

In the Spotlight



LMHS & Salem: Award-winning schools

Little Miami High School and Salem Township Elementary both received the Ohio Department of Education's Momentum Award for straight As on all value-added measures on the state's school report card. In order to win the award, the school must have at least two value-added subgroups of students, which include gifted, lowest 20 percent in achievement and students with disabilities. This is the second year in a row that Little Miami High School has won the Momentum Award. LMHS and Salem are two of just four schools in all of Warren County to be recognized.



Renewing rivalries: Little Miami to join ECC

At one time and no matter what the sport, the Little Miami vs. Kings game was always highly anticipated. But when the former Fort Ancient Valley Conference disbanded and the Southwest Ohio Conference was formed, Panther athletic teams saw more of the Ross Rams and Talawanda Braves than the Knights. All of that is about to change.

In November, the Little Miami Board of Education accepted the invitation to join the Eastern Cincinnati Conference and will begin competing in the 2020-21 season.

Now, along with renewing a rivalry with Kings, the Panthers will face off against Anderson, Lebanon, Loveland, Milford, Turpin, Walnut Hills, West Clermont and Winton Woods.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Greg Power
Superintendent

Moving Little Miami ahead

The community's support of a bond issue in May 2018 set into motion a new chapter in Little Miami's history.

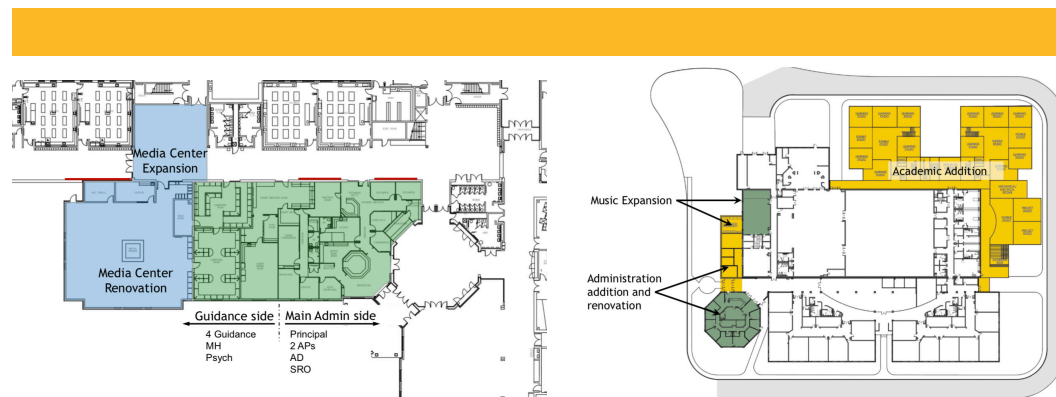
Over the next three years, construction of an all-new early childhood school will occur along with additions to three other buildings.

With construction will come change, in everything from parking and traffic flow, to grade reconfigurations and school calendars. As we move through this exciting time, we would again ask for the

community's input, support and patience.

As we eagerly anticipate the opening of these new spaces, we are excited to have another new site open to the public. Little Miami's new central office facility at Maineville Crossing is officially open for business. Our offices are located in the rear of the River's Bend Urgent Care building and house central registration, the superintendent and treasurer's offices, and many other services.

A public open house for the new central office will be held Monday, April 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. We hope you will join us.



Early proposals for additions and renovations for Little Miami High School (left) and Junior High (right).

Building, additions taking shape

The first groundbreaking for Little Miami's new educational spaces could come by mid-summer 2019 as architects continue the process to design a new PreK-1 building and additions to three other schools.

Representatives from emersion DESIGN/Fanning-Howey are currently working on design development. In addition, the Board of Education approved a construction management contract with Skanska Megan VII at the February board meeting. Skanska will be working with emersion DESIGN and the district to develop a construction timeline for the projects, all of which are projected to

be completed by the fall of 2021. As of February 2019, the intermediate school addition will be the first project to begin construction.



Since September 2018, parents, teachers and administrators have had extensive input into the vision of these new spaces. A group of more than 30 spent two days at the Institute of Applied Creativity for Transformation at the University of Dayton for construction project visioning. Members of the same group

visited several new school buildings to see how those spaces work. Many of the ideas generated through this visioning process have been incorporated into emersion's designs.

With the potential for four construction sites being active as we serve over 5,000 students, we are asking our community for their flexibility and patience. Any changes to school calendars, traffic patterns, parking or other info will be communicated to our community as soon as they are known.

Stay up-to-date on construction progress by visiting the "Building the Future" link at LittleMiamiSchools.com.

FROM THE TREASURER



Terry Gonda
Treasurer

Property tax rates lower now than 5 years ago

While many of us have the feeling that the cost of living continues to go up and up, it may be a pleasant surprise to learn that those

increases have not applied to property tax rates within the Little Miami Local School District.

A comparison of property tax rates (residential and agricultural) for the last five years shows an actual reduction in rates.

In the graph at right, the blue column represents the district's total tax millage. The other columns are the detailed breakout of the total: Orange is operating, gray is debt service and gold is permanent improvement.

There are a few reasons why our millage has been on a downward trend.

First is the retiring of some of our debt from previous bond issues and projects. Second is the refinancing of around \$44 million in July 2016 to lower interest rates, which saved taxpayers \$6 million. Third, the district has been able to stretch out a five-year emergency levy to a ten year period with no increase in revenue.

In addition, property valuations in the

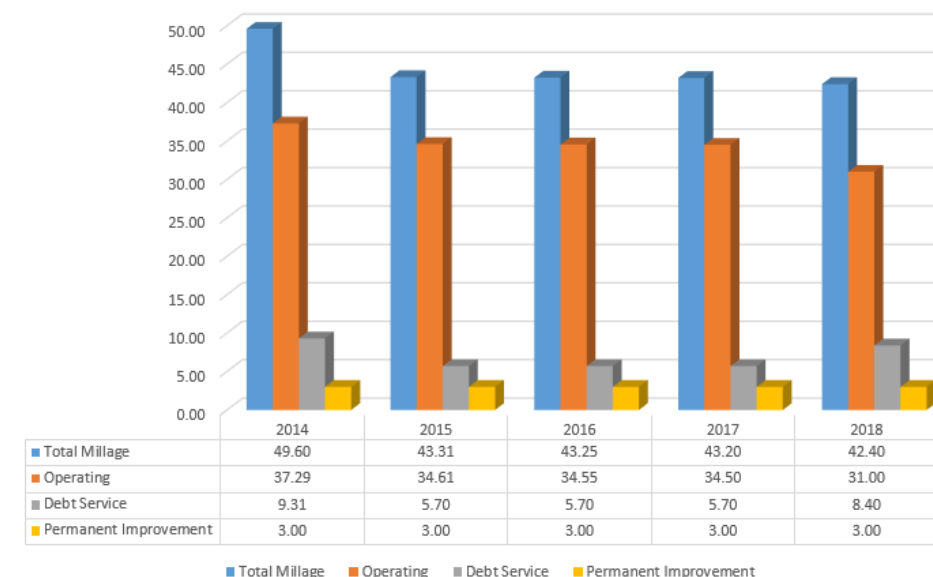
Little Miami district have increased, thus also reducing millage.

What is perhaps most interesting is that our current tax year 2018 rates (being collected now in 2019) include the new bond levy (3.6 mils) passed in May of 2018 and yet the millage rate is still a little lower than 2017.

At Little Miami, we work very hard to

be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars, while providing the most bang for the buck. This approach has shown results in the classroom while saving our community millions of dollars, and has positioned us to be prepared if continued enrollment growth prompts us to seek additional operating dollars sometime in the near future.

Past Five Years Property Tax Rates



School safety, security remain top priority



Hamilton Twp. Police Department officers Shane Brandenburg (left) and Joseph Smith (right) are Little Miami's two school resource officers.

In November 2018, the Little Miami Board of Education hired a second school resource officer to provide additional support for the safety of students and staff.

Hamilton Twp. Officer Joseph Smith became Little Miami's second SRO, working out of Little Miami Intermediate School. He joins Officer Shane Brandenburg, who is currently an SRO at Little Miami High School.

This close relationship with local law enforcement not only helps provide additional safety measures for our schools, but also offers local police the opportunity to improve training. Little Miami Junior High has been the site of multiple active shooter training exercises when school is not in session.

Adding a second SRO is just

one several safety measures the district has undertaken this year. Increasing the safety of entrances at the district's older buildings was a priority for the 2018-2019 school year. At Salem Twp. Elementary, Harlan-Butlerville and Hamilton-Maineville Primary Schools, visitors are now required to buzz in to newly-constructed vestibules and show identification before entering the buildings.

In addition, Little Miami has earned official ALICE Organizational Certification, meaning more than 75% of staff have completed both the online and classroom portions of ALICE training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate and is a preparedness tool for active shooter situations.



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Little Miami Local Schools

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LMPantherPride

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IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 25

Kindergarten Registration began
Visit Kindergarten Central on homepage of LittleMiamiSchools.com

MARCH 11-15

Spring Break
School resumes Monday, March 18

MARCH 30

Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner
5:30 p.m.
Tickets available at LMPantherSports.com

APRIL 8

Central Office Grand Opening
6-8 p.m.
Public open house at Maineville Crossing, at rear of Rivers' Bend Urgent Care

APRIL 11-14

LMHS Theatre presents The Little Mermaid
Reserve tickets at LittleMiamiTheatre.weebly.com

APRIL 27

PTO Spring Carnival
5-8 p.m.
Little Miami High School

MAY 4

Fine Arts Festival
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Little Miami High School

MAY 5

Octagon Concert
7p.m. at LMHS
Presented by the LM Select Choirs

MAY 19

Class of 2019 Graduation
6 p.m.
Nutter Center at Wright State University



Update

LITTLE MIAMI LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

65 YEARS IN THE MAKING

In 1954, the communities of Morrow, Maineville and Butlerville agreed to form a unified school district and name it after the river that flowed through the area. This new Little Miami Local School District encompassed 99 square miles of rural farms, a state highway or two, and several villages. How surprised many of those first school leaders would be to know how much their small school system and their communities would change and grow.

Now, in 2019, Little Miami serves more than 5,000 students, and on this bedrock of community connections the district now enters into a new era – one of the most exciting periods in its history.

The community's approval of a bond issue in May 2018 launched Little Miami into its future. Dollars generated from the bond will go toward financing new construction and building additions to serve new generations of LM students.

With public input and feedback from students, parents and teachers, the design of these new educational spaces is well underway. Although bulldozers and concrete mixers have yet to make their appearance at construction sites, these new schools are already taking shape.

In this annual report, Little Miami is proud to provide the community with an update on this progress and other important news from around the district.

What a difference 65 years makes.

