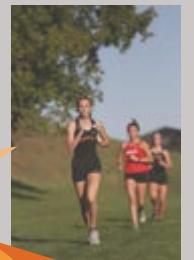


McHENRY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 156 ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020





A Message from the Superintendent and District 156 School Board President

Throughout the 2019-20 school year, we were reminded of the strength, resiliency and dedication of the McHenry Community High School District 156 students, staff and families. Please enjoy this annual report that touches on just some of the many highlights from this school year that was truly historic in many different ways.

While the school year didn't end in the way we'd hoped due to a global pandemic that continues to create new challenges, we want to remember all of the successes of the past year and focus on the great future to come. Before having to close the schools, the year was full of wonderful events and achievements, from academic progress to athletic success to wonderful recognitions of excellence by our students and staff.

During 2019-20, we had several March of Champion events at the schools to celebrate athletes and band members going to state and national competitions. For the first time, our PE department partnered with Northwestern Medicine McHenry to offer

low-cost EKG screenings for students during physical education classes.

Other highlights include teams of engineering students competing in the annual VEX Robotic Challenge at McHenry County College, and students presenting the annual Chautauqua event at both campuses. We also enjoyed having alumni authors coming back to school to speak to students.

A record number of students participated in Homecoming activities in the fall, which was so exciting to see. We also enjoyed amazing drama and music performances.

Those are just some of the special things that happened during the year before COVID-19. After having to close the school buildings, we found ways to connect and engage with our students online, and



District 156 school board members, pictured from left to right: Secretary Tim Hying, Vice President Dawn Bremer, Amanda Lobbins, Ron Fischer, President Gary Kinshofer, Secretary Pro-Tem Pat Arnold, Nicole Morrow.

WELCOME TO THE 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

celebrate the graduating Class of 2020 in a safe manner.

Fortunately, the pandemic did not slow our progress in transforming our facilities. We have now completed two phases of improvements at the buildings and McCracken Field, and our new Center for Science, Technology, and Industry is nearing completion.

All of these improvements are leading toward a historic transformation to our school as the former East Campus becomes the Freshman Campus in 2021, and West Campus changes to the Upper Campus. We are looking forward to becoming one McHenry High School, a sustainable, modern and equitable educational environment for all students.

We are not only transforming our facilities, but how we deliver educational services to our school community. With this campus

transition, we can consolidate and conserve resources, increase student access to courses and curriculum pathways, and eliminate most student travel between campuses.

With the start of the 2021-2022 school year, we'll be able to welcome new freshmen into their own renovated facility tailored just for them. Upper-level students will see expanded college and career programs as well as a renovated and expanded facility.

The future looks bright for our district as we are well on the way to becoming one of the most progressive and comprehensive districts in the area and state. Please be sure to follow our progress through our website, and social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Dr. Ryan McTague, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Gary Kinshofer, President, District 156 Board of Education



Meet our Designer

This annual report was designed by senior Sydney Murrin with the help of her colleagues at the MCHS Warriors Ink. Sydney, who plans to study graphic design after graduation, crafted this booklet while working remotely due to COVID-19.

MCHS Warriors Ink is a full-service graphic and printing operation run by graphics students under the direction of Instructor Matt Connor.



BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE



Summer Construction Work Dramatically Changes District 156 Facilities



McHenry Community High School District 156 buildings and facilities have been dramatically transformed in the last two years, thanks to the community's support for the schools. Summer construction seasons have been busy following the passage in 2018 of a \$44 million bond referendum to pay for building upgrades and a new extension at West Campus.

During the summer of 2019, East Campus was a main focus with several renovation projects taking place while construction of the 70,000-square-foot Center for Science, Technology and Industry was just getting underway. The 2020 construction season brought improvements to both campuses as well as substantial improvements at McCracken Field.

Construction of the new center at West Campus is expected to be complete in January 2021. Committees of MCHS staff are now working to prepare for the eventual transition of East Campus as a freshman center and West as an upper-level campus. That is set to begin with the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Here is a look at all of the projects completed at MCHS facilities in 2019 and 2020:

East Campus

- New geothermal HVAC system, including new units in all classrooms and offices, and ducted vents
- New classroom and hallway ceilings
- New interior and exterior LED lighting throughout the building
- New classroom flooring
- New Building Automation System (BAS)
- New roofing and rooftop HVAC Units
- Mechanical room improvements
- New hot water heaters
- New water softener system
- Renovated entryway and repaved bus lanes

West Campus

- Construction of the new Center for Science Technology and Industry (expected completion January 2021)
- New LED lighting throughout
- New HVAC units throughout
- New building automation system
- New waterproofing, tile and deck improvements for indoor pool (HVAC and filtration system were replaced last summer.)
- Construction of 10 new tennis courts
- Construction of new student parking lot (next to South Lot) 200+ spaces
- Paving and improvements to bus lane
- New temporary mobile classrooms
- New sprinkler system for soccer field
- Retention pond improvements
- Expanded and improved McHenry Strength facility

BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE



McHenry District 156 breaks ground on 70,000-square-foot Center for Science, Technology, and Industry

McHenry High School District 156 school board members joined with more than 75 local McHenry officials, business leaders, teachers, students and staff on Sept. 19, 2019 to officially mark the start of construction for the planned 70,000-square-foot Center for Science, Technology and Industry building extension at McHenry High School - West Campus.

For District 156, the groundbreaking event ushers in a new era for McHenry High School since the three-story addition offers state-of-the-art space for learning, and will eventually pave the way for a shift to make East Campus a freshman campus. This campus reorganization further establishes McHenry High School as one school community.

With the completion of the building extension, West Campus is set to become the senior campus for students in grades 10-12. This change will start with the 2021-22 school year.

“We are grateful to the voters in our community who played a vital role in making our vision of an ideal future become reality,” said Dr. Ryan McTague, District 156 superintendent, at the groundbreaking ceremony.

In November 2018, voters agreed to fund a \$44 million bond referendum to implement the district’s building plan, Vision 156 Plan for the Future. The plan was a result of many community meetings to address aging buildings while creating an equitable

and modern educational environment for all District 156 students, and also includes upgrades to existing facilities.

The three-story building extension, which is being built on the northside of West Campus, includes a new main entrance, additional classrooms, a construction lab, a manufacturing lab, advanced graphics lab, broadcasting studio, an advanced environmental / STEM lab, a biomedical lab, INCubatoredu classroom, and offices. It also includes new advanced engineering, computer, and robotics laboratories.

Sue Meyer, former McHenry mayor who headed a committee to support the referendum, said she believes the variety of program offerings in the new extension was a great selling point for the community.



Dr. Ryan McTague, District 156 superintendent, talks about the transformation at both East Campus and West Campus during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for Science, Technology and Industry.

MC HENRY HIGH SCHOOL RESPONDS TO COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic leads to event cancellation, remote learning



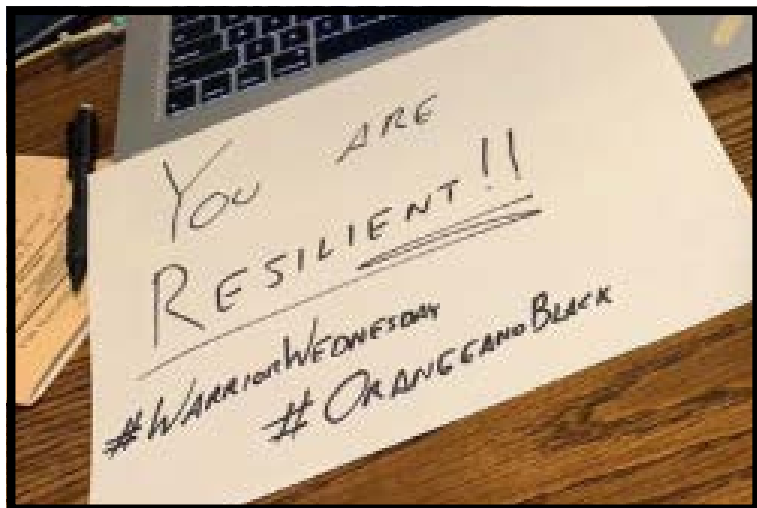
In a matter of days, McHenry Community High School District 156 went from two vibrant high schools to a fully remote educational system. As places around the world began to close down due to safety concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, District 156 teachers and staff were working to keep the connection open with students and families.

The decision to close the buildings was made March 13, and by March 16, lessons went online. Students, using their district-supplied Chromebooks, were able to connect with teachers and other students from home. The district's learning management platform, Schoology, allowed teachers to make assignments, grade work and track progress.

While teachers scrambled to prepare digital learning plans and activities, other staff worked to make sure all students had access to WiFi, and knew how to use Schoology.

Carl Vallianatos, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, said efforts by the district to prepare for blended learning, a mix of in-person and digital learning, helped students and staff quickly pivot to a fully remote system.

"I'm proud of the way we quickly moved our curriculum and programs online to keep our community safe," Vallianatos said. "So much work went into our Chromebook 1:1 program and



During the mandatory stay-at-home order in the spring of 2020, the MCHS school community tried to keep spirits high with a variety of virtual spirit days.

implementing Schoology into our curriculum, and it proved vital in the Spring 2020 semester." Unfortunately, the pandemic also forced the cancellation of several activities, events and spring sports. The annual McHenry Community Shave to support St. Baldrick's was changed from an in-person to a virtual event. Some of the big events that were cancelled include the McHenry Invite Powerlifting Meet, blood drives, Mr. McHenry and the high school's participation in large events, such as the Key Club Convention.

MCHS CELEBRATIONS DURING COVID-19



Students and staff do their best to celebrate spring milestones



With the governor's order to stay at home from mid-March through May, the District 156 community had to be creative to celebrate special high school events and milestones while staying apart.

Concerns about spreading the virus through large gatherings led to the cancellation of many spring activities and special events, such as spring sports, Prom and more. So everyone worked together to find other ways to mark spring milestones, particularly the graduation of the Class of 2020, in a safe way.

The MCHS community came together to honor the Class of 2020, spring athletes who missed a season, digital-learning students, educators and first-responders with a series of Friday Rise Up, Light Up virtual events. The lights at McCracken Field were turned on for 20 minutes each Friday in May, and families were encouraged to decorate their own homes and post photos online.

Also, each Friday, a new video was released to honor MCHS student activities, clubs, athletes, teachers and more. These amazing videos featured speeches from district staff and photos from events throughout the year.

Administrators personally delivered Distinguished Warrior yard signs to the 175 students who earned the DW honor. Then at the end of May, Distinguished Warriors were honored with a video presentation at the McHenry Outdoor Theater. The

hour-long presentation also included Senior Honors to recognize students who earned athletic awards, academic honors and scholarships.

Also in May, Class of 2020 students and families participated in a parade through downtown McHenry organized by the district. The parade started at East Campus and followed the Homecoming parade route to finish at McCracken Field where teachers and staff were gathered.

School staff spent several weeks putting together a virtual graduation ceremony that was shared with all Class of 2020 families. Then in June, school staff and administrators hosted several days of in-person graduation ceremonies at East Campus and West Campus to bid farewell to the Class of 2020. Each graduate had the opportunity to meet with administrators and other staff and take photos before principals Marsha Potthoff and Jeff Prickett declared them graduates.

"I've never experienced anything like this, but it was so fun to see the graduates in person," Potthoff said. "We just really wanted to do as much as we could for our students."



Distinguished Warriors from the Class of 2020 posted photos on social media so the community could celebrate the honor with them.

WARRIOR ATHLETIC SUCCESS 2019-2020



The 2019-2020 athletic year was off to a strong start in the fall and winter before the pandemic put a pause on high school sports. Here are some of the highlights:

- MCHS hosted the regional volleyball championships.
- The boys' golf team earned the regional champion title.
- One golfer qualified for state.
- Boys' cross country qualified for state.
- Cheer team went to state and finished 15th overall.
- One bowler qualified for the state tournament and finished 26th overall.
- Wrestling team had five qualify for sectionals and one for state.
- MCHS hosted IHSA Boys Basketball Sectionals, but competition was cut short due to COVID-19.
- Spring sports season was cancelled due to coronavirus.

SNAPSHOTS OF 2019-2020

Before the COVID-19 pandemic closed things down, the McHenry High School school year was filled with fun activities, celebrations and learning.

Students were able to take part in several activities, including Spirit Weeks, the Start with Hello campaign, Homecoming, the MORP dance, Chautauqua, Inclusion Week and more.

East Campus staged “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” in the fall while West Campus put on “The Beaux’ Stratagem.”

In addition to several choral and band concerts, students put on a rousing performance of “Chicago” in early March.

It was an amazing year!



WARRIOR SUCCESS STORIES

McHenry Messenger's Staff Earned Several Journalism Awards for Work During the Publication's First Full Year

The first full school year for The McHenry Messenger, McHenry High School's student news organization, was full of twists and turns. Despite that -- and perhaps because of it -- the publication's inaugural year was peppered with several journalism awards.



Most recently, the Messenger's news coverage of the impact of COVID-19 at McHenry High School was recognized by the national Journalism Education Association. An issue of

"Communication: Journalism Education Today" featured several McHenry Messenger stories in a section devoted to best practices during the pandemic.

MCHS student journalists worked remotely in the spring as the global pandemic forced most schools to shift education online. While that has made school more challenging, it created plenty of new opportunities for the Messenger staff. Student journalists covered the cancellation of the MCHS Symphonic Band's first trip to a national band festival,

conducting the first virtual St. Baldrick's McHenry Community Shave, and the cancellation of many spring events. The Messenger also published several stories about the effects of COVID-19 on the school community, including a story about how student essential workers are coping with the new normal of coronavirus concerns. In addition to the national recognition, The McHenry Messenger also received several awards from the Illinois Journalism Education Association, including first place for best website and third-place for best hybrid publication for their division. Other accolades include several stories being named Best of SNO by School Newspapers Online. All in all, the 2019-20 school year was an impressive one for the Messenger.



Hard Work Pays Off for the McHenry High School Band Program



While the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the MCHS Symphonic Band's first trip to a national festival in March 2020, it didn't erase the hard work that went into earning the opportunity to play on a national stage.

After earning accolades at several local band festivals, the Symphonic Band was poised to make its first-ever appearance in the National Concert Band Festival, which was set for March 12-14 in Indianapolis. The national festival came after the band's performance in 2019 at Illinois SuperState Concert Band Festival, and a first ever performance at the Chicagoland Marching Band Festival. Band Director Spencer Hile said preparing for the

national stage was a lot of work and pressure, but well deserved for student musicians. He credits students for the hard work and dedication that's gone into the band program's many accomplishments. For students, it's worth the effort. "This is where the hard work gets us," says Payton Anthony, a Class of 2020 graduate who plays French horn. Band students are hoping others are noticing the big changes in the band program, which also includes concert band, marching band, pep band and jazz ensemble.

In addition to the national festival, the symphonic band also made its first appearance in 2019 at the All-State Concert with a Feb. 1 performance at the Illinois Music Education Conference in downstate Peoria. For more information about the band program, visit www.mchenrybands.com.

STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Air Force Association names McHenry High School teacher Illinois STEM Teacher of the Year



Matt Adam, McHenry High School math teacher and digital literacy coach, was named Air Force Association Aerospace Education STEM Teacher of the Year for Illinois for going above and beyond to inspire his students with his work in math and technology. His work as a teacher, along with his other jobs as a digital literacy coach, assistant athletic director, driver education teacher and more has drawn the attention of McHenry High School District 156 administrators and the Air Force Association. The Aerospace and STEM Education Teacher of the Year award is meant to recognize teachers who go above and beyond to inspire students in STEM education. Air Force Association State President Thomas O'Shea said he was impressed with all Adam juggles when he visited Adam's West Campus classroom during the 2019-20 school year. O'Shea said Adam is also involved in the Knights of Columbus in addition to his work as a teacher. Adam was selected for the statewide honor by a panel of judges, including Maj. Gen. Grant R. Mulder.



O'Shea and Mulder presented the award June 16 at West Campus. Adam is starting his 17th year

as a teacher in McHenry. He has taught just about all of the math classes McHenry offers, including algebra, geometry and calculus.

A native of Indiana and Purdue University graduate, Adam said he realized early on that he enjoyed math and that many others didn't. At the beginning of each school year, Adam enjoys learning about each student's comfort level with math.

The statewide honor comes after Adam was selected Teacher of the Year for the Air Force Association Chicagoland/O'Hare Chapter 142.

Hurckes named IHSA wrestling Official of the Year



Michael Hurckes, MCHS physical education teacher, was named the 2020 Official of the Year for wrestling by the Illinois High School Association.

Hurckes was among 22 winners from throughout Illinois to earn the Officials of the Year designation by the IHSA. Each year, an official is chosen in each of the IHSA's 22 sports based on character, skill and other factors.

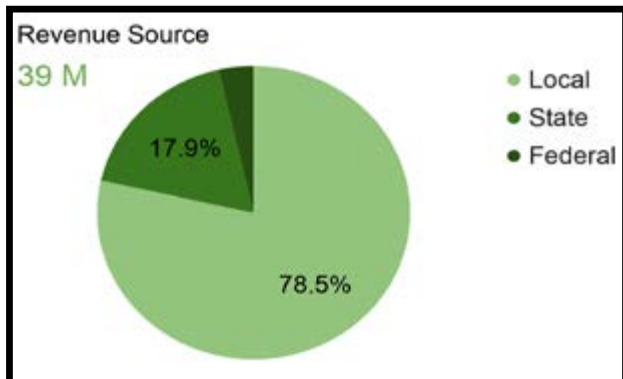
Officials of the Year were to be recognized in July, but the in-person event was delayed due to COVID-19. Instead, the IHSA produced a video to spotlight the winners.

MCHS BY THE NUMBERS

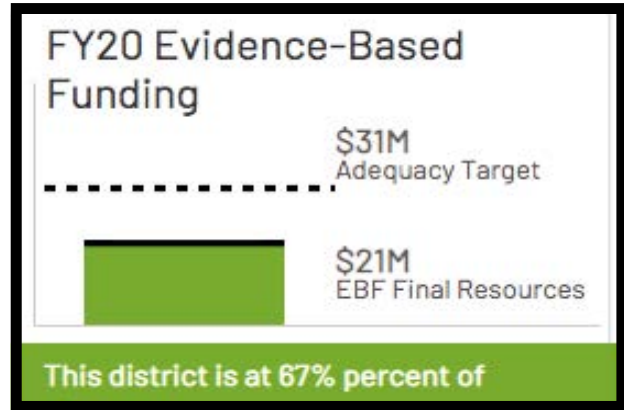


Unlike other suburban districts in the state, our district enrollment has stayed relatively consistent over the past five years. For the 2019-2020 school year, our total enrollment was 2,146 students, which represents only a 1.7 percent decrease from the previous year.

The district's primary source of revenue comes from local property tax. Local sources (78.5 percent) make up the bulk of revenue we received in FY20, followed by the state (17.9 percent) and federal (3.6 percent) sources (FY20 AFR).

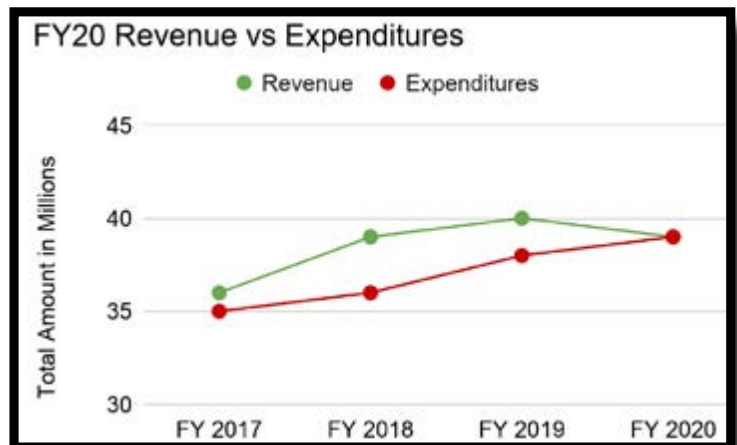


The Illinois Evidence-Based State Funding Formula was enacted to send more state funding to the districts in the greatest financial need. A district's percentage of adequacy compares its actual funding to what the evidence-based funding statute defines as full funding for that specific district. Tier 1 districts have the lowest funding levels compared to what they need, and Tier 4 districts have full funding or more than fullfunding. In FY 2020 District 156 was assigned a Tier 1 funding designation (lowest funding designation). According to the new



Evidence-Based Funding model, District 156 is considered to be one of the lowest state-funded school districts in the state at 67 percent, well below the fully funded adequacy target of 100 percent.

The Board of Education has been a good fiscal steward with taxpayer dollars. The graph to the left represents normal revenue and expenditures outside of the \$44 million in referendum bonds sold in FY19. The proceeds from the \$44 million bond sale are in a separate fund. In FY19 the district spent \$2 million of that referendum fund balance and in FY20 we spent an additional \$18 million. Those expenditures include multiple construction projects at both campuses. We anticipate using the balance of \$24 million in FY21 to pay for the new West Campus renovations, completion of the Center for Science, Technology, and



Industry, and East Campus renovations.

MCHS BY THE NUMBERS

We are working hard to control spending by making strategic investments in our academic programs, personnel, and facilities. We hope to save more than \$500K in operational and other costs after our campus shift is completed in 2021 due to the consolidation of resources, personnel, and energy savings. We are also pleased to announce that 90 percent of all major mechanical systems have been replaced at both campuses. We are confident that we will maintain the financial resources necessary to continue investing in the modernization of our educational environment, courses, and programs in a sustainable and financially responsible manner over the next decade and beyond.



MCHS FAST FACTS

- Graduation Rate: 90%
- Seniors with at least one AP course (Class of 2020): 56%
- 9th Grade On Track: 95%
- Dual Credit and AP Courses: 40
- Students with early college coursework: 810
- Distinguished Warrior honor: 176 senior students
- % of Graduating Class to take at least one PLTW Pathway Course: 28%
Engineering, Computer Science, Biomedical Science
- College enrollment rate: 73%
- Teachers with master's degree(s): 62%
- Teacher-to-student ratio: 17:1
- Chromebook to student ratio: 1:1





Designed By Sydney Murrin & MCHS Warriors Ink