

LITTLE MIAMI LOCAL SCHOOLS

# QUALITY PROFILE

EMPOWER. EDUCATE. ENGAGE







This document is designed to demonstrate a more comprehensive, community-oriented companion to the state's School District Report Card. Called a "Quality Profile," this report includes additional accountability measures that better define a high-quality education and are not included in the state's report. We proudly present the 2022 Little Miami Quality Report.





## BUILDING INFORMATION



**LITTLE MIAMI  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**  
609 Welch Rd., Morrow, OH  
**Grades PK-1 | Enrollment: 980**



**LITTLE MIAMI  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
7247 Zoar Rd., Maineville, OH  
**Grades 2-3 | Enrollment: 852**



**LITTLE MIAMI  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
605 Welch Rd., Morrow, OH  
**Grades 4-5 | Enrollment: 852**



**LITTLE MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
5290 Morrow-Cozaddale Rd.  
Morrow, OH  
**Grades 6-8 | Enrollment: 1,275**



**LITTLE MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL**  
3001 E. U.S. 22&3  
Morrow, OH  
**Grades 9-12 | Enrollment: 1,431**

## ABOUT LITTLE MIAMI

The Little Miami Local School District encompasses 98 square miles comprised of both rural and suburban areas and includes the communities of Morrow, Maineville, Butlerville, Hamilton Township, Harlan Township, and Salem Township.

Little Miami has grown to serve more than 5,600 students- with 5,390 students in classrooms throughout our five LM buildings, 126 attending Joint Vocation School programs, and 88 additional students placed in settings specifically suited to best meet their needs. The district prides itself on child-centered decision making, service to the whole child, and opportunities for all students to achieve their goals and dreams.

During the 2021-22 school year, Little Miami enrolled more than **1,000** students from **19** different countries, speaking **13** different languages, and originating from **19** different states. The 2022-2023 school year is on track to become another year of tremendous growth, with **933** enrollments since January 2022. Of these 933 new Panthers, **69** students enrolled from **19** different states and another **18** students enrolled from **14** different countries! All of this data to say- Little Miami is the place to be! What an incredible testament to the entire community that people are choosing to raise their families here!



# ACADEMICS - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ohio has new graduation requirements for students graduating in 2023 and beyond. The new graduation requirements provide more flexibility to choose a graduation pathway that builds on the strengths and passions of each student. This will help ensure students are ready for their next steps and excited about their future.

**First, students must cover the basics.** Students must earn a minimum of 20 credits in specified subjects and take the state required tests.

Students must also receive instruction in economics and financial literacy and complete at least two semesters of fine arts courses.

Course	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Health	1/2
Mathematics	4
Physical Education	1/2
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Electives	5

**Second, students must show competency** by earning a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I and English II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once. If testing is not a strength, students may also choose one of the below options to meet the criteria.

1. Demonstrate Two Career-Focused Activities:
  - a. Foundational: Proficient scores on WebXams, a 12-point industry credential, or pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into apprenticeship program.
  - b. Supporting: Work based learning, earn the required score on WorkKeys, Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

2. Enlist in the Military: Students must provide evidence of a signed contract to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.

3. Complete College Coursework: Students must earn credit for one college-level math and/or college level English course through Ohio's free College Credit Plus program

**Third, students must show readiness** by earning two of the following diploma seals, one of which must be Ohio designed.

- OhioMeansJob Readiness Seal
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal
- College-Ready Seal
- Military Enlistment Seal
- Citizenship Seal
- Science Seal
- Student Engagement Seal

- Honors Diploma Seal
- Seal of Biliteracy
- Technology Seal
- Community Service Seal
- Fine & Performing Arts

## Special Education - Work Study Opportunities

- Practical Assessment Exploration System - preparing students for the transition to life after high school & discover potential for employment & interests.
- Integration of Knowledge and Resources for Occupational Needs - students completed a lesson weekly to learn about soft skills, how to build relationships at work, learn appropriate communication for work, how to write resumes, etc.
- In-house work study opportunities:
  - Students learned how to clean, organize, and manage the weight room at LMHS.
  - Weekly in school-wide recycling collection
  - Students worked along side custodial staff to clean and reorganize the lunchroom after each lunch period.
  - Staff Birthday Breakfast club - students provide a menu to staff members to select from for their birthday. Students then cook and deliver the breakfast to staff members.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

Little Miami proudly serves **691** Panther students with disabilities.

## Services & Professionals Available:

- 11 Structured Resource Rooms (SRR)
- 41 Intervention Specialists
- 60 Special Education Aides
- 5 School Psychologists
- 2 Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- 3 Registered Behavior Technicians
- 5 Speech Language Pathologists
- 6 Occupational Therapists/OT Assistants
- 3 Physical Therapists/PT Assistants
- 1 Workforce Development Coordinator
- 1 Teacher of Visually Impaired
- 1 Orientation & Mobility Instructor
- 1 Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 1 Educational Audiologist

## District Programming

- Inclusion with a continuum of Least Restrictive Environment- meaning students may spend time in Structured Resource Room (SRR) and also in the general education setting, with support.
- Students may also be placed in a co-taught setting for certain learning areas only and fully independent in other classes.
  - 29 Intervention Specialists support in approximately 90 general education classrooms.
- Preschool: 5 Intervention Specialists, 1 Itinerant Teacher, 7 Special Education Aides





# ACADEMICS - OPPORTUNITIES

## WCCC Partnership

Little Miami and the Warren County Career Center are teamed up for your student's success! Students who attend WCCC during their junior and senior years of high school are not only equipped with skills and training to prepare them for future careers, but students are also given opportunities to continue taking challenging academic courses while they train. Students spend half of their day in a career "lab," gaining hands-on skill experience with equipment used in that particular career field. The other half of the day, students take academic classes to earn the credits necessary for graduation.

Although a student is physically attending WCCC, they are still connected to Little Miami! While industry credentials and certifications are earned at WCCC, Little Miami will issue students their High School diploma. WCCC works directly with LMHS counselors to make sure students are taking the classes needed to earn graduation credits.

This truly is best of both worlds. Students will remain connected to LM and can still participate in athletics, LMHS graduation, Prom, Homecoming, senior fun days, plays, after school clubs, etc.!

**Over 60% of students attending the WCCC attend college upon graduation!**

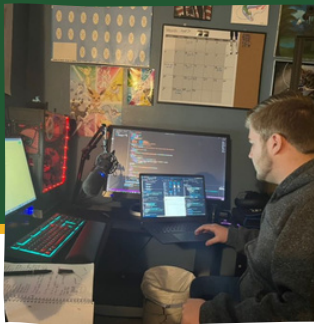


## WCCC Satellite Courses

Little Miami proudly offers select WCCC courses in a satellite setting - meaning specialized career learning opportunities within Little Miami classrooms! Students are able to gain functional skills without having to leave the LM campus!

### Middle School

- Project Lead the Way Gateway
  - Flight and Space
  - Apps Creator



## AP & Honors Courses at LMHS

**11 AP Classes** are available at LMHS including: English Literature, U.S. Government, U.S. History, World History, European History, French, Spanish, Calculus AB, Statistics, Biology, and Chemistry.

**Honors classes** are offered in: English 9, English 10, English 11, Chemistry, Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Physics, World History, and American History.

## Earn College Credit Before High School Graduation

All incoming 7-12 graders are eligible to participate in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program if they meet grade and testing requirements for college admission into CCP programs. This opportunity gives students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously!

### High School

- Digital Media Arts (DMA)
  - Introduction to Digital Media Arts
  - Digital Media Arts 1 and 2
- Business
  - Accounting
  - Business computer Applications
  - Introduction to Business
  - Strategic Entrepreneurship
- Project Lead the Way – Engineering (PLTW)
  - Intro to Engineering Design
  - Principles of Engineering
  - Aerospace Engineering
  - Digital Electronics
  - Engineering Design and Development



# ACADEMICS - ACCOLADES

## AP Scholars 2021-2022

- 60 AP Scholar distinctions.
- 77% of AP exams received a 3 or higher, with the average score being 3.4. For reference, the National Average is 60% with a mean score of 2.8.

## AP Scholars 2022-2023

- 59 AP Scholar distinctions.
- 78% of AP exams received a 3 or higher.

Four LM Seniors earned the National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist distinction in the 2021-22 school year!

## LMHS Distinctions

- Ranked #71 out of 916 High Schools in Ohio and in the top 8% nationally by US News & Report.
- Little Miami was named to the AP Honor Roll.
- 1 of 35 High Schools given the Momentum Award for exceeding student growth & achievement in Ohio.
- Received the High Schools that Work Pacesetter Award.

## 2022 Graduate Academic Profile

- 355 graduates
- 155 students earned a 4.0 or higher
- 52 students earned between a 3.5 & 3.99
- 56 students earned between a 3.0 & 3.49
- 41 students earned between a 2.5 & 2.99
- 25 students earned between a 2.0 & 2.49
- 26 students earned below a 2.0

## Post Graduation Plans

- 2022 Graduates attending college: 80%
  - Four Year Institutions 57%
  - Two Year Institutions 23%
- Military Enlistment 2%
- Other (Work, Apprenticeship, Gap Year) 18%



LMHS earned the prestigious **2021 College Success Award** from GreatSchools.org for excellence in preparing students for college and beyond.

In addition to winning the annual College Success Award, LMHS was also selected as one of only **1,770** schools across the entire nation to win the inaugural **College Success Award - Gold** — an additional, elevated level of distinction to recognize schools that have a multiyear track record of college success, as determined by available college preparation and postsecondary data.



## Franklin B. Walter Scholarship - Countywide Recipient

2022 Graduate Madelyn Highfield was the 2021-2022 Countywide recipient of the Franklin B. Walter Scholarship.

Maddie was selected as the overall county winner from among an impressive crowd of Warren County students. With Maddie's award this Spring, **a Little Miami student has won the overall County award three times in the four years that it has been given!**





# FOCUS ON FINE ARTS

## Little Miami High School Band

Known as the "Band in Demand," the LMHS Marching Band has set a legacy of impressive musical talent and energetic performance quality! These talented Panthers begin practicing in the heat of summer and work hard year-round to give excellent performances at competitions, concerts, and athletic events.

## LMHS Band Program Overview

- **Marching Band** - 75-90 members from grades 9-12
- **Concert Band** - 60-75 members from grades 9-12
- **Symphonic Band** - 35-45 members from grades 9-12

**Instruments offered:** Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion

## Recent Recognitions & Accolades

- **Superior Rating** - Ohio Music Education Association District Large Group Adjudicated Event (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022. (No contest in 2020 or 2021)
- **Superior Rating** - Ohio Music Education Association State Large Group Adjudicated Event (2014, 2016, 2018, 2019)
  - In 2015, LMHS Marching Band received an Excellent rating at State Competition.
  - In 2017 and 2022, LMHS Marching Band did not attend State Competition

## Little Miami Middle School Band

- Grade level breakdown:
  - 6th grade: 154
  - 7th grade: 57
  - 8th grade: 30
- Beginning Band: 153 members (6th grade only)
- Concert Band: 20 members (7th and 8th grade)
- Symphonic Band: 52 members (7th and 8th grade, with one 6th grade member)

### Instruments offered:

**Beginning Band**- flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, percussion. **Concert band and**

**Symphonic Band**- flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, percussion, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone/euphonium, and tuba.

## MUSIC EDUCATION AT LITTLE MIAMI

Introducing students to instruments in their early years and making musical training FUN are important elements to maintaining the quality of the Little Miami music programs for years to come! LM offers Music as a "Special" in Grades 1-5, with Choir and Band classes beginning as an Elective course in Grade 6.

Throughout their musical education journey, young Panthers learn about different elements of music, learn to read music, have the opportunity to compose their own classroom rhythmic exercises, and learn instrument-playing basics, so they are ready to take their talents to the next level in middle school and high school.





# FOCUS ON FINE ARTS

## Little Miami High School Choir

The Little Miami Choir groups have a long history of talent & success, making them a highly-requested performance group around the area! The LM Select Choirs already have 17 performances scheduled for the 2022-23 school year, including commitments at the school, community, collegiate and regional level.

Although Choir participation numbers have declined greatly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ensemble members are prepared to continue the tradition of excellence that the program has maintained consistently since first entering a competition in 2006. The 2021-22 Select Choirs earned **Superior Ratings** at the OMEA State Large Group Adjudicated Event - overcoming more challenges than any of the previous ensembles!

### Upcoming Highlights

- The LM Chorale has been invited to participate in the May Festival Chorus' 150th Anniversary celebration! A composition is being written by a New York composer for the LM Chorale and will be premiered by the ensemble in March at the Christ Church Cathedral.
- Members of both Select Choirs will be performing in the opening concert of the ACDA Midwest Region Conference, which will be held in Cincinnati in February 2023.



## Art Education at Little Miami

Art classes for LM students begin in 2nd Grade and continue as a "Special" through 6th Grade. In 7th and 8th grade, students are able to choose Art as an Elective course, while LMHS students have many opportunities to explore artistic endeavors in even more creative ways!

Examples of LMHS Art courses include: Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics, Painting, Advanced Painting, Sculpture Art Fundamentals, Advanced Drawing, Portfolio Preparation, Photography, Digital Media Arts. In these courses, students learn art history, careers in art, critiquing artwork, and how to produce art through the exploration of various mediums and techniques.



## Fine Arts Festival

Little Miami proudly plans and hosts a Fine Arts Festival to display the artistic talents of Panthers in Grades 2-12 for the enjoyment of family and the community. In addition to artwork, music programs from grades 1-12, including LMHS Band and Choir groups, perform at this event. This FREE annual Festival takes place in late Spring of every school year and is a community-favorite event! **The 2023 Fine Arts Festival will be held on April 29, 2023 at LMHS.**

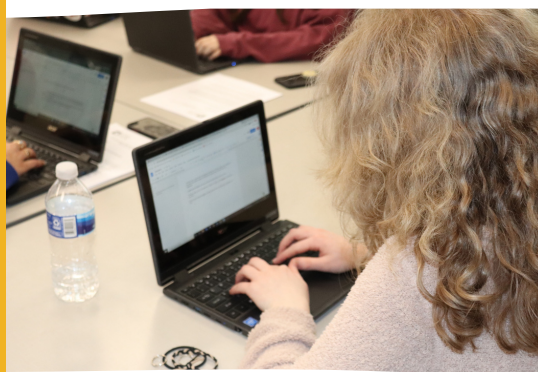


## DISTRICT INFO | TECHNOLOGY

The LM Technology Department strives to provide excellent customer service and support in order to maintain a functional and effective digital learning environment for all.

All students in Grades 6-12 utilize a device, enabling them to access learning materials digitally and practice responsible device ownership. Students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade utilize classroom devices on carts when lessons warrant digital resources.

We are continuously looking ahead & evaluating new cutting edge technology. We have learned that innovation in the K-12 education space frequently means a technology solution that enhances core fundamental processes. By recently implementing a new software solution that allows for better management of digital instructional apps, we have improved our instructional decision-making and better meet the needs of students.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**Devices Managed:** 6,500+

**KG-5th Grade Device Carts:** 105

**Tech Dept. Team Members:** 4 Full Time, 1 Part time

## DISTRICT INFO | TRANSPORTATION

The LM Transportation Department is a critical part of our learning community, as our dedicated bus drivers are often the first LM staff members that families interact with every day. We are so grateful for their service to this community, because early mornings and managing control of energetic bus riders are impressive feats!

While it is certainly challenging to transport more students than ever before, LM Transportation has learned to adapt and be flexible with routes, to help ensure students are safely transported to and from school in a reasonable time frame.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Fleet Size:** 76 buses, 5 vans

**Miles Driven in 21-22:** 699,343



## DISTRICT INFO | FOOD SERVICES

The Food Services team works hard to ensure our Panthers are better able to focus in the classroom by providing healthy and delicious meals for breakfast and lunch. The Food Services Department is a completely self-funded program that does not take any financial resources from the Little Miami General Fund.

During the 2021-2022 school year, all meals (breakfast and lunch) were provided FREE of charge thanks to a waiver from the USDA to assist families with challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Although this waiver ended in June 2022, families are able to apply for Free and Reduced meals at [LittleMiamiSchools.com](https://www.littlemiamischools.com).

### What's In a Meal?

Lunch consists of a Protein, Grain, Fruit, Vegetable and Milk. For lunch, students must take at least three components, with one being a fruit or vegetable. Breakfast must consist of fruit, milk and grain, and may also include a protein and vegetable.

### Fun Fact:

During the 2021-2022 school year, 210,230 breakfast and 470,325 lunch meals were served.

# BUILDING THE FUTURE | RECENT CONSTRUCTION

Thanks to the passage of a Bond Issue in 2018, Little Miami was able to construct a brand-new building for our youngest Panther learners, renovate existing spaces, and make necessary additions to accommodate the impressive growth of the community. All construction was completed for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, and watching students learn in these unique spaces has been so rewarding!

At LMHS, 31,000 square feet of additional learning space was constructed, preparing the building to accommodate 1,500 students. Included in the addition to LMHS is an impressive collaborative learning environment, boasting open, bright areas that foster creativity and student engagement. Renovations to LMHS also include a newly-reopened Media Center, expanded spaces for band, renovated Auditorium, state-of-the-art Strength & Conditioning Center, large administrative spaces, and more!

In the Fall of 2021, Little Miami Junior High was restructured to become a traditional Middle School, housing grades 6-8. To accommodate an additional grade level in the building, a large addition and new spaces for administrative staff was necessary. Similarly to the new spaces at LMHS, the LMMS addition features collaborative learning spaces, as well as areas of unique seating to encourage discussion and group activities.

Little Miami Intermediate School was reimagined as Little Miami Primary School and is now home to LM Second and Third Graders. This building underwent extensive additions in 2019 and has been recently renovated to accommodate the new grade levels now housed there.

Much has happened on the grounds of the former Salem Township Elementary, now known as Little Miami Elementary School. Grades 4 and 5 have moved into LMES, a building that has been renovated & upgraded to include new bathroom areas for staff & students, an Innovation Lab, Media Center, Flex Lab, and Nurse's clinic.

**Continued on next page.**



Open Concept Meeting Spaces at LMHS.



Digital Display Meeting Area at LMHS.



Open concept innovation classroom at LMMS.



Panther Performance Center at LMHS.



# BUILDING THE FUTURE | RECENT CONSTRUCTION

Behind LMES is the brand-new 100,000 square foot Little Miami Early Childhood Center, housing Preschool through 1st Grade. This colorful building features special spaces, including stage areas under stairwells that can be used to bring reading to life and a specialized playground built for small joy-seekers.

"Students are able to move, work collaboratively, be creative, feel comfortable, and thrive in the new learning space at LMECC. The building also enables constant collaboration for our teachers! After years of being apart, we are thrilled to have our preschool, kindergarten, and first grade teams under one roof," says Assistant Principal, Lindsey Eckstein.

LMECC Principal Teresa Reynolds has loved that students and teachers have the opportunity to experience new learning spaces, including the flex areas for small collaborative group work, the spacious classrooms, the technology experience, and the colorful, welcoming spaces throughout the school. She says, "This well-thought-out building helps our teachers bring learning to life!"

We are thrilled about the upgrades to each Little Miami school building & thank the community for their support in making the design and construction possible for our students!



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**Greg Power**

Another school year is well under way and I am excited to report that the start of the school year went more smoothly than any other year in recent memory. We have settled in and adjusted to the five building district structure and are thrilled to welcome back a sense of "normalcy" that we have been missing over the past few years.

Our district continues to grow at unprecedented rates. The 2022-23 school year marks a growth of **268** more students than the 2021-22 school year. With a student population of more than **5,600** Panthers, we must adapt and be flexible with methods and solutions to accommodate the needs of all students. We are excited and proud that families desire to move into this area for the strong community and school system, but must make adjustments and prepare for the trend of more students to come through our doors every year. Additional students means Little Miami must hire additional staff & teachers, get creative with classroom space, and find unique ways to connect with all students so they feel welcome and valued at LM.

While our student population will likely continue to grow, the educational experience of Little Miami will remain of the highest quality. With new building spaces featuring unique classroom designs and interactive learning elements, and staff members who go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of their students, there has never been a better time to be a Panther!

We are excited for another great year at Little Miami!



# ATHLETICS

The Little Miami Athletic Department is committed to providing each student-athlete with the very best resources to reach their highest potential in these five areas:

- Intellectual Development
- Spiritual/Volunteerism Development
- Social Development
- Physical Development
- Skill Development.

LM Athletes are held to a high standard to uphold the culture of the LM Athletic Department. LM student-athletes must be able to positively and constructively answer the following questions:

- Do you care?
- Are you committed?
- Can we trust you?
- Do you follow the "Golden Rule"?
- Do you always do the "Right Thing"?



## DEPARTMENT STATS

**21-22 STUDENT-ATHLETES:** 1,300

**TEAMS:** 77 **SPORTS:** 26

**COLLEGE ATHLETES  
SIGNED IN 21-22:** 24

**22-23 STUDENT-ATHLETES:** 1,760

## TOP 5 STORIES OF 2021-2022

**1.** Will Zegarski ('22) won the 2021 OHSA Div. I state champion cross country November, setting a new state record of 14:39.9.

**2.** The LM Baseball Team had an incredible season, ending with a impressive run to the OHSA Round 4 district semifinal game.

**3.** LM opened the Panther Performance Center, a 6,100 square-foot state-of-the-art strength & conditioning complex located at LMHS.

**4.** LM wrestler Alex Hobbs ('21) made history in March 2021, becoming the first LM district champion since 1992 & the first LM state qualifier since 2006.

**5.** The Little Miami Academic Team capped off its first year in the ECC by taking the 2021 conference championship. The Panthers finished the regular season with a perfect 16-0 record.

Little Miami has been a proud member of the Eastern Cincinnati Conference (ECC) since the 2020-2021 season. This conference move has impacted the student-athlete experience by reducing travel time and expenses, increasing gate revenue, enhancing exposure of our student-athletes, and pumping up spirit surrounding rivalries with bordering communities like Kings, Loveland and Lebanon!

## ACADEMIC TEAM REMAINS DOMINANT

For two years, the LMHS Academic Team has proved to be a powerful force in the ECC. After the completion of the 2021-2022 season, the LMHS Varsity Team proudly boasts two undefeated seasons, dating all the way back into Little Miami's entry into the ECC league.





# STRENGTHENING SAFETY AT SCHOOL

The safety and security of our Panthers will always be our top priority. As such, Little Miami has implemented a series of safety improvements and updates implemented for the 2022-23 school year.

## New School Resource Officers Added to the District

Little Miami has added two new School Resource Officers (SROs) to the two existing officers in the district. Hamilton Township Officer Joe Smith returned to Little Miami Primary this school year (he was previously the SRO at the former Little Miami Intermediate School) while Morrow Officer Hawk was welcomed to the Welch Road sites (Little Miami Elementary & Little Miami Early Childhood Center). Officers Smith and Hawk join Officer Brandenburg at Little Miami High School, and Officer Elzey at Little Miami Middle School. We are so grateful to Hamilton Township and the Village of Morrow for their partnership!

## Building Camera Systems Upgraded

Security camera upgrades are in progress with camera replacements and additions at LMPR, LMES, LMMS, and LMHS. An upgraded monitoring and access system is also being programmed at all Little Miami buildings.

## New Visitor Management System Implemented in Each Building

Upon entering the Main Entrance of any building, all visitors and volunteers are required to scan a valid driver's license or a current government-issued identification. Using the ID card information, the SchoolSafeID system does an immediate background check to detect any issues that may prohibit further entrance into our buildings. After following the quick steps on the touch-screen kiosk, and receiving approval for building admittance, a badge with visitor information, picture, and purpose for entry will be printed for the visitor to wear while in our buildings.

## Building Communication

LMHS, LMMS, and LMES are receiving upgraded building communication systems replacing equipment that is operationally out of date.

## Glass Reinforcement

Glass reinforcement has been applied to recent additions and construction at LMHS, LMMS, and LMECC in areas that feature glass displays and classrooms.



SRO Smith at LMPR



SRO Hawk at LMECC



SchoolSafeID console

## Safety Council Established

Little Miami has formally established a Safety Council, in which a group of LM administrators and public safety professionals regularly meet to discuss safety measures, make decisions, and implement procedures to improve the overall security of our students and staff at Little Miami. This group will meet on a quarterly basis to review current safety procedures & actions taken during crisis incidents, discuss future needs, and strengthen working relationships before an emergency strikes.

## Safety Funding

We are thankful to the State of Ohio for granting \$50,000 to four Little Miami buildings - LMHS, LMMS, LMES, and LMPR to help fund improvements and upgrades.



# ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

At Little Miami, we are focused on supporting the mental health and wellness of our students, and have provided extensive resources to help our students with their emotional needs. By addressing the needs of the "whole child," our Panthers are able to be safe, happy, and more attentive in the classroom.

## A "Paws-itive" Influence

Therapy dog, Winston, is in his second year of service to the Fourth and Fifth grade students and staff at Little Miami Elementary. Winston has extensive training on interacting with elementary students in a school setting. Benefits to having a therapy dog in a school setting include:

- Improving cognitive skills,
- Building positive social skills,
- Improving emotional elements like self-esteem, compassion, and anxiety relief,
- Reducing blood pressure & pain management assistance
- Providing a sense of "family environment" at school
- Improving literacy skills and reading confidence as students have the opportunity to read to Winston without fear of judgment if mistakes are made.



## Utilizing Peer-to-Peer Support

At LMHS, in addition to regular one-on-one counseling sessions, counselors have planned monthly lessons and school-wide activities to engage students. Student Ambassadors have also taken on the responsibility of creating & hosting events for new Panther students – including "meet ups," building tours, and other fun events to raise student morale. Additionally, support and programs are available for students working to overcome habits and addictions of controlled substances, including alcohol, drugs, and vaping.

## LMMS & LMHS Students Join the Hope Squad Mission



Both LMMS and LMHS are Hope Squad partner schools that are on a mission to reduce youth suicide through education, training, and peer intervention. Hope Squad members are trained to be aware of their peers and watch for warning signs. This peer-to-peer suicide prevention program trains student members to identify at-risk students, provide friendship and seek help from an adult. They learn to show empathy, listen without judgment, & reduce stigma regarding help-seeking and mental illness.

# ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

## Tier 1 Mental Health Supports

**School Counselors** support the emotional needs of students as they relate to academics. LM counselors run support groups, meet with students individually, monitor student 504 accommodation plans, create student schedules, assist with college and career planning and assist in connecting families with needed resources. School counselors act as our 'front line of support' when our students are in crisis.

## Tier 2 Mental Health Supports

**Mental Health Consultants**- Little Miami has four mental health consultants who are the central point of contact for all mental health services as referred by the district for "triage." The LM Mental Health Consultants assess and determine appropriate services for each student referred by the school counselor. These specialists also fulfill the following very important roles:

- Provide mental health consultation to administration, staff, and families served by the district.
- Provide district wide crisis intervention services and monitors the students in the district with the highest level of needs and severity of symptoms.
- Complete referrals for individual therapy for students that require a treatment plan with our partner agency.
- Provide consultation and professional development to staff in order to improve the support and management of students with mental health concerns in the academic environment.

**School Based Prevention Services** - Prevention services are designed to promote positive mental health, provide early identification of psychological and social problems, and reduce the risk factors associated with school failure. Prevention services are often short term and provided to a targeted group of students for a specific concern. During the course of the group, a referral for more intensive services may be indicated and brought to the attention of a mental health consultant for appropriate placement. Examples of these groups include: "Cancer Family Care", "Changing Families", and "Anxiety Management."

## Tier 3 Mental Health Supports

**Case Management Services** are utilized as an ongoing individualized service implemented with greater frequency, intensity, and duration than prevention services. Case management services require greater participation from the family and involve the diagnosis of a mental health disorder. Little Miami works with Beech Acres to serve these student needs. Students will work with a case manager to reinforce coping skills and strategies they are learning in therapy in order to manage their symptoms and/or the challenges they are facing in daily life.

**Mental Health School-based Therapist** - Provides individual therapy services to students on a case-by-case basis, as determined by building administration, and Mental Health Consultant. Mental health therapy services are the most intensive ongoing MH service provided within the district. Therapy services require greater participation from the family, lead to the diagnosis of a mental health disorder, and require the development of a treatment plan. Therefore, these services are much more individualized and occur at a deeper level than other services.

Little Miami utilizes the services and specialty of Beech Acres for students who are referred by Counselors or Mental Health Consultants who feel there is a more severe mental health diagnosis that would benefit from an increased level of care and/or a more long-term treatment for students. All services are paid for by private family insurance or County mental health funds.





## FROM THE TREASURER

### State of District Finances



Terry Gonda

The Little Miami Treasurer's Department has remained dedicated to responsible financial stewardship, while also providing the necessary support to students and staff to not only learn, but adjust and grow during a pandemic.

Ohio public school districts are required by law to prepare a five-year forecast of projected expenditures & revenues twice a year. As reported in the November 2021 Five Year Projection, a revenue shortfall was expected in FY2022.

Despite the significant student growth LM has seen over the course of a decade, we have still managed to strategically stretch out the funds generated from the passage of the 2011 Emergency Levy for more than ten years! With the passage of the Issue 12 in November 2020, which renewed the funding structure from the 2011 Emergency Levy, LM secured \$10.6 million annually. These funds represent one-fifth of LM's total operating budget and are a vital piece of the district's financial health. We are so thankful to the community for investing in the future for our students!

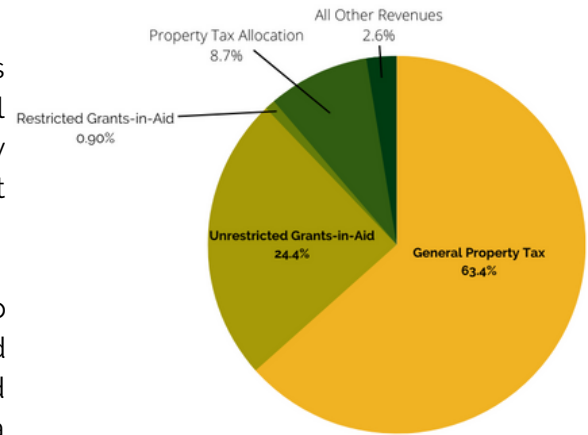
With careful planning & monitoring of the district's increasing growth in enrollment, the Board and LM administration will continue to provide the best opportunities available to our students in the most economical ways possible.

### Responsible Financial Stewardship

- LM restructured agreement for copier and printer services and will see a significant savings of \$88,600 per year and \$443,000 over the course of the next five years.
- LM has sourced a new paper supplier and will see a 20% decrease in cost per case of paper.

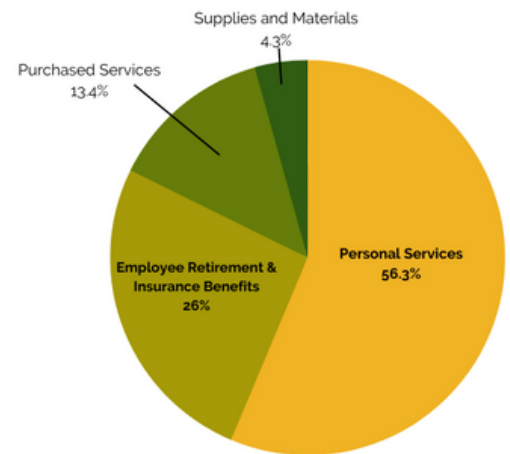
### Revenue FY22:

**\$50,876,519.00**



### Expenditures FY22:

**\$51,073,349.00**



## TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT EARNS DISTINCTIONS

Little Miami has been consistently earning distinctions & awards for the department's work in assessment, financial planning, and careful record keeping. In fact, **LM has earned the "Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting" award every year since 2014!**

We are pleased to share the latest round of distinctions including:

- **2020 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** - Government Financial Officers Association
- **2020 Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting** - Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International



# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

It is the "Little Miami" way to help foster a sense of service and generosity in our students and encourage them to give back to the community that has been part of their life story. To help cement this community-focused mentality, twelve hours of community service is required of all Seniors to graduate from LMHS. We are so proud to share just a few of the ways students are connecting to their local community.

## DAYLIGHT PROM

Little Miami High School Student Government annually plans and hosts a wonderful multi-district event specifically focused on ensuring students with special needs have the opportunity to attend a sensory-friendly Prom with their peers. This incredible event allows all Warren County students to celebrate a milestone in their high school careers in a more relaxed way. Each honored guest is invited to have a student escort from their home school and all necessary adults who would be needed to chaperone are also invited to attend.

## LMPR VETERANS DAY PARADE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Little Miami buildings found new and creative ways to celebrate Veterans safely. From this challenge, a new Little Miami tradition was born! Little Miami Primary went "out of the box" and decided to host a Veterans Parade, inviting loved ones and cherished Veterans from the community to attend. Veterans and first responders came out in droves to celebrate, as students lined up around the Primary building to cheer and show off their posters of thanks. We are so proud that the parade is an event that will continue for years to come!



## PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION

The Purple Star Award recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Since 2020, all school buildings within the Little Miami Local School District are recognized as Purple Star Designated Schools for their commitment to serving students and families connected to the United States armed forces.

Among the requirements a school must meet to receive the Purple Star Award are designating a liaison between military-connected students and their families and the school, and making certain the liaison informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military families and students should receive.

Little Miami's application included information about Little Miami High School's unique veterans Wall of Honor, annual elementary school observances of Veteran's Day and other military-focused activities and services around the district. The Purple Star designation is a 3-year designation. Little Miami is due for renewal in 2023 and is committed to maintaining this great honor by submitting a new application when the application window opens in November 2022.





# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY: SPOTLIGHT ON AIR FORCE JROTC

A unique feature of the LMHS (and now LMMS) community is the presence of Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AF JROTC) on our campuses. AF JROTC students take on added responsibilities and tasks to learn leadership, planning, and service at an entirely different level. Little Miami is proud to be in the sixth year of offering this program to LMHS students. Starting this year (22-23), 8th graders are now eligible to join!

## WHY JOIN AF JROTC?

"We are a family," was a sentiment that seemed to resonate from a group of AF JROTC Seniors as they spoke on their years in the program. They speak of the program as a highly encouraging group of peers that lean on each other for support and look out for one another in the halls. For those students on the fence about joining, Senior cadets encourage you to go for it! This commitment is fun, empowering, and not at all intimidating!

## WHO WE ARE

"This program is what you make of it!" says AF JROTC leader, Lt. Col. Chas Peterson. This program, while supervised and guided by Lt. Col. Peterson, is a cadet-run program. If students want to be involved in a specific activity, they must plan and organize the details to ensure it gets done. This year, cadets have organized a drill team and hold each other accountable to come to practices. Their goal is to compete against the area's (and nation's) premier drill teams in the future!

The AF JROTC group is proud to describe themselves as an "open group," inviting and welcoming in students of different interests & social groups to form one cohesive unit. During the 2022-23 school year, **109** cadets have chosen to participate in the instruction and fun that AF JROTC brings.

While this program uses a military model in the classroom, it is not utilized for military recruiting. There is no military requirement by participating in the AF JROTC program. In fact, only 3% of graduates choose to continue into the service upon graduating.

"It is the most fun I have had in the four years at LMHS. I look forward to coming to this class every day!"

– LM Senior Alexys Rudd

## REQUIREMENTS & GRADUATION SEAL

Cadets must complete at least 2.5 hours of community service every quarter, wear a uniform on Wednesdays, dress and participate in physical fitness, and adhere to certain grooming standards when in uniform. You may have seen the Little Miami AF JROTC cadets presenting the flags at the YMCA on Veterans Day or at a LM sporting event.

Cadets earn a seal for their diploma upon graduation. If students enlist in military after completing 3-4 years of AFJROTC, they will go in as a higher rank than entry-level cadets.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

When polling Seniors in the JROTC program to reflect back on their time as cadets, they offered great insight as to just how the program has made an impact on their character development.

Seniors described their younger selves as shy, lacking confidence, and even doubtful of their capabilities. They say after joining the program, they were encouraged to come out of their shell and flourish in their leadership skills, even running classes and their cadet units.



**Fall 2021- After an extensive evaluation conducted by Region 7 Director for Headquarters Air Force JROTC, the LMHS unit earned the overall unit assessment score of "Exceeds Standard," the highest rating attainable!**









Little Miami Local Schools 95 E. US 22-3  
Maineville OH 45039

Website: [LittleMiamiSchools.com](http://LittleMiamiSchools.com)  
Phone: (513) 899-2264 (Central Office)



Little Miami Local Schools



@LM\_Schools



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LittleMiamiSchools

## TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE LITTLE MIAMI SCHOOL DISTRICT

