

PORTRAIT

of a



**A Quality Profile for Indian Hill Schools
Fall 2019**



From our No. 3 state ranking by U.S. News & World Report to our No. 9 national ranking by Niche as one of the best public school district's in the country - we are 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

Being Brave.



From our academics, to our arts, to our athletics - the Indian Hill School District strives to understand each child's individual passion and pair that with purpose and opportunity both inside and outside of our classrooms ... each student's dream is what our #IHPromise works to make come true.

Excellence in academics: a history-making ACT composite score six points above the national average; 21 students recognized by the National Merit program; a World Champion Mock Trial Team; nearly 20,000 hours donated by Braves for service learning opportunities.

Excellence in the arts: student involvement in 80-plus clubs and activities with 94 percent student participation at High School; a Best Community for Music Education as awarded by the National Association of Music Merchants - including a record number of nine vocalists selected for All-State Choir ... more than any other high school in the state of Ohio; Braves earned 46 Scholastic Art Awards, and two National Scholastic Medals.

Excellence in athletics: back-to-back State Champions in soccer; State Champions in track; student-athletes with individual trophy cases packed with state accolades; 24 student-athletes participating in college-signings with supporters cheering them on.

This - all of this - is a reflection of what it meant to be Brave during the 2018-2019 school year. From our No. 3 state ranking by U.S. News & World Report to our No. 9 national ranking by Niche as one of the best public school district's in the country - we are the example of exceptional educational services ensuring the intellectual development, personal growth, and social responsibility of each student. In this - our seventh annual publication of the Quality Profile - we are striving to capture and share with you *A Portrait of a Brave*.

During the 2018-2019 school year, our team made the #IHPromise come to life for the more than 2,000 scholars we had the privilege of serving, and made tremendous advancements within our G.O.L.D. Strategic Plan for Transformational Excellence, explored within these pages.

My #IHPromise to you is to continue to help unleash future genius through pairing student passion with purpose and opportunity for the year ahead.

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

Global Competence



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.



Global Cultural Week Celebration

Braves learned from parents about 25 different nationalities represented within the District with unique activities that were planned at each building!

We are very fortunate to be able to share our richly diverse cultures in our school community, and we sincerely thank our Indian Hill Global Group for making this possible for our Braves.

- Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Melissa Stewart

2018-2019 Brave Achievements



An ACT composite score six points above the national average;



Braves earned 46 Scholastic Art Awards, and two National Scholastic Medals;



Student involvement in 80-plus clubs and activities with 94 percent student participation at the High School;



IHMS student Sophia Chen was one of 442 students internationally to achieve a perfect score on the 2019 Introduction to Latin National Latin Exam;



IHHS junior Olivia Sheldon won the Overall Sweepstakes Prize at the Ohio Junior Classical League State Convention for the second year in a row;



21 students recognized by the National Merit program;



A World Champion Mock Trial Team;



Around 20,000 volunteer hours donated for service learning opportunities for High School & Middle School;



State Champions - IHHS seniors Radu Dragomirescu, Ethan Shah, Cooper Pierce, and Mark Kholodenko earned the title during the 2019 Ohio Economics Challenge sponsored by the University of Cincinnati and affiliated with the National Economics Challenge.

Students put their study of the language and the ancient world in context as they examined Rome's most iconic landmarks.

- Indian Hill High School
Latin teacher Mark Atwood

2018-2019 Update:

With the help of the Indian Hill Foundation, a robust list of over 700 professional contacts has been established. This list includes professionals who have or are interested in sharing their career expertise with our students including speaking at career-focused events, providing mentoring and/or internships. Additionally, we have identified over 40 nonprofit organizations our faculty and staff have utilized in recent years to provide services for our students and parents in a variety of capacities.



Jalen Thornton
2018 - 2019 AP Student
& Varsity Football Captain

“ This school will give you the opportunity to do what you dream to do; that’s why this school is so great. ”



Indian Hill High School

Among Ohio’s elite high schools offering AP Capstone | critical thinking, in-depth research, collaboration, and communication
College credit available through 27 advanced placement courses and the College Credit Plus Program



Indian Hill Middle School

Hour of Code
Women in Engineering Day
Family STEM Nights
#BraveUp Day



Elementary School

GO! Time to “Grow Ourselves” with courses that extend learning beyond grade-level standards; developed based on student interests and teacher expertise
Innovative learning in state-of-the-art iLab



Indian Hill Primary

Genius Hour
Cardboard Challenge
Literacy Night
STEM Night



Objective

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 School District 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 and recently earned recognition from the Ohio Senate for exemplary achievement in financial reporting.

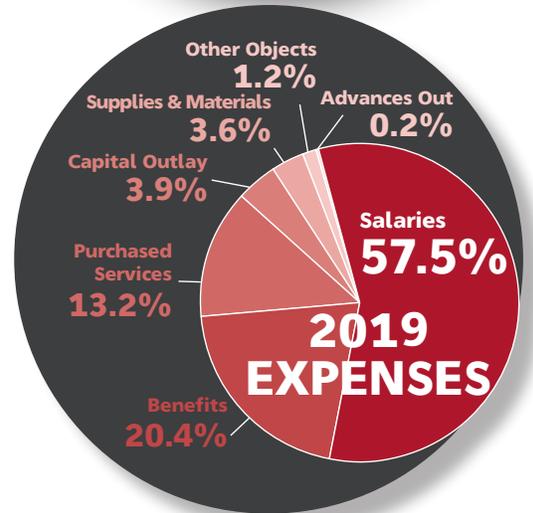
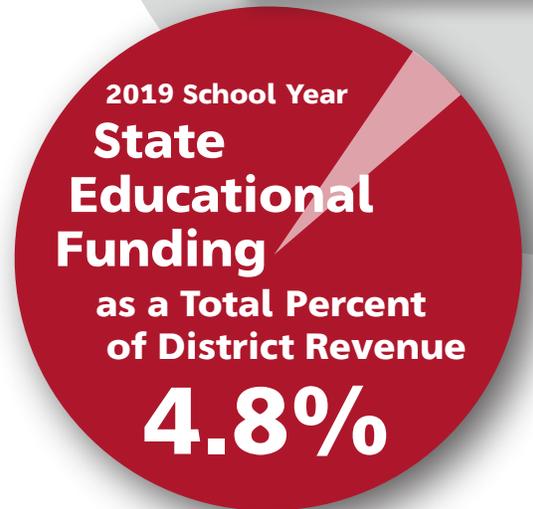


The Indian Hill Exempted Village School District receives very little revenue from the state school funding system so we must rely on local property taxes to fund our District, and our schools have now gone more than 25 years without asking taxpayers for additional operating funds.

While we stretch every dollar with a focus on education, we have funded much-needed improvements to our buildings and programs by utilizing our existing operating fund instead of asking voters for additional dollars. These updates were needed, and they will help maximize and protect our investment in the school buildings.

Already the District has refunded bonds to decrease interest payments over time; restructured transportation, legal, and other expenses to save money; and transitioned to a high-deductible health plan saving both staff members and the District money on premium expenditures.

Tax Year 2018 Collection 2019		
Rank	District	Rate
1	St. Bernard - Elmwood Pl	65.35
2	Finneytown	62.74
3	Mariemont	62.64
4	Winton Woods	59.74
5	Cincinnati	52.98
6	Wyoming	52.37 (1-1/4% Income Tax)
7	Madeira	51.99
8	Deer Park	51.42
9	Mount Healthy	49.53
10	Reading	47.17
11	Norwood	47.04
Average		45.25
12	Loveland	45.04
13	North College Hill	41.82
14	Milford	41.19
15	Lockland	39.44
16	Forest Hills	38.71
17	Princeton	37.83
18	Sycamore	35.78
19	Oak Hills	35.65
20	Three Rivers	35.75
21	Northwest	35.35
22	Southwest	27.1 (.75% Earned Income Tax)
23	Indian Hill	24.03



2018-2019 Update:

School updates needed

While we stretch every dollar with a focus on education, we have funded much-needed improvements to our buildings and programs by utilizing our existing operating fund instead of asking voters for additional dollars.



Albert Kwon
2018 - 2019 Captain of
World Champion Mock Trial Team

“ We are just blessed to be in such an amazing district. ”



Assessment of facilities

Due to this demand on our budget, the District launched an assessment of facilities. The District sent a printed invitation to every member of the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District to attend a Community Meeting in September 2018. Following this open-invitation to the community, a Facilities Assessment Task Force, comprised of community members, parents, and staff members, was established. The District encouraged engagement through printed materials, live presentation, building tours, in-home coffee chats, guest columns, and a three-part video series outlining the District facility needs.

District's community-based facility process to identify needs

Work and planning to fully assess the school facilities within the Indian Hill School District continue and remain on schedule. As a next step, the District's Steering Committee, a subcommittee of the overarching Facilities Assessment Task Force, launched the next phase of the work which includes an analysis of capital needs at all District school buildings and facilities.

District Finance Committee to play key role in facilities process

Additionally, Treasurer Mick Davis has convened a Finance Committee to review school funding processes and capital/operating funding options. The Steering and Finance Committees will join forces to draft potential scenarios for the Board of Education to consider late fall 2019.



Total participation
532
stakeholders



Objective

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

#BRAVEminds



Director of Pupil Services Erica Leppert began a new series to provide regular mental-health updates to the Indian Hill Community. Called #BRAVEminds, the series covered important topics for parents to consider. Additionally, the Mental Wellness program that began in 2015-2016 continues to grow. This ongoing partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), coordinated through MindPeace, provides Indian Hill School District families access to on-site private mental health support services for students.



Braves Academy

During the second-annual professional development day, a total of 233 attendees participated in 66 educational sessions presented by 91 speakers from both 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 fifth 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.



Teacher Susan Savage received the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award after being nominated by a former student.



Indian Hill High School

IHHS student Diana Yue's organization, BEST, brings oral hygiene education to students globally. She has helped 7,000 students at 40 schools across the world through what began as an IHHS-supported club ... at IHHS, if students have a passion, they can create their own club and further their learning!



IHHS seniors Bethany Ison, Cooper Pierce, Trey Skidmore, and IHHS junior Jonah Sorscher each scored a perfect 36 on the ACT.



Indian Hill Middle School

Dr. Al Miller shared his story of growing up in Nazi Germany as a Jewish child.



Through a partnership with Magnified Giving IHMS Braves researched and shared video stories about the importance of supporting nonprofit organizations; posted on YouTube, within 72 hours, the nine student-produced videos had an audience of 2,500 people.



Indian Hill Elementary School

100% passage rate on Third Grade Reading Guarantee



Fifth-grade students Ainsley Johnson and Vivian Jenkins brought home a state championship title in the elementary division of the University of Cincinnati (UC) Economics Center Stock Market Game.



Indian Hill Primary School

Indian Hill Primary School students worked with an engineer to develop a "People's Choice" award-winning design in the Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati's Design LAB city-wide architecture competition.

2018-2019 Update:

Significant work was done by a steering committee of parents, Indian Hill High School students, teachers, staff members, and administrators to develop a character education program for the District. Boldly Respect and Value Everyone (BRAVE) is comprised of four components: Community, Cultural Intelligence, Pillars, and Student Strengths. The steering committee continues to work on this important initiative this school year, with a goal of full implementation in the 2020-2021 school year.



Manasi Singh
2018 - 2019 AP Capstone Student
& Founder of IH Red Cross Club

“ I have made connections that I know I wouldn't have been able to make at any other school. ”



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!



Indian Hill Middle School became the first middle school in the state to form a Unified Track and Field team. Thirteen sixth, seventh, and eighth graders - participated in the shot put, 100- and 200-yard dash, and long jump. While getting a win was celebrated, the mission of the team that was created in partnership with the Special Olympics was social inclusion.



2018 Girls Soccer
Back-to-Back State Champions



2019
Girls Track
State
Champions



4x400 Meter Relay
Megan O'Brien, Ellie Podojil,
Elizabeth Whaley, Anna Podojil
**state record 3:49.30

Individual
State Champion
400 Meter Dash
Anna Podojil



Anna Podojil also won the
Gatorade
Ohio Player of the Year
for soccer for the second
consecutive season.

Brave Athletic Achievements

Most
All City
Recipients
in
Southwest
Ohio

74%
of class
graduated
with a GPA of
3.5
or better

24
college
commitments
from the
class of 2019

2018-2019
647 IHHS and IHMS
athletes
participated
in athletics

2018-2019
64%
of our athletes
are multi-sport
athletes



Back-to-back State Champion
Soccer Coach Amy Dunlap
earned National Coach of
the Year by the National
Federation of State High
School Associations.

Objective

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

2018-2019 Update:

To increase Dynamic Stakeholder Engagement, during the school year the District:



Launched a new website and app



Began in-home coffee chats to interact in person with stakeholders



Utilized Facebook live



Produced a total of 8 printed publications – seven of which were mailed to all residents



Managed 335 total communications and had coverage of 218 stories in traditional media outlets



And, increased the combined social media audience by 2,085 likes and follows -

- facebook.com/indianhillschools
- [@ihschools](https://twitter.com/ihschools)
- [Indianhillschools](https://www.instagram.com/Indianhillschools)

We appreciate our partners in education



“ When you’re walking through the halls you are always going to see people with a smile. ”

Morgan Coburn
2018 - 2019 Class Vice President
& 2016 CHL Athlete of the Year



Indian Hill Foundation

In 2018-2019, the community provided 4,300 hours of service through volunteers and staff, \$41,600 in grants, 19 career and community events through Foundation strategic initiatives. The IH Foundation is the school’s official alumni organization.

More than \$70,000 in funding was provided by the Koch Foundation through the Indian Hill Foundation to support a state-of-the-art STEM iLab at Indian Hill Elementary School. Dorothy Koch was a longtime elementary school teacher at the Indian Hill School District.



Home of the Braves: Public-Private Fundraising Project

The District – in partnership with the Indian Hill Foundation – launched a bold and visionary effort to complete an athletic complex to better serve our community and the most students possible. Home of the Braves public-private fundraising process as an opportunity to use money already allocated within our capital plan to address **serious and substantial** athletic facility needs within Indian Hill Middle School and Indian Hill High School, and partner with private donors through the Indian Hill Foundation to increase and expand our ability to create a better facility that will serve even more student-athletes. This effort marks the first-ever public-private partnership with the Indian Hill Foundation and private donors to complete a capital campaign.



Indian Hill Parent-Teacher Organization (IHPTO)

In 2018-2019, IHPTO supported all Indian Hill schools with financial support totaling \$64,809, and contributed substantial donations in materials. Countless volunteer hours were given to lead a variety of events.



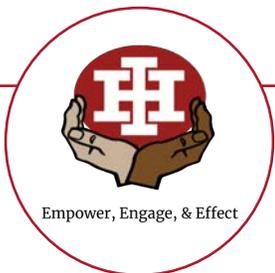
Indian Hill Boosters

In the 2018-2019 school year, the Indian Hill Boosters organization donated \$79,321 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 after-school 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

#IH Promise

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 197

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

Vice President of Operations Elizabeth Johnston, Member Lyle Fiore, President Kim Martin Lewis, Member Eddie Hooker, Vice President of Finance Nancy Aichholz



DON'T MISS OUT: beBRAVE

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

It's News Braves Need!

Click the QR code to sign up and select IH District:



or visit our District website
[indianhillschools.org](https://www.indianhillschools.org)