The Highland Local School District is a benchmark of educational excellence. Our students have access to the highest quality educational programs, a full complement of both curricular and extra-curricular offerings and an experienced instructional staff – all of which are the envy of school districts across the State. Highland continues to be a leader in education where our vision, mission and goals have created both the foundation and framework that continues to promote a culture of high performance – academically, athletically and within all areas of the fine and performing arts.

As our county grows, so does the student body of the Highland Schools. Our District serves over 3,300 students representing seven townships from across 78 square miles in northeast Medina County. We are comprised of five schools – three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

At the start of the 2021-22 school year, the District will complete the construction of its three new elementary schools and welcome students and staff to their new learning environment! Highland Middle School was renovated to include a new roof and an updated HVAC system, which includes air conditioning!

The new Granger, Hinckley and Sharon elementary schools will meet the constantly evolving needs of teaching and learning in the 21st century and beyond. We believe that the design and physical structure of a school shape the development occurring within its walls – and it is our mission to continue to inspire students, facilitate innovative learning and prepare students for a successful future. These new buildings will be safe and secure, timeless and inspire students, educators and community members alike.

Looking forward to a great school year!

Superintendent Catherine Aukerman
WE ARE STUDENT-FOCUSED...

The Highland Local School District is committed to the highest academic and behavioral expectations. Our mission is to guarantee that each learner reaches maximum potential by providing, in partnership with the community, a quality, future-oriented educational program in a safe and dynamic life-long learning environment.

2020-21 DISTRICT PROFILE

Staff Statistics
- Number of Certificated Employees 197
- Number of Non-Certificated Employees 160
- Number of Administrators 10
- Number of Building Principals 7
- Average Classroom Teacher Salary $75,557*

Student Statistics
- Enrollment 3,322
- Total Number of 2021 Graduates 273
- Percentage of Graduates to Pursue Higher Education Degree 82%
- Total Academic/Athletic Scholarship Money Awarded to Class of 2021 $4,000,000
- Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students 2.38%
- Percentage of Students with Disability 12.28%

District Statistics
- School District Area (Square Mileage) 78
- Average Administrator-to-Student Ratio 1 : 210*
- Average Expenditure Per Student $10,346*
  • State Average: $12,692*
- Median Income in District $54,521*
- Average Income in District $125,192*

*Obtained from the most recent Profile Report by the Ohio Department of Education.
WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT’S GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE SOURCES?

- Local taxes are comprised of real estate and public utility personal property taxes.

- State foundation is comprised of unrestricted basic educational cost aid and State support for a portion of transportation, preschool and special education costs.

- Property tax allocation primarily represents reimbursements received from the State in relation to the 10% / 2.5% rollback and Homestead exemptions deducted from local property taxes.

- Other local sources include, but are not limited to, investment income, extracurricular participation fees, classroom fees, tuition and donations.

- Other state sources include revenues from the Casino Tax, as well as reimbursements related to career tech and special education.

- Other federal sources include funds received through Medicaid reimbursements.

The District’s Five-Year Forecast can be viewed at: www.highlandschools.org.
HOW DOES THE DISTRICT SPEND ITS GENERAL OPERATING FUNDS?

- Classroom instruction includes the activities directly dealing with the teaching of pupils.

- Pupil support services are designed to assess and improve the well-being of pupils and to supplement the teaching process.

- Staff support services are activities associated with assisting the instructional staff with the content and process of providing learning experiences for pupils.

- Administration includes activities associated with district-wide and building level managerial responsibility.

- Fiscal services include those activities concerned with the financial operations of the District.

- The operation and maintenance of plant includes all activities designed to keep the buildings, grounds and equipment in an effective working condition, comfortable and safe for use.

- Transportation includes all activities concerned with the conveyance of students to and from school as provided by state law.

- Other supporting services include costs associated with technology, communications and governance.

- Extracurricular activities are student activities that provide opportunities to participate in experiences for purposes such as motivation, enjoyment and skill improvement.

- Other includes items such as transfers and advances from one fund to another.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES:</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION</td>
<td>$21,765,113</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td>2,152,966</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAFF SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td>605,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<td>FISCAL SERVICES</td>
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<td>OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</td>
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<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
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<td>OTHER SUPPORTING SERVICES</td>
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<td>EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>OTHER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$33,662,082</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
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BOARDS OF EDUCATION
2020-2021

Dr. Norman Christopher, M.D., President
Mrs. Diane Thomas, Vice President
Mr. Mike Houska
Mr. Robert Kelly
Mr. Christopher Wolny

Contact the Board at:
boardofed@highlandschools.org

2021 BOE MEETING DATES:
Board of Education meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in
the Media Center at Highland High School, unless
otherwise stated:

• AUGUST 23, 2021
• SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
• OCTOBER 18, 2021
• NOVEMBER 15, 2021
• DECEMBER 13, 2021

During the Board’s Organizational Meeting in January
2022, meeting dates for the remainder of the 2021-22
school year will be determined.

Highland Board members pictured from left are: Mr. Mike Houska;
Mr. Christopher Wolny; Mrs. Diane Thomas, Vice President;
Dr. Norman Christopher, M.D., President; and Mr. Robert Kelly.
DISTRICT DIRECTORY* 2021-2022

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
3880 Ridge Road, Medina, OH 44256

HIGHLAND ADMINISTRATORS
• Superintendent, Mrs. Catherine Aukerman, ext. 1260
• Treasurer, Mr. Neil Barnes, CPA, ext. 1222
• Director of Curriculum, Ms. Laurie Boedicker, ext. 1218
  Secretary, Mrs. Laura Denomme, ext. 1260
• Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Deborah Yorko, ext. 1226
  Secretary, Ms. Linda Gehring, ext. 1256
• Director of Communications, Ms. Dawn Marzano, ext. 1261
• Supervisor of Transportation, Mr. Frank Lawrence, ext. 1235
  Secretary, Ms. Karen Rusnak, ext. 1219
• Supervisor of Maintenance, Mr. Tod Davis, ext. 1232
  Secretary, Ms. Karen Rusnak, ext. 1219
• Supervisor of Technology, Mr. Roger Saffle, ext. 5500
  Technology Assistant, Mrs. AnnMarie Platten, ext. 5109
• Director of Athletics, Mr. Nick Ranallo, ext. 5401
  Secretary, Mrs. Amy Grissom, ext. 5400
• Supervisor of Food Services, Mrs. Evelyn Makarek, ext. 5512
  Secretary, Mrs. Tina Hirz, ext. 5513

District Phone Numbers —

GRANGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Principal, Dr. LeAnn Gausman
1724 Wilbur Road, Medina, 44256
Secretary, Mrs. Tina Hummel, ext. 2100
Counselor, Ms. Morgan Wetzel

HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Principal, Mr. Jim Carpenter
1157 Ridge Road, Hinckley, 44233
Secretary, Mrs. Sheila Bazan, ext. 3100
Counselor, Ms. Morgan Wetzel

SHARON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Principal, Mrs. Kathryn Kowza
6216 Ridge Road, Wadsworth, 44281
Asst. Principal, Mrs. Beth Hall
Secretary, Mrs. Denise Shearer, ext. 4100
Counselor, Ms. Morgan Wetzel

HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL — Principal, Mr. Rob Henry
3880 Ridge Road, Medina, 44256
Asst. Principal, Mr. Michael James
Asst. Principal, Mr. Nick Ranallo
Secretary, Mrs. Sheila Hemming, ext. 1201
Counselor: Mrs. Britney Raies

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL — Principal, Mrs. Carrie Knapp
4150 Ridge Road, Medina, 44256
Asst. Principal, Mr. Josh Backo
Asst. Principal, Mr. Nick Ranallo
Principal's Secretary, Mrs. Barb Killeen, ext. 5206
Asst. Principal's Secretary, Ms. Peggy Snanigan, ext. 5200
Counselors: Mr. Jim Addington, Mrs. Carolyn Colbow,
  Dr. Robert Gilbert, Mrs. Julianna Lakins
Counseling Department Secretary, Mrs. Diane Gamauf, ext. 5201

*Directory information is current for the 2021-22 school year
Visit our website for a current list of school events and programs, as well as athletic schedules.

**STAY CONNECTED**

- HighlandsSchools.Org
- @Highland.Schools
- @Highlandschools

Last Day of School June 17, 2021