WEST GEAUGA
LOCAL SCHOOLS

Quality Profile



WE ARE WEST G!

2025

From the Superintendent









*A **Quality Profile** highlights how a school district supports student success beyond the report card measures. It showcases programs, achievements, and opportunities that reflect the district's commitment to excellence and growth.*

Dear West Geauga Families and Community Members,

I am filled with gratitude and pride for all we have achieved together in sustaining and strengthening our reputation as one of Ohio's top-rated school districts. Our district continues to grow stronger, our programs more dynamic, and our shared dedication to excellence more evident than ever.

Over the last several years, we have made tremendous progress—both in the classroom and beyond. We have enhanced our academic offerings, invested in innovative instructional practices, and strengthened our partnerships with families and the community. Our staff continues to demonstrate extraordinary dedication to ensuring every child feels seen, supported, and challenged. These milestones are not isolated achievements—they are the result of a unified community working together toward a shared vision.







As we look ahead, I am excited to continue this important work with you. Our focus remains clear: to grow our standard of excellence, to support every child, and to serve our community with pride and purpose. These goals are not simply statements—they are commitments that guide every decision we make.

At West Geauga, we are building both a culture of excellence and a culture of care. We believe that academic rigor and personal well-being go hand in hand. When students are known, valued, and inspired, they thrive—and so does our district.

Together, we will continue to honor West Geauga's rich traditions while embracing innovation and opportunities for the future. I am grateful for your trust, your partnership, and your unwavering belief in what we can accomplish together. We are West G!

With appreciation,
Dr. Nancy Benincasa, Superintendent

EXCEEDING *Standards*

We inspire excellence and lead with vision and purpose.

WE ARE LEADERS



Student Accomplishments

Seven students from the Class of 2025 were nominated for the prestigious **Ohio Governor's Merit Scholarship.** This scholarship provides up to $5,000 per year, renewable for four years to students pursuing higher education in Ohio. This honor recognizes their outstanding academic performance and dedication and highlights the incredible talent and potential within our West Geauga student nominees.

Middle School Band had 30 students participate in the **Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Competition**. Across 17 performances, 11 received Superior ratings—the highest possible—while 6 earned Excellent ratings, showcasing the talent and dedication of our young musicians.

The West Geauga High School **Academic Challenge team** competed on News 5 and brought home the victory plaque, defeating teams from Orange and Vermillion!

Students in grades 3–8 participate in the nationwide **Noetic Math Contest** each fall and spring, putting their creative problem-solving skills to the test. In last spring's competition, which included 41,000 students nationwide, West Geauga proudly had **13 grade-level winners**. Even more impressively, three of these students scored in the **top 10% of their grade level**, earning the prestigious Honor Roll distinction for the highest level of achievement.

A Tradition of Excellence

The West Geauga Local School District has proudly earned the **highest possible 5-Star Rating** every year. This year, West Geauga is **one of only 10 districts** in the state to earn 5-stars overall and 5-stars in each component category. Also, every rated West Geauga school has achieved **5-star recognition** in 2023, 2024, and 2025—a true reflection of our students' hard work and dedication.

On the 2024–2025 Ohio School Report Card in Achievement:

- **West Geauga Local Schools** ranked an impressive **#11 in Ohio** out of 607 districts with a performance index of 108.5.
- **West Geauga High School** soared to **#2 in Ohio** among all public high schools based on the Performance Index, highlighting outstanding student achievement.
- **West Geauga Middle School** earned **#8 in Ohio** among public middle schools based on the performance index.

These achievements celebrate our community's commitment to excellence and the incredible efforts of our students, staff, and families.

State Qualifiers

West Geauga High School athletes advanced to the **state competition** in **Golf, Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track,** highlighting their skill, dedication, and hard work. Additionally, Wrestling Coach Joe Joltin was named **Coach of the Year**.







Staff Awards

Middle School teacher Mrs. Jennifer Molnar was honored by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation as the **2025 George B. Chapman Jr. Math Teacher of the Year**.

Dr. Richard Markwardt received the **2025 School Leader of the Year** for Geauga/Portage County for his vision, collaboration, and strong commitment to enhancing student success.

Transportation Aid Chee Chee Mastrangelo received the **2025 OAPT Rita Rogers Award for Excellence in Special Needs Transportation**, recognizing school transportation professionals for their outstanding leadership and conduct.

Meagan Bellan was recognized as the **2025 Principal of the Year** Geauga/Portage County for her exceptional leadership in education.

Athletic Director Brandon Stewart received the **Bruce Brown Award of Excellence** for fostering a culture that promotes education-based athletic programing.

Empowering *Success*

We approach each day with curiosity, embrace challenges, and seek opportunities to grow.

WE ARE LEARNERS



Advanced Placement and College Credit Plus

Students can challenge themselves through our **Advanced Placement (AP) Program**, which offers college-level courses at West Geauga High School. With 21 AP courses available, students have the chance to earn college credit and get a head start on their future studies.

Beginning in 7th grade, students have the option to participate in **College Credit Plus (CCP) courses**, allowing students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously. West Geauga offers several CCP courses on campus, taught by qualified West Geauga teachers. This in-house option provides students with expanded opportunities, greater scheduling flexibility, and the convenience of earning college credit within their regular school day.

English Learner Supports

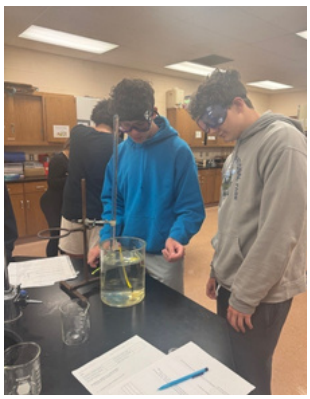
English Language Learner (ELL) support is provided for students and families to strengthen reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language, while fostering communication and connection within the school community.



Gifted and Accelerated

The **Gifted and Talented Program** is designed to identify and support students who demonstrate exceptional abilities in one or more areas, including superior cognitive skills, specific academic talents, and creative thinking. Beginning in fourth grade, students may participate in whole **grade level accelerations**, allowing them to engage in advanced coursework that matches their readiness and potential. As students progress through middle and high school, they continue to have opportunities to take higher-level classes—particularly in math and science—ensuring that their academic experience remains challenging, enriching, and aligned with their individual strengths.





Staff Professional Development

West Geauga is committed to continuous professional growth through a comprehensive approach to staff development. District-wide Professional Development Days feature targeted training sessions and expert presenters focused on instructional strategies, curriculum, and student success. In addition, teachers engage in regular Professional Learning Committee (PLC) meetings to collaborate with peers, share best practices, and analyze student data. Building Leadership Teams (BLT) and the District Leadership Team (DLT) further strengthen this culture of learning by guiding school improvement efforts and aligning goals across the district—ensuring that professional growth directly supports student achievement.

Maximizing *Potential*

We seek knowledge, develop skills, and use what we learn to make a positive impact.

WE ARE LEARNERS





Learning Opportunities

We are committed to meeting the needs of every student through meaningful opportunities and student-centered learning. Our goal is to inspire students to reach beyond minimum standards and continually strive for growth. Through a focus on high expectations, rigorous academics, and real-world preparation, we equip students with the skills and confidence to succeed in college, careers, and life.

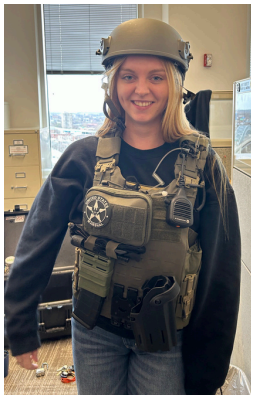




Elective Coursework

West Geauga High School offers engaging elective courses designed to allow students to personalize their education and discover new passions beyond the core curriculum. Each course encourages creativity, critical thinking, and real-world application—empowering students to make the most of their high school experience. Some course examples include Aerial Drone Fundamentals & Licensure, American Wars, Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Problem Solving, Intro to Sewing and Basic Alterations, Nutrition for the High School Athlete, and Onshape Certification by Design.





Career Exploration

West Geauga provides students with meaningful career pathways designed to connect learning with future goals. Through Excel TECC—a consortium of 10 local school districts—students can explore specialized career and technical education programs from Auto Technology to Nursing, and Culinary Arts to Welding, that offer hands-on, real-world experience. In addition, work-based learning opportunities with local employers, career speakers who share professional insights, and individualized career plans help students identify their interests and build the skills needed for success beyond high school.

Attendance Matters

Consistent attendance is key to student success—every day matters. When students are present, they stay connected, keep up with learning, and build strong habits. Thanks to a renewed focus on attendance, West Geauga's chronic absenteeism rate, which historically hovered around 20%, dropped to an impressive 9.1% in 2024–2025, reflecting our shared commitment to making each day count.



Extracurricular Activities

Our students show up with pride. We support each other and connect through common interests.

WE ARE TEAMMATES

Athletics

The Wolverines compete in the Chagrin Valley Conference, offering fall, winter, and spring sports for students in grades 7–12, including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling. There's a place for every athlete to showcase their talent, teamwork, and Wolverine pride.







Musical Arts

West Geauga's **instrumental music programs** continue to thrive across all grade levels, engaging 491 students in grades 5–12. A wide range of classroom and extracurricular opportunities are offered, including **Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Steel Drum Band, Jazz Band, 5th Grade and Middle School Band.**

As one of the most popular bands in the land, the **West Geauga Marching Band** proudly features 155 talented students. You can catch their spirited performances under the Friday Night Lights and at events such as Cedar Point, the Buckeye Invitational at Ohio State, community celebrations, parades, and local competitions. The band has also been invited to perform at the New Year's Festival in Dublin, Ireland, in January 2026 — an incredible opportunity for students to travel and share their talents on an international stage.

Our middle and high school **choir program** continues to grow, now including approximately 203 students. In March 2026, the West Geauga Choir will travel to New York City for an unforgettable musical experience. Students also have the chance to participate in extracurricular programs such as Choir, Musical Theatre, and Class Act.

Visual Arts

Artistic talent shines at every grade level in West Geauga. Student artwork is proudly showcased each spring at the annual Geauga West Public Library Art Show and in the fall at The Great Geauga County Fair. The Middle School's Mural Club brings creativity to the hallways, while High School students can explore a variety of courses, including Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Graphic Design, and Art History

Performing Arts

Our performing arts program continues to grow in participation, volunteer support, and audience attendance. The on-stage performances—from the **High School and Middle School Musical Theatre** to **Lindsey Elementary's fifth-grade** show—feature talented musicians and actors, complete with impressive sets and costumes. The Middle School production takes the stage in the fall, while the High School and Lindsey Elementary performances follow in the spring.

Discovering *Interests*

We work together with cooperation, encouragement, and contribute our best.

WE ARE TEAMMATES

Clubs

Students can explore a wide variety of extracurricular clubs and connect with peers who share their interests. With so many options available—and the chance to propose a new club if an interest isn't already offered—there's something for everyone.

- Academic Challenge
- Acceptance Committee
- Art Mural Club
- Bee Club
- Best Buddies
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Class Act / Class Act Jr
- Cinema Club
- Crochet Club
- Drama Club
- Game Club
- Girls on the Run
- Interact Club
- Jazz Band
- Key Club
- Lindsey Learners
- Marching Band
- Math Club
- Media Club
- Mock Trial
- Musical Theatre
- National Honor Society
- Outdoors Club
- Power of the Pen
- Project STIR
- Safe School Initiative
- Steel Band
- STEM Club
- Student Council
- West G Bees
- WGTV
- World Languages Club
- Yearbook





Field Trips

Learning extends beyond the classroom, offering students unique, hands-on educational experiences. These are some of the field trips students experienced.

- Holden Arboretum
- Playhouse Square
- Severance Hall
- Goodtime III
- Geauga Learn
- Camp Fitch
- Cleveland Historical Sites
- Washington DC
- Great Lakes Science Center
- Federal Reserve Bank
- Cleveland Zoo
- Psychology Museum
- Medical Examiner's Office
- Pattersons Market
- The Rookery
- Northeast Ohio Youth Leadership Summit
- Thinkfest Ideation Workshop
- Shaker Rocks



Traditions

School traditions are more than events—they're moments that bring our community together, celebrate accomplishments, and build lasting memories for students and staff alike. From time-honored events like the PTO Westwood Walk and Laps for Lindsey, Homecoming Parade, Field Days, and musicals, to new traditions like the Battle of 306, Senior Clapout, Wolverine Kickoff Classic, and Color Run, West Geauga is always seeking fun ways to celebrate our students and community.

Community Support

Our schools shine brightest when our community comes together. Strong schools are rooted in engaged, caring communities.

WE ARE FRIENDS

School Support Organizations

We are fortunate to have many dedicated, volunteer-run, non-profit School Support Organizations that give their time, energy, and resources to enrich the student experience. These groups play a vital role in our school community by fundraising, organizing events, and providing valuable support for students, families, and staff. Their efforts help make possible many of the programs, activities, and opportunities that enhance learning and school spirit. Through their generosity and commitment, these volunteers strengthen the connection between home, school, and community—ensuring that West Geauga continues to thrive.

- Upper and Lower Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO)
- Athletic Boosters
- Band Boosters
- Performing Arts Boosters
- Gridiron Club
- After Prom Committee
- West Geauga Educational Foundation

West Geauga extends sincere a thank you to the many **local businesses** whose generous donations and ongoing support make a lasting impact on our Wolverines. Your partnership helps provide opportunities that enrich our schools and strengthen our community spirit.

We also recognize and appreciate our local **youth organizations** —our future Wolverines—whose energy and dedication keep the West G tradition strong for generations to come.

Giving Back

We believe in the importance of giving back to our community and fostering a sense of responsibility in our students. Through service projects, volunteer opportunities, and community engagement, we teach students the value of helping others and making a positive impact. These experiences encourage students to grow as compassionate, responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to the world around them. Here are a few:

- Interact and Key Club volunteer projects
- National Honor Society (NHS) donation drives
- Food Drives
- Book Drives
- Ronald McDonald House donation drive

This year, we are thrilled to offer even more opportunities for students to give back and make a meaningful impact in new and exciting ways.











Wolverine *Pride*

We stand by each other through both challenges and successes.
We are connected to something bigger than ourselves.

WE ARE FRIENDS







Fun school events play an essential role in building a vibrant and connected school community. Pep rallies, assemblies, spirit days, awards ceremonies, graduation, field days, class parties, and clapouts give students opportunities to celebrate achievements, show school pride, and create lasting memories with friends and teachers. These activities foster a sense of belonging, strengthen relationships, and make the school experience enjoyable and meaningful—reminding students that learning is not only about academics but also about connection, celebration, and shared experiences.









Students actively participate in a variety of **community events**, including the Chesterland July 4 Parade, Veteran's Day ceremonies, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and STEM Fair, Rotary Breakfast with Santa, Senior Citizens Dinner, Geauga County Fair, and 4-H activities. These experiences allow students to connect with neighbors, celebrate local traditions, and contribute to the community in meaningful ways.

WE ARE STRATEGIC

District Operations

We take pride in every detail—keeping our schools safe, welcoming, and ready each day



Westwood Elementary
Built: 1958
Square Footage: 60,400
Grades: PS - 2
Students: 366
Staff: 53



R.C. Lindsey Elementary
Built: 1958
Square Footage: 58,106
Grades: 3 - 5
Students: 459
Staff: 55



WG Middle School
Built: 1962
Square Footage: 113,416
Grades: 6 - 8
Students: 489
Staff: 60



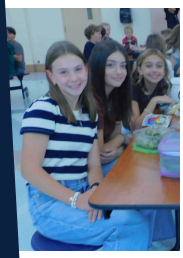
WG High School
Built: 1953
Square Footage: 162,520
Grades: 9 - 12
Students: 601
Staff: 82

Student and Staff Data 2024-2025



Transportation

West Geauga School Transportation keeps students safe and on the move each day with 40 vehicles in our fleet—30 buses and 10 vans—covering 3,323 miles transporting 1,675 students. Parents and guardians can track bus arrival times through our 'Here Comes the Bus' program, and we are piloting a new software called Wayfinder, which will soon provide even more features. Our drivers uphold high standards through ongoing professional development, most recently completed START (School Transportation Active-Threat Response) training. We also actively recruit new drivers through various events to ensure our team is staffed and ready to meet the needs of our families.



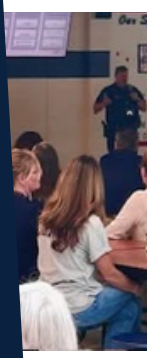
Food Service

Our Food Services program, in partnership with **AVI Foodsystems, Inc**, proudly serves nutritious meals in full compliance with the National School Lunch Program and USDA Food and Nutrition Guidelines. During the 2024–2025 school year, our team served an impressive **111,559 meals** across the district. Each school features a fully operational kitchen where breakfast and lunch are prepared fresh every day, ensuring students have healthy, balanced options to fuel their learning.



Technology

District technology continues to evolve to meet the modern needs of our students. In partnership with Edutech Group, we maintain and support our networks and devices to ensure seamless learning. Students in grades K–5 have a 1:1 school-issued Chromebook for classroom use, while students in grades 6–12 receive a district-issued Chromebook to take home daily. Cybersecurity remains a top priority, protecting the safety and privacy of both students and staff as they navigate the digital world.



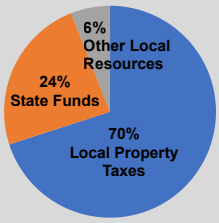
Safety

Student and staff safety is a top priority. In partnership with the Chester and Russell Township Police Departments, each building has a full-time safety security officer on campus every day. Our staff receive ongoing professional development, including ALICE Training and Emergency Preparedness Training, to be knowledgeable in a variety of situations. Every classroom is equipped with emergency supplies, provided in partnership with University Hospitals, and students and staff participate in quarterly drills and tabletop scenario discussions to ensure they are prepared for all types of emergencies—from potential threats to severe weather. Safety is a shared commitment, and our comprehensive approach helps our community stay vigilant and prepared.

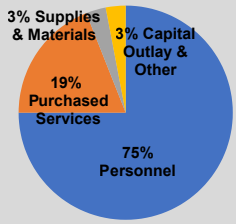
From the Treasurer

Fiscal responsibility is our priority. It guides every decision, but our true focus is our students—ensuring each choice opens doors.

Collecting Money



Spending Money



Outstanding Performance at a Reasonable Cost

Cost per Pupil is the average amount of money spent to educate each child. This calculation includes ALL operational costs associated with providing an education to students.

Comparison Local Costs *Per Pupil:*

West Geauga.....$15,468
Chagrin Falls.....$19,845
Chardon.....$15,578
Solon.....$16,022
Kenston.....$14,935
Orange.....$24,233

Source: FY25 Ohio School Report Card

FINANCIAL AWARDS

Ohio Auditor Award with Distinction 2011-2024

Government Finance Officers Association - Excellence in Financial Reporting 2010-2024

Where does our money come from?

School operations are funded through a mix of local, state, and federal sources. About 76% of our revenue comes from local funding, with property taxes making up roughly 70% of the District's total revenue in FY2025. The District has several long-standing levies, along with two emergency levies—originally approved in 2003 and 2005—that will expire in 2026 and 2029. The State of Ohio provides about 24% of our funding through the school funding formula and the reimbursement of taxpayers' rollback credits and homestead exemptions on levies approved before 2013. Because all of our levies are older than 2013, residents and agricultural properties continue to qualify for 12.5% state rollback credit each year. Federal funding makes up a small portion of our budget and can only be used for specific programs allowed under federal grants.

How is our money spent?

Salaries and benefits make up the majority of our operating costs—over 75% this past year. The District must pay for these expenditures out of an operating fund called the General Fund, while capital projects are paid out of a separate Capital Project Fund. The Board of Education approves a five-year capital plan detailing specific projects and future renovation and repair needs. The plan is updated periodically throughout the year to provide accurate information on current projects and estimates of future projects. Since the District does not carry any debt, these small to medium capital expenditures are funded through transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Project Fund, similar to a savings account. Over the past years, the Board of Education has set aside funds for several projects to include the following:

- New well and water treatment plant - $5 million
- Middle School renovations and roof repairs - $4.8 million
- Middle School generator - $600,000
- Turf and Track replacement - $1.1 million
- High School and Lindsey Parking lot replacement and repairs - $1.6 million

Any significant capital project, such as a new building, would require the passage of a bond levy to provide long-term financing.

Every effort is made to operate in a fiscally responsible manner which includes formally bidding capital projects, participating in insurance consortiums and purchasing cooperatives, and constantly monitoring staffing needs. As stewards of your tax dollars, we have implemented sound fiscal practices and continually seek to operate as efficiently as possible.

WEST GEAUGA LOCAL SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE THROUGH TRADITION AND INNOVATION

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 362
CLEVELAND, OH

West Geauga Local Schools
8615 Cedar Road
Chesterland, Ohio 44026

ECRWSS
Local Postal Patron
Or Current Resident

WE ARE WEST G!

Watch our *We are West G* District Video

Learn about a Career in Transportation

Stay connected with us for current school news and events.

www.westg.org

West Geauga Local Schools on Facebook