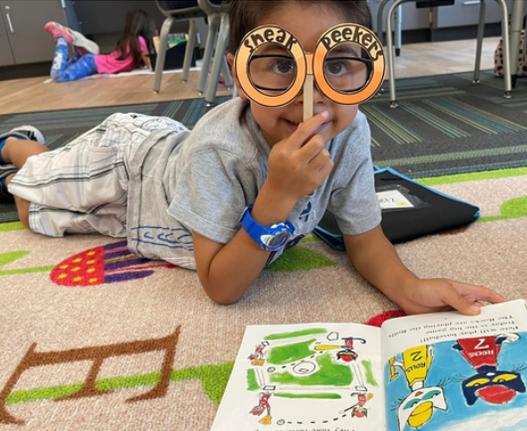
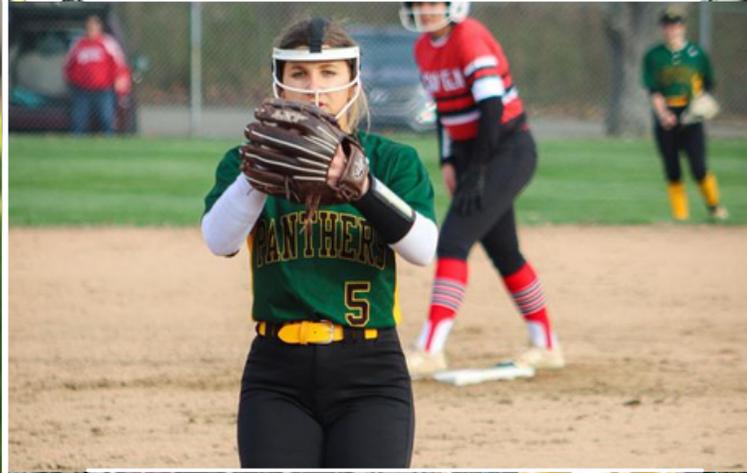


# QUALITY PROFILE

EMPOWER. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

FALL 2023



We are excited to present our Quality Profile to you!

Within the pages of this document, you will find the remarkable accomplishments we have achieved together. Our dedicated educators, staff, students, and supportive community have fostered a thriving educational environment where academic excellence and student experiences are at the forefront. Through collaborative efforts and a commitment to continuous improvement, we empower our students to reach new heights, prepare them to succeed in a rapidly evolving world, and build a strong foundation for their bright futures.

We opened our doors for the start of the 2023-2024 school year with 5,723 students enrolled. We welcomed 743 new students and 14 students from 8 different countries. When I arrived at LM in the fall of

2000, we had 2,649 students in our LM family. Our community has and continues to experience rapid growth within our 98 square miles - this is a testament to our community, staff, and schools. We must continue to find creative solutions to accommodate the increasing number of students within our facilities while ensuring excellence in all students' education. I am excited for the 23-24 school year and the future of Little Miami. Today and always, it is a GREAT DAY TO BE A PANTHER!



**Regina Morgan**  
**Superintendent**



This document is designed to demonstrate a more comprehensive, community-oriented companion to the state's School District Report Card. Our Quality Profile report includes additional accountability measures that better define a high-quality education and are not included in the state's report. We proudly present the 2023 Little Miami Quality Report.



## BUILDING INFORMATION



**LITTLE MIAMI  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**  
609 Welch Rd., Morrow, OH  
Grades PK-1 | Enrollment: 950



**LITTLE MIAMI  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
7247 Zoar Rd., Maineville, OH  
Grades 2-3 | Enrollment: 884



**LITTLE MIAMI  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
605 Welch Rd., Morrow, OH  
Grades 4-5 | Enrollment: 856



**LITTLE MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
5290 Morrow-Cozaddale Rd.  
Morrow, OH  
Grades 6-8 | Enrollment: 1,315



**LITTLE MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL**  
3001 E. U.S. 22&3  
Morrow, OH  
Grades 9-12 | Enrollment: 1,486

## ABOUT LITTLE MIAMI

The Little Miami Local School District encompasses 98 square miles of rural and suburban areas and includes the communities of Morrow, Maineville, Butlerville, Hamilton Township, Harlan Township and Salem Township.

Little Miami has grown to serve more than 5,723 students with 5,491 students in classrooms throughout our five buildings, 126 attending joint vocation school programs and 88 additional students placed in settings best suited to meet their needs. The district prides itself on child-centered decision-making, service to the whole child and opportunities for all students to achieve their goals and dreams.

Little Miami is the place to be! Since January of 2023, Little Miami enrolled 743 new students. Of these new Panthers, 48 students enrolled from 16 different states and another 14 students from 8 different countries. In total, Little Miami currently has students enrolled from 45 different countries.

# ACADEMICS - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ohio changed its graduation requirements in 2023. The new requirements provide more flexibility to choose a graduation pathway that builds on the strengths and passions of each student. This will help ensure that students are ready for their next steps and excited about their future.

**First, students must cover the basics.** Students must earn at least 20 credits in specified subjects and take the state-required tests.

Students must also receive economics and financial literacy instruction and complete at least two semesters of fine arts courses.

Course	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Health	1/2
Mathematics	4
Physical Education	1/2
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Electives/Fine Art	5

**Second, students must show competency** by earning a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I and English II tests. Students who do not pass a test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once. If testing is not a strength, students may also choose one of the below options to meet the criteria.

1. Demonstrate Two Career-Focused Activities:
  - a. Foundational: proficient scores on WebXams, a 12-point industry credential, or pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into apprenticeship program.
  - b. Supporting: work-based learning, earn the required score on WorkKeys or earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal
2. Enlist in the military: students must provide evidence of a signed contract to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.
3. Complete college coursework: students must earn credit for one college-level math and/or college-level English course through Ohio's free College Credit Plus Program.

**Third, students must show readiness** by earning two diploma seals, one of which must be Ohio designed.

- OhioMeansJob Readiness Seal
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal
- College-Ready Seal
- Military Enlistment Seal
- Citizenship Seal
- Science Seal
- Student Engagement Seal
- Honors Diploma Seal
- Seal of Biliteracy
- Technology Seal
- Community Service Seal
- Fine & Performing Arts

## Special Education - Work Study Opportunities

- Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) prepares students for the transition to life after high school.
- Integration of Knowledge and Resources for Occupational Needs (IKRON). Students complete a weekly lesson about soft skills, building relationships at work, learning appropriate communication for work, writing resumes, etc.
- In-house work-study opportunities:
  - Students learn how to clean, organize and manage the LMHS weight room
  - In school-wide recycling collection
  - Students work with custodial staff to clean and reorganize the lunchroom
  - Staff Birthday Breakfast Club - students cook and deliver the breakfast to staff members.
  - Set up for sporting events and run in-house Panther Press Store.
  - Programs can lead to summer internships

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

Little Miami proudly serves **692** students with disabilities.

## Services & Professionals Available:

- 12 Structured Resource Rooms (SRR)
- 42 Intervention Specialists
- 75 Special Education Aides
- 5 School Psychologists
- 2 Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- 3 Registered Behavior Technicians
- 9 Speech Language Pathologists
- 6 Occupational Therapists/OT Assistants
- 3 Physical Therapists/PT Assistants
- 1 Workforce Development Coordinator
- 1 Teacher of Visually Impaired
- 1 Orientation & Mobility Instructor
- 1 Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 1 Educational Audiologist

## District Programming

- Inclusion with a continuum of Least Restrictive Environment, meaning students may spend time in a Structured Resource Room (SRR) and the general education setting, with support.
- Students may also be placed in a co-taught setting for certain learning areas only and fully independent in other classes.
  - 29 Intervention Specialists support in approximately 90 general education classrooms.
- Preschool: 5 Intervention Specialists, 1 Itinerant Teacher, 7 Special Education Aides

## Community Partners

Greenfield Plant Farm  
Morrow Arts Center  
PAES Lab WCESC  
LMECC Shine On Yoga  
LMPR Wonder Lab  
BF Gaming



# ACADEMICS - OPPORTUNITIES

## WCCC Partnership

Little Miami and the Warren County Career Center are teamed up for your student's success! Students who attend WCCC during their junior and senior years of high school are equipped with skills and training to prepare them for future careers. Students are also given opportunities to continue taking challenging academic courses while they train for a career path they will love. Students spend half of their day in a career lab (similar to a major in college) gaining hands-on skill experience with the equipment used in that particular career field. The other half of the day, students take academic classes at WCCC to earn the credits necessary for graduation.

Whether attending WCCC's Main or Atrium Campus, students are still connected to Little Miami! Industry credentials and certifications are earned at WCCC, but the student's high school diploma comes from Little Miami. WCCC works directly with LMHS counselors to ensure students take the classes needed to earn graduation credits. This truly is the best of both worlds. Students remain connected to LM and can still participate in athletics, LMHS graduation, prom, homecoming, senior fun days, plays and after-school clubs.



**Over 60% of students attending the WCCC attend college upon graduation!**

## WCCC Satellite Courses

Little Miami proudly offers select WCCC courses in a satellite setting - meaning specialized career learning opportunities within Little Miami classrooms! Students are able to gain functional skills without having to leave the LM campus!

### Middle School

- Project Lead the Way Gateway
  - Flight and Space
  - Apps Creator



### High School

- Digital Media Arts (DMA)
  - Introduction to Digital Media Arts
  - Digital Media Arts 1 and 2
- Business
  - Accounting
  - Business Computer Applications
  - Introduction to Business
  - Strategic Entrepreneurship
- Project Lead the Way – Engineering (PLTW)
  - Intro to Engineering Design
  - Principles of Engineering
  - Aerospace Engineering
  - Digital Electronics
  - Engineering Design and Development
- Information Technology
  - Introduction to IT
  - AP Computer Science
  - Networking & Cybersecurity
  - Computer Hardware & Software
  - Database Management
  - Web Development
  - Computer Programming
  - AP Computer Science A

And the award goes to.....

**LMHS Digital Media Arts!**

**VIDDY AWARDS**  
HONORING VIDEO EXCELLENCE IN A DIGITAL WORLD  
2022 GOLD WINNER

The LMHS Football Video Crew received a **2022 Gold Level Viddy Award in the category of non-broadcast sports video!**



**LMHS DMA students won a Gold Level Viddy Award in the category of non-broadcast, long-form video for education in Episode 7 of "The Panther Show."**

**Viddy Awards is an international competition honoring video excellence in a digital world.**



# ACADEMICS - ACCOLADES

## LMHS Awards & Distinctions

- Ranked #71 out of 916 High Schools in Ohio and in the top 8% nationally by US News & World Report.
- Little Miami was named to the AP Honor Roll.
- 1 of 35 High Schools given the Momentum Award for exceeding student growth & achievement in Ohio.
- Received the High Schools that Work Pacesetter Award.

## Standardized Testing

- Every student is required to take the ACT in the State of Ohio.
- Class of 2023 had scores ranging from 10-34, with an average score of 20.8.

**49 AP Scholars  
in 2023**

## AP Honors

- In 2023, 249 students took 363 AP Tests in 11 subject areas with the average score of 3.2.
- 75% of all AP exams received a 3 or higher.

## 2023 Graduate Academic Profile

- 337 graduates
- 138 students earned a 4.0 or higher
- 68 students earned between a 3.5 & 3.99
- 50 students earned between a 3.0 & 3.49
- 39 students earned between a 2.5 & 2.99
- 25 students earned between a 2.0 & 2.49
- 22 students earned below a 2.0

## Post Graduation Plans

- 2023 Graduates attending college: 80%
  - Four Year Institutions 67%
  - Two Year Institutions 13%
- Military Enlistment 2%
- Other (Work, Apprenticeship, Gap Year) 18%

## AP & Honors Courses at LMHS

**13 AP Classes** are available at LMHS including: English Literature, U.S. Government, U.S. History, World History, European History, French, Spanish, Calculus AB, Statistics, Biology and Chemistry. NEW 23-24 - Computer Science Principals and Computer Science.

## Earn College Credit Before High School Graduation

All incoming 7-12 graders are eligible to participate in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program if they meet grade and testing requirements for college admission into CCP programs. This opportunity gives students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously!



LMHS earned the prestigious **2022 College Success Award** from GreatSchools.org for excellence in preparing students for college and beyond. LMHS has secured this award for five consecutive years.

In addition to winning the annual College Success Award, LMHS was also selected in 2021 as one of only **1,770** schools across the entire nation to win the inaugural **College Success Award - Gold** — an additional, elevated level of distinction to recognize schools that have a multiyear track record of college success, as determined by available college preparation and postsecondary data.

**79% of the class of 2023 attending college stayed in Ohio.**  
**21% attend college out of state**



**Honors classes** are offered in: English 9, English 10, English 11, Chemistry, Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Physics, World History and American History.

# FOCUS ON FINE ARTS

## Little Miami High School Band

The "Band in Demand!" The LMHS Marching Band continues its legacy of impressive musical talent and energetic performance quality! These talented Panthers begin practicing in the heat of summer and work year-round to perform excellently at competitions, concerts, parades and athletic events.

## LMHS Band Program Overview

- **Marching Band** - 75-90 members from grades 9-12
- **Concert Band** - 60-75 members from grades 9-12
- **Symphonic Band** - 35-45 members from grades 9-12

**Instruments offered:** Flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba and percussion

## Recent Recognitions & Accolades

- **Superior Rating** - Ohio Music Education Association District Large Group Adjudicated Event (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022. (No contest in 2020, 2021, 2023)
- **Superior Rating** - Ohio Music Education Association State Large Group Adjudicated Event (2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023)
  - In 2015, LMHS Symphonic Band received an excellent rating at the state competition.
  - In 2017 and 2022, LMHS Symphonic Band did not attend state competition.



## Little Miami Middle School Band

- Grade level breakdown:
  - 6th grade: 97
  - 7th grade: 75
  - 8th grade: 46
- Beginning Band: 96 members (6th grade only)
- Concert Band: 65 members (7th and 8th grade)
- Symphonic Band: 57 members (7th and 8th grade, with one 6th grade member)

### Instruments offered:

**Beginning Band**- flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone saxophone, percussion.

**Concert band and Symphonic Band**- flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, percussion, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone/euphonium, percussion and tuba.



## MUSIC EDUCATION AT LITTLE MIAMI

Introducing students to instruments in their early years and making musical training FUN are important elements to maintaining the quality of the Little Miami music programs for years to come! LM offers Music as a "Special" in Grades 1-5, with Choir and Band classes beginning as an Elective course in Grade 6.

Throughout their musical education journey, young Panthers learn about different elements of music, learn to read music, have the opportunity to compose their own classroom rhythmic exercises, and learn instrument-playing basics, so they are ready to take their talents to the next level in middle school and high school.

# FOCUS ON FINE ARTS

## Little Miami High School Choir

The Little Miami Choir groups have a long history of talent and success, making them a highly-requested performance group around the area! All LMHS Choirs presented four concerts last year - one per quarter, as the choirs navigated through the year-long theme of "Finding My Way."

2023 LM Select Choirs participated in the 2023 Ohio Choral Directors Association Summer Conference, May Festival at Christ Church Cathedral, performed at the Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Country Music Hall of Fame, Hamilton Township & Maineville Tree Lighting Celebration, Miami University's Women's Chorus Festival. Eight Little Miami singers also participated in the OCDA High School Honor Choir.

The 2022-23 Select Choirs earned **Superior Ratings** at the OMEA State Large Group Adjudicated Event.

### Upcoming Highlights

- LM Select Choirs have been invited to perform at the UC-CCM Feast of Carols on December 2. This is an invitation-only event that has been part of CCM history for over 50 years.



## Art Education at Little Miami

Art classes for LM students begin in 2nd grade and continue as a "Special" through 6th grade. In 7th and 8th grade, students are able to choose Art as an Elective course, while LMHS students have many opportunities to explore artistic endeavors in even more creative ways!

LMHS Art courses include: Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics, Painting, Advanced Painting, Sculpture Art Fundamentals, Advanced Drawing, Portfolio Preparation, Photography, Digital Media Arts. In these courses, students learn art history, careers in art, critiquing artwork, and how to produce art through exploring various mediums and techniques.



## Fine Arts Festival

The annual Fine Arts Festival drew a HUGE crowd again this year. In addition to artwork, music programs from grades 1-12 entertained guests. Congratulations to all who had their art & musical talent on display. This FREE annual festival takes place in late Spring of every school year and is a community-favorite event.

**The 2024 Fine Arts Festival will be held on April 20, 2024 at LMHS.**

## DISTRICT INFO | TECHNOLOGY

The LM Technology Department strives to provide excellent customer service and support to maintain a functional and practical digital learning environment for all.

All students in grades 6-12 utilize a device, enabling them to access learning materials digitally and practice responsible device ownership. Kindergarten through 5th grade students use classroom devices on carts when lessons warrant digital resources.

We maintain a forward-thinking approach and regularly assess emerging technologies. We understand that in the K-12 sector, innovation often involves technological solutions that enhance core processes. To this end, we have incorporated a new software solution that enables us to better manage digital instructional applications. As a result, we have improved our instructional decision-making and are better equipped to meet the needs of our students.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**Devices Managed:** 6,500+

**KG-5th Grade Device Carts:** 105

**Tech Dept. Team Members:** 5 total staff

## DISTRICT INFO | TRANSPORTATION

The LM Transportation Department is a critical part of our learning community, as our dedicated bus drivers are often the first LM staff members that families interact with every day. We are so grateful for their service to this community, because early mornings and managing control of energetic bus riders are impressive feats!

While it is certainly challenging to transport more students than ever before, LM Transportation has learned to adapt and be flexible with routes, to help ensure students are safely transported to and from school in a reasonable time frame.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Fleet Size:** 58 assigned bus routes,  
3 van routes

**Miles Driven in 22-23:** 987,175



## DISTRICT INFO | FOOD SERVICES



The Food Services team works hard to ensure our Panthers are better able to focus in the classroom by providing healthy and delicious meals for breakfast and lunch. The Food Services Department is a completely self-funded program that does not take any financial resources from the Little Miami General Fund.

Although a waiver that provided all meals FREE of charge to students ended in June 2022, families are able to apply for Free and Reduced meals at [LittleMiamiSchools.com](http://LittleMiamiSchools.com).

### What's in a Meal?

Lunch consists of protein, grain, fruit, vegetables and milk. For lunch, students must take at least three components, with one being a fruit or vegetable. Breakfast must consist of fruit, milk and grain and may include protein and vegetables.



### Fun Fact:

During the 2022-2023 school year, 109,959 breakfast and 387,162 lunch meals were served.

# LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE PANTHERS!



Little Miami High School has been recognized by Project Lead the Way (PLTW) as a "Distinguished STEM School." LMHS is one of 262 high schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW's computer science, engineering, and biomedical pathways

LMHS recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top schools in the country and region.

Little Miami Early Childhood Center has been awarded the honor of "Outstanding Project Award" in the Fall 2022 LEARNING BY DESIGN magazine Educational Facilities Design Awards! We are so proud that our youngest Panthers have a unique and beautiful space to learn and grow that was specifically designed with their needs in mind.



Ranked 20th in Cincinnati area.



Dawn Gasper - LMES Counselor wins 2022-23 National LifeChanger Award



## LMHS students raise \$4,000 for Food Services Department

This charitable group of young people raised a total of \$4,000 that will be used toward clearing the debts incurred by overdue lunch balances of students throughout the district.



# BUILDING THE FUTURE | RECENT UPGRADES

Turnaround will allow buses to travel behind LMHS and won't interfere with dismissal traffic



New bus turnaround built at LMHS and LMMS



New metal roof at LMPR

New LED lights in parking lots at LMHS, LMMS & LMPR.



Bye Bye WLMH Radio Tower!  
The tower was removed from behind LMES.  
LM radio history dates back to the early 1970's. WLMH remains active streaming over the internet.



New fuel tanks for buses



New asphalt at LMHS



## NEW LEADERSHIP AT CENTRAL OFFICE

Regina Morgan  
Superintendent



Marla Timmerman  
Assistant Superintendent



Jamie Miles  
Director of Student Services



John Bailey  
Interim Director of Special Education

## THANK YOU!

After 46 years as an educator and 19 years with Little Miami Local Schools, Greg Power retired as Superintendent in August.



# ATHLETICS

The Little Miami Athletic Department is committed to providing each student-athlete with the very best resources to reach their highest potential in these five areas:

- Intellectual Development
- Volunteerism Development
- Social Development
- Physical Development
- Skill Development.

LM athletes are held to a high standard to uphold the culture of the LM Athletic Department. LM student-athletes must be able to positively and constructively answer the following questions:

- Do you care?
- Are you committed?
- Can we trust you?
- Do you follow the "Golden Rule"?
- Do you always do the "Right Thing"?



## DEPARTMENT STATS

TEAMS: **77** SPORTS: **26**

COLLEGE ATHLETES  
SIGNED IN 22-23: **11**

22-23 STUDENT ATHLETES: **2,000**

## TOP 5 STORIES OF 2022-2023

**1.** Football knocks off No. 1 Xenia in Postseason. LM kicked a game-winning field goal in double overtime to upset previously undefeated Xenia.

**2.** Grace Biddle and Emma Goins were ECC Runner's of the Year, and Grace finished fifth in Ohio in the 1600.

**3.** On the Mats: Brentan Simmerman named ECC Wrestler of the Year. First female wrestler, Savy Jacobson qualified for state.

**4.** Scott Kerr hired as boys basketball coach. LM opens its 2023-24 season on Friday, December 1 at home against ECC rival Walnut Hills High School

**5.** Jake Wittenauer makes history by finishing runner-up at district play, qualifying for state golf tournament.

Little Miami has been a proud member of the Eastern Cincinnati Conference (ECC) since the 2020-2021 season. This conference move has impacted the student-athlete experience by reducing travel time and expenses, increasing gate revenue, and pumping up rivalries with bordering communities like Kings, Loveland and Lebanon!

### ACADEMIC TEAM REMAINS DOMINANT

The LMHS Academic Team has proved to be a powerful force in the ECC. Since the 2021-2022 season, the LMHS Varsity Team has posted two undefeated seasons. Before joining the ECC, the Academic Team won **6** Southwest Ohio Conference Championships and **4** Fort Ancient Valley Conference titles.

**13 Total  
League  
Championships**



# SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

The safety and security of our Panthers will always be our top priority. As such, Little Miami continues to make safety improvements and updates for the 2023-24 school year.

## New Director of Campus Safety and Security.

Joe Smith returns to LM in a new role. Joe spent four school years as an SRO in the district. He will work to ensure that the district schools and departments are safe while overseeing emergency management functions.



## School Resource Officers (SROs)

- Morrow Officer Hawk at Little Miami Elementary & Little Miami Early Childhood Center.
- Hamilton Township Officer Brandenburg at Little Miami High School,
- Hamilton Township Officer Elzey at Little Miami Middle School.
- Hamilton Township Officer Hayslip at Little Miami Primary.

We are so grateful to Hamilton Township and the Village of Morrow for their partnership!

SchoolSafeID console



## Visitor Management System Implemented in Each Building

Upon entering the Main Entrance of any building, all visitors and volunteers must scan a valid driver's license or a current government-issued identification. Using the ID card information, the SchoolSafeID system does an immediate background check to detect any issues that may prohibit further entrance into our buildings. After following the quick steps on the touch-screen kiosk, and receiving approval for building admittance, a badge with visitor information, picture, and purpose for entry will be printed for the visitor to wear while in our buildings.

SRO Hawk



SRO Brandenburg



SRO Hayslip



SRO Elzey



## Safety Week

Local first responders safety professionals visit, teach important safety tips, demonstrate their vehicles/equipment, and build relationships with our students and staff!



## Safety Council

In 2022 Little Miami formally established a Safety Council. The group of LM administrators and public safety professionals met to discuss safety measures, make decisions and implement procedures to improve the overall security of our students and staff at Little Miami.

This Safety Council meets on a quarterly basis to review current safety procedures & actions taken during crisis incidents, discuss future needs and strengthen working relationships before an emergency strikes.

SROs and members of the safety council attended the Ohio SRO Conference and the Ohio School Safety Summit.

The gatherings feature workshops, seminars and panel discussions with experts in the fields of law enforcement, education, psychology and crisis management.



Through these events we are able to share knowledge and build strong networks of relationships in our mission to prioritize safety and well being.

# ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS



At Little Miami, we are focused on supporting the mental health and wellness of our students and have provided extensive resources to help our students with their emotional needs. By addressing the needs of the "whole child," our Panthers are able to be safe, happy and more attentive in the classroom.

## LMMS & LMHS Students Join the Hope Squad Mission



Both LMMS and LMHS are Hope Squad partner schools that are on a mission to reduce youth suicide through education, training and peer intervention. This peer-to-peer suicide prevention program teaches student members to identify at-risk students, provide friendship and seek help from an adult. They learn to show empathy, listen without judgment and reduce stigma regarding treatment and mental illness.



## Core Essentials

The character education program for grades K-12 focuses on one core value a month. Students learn how to "Say It", "Know It", "Be It" and "See It" Students can be nominated by their classroom teachers for demonstrating the core value that month and are rewarded by having their names on the announcements and can receive a certificate.



## RECO

RECO is a character education program for students in grades 6-12. RECO Ambassadors represent LM by having positive character and willingness to help. Members make school a more positive place for students and staff by planning events, spirit weeks and taking field trips to LM schools to spread positive messages.

## Utilizing Peer-to-Peer Support

At LMHS, in addition to regular one-on-one counseling sessions, counselors have planned monthly lessons and school-wide activities to engage students. Student Ambassadors have also taken on the responsibility of creating and hosting events for new Panther students – including "meet ups," building tours and other fun events to raise student morale.

During the 2022-2023 school year, RECO raised money for the Morrow Food Pantry, organized SRO appreciation week, helped Remi complete therapy dog training and collected snacks for teachers.

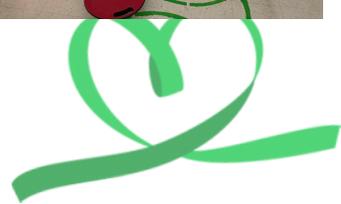
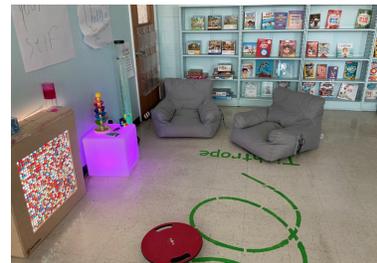
## LMES Sensory Spaces Enhance Learning Environment

A Sensory Courtyard and Room have been created for students to learn, destress, and enjoy a calming time. The LMES courtyard has been transformed into a space for outdoor

The Sensory Room is full of comfortable, flexible seating options, books and activities.



activities and classroom learning,



# ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

## Tier 1 Mental Health Supports

**School Counselors** support the emotional needs of students as they relate to academics. LM counselors run support groups, meet with students individually, monitor student 504 accommodation plans, create student schedules, assist with college and career planning, and connect families with needed resources. School counselors act as our 'front line of support' when our students are in crisis.

## Tier 2 Mental Health Supports

**Mental Health Consultants-** Little Miami has four mental health consultants who are the central point of contact for all mental health services, as referred by the district for "triage." The LM Mental Health Consultants assess and determine appropriate services for each student referred by the school counselor. These specialists also fulfill the following critical roles:

- Provide mental health consultation to others served by the district.
- Provide district-wide crisis intervention services and monitor the students with the highest level of needs and severity of symptoms.
- Complete individual therapy referrals for students requiring a treatment plan with our partner agency.
- Provide consultation and professional development to staff to improve the support and management of students with mental health concerns in the academic environment.

**School-Based Prevention Services** - Prevention services are designed to promote positive mental health, identify psychological and social problems early, and reduce the risk factors associated with school failure. Prevention services are often short-term and provided to a targeted group of students for a specific concern. During the group, a referral for more intensive services may be indicated and brought to the attention of a mental health consultant for appropriate placement. Examples of these groups include: "Cancer Family Care," "Changing Families" and "Anxiety Management."

## Tier 3 Mental Health Supports

**Case Management Services** are implemented as an ongoing individualized service with greater frequency, intensity and duration than prevention services. Case management services require greater participation from the family and involve the diagnosis of a mental health disorder. Little Miami works with Beech Acres to serve these student needs. Students will work with a case manager to reinforce coping skills and strategies they are learning in therapy to manage their symptoms and the daily challenges they face.

**Mental Health School-based Therapist** - Provides individual therapy services to students on a case-by-case basis with a mental health consultant. Mental health therapy services are the district's most intensive ongoing MH service. Therapy services require greater participation from the family, lead to the diagnosis of a mental health disorder and require developing a treatment plan. Therefore, these services are much more individualized and occur at a deeper level than other services.

Little Miami utilizes the services and specialty of Beech Acres for students referred by counselors or mental health consultants who feel a more severe mental health diagnosis would benefit from increased care and a more long-term treatment for students. All services are paid for by private family insurance or Warren County mental health funds.



# FROM THE TREASURER

## State of District Finances



Terry Gonda

The Little Miami Treasurer's Department has remained dedicated to responsible financial stewardship, providing the necessary support to students and staff to learn, adjust and grow.

Ohio public school districts are required by law to prepare a five-year forecast of projected expenditures & revenues twice a year. As reported in the May 2023 Five Year Projection, a revenue shortfall is expected in FY2024.

Despite the significant student growth LM has seen over a decade plus, we have strategically stretched out the funds generated from the passage of the 2011 Emergency Levy for more than ten years! With the passage of Issue 12 in November 2020, which renewed the funding structure from the 2011 Emergency Levy, LM secured \$10.6 million annually. These funds represent one-fifth of LM's total operating budget and are vital to the district's financial health. We are so thankful to the community for investing in the future of our students!

With careful planning and monitoring of the district's increasing growth in enrollment, the Board and LM administration will continue to provide the best opportunities available to our students in the most economical ways possible.

### Responsible Financial Stewardship

- In anticipation of growing energy demand and rate increases, LM locked in a four year rate for electricity.
- LM is paying approximately **50% less** than current market rates by locking in that price three years ago.

## TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT EARNS DISTINCTIONS

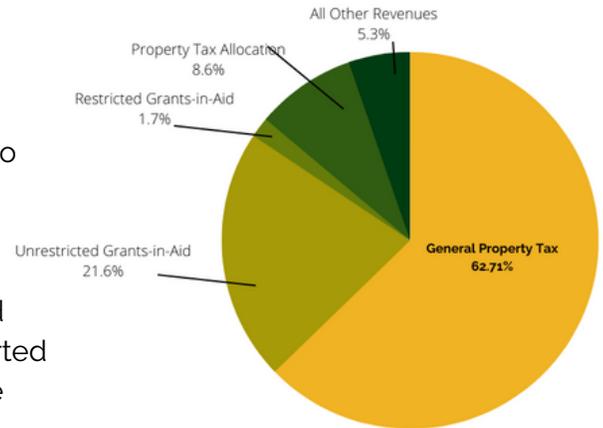
Little Miami has been consistently earning distinctions & awards for the department's work in assessment, financial planning, and careful record keeping. In fact, **LM has earned the "Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting" award every year since 2014!**

We are pleased to share the latest round of distinctions including:

- **2022 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** - Government Financial Officers Association
- **2022 Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting**- Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International

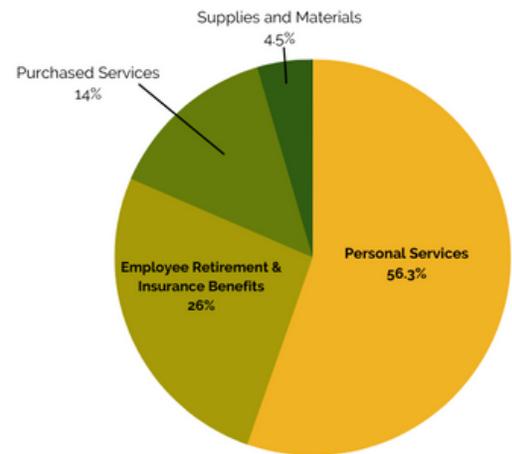
### Revenue FY23:

**\$55,156,332.00**



### Expenditures FY23:

**\$55,036,291.00**



# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

It is the Little Miami way to help foster a sense of service and generosity in our students. To help cement this community-focused mentality, 12 hours of community service is required of all Seniors to graduate from LMHS. We are proud to share just a few ways students connect to their local community.

## AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

LMHS now has an ASL Class. ASL is North America's fastest-growing language. Ninety percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents, meaning most parents do not know how to communicate with their deaf children. Statistics show that deafness is on the rise. With roughly 20% of the USA population having some form of deafness/hearing loss, this is a perfect addition to LMHS course offerings.



## SERVICE LEARNING



After researching social issues, students work towards solutions. In the past, students explored topics including mental health, education, hunger, senior, veteran and animal services.

## LMHS VETERANS DAY PARADE/CELEBRATIONS

The Veterans Day Parade continues to bring large numbers of loved ones and cherished Veterans from the community to LM buildings. We are so proud that the parade is an event that will continue for years to come!



## PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION

The Purple Star Award recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Since 2020, all school buildings within the Little Miami Local School District are recognized as Purple Star Designated Schools for their commitment to serving students and families connected to the United States armed forces.

Among the requirements a school must meet to receive the Purple Star Award is designating a liaison between military families in the district to ensure the families and students in the classrooms receive the special consideration they deserve.

Little Miami's application included information about Little Miami High School's unique Veterans Wall of Honor, annual elementary school observances of Veteran's Day and other military-focused activities and services around the district. The Purple Star designation is a 3-year designation. In April 2023, the Ohio Department of Education renewed all Little Miami school buildings as Purple Star Award-winning schools!



## DAYLIGHT PROM

Little Miami High School Student Government annually plans and hosts a beautiful multi-district event specifically focused on ensuring students with special needs have the opportunity to attend a sensory-friendly prom with their peers. This incredible event allows all Warren County students to celebrate a milestone in their high school careers more relaxedly. Each honored guest is invited to have a student escort from their home school and all necessary adults needed to chaperone are also invited to attend.



# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY: SPOTLIGHT ON AIR FORCE JROTC

A unique feature of the LMHS and now LMMS community is the presence of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AF JROTC) on our campuses. The AF JROTC class mission is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and communities. JROTC students take on added responsibilities and tasks to learn leadership, planning, and service at an entirely different level. Little Miami is proud to be in the seventh year of offering this program to LM students.

## WHY JOIN AF JROTC?

"We are a family," was a sentiment that seemed to resonate from a group of AF JROTC Seniors as they spoke on their years in the program. For those students on the fence about joining, Senior cadets encourage you to go for it! This commitment is fun, empowering, and not at all intimidating!

## WHO WE ARE

This program, while supervised and guided by Lt. Col. Peterson and Chief Master Sergeant Becky Hale, is a cadet-run program.

During the 2023-24 school year, **135** cadets have chosen to participate in AF JROTC. **56** of those are 8th graders.



**While this program uses a military model in the classroom, it is not utilized for military recruiting. There is no military requirement by participating in the AF JROTC program. In fact, only 3% of graduates choose to continue into the service upon graduating.**



## REQUIREMENTS & GRADUATION SEAL

Cadets must complete at least 2.5 hours of community service every quarter, wear a uniform on Wednesdays, dress and participate in physical fitness, and adhere to specific grooming standards when in uniform. You may have seen the Little Miami AF JROTC cadets presenting the flags at the YMCA on Veterans Day or a LM sporting event.

Cadets earn a seal for their diplomas upon graduation. If students enlist in the military after completing 3-4 years of AFJROTC, they will rank higher than entry-level cadets.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

When polling Seniors in the JROTC program to reflect on their time as cadets, they offered great insight into just how the program has impacted their character development.

Seniors described their younger selves as shy, lacking confidence and even doubtful of their capabilities. They say that after joining the program, they were encouraged to come out of their shell and flourish in their leadership skills, even running classes and cadet units.

## New this year!



**Aerospace Science  
Instructor, Chief Master  
Sergeant,  
Becky Hale**

Chief Hale came to LM through an Air Force sponsored intern program last year. She is well liked by the cadets and the boundless energy she brings is inspiring. Chief Hale retired from the Air Force in April of 2023.



**Fall 2021- After an extensive evaluation conducted by Region 7 Director for Headquarters Air Force JROTC, the LMHS unit earned the overall unit assessment score of "Exceeds Standard," the highest rating attainable!**





Little Miami Local Schools 95 E. US 22-3  
Maineville OH 45039

Website: [LittleMiamiSchools.com](http://LittleMiamiSchools.com)  
Phone: (513) 899-2264 (Central Office)

 Little Miami Local Schools

 @LM\_Schools

 LMPantherPride

 LittleMiamiSchools

# TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE LITTLE MIAMI SCHOOL DISTRICT

