



District Ranked in Top 10%



The Ohio
Department
of Education

released local report cards for school districts on September 15, revealing a Performance Index of 100.1 for Chardon Schools and a 4.5-star overall rating for the District on a scale of 1–5.

Superintendent Mike Hanlon stated, “We are very proud of the continued achievement of our teachers, principals, and most importantly our students, as reflected in our District’s Performance Index. Chardon Schools continues to be ranked in the top ten-percent of districts in the state of Ohio.”



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Chardon Schools hosted the Chardon Area Chamber of Commerce at Chardon High School on September 13 for the District’s annual State of the Schools presentation, 4Es networking and gallery walk, luncheon, and Q&A session. Showcased components included the District’s innovative academic programs and future readiness focus; solid financial position; and facility improvements.

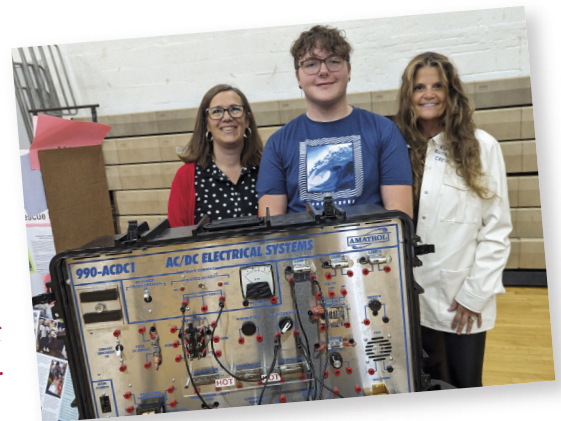
Superintendent Mike Hanlon stated, “By hosting community leaders for an up-close look and interactive experience, we can together envision partnerships that support workforce growth in local businesses and organizations while advancing the future readiness of Hilltopper students.”

Chamber Executive Director Melissa Ricco thanked Chardon Schools staff, administration and students for another warm welcome at what she described as an engaging luncheon.

Mrs. Ricco added, “It is wonderful to see first-hand why the Chardon Schools are ranked by the Ohio Department of Education in the top 10-percent of 600+ school districts in Ohio.”

A full list of showcased programs and the State of the Schools slideshow are provided on the District’s news page at www.chardonschools.org.

CREW sophomore Caden Bednar and navigators (l to r) Tracey Britt and Kim Butala showcasing the Amatrol® AC/DC electrical learning system.



Reporting Excellence

For a second consecutive year, the Treasurer's Office earned the Governor's Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The award, announced in August, recognizes the department's annual comprehensive financial report for fiscal year 2022 and is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.



C³ Ready for Debut

The highly anticipated Chardon Creativity Center, a makerspace venture between Chardon Schools and Geauga County Public Library, will soon open up a world of opportunities.

Housed in a designated space at the east end of the Chardon High School building, the C³ is, at the time of this writing, undergoing final capital improvements and equipment configuration. Chardon educators and GCPL staff have completed equipment training on equipment that includes vinyl, ultraviolet, direct-to-garment, and 3D printers; a 3D scanner; a broadcasting equipment/cart; a CNC machine; and a laser cutter.

The center will be operated by Chardon Schools during the school day for students and staff and by GCPL after-hours for library patrons.

Assistant Superintendent Ed Klein stated, "C³ aligns with the District's Success Plan and will provide opportunities for creating, collaborating, critical thinking and continuous learning—four of the "C's" recognized in the District's Portrait of a Hilltopper. This important endeavor with GCPL underscores one of our core beliefs—community connections build stronger schools."



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 7—General Election—
Please Vote!
- Nov 9, 11, 12—Fall Play
- Nov 20—Regular Board Meeting
- Nov 22—Conference Comp Day
- Nov 23–24—Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 11—Regular Board Meeting
- Dec 21—Winter Break Begins

Event details and additional events can be found on the District website at www.chardonschools.org.

A Best High School, Nationally



Chardon High School earned high national, state and metro-area honors from the U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools 2023–24 rankings, placing the school in the top ten-percent of public schools in Ohio, the top 20 (18th) of Cleveland metro area public high schools, and the top 40-percent of high schools nationally.

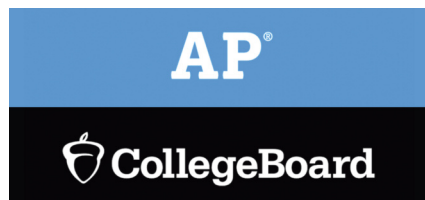
The national ranking propels CHS to a U.S. News Best High School standing.

High Honors from College Board

The College Board recognized Chardon High School for two important 2023 achievements. Sixty-five CHS students were named recipients of AP® Scholar Awards in July, highlighting the Hilltoppers' college-level achievement on AP exams. The complete list of award recipients can be found on the District's news page at www.chardonschools.org.

Additionally, in October, CHS was named to the AP School Honor Roll, a school achievement in recognition of CHS' outstanding work in welcoming more students into AP courses and supporting them on the path to college success.

Principal Doug Murray stated, "It takes a significant school-wide effort—dedication from teachers, counselors, administrators, students, and parents—to make AP access a priority. Special thanks to CHS guidance counselor Tim Hurlbut, who is our AP Exam Coordinator."



CHEMISTRY LABS RENOVATED

Chardon High School kicked off the new school year with its 100s hallway of classrooms operational and set for success. Modernizing renovations were completed this summer in rooms 103 and 104, which serve as both classrooms and laboratories.

The two rooms incurred severe damage as a result of the December 25–26, 2022 flood at CHS. The flood occurred when two interior pipes burst due to freezing, a result of sub-zero outdoor temperatures.

Renovations included new flooring, lighting and paintwork; new cabinetry, plumbing and fixtures; industry-standard safety protocols for chemistry labs, storage and experiential learning; demonstration tables; emergency wash stations; and dedicated chemistry storage.

Jack Perry, a junior in Jeanne Clark's Advanced Placement Chemistry class, stated, "The room and provided equipment are a huge improvement, and I am really proud with how the room turned out."



Chardon Middle School 7th-grade teacher Christine Ceraolo and intervention specialist Maria Lysiak gaining hands-on practice during Promethean training.

Advancing to Promethean Technology

New school year excitement was amplified by the arrival of over 100 units of Promethean 85-inch, flat panel, interactive displays for the high school, middle school and early learning center classrooms and accompanied by hands-on training opportunities for educators district-wide.

The second shipment is slated for the 2024–25 school year for Munson and Park Elementary classrooms.

Superintendent Mike Hanlon stated, "Promethean displays integrate video and computer operability through

touch-panel technology, among other advanced capabilities, representing a quantum leap in technology from Chardon's long-standing projectors and interactive whiteboards. The projectors and whiteboards were installed over a decade ago and have reached their end-of-life."





Continued STEM Excellence

Chardon Middle School celebrates its 2nd consecutive year of earning The Governor’s Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research, an achievement announced in September by The Ohio Academy of Science. CMS is one of only 48 Ohio schools—and one of 21 public schools—to be granted this year’s award.

Key CMS teachers spotlighted by The OAS via the recognition are (pictured left to right above) Jackie Brown, Melissa Efantis, Brent Hilston and Laura Taucher who, in addition to classroom instruction, took on the commitment of ensuring beyond-the-classroom STEM opportunities for Hilltopper students, including STEM Goes Red, Battle Bots, Robotics Club, and Arthur Holden Leadership Institute.

Mrs. Brown stated, “It is a goal of our school to give all students opportunities with STEM experiences, so it’s an incredible honor for CMS to be one of the 21 public schools to have received this recognition. It’s an even greater honor to have received it two years in a row.”

S.T.A.R.T. Safety Training

The Chardon Transportation department participated in S.T.A.R.T. (School Transportation Active Threat Response Training) in August just prior to the start of the school year.

S.T.A.R.T., presented by Levine Security Solutions LLC of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, provided the transportation team with classroom instruction and practical exercises in areas that include emergency response, crisis intervention, and active threat response.

Superintendent Mike Hanlon stated: “S.T.A.R.T. supports the District’s top priority of safety and wellness for all students and staff and aligns with our Success Plan goal of continuing to implement physical safety and security best practices to minimize potential emergencies and ensure staff and first responder preparedness in the event of an emergency.”



K-3 Exploratory World Language

Chardon is excited to introduce K-3 Exploratory World Language instruction beginning with programming in French and Spanish. Courses will be aligned to the Ohio Standards for World Language and will develop elementary students’ abilities, skills, and knowledge related to communication and critical thinking—two of the “C’s” recognized in the District’s Portrait of a Hilltopper.

Veteran faculty members Laura Taucher and Karen Fisher will be teaching the new courses, bringing their combined 52 years of language teaching experience to the program.

Superintendent Mike Hanlon stated, “This expansion of academic programming places Chardon among the top school districts in the state and is made possible by prudent fiscal management of the community’s resources, including the Board’s approval of an early retirement incentive in June.”

The new course-of-study will be available for community review prior to Board action later this fall.



• PORTRAIT OF A HILLTOPPER •

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

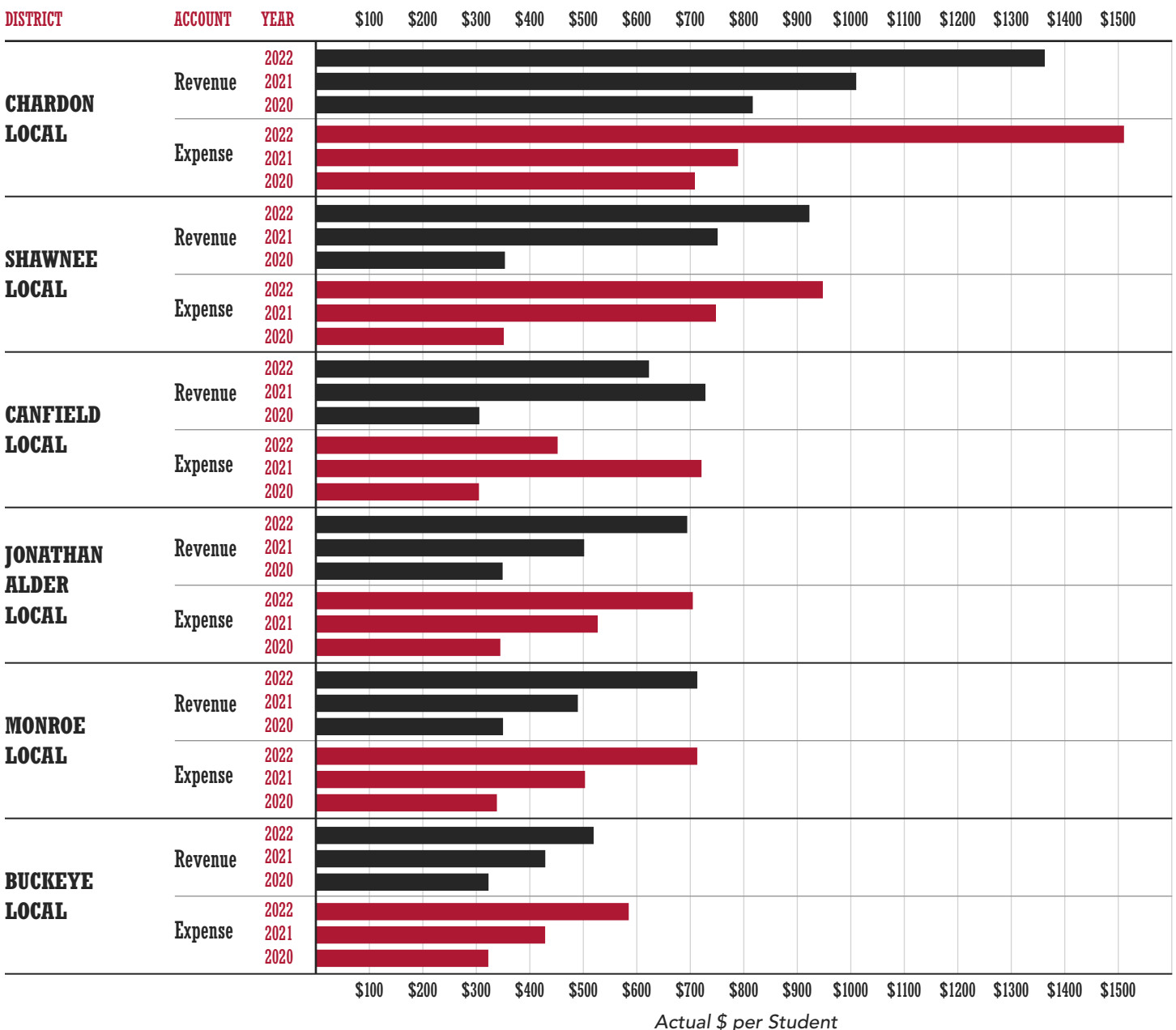
Three years of Federal, State, and Other grant history shows that Chardon Local Schools has capitalized on obtaining grants to aid in student success. In fiscal year 2022 Chardon spent an estimated \$1,500 per student with grant funds alone. This is in addition to the \$12,645 of General Fund spending per student. When comparing to "like districts" across the state, Chardon excels in

this endeavor. Other grant funds include EPA grants, Chardon Foundation, and County Grants. The plan is to continue to concentrate on obtaining all possible types of grants to promote our commitment to high achievement for all students. The fiscal goal is to review the use of all available resources to ensure they are being used in the most effective and efficient manner.

District Per Student Grant Revenues & Grant Expenses

Actual \$ per Student uses Fall Enrollment Data (District Educated)

Source: Ohio Department of Education Annual Financial Reports and School Enrollment Data





#WeAreChardon

CHARDON LOCAL SCHOOLS
428 NORTH STREET
CHARDON, OH 44024

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A Newsletter for the Chardon Community

Mission Statement

We commit to
high achievement
for all students.

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www.chardonschools.org

440-285-4052

E-MAIL

communications@chardonschools.org



@ChardonSchools



@ChardonHilltoppers



@Chardon_Schools



Welcome New Faculty

(left, front row) Miss Brianna Kovalkevich, Miss Sophia Christopher, Mrs. Jillian Strmac, Ms. Claire Roland, Mrs. Krystal Force; (left, back row) Mrs. Vanessa Allen, Ms. Alli Dingman, Mr. Robert Goff, Mr. Zachary Sorn, Mr. Shane Quin; (right) Ms. Jessica Hogan, Mrs. Natalie Evers, Miss Katie Coon, Miss Danielle Tufts, Mrs. Aubrey Quinn