Yellow Springs Schools
SEPTEMBER 2019 SUPPLEMENT TO THE
OHIO 2018-2019 REPORT CARD
Welcome to the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District!

This Quality Profile is a companion to the state’s district report card. The Quality Profile includes additional information that defines a high quality education and is not captured by the testing driven-metrics on the state report card. The Quality Profile holds the Yellow Springs Schools to a higher standard of accountability and reflects the skills and knowledge students need for success after high school.

It is our belief that Ohio’s standardized tests do not represent current best practice. Standardized testing is an antiquated assessment model that focuses on rote memorization and regurgitation of information instead of deeper learning, while ignoring the critical thinking, ideation, creativity, and agility critical for success in today’s fast-paced global society.

Yellow Springs Schools will continue to focus on providing students with a strong academic foundation through project-based learning (PBL) pedagogy and assessment methods. Our students will demonstrate mastery of academic content over a period of time through critical thinking and application of skills, as well as grow their creativity, collaboration, and agency.

Yellow Springs graduates outperform their peers both in Ohio and nationally on the American College Test (ACT) in terms of overall composite score and their Ohio peers in terms of college readiness benchmarks (remediation free scores). Our graduates are prepared and get into a variety of both selective and open admissions colleges and universities.

We hope you find this evaluation of Yellow Springs Schools to be an informative and comprehensive resource. Thanks for helping us chart a better course in public education.

Best,

Terri L. Holden, EdD
Superintendent
YS Schools will 1) raise the academic achievement of all students to ensure graduation from high school and success in careers or post-secondary education; 2) prepare students for their civic responsibilities to community and society; and 3) develop self-directed learners that will succeed in a competitive and global world.

- Yellow Springs Schools ranked 8th on the list of best school districts in the Dayton region and 78th out of 608 districts in the state of Ohio on niche.com. In addition to high overall rankings, YS Schools ranked in the top 10 percent of the state of diverse schools at 40th of 608 districts.

- 52 percent of seniors attending YSHS in 2018-19 have taken at least one AP exam while in high school; 38 percent have passed at least one AP exam.

- Mills Lawn students grew an average of 1.2 years in reading and 1.6 years in math, according to STAR assessments.

- 97.1 percent of the Class of 2017 graduated in four years. 98.4 percent of the Class of 2017 graduated within five years.

- The District’s preschool program at Friends Care Center earned a 5-star Step Up to Quality rating from the State of Ohio.

- 33 percent of graduates in the classes of 2017 and 2018 earned an Honors Diploma.

- 70 percent of 2017 and 2018 YSHS grads earned dual enrollment credit by taking college and high school courses simultaneously.
Curriculum

YS Schools will strengthen the curriculum, increase student choice, develop creative programs, and increase opportunities for experiential learning through an innovative approach to education.

PBL COMMUNITY IMPACT

Through project-based learning, students are given the opportunity to make meaningful change locally and globally.

- Yellow Springs Educator Mikasa Simms and students from her 2017-18 first grade class were the first recipients of the Wheeling Gaunt Community Service Award, presented at a ceremony in February 2019 in recognition of the Hidden Figures of the Yellow Springs Community project.

- The 3rd Annual McKinney Middle School Into the Wild Project led 7th grade students and teachers on an ambitious educational adventure of camping, biking, exploring, bonding, and learning.

- AP and Advanced Art Students at Yellow Springs High School collaborated with Men’s and Women’s Bulldog Basketball players to design custom shoes supporting important causes, like Black Lives Matter, gender equity, environmental causes, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, and more.

- McKinney Middle School 7th Grade Citizen Scientists continue to make environmental contributions in our community by monitoring local bird populations, including bluebirds, through Operation Bluebird.

“MY SON IS FLOURISHING WITH PBL! THIS IS A VERY ENGAGED DISTRICT, NOT JUST PARENTS AND TEACHERS, BUT THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS TO SAY ABOUT YS SCHOOLS AND NOT ENOUGH TIME TO TYPE THEM ALL OUT.”
- PARENT REVIEW OF YS SCHOOLS
FEARLESS Teachers

The YS Schools’ workforce values intellectual curiosity and imaginative approaches to learning. Therefore, we will retain, recruit, develop, and recognize diverse faculty, staff, and administrators.

TEACHER TRAINING CENTER

Yellow Springs Schools continues to be a destination for professional development for educators interested in project-based learning. Our Teacher Training Center offers educators the opportunity to join our Fearless Thinkers for a day, observing and talking to teachers, students and administrators about PBL in YS Schools.

In 2018-19, 153 teachers and administrators from 13 Ohio school districts attended our fee-based “PBL in YS” tours to learn about PBL. After witnessing PBL in action in YS Schools, visiting educators shared feedback:

“What I was most impressed with was how well spoken most of your kids are. Not just the ones on the panel and the guides, but the ones I spoke to in the classroom.”

EDUCATOR DIVERSITY

Yellow Springs Schools has partnered with Wittenberg University to enhance efforts to attract and support diverse teacher candidates. The grant will support the Increasing Diversity of Educators to Advance Learning (IDEAL) initiative designed to increase the diversity of the educator workforce in YS Schools.

With $20,000 seed funding from the Strengthening Ohio’s Teacher Pipeline Through Partnership grant program, YS Schools and Wittenberg’s Teacher Education Program will diversify the pipeline of educators poised to enter classrooms.
Community

YS Schools are strengthened by a strong community, both in and outside of the classroom. Our supportive and generous community sets an example of the meaning of being stronger together.

Student Activities

Yellow Springs Schools offers a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities, clubs and athletics to meet every student’s interests and talents.

• The casts of “Girls Like That” and “Romeo and Juliet” from the fall Bulldog Theater Festival were invited to perform at the Ohio Thespian Association state conference.
• Building on the important social themes explored in “Girls Like That,” YS Schools hosted community screenings and discussions of two documentaries that explore gender roles and expectations - “Miss Representation” and “The Mask You Live In.”
• Yellow Springs Band and Orchestra students traveled to Chicago in February, performing for a host school, participating in a program exchange with another school, seeing a performance of the Blue Man Group and taking in the sites and culture of the city.
• As a district, Yellow Springs Schools embraced issues of gender equity in sports. Bulldog Cheerleaders cheered for Men’s and Women’s Basketball competitions, and Women’s Basketball and Soccer games share primetime slots with Men’s competitions this year.
• Yellow Springs High School students participated in Day of Empowerment, a day of activities designed to help students explore healthy relationships with themselves and others. Sessions cover dating, anxiety, masculinity, financial literacy, art, yoga, dance, gender issues and more.

• YSHS Students in SPIDEE (Students Promoting Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in Education) hosted Changing in the Middle!, a program for middle school students designed to teach self-respect and respect for others while celebrating each other’s differences.

• Yellow Springs Schools hosted its first speech and debate tournament with the Fearless Forensics Festival in January. More than 225 students from 13 schools attended the festival. This year, the Yellow Springs Debate team expanded to middle school with several middle school students placing at the state tournament.

• With the help of SPIDEE, Mills Lawn hosted its first Day of Discovery, an opportunity for 4th through 6th grade students to spend a day focused on two themes: building a strong sense of self and developing healthy relationships. During the Day of Discovery, students work in teams and small groups with Mills Lawn teachers, guest speakers, and high school students from the SPIDEE team in sessions covering media/internet safety, self confidence, gender-related issues, positive friendships, and problem-solving.

• Mills Lawn students at every level collaborated to produce an exceptional All-School Musical of Lion King Kids! Students were involved in every facet of the production, as performers, tech crew, and helping with behind-the-scenes work.
YS Schools will continue to be fiscally responsible by diversifying funding sources to achieve long-term sustainability and to support and fulfill the District’s mission and strategic objectives.

How does Yellow Springs Schools’ spending compare to other districts?

Yellow Springs Schools spent $12,010 per student in fiscal year 2018, compared to a statewide average of $11,953 per student. Yellow Springs Schools’ per pupil expenditure is within 0.5 percent of the statewide average.

Where does Yellow Springs Schools’ Funding originate?

How does Open Enrollment impact YS Schools financially?

Open enrollment supports YS Schools through the state funding that follows students who choose YS Schools. In 2018-19, Open Enrollment brought $1,082,149 in to YS Schools.