

CH-UH City Schools Quality Profile 2021



CLEVELAND UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEAR CH-UH COMMUNITY

From the Superintendent

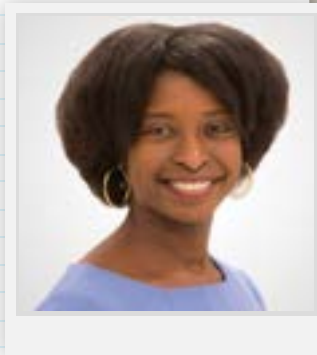
In the 2020-2021 school year, we welcomed students and staff back to their buildings after nearly a year of remote learning. For much of the year, educators expertly balanced teaching in-person learners with students learning from home. This transition brought about a much needed sense of normalcy that has stayed with us through the present day, but we know the work continues in ensuring our children's academic success.

Much of the District's way forward lies in our updated Strategic Plan, which was solidified this past school year. The Five Goals at the heart of the plan have new objectives fit for 2026. Our refined Core Values of Excellence, Equity, Integrity, Trust and Respect remind us of what we must see in ourselves and one another. And as you'll read later in this Quality Profile, we've crafted an exciting new District Vision for the Heights students of today and tomorrow. Our tried and true District Mission remains the same: Our schools provide a challenging and engaging education to prepare all of our students to become responsible citizens and succeed in college and career.

The most important milestones from this undeniably unique school year, though, are the student accomplishments. From academic awards to athletic triumphs to artistic endeavors and everything in between, I hope you enjoy reading about the students who continue to make CH-UH and Tiger Nation so incredible, no matter the obstacles.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kirby Superintendent



From the Board President



The fighting spirit of Tiger Nation was truly on display throughout the Heights this past year. Our community faced a myriad of challenges from COVID-19, fought for fair school funding in Ohio, and weathered divisive national policy debates. It has not been easy, but we are making it through together in the name of the kids, schools, and community we care about.

I want to thank you for your support in our November 2020 operating levy and in the fight for an overhaul in the way schools are funded in Ohio. The Fair School Funding Plan is a step in the right direction. Advocates, including students, made multiple trips to Columbus, wrote letters and made phone calls over the past couple of years to champion a just model of funding. I am proud of Tiger Nation for standing up for what is right.

The resilience of our students despite the obstacles continues to amaze me. Our graduating class of 2021 earned more than \$14 million in scholarships and have headed out into the world prepared for any challenges they face. There are so many good stories that came out of this year, and I'm honored to share them with you in this year's Quality Profile.

Sincerely,

Jim Posch 2021 Board of Education President

SENIOR NAMED U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR



Heights High School senior ('21) **Maple Buescher** was named a 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholar, one of only 161 high school seniors in the nation and one of three in Ohio to receive the award.

The White House selects scholars annually based

on their academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

As part of the process, candidates were able to nominate a particularly influential teacher for the program's Distinguished Teachers list. Maple nominated Mr. Matthew Meister, history & humanities teacher at Heights High.

5-STAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



The preschool programs at Gearity, 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. Gearity Preschool received its most recent five-star rating in April 2020, Noble received its in October 2019, and Oxford in December 2017.

HEIGHTS STUDENT WINS STATE AWARD

The 2021 R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award Recipient from State Support Team



Region 3 was **Grace Mangano** of Heights High School. This award is presented to one exemplary student receiving special education services and support from each of Ohio's 16 State Support Team regions. Grace was nominated for

her extensive community volunteerism, academic achievements, and commitment to bringing opportunities to those with hearing loss in the areas of the performing arts.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2021



The cohort walked the stage in a beautiful June graduation ceremony held in the school stadium.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to watch a video celebrating the Heights High Class of 2021.

HEIGHTS GRADS ARE GOING PLACES

The Class of 2021 are attending the following institutions or have enlisted in the U.S. military.

\$14

MILLION

The Heights High School Class of 2021 combined to earn more than **\$14.3 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.

Alabama A&M University
Allegheny College
American University
Ashland University
Baldwin Wallace University
Bates College
Bowling Green State University
Carlow University
Central State University
Clark Atlanta University
Cleveland Institute of Music
Cleveland State University
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Cuyahoga Community College
Denison University
DePaul University
DigiPen Institute of Technology
Fisk University
Grambling State University
Gwinnett Technical College
Heidelberg University
Indiana State University

Ithaca College
John Carroll University
Kent State University
LaBarberia Institute of Hair
Lakeland Community College
Lawrence University
Lincoln Technical Institute Indianapolis
Livingstone College
Loyola University Chicago
Marietta College
Miami University
New York Film Academy Los Angeles
Norfolk State University
North Carolina Central University
Northeastern University
Northwood University
Notre Dame College
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Penn State Greater Allegheny
Point Park University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Terra State Community College

Texas Southern University
The College of Wooster
The Los Angeles Film School
The Ohio State University
Trinity College Dublin
Tuskegee University
United States Air Force
United States Army
United States Naval Academy
United States Navy
University of Akron
University of Arkansas
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Cincinnati
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Illinois
University of New Mexico
University of Toledo
Ursuline College
Western Michigan University
Wittenberg University

AP[®]

 CollegeBoard

48

AP Scholars

Nearly **50 members of the Heights High School Classes** of 2021 and 2022 have been recognized by the College Board for their outstanding performance in Advanced Placement classes.

The College Board, which administers AP tests, honors students across the country who score at a consistently high level on the annual exams. Heights High had 28 students named as AP Scholars for earning scores of **3 or higher** on three or more exams.

AP Scholars with Honor

An additional 12 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.

12

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 or more exams**.

STUDENT WINS NATIONAL GEAR UP AWARD



Heights High student **Taylor Evans** was named the national GEAR UP Student of the Year for 2021. The award is given to one student who embodies the organization's mission to "Excel, Prove, and Mobilize."

Taylor serves as the Lead Intern/Ambassador for GEAR UP 2 New Heights, and in that role works to help her classmates study for the PSAT, submit National Honor Society applications, and access resources for post-secondary planning. The GEAR UP program focuses on increasing the college and career readiness of low-income students, serving more than half a million students nationwide.

STUDENTS ARE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS



Heights High School seniors **Maple Buescher** and **Xavier Routh** ('21) were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for recognition and college scholarships. Only about 15,000 students were named finalists in the program in 2021, representing less than one percent of the nation's high school graduating seniors.



CANTERBURY IB PROGRAM GETS HIGH MARKS



Once a school receives International Baccalaureate authorization from the governing body, they expect an in-person visit every five years. Over two days in early 2021, the IB team "visited" Canterbury School virtually. The school received nine commendations for work extremely well done, and teachers were commended for "promoting an inquiry-based, constructivist approach through pandemic virtual learning."

EDUCATORS ARE MASTER TEACHERS

Three educators in the CH-UH City School District earned their initial Ohio Department of Education Master Teacher designation in 2021, and two successfully renewed their designation.

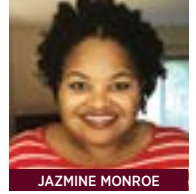
Teachers receiving their initial designation are:



TONI WHITE



NANCY MACDONALD



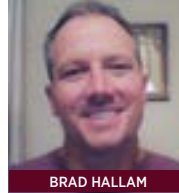
JAZMINE MONROE

Toni White: Title I Lead Teacher, Noble Elem.

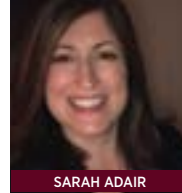
Nancy MacDonald: 4th Grade Teacher, Fairfax Elem.

Jazmine Monroe: 1st Grade Teacher, Oxford Elem.

Teachers who renewed their designation are:



BRAD HALLAM



SARAH ADAIR

Brad Hallam: Math Teacher, Delisle Options Center

Sarah Adair: 2nd Grade Teacher, Oxford Elem.

A Master Teacher demonstrates excellence 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.

TEACHER HONORED AS UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Gearing Professional Development School teacher **Amanda Blazetic** was named the University Heights Educator of the Year for 2020. As an intervention specialist, Amanda is a tireless advocate for her students with multiple disabilities. She raised more than

\$1,000 to purchase necessities for students and their families. Amanda also volunteers at every school-sponsored food distribution event.

NOBLE NAMED NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



Noble Elementary was recognized in 2021 as a National PTA School of

Excellence. The two-year distinction is bestowed on schools after they demonstrate a partnership between the PTA and school that “enriches the educational experience and overall well-being for all students,” according to the National PTA. Noble PTA leaders worked hard to maintain connection with families during the school closure, creating a sense of community even without face-to-face contact.

ATHLETES EARN \$3M IN SCHOLARSHIPS



Nine Heights High football players signed their official college letters of intent at the school’s National Signing Day ceremony in February. Later in the year, eight Heights

High student-athletes signed their letters, including four boys basketball players, one swimmer, one girls basketball player, one baseball player, and one girls lacrosse player. The 17 students earned a combined \$3 million in college scholarships.

ROXBORO MID ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM GOES TO NATIONALS

Roxboro Middle School’s Academic Challenge team competed for the first time in the virtual NAQT Middle School National Championship Tournament in May. The team finished the preliminary 10 rounds with a record of 4-4. Team members were **Avery Craft, Leo Fasolo, Charlie Jolivette, Nora Lubbers,** and **Gabe Mallamad**. Mallamad ranked in 11th place overall, placing him in the top 2% of competitors.



SWIM TEAMS EARN NATIONAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Heights High School’s swim teams had enormous success in the pool in 2021, sending four boys to the State Championship for the first time in nearly two decades.

But the hard work didn’t end at the pool’s edge as both the boys and girls teams received accolades from the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association for their academic achievement. The varsity programs were also named an All-America Scholar Team for their combined GPAs. Both teams placed in the Gold Tier, meaning they are at the very highest level across the country.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AWARD FROM AUDITOR

The CH-UH Finance Department earned the best possible four-star rating on the Auditor of State’s StaRS platform in spring of 2021. The rating system indicates how well government entities meet the Sunshine Law requirements. CH-UH received the “Highest Achievement in Open and Transparent Government Award” for being compliant with all best practices listed.



2026 STRATEGIC PLAN TAKES SHAPE



The refresh process of the District’s 2020 Strategic Plan culminated in 2021. With collective input from CH-UH staff, students, and community members, the Strategic Plan Committee and District leadership crafted the main objectives for the following five years, including data targets and “Measures That Matter” to serve as accountability tools in the work.

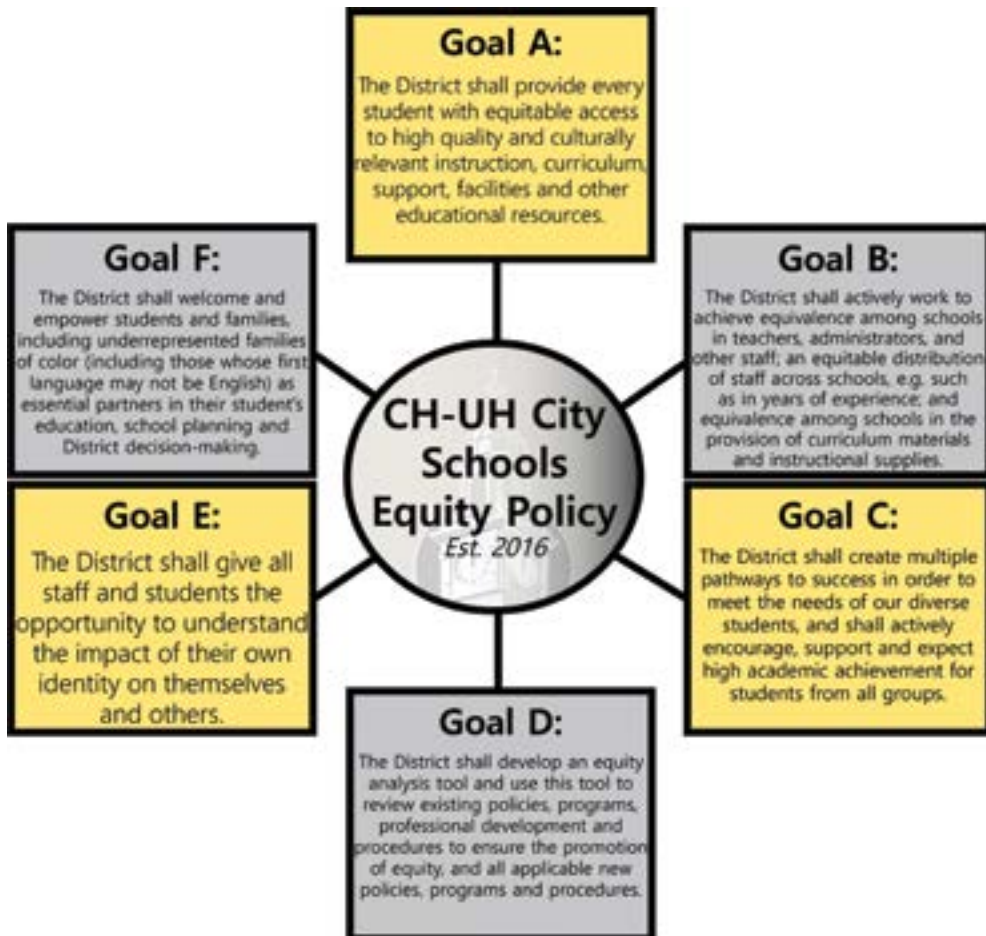
The refreshed plan also boasts an exciting new Vision for the District: *The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools educate students by embracing diversity, ensuring equitable experiences and fostering outstanding teaching and learning to develop academically prepared critical thinkers who contribute positively and compete successfully in the world.*

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER LAUNCH



A Community Learning Center is a strategy in which schools partner with community agencies and allocate resources to integrate a focus on academics, health and social services, and community engagement. The creation of a CLC in the District is a component of the 5-Year Strategic Plan and the pilot program will take place at Noble Elementary. In 2021, the District welcomed Kristiaun Copez-Minor to organize efforts at Noble.

EQUITY WORK IN HEIGHTS SCHOOLS TODAY



The CH-UH Equity Policy serves as the bedrock for the district's Strategic Plan and brings together many efforts that had been happening in silos for years. So what does equity work actually look like in a practical sense?

One key piece is **reducing the opportunity and achievement gaps** between Black students and their White peers. Increasing access to early childhood education, which CH-UH now offers at Gearity, Noble and Oxford, is critical to this effort.

Increasing participation in Honors and Advanced Placement courses is another necessary piece. AP

enrollment has nearly doubled at Heights High in the past five years thanks to a concerted effort on behalf of staff to identify, encourage and support students to take the rigorous courses. Students receive support from groups such as AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and MSAN (the Minority Student Achievement Network).

Much of this intersects with teacher expectations which are undeniably impacted by implicit biases. The Equity Task Force has provided **training in implicit bias** and other topics for all staff over the past four years.

ADAPTABILITY, COLLABORATION & EQUITY

For the 2020-2021 school year, CH-UH adopted the theme of ACE. The values of Adaptability, Collaboration and Equity had always been important to our school community, but truly took center stage as we entered a new phase in pandemic education. It took consistent teamwork and flexibility to provide a comprehensive, holistic education and continue our work in closing the achievement gap and helping every one of our students succeed.



CH-UH HELD ITS INAUGURAL TIGER SUMMER CAMP IN 2021, with nearly 560 students in kindergarten through eighth grade participating. Children engaged in academic skill building, socialization, and hands-on lessons, all while having a blast. Thanks to partnerships with local organizations, unique enrichment activities included swimming lessons, yoga, African drumming, science projects, and art. The entire program was provided at no cost to families.

The camp experience was facilitated by the district's before and after care partner, Right at School, whose staff members served as "counselors," managing student movement from one activity to another, overseeing lunch and extra activity periods, and coordinating the end of camp carnival, which included a much-coveted dunk tank for teachers and counselors.





THE DISTRICT IT DEPARTMENT PROVIDED EACH KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE STUDENT IN CH-UH A CHROMEBOOK ahead of the 20-21 school year for their remote learning, plus virtual help sessions to get everyone ready to log in on the first day. Meanwhile, the **FOOD SERVICE TEAM (AVI FRESH) PROVIDED MORE THAN ONE MILLION MEALS** for in-person learners, remote students, and any child in the community in need of a meal from July 2020 through August 2021, all at no cost to families.



RoxArts in Tiger Nation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to supplement arts and science enrichment education for the CH-UH schools, funded **800 NEW ART KITS DISTRIBUTED TO EVERY KINDERGARTENER IN THE DISTRICT**

leading up to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Every kit included a book, paper, stationery, markers, chalk pastels, and stickers. As students and families navigated the online learning experience in 20-21, the kits gave kids an outlet for artistic expression.

HEIGHTS **Family** ACADEMY
CH-UH CITY SCHOOLS

First launched in 2018, the **HEIGHTS FAMILY ACADEMY IS A CONFERENCE-STYLE EVENT** where families forge meaningful connections with their schools. The HFA shifted to a fully online model in 2021, releasing weekly, family-focused resources from local and national partners to inspire, empower, and connect. Topics included early childhood, learning at home, transitions, and equity.



THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME WAS HELD VIRTUALLY IN OCTOBER 2020. Viewers around the globe enjoyed watching the two-hour live event hosted by Heights Schools Foundation President Dr. Susan Carver and Co-Vice President Shanice Settle. The 10 inductees, each introduced by a Heights student, shared acceptance speeches filled with fond memories of Heights High.



Heights High and Delisle Options Center social workers, in collaboration with the MetroHealth School Health Program, sponsored a monthly **TIGER TALK SERIES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS** in 2021. The series focused on a variety of topics addressing social and emotional issues brought on or made worse by the pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-2021

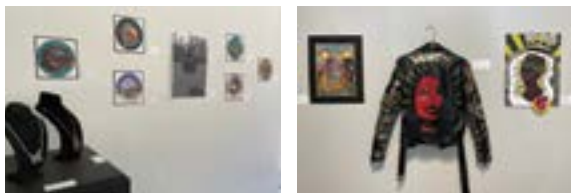
NHS Inducts 60 New Members



The Heights High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 60 sophomores and juniors into the organization in May of 2021. Students with a 3.5 GPA or above are invited to apply for

membership, having also demonstrated achievement in the area of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Student Interns Design Local Show



As interns with Heights Arts their senior year, Heights High students **Zelda Thayer-Hansen** and **Eryn Lawson** curated the Innate Environments exhibit in the spring of 2021. The exhibit featured work from around 30 Heights High student artists.

Rox EI Launches Schoolwide Pen Pal Program



A Rox EI letter writing program helped more than 40 students from kindergarten through 5th grade stay connected during the 20-21 school year. Parent volunteers and the PTA purchased stamps, cards and envelopes for families to participate. The students were encouraged to send two letters or drawings to their pen pal over a period of a few months.

Heights Teams Are LEL Champions



For the third year in a row, the Heights Tigers won the Lake Erie League President's Cup, which goes to the school who

has the most success in the league. Heights boasted seven LEL championship teams in 2021: baseball, softball, girls soccer, varsity football, boys track & field, and boys & girls cross country.

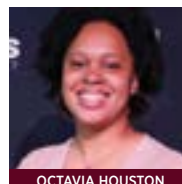
Celebrating Staff Achievement

District employees celebrated a year of perseverance, dedication, and strength at the Annual Staff Awards Ceremony.

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.



REBECCA MACDONALD



OCTAVIA HOUSTON



JOHN FULLERMAN

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Rebecca McDonald: Math Teacher, Heights High School

HELPING HAND OF THE YEAR

Octavia Houston: Special Education Aide, Boulevard Elem.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

John Fullerman: Assistant Principal, Heights High School

AVID Ceremony



The Heights High AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Signing Day Ceremony was held remotely with the 66 AVID graduates,

their families, and the AVID teachers watching from home. Each student announced their next steps for the Fall of 2021, including college, military, trade school, and the workforce. Throughout the year, AVID students focus on college essays, scholarship applications, financial aid, and virtual college visits.

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 '20-'21, eight employees enrolled in courses at CSU using the grant.

AD Named Master Athletic Administrator



Joe D'Amato, the District's Athletic Director, was recognized in March 2021 by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

To earn this distinction, D'Amato has demonstrated exemplary knowledge, contributions and ongoing professional development in the field of school athletic administration. D'Amato's culminating project was on the transformation of the athletic department's branding over the past few years.

CTE Student Recognized by PBS



Heights High senior **Hannah Bradley** ('21) was named by PBS '20 under 20 Up-and-Coming Storytellers,' a list made to recognize future change-makers who are already making a difference in their communities. As a Digital Video Production student in the Heights

Career Tech program, Bradley served as a student journalist for PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs.

Student Attends Interlochen Arts Camp



Heights High senior ('21) **Jackson Marshall** attended the Interlochen Arts Camp, the nation's premier multidisciplinary summer arts program for aspiring artists in grades 3 through 12. Jackson studied Musical Theater at the camp. At Heights High, Jackson starred as Mr. Applegate in *Damn Yankees* (2019) and Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins* (2018).

Heights Career Tech Automotive Program Sponsored by Liberty Ford



Heights High's Automotive Technology Program earned a sponsorship from the Ford Motor Company and Liberty Ford Maple Heights. This sponsorship allows students to take advantage of Ford's Automotive Career Exploration

program, which provides training and certification for students in both high school and post-secondary programs.

Heights Artists Create Community Mural



Led by Heights High art teachers Laura Skehan and Nancy Rich, students partnered with community leaders from the Millikin neighborhood to create murals for the old school building. With help from the Cleveland Institute of Art, Future Heights Neighborhood Connection, and neighbors, 11 standout designs were installed in a neighborhood ceremony in November 2020.

Fairfax Opens School Garden



Students, staff and families are enjoying the much anticipated community garden at Fairfax Elementary School, which was officially unveiled on the last day of the 20-21 school year.

Teacher **Eric Cohen** worked with parent **Todd Rogers** to plan and install the garden on a section of

the school's property facing Lee Road. Generous funding from RoxArts in Tiger Nation, the Heights Schools Foundation and the Fairfax PTA covered the cost of raw materials, landscaping, and funding for an artist-in-residence from the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, who worked with students to design and paint signs, picnic tables, and a trellis.

CH-UH Joins Model Family Engagement Program

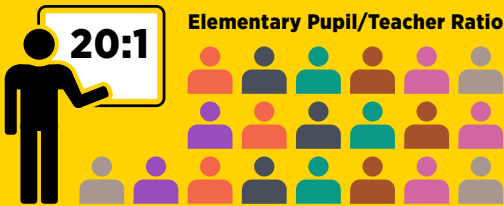


Cleveland Heights-University Heights is one of 30 districts across Ohio chosen to participate in a three-year model program for the National Network of Partnership Schools. NNPS is a framework to connect schools, families and community partners in support of student achievement. Monticello Middle

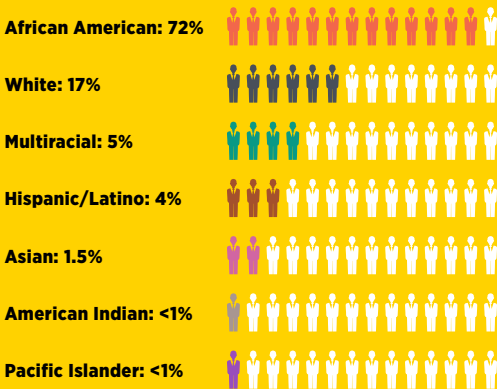
and Noble Elementary are piloting the NNPS program, which is funded by the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center. The District has already seen success with the NNPS framework through its preschool programs, which have been following the model for several years with funding from the state's Universal Pre-K program.

TIGER NATION BY THE NUMBERS

CH-UH STUDENTS



4,861 TOTAL STUDENTS



HEIGHTS GRADS

87.8% Graduation Rate 4-Year **Class of 2020**

94% Graduation Rate 5-Year **Class of 2019**

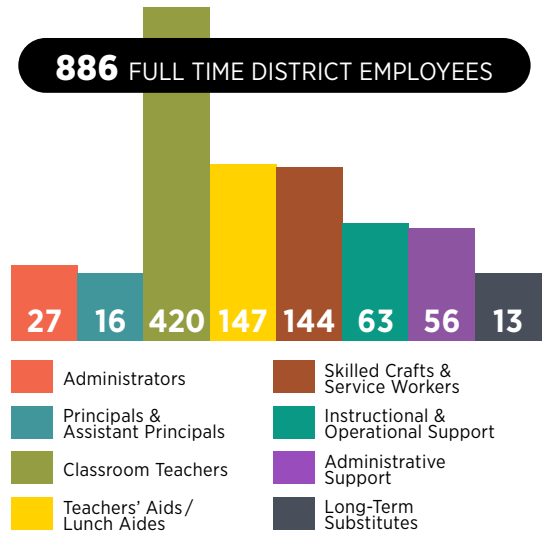
368 **Class of 2021 Graduates**

\$14.3 **Scholarships Earned** Class of 2021
MILLION



CH-UH STAFF

886 FULL TIME DISTRICT EMPLOYEES



TEACHER SALARY RANGE

\$44,974 → **\$97,654**

BARGAINING UNITS

Bargaining units represent teachers and professional staff, administrative support staff, security staff, cleaners, cafeteria employees, paraprofessionals/lunchroom non-paraprofessionals, custodial and maintenance staff, transportation staff and technology staff.

FACILITIES



1,048,709 SQ. FT.
Active School Building Space

7

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Boulevard, Canterbury, Fairfax, Gearity, Noble, Oxford, Roxboro

2

MIDDLE SCHOOLS
Monticello
Roxboro

2

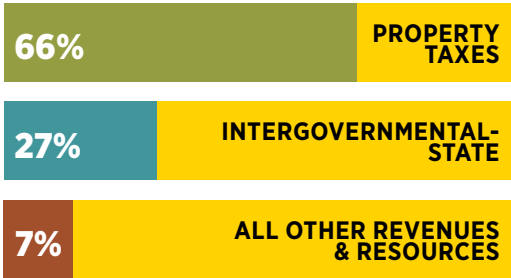
HIGH SCHOOLS
Heights High
Delisle Options Center

130 ACRES

School District Property

FUNDING

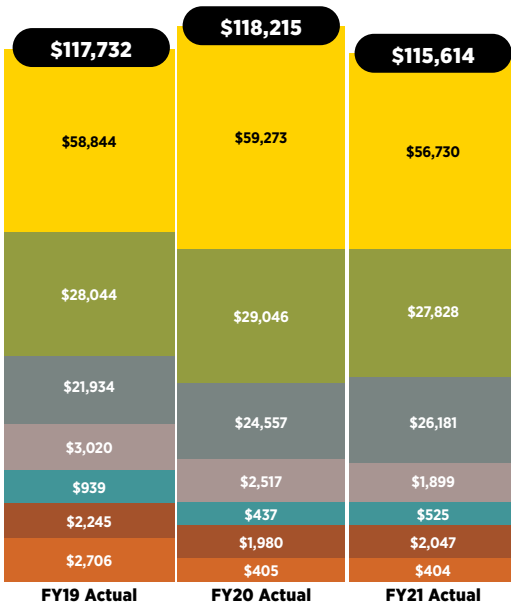
DISTRICT ANNUAL BUDGET



\$115,614 TOTAL (FY2021)

TOTAL SHOWN IN THOUSANDS

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS & SERVICES



TRANSPORTATION



67 VEHICLES

Transport **1,457** CH-UH, special education, non-public & community school students in grades K-8 traveling to **55** educational and training sites.

34 YELLOW BUSES

Transport students to **37** school and training locations, traveling **1,477** miles daily, **265,860** miles yearly.

33 VANS

Transport students to **18** school and training locations, traveling **3,801** miles daily, **684,180** miles yearly.

\$1,493

AVERAGE COST PER REGULAR EDUCATION STUDENT During 2019-2020

\$9,929

AVERAGE COST PER SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT During 2019-2020

Data is from 2019-2020 due to varying transportation needs throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

NUTRITION

In 2020-2021, the District operated under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows all students to eat for free each school day. The District also served free meals during the pandemic through the USDA.



Breakfast 557,649
Lunch 531,870



1,089,519 MEALS SERVED IN 2020-2021



CH-UH BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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