



WHITEHALL CITY SCHOOLS

ACHIEVING TOGETHER



SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN HAMLER

At Whitehall City Schools, we're dedicated to achieving together, and I'm immensely proud of everything our students, parents, teachers, and community accomplish on a daily basis.

Our mission is to create success through personalized learning for every student, every day. To achieve that, we work together to provide excellent and diverse educational opportunities that inspire, engage, and enrich. Our teachers and staff are the most committed and caring people I've met, and our students never cease to be curious and creative.

I am proud to present to you this executive summary as a peek into our world to represent all the best our school community has to offer. Welcome to Whitehall City Schools. Go do good things!

STUDENTS OF THE WORLD

The opportunity to experience and be exposed to numerous different cultures is something that has proven a valuable asset to our students. At any given time, there are as many as 25 different languages being spoken and 32 different countries represented within our school district.

With WCS being one of the smaller school districts in central Ohio while at the same time providing the level of diversity equal to the biggest school districts in the state, it truly is a small world after all!



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Whitehall City Schools has been awarded the "Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting" by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the past 23 years. The Certificate of Excellence is one of the highest forms of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and is given to government agencies that publish a comprehensive financial report (CAFR) according to a strict set of standards. The report is not required, but is an option for local governments and school districts.

Whitehall City Schools has also been awarded the "Auditor of State Award with Distinction" for their fiscal year 2017 audit by Auditor of State David Yost's office. Fewer than five percent of all Ohio government agencies are eligible for this award and entities that receive the award must meet the following criteria of a "clean" audit report:

- The entity must complete and submit a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- The audit report contains no findings, citations, weaknesses, or significant deficiencies.
- There must be not other financial concerns involving the entity.

The district has received this same such award from previous Auditors of State for 19 of the past 22 audit years.



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Students at Whitehall City Schools are developing skills, habits, and knowledge that will ensure college and career readiness upon graduation. We are providing opportunities that will allow us to create and enhance educational experiences to make sure that every student can succeed regardless of income, race, ethnicity, or disability.

At Whitehall-Yearling High School, we are establishing pathways that allow students choice in their education that will directly impact their future. Our business pathway allows our students to earn both high school and college credit and we are now planning our work based learning opportunities. The IT pathway is currently being developed. The opportunities to earn college credit while still at the high school have increased dramatically during the last three years.

We look forward to continuing our work with the community to guarantee each student in Whitehall City Schools can achieve their dream!



ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Whitehall City Schools' enrollment is on the rise and that is a great indicator as to the combined success and vision shared by both our school district and city. In the past seven years, WCS enrollment has increased by 555 students. That is the second highest percentage increase (24%) in the state.

In November of 2018, our school district went on the ballot for a 3.41 mill combined bond and permanent improvement levy. Our community saw a need and responded by passing that levy by 61%!

We are now moving forward in our plans to build a new wing onto Rosemore Middle School and create more educational spaces at WYHS by continuing to commit to our mission of creating success through personalized learning for every student, every day.



ACADEMIC GROWTH

Growing students academically has always been a strong suit of Whitehall City Schools. We traditionally receive an A on our state report card for overall progress which looks closely at the growth that all students are making based on their past performances. We measure the progress for all students in math, ELA, science and social studies using tests in grades 4-8 and some end-of-course exams.

On that same note, WCS' effort to increase the number of minority students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes has been recognized by the College Board. Our district is one of 373 school districts in the US and Canada (21 in Ohio) to be placed on the College Board's ninth annual AP District Honor Roll. Among other requirements, districts must increase participation in AP courses by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium and at least 11% in small districts; maintain or increase the number of non-Caucasians enrolled in AP courses; and maintain or increase the number of non-Caucasians scoring a 3 or greater on at least one AP exam.



PRIMARY LITERACY CAMPUS

Whitehall City Schools has created an innovative solution through a literacy-emergent environment for early learners. At the Kae Avenue Primary Literacy Campus:

- We are focused on not only building the necessary foundational reading skills, but our passion is to also foster a love for reading.
- Each of our students receive research-based interventions that are proven to target phonemic awareness and phonics acquisition- essential skills for building reading proficiency.
- Our literacy instruction extends beyond the traditional curriculum, as students are further challenged with reading activities in special content areas including physical education, visual arts, and music.
- Our goal of every student becoming an active reader is further strengthened with the help of our community partners which include the Whitehall Public Safety departments and Capital University.

The early literacy focus at the Kae Avenue Primary Literacy Campus enhances our ability to create success through personalized learning for every student, every day.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Whitehall City Schools is fortunate to be a district rich in the arts. The visual and performing arts give students the opportunity to reach the highest possible standards in performance, professionalism, and pride.

At Whitehall-Yearling High School alone, we offer five different vocal music choirs, four instrumental music ensembles, a theatrical play, a musical, and numerous opportunities for students to explore their creativity through the visual arts.

To properly house this talented group of students, the school district has committed to major renovations in our auditorium at Whitehall-Yearling High School. Through the "This Seat's Taken" Fundraiser, alumni, parents, staff, and community members have contributed to funding the installment of brand new seats in the lower level of our auditorium (June 2018). Along with a new sound system, sound booth, and a new state-of-the-art theater lighting system, Whitehall City Schools is making the financial commitment to the visual and performing arts to make sure students have the opportunity to flourish in these endeavors.



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