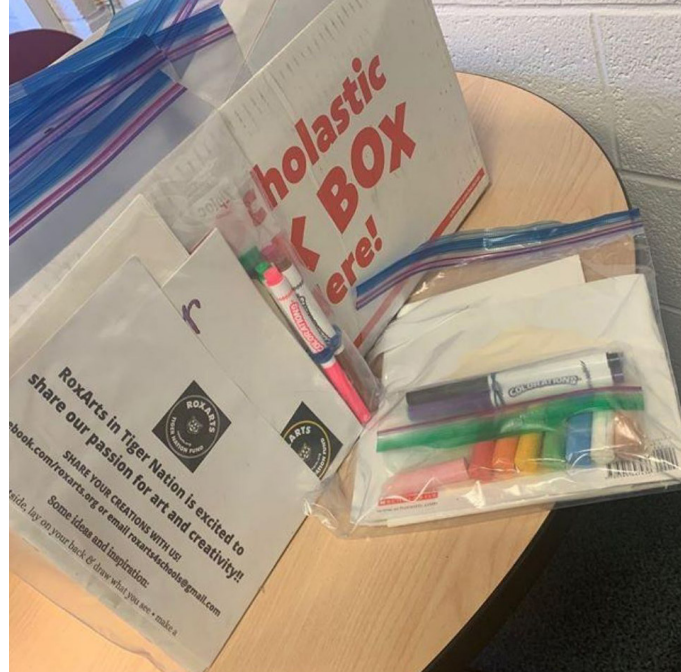
Nearly two dozen Tigers appeared before a panel of "sharks" to give a short proposal about projects they wished to fund during the Heights Schools Foundation's third annual Shark Tank. The foundation funds Opportunity Grants that can be used to pay for educational initiatives, including classroom materials, equipment, guest speakers, incentives and more. Of the 20 projects brought before the judges, seven were granted full funding through the Rox Arts in Tiger Nation Fund, and the Foundation funded 13. A total of \$11,000 was awarded from the two groups.



## Gearity Gardening Club Provides Hands On Education



Gearity Professional Development School, a state-certified STEM school, has long made use of its expansive outdoor learning spaces. The school's gardening club, which began in the fall of 2019, enables the students to explore all the traditional and STEM disciplines in a hands-on manner. Students from Pre-K to Grade 5 are welcome to join the gardening club and make use of the school's traditional gardens and greenhouse. Parents are welcome to attend alongside their children.

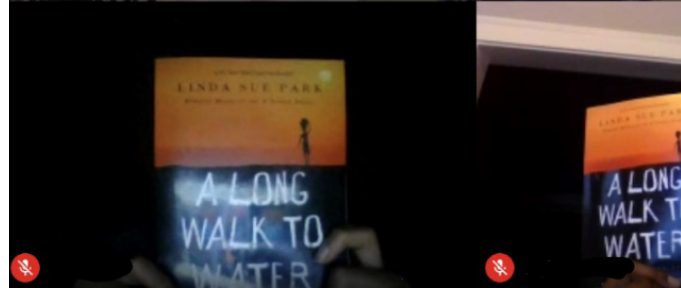


## MetroHealth Student Clinic Opens at Heights High



MetroHealth & CH-UH partnered in 2019 to launch a School Based Health Center at Heights High School, allowing students in-person access to MetroHealth medical professionals two days per month in a clinic located at the school.

With parent/guardian consent, students receive routine checkups, immunizations, sports physicals and screenings. The clinic also provides referrals for additional services including behavioral health. The program was designed to help eliminate barriers to receiving health care.





CLEVELAND  
UNIVERSITY **HEIGHTS**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CH-UH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jim Posch, President (2021) ▪ Jodi Sourini, Vice President (2021)  
Dan Heintz ▪ Malia Lewis ▪ Beverly Wright  
Elizabeth Kirby, Superintendent ▪ A. Scott Gainer, CFO/Treasurer

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