

PORTRAIT

of a



**A Quality Profile for Indian Hill Schools
Fall 2020**



From our #5 high school state ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* to our #9 national ranking by *Niche* as one of the best public school districts in the country - we remain the example of exceptional educational services ensuring the intellectual development, personal growth, and social responsibility of each student.



**A message from
Superintendent
Kirk Koennecke**

Our Vision

Enduring Excellence
in Learning, Leadership,
Innovation, and Service

Be Brave.

Within the Indian Hill School District, from our academics, to our arts, to our athletics - we strive to do just that: Be Brave. This past school year was historic for K-12 education. In March 2020, we completely altered the model of how we deliver our educational services due to COVID-19. All of us - from our students, to our parents, to our faculty and staff - exemplified what it really means to Be Brave.

While a unique chapter, the completion of our 2019-2020 school year did not define us as a District; we authored our own amazing story, of which distance learning was only one part. It is a story captured here in our eighth annual publication of the Quality Profile.

We also revolutionized how we share our story that is so uniquely Indian Hill through a special State of the Schools video series. Please use the following QR codes to access video testimonials of our students, our parents, and our faculty and staff to fully experience what it means to Be Brave.



**Excellence
in academics:**



**Excellence
in the arts:**



**Excellence in
athletics:**



Ours is a story built upon developing and delivering on an intentional plan. Through these pages, explore our advancements within our G.O.L.D. Strategic Plan for Transformational Excellence. While we continue to evolve as a District, some parts of the Indian Hill story won't change - that is the excellence you both expect and deserve.

From our #5 high school state ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* to our #9 national ranking by *Niche* as one of the best public school districts in the country - we remain the example of exceptional educational services ensuring the intellectual development, personal growth, and social responsibility of each student.

Our #IHPromise is our commitment to you to continue to Be Brave.

Kirk.Koennecke@indianhillschools.org

@ihsuperbrave

Their
Dream
Our

#IH Promise

Our Mission

The Indian Hill Exempted Village School District provides exceptional educational services to ensure the intellectual development, personal growth, and social responsibility of each student.

Our Values

- Commitment to Excellence
- Collaborative Relationships
- Community Engagement
- Continuous Improvement



Portrait of a Brave

G.

Global Competence

O.
L.
D.

Prepare students of the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District to understand and prosper in a diverse global community to successfully lead, engage, and serve others.

“We want to thank our parents who are helping us to make the global educational adventure that is our Global Cultural Week Celebration possible for all of our students.”

Superintendent
Kirk Koennecke



Global Cultural Week Celebration

Our Indian Hill Global Parent Network - which represents approximately 40 different nationalities within the District - assists the District in planning unique, age-appropriate learning activities for our students, and meets regularly to discuss ways to help our students and families grow and thrive in our community.



2019-2020 Brave Achievements

95%
STUDENT
PARTICIPATION

IHHS students competed in 24 sports with 43 teams, and participated in more than 50 student clubs - 95% student participation!

ACT Composite Score
27.0 - Seven points
above the national
average.



IHMS sixth-grade student Casey de Blank and seventh-grade student Andrew Coburn each earned a perfect score on national exams. de Blank earned a perfect score on the National Mythology Exam; Coburn earned a perfect score on the National Latin Exam.

World languages
offered & global
learning trips!



IHHS student Pranav Rastogi earned second place honors along with the Viewer's Choice Award in the 2020 Congressional Art Competition. Pranav's pencil drawing entitled "Masked Mourner" will hang in the U.S. Capitol building for one year.



Seven IHHS students earned state champion awards as part of the Ohio State DECA Competition! Congratulations Lauren Sewell, David Slattery, David Heilbrunn, Morgan Coburn, Vandita Rastogi, Emily Sichel, and Nick Bulas!



IHHS senior Liz Radway earned a \$40,000 Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship and a paid internship at Amazon for the summer following her freshman year. Radway was also selected as one of 50 Cooke Scholarship winners in the country (one of two in Ohio)!



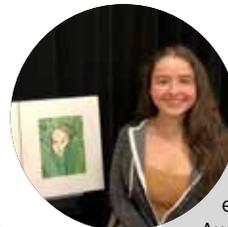
Seven IHES teams placed in the top 10 in the city and state as part of the annual Alpaugh Family Economics Center Stock Market Game. Even State Superintendent Paulo DeMaria took time to observe this exemplar class.



IHHS senior Manasi Singh earned the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award for her work with the Red Cross.

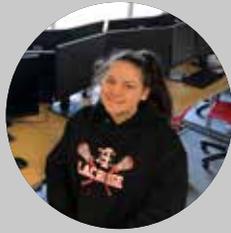


IHMS & IHHS students earned 22 Scholastic Art Awards, and five submissions earned highest possible regional recognition - Gold - and advanced to the national competition in New York City. We've also had an Overture Awards semifinalist the past three years, with two of those students moving to the finals.



2019-2020 Update:

The District established formal partnerships with multiple regional businesses including Greenacres, Cincinnati Rotary, MSA, and the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce to provide learning opportunities for students.



Reesé Tuttle founded the IHHS Hack Club

Additionally, the student-organized Indian Hill Hack Club, a computer science and information tech club, made excellent use of the privately-funded Indian Hill High School Digital Arts Technology Lab that opened during the 2019-2020 school year. The lab's design started with a desire expressed directly by students to have access to a facility to pursue their passion for learning in the fields of digital arts and digital science, and the project was funded through alumni support led by Dean and Anne Kereiakes and Beth and Doug Brendamour through the Indian Hill Foundation.



“I’m a very proud 1987 graduate of Indian Hill High School. You should really feel confident and grateful for the foundation that you’ve gotten from Indian Hill.”

President and CEO of McDonald's Chris Kempczinski in a recorded, surprise message to the IHHS Class of 2020.

Scan the QR code to see the full speech.



Eight IHES student-poets were selected to be published in the 2020 Young American Poetry Digest! The fourth- and fifth-grade students included: Alice Luther, Ellie Pedrick, Elsa Trout, Kathryn Setzekorn, Haddyn Backlund, Michael Miller, Jeremy Starczynowski, and Ardisha Thawrani.



In one of the premier science competitions in the nation, IHHS made school history! The IHHS Science Olympiad Team placed fourth in the Southwest Science Olympiad Regional Competition, earning a spot to compete at state!



IHHS Mock Trial earned sixth place during the Empire Atlanta Mock Trial World Championship; the team ranked in the International Top Ten for a fourth consecutive year!



17 students recognized by the National Merit program



IHHS Marching Band WINS Mid-States Band Association Championship!

Braves In Service Indian Hill High School



Students Served 10,379 Hours



\$249,614 in Economic Impact



620 Students Enrolled



Each Student Served an Average of 17 Hours

Highlights of an Indian Hill education include:

- Small class sizes for more individualized instruction – (student to teacher ratio is 11.6 to one)
- An experienced and award-winning teaching faculty with 90% of educators earning an advanced degree of M.Ed. or more
- Spanish instruction beginning in kindergarten, with French and Latin language options in grades 6 through 12
- More than 300 student-musicians from Middle School and High School who perform with orchestra and band as part of our nationally recognized music education program
- 28 Advanced Placement courses; Indian Hill High School is one of an elite number of high schools approved to offer the challenging AP Capstone
- An award-winning team of five counselors supporting our Braves through the college application process



Objective

Develop meaningful student experiences throughout grade levels and beyond the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

Operational Efficiency & Effectiveness



Optimize resource utilization and infrastructure components, including people, financial resources, processes, technology, physical grounds and facilities, equipment, and maintenance.

We invest our dollars into the people and programs that advance our vision of enduring excellence while maintaining the lowest tax rate in Hamilton County.

Indian Hill Schools demonstrates the excellence in fiscal operations that match our educational excellence. We regularly earn the recognition from the state auditor's office for excellence in fiscal reporting.

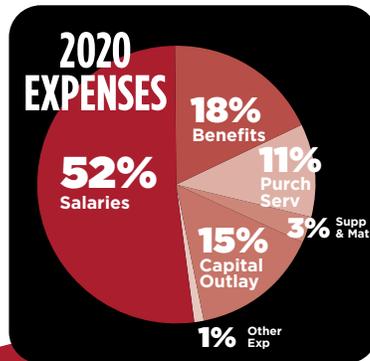
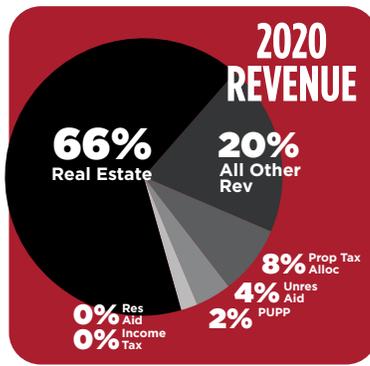


State Funding Loss, Conservation of Cash, and Cost-Saving Measure

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in \$300 million subtracted from the State's K-12 Foundation payment. **This reduction resulted in a significant loss of revenue for the Indian Hill School District.**

The District acted swiftly to manage the initial news of the \$621,000 state funding loss. The District's Capital Plan, a tool to analyze capital needs and to plan future projects, was examined and the District removed all budget line items except for technology and transportation purchases. This freed much needed cash to help sustain dwindling balances; although all carpeting, furniture purchases, and other general maintenance will be delayed, which could potentially exacerbate current facility needs. Additionally, the Board of Education voted in May 2020 to restructure custodial operations through outsourcing services. The District will save approximately \$325,000 annually as a result.

Tax Year 2019 Collection 2020		
Rank	District	Rate
1	Finneytown	70.47
2	St. Bernard - Elmwood Pl	63.87
3	Mariemont	62.73
4	Winton Woods	59.59
5	Cincinnati	52.89
6	Wyoming (1-1/4% Income Tax)	52.39
7	Deer Park	51.45
8	Madeira	51.41
9	Mount Healthy	49.07
10	Reading	47.14
11	Norwood	46.99
Average		46.24
12	Loveland	44.64
13	Forest Hills	43.23
14	Northwest	42.68
15	North College Hill	41.83
16	Milford	41.19
17	Princeton	41.08
18	Lockland	40.46
19	Sycamore	38.15
20	Three Rivers	35.75
21	Oak Hills	35.61
22	Southwest (.75% Earned Income Tax)	26.83
23	Indian Hill	23.99



During the distance learning model that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Hill School District remained committed to Kids First, Content Second. We supported our families in the following ways:

- 275 Computers Sent Home
- 100+ Email & Phone Support Responses
- 8 Families Supported through Braves Helping Braves Program in partnership with IH Foundation
- 10,780 Meals Delivered
- Telehealth Mental Health Services Offered in Partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital



“ We are also taking into consideration the financial impact of COVID-19. The pandemic has created a situation for districts of an uncertain financial future in terms of state funding. Immediately following COVID-19, we saw a significant and immediate shortfall in the State's revenue which was passed to the budget items, such as school funding; the loss - at that time - to the Indian Hill School District totaled \$621,000 for the District in fiscal year 2020. In June of 2020, a new bill was signed into law providing some relief to districts; at the Indian Hill School District we recovered \$418,000 of what we thought we had lost. Early news regarding fiscal year 2021- which begins in July - is that districts should anticipate a reduction in state funding. ”

- Mick Davis, Indian Hill School District Treasurer

2019-2020 Update:

Presented a comprehensive recommendation of short- and long-term capital needs by building, department, and District to the Board of Education.



“ Indian Hill is a one-of-a-kind school community. As a teacher, I have so much gratitude for our families for their continued support of our District, and for my colleagues for their unwavering support for our students. Getting to see this COVID-19 process as a parent, though, has really highlighted for us as a family just WHY Indian Hill is so special. The work the District has done during this uncomfortable situation shows why there's no place like Indian Hill, and we are forever grateful to be a part of the Brave Family. ”

Bryan Daniel,
IHHS Teacher
& District Parent

Assessment of facilities and operational needs

In January 2020 a team of dedicated Indian Hill School District residents who comprised the community-based Finance Steering Committee presented the culmination of work eight months in the making. These individuals, as tasked by our Board of Education, provided a recommendation on how to ensure our District “Builds a Brave Future” both operationally and with our facilities.

The Finance Steering Committee recommendation was built from guiding principles to optimize financial resources provided by Indian Hill School District taxpayers to benefit students, staff, and community members, and included the following goals: maintain unique programming; maintain student support services; maintain current student/teacher ratios; maintain transportation; maintain current extra-curricular programs. Additionally, the Finance Steering Committee was dedicated to honoring the work of the District’s community-based Facilities Steering Committee.

It is also important to note that when the District Facilities Steering Committee set their mission and vision for the facilities assessment process, safety and security ranked No. 1 under the committee’s considerations. During that process, the committee assessed each building for safety and security. In their recommendation to the Board of Education during the October 2019 meeting, the committee did communicate that as a minimum level of improvement, all buildings needed safety enhancements.

The Facilities Steering Committee guiding principles also included considerations of: learning environments (current & future); accessibility; infrastructure and energy.



Shelli Wineland Facilities Steering Committee

“The thing that I appreciated the most is that we started with the student at the core. So, it’s not about what we think or what we want, it’s about what the students need to thrive and continue for Indian Hill to be the best-in-class school in the country.”



Bear Tullis Facilities Steering Committee

“The committee had a pretty wide range of people. There were some people from the school district itself on the committee, members of the community who don’t have students, and people like me who do.”



Monique Sewell Facilities Steering Committee

“There are routine maintenance upgrades that need to take place over the next 10 years; we will be funding those, one way or the other. If we do not address them in this situation they will continue to come out of operating funds and we need to address that as a community.”



Objective

Cultivate plan for best-in-class facilities with approved funding and prioritize operational strategies to promote short- and long-range district goals

Cultivate an environment that fosters quality learning for students and staff by creating pathways to explore and maximize each individual's character and academic talents.



Learning-Centered Culture

Beyond Brave



Beyond Brave - at the Indian Hill School District, that phrase could be the mantra for professional learning during the 2019-2020 school year. From podcasts to Twitter - Brave educators are learning in innovative ways outside the classroom.

Braves Academy



Braves Academy - in its third year - took place in August 2019. Attendees enjoyed more than 60 educational sessions presented by speakers from within the Indian Hill School District and outside professional organizations. Sessions focused on best instructional practices, innovation, brain health and mental wellness, and Courageous Conversations - exploring how mental health needs, gender identification, and race manifest within the school setting and impact school culture and classroom practices.

Best Workplace



Best Workplace: For the sixth year in a row, the Indian Hill School District was named a "Best Workplace" by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Indian Hill Speaker Series



Cultivating a learning-centered culture doesn't stop with our students in the classroom within the Indian Hill School District. Each year, the District invites parents and community members to attend a specially developed series of informational sessions relating to student life, both in school and out of school.

Yale Educator Award



Teacher Aaron Debbink was nominated by a former student and honored with the Yale Educator Award. Debbink was one of 55 teachers selected from 311 nominations Yale received. The teachers nominated represented 40 states and 23 countries.

College Board Recognizes IHHS Counselor



Indian Hill High School counselor Lindsay Kearns was honored for the 2019-2020 College Board Counselor Recognition Program, established to recognize innovative middle and high school counselors who go the extra mile to expand opportunity for students.

IHMS teacher presents as part of Xavier University's professional learning



Teacher Bradley Bell was requested to present a powerful presentation about the United States Civil War to administrators at Xavier University as part of their professional learning.

As part of understanding the student experience within the Indian Hill School District, each building principal received an assignment at the start of the 2019-2020 school year - be a student for two days. The first shadow experience was with a student in the building they serve; the second was spent with a student at another building within the Indian Hill School District. Scan the QR codes below to read the full stories authored by our building principals.

Indian Hill High School



"As an educator and a parent, I hope for my students and my own children that school is a place that makes them feel welcomed and is always a place they want to run into each day rather than run out of. My experience at IHMS and IHHS reaffirmed that dream and makes me feel very fortunate that I have the opportunity to work in this phenomenal community."

- IHHS Principal Jeff Damadeo



Indian Hill Middle School



"Both IHMS and IHES challenged students to think, collaborate, and communicate their ideas. Students learned to work through challenges, mistakes, and come out with a growth in learning. Our teachers plan creative and innovative lessons which kept that spark to learn going throughout the day. My shadow dates were amazing!"

- IHMS Principal Jennifer Ulland



Indian Hill Elementary School



"Our students participate in amazing learning experiences every day. They are engaged, and lessons are designed to meet them at their level. They are happy and feel cared about. I had the best day with both students, and I am so fortunate that our District supports this type of professional learning."

- IHES Principal Whitney Buell



Indian Hill Primary School



"At Indian Hill we are never content. We are always seeking ways to improve the experience and opportunities for our students. At the same time, it was reaffirming to see the incredible opportunities we provide our students through their eyes. Our teachers are incredible! I saw the small moments they

took with individual students to help them navigate the day, the management of 20-plus students while handling a myriad additional responsibilities and ultimate joy they took in teaching their students."

- IHPS Principal Jim Nichols



2019-2020 Update:

Significant work continued to evaluate the new BRAVE Character Education Plan through internal and external stakeholders. The new program was developed exclusively for Indian Hill in a District-led effort that included a steering committee of parents, Indian Hill High School students, teachers, staff members, and administrators. Boldly Respect and Value Everyone. BRAVE is comprised of four components: Community, Cultural Intelligence, Pillars, and Student Strengths. The goal is implementation in the 2020-2021 school year.



“ I got a solid education and had opportunities for exploration inside and outside the classroom. My creativity and curiosity were encouraged.”

Award-winning journalist and IHHS graduate Dani McClain

McClain was named the 2020 Cincinnati Library Writer-in-Residence. Scan the QR code to see the full Q&A.



Athletics: Learning outside the classroom

The Indian Hill School District believes in using athletics to: encourage leadership; exhibit sportsmanship; set goals and objectives; understand teamwork; learn accountability and discipline; strengthen self-esteem; and become better prepared for life in general.

We are and always will be BRAVES!

BRAVE ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

64% of our Indian Hill High School student body who participate in athletics - and

50% of those student-athletes participate in multiple sports.

Our athletes also continue to excel within the classroom:

79% of our graduating student-athlete seniors earned a **GPA of 3.5** or higher.

2019-2020
Indian Hill captured seven league championships!

During the 2019-2020 school year, our student-athletes made incredible headlines:



20 senior student-athletes committed to play at the collegiate level

Photo: Linda Clement-Holmes
Linda@lwchphoto.com



2019 Girls Tennis State Doubles Champions:
Hayley Hirsch, Morgan Coburn



Enquirer Boys Swimmer of the Year, Division II:
Gibson Holmes



2020 Boys Swimming State Champions



Enquirer Swimming Coach of the Year:
Matt Harrison



2020 100-Meter Butterfly State Champion:
Gibson Holmes



Amy Dunlap and Ellen Hughes reached 300 wins as head coach



2020 Freestyle Relay State Champions:
Gibson Holmes, Devin Edwards, Dan Edmonson, Will Taylor



Enquirer Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Division II:
Maddie Antenucci

Photo: Linda Clement-Holmes
Linda@lwchphoto.com



All American Soccer Players:
Ellie Podojil (two-time), Caleb Tan

Objective

Optimize Learning-Centered Culture to create an inclusive Indian Hill School District community, nurture the best in every student, and close performance gaps by department, grade level, teacher, and student

Build and nurture relationships with parents, community members, business leaders, alumni, and government representatives through transparent communications to foster support of the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District's Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals.



Dynamic Stakeholder Engagement

2019-2020 Update: To increase Dynamic Stakeholder Engagement, during the school year the District:



Debuted a Be Brave video capturing the #IHPromise on the District website



Launched a new State of the Schools four-part video series



Started Twitter chats to expand professional development of faculty



Managed 295 total communications



Recruited and structured two committees of stakeholders for the evaluation of District facilities and finance



Produced a total of nine printed publications – six of which were mailed to all residents



Increased authentic student voice storytelling through Senior Experience column and My Brave Story features



Continued in-home coffee chats to interact in person with stakeholders; began Meet the CEO/CFO community coffees at places of business



Had coverage of 272 stories in traditional media outlets



And, increased the combined social media audience by 1,410 likes and follows

indianhillschools
 @ihschools
 Indianhillschools

We appreciate our partners in education



“ Touring with *The Phantom of the Opera* is perhaps the biggest highlight of my career. It is such a piece of theatre history, and I loved being on tour with that show so much. ”

IHHS graduate Sarah Mossman, professional artist with *The Phantom of the Opera*

Scan the QR code to see the full Q&A.



Indian Hill Foundation

In 2019-2020, the Foundation provided 3,800 hours of service through volunteers and staff, and \$17,100 in grants and \$1.75 million in restricted gifts.

- IHHS Digital Arts Technology Lab: Doug ('71) and Beth ('79) Brendamour and Dean ('71) and Anne Kereiakes challenged the community and IHHS class of '71 to a 2-1 matching grant which raised \$165,000 facilitating new classes and clubs at IHHS.
- IHPS received a two-year grant from the Braves Forever Fund to equip a library makerspace.
- Home of the Braves opened replacing outdated locker facilities for student-athletes.
- Alumni and community connections continue to expand real-world learning.
- The Braves Helping Braves fund was established and immediately assisted the Indian Hill school community families with rent, utilities and food during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Indian Hill Parent-Teacher Organization (IH PTO)

In 2019-2020, IH PTO supported all Indian Hill schools with financial support totaling \$136,430.07, and contributed substantial donations in materials. Countless volunteer hours were given to lead a variety of events.



Indian Hill Boosters

In the 2019-2020 school year, the Indian Hill Boosters organization donated \$61,999.47 to our District. The Boosters organization supports our students as they participate in academic clubs, sports competitions, and arts productions.



Cincinnati Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA)

CAPA provides programming in performing arts for students in grades K-12. A percentage of each student's tuition goes back to the District to support music scholarship programs. Each summer, CAPA also offers intensive full production musical theatre camps.



Indian Hill Parent Equity Group

Founded in 2016, the Indian Hill Parent Equity Group consists of parents from a multitude of racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds who support the Indian Hill School District initiative to bring racial awareness and cultural competency into our District and community.

Objective

Stakeholder engagement and communication measured by group as highly engaged



Non-Profit Org.
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Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

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(513) 272-4500

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indianhillschools.org

The Indian Hill Exempted Village School District serves students in the Village of Indian Hill, Kenwood, parts of Sycamore and Symmes Township, Camp Dennison and a small portion of Loveland.



*Indian Hill Exempted Village School District Board of Education
(Left to Right) Elizabeth Johnston, VP for Operations; Nancy Aichholz, President;
Dr. Eddie Hooker, Member; Kim Martin Lewis, VP of Finance; Niki Singh, Member*



DON'T MISS OUT: beBRAVE

Stay informed by signing up to receive our weekly electronic District publication highlighting the Indian Hill School District #IHPromise in Action!

It's News Braves Need!

Scan the QR code to sign up and select IH District:
or visit our District website

indianhillschools.org

