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West Carrollton Schools
State of the District

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Anchoring Our Future — Empowering Our Pirates

A Message from Your Superintendent



I sometimes hear rumors or see comments on social media that are untrue. I wanted to address one rumor where people say, "*The school district must have a lot of money if they can afford to build new schools.*"

Inside this publication, you can find out why building new schools was a better financial option than trying to renovate and update our previous schools and how the State of Ohio is paying 81% of the co-funded cost of construction. You will also learn that the funds generated from the 2019 Building Bond Issue may only be used for that purpose.

Another rumor is, "*You just passed a levy.*" The last Operating Levy that passed was in 2016.

The district has been able to stretch the dollars from that levy through ongoing budget analysis to identify any area where money could be saved. Additional funding was also provided through government grants that helped schools provide programs for students to close gaps in education during COVID. Those grants are no longer available.

The definitions of a Bond Issue and a Levy are further explained inside. Anyone who has questions is always welcome to contact us.

The best part of this publication is our Pirate Highlights! It is just a small sampling of what has been happening in the school district this school year.

The Pirates have made achievements in academics, athletics, and the arts. If you are a parent/guardian, community member, student, or staff member, you have a lot of reasons to be proud of your school district.

I can't wait to see what the Pirates achieve during the second semester! We're just getting started!

PIRATE PROUD

Dr. Andrea Townsend

Pirate Highlights

continued from front cover . . .



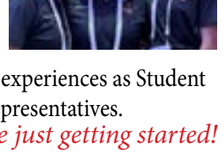
- **The ECC received the Silver Award** for PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Implementation from the Ohio Department of Education.
- **The district received the Gold Award** for PBIS Implementation from the Ohio Department of Education.
- **61% of ECC students** who scored below grade level on last year's iReady reading diagnostic are now reading on grade level.
- **Annual food drive** provided a turkey and food for 60 families in the school district and fed 275 people.



- **42 Middle School students** were on the Honor Roll in the first quarter, including members of the NJHS (National Junior Honor Society).
- **42 Middle School students** had a 4.0 grade point average.
- **Morgan Harry** (Junior), won 1st place in the Cheerleading "jump off" competition. She has competed in the jump off since Middle School in 2021 and has won every year since except for 2023 when she placed second as a Freshman.



- **High School student, Ben Tran**, received the Pirate Pride Award for showing continuous spirit and enthusiasm.



- **Cheerleaders, Serenity Foster** (Senior, pictured with her mom on Senior Night) and **Morgan Harry** (Junior) were named First Team in the Miami Valley League.
- **Intermediate School students** achieved a 94.75% attendance rate.
- **53% of Intermediate School** fifth-grade students made either High Honors (all A's) or Honor Roll (all A's and B's).
- **43% of Intermediate School** sixth-grade students made either High Honors (all A's) or Honor Roll (all A's and B's).
- **High School Students** presented at the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference to tell school board members from across the state about their experiences as Student School Board Representatives.



. . . and we're just getting started!

Pirate Highlights



- ***West Carrollton Elementary opened for the 2025-26 school year.*** *The school houses all 2nd through 4th grade students.*



- ***West Carrollton High School/ Middle School on schedule to open for the 2026-27 school year*** *and will house all 7th through 12th grade students.*



- **Jeremy Fernandez** (Junior), scored a school record-breaking 7 goals in one game in Boys' Soccer and was named First Team in the Miami Valley League. He was recognized with the Pirate Pride Award.



- **Middle School student, Sadie Borders**, received the Pirate Pride Award for consistently showing pride in her school and athletic teams.



- **Marching Band and Color Guard** earned five trophies at the Springboro Invitational: *First Place Finish, Best Music, Best Visual, Best General Effect,* and *Best Percussion* and two trophies at the Lakota West Invitational: *Third Place* and *Best Visual.*
- **51% of High School students** made the Honor Roll in the first quarter.
- **97 High School Seniors** made the Honor Roll in the first quarter.

. . . more on back cover



Boys' Cross Country *team won first place in the Valley Division of the Miami Valley League. The team was recognized with the Pirate Pride Award.*

How is a Dollar Spent

*Food Service	.04
Transportation	.05
Operations and Maintenance	.07
Support and Administration	.11
Classroom Instruction	**.73**
TOTAL	**$1.00**

The majority of every dollar spent goes directly into Classroom Instruction. That includes teachers, classroom supplies and equipment as well as support services including nurses, psychologists, and media centers. **Although the food service department is completely self funded, the treasurer's office receives and processes the revenue and expenditures.*

The district consistently ranks in the top 10 of over 100 similar sized districts in returning the most budget dollars to classroom instruction.



Math teacher, Mrs. Fiorentini, works with students on a math problem at the Intermediate School.



Middle School students who have been studying robotics visited FC Industries to see how robots are used in manufacturing.



Early Childhood Center students get to choose their favorite books to read in the media center.



Elementary School students are greeted by staff every morning.



Ms. Kearney's High School special needs students learn life skills in the classroom along with academics.



Intermediate School teacher and Pirate alumni, Mr. Seifert, teaches science to fifth-grade students.

What is the difference between a Levy and a Bond Issue?

Building Bond Issue—
The money generated from a building bond issue is used for new construction, renovation, upgrades to a facility, or related site improvements. *A Building Bond Issue was passed in November, 2019.*

Permanent Improvement Levy—
The money generated from a permanent improvement levy is used for large maintenance or equipment costs. Examples would be a building roof, a new school bus, building security systems or parking lot pavement projects.

Operating Levy—
The money generated from an operating levy is used for the day-to-day operating costs of the district. Examples would be textbooks, technology, utilities, custodial services, transportation, facility maintenance, supplies, and personnel costs. Similar to other school districts, 81% (FY26) of the General Fund budget is for personnel costs. *An Operating Levy was passed in 2016, and an Operating Levy Renewal was passed in 2020. The Renewal did not increase taxes.*

— An Operating Levy, Permanent Improvement Levy and Building Bond Issue History is detailed below.

The Ohio School Boards Association provides information on understanding school levies and how schools are financed. The definition of millage (mill) is also defined. Scan the QR code above to find out more.

Scan the QR code at right to see the school district's Financial Forecast, including revenues and expenditures.

How New School Construction Costs are Being Co-Funded

School districts across the State of Ohio, including West Carrollton, have been exploring the option of renovating and updating existing schools versus new construction. Comparing the cost for each option, along with any co-funded dollars available from the State of Ohio, is a key factor in the decision-making process. The decision is not the same for every school district.

An independent study by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) of each school in the district (prior to 2019) determined that the cost of renovating and updating buildings would cost more than new construction.

Building Assessment

The OFCC sent in teams to inspect and rate all of our schools. Using industry standard building costs, they developed a plan that listed remodel costs and new construction costs for each building.

67%Rule

- If remodel costs are less than 67% of new construction costs, OFCC will only co-fund a remodel.
- If remodel costs are 67% or greater than new construction costs, OFCC will co-fund new buildings.

All of our buildings far exceeded the 67% rule and the OFCC agreed to co-fund the construction of new schools.



– 19% – Community

– 81% – State of Ohio

The Community paid 19% of every co-funded dollar for the construction of new schools.

The State of Ohio paid 81% of every co-funded dollar for the construction of new schools.

West Carrollton Early Childhood Center (preschool, kindergarten, and first grade) opened for the 2022-23 school year.

District officials reviewed the Building Assessment report from the OFCC and compared the co-funded dollars available from the State of Ohio for renovations and updates versus new construction and determined that new construction would be the best option to pursue.

Cost Comparison

Renovations/ Updates	New Construction
☑ Higher Cost	☐ Higher Cost
☐ Lower Cost	☑ Lower Cost

The co-funding percentage from the State of Ohio fluctuated from year to year. Passage of the Building Bond Issue in November 2019 locked in the State's commitment to pay 81% of the co-funded cost of new buildings.

Immediately following the passage of the Building Bond Issue, a two-phase construction plan was developed. Groundbreaking for the Phase I buildings, West Carrollton Early Childhood Center and Intermediate School, was in October, 2020. Both opened for the 2022-23 school year.

Construction for Phase II buildings began in 2023. The Elementary opened in August, 2025 and the Middle/High School is slated to open in August, 2026.

Passage of the Building Bond Issue in November 2019 locked in the State's commitment to pay 81% of the co-funded cost of new buildings.



West Carrollton Elementary School (grades 2 through 4) opened for the 2025-26 school year.



West Carrollton Intermediate School (grades 5 and 6) opened for the 2022-23 school year.



West Carrollton Middle/High School (grades 7 through 12) opening for the 2026-27 school year.

No New and No Increase in Taxes for Operations Since 2016

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

- ● Operating Levy Passed
- ● Operating Levy Failed
- ■ Permanent Improvement Levy Passed
- ★ Building Bond Issue Passed

★ Passage of the Building Bond Issue in November 2019 locked in the State's commitment to pay 81% of the co-funded cost of new buildings.