



QUALITY PROFILE

2013/2014



MARIEMONT
City Schools

Scholars of today. Leaders of tomorrow.

A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of your school district in areas that matter most in our community.

Tradition. Community. Innovation.

Message from the Superintendent



Before I began my tenure as superintendent of Mariemont City Schools, I knew about this district by reputation. Mariemont City Schools is known around the state as a high-achieving district with a supportive community. After my first year here, I am pleased to report that this district holds true to its reputation.

Over the past year, I have been able to take a thoughtful and objective look at all performance areas of the district. Overall, the work that we have collectively accomplished has been outstanding, and we have much to be proud of. As you look through this Quality Profile, I hope you also find this to be true. We *are* an excellent school district.

But, even with excellence there is a responsibility to seek even higher levels of achievement, and under my watch, we will. Three critical areas will continue to drive our conversations and future planning as a school system – finances, operations and the student experience through academics and extracurricular activities.

Financially, we have controlled costs by eliminating \$1.8 million from the budget since 2010. This reduction reflects the elimination of 16 teaching and staff positions and increased operational efficiencies. These operational efficiencies are made possible by the passage of the 2010 bond issue, which enabled us to build and renovate school buildings. The new and improved buildings have saved us money through reductions in projected capital outlay expenditures and by downsizing from three to two elementary school buildings.

Our focus on the student experience is driven by *Destination 2026*, the strategic instructional vision for our district, which enables us to explore and identify the knowledge, skills and opportunities that our students will need to compete globally and succeed in tomorrow's world. Our students and staff will begin to experience the impact of the *Destination 2026* work as early as the 2014-15 school year.

I am excited about the work we have accomplished so far, but I assure you I am always keeping my eye on the future. I appreciate the support you give our school district. Together, we will continue to do great things for our community's children.

Sincerely,

Steven Estepp
Superintendent

Message from the President of the Board of Education

What another great year at Mariemont City Schools! On behalf of the Mariemont Board of Education, I would like to thank everyone who made the 2013-2014 school year such a successful one – from all of the parents who provide important support to their children at home, to the volunteers that graciously give their time and talent, to the staff members that help teach our children how to shine, thrive and grow.

My son recently graduated from Mariemont High School, so, as a parent, I understand how much we all rely on the school district to provide our children with the experiences necessary to help them develop strengths and a passion for learning. Furthermore, as a community member, I also understand the expectation that the school district operates in a fiscally responsible manner and spends its dollars wisely.

The bottom line is, our outstanding schools are the core of our community and of the **Mariemont Experience**. Our school district is a unique blend of honoring the past and building for our future as we educate our young leaders and future entrepreneurs. We have traditions, achievements and a legacy that can only be voiced by the students, teachers, parents, alumni and community members that live the experience.

Our school district and our community are mutually exclusive – each component makes the other component possible. The success of both is reliant on your support. We have collectively lived an experience and, with your support, we will continue to live this experience together.

I hope you enjoy this Quality Profile and celebrate with me the great success of the Mariemont City Schools.

Gratefully,

Ken White

Mariemont Board of Education President

The Mariemont Board of Education (left to right): Dee Walter, Bill Flynn, Marie Huenefeld, Ken White & Mike Gaburo.



About ME



It's about Tradition. It's about Community. It's about Innovation. It's about the Mariemont Experience. It's about ME.

The Mariemont City School district is a unique blend of honoring the past and building for our future and for the future of our young leaders and entrepreneurs. "It's About ME" tells the stories of the traditions, achievements and legacy of the Mariemont Experience, through the voices of the students, teachers, parents, alumni and community members that live the experience. The district mission statement is what the Mariemont Experience is all about – providing the utmost in quality education for our *Scholars of Today* but offering enriching opportunities for individual achievement to inspire our *Leaders of Tomorrow*.

Share your "It's About ME" story by visiting our website and clicking on "It's About ME" under the "About" heading! We have a tremendous story to tell as a district, and it is one worth celebrating.

Stay in Touch



Visit the district homepage to subscribe to district news, view the latest Mariemont Minute video or read the superintendent's blog. To get the latest updates, "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@MariemontSchool).

District Vision

The Mariemont City School District is a school system centered around students and the work provided to them. We believe:

- *Every student will learn through rigorous experiences that will challenge his/her potential.*
- *Every student will engage in relevant and innovative learning.*
- *Every student will identify characteristics of a leader, define types of leaders and actively participate in leadership roles.*

District Goal

- Student achievement will increase through rigorous curriculum design, instructional best practices and purposeful environments that maximize learner autonomy and capacity to thrive in the 21st century.



Mariemont High School
listed #1 in *Cincy Magazine*
Ranking of Area High Schools

District Objectives

- Student learning will be driven by diverse curricular options, using Ohio's higher learning standards as a framework to promote deeper understanding and skill development.
- Student learning will be maximized through the implementation of 21st century instructional practices that are responsive to assessment results and designed to meet the individual needs of students.
- Student learning will be enhanced through the creation of purposeful, safe physical and virtual learning environments and efficient district operations that promote innovation and global experiences.

Teaching and Learning

1,244

Number of
district-provided
computer devices



District staff and administration created the Mariemont Academy, a model for staff training and professional development specific to educators. Each in-service program builds upon the last, targeting specific needs and offering opportunities to review and expand with follow-up training. It is an initiative that is responsive, relevant and uniquely Mariemont City Schools.



Learning Lab (grades K-6) & Warrior Bell (grades 7-8): A structured support system integrated into the classroom schedule to provide students with an environment that fosters individualized learning through ungraded, real-life application.

91%

Percentage of
teachers with at
least a Master's
Degree



Teaching and Learning



Destination 2026

In response to the ever-changing needs and demands in education, the Mariemont City School District launched *Destination 2026* to develop a strategic instructional vision and, ultimately, explore the knowledge, skills and experiences students will need to compete globally and succeed consistently in tomorrow's world.

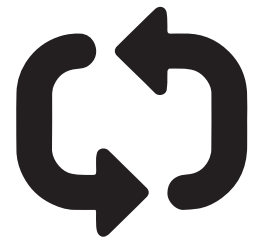
Starting in January 2014, a team of school district teachers, staff and administrators convened to begin the *Destination 2026* work and research in five critical areas: Teaching and Learning, Professional Development, Assessments and Intervention, Technology and Extended Learning. By June 2015 these teams hope to have recommendations compiled that will positively and proactively affect the education of our district students in all learning areas and at all grade levels. This is not just a vision for the graduates of 2026, it's for all students and will impact them at all grade levels, well before the year 2026. This work is about dreaming big, imagining the possibilities and preparing for the future of education.

15
AP Courses
Offered



Dual Credit Program
62

Mariemont High School students participated in the dual credit program, enabling them to simultaneously earn college credit and high school credit for the course.



Opportunities for Enrichment

- Early entrance to kindergarten
- Subject acceleration grades K-6, whole grade acceleration & early graduation
- Online course work through Northwestern University-Gifted Learning Links
- K-6 Learning Lab & 7-8 Warrior Bell (project-based learning enrichment)
- Accelerated classes in grades 5 & 6
- Honors classes in grades 7-12
- Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings
- Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (students in grades 9-12 can earn college & high school credit through the successful completion of college courses)
- Visual & performing arts opportunities

World Languages



- 2nd grade enrichment in Spanish
- Spanish offered for grades 3-7
- Spanish, Latin and German offered at the high school
- Other languages offered online through Middlebury Interactive Languages

Fiscal Stewardship

I promise to do my part to continue to guide our district to operate as fiscally responsibly as possible, and I am thankful for the continued support I know our community will provide.



Scholars of today. Leaders of tomorrow.

Mariemont School District | 2 Warrior Way | Cincinnati, Ohio 45227 | www.mariemontschools.org | Office (513) 272-7500 | Fax (513) 527-3436



The 2013-14 school year was another great year for Mariemont City Schools. I am thrilled with the accomplishments of our students and staff—many of them made possible because we have operated in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure valuable dollars go straight to the classroom. Our school district has been recognized for exemplary fiscal reporting and strict budgeting, and as we look to the future, it is critical that we continue to uphold our commitment to the strong connection between finances and academic excellence.

My job as treasurer is to make sure our staff and students have the resources and support necessary to maximize each learner's individual experience and capacity to thrive in the 21st century. This is the sole reason behind the request for approval of the 5.95-mil operating levy in November. An operating levy funds the day-to-day operations of a school district – the teachers, supplies and utilities needed to maintain our level of excellence and plan responsibly for the future.

The Mariemont Board of Education has kept its promise to make the last levy last three years; in fact, the district has made it stretch one year longer than promised for a total of four years. And since the last levy, the district has reduced \$1.8 million from the budget, which was not an easy task when millions in state funding has been taken away from our schools since the last levy request.

I promise to do my part to continue to guide our district to operate as fiscally responsibly as possible, and I am thankful for the continued support I know our community will provide. Together, we can fulfill our district's mission to create the scholars of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

Please spend some time reviewing the financial information included in this Quality Profile, and as always, feel free to contact me with questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thomas S. Golinar'.

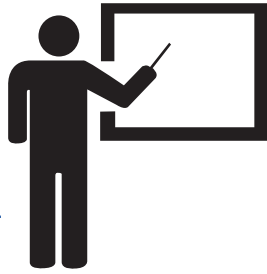
Tom Golinar
Treasurer

Our school district has been recognized for exemplary fiscal reporting and strict budgeting, and as we look to the future, it is critical that we continue to uphold our commitment to the strong connection between finances and academic excellence.

Fiscal Stewardship

69%

Percentage of district budget spent on classroom instruction



Shared Services with Various Districts & Organizations



Classroom



Office & Custodial Supplies



Natural Gas & Electric Services



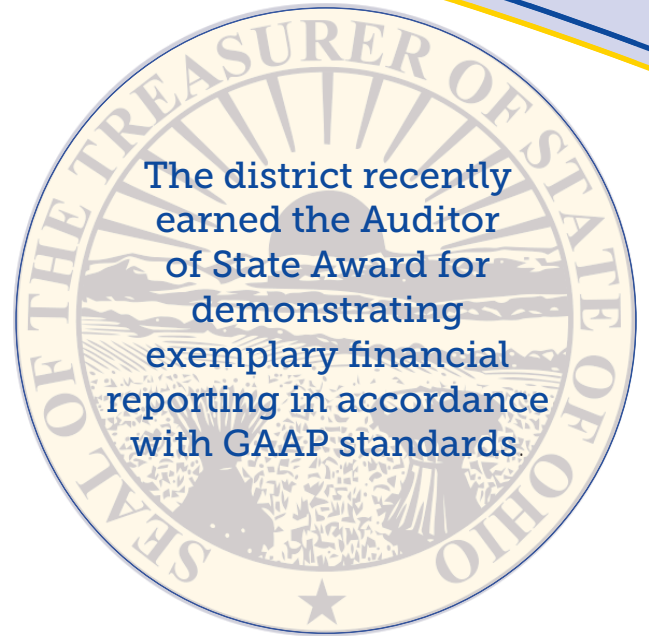
Food Service



Transportation



Printing



The district recently earned the Auditor of State Award for demonstrating exemplary financial reporting in accordance with GAAP standards.

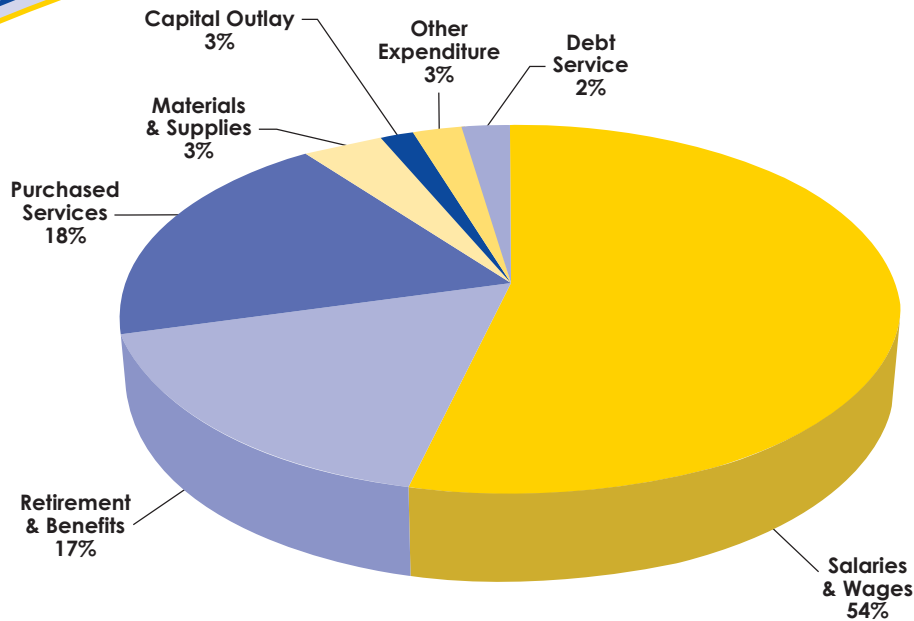
STANDARD & POOR'S

Standard & Poor recently upgraded the district's bond rating to AA+, with the district earning one of the highest ratings.



The entire community is seeing benefit from our new and renovated energy efficient schools. In addition to the operational savings, the community has use of the buildings for community education programs, meetings, intramural activities and recreation athletics.

Fiscal Stewardship

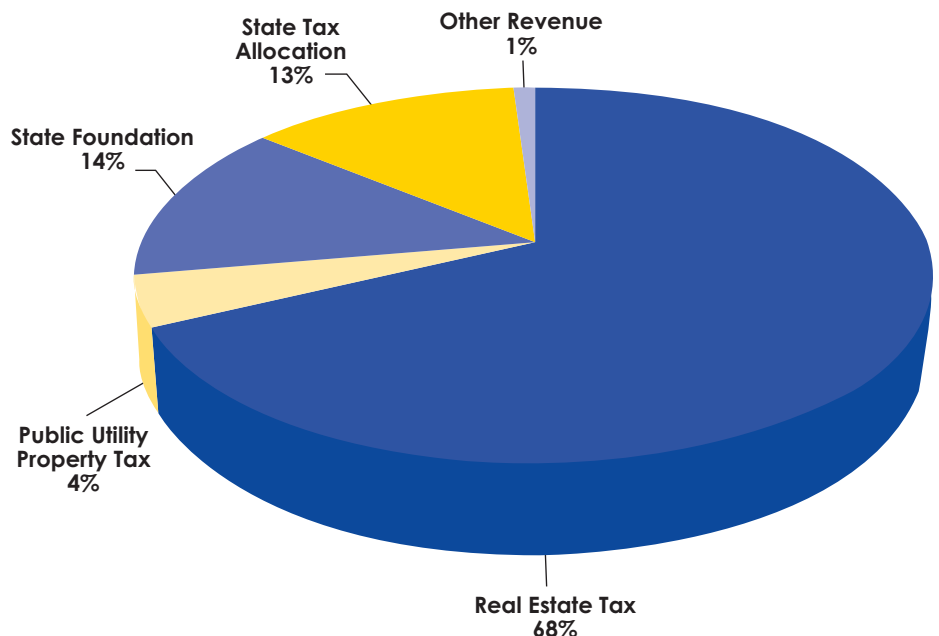


Expenditures 2013-2014

Salaries & Wages	\$11,348,037
Retirement & Benefits	\$3,603,727
Purchased Services	\$4,035,236
Materials & Supplies	\$675,877
Capital Outlay	\$272,819
Other Expenditures	\$417,902
Debt Service	\$336,470
Total	\$20,690,068

Revenues 2013-2014

Real Estate Tax	\$14,276,852
Public Utility Property Tax	\$957,452
State Foundation	\$3,248,150
State Tax Allocation	\$2,700,366
Other Revenue	\$307,911
Total	\$21,490,731



Quick Fact

Since 2010 the district now has two fewer administrative positions and eight fewer teaching positions, while student enrollment has grown by nearly 100 students.

Quick Fact

Overall, the district has lost \$3.2 million in total state revenue since 2010.

Quick Fact

The district has been mindful of its financial spending by freezing the district budget to less than 1% annual increases each year since 2010.

Quick Fact

According to the US News & World Report, Mariemont High School places in the top 2% of Ohio high schools.

Quick Fact

The district has offset losses from the state by eliminating \$1.8 million from the budget since 2010.

★ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ★

ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 4 OPERATING LEVY

What is the millage amount of the operating levy that the Mariemont City School District will put on the ballot in November 2014?

Answer: *The Mariemont City School District is requesting approval of a 5.95-mil operating levy in November.*

What will the money generated from the levy be used for?

Answer: *Operating levies fund the day-to-day operations of our schools. This includes teachers, utilities, and supplies. An operating levy is not used for the construction of new buildings.*

How much money will this operating levy generate for Mariemont City Schools?

Answer: *This operating levy will generate approximately \$1.9 million per year for the school district.*

Why does the Mariemont City School District need another levy?

Answer: *We were able to make the last levy last one additional year and have made \$1.8 million in cuts and reductions to operate within our means. Now, all of that is no longer enough, and our forecast shows a drop in funding if new revenue is not obtained.*

How much funding from the state have our schools lost?

Answer: *The Mariemont City School District has lost a total of \$3.2 million from state funding since the last levy, with additional cuts expected. State funding now only accounts for 27% of the school district's operating budget. The remaining 73% comes from locally generated revenue, including real estate taxes (levies), fees and interest. Added to that, the state's per pupil contribution to the district budget is almost half of what was ten years ago.*

Reductions in Spending Since Voters Approved the 2010 Operating Levy



Reductions in State Funding



State funding to the district has been cut by \$3.2 million from 2010 to 2014.

Where Does the Money Come From to Educate Your Child?



Locally Generated Revenue

- Real Estate Taxes
- Fees
- Interest

State Revenue

- State Per Pupil Funding
- Homestead & Rollback
- Tangible Personal Property Tax Reimbursements

Have our schools controlled costs?

Answer: Absolutely. We have proactively offset losses from the state and stretched the last levy by eliminating \$1.8 million from our budget since 2010. The \$1.8 million reduction reflects the elimination of 16 teaching and staff positions throughout the district and increased operational efficiencies. These measures have allowed the Mariemont City School District to limit its budget growth to an average of less than 1% per year since the last levy.

How much will this levy cost taxpayers?

Answer: The 5.95-mil operating levy will cost approximately \$208.25 annually per \$100,000 home market value. Collections start in January 2015, and the levy is continuous and does not expire.

Are the new buildings saving us money like we were promised in 2010?

Answer: Yes. Through reductions in projected capital outlay expenditures and by downsizing from three to two elementary schools, the district will realize nearly \$1 million in annual savings in personnel and capital outlay expenditures beginning fiscal year 2014.

Does each community within our district (i.e. Columbia Township, Fairfax, Mariemont, Terrace Park) pay the same tax rate for the Mariemont City Schools?

Answer: Yes, each community pays the same tax rate for the school district.

For more important information about the November 4 levy, please visit the school district homepage.

Academics



\$4.2M

Merit-based scholarships
awarded to MHS seniors

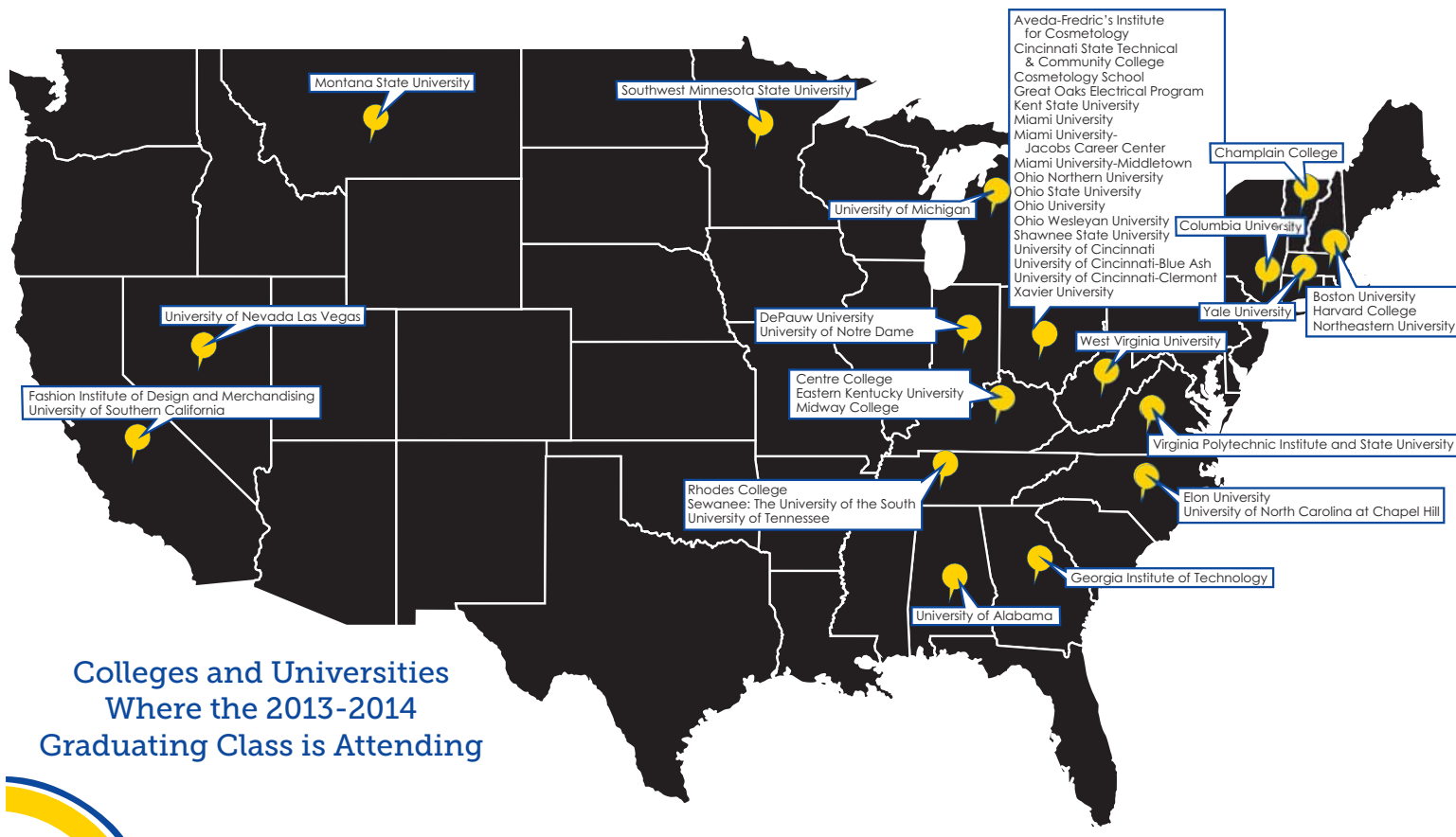
99%

of this year's graduating
class is continuing their
academic pursuits at 43
institutions across 17 states



National Merit Finalists

*Seniors Aaron Routt, Olivia Erhardt, Holly Huber
and Evan Doran all scored in the top one percent
of the nearly 1.6 million students who took the test.*



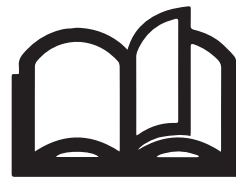


National Merit Commended Students

Back (right to left): Kendall Harden, Sander Henning, Abby Moreton, Ryden Lewis. Front (right to left): Hans Hinebaugh, Sarah Blatt-Herold, Taylor Giordullo, Nick Peterman. These students scored in the top 5% of the more than 1.5 million students nationwide.

61%

Junior high students that took high school credit courses

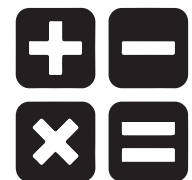


38

Grade K-6 students who are subject or whole-grade accelerated

185

Grade 5-8 students participated in the accelerated math program



ACT

Average District Score for 2012-2013

25.8

State Average: 21.8
National Average: 20.9

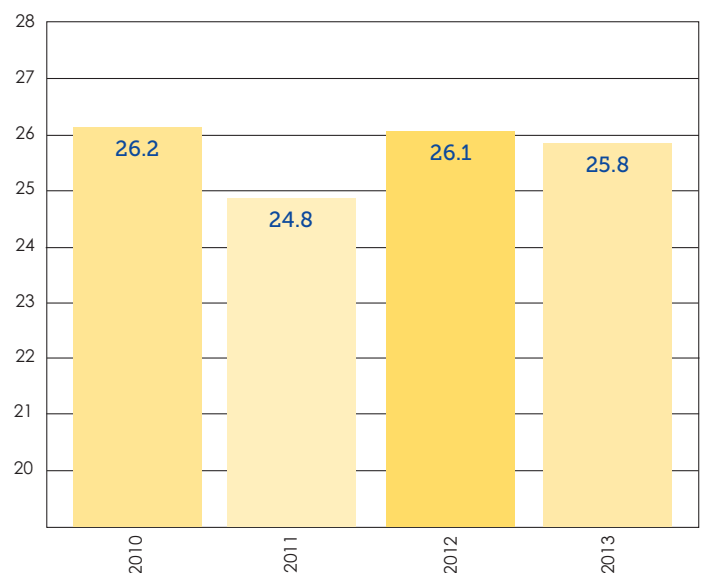
SAT

Average District Scores for 2012-2013

Critical Reading: 575
Math: 568
Writing: 553

State Average:	National Average:
Critical Reading: 548	Critical Reading: 496
Math: 556	Math: 514
Writing: 531	Writing: 488

District Average Composite ACT Scores:



Academics



70

AP Scholars

*scored a 3 or higher on
at least 3 exams*



31% of graduates will
attend a private institution

69% will attend a
public institution

79%

of college applications
were accepted at 98
different institutions



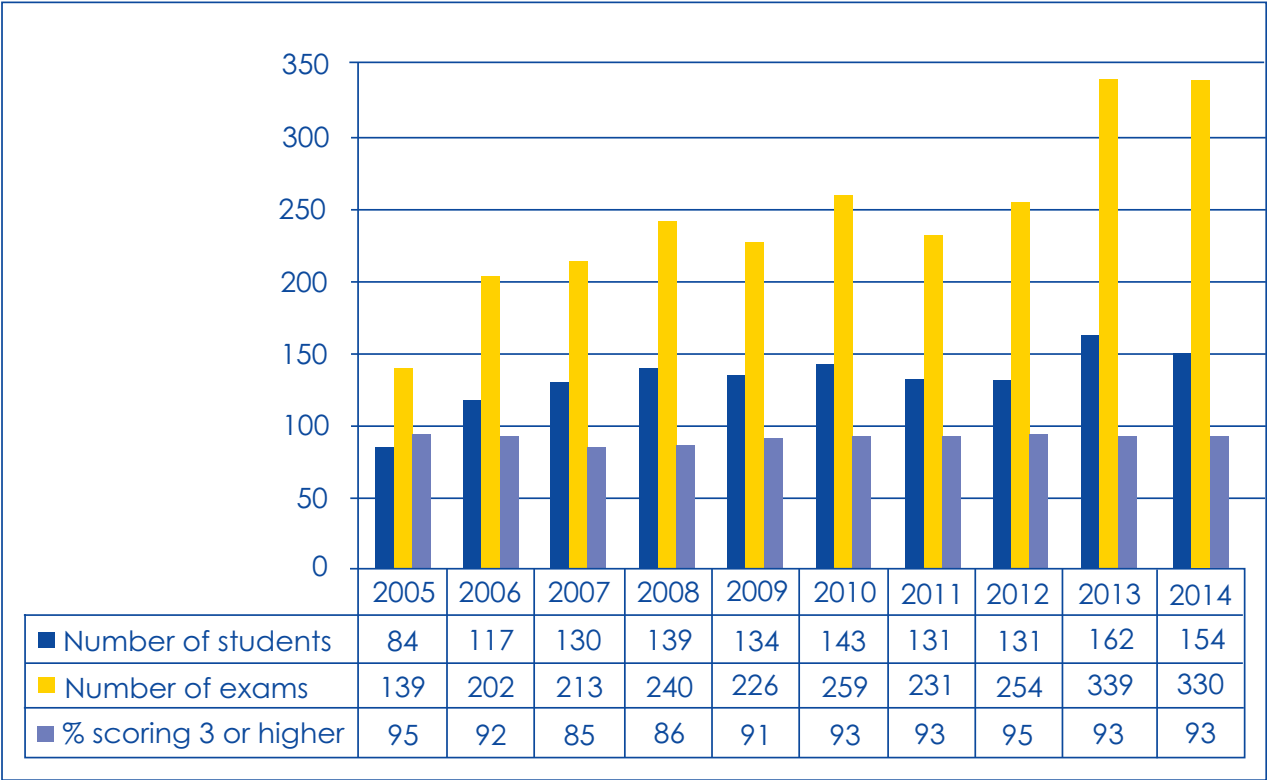
33

AP Scholars
with Distinction

*scored at least 3.5 on all AP
exams taken and received
scores of 3 or higher on 5 or
more of those exams*



Advanced Placement Results





It was so nice having our own college planning department. Mrs. Leszczuk [the director of college & career planning] made me feel confident about applying to different colleges and was always there when I needed help.



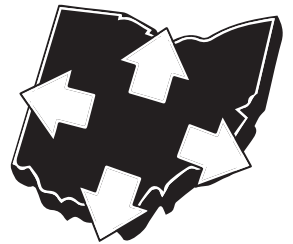
52%



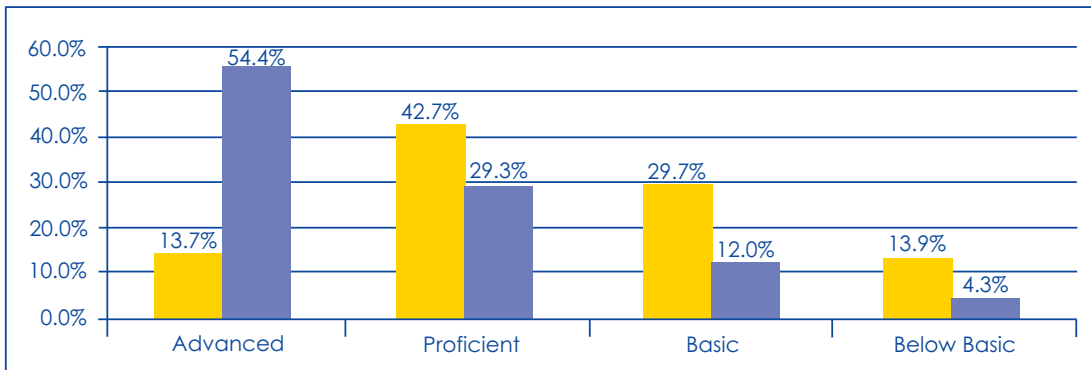
of college applications that were submitted to colleges ranked in the top 25 U.S. News & World Report were accepted

40%

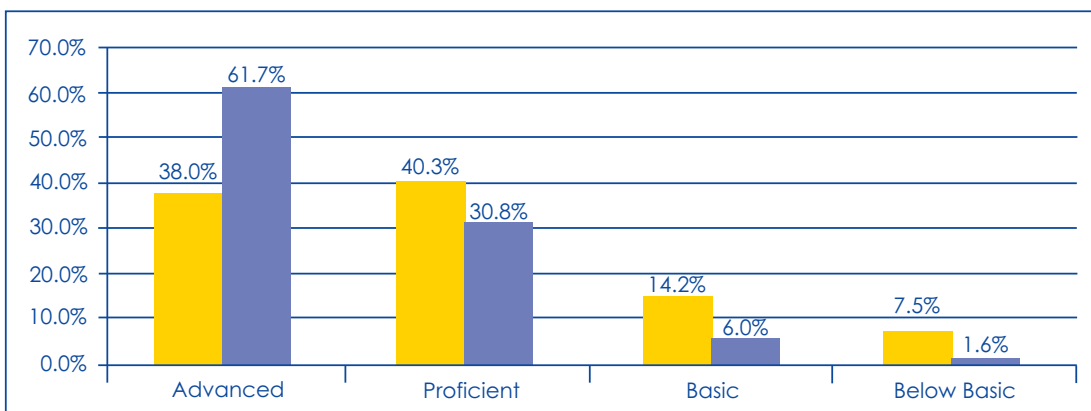
of graduates will attend a higher-learning institution outside the state of Ohio



The SRI and SMI are web-based assessment tools that are administered four times each school year (September, December, March and May) to Mariemont City School District students in grades 2-8. The assessments are adaptive to the learner, meaning that as the student is taking the assessment the questions will get easier or more difficult depending on the student's responses. The benefit of an adaptive test is that it allows the teacher to focus instruction on the specific skills the student needs to develop to grow academically. The graphs below depict the changes in cumulative test results from September (yellow) to May (blue).



Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI) Performance Level Growth Summary



Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) Performance Level Growth Summary

Arts

Art Accolades

The Mariemont High School Concert Band received an "Excellent" Rating at the OMEA state competition.

Members of the cast and crew of Mariemont High School's production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" earned five Cappies nominations, including Best Featured Actor, Best Male Vocalist, Best Female Vocalist, Best Comic Actor and Best Overall Review.

Twenty-five Mariemont High School students received Scholastic Art Awards this year, out of hundreds of students from Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

Three Mariemont High School students were named as finalists for the 34th Annual College & High School Photography Contest co-sponsored by Nikon and *Photographer's Forum* magazine.

The Mariemont High School Drumline placed 3rd at the Tri-State Circuit Championships.

Mariemont High School senior Olivia Erhardt received the Springer Award and was judged the best of all the writing submissions from the city of Cincinnati by the historic Mercantile Library in downtown Cincinnati.

Two Mariemont City School District students were selected to perform with the Ohio Music Education Association District 14 Junior High Honor Band.

Six district elementary school students had art work selected to display in two statewide exhibits in Columbus, Ohio.

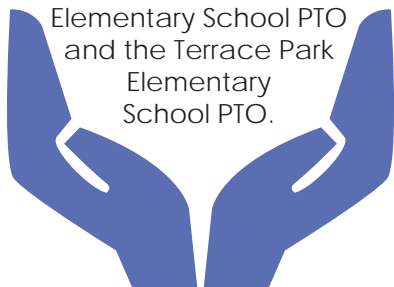
54
Student Art
Performances



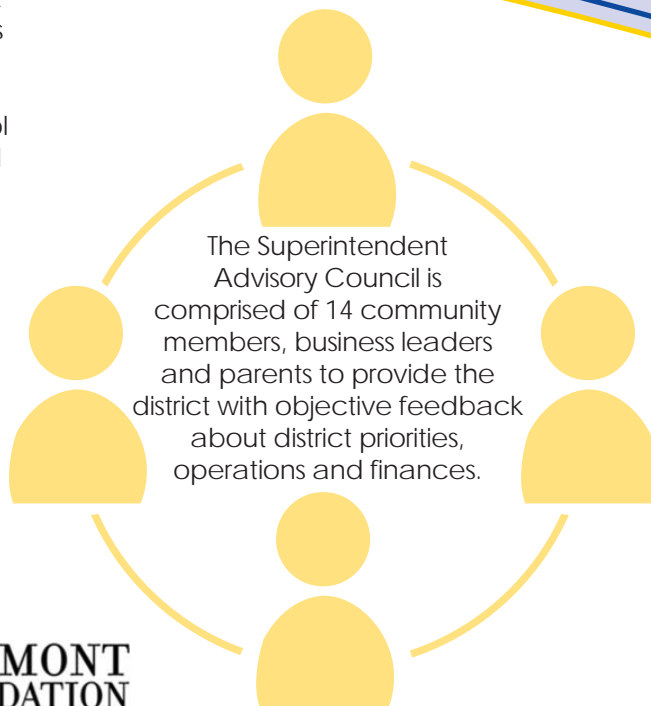
“ Mariemont High School's production of the beloved 'Beauty and the Beast' showcased talented leads, energetic dancing and accurate character portrayals. The sets and costumes helped set the mood and truly brought the show to life.
– Erin Frey, Ursuline Academy ”

Parent and Community Involvement

The school district receives considerable support from the following organizations: Mariemont Alumni Association, Mariemont Arts Association, Mariemont Athletic Boosters, Mariemont School Foundation, Mariemont High School PTO, Mariemont Junior High School PTO, Mariemont Elementary School PTO and the Terrace Park Elementary School PTO.



The Superintendent Advisory Council is comprised of 14 community members, business leaders and parents to provide the district with objective feedback about district priorities, operations and finances.



The district partners with Great Oaks, one of the largest career and technical education districts in the country, for the junior high digital arts program and at the high school for the Great Oaks School of Business, a national program for high school and college marketing and business students. Over **300 district students** participated in the Great Oaks program.



The Mariemont School Foundation is a source of private funding for educational enhancements at all four school buildings, helping the district to maintain its goal of excellence in all academic areas.



The superintendent hosted eight community conversations, in which 81 residents attended. The conversations focused on the future of education.



Congratulations to our 2013 Distinguished Alumni: Karl Gordon Henize, class of 1943 (awarded posthumously); General Jeffrey Foley, class of 1974; Scott Hamlin, class of 1979; and Arthur Thompson Evans, III, M.D., class of 1965.

1,451
likes on Facebook

639
followers on Twitter

The local Kiwanis chapter has provided over \$125,000 in community service scholarship awards to district high school students. In addition, 4 students received the Kiwanis Outstanding Community Service award this year. The district offers student opportunities to become involved in the Kiwanis service organizations at each building level through Builders Club and Key Club.

“ Our goal is to ensure that young people have what they need, from a young age all the way until adulthood. ~Jack Smith, Kiwanis member. ”

Student Leadership and Activities



The Mariemont Junior High School 8th grade **Power of the Pen** team earned 1st place in the district competition, while the 7th grade Power of the Pen team earned 2nd place.



The **Student Curriculum Committee** is comprised of over a dozen students in grades 7-12, who provide input on topics such as how they use and view technology in their roles as learners and how they envision the future of education.



Participation in the Youth Frontiers' **Courage Retreat** (grade 7) and **Kindness Retreat** (grade 5). The goals of these retreats are to enhance social-emotional learning, connect students to classmates & teachers, challenge students to act with kindness & respect and engage learners of all styles and backgrounds.

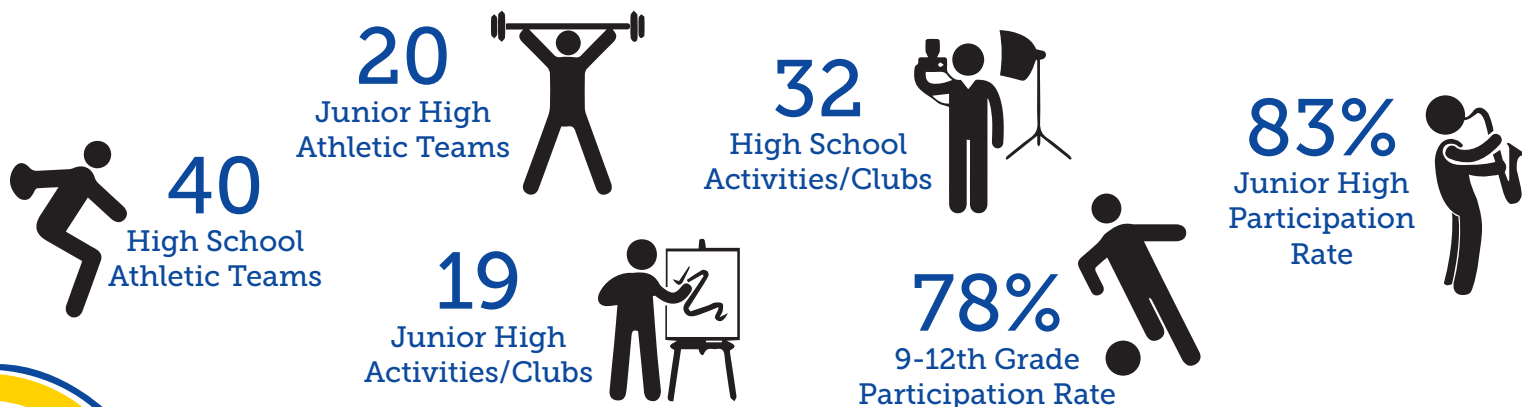


Through a great partnership between the Mariemont School Foundation and the Mariemont City Schools, the district opened the **College & Career Planning Center** this year. The goal of this center is to provide individually tailored services and programs to students and their parents to make them confident and comfortable with their post-secondary options.



Elementary-level activities: Girls on the Run, K-2 Spanish Enrichment, PTO-sponsored after-school programs & enrichments, COSI, Everybody Counts, science fair, spelling bee, fine arts assemblies & field trips, and author visits including Loren Long, Rick Sowash & Shelley Pearsall.

“ Our Power of the Pen writers share a passion for writing like no other group of students. The program provides a real-life platform for them to express themselves and really test their writing and story-telling skills. Power of the Pen gives the students so much confidence and they start seeing writing as an experience not a assignment or grade. We share our life experiences and stories; we're like a family. ”
 – Leslie Jordan, MJHS teacher & Power of the Pen coach



Student Leadership and Activities



Membership in the local chapter of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, named "Warrior Coalition"

Student Safety & Wellness

Bullying Prevention Efforts

District Level:

- Warrior Run
- Survey students anonymously to gather data on bullying issues
- 24-hour anonymous bullying reporting system
- Mix-It-Up Lunches
- Teacher Appreciation

Elementary Level:

- Weekly class meetings
- 5th grade Kindness Retreat
- Anti-bullying skits performed by students at school-wide assembly
- 5th & 6th grade students engaged in a cyber-bullying/safety lesson

Junior High Level:

- School Climate Committee
- Monthly Warrior Bell Meetings
- 7th grade Courage Retreat
- Valentines for each student
- Student of the Month
- Unsung Hero awards and Warrior awards

High School Level:

- School Climate Committee
- March Madness
- Valentine's Day activities
- Unsung Heroes awards

Public School Works



The 2013-14 school year marked the second year that Mariemont City Schools utilized Public School Works' award-winning StudentWatch Suite, which provides 24/7 online and telephone systems for reporting bullying and other safety incidents, with built-in communication tools that immediately notify school administrators and track and manage each report to its resolution. As administrators document the result of each investigation, the district has the data needed to enhance and improve student safety programs, while meeting regulatory mandates. Public School Works professionals are also available to initiate contact with various national crisis hotlines if a student needs immediate help with a personal emergency. This program is linked on each school building's home page on the district website in the left navigation under "Report Bullying" or "Report Other Safety Concerns" and under My Mariemont Portal > Student Quicklinks.

NaviGate



Planning, preparation and collaboration with local safety departments and first responders is imperative to ensure safety among our staff, students and visitors. During the 2013-14 school year, Mariemont City Schools partnered with NaviGate, which provides a web-based system where critical information can be stored, updated and made available to all essential school and safety personnel anytime, from anywhere. NaviGate's integrated and secure system enables us to provide critical information, including virtual safety binders, emergency protocols, evacuation plans, site and building plans, call lists, and live video and camera links, to all approved personnel at all times, ensuring that the latest versions are instantly accessible by all involved.



The village police departments held interactive advanced ALICE training for school district staff three times throughout the year. ALICE focuses on teaching critical thinking and proactive survival skills in school intruder scenarios. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate; although, it is not designed to be sequential but rather to be utilized dynamically in each unique situation. During the 2013-14 school year, **30%** of the district staff voluntarily participated in advanced ALICE training. **100%** of the staff is trained in introductory ALICE training. Over **80%** of staff members also completed room assessments, in which a member of the local police department works with each staff member in his or her classroom or office to determine safety options.



Scholars of today. Leaders of tomorrow.

2 Warrior Way • Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

Non-profit
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Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 1082

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Board of Education

Bill Flynn | Mike Gaburo | Marie Huenefeld | Dee Walter | Ken White

Mariemont City School District

2 Warrior Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
Phone: 513-272-7500
Fax: 513-527-3436

Mariemont High School

1 Warrior Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
Phone: 513-272-7600
Fax: 513-527-5991

Mariemont Junior High School

3847 Southern Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
Phone: 513-272-7300
Fax: 513-527-3432

Mariemont Elementary School

6750 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
Phone: 513-272-7400
Fax: 513-527-3411

Terrace Park Elementary School

723 Elm Avenue
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