



## COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS GUIDE STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Chardon Board of Education is excited to be engaging with community stakeholders in a public dialogue focused on understanding community perceptions and values in relation to our schools. Community feedback gathered from this dialogue will guide the development of the District's next long-term strategic plan.

Though the onset of the pandemic in 2020 temporarily put a hold on the initiation of this process, the Board began meeting with community stakeholders by December 2021. As of February, the Board is pleased to have community stakeholders organizing focus groups and conducting listening sessions. Opportunities will also be available for open-ended surveys.

### Listening session questions:

- What do you value about Chardon Local Schools?
- What are your expectations of Chardon Local Schools?
- What do you see as barriers to achieving your expectations?
- What recommendations do you have to make this a better school district?
- If you could push one "magic" button and change one thing about the schools, what would you change?
- What do you always want to see, hear and feel and what do you never want to see, hear or feel in your school district?

Chardon Schools anticipates the new success plan will be ready for presentation to the Board for their consideration later this summer.

To access Vision 2020, the District's previous long-term strategic plan, visit [bit.ly/CHARVISION2020](http://bit.ly/CHARVISION2020).

## Board Affirms District Configuration Staff Presents Academic Benefits

Chardon Schools faculty members delivered positive and impactful presentations at the February 22 regular Board of Education meeting, delving into the myriad of academic, social-emotional, and physical spacing opportunities experienced across all grade levels as a result of the District's reconfiguration model implemented in 2018. Chardon High School eighth-grade student Aubrey Fetchik and juniors Julianne Sweet and Sidney Nagaj also took the podium that evening to share their own firsthand experiences of moving up from Chardon Middle School to CHS.



*"Our students are not just closing learning gaps. They're not just performing. They are excelling, and they are thriving."*

—MRS. RITA RICHARDSON,  
Chardon Middle School Fourth-Grade Teacher  
on the District's Current Grade-Level Configuration

In the weeks prior to the February 22 Board meeting, there had been community discussion concerning the status of the district's current building/grade level configuration. The Chardon Board voted during that meeting to affirm the current grade level configuration of the District's schools.

In a followup communication on February 25 to district families, Superintendent Dr. Michael Hanlon stated: "It is important to note that our district grade-level configuration remains a work in progress, and we will continue to evaluate and make adjustments to maximize our district's mission of high achievement for all students, where learning is our most important work."

Faculty speakers at the February 22 Board meeting included principals, teachers and tutors—17 in all—representing the district's five schools.

"The plan for (2018) reconfiguration did not happen overnight," stated CMS fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Rita Richardson in her presentation. "Thoughtful, intentional planning took place ... (excerpt) ... When the new school year (2018-19) began and we unpacked those gray bins, we quickly realized that there was *continued inside* ..."

### CURRENT GRADE-LEVEL CONFIGURATION

- Chardon Early Learning Center—(Pre-K & Kindergarten)
- Munson Elementary School—(Grades 1-3)
- Park Elementary School—(Grades 1-3)
- Chardon Middle School—(Grades 4-7)
- Chardon High School—(Grades 8-12)

photo above: Pastor Photography



*National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day was February 15! Chardon Schools is grateful for Chardon Police Sergeant Derek Carlson's immeasurable positive impact on our Hilltopper school community year round.*



photo: Pastor Photography

*Trailblazing orator Charlotte Jons, who is a Chardon High School sophomore and sole member of the school's speech and debate team, returned to the Ohio Speech and Debate Association's state tournament stage for her second consecutive year. At the 2022 tournament held March 5 at Wooster High School, Charlotte was a strong competitor advancing to the final round and placing sixth (out of 51) in the program oral interpretation speech event.*

*... continued from page 1*

so much more that we were unpacking for our students. Our new fourth-graders had opportunities available to them far beyond what we had expected.”

Mrs. Richardson went on to describe Title I services, guidance counselors, advisory class, student enrichment courses, fine arts and extracurricular activities now available to all fourth-grade students as a result of the 2018 reconfiguration.

Chardon Middle School has earned a number of distinctions in recent years, including dual awards through US News & World Reports 2021 rankings announced last Fall—both the Best Public Middle Schools 2022 and Best Public Elementary Schools 2022 awards. CMS is among the elite 1.5-percent of public elementary and middle schools nationwide to earn this dual recognition, and its Ohio Department of Education performance index of 101.5 places it in the top three-percent of schools in all of Ohio.

“These accolades are not by chance,” said CMS principal Mr. Tim Velotta. “This is the result of intentional planning that began four years ago.”

During the student presentations, CHS eighth-grade student Aubrey Fetchik shared that while she initially had some angst when thinking about being at the high school for eighth grade in Fall 2021, her actual experience differed from those expectations.

“I wasn’t expecting to feel so welcome when I got there,” she said. “On the first day of school, teachers lined the hallways ready to assist anyone who didn’t know where they were going. As us eighth-graders settled in, we were able to



photo: G-TV

*“I love it.”*  
—AUBREY FETCHIK  
on Chardon High School Eighth Grade

truly see how many extracurricular activities were available. I joined Model United Nations, student council, the eighth-grade volleyball team, and I’m an office aide.”

Aubrey said being part of these activities has helped her not only grow as a person but also connect and make new friends both in her grade level and higher grade levels. She added she has been able to improve her public speaking and problem-solving skills.

To hear more from the February 22 presentations, access the video excerpt, as well as a 35-page analysis report on cost-savings and enrollment in relation to the current configuration as presented at the October 2021 Board meeting. Both links can be found at [bit.ly/CONFIGURATION](https://bit.ly/CONFIGURATION).

# Middle School Learning Fair Success

Chardon Middle School's highly anticipated "first-in-a-while" learning fair featured hundreds of student science projects via eye-catching tri-fold presentations, as well as a wall of stunning artwork by seventh-grade students and live music performed through impressive solos, duets and trios of student musicians from all grade levels. The well-attended, two-hour open house event was held at the school on the evening of January 26.



CMS science teachers (l to r) Mrs. Jackie Brown, Mr. Brent Hilston, Mrs. Melissa Efantis, Mr. Ed Mullaly and Mr. Kent Hadden

Special thank you to both City of Chardon Mayor Mr. Chris Grau and G-TV for partnering to create a one-hour video highlight reel of the event, including spot interviews with CMS science teachers and students. The video production can be accessed through G-TV's video on-demand page at [geaugatv.org](http://geaugatv.org).

Science project award recipients were 7th-graders Sabina Onderdonk (gold), Abrielle Allen (silver) and Gus Schneider (bronze); 6th-grader Lena Kim (gold); 5th-graders Owen Przepiora (gold), Adrianna Baldwin (silver) and Addison Fabian (bronze); and 4th-graders Zane Loyd (gold), Ella Landon (silver) and Katelyn Siko (bronze).

# CREW Career-Based Programming



Chardon Schools is proud of Chardon High School's CREW career-based program, which is taught and advised under the careful guidance and direction of CHS faculty members Mrs. Tracey Britt and Mrs. Kim Butala.

The CREW is founded upon an industry-driven, work-based model with a two-fold mission of ensuring Hilltopper graduates are well prepared for their post-graduation futures; and establishing partnerships to meet the needs of today's employers in Geauga county.

A member of the Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA), the CREW has a state-of-the-art, brand new manufacturing lab that is supported by industry partners.

"The CREW is a one-of-a-kind program that allows students the chance to learn, earn and meet the state graduation requirements all at the same time," stated Mrs. Britt.

Career-navigating opportunities this school year have included Geauga Growth Partnership Entrepreneur Success series breakfast events; the Think Manufacturing High School Career Expo at Mentor High School; and a tour of Solon Manufacturing Co. of Chardon.

CHS sophomore Jeffrey Kline secured a student internship on February 16 with industrial solutions producer Solon Manufacturing, representing an outstanding achievement for Jeffrey and a major milestone for the CREW as this is the first student internship to evolve through the career-based program. The internship provides Jeffrey with real-world production and engineering experience one to two days per week.

"The CREW, Chardon High School and the school district are excited for our partnership," stated Mrs. Butala. "Thank you to Solon Manufacturing for this wonderful opportunity for Jeffrey. And thank you to our school administrators for their support in helping to make this part of the CREW begin happening for Chardon High School students."

Mrs. Britt said the CREW is working to continue building mentorships and pre-apprenticeships with local businesses so that students can learn while they earn an income. Upcoming partnerships will include collaborations with Component Repair Technologies Inc. of Mentor and University Hospitals.



Chardon High School CREW sophomore Jeffrey Kline (center) with Solon Manufacturing Co. marketing and brand manager Ms. Brianne Norcini (l) and engineering manager Mr. Thomas Burg

# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Notes on Expenditures

- Expenditures flatline 2018 through 2020 as a direct reflection of the savings due to reconfiguration.
- 2020 had additional expenditure savings due to COVID-19 and reduced spending.
- 2021 and 2022 show increased expenditures to provide for COVID-19 social distancing and in-class instruction for all students
- Increased substitute costs
- FFCRA costs (Families First Coronavirus Response Act)
- PPE costs (personal protective equipment)
- Sanitizing and cleaning costs (overtime)
- 2022 includes staff reductions mostly through attrition with additional reductions in 2023.
- Negotiated agreements through 2022, then 1.5% base increase for 2023 through 2025.

- 2023 through 2026 include extra expenditure allowances for COVID-19, reduced tuition payments, and salary base increases.

## Accomplishments:

- The May 2018 operating levy has created a solid financial position.
- Reconfiguration reduced expenditures \$3M to \$7.2M since 2019.
- 2023–2025 includes 1.5% base increase plus steps for all staff.
- Increased grants/revenues are offsetting expenditures.

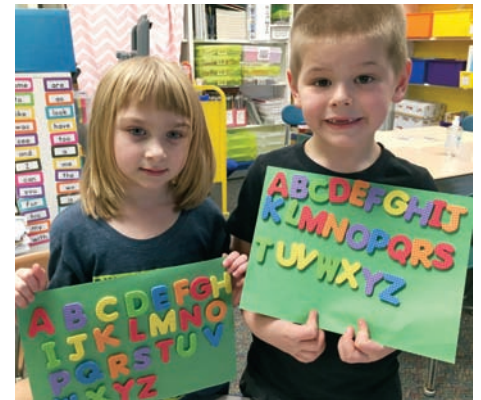
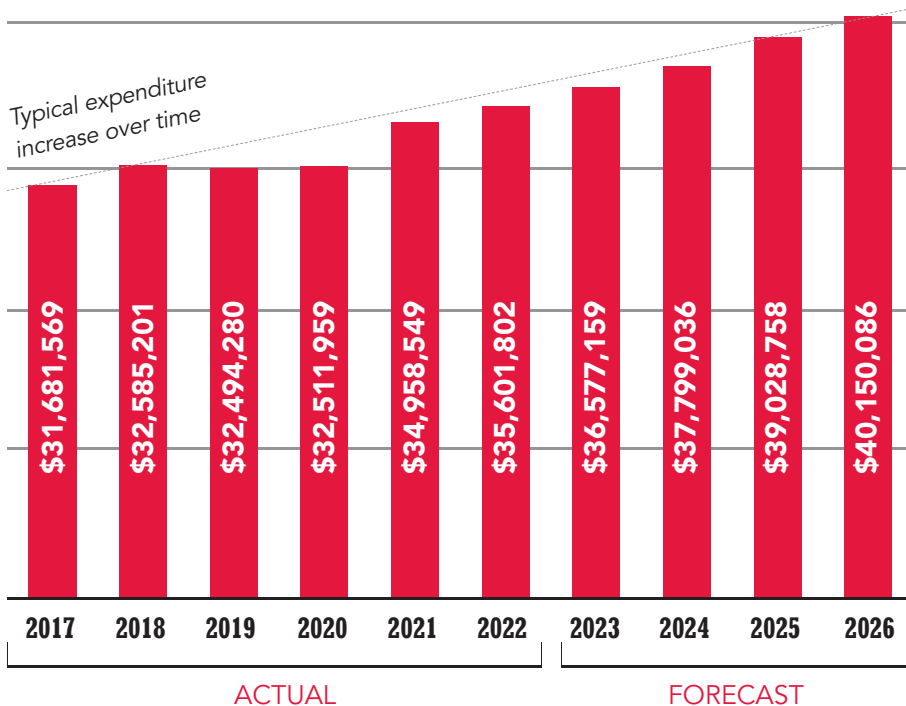
Community members with questions about revenues, expenditures or other



photo: Pastor Photography

treasury-related questions are invited to contact District treasurer/CFO, Mrs. Deb Armbruster at [deb.armbruster@chardonschools.org](mailto:deb.armbruster@chardonschools.org) or 440-285-4052.

## 10-YEAR YEAR-OVER-YEAR EXPENDITURES



## 2022–23 Enrollment Underway

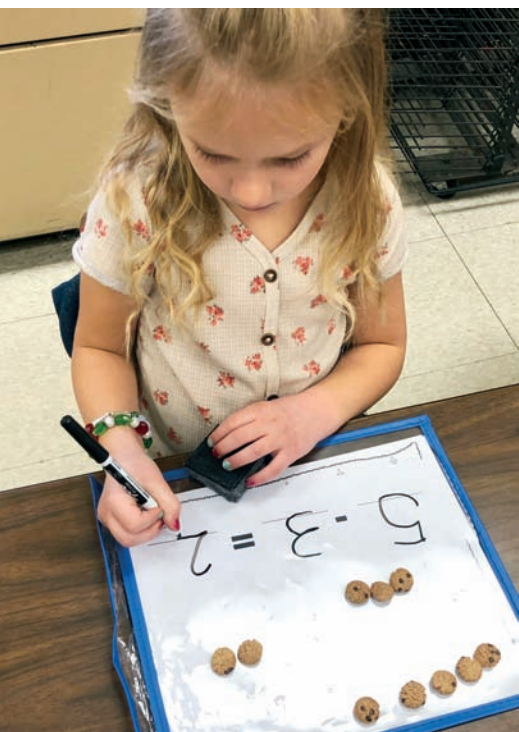
Registration is underway at [www.chardonschools.org](http://www.chardonschools.org) for pre-K through grade 12 students residing in the Chardon Local School District.

## Spring and Summer 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

As presented by Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs Mr. Steve Kofol at the February 22 board meeting:

- CELC—81 windows and 27 openings
- CHS—56 windows and 17 curtain walls; complete roof tear-off and replacement; two new doors, 14 glass panels and one curtain wall
- CMS—29 windows and 10 curtain walls; complete roof tear-off and replacement
- CHS, CMS and Munson—repaving/re-concreting sections of parking lots and sidewalks due to deterioration
- Districtwide faucets and flush valves replacement
- Memorial Field visitor bleacher replacement
- Munson plumbing replacement
- Park underground tunnel stabilization

The above-outlined planned spring and summer 2022 projects will use ESSER/Federal funds and Permanent Improvement (PI) funds at a total estimated cost of \$4.3 million.



## District Teachers Revise Mathematics Curriculum

Chardon Local Schools, which ranks among the top 10 percent of school districts in the state of Ohio, continues to cultivate the mission of high achievement for all students, where learning is the most important work.

Building on that momentum districtwide, Hilltopper math teachers collaborated over the course of this school year on a revision and refinement of the District's K-12 mathematics program to further engage and develop the mathematics potential of all students.

Throughout the revision process, our math teachers focused on fine-tuning areas that will reinforce student learning through problem-solving. Additionally, the revised mathematics curriculum will advance students' abstract and quantitative reasoning skills.

"Our curriculum develops these skills by aligning the students' work to Ohio's Learning Standards of Mathematics," stated Chardon Middle School fifth-grade teacher and head of mathematics Mr. Anthony D'Angelo.

The modifications to the mathematics curriculum will also grow students' abilities to look for and use precision, structure, and repeated reasoning.

"These skills fall under the Ohio Practice Standards in Mathematics," stated Chardon High School math teacher and head of mathematics Mr. Vince Bonvissuto. "While content standards tell us what is to be taught, practice standards instruct us how to integrate these standards within our curriculum."

Hilltopper math teachers are currently reviewing textbooks and materials.

Community members are encouraged to review the proposed revisions to the District's mathematics curriculum by visiting the curriculum and instruction department page of the district website at [www.chardonschools.org](http://www.chardonschools.org).

Feedback can be directed to assistant superintendent Dr. Ed Klein at [ed.klein@chardonschools.org](mailto:ed.klein@chardonschools.org).

The revised mathematics curriculum will be recommended to the Board of Education at a meeting later this spring.

## NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to (top to bottom) Chardon High School juniors Jake Gabanic, Amy Kekish, Nayeli Orozco, Gabriella Simiele, Rylan White and Samantha Zarzour on their February 17 induction into Auburn Career Center's chapter of the National Technical Honor Society, a distinction that recognizes students demonstrating exceptional scholarship, community service, leadership and character.



photos: Pastor Photography



#WeAreChardon

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A Newsletter for the Chardon Community

## Mission Statement

High achievement for all students where learning is our most important work.

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## CHARDON COMPETES IN ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Chardon High School students (l to r) Josie Aitken, Jake Schneider and Morgan Fisher traveled with faculty member and advisor Mr. Allen Herner (not pictured) to downtown Cleveland and the News Channel 5 (WEWS-TV) studios on March 9 to compete against Riverside and Avon Lake on the long-running high school quiz show Academic Challenge hosted by Mr. Rob Powers (center, standing). Tune in to News Channel 5 on Saturday, May 21, at 11:30 AM to see these three dynamic CHS students in action!



## THANK YOU PRESTON SUPERSTORE

Preston Superstore of Burton kicked off 2022 with incredible generosity for Hilltoppers—a 10-year \$150,000 commitment to Chardon Schools Foundation on January 20 for educational grants; and a \$10,000 donation to the Park Elementary PTO on February 23 for updated playground equipment.

Sign up for Chardon Schools weekly news at [bit.ly/hilltopnews](https://bit.ly/hilltopnews)