

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION



A MESSAGE FROM THE

# SUPERINTENDENT



All of us at Forest Hills School District are singularly focused on providing the best possible education to all students who come through our doors. That driving purpose leading our work as a public school district helps ensure we keep students at the forefront of everything we do.

This 2024 Quality Profile provides a vibrant picture of the educational experience offered at FHSD by detailing some of the achievements of our talented students and highlighting the work of our dedicated staff members. This annual publication is designed to expand upon the School Report Cards released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce each fall to provide the community with a more comprehensive outlook at the district's educational outcomes.

As you flip through the pages of this Quality Profile, you will learn more

about all of the opportunities and offerings available to students that set FHSD apart, including high-quality academic programs, award-winning extracurricular activities, robust partnerships with community organizations and much more. By keeping students at the center of everything we do in Forest Hills, we are better able to support them on their academic journeys and set them up for long-term success and growth.

In addition to the array of comprehensive academic offerings and supplemental programs, FHSD is committed to providing a world-class educational experience at an appropriate cost to taxpayers. We have developed a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan to provide a detailed look at the efforts to utilize funds from the 2023 Permanent Improvement Levy. We greatly appreciate the community's support of this levy, as it

allows us to target critical projects like roof repairs, parking lot resurfacing, technology infrastructure and more to protect the significant investment taxpayers have made in our school buildings over the years.

We are thrilled to share information in this Quality Profile about just a handful of the district's accolades and recognitions from the past school year. Although these achievements are important to understanding certain aspects of our school district, the critical contributors to ongoing success are the people who are invested in Forest Hills School District. Thank you to our students, families, staff members and taxpayers who make this community a wonderful place to learn, work and live.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Larry Hook".

**Larry R. Hook**  
Superintendent

# ACADEMIC SNAPSHOT



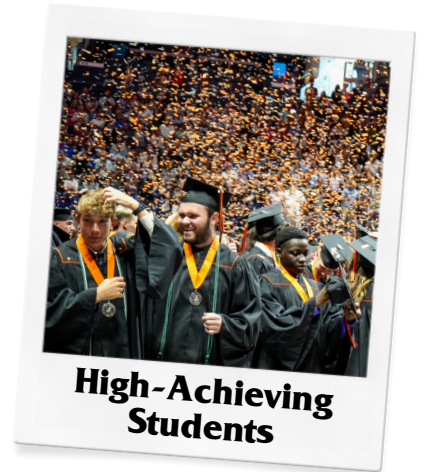
**Top-Rated Performance**

FHSD earned a Five-Star Overall Rating on the 2023-2024 Ohio School Report Card. Only 68 of the 607 school districts in the state received the five-star overall rating, which is the highest possible result. The district also earned five-star ratings in the key components of Achievement, Early Literacy, Graduation Rates and Gap Closing.

In the 2024 Best Schools rankings from Niche, a company that ranks and reviews K-12 schools across the country, FHSD earned an overall grade of A. The district also received stellar results in Academics and Teachers with an A+. Of 607 school districts Niche evaluated in Ohio, FHSD teachers were ranked 8th best across the entire state.

FHSD students are motivated and passionate about learning. Eighteen Anderson High School and Turpin High School students were recognized in fall 2024 for achieving either commended or semifinalist status in the National Merit Scholarship Program, which is connected to testing from the 23-24 school year. Their academic rigor places them among the top high schoolers in the country.

The Class of 2024 saw an impressive 221 students earn diplomas with honors out of 561 total graduates. Both high schools also report average ACT scores, for the composite as well as each individual subject area, that exceed both the state and national averages.



**High-Achieving Students**



**Building Skills for Tomorrow**

The FHSD Portrait of a Learner provides a framework for instruction and ensures all schools are aligned in encouraging students to demonstrate key skill sets by being critical thinkers, empathetic communicators, creative problem solvers, engaged collaborators and adaptable learners.

We know these attributes are critical to promote future success for all students. By incorporating the Portrait of a Learner across grade levels and subject areas, students are more prepared to pursue their passions and interests and excel in those areas after graduation. FHSD incorporates these skill sets into our Strategic Plan, which outlines comprehensive strategies to ensure continued growth and success. Learn more by visiting [www.foresthills.edu/about-us/strategic-plan/](http://www.foresthills.edu/about-us/strategic-plan/)

5%

**Top 5% of All High Schools in Ohio**  
*AHS & THS (U.S. News & World Report)*

6

**Six "Hall of Fame" Elementary Schools (OAESA)**

97.8%

**97.8% Graduation Rate (ODEW)**

8<sup>th</sup>

**8<sup>th</sup> Ranked School District with the Best Teachers in Ohio (Niche)**

28

**28 AP Courses Offered to Students**

# HELPING ALL STUDENTS **FLOURISH** IN THE **FOREST**

## **Commitment to Mental, Emotional and Physical Wellness**

FHSD recognizes that when students feel safe, understood and supported, they are better able to engage academically and socially. The district takes a comprehensive approach to promoting critical aspects of student wellness including their physical safety, mental health and emotional well-being.

### **School-Based Therapy**

For several years, FHSD has partnered with Child Focus to make school-based therapy available to students district-wide. This eliminates or reduces potential barriers such as transportation and busy family schedules, making it easier and more likely for families to be able to follow-through with services if they wish.

### **Peer-to-Peer Supports**

Student leaders at the middle and high school levels work with trained staff members to establish a robust peer-to-peer support network. Sources of Strength is an evidence-based comprehensive wellness program that focuses on suicide prevention but impacts other issues such as substance abuse, bullying and violence.

### **Safety Planning**

FHSD understands the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of students and staff is our most important priority. The district works with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies to continually review and refine building safety plans and emergency response scenarios to prepare for potential incidents.

## **Raising Awareness Together**



FHSD hosted the Hilinski's Hope Foundation for several student and community events in March 2024 focused on suicide prevention and advocacy for mental health supports.

More than 40 community organizations participated in a Wellness Fair hosted by FHSD in April 2024, providing helpful resources to students, staff and community members.



The Anderson Mental Health Collaborative, of which FHSD is a member, held an event in April 2024 about how to become a community of hope for those bereaved by suicide.

## **Excellence in PBIS**

All nine schools in FHSD were individually recognized for their efforts in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports during the 2023-24 school year by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and the Ohio PBIS Network. Five schools earned gold ratings, two earned silver and the final two earned bronze. FHSD is one of only 17 districts in the state of Ohio to be recognized at the district level for excellence in PBIS efforts. PBIS is a preventative and systematic approach that emphasizes the high-quality implementation of evidence-based practices, use of data-based decision-making and organization of supports to help all students experience success. PBIS has been shown to improve student achievement, student behavior and school climate.

## EXTRACURRICULARS

# FINDING YOUR PASSION

## ATHLETICS

FHSD students of all grade levels are able to engage in athletic opportunities. Students have the chance to discover and explore their passions and talents in a setting that promotes physical well-being. Athletics also teach valuable skills, including teamwork, leadership, responsibility and resilience, that can apply to many other areas of life. FHSD offers 36 teams for 12 sports at Nagel Middle School and 30 athletic programs at the high school level.



## PERFORMING ARTS

FHSD has once again earned the distinguished recognition of being named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM). The district consistently receives this honor for its commitment to providing music access and education to all FHSD students through band, choir, orchestra and more. Additionally, the theater programs regularly put on high-quality performances that promote creativity and artistic expression to enrich students' educational experiences.

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Students are able to choose from a wide array of clubs and organizations that provide unique opportunities outside of the classroom. These activities empower students to discover new passions and interests, while encouraging them to build relationships with fellow classmates. These opportunities include visual and performing arts, community service, leadership organizations, athletics, technology, cooking and much more.



# FUTURE-FOCUSED LEARNING

Our purpose at Forest Hills School District is to empower each student to achieve personal success every day. In order to accomplish that, we are making every effort to provide comprehensive opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests while building critical skills to make the most of their journeys after graduation.

Whether it's leveraging artificial intelligence and other emerging technology to enhance academic offerings in innovative and responsible ways or curating a wide variety of internships, job shadowing opportunities, future-planning workshops and more, FHSD is committed to helping students build confidence and prepare to excel as they embark on their post-graduation journeys.

FHSD's Community Partnership Program leverages the wealth of professional resources in our backyard to connect students with career areas that interest them. Strong partnerships with The Christ Hospital Health Network and OrthoCincy Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine provide hands-on experience in medical fields.

An array of other opportunities engage students with unique interests, including a robust leadership program for select sophomores supported by The Forest Hills Foundation for Education and The Bob and Jeanne Coughlin Foundation. Classroom-based activities are also expanding to expose even more students to valuable future-focused learning opportunities.



Government students observe a session of the Hamilton County Court of Appeals at Anderson High School.



Students participate in a career exploration panel with local professionals from a wide variety of industries.



Students in the OrthoCincy Healthcare Career Exploration Program learn about stitching wounds by practicing on bananas.



Sophomores in the Aspire Youth Discovery Initiative prepare for a team-building exercise at NewPath Child & Family Solutions.

## COMMUNITY AT THE CORE



FOREST HILLS FOUNDATION  
FOR EDUCATION

The Forest Hills Foundation for Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing academic and social experiences for students in FHSD schools.

FHFE hosts events, including the Forest Hills 5K, to bring the community together and support education throughout the school year in FHSD.



9United is a service-focused organization, whose mission is to provide FHSD students and families with authentic service opportunities that impact the lives of their classmates, families, neighbors and community.

Among other projects, 9United organizes Shop & Share each fall to provide help to families in need during the holidays.



Parents, families, staff and community members support FHSD in countless ways through a variety of passionate support organizations. PTOs and booster groups go above and beyond to enhance opportunities for students across FHSD. These groups have helped fund creative learning spaces, after-school programs and much more.



FHSD's Parent Academy series is an opportunity to connect with district families and discover ways our schools can work together with families to provide the best possible education to students. This program offers workshop-style sessions on topics relevant to families with students of all ages. Special thanks to FHFE for sponsoring the series.

# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The recognitions and accolades described in this Quality Profile serve as a testament to the unmatched dedication and commitment of so many staff members, students and community members. Forest Hills School District is proud to serve residents of Anderson Township and the Village of Newtown by providing a high-quality education to all students at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

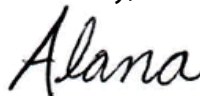
It is an important obligation for any public school district to operate efficiently and in a fiscally responsible manner. FHSD recognizes that important priority, and I work diligently with my staff to ensure our school district serves as a strong steward of public funds. By regularly earning the Auditor of State Award for effective financial practices and participating in the Ohio Checkbook, FHSD has a demonstrated record of transparency and accountability.

The district renegotiated employment contracts with three labor groups over the summer, which resulted in fair terms that we believe are beneficial to FHSD, our various staff members and the broader community as a whole. Changes include adjustments to health insurance contributions and salary increases of 3%, 2% and 2% over the span of the contracts.

Additionally, we are providing regular updates and close oversight of funds collected as part of the 2023 Combination Levy request. The permanent improvement funds, for example, are reported at the regular Board of Education meetings each month. The district's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan details specific projects that are expected to be addressed with this funding, and the plan is revisited multiple times throughout the year to provide accurate, up-to-date information on the district's progress.

Every effort is made to continue operating all departments in a fiscally responsible manner, with our administrative team making the most of each dollar to maximize our impact on student growth and academic programming. We work tirelessly to serve the residents and taxpayers of Forest Hills by implementing sound financial practices and looking for opportunities to do business as efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,




**Alana Cropper**  
*Treasurer, CFO*

alanacropper@foresthills.edu  
(513) 231-3600

## 74 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT IN CLASSROOMS



Forest Hills.....	<b>73.6%</b>
Hamilton Co. Avg.....	<b>69.8%</b>
Ohio Avg.....	<b>66.9%</b>

*Source: ODEW Report Cards FY24  
Percentage of Funds Spent on  
Classroom Instruction*

## HIGH PERFORMANCE AT A LOW COST

Forest Hills.....	<b>\$14,064</b>
Hamilton Co. Avg.....	<b>\$16,574</b>
Ohio Avg.....	<b>\$15,428</b>

*Source: ODEW CUPP Report FY23  
Cost Per Pupil*



FHSD once again received the coveted Auditor of State award in February 2024 to recognize effective financial practices.



FHSD's participation in the Ohio Checkbook, in partnership with the State Treasurer, provides another avenue for residents to see how tax dollars are being spent to serve students and the community.



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