



Update

LITTLE MIAMI LOCAL SCHOOLS

Talk About a PAWS- itive Influence!

This Fall, therapy dog, Winston, began his post at Little Miami Elementary School. After undergoing extensive training this summer in preparation for his role in the classroom, Winston has teamed up with LMES Counselor Dawn Gasper to support the emotional well-being of Little Miami students in a unique way. Winston, a six-month old Aussie Doodle, has been given the important job of helping to deescalate students' emotions if they become upset, anxious, or scared during the school day.

Mrs. Gasper has been a strong advocate for the usefulness of therapy dogs in the classroom and specifically chose to work with non-profit organization, Pawsabilities, to connect her with a specially-trained therapy dog fitted best for the job! Winston has already made a huge impact on our Panther students, as he regularly goes into classrooms with Mrs. Gasper, and is present in Mrs. Gasper's small groups and one-on-one counseling sessions.



Winston greets students in the hall.



Winston saying "Goodbye" to students as they leave for the day.

As soon as Winston steps foot in the LMES hallway, he is immediately greeted by students screaming, "Winston! Hi!" followed by hugs, pets, and even some belly scratches. Winston remains calm and collected even when being greeted by so many faces at once, sitting down for a scratch and even climbing into the lap of a lucky student willing to get down on the floor. As Winston gives out his endless supply of love, one thankful student could be heard crying out, "I needed this today!" The joy the students get from just being able to pet Winston in the hall, or give him a hug as they arrive or depart the building is infectious. We cannot wait to see how he continues to help students in the future!

Building the Future

While major construction projects are completed throughout the district, we continue to put the finishing touches on new spaces. We are thrilled with the additions & renovations to the buildings that each Panther student will have the opportunity to experience as they matriculate through the district!

At LMHS, 31,000 square feet of additions have been completed, preparing the building to accommodate 1,500 students. Included in the addition to LMHS is an impressive collaborative learning environment, boasting open, bright areas that foster creativity and student engagement. Renovations to LMHS also include a newly-reopened Media Center, expanded spaces for band, renovated Auditorium, state-of-the-art Strength & Conditioning Center, large administrative spaces, and more!

This Fall, Little Miami Junior High was restructured to become a traditional Middle School, housing grades 6-8. To accommodate an additional grade level in the building, a large building addition and new spaces for administrative staff was necessary. Similarly to the new spaces at LMHS, the LMMS addition features collaborative learning spaces, as well as areas of unique seating to encourage discussion and group activities.

Little Miami Intermediate School has been reimagined as Little Miami Primary School and is glad to be home to LM Second and Third Graders. This building underwent extensive additions in 2019 and has been recently renovated to accommodate the new grade levels now housed there.

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Open-concept collaborative classroom at LMMS.



Strength & Performance Center at LMHS.



Open-concept learning space at LMHS.

National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Congratulations to four incredible LMHS Seniors- Dakota Baldwin, Madelyn Highfield, Ryan Houser, and Emily Yeung - who are Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented LM Panthers will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

The 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) served as an initial screen of entrants to the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Selection Index scores of students who met program participation requirements were used to designate a pool of about 16,000 semifinalists on a state allocation basis. Semifinalists are the highest scorers in each of the 50 states and represent less than one percent of each state's high school seniors. Congratulations Panthers!



Madelyn Highfield



Ryan Houser



Dakota Baldwin



Emily Yeung

Building the Future, continued...

Much has happened on the grounds of the former Salem Township Elementary, now known as Little Miami Elementary School. Grades 4 and 5 have moved into LMES and have the opportunity to learn in a building that has gotten renovations & upgrades just for their grade levels, including new bathroom areas for staff & students, an Innovation Lab, Media Center, Flex Lab, and Nurse's clinic.



Behind LMES is the brand-new 100,000 square foot Little Miami Early Childhood Center, housing grades Preschool through 1st Grade. This colorful building features special spaces, including stage areas under stairwells that can be used to bring reading to life and a specialized playground built for small joy-seekers.

"Students will be able to move, work collaboratively, be creative, feel comfortable, and thrive in the new learning space at LMECC. The building will also enable constant collaboration for our teachers! After years of being apart, we are thrilled to have our preschool, kindergarten, and first grade teams under one roof," says Assistant Principal, Lindsey Eckstein.

Principal Teresa Reynolds cannot wait for students and teachers to experience the new spaces, including the flex areas for small collaborative group work, the spacious classrooms, the technology experience, and the colorful, welcoming spaces throughout the school. She says, "This well-thought-out building will help our teachers bring learning to life!"

We are thrilled about the upgrades to each Little Miami school building & thank the community for their support in making the design and construction possible for our students!

Panther Spotlight

THANK YOU TO OUR LM NURSES!

The past few years have brought unique and complex challenges to many areas of our society, including public school districts. School nurses are now charged with assisting public health departments to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing and notify families of student quarantine, in addition to their daily work of caring for sick students and assisting with medical needs. After many long work days and even weekends, our LM nurses have continued to rise above challenges and frustrations, to serve our Panthers with care and gentleness.

We want to thank all of our nurses for going above the call of their position and lead our district through a global pandemic. Your health expertise and dedication to all LM students is so appreciated! If you have the opportunity to interact with a Little Miami school nurse, please take the time to thank them for the continued care & patience they show to our students every day.

Meet Our Nurses

Jessica Knochel – District Nurse, beginning 10th year with LM

Michelle Clark – LMECC Nurse, hired September 2021

Jodie Reynolds – LMPR Nurse, beginning 4th year with LM

Kelly Simmerman- LMES Nurse, beginning 6th year with LM

Candace Jones – LMMS Nurse, beginning 5th year with LM

Wendy Gordon – LMHS Nurse, beginning 3rd year with LM



Colorful LMECC gymnasium



LMHS Earns College-Prep Honor



Congratulations are in order for Little Miami High School students, teachers & staff, as LMHS has earned the distinction of **2021 College Success Award - Gold** from GreatSchools.org for excellence in preparing students for college and beyond!

LMHS was one of only 1,770 schools across the nation to win the inaugural College Success Award - Gold — which recognizes schools with a multiyear track record of college success, as determined by available college preparation and postsecondary data. Way to go LMHS!



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 Little Miami Local Schools

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 LMPantherPride

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From the Superintendent



Greg Power

We are well on our way to another successful school year at Little Miami. With more than 5,300 students enrolled, our Panther family continues to grow year after year. What a great testament to this community!

While this year has certainly had its share of challenges, our teachers, staff & students continue to work together to learn and make the school year memorable.

Little Miami Schools is embarking upon a great chapter – restructuring from six school buildings to five, and opening a brand-new building specifically built for our youngest learners. We are proud to give all Panther students the opportunity to experience new or renovated spaces at each building- from the Little Miami Early Childhood Center to Little Miami High School, there is something new for all students to discover. Without the support, flexibility, and patience of the LM community, these renovations and additions would not have been possible, so we thank you greatly for supporting our current & future students!

Since launching the Quarantine Alternative Pilot Program in late September, Little Miami, along with all other Warren County public school districts, have seen encouraging data that may be part of the solution to keeping healthy kids in school and sick kids home amidst our journey with COVID-19. We are excited to share the findings of this program with the community soon.

Despite the challenges that we continue to live with, LM staff are committed to giving students access to an excellent education. Go Panthers!

We're Hiring!

JOIN OUR PANTHER TEAM

Do you have a passion for children and want to help out the Little Miami community? Little Miami Schools could use YOUR help to fill substitute staff vacancies, including:

- Substitute teachers
- Building aides
- Special Education aides
- Bus aides
- Bus drivers
- Cooks
- Maintenance workers
- Bus mechanics
- Nurses
- Secretaries



If interested in becoming a substitute teacher, please contact the Warren County Educational Services Center at 513-695-2900.

If interested in any of the non-substitute teaching positions, please express interest to Pam Coates, Little Miami HR Director, pcoates@lmsdoh.org.

