



# LITTLE MIAMI SCHOOLS QUALITY PROFILE 2013-2014



A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of your school district in areas that matter most in your community.



## ACADEMICS

*Our district's academic program provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.*

Our academic mission:

The Board believes it is the responsibility of the school system to ensure each graduate is college and career ready. To these ends, an environment of high expectations and opportunity shall be created that fosters scholarship and citizenship and develops within each student the ability to become a productive and responsible member of society.



- Percentage of Class of 2014 graduates planning to attend a two- or four-year college or university — 69%
- Amount of academic scholarship monies offered to members of the Class of 2014 — \$5,574,000
- Percentage of students taking honors courses — 40.5%
- Percentage of students taking Advanced Placement courses — 12.8%
- Average ACT score, Class of 2014 — 23.8 (National average: 21.0)
- Average SAT score, Class of 2013 — 1645 on 2400 scale (National average: 1498)
- Little Miami High School ranks No. 8 in the region for graduation rate (97.8%) in

a Cincy Magazine report.

- World languages offered – Spanish (traditional class experience), French, German, Japanese, Latin and Chinese (online).
- Number of dual-credit opportunities – AP Calculus (Xavier University); AP World History, Speech & Debate, Economics (University of Cincinnati).



## ARTS

*Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.*

- The Little Miami Fine Arts Festival annually showcases the talents of its students, presenting bands, performance groups, and approximately 3,000 pieces of student artwork across grades 1-12.

- Music and Arts courses offered: visual arts, general music (grades K-8); instrumental music (grades 6-12); choral music (grades 7-8); Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Select Women's Chorale, Select Mixed Chorale, Men's Chorale, Marching Band, Radio, Beginning Guitar, The Mind Behind the Music, Careers in Music, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (grades 9-12); Drawing, Advanced Drawing, Ceramics, Sculpture, Painting, Advanced Painting, Photography, Digital Media Arts (grades 9-12).
- At the 2014 World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia, the LM Select Women's Chorale won a silver medal in all three categories in which it competed. This marked the second consecutive World Choir Games at which it has medaled. The group also performed at the U.S. Embassy in Latvia, took gold and silver medals at an international competition in Louisville, and participated in a mass choir with the Louisville Symphony.
- Nine Little Miami students were accepted into the Ohio Music Education Association's District 13 high school and junior high Honor Bands for 2014.
- The high school's symphonic band, select women's chorale, and select mixed choir all achieved a Superior rating at the Ohio Music Education Association Large Group Adjudicated state competition.
- Eleven high school band students and three junior high band students earned Excellent and/or Superior ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association District XIII solo and ensemble event.



- Seven student vocalists and instrumentalists participated in the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir and Youth Band; two of them toured northern Ohio as part of the Cardinal Chorale, an auditioned choir from the All-Ohio Youth Choir.

- The Little Miami Marching Panther band performance schedule included Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom Parade, Cincinnati's St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Cincinnati Reds Opening Day Parade, Ohio University Band Day, University of Dayton Band Day, and the Mason Heritage Parade.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

*A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities.*

- In 2013-14, the LMHS National Honor Society engaged in several service projects. Members raised money for typhoon victims, for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and for Christmas gifts for local families in need. They collected clothes for a local clothing drive and canned foods for a local food pantry. They tutored students at

the intermediate school and high school, teamed up with special needs students to bridge gaps in the social spectrum, and built a community garden in Morrow. NHS students also hosted a blood drive and volunteered monthly at homeless shelters and Matthew 25: Ministries.

- Students at Salem Township Primary and Elementary Schools, Harlan-Butlerville Primary School, and Hamilton-Maineville Primary Schools collected more than 2,500 food items prior to the holidays to donate to the Little Miami Food Pantry.
- Each year, approximately 100-125 LMHS students participate in the REDO Day (Respect Everyone Despite Odds) character education program, and 20 student leaders participate in the REDO Day youth leadership curriculum. Eight LMHS students attended the Mayerson Student Service Leadership Workshop at the University of Cincinnati, 36 students attended the Business Professionals of America Region 17 Leadership Conference at Miami University, 15 students attended the Anthony Munoz Foundation Youth Leadership Seminar at Xavier University, and nine students attended the Red Ribbon Week Youth Summit (drug awareness campaign).
- Clubs/activities: National Honor Society, student government, marching band, pep band, choir, yearbook, newspaper, fall play, spring musical, Drama Club, Art Club, Diversity Club, Ski Club, Anime Club (High School); student government, yearbook, choir, band (Junior High); after-school enrichment (Intermediate School).
- Number of athletic teams: 16 sports, 35 varsity teams
- Participation rate in athletics: 7th-8th grade students: 290 (47% of student body), 9-12th grade students: 488 (45%)
- Seven 2014 LMHS graduates secured athletic scholarships to their chosen colleges.
- LMHS claimed 2013-14 Southwest Ohio Conference team championships in volleyball and Academic Team (LMHS) and football (eighth grade), and won SWOC individual titles in boys cross country and boys diving (LMHS).
- Panther athletes earned SWOC Athlete of the Year honors in volleyball, boys cross country, and Academic Team.
- The Academic Team posted an undefeated regular season and finished 10th in the state competition. It owns a 24-match unbeaten streak in conference play.
- Two swimming team members qualified for the state meet.
- Two Little Miami "Destination Imagination" teams qualified for the 2014 state tournament. Destination Imagination engages students in critical thinking and problem-solving skills while providing friendly competition.



## FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

*Financial responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction.*

- Cost per pupil: \$8,682 (State average: \$10,445.61)
- Percentage spent on instruction: 61%
- FY 2013 District Profile: [www.littlemiamischools.com/content\\_page.aspx?cid=476](http://www.littlemiamischools.com/content_page.aspx?cid=476)





## PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

*Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school district and community.*

- Little Miami has six vibrant Parent-Teacher Organizations, spanning grades K-12.
- Central office staff and building administrators meet monthly with PTO leaders to build relations and communications.
- PTOs provide dozens of enrichment activities for students, including COSI on Wheels, Crystal Clear Science, author visits, area naturalists and animal programs, character-based speakers, and performing arts groups.
- Little Miami's elementary PTOs collaborated on the annual district-wide spring carnival that brought together families from all of the district's elementary schools at the high school site. Parents, teachers and staff volunteered during an event attended by an estimated 2,500 people.
- Many PTO groups donated money to teachers for the purchase of classroom materials



and fulfilled additional grant requests. The PTOs provided dinners for faculty during parent/teacher conference nights.

- PTO groups provided scholarships for graduating high school students. They also gave scholarships for students to attend the district's Camp Invention summer camp and financially supported the district's Destination Imagination program.

- The PTO also financially supported the district's Panther Backpack program, which provides meals for students in need.

- PTO groups ran book fairs at all three elementary schools and the Intermediate School, set up "holiday shops" at

which students could purchase inexpensive gifts, and staged a craft fair at Salem Elementary.

- Little Miami holds monthly Business Advisory Council meetings, inviting Board of Education members, community members and key stakeholders to work together and develop district initiatives.
- District leaders hold an annual "State of the District" address and community forum to share information on educational and financial outlooks.
- Board of Education members hold monthly "listening sessions" to engage community members and dialogue about district activities and educational initiatives.
- The district stages an annual report/conversation session with local Realtors to share

- district news and ventures and help promote the community for potential homebuyers.
- The Little Miami Athletic Boosters contribute money to pay for uniforms, equipment, facilities fees, and scholarships for graduating seniors; they also help finance the multipurpose turf football field.
- The Little Miami Band Boosters contribute money to pay for travel expenses, uniforms, instruments, equipment, a percussion instructor's stipend, scholarships for graduating seniors, band camp lunches, and a practice field tower; they also help finance the multipurpose turf football field.
- The Little Miami Choir Boosters contribute money to pay for travel expenses, uniforms, equipment, accompanist fees, facility fees, publicity, and production of music CDs.
- The district partnered with a number of local youth sports organizations to once again schedule those groups' use of district facilities. One such group, the Little Miami Youth Basketball Association, hosted the Harlem Wizards basketball team for a fund-



raising event that drew a capacity crowd to the high school gymnasium. Youth football, volleyball, baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, cheerleading, wrestling and lacrosse associations regularly use Little Miami buildings and HiFive Stadium for practices, games and camps. The Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Destination Imagination, a ballet group and a youth drama program also use district buildings.

- Intermediate School staff partnered with a local Boy Scout troop in a garden project. With several community donations, the Boy Scouts added eight new raised beds and two new flowerbeds. The gardens have provided students an opportunity to learn about food supply and botany, as students have planted and harvested fresh produce for district cafeterias.

- A partnership agreement with a nearby Skyline Chili restaurant led to a resurfacing of the high school gymnasium floor at no cost to the district.



## STUDENT SERVICES

*A variety of services provides options to ensure all students receive individualized instruction, enrichment and support.*

- Students identified as gifted – 22.4%
- Students with disabilities – 12%
- Students identified as ESL – 0.9%
- Little Miami offers identification of and services to gifted students, special needs students, and students for whom English is their second language. The district provides a continuum of services to meet the needs of learners with special needs in their least

restrictive environment. A Gifted Intervention Specialist provides support to both the students and staff to ensure differentiated instruction for our high learners. A certified English as a Second Language Teacher supports classroom instruction and individual/small group instruction based on the needs of each English Language Learner.

- Little Miami utilizes a Response to Intervention model. This means that when a team member or parent has a concern, the team will collaborate to put interventions in place to promote success. These strategies are monitored through data collection. The student's skills are monitored to determine whether to continue with the current strategies or replace them with alternative strategies.
- Each district building has a school nurse, and counselors are available at various grade levels to address emotional issues, problem-solving, and healthy decision-making. Support groups are also instituted in various buildings when a need arises.
- Speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists are available in all district buildings, servicing preschool through 12th grade.
- LMHS provides college counseling through informational sessions and individual student meetings, and facilitates various universities' in-school sessions with upperclassmen.
- Mental health support services are available to all students K-12.
- Benchmark assessments in reading and math in grades K-8 are conducted in fall, winter and spring each school year to determine if interventions are needed.
- Before-school care and after-school care programs are available for students in grades K-6.
- Little Miami Online, the district's collection of web-based course offerings, is offered for students who need an alternative schedule for schooling. Course selections include a broad collection of both core and elective classes.
- The Little Miami Virtual Electives program makes available a plethora of courses not offered in a traditional instructor-led environment.
- The high school employs a work study coordinator to support transition for students beyond high school.



## PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

*The earlier we begin to prepare students, the better they'll achieve growth and the more successful they'll become.*

- The district offers a structured, collaborative pre-kindergarten program based on meeting each individual student's needs. It's designed with a pre-K focus and curriculum, rather than a play-based model.
- The framework enables a 50-50 ratio of students who qualify for preschool special education services and students who pay tuition to attend the program, with a maximum capacity of 12 per classroom. Each classroom has a certified teacher fully licensed as an early childhood intervention specialist, along with a paraprofessional.
- All students are educated in an integrated environment with their peers. All related



services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing services, vision services, and audiology services occur within the classroom.

- Using an itinerant model, the district provides services to students who have qualified for preschool special education – doing so in the classroom setting, in the home, or in an outside day care located within the school district.
- With six morning and six afternoon sessions, the preschool's popularity is reflected in its long waiting list for students who pay tuition to attend the program.
- Little Miami is sharing its framework with a presentation at the 2014 OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence) state conference.



## STAFF LEADERSHIP

*Student growth and achievement are facilitated by high-quality staff members.*

- High school math teacher Stephanie Woodruff was named one of 10 Greater Cincinnati Teachers of Excellence, an honor bestowed by Cincinnati Christian University.
- Preschool teacher Amber Huber and Intermediate School social studies/science teacher Stephanie Grieshop were selected as the Area Progress Council's Project Excellence award winners for Little Miami in 2014. Thirty-six Little Miami teachers had been nominated.
- The Little Miami Board of Education was recognized by the Ohio School Boards Association as a 2014 gold-level Effective School Board.
- Girls basketball coach Matt Tolliver and Academic Team coach Ron Maupin were

each named Coach of the Year in the Southwest Ohio Conference.

- Transportation director Gene Blake earned the Outstanding Transportation Director of the Year award for the state of Ohio, as chosen by the Ohio Association of School Business Officials.
- Little Miami Food Service Director Rachel Tilford applied for and received a \$3,840 "Smarter Lunchroom" grant from the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition to purchase new, reusable lunch trays. The district will save about \$5,500 annually on disposable trays that it won't have to buy.
- The district communications staff won three awards at the 2014 Ohio Schools Public Relations Association spring conference: a Mark of Excellence for



both its annual report and employee newsletter, and a Mark of Distinction for its Fine Arts Festival poster design.

- Little Miami teachers lead the annual Camp Invention summer camp, with LMHS students assisting as counselors and earning community service hours.



## COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT

*Processes and programs are continuously evaluated to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.*

- Little Miami earned all A's and B's on the state report card. Most significantly, the district achieved all A's in the "value added" category that reflects student progress.
- The district utilized testing and targeted instruction to foster a sizeable improvement in ACT scores, with averages jumping from 22.5 in 2013 to 23.8 in 2014 – a figure that easily outpaced the state average of 22.0. Little Miami incorporates STAR testing from kindergarten through 12th grade to assess reading and math levels, and it includes ACT preparation lessons in the high school's College Bound course.
- Little Miami maintained a focus on K-3 literacy. The elementary schools continued to increase the number of students reading at or above benchmark.
- The district implemented the ACT's new Aspire assessment for grades 8-9 as a predictor of college and career readiness. In addition to forecasting success on the ACT, the test serves as a tool to map course selection and any necessary intervention as students navigate their ideal future path.



- Classroom technology gained emphasis this year through the establishment of wireless internet service in all district buildings.
- The district's phone system was upgraded, and new digital clocks and public address speakers were installed in the elementary schools.
- Upgrades of operating systems on 1,000 district PCs were completed, along with replacement of end-of-life classroom computers.
- In recent years, both Little Miami Junior High and Little Miami High School have been named a Platinum High Achievement School by the Southern Region Education

Board, a national honor given to just a handful of schools each year.

- Little Miami Junior High School built into its daily schedule the concept of "extra time, extra help" for any student who was in need of additional instruction in any subject. This is a practice, recommended by the "Making Middle Grades Work" program from the Southern Region Education Board (SREB), that allows students a block of time each day to seek additional help from their instructors.
- Using data from a number of student assessments, Little Miami High School offered daily "bonus" time in 2013-14, a version of the "extra time, extra help" concept.
- The district secured a \$30,000 School Security Program grant to further upgrade security measures, including additional cameras, intercoms, and entry systems at all district buildings.
- Administrators are completing a revision of the district's emergency management



plan to incorporate suggestions given by the Ohio Attorney General's School Safety Task Force.

- Little Miami installed countywide digital emergency radios in all district offices.
- The district engages the community through an increasing number of channels, including its websites, Facebook and Twitter channels, e-newsletters, and district-wide annual report.
- The district sponsors two full professional days and four 90-minute professional development sessions during delayed starts during the school year.
- LM supports professional development through partnerships with area educational service centers, the Hamilton County Instructional Council, High AIMS (High Achievement in Math and Science), and Safe Schools.
- Many K-5 teachers participated in a "Literacy in Motion" summer workshop through the Warren County Educational Service Center.
- A certified staff survey was employed in the spring of 2014 to seek input and improve professional development opportunities for teachers.





**Little Miami Local Schools**  
**7247 Zoar Road**  
**Maineville, Ohio 45039**  
**513.899.2264**  
**[www.littlemiamischools.com](http://www.littlemiamischools.com)**

**Superintendent: Gregory Power**  
**Treasurer: Terry Gonda**

<b>Little Miami Local Schools Directory</b>	
<b>Little Miami High School</b>	<b>513-899-3781</b>
<b>Little Miami Junior High School</b>	<b>513-899-3408</b>
<b>Little Miami Intermediate School</b>	<b>513-899-2334</b>
<b>Salem Twp. Elementary &amp; Primary Schools</b>	<b>513-899-5275</b>
<b>Hamilton-Maineville Primary School</b>	<b>513-899-4760</b>
<b>Harlan-Butler Primary School</b>	<b>513-899-5200</b>