



photo: G-TV

Celebrating a Bright Future



photo: Pastor Photography

Look for opportunities to help others. . . . You may never know when your random act of kindness may change someone's life . . . Class of 2023, it's your turn. Go forth and be great."

—Chardon Police Chief Scott Niehus
2023 Commencement Speaker



photo: Pastor Photography



Senior Awards Night; photo: G-TV



photo: Pastor Photography

MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT



Chardon Schools celebrated its Sesqui-centennial (150 years) Commencement on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at Chardon's Memorial

Field, a most-fitting setting to recognize this talented class of 244 graduates.

We are proud of the many accomplishments of this class, including their academic achievements through coursework, skills acquisition via career programs, service to our community, success on the field of play and fine arts stage, scholarship awards, and many more.

The commencement event provided an opportunity to showcase the culmination of the efforts of our students, staff, and administration in preparing students to pursue one, or more, of the Four E's—Enrollment, Employment, Enlistment or Entrepreneurship.

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,437 Ohio Graduation Seals
- 69% Graduates Enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college
- 28% Graduates Pursuing a Career
- 4 Graduates Enlisting in the U.S. Military
- 2 Honorary Diplomas—International Exchange Students

This year's commencement ceremony featured CHS '84 alumnus and Chardon Police Chief, Scott Niehus, who delivered a moving address that gave the graduates the "keys to success".

Congratulations Class of 2023!

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent

Track Championship Yields State Champ and Record Breaker

Congratulations to Chardon High School junior and top-notch Hilltopper track athlete Karl Dietz who bolted across the 2023 state championship 400m finish line at 47.30 seconds on June 3, earning the 2023 OHSAA Division I State Champion Title in that event.

Hilltopper applause also for CHS junior and track state qualifier Rae Kawalec who placed 13th in the 3200m event on June 3 with a new school record of 10:59.57 minutes.

Both Karl and Rae have brought pride to the Hilltopper community and were commended for their outstanding personal achievements by the Chardon Board of Education.

The OHSAA track and field state championship events were held June 2-3 at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University.



photo: Christy Tyminski

Success Plan 2023-28

Success Plan 2023-28 is the District's strategic plan for the important work that lies ahead for Chardon Schools in continuing its growth as a high-performing school district and advancing to the next level of performance.

The Plan, approved by the Chardon Board of Education in January, serves as the District's compass of goals and strategies in six important goal areas: Communications; Safety and Security; Resources and Fiscal Responsibilities; Facilities and Operations; Engaged Student Learning; and Community Connections.

Chardon Schools was fortunate to have a dedicated group of community members and staff who contributed time and thoughtful input in developing the goals and strategies of Success Plan 2023-28; a revised Vision, Mission Statement, and Core Beliefs; and the Portrait of a Hilltopper.

VISION

Chardon Local Schools will be a model school district by 2028.

MISSION STATEMENT

We commit to high achievement for all students.

CORE BELIEFS

- Learning is a lifelong endeavor.
- High-quality learning experiences are essential for all students.
- Collaborative relationships allow us to work more effectively.
- Community connections build stronger schools.
- Safe and secure environments are critical for all stakeholders.

To learn more about Success Plan 2023-28, visit the District tab at www.chardonschools.org.

To request a hard copy of the Plan, please contact board secretary Christine Creviston at 440.285.4052 or christine.creviston@chardonschools.org.

PORTRAIT OF A HILLTOPPER



Welcome New Park Principal

The District extends a warm Hilltopper welcome to Mrs. Jill Makee who will join our administrative team as the new Park Elementary School Principal, effective August 1, 2023.

The Chardon Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs. Makee during a special board meeting on May 27, 2023.



Mrs. Makee previously served as Assistant Principal at Wickliffe Elementary School since 2018.

Superintendent Michael Hanlon noted that her prior leadership experience in the Wickliffe City Schools, known for innovative programming, is a tremendous asset and will contribute immediately to the continued success of our students.

Thank You Miss Garrett

Park Elementary principal Rhonda Garrett, having loyally served Chardon Schools for 38 years—10 as a Park fourth-grade teacher and 28 as Park principal —announced her retirement this spring.

An ensuing host of celebratory events sent Miss Garrett off in style, including an honorary recognition by Superintendent Hanlon and the

Chardon Education Association at the annual CEA event; an interactive school assembly led by students and staff; a community open house hosted by the Park PTO and Sunshine Committee; and an administrative gathering.

In June, her final month at the helm, Miss Garrett was honored by the Chardon Board of Education with a Resolution of Appreciation at the regular board meeting.

Miss Garrett's legacy as an outstanding educator and her palpable love for Chardon Schools will continue to inspire Hilltoppers for many years to come.



ENROLL TODAY FOR 2023–24

Registration is underway for the 2023–24 school year. Your child must be five (5) years old on or before August 1, 2023 to attend Kindergarten in the upcoming school year.

Visit the District's Registration page at www.chardonschools.org to begin the enrollment process. If you do not have online access, please contact our Board Secretary Christine Creviston at 440.285.4052 or christine.creviston@chardonschools.org.



SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD

Mr. Tom Siko was named the 2023 recipient of the Superintendent's Award—Friend of Education at the Chardon Education Association's annual recognition dinner on May 8. Each year, the District selects a recipient for this honorary award, recognizing an individual who has made important contributions and demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the quality of our school district. Thank you to Mr. Siko for your immeasurable support of Chardon Schools!

Engaged Student Learning

Makerspace Up Ahead

A novel partnership between Chardon Schools and the Geauga County Public Library will establish the Chardon Creativity Center, an innovative, shared makerspace at Chardon High School. This collaborative project, made possible by the generosity of GCPL, will benefit Hilltopper students districtwide and the greater community.



The makerspace will consist primarily of additive "making" equipment, including a vinyl printer, ultraviolet printer, direct-to-garment printer, 3D scanner, broadcasting equipment/cart, and 3D printer; and subtractive "making" equipment, including a CNC machine and laser cutter.

Students and staff will have access to the equipment in class during the school day, and GCPL will staff the makerspace for community use after school hours.

The complete implementation of the makerspace will span the 2023–24 school year and entail the accumulation of equipment, training of staff, and alignment of courses and resources.

Chemistry Lab Revamp

To meet the academic needs of our students and teachers, renovations are underway this summer for Chardon High School rooms 103 and 104, which serve as both classrooms and chemistry laboratories.

Severe damage to these two rooms occurred as a result of the December 2022 flooding event that affected multiple classrooms at the school. The flood was the result of two interior pipes bursting due to freezing outdoor temperatures.

Chardon Schools has a robust science curriculum, including chemistry, with the opportunity for students to learn from 14 different courses, including four Advanced Placement courses.

The CHS chemistry lab renovations will provide industry-standard safety protocols for chemistry labs, storage, and experiential learning. In addition to new flooring, lighting, and paintwork, the classrooms will have new cabinetry, plumbing and fixtures for chemistry labs, emergency wash stations, dedicated chemistry storage, and demonstration tables and interactive flatscreen panels for direct instruction.

Renovations are in progress at the time of this writing and are tentatively slated for completion in August 2023.



New Robotics Club

Thanks to a generous grant from the Chardon Schools Foundation and the volunteerism and expertise of Mr. Carroll, Chardon Middle School had the resources to launch a Robotics Club for fourth- and fifth-grade students this past school year—with over 60 students participating!

THE ART OF IT ALL

Congratulations to the 500+ Hilltopper students in grades K–12 whose artwork was selected for the District's 2023 art show—"The Art of it All"—which debuted this summer.

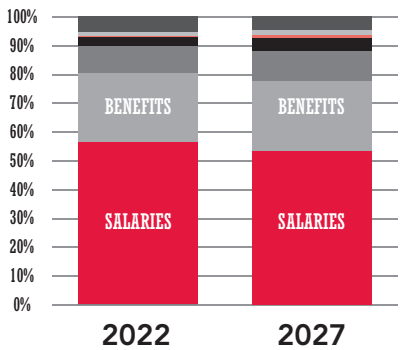
The slideshow-format showcase highlights over 800 pieces of 2022–23 student artwork selected by Chardon Schools art teachers Mrs. Stickley, K–3; Mrs. Dafoe and Mrs. Heron, grades 4–7; and Mr. Hauber and Mrs. Blaschke, grades 8–12.

"The Art of it All" can be accessed through the News page of www.chardonschools.org.



RESOURCES AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Expenditures: Salaries, Benefits

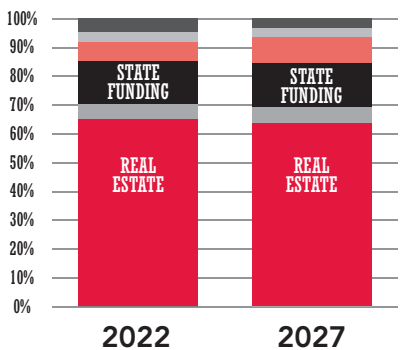


SUMMARY OF 2022 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	56.5%
Benefits	24.3%
Purchased Services	9.4%
Supplies & Materials	2.8%
Capital Outlay	0.1%
Other Objects	1.8%
Other Uses	5.1%

80.7% of District Expenditures are in Salaries and Benefits

Revenues: Property Taxes & State Funding



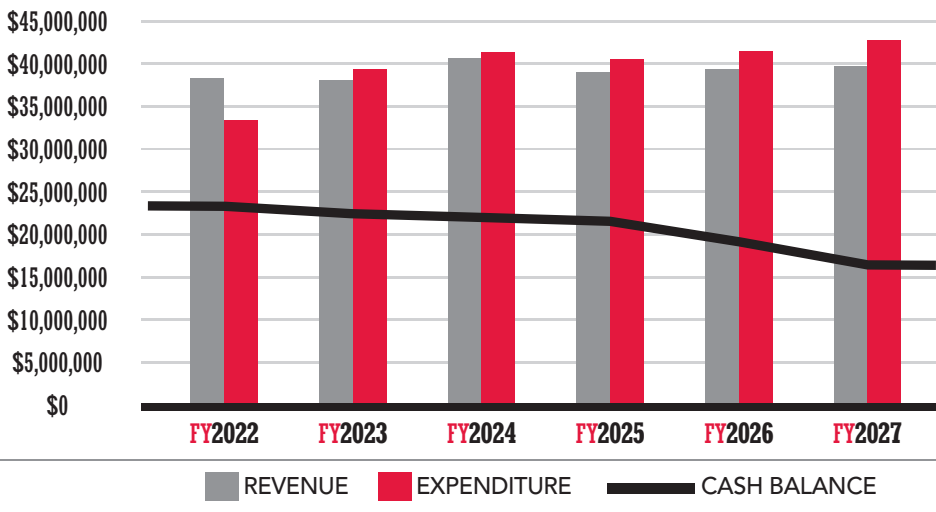
SUMMARY OF 2022 REVENUE

Real Estate	65.3%
Public Utility	5.7%
State Funding	14.5%
Property Tax Allocation	6.7%
All Other Operating Revenues	3.4%
Other Sources	4.5%

77.7% from Taxes (Real Estate, Public Utility, Property Tax Allocation)

A Positive Five-Year Forecast

Though expenditures are expected to increase annually through 2027, the Chardon Schools May 2023 Five-Year Forecast shows a positive cash balance of \$16,394,868 before open encumbrances. This indicates a strong financial position for the District with no planned operating levies within this forecast period.



The plan for Chardon Local Schools is to align the Five-Year Forecast with the District's Success Plan 2023–28—specifically a concentration on coordinating finances with District goals for safety and security, facilities and operations, communications, resources and fiscal responsibilities, engaged student learning, and community connections.

Washington Property Acquisition

The Chardon Schools Board of Education approved the purchase of Washington Street (400, 402, 404) Chardon property during the Board's special meeting held on May 2. The property, acquired for \$1.65 million, encompasses approximately 21,000 square feet of building space on about 6.56 acres of land.

The acquisition will allow Chardon Schools to pursue a multi-year relocation project, consolidating the District's transportation and maintenance operations from the high school campus, and business affairs offices from the Hambden campus to one shared location on Washington Street.

The relocation will also free up land on the District's existing properties to create additional opportunities.



Superintendent Hanlon congratulates a 2023 graduate of Chardon's Tiny Toppers Pre-K program during a family-attended ceremony at the Chardon Early Learning Center on May 25.



#WeAreChardon

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A Newsletter for the Chardon Community

Mission Statement

We commit to
high achievement
for all students.

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photo: Pastor Photography



photo: G-TV



MULTIMEDIA THANK YOU

A special note of gratitude to **G-TV** and **Pastor Photography** for their long-standing history of supporting District events year-round, professionally capturing many Chardon Schools momentous occasions on camera, including academic and athletic events.

To cap off the school year, G-TV live-streamed and recorded our commencement ceremony for the fourth consecutive year and kept with its photography tradition as well. The recording is now available as a video on demand at geaugatv.org, while the images are accessible through the site's School Photos tab.

Pastor Photography hosts a Chardon Local Schools tab at pastorphoto.com, displaying individual photos for purchase and candid photos as free downloads.