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Quality Profile

Building Our Future by Building on Our Strengths

February 2021

2021 Upper Arlington Board of Education



The document you are reading is the Upper Arlington Schools Quality Profile, our annual accountability report. Like everything we

do in our district, it is rooted in our strategic plan.

Launched in 2019 by our visionary Board of Education, our strategic plan identifies a focused set of recommendations that continue our focus on *challenging and supporting every student, every step of the way.*

This Quality Profile gives our community a clear and transparent look at what's happening in our schools and with our students. It has been updated to align with our new strategic priorities – whole learning and student and staff well-being, with a foundation of continuous improvement.

We believe it is critically important to provide our community with this annual update on our progress toward our strategic priorities. If you have any questions about this document or our schools, please feel free to contact me at [**superintendent@uaschools.org**](mailto:superintendent@uaschools.org).

Sincerely,

Paul Imhoff, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Upper Arlington Schools



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Whole Learning

Every Student, Every Step of the Way



At the core of the Upper Arlington Schools Strategic Plan is whole learning, which builds on our long-running philosophy of educating and supporting the whole child. Amid the unique challenges of this school year, that has meant a multi-layered approach to teaching and learning in our district. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a high quality of education to the children of Upper Arlington.

Approximately 800 students are learning through an entirely new academic program this school year—the UA Online Academy. Created in response to the pandemic, this fully online K-12 program is guided and supported by Upper Arlington teachers.

Approximately 5,400 K-12 students are learning in our school-based pathway, which offers multiple learning modes that prioritize teacher-guided learning and support for students with the health and safety precautions in place.

Building on Whole Learning

The foundation for whole learning in the Upper Arlington Schools begins with our kindergarten program. In the fall of 2021, we are excited to welcome the Golden Bears Class of 2034 with a **new full-day kindergarten program**. The Board of Education has been planning for this for the past few years—with the goal of launching all-day kindergarten as soon as the construction projects at the elementary schools are completed in August 2021. With more time in the school day, all-day kindergarten will better meet the needs of our developing learners so they are able to learn and grow academically, socially and emotionally.



Student and Staff Well-being

Start with Heart

Upper Arlington Schools believes well-being is critical to fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment where our students and staff can thrive. Well-being has never been more important than it is this school year. **Our school counselors are working to provide the support students need** based on the primary areas of concern identified through a needs assessment survey. They have also expanded their outreach, setting up more individual, small-group and class-level opportunities to ensure they are reaching all students, whether they're learning remotely or in person.



“There’s been a greater need for us to build connections with each student and family. We want all students and families to know we’re here to support their well-being in every way we can.”

Ashley Osinski | Jones Middle School counselor and district department chair

Building on Student and Staff Well-being



Upper Arlington Schools is putting additional structures in place to further our work on this strategic priority. **Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)** is a crucial part of this. Since the summer of 2020, we have created an Equity Advisory Board that brings together the voices of students, alumni, staff members, parents/guardians and community experts, and we have welcomed our new executive director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Part of our DEI work involves looking closely at the K-12 curriculum. As an initial step, we are implementing an expanded third-grade local history curriculum that focuses on local history going back to 1800 and includes the significant contributions of Pleasant Litchford and other individuals to this area. We are at the beginning of this journey and our work on all aspects of DEI and well-being. There is still a tremendous amount of work to do to ensure that every member of our school community feels welcomed, valued, supported and embraced.

Continuous Improvement

Building on Our Strengths

The foundational element of our strategic plan is continuous improvement—in every facet of our district, from teaching and learning to finances. Upper Arlington Schools is committed to being a responsible steward of our residents' investment in our schools. Amid the pandemic and economic crisis in the summer of 2020, the Board of Education called on the district to creatively seek out cost savings and dip into the budget reserve fund in order to maintain district operations and continue to provide a high quality of education to the students of Upper Arlington.



\$4.6 million

IN COST SAVINGS

We have already achieved significant savings, primarily due to a three-year hiring freeze on new positions with the exception of all-day kindergarten and the DEI position. We will continue to seek out efficiencies, with the goal of preserving the overall student experience while also responsibly planning for growing enrollment in the coming years.



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

The first phase of the community-developed master plan continues to progress **on budget and on schedule**. The fall of 2020 brought the completion of the Greensview, Tremont and Wickliffe elementary schools, as well as the new Barrington addition. The Barrington renovation, the new Windermere and the new Upper Arlington High School building will be completed for the fall of 2021. Work will continue through the 2021-2022 school year on the athletic fields and outside areas of the high school site. The district will also continue its research into the Litchford cemetery site.



Building Our Future by Building On Our Strengths

THE UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN

Approved by the Board of Education in August 2019, the Upper Arlington Schools Strategic Plan focuses even more intently on the district's long-running philosophy of educating and supporting the whole child. The plan is guided by a clear vision of student success that reflects the shared aspirations of our students, families, staff and community. It guides all key decisions regarding learning, instruction, resource allocation, physical environment and day-to-day operations.

The strategic plan takes a disciplined approach to the following strategic priorities—whole learning and student and staff well-being. Continuous improvement serves as the foundational element of the plan.

THESE ARE ALL GROUNDED IN OUR MISSION, OUR VISION AND THREE CORE VALUES.

OUR MISSION

CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT **EVERY STUDENT,** EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

OUR VISION

UNIQUELY ACCOMPLISHED
STUDENTS PREPARED TO SERVE, LEAD AND SUCCEED.

OUR VALUES

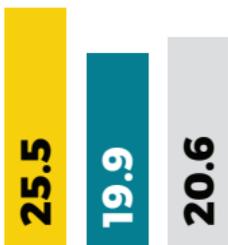
**START WITH HEART
STRENGTH IN TEAM
CONTAGIOUS DRIVE**

Building Our Future by Building on Our Strengths

UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS is committed to providing our students with a strong foundation in academics and encouraging their success throughout their time in Upper Arlington so that they are uniquely accomplished and prepared to serve, lead and succeed, in whatever path they choose in life.

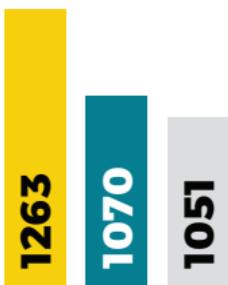
Average ACT Score

Class of 2020



Average SAT Score

Class of 2020



Legend:
■ Upper Arlington Schools
■ State
■ Nation

College-level Coursework

1,295

student enrollments in college-level coursework

21 Advanced Placement courses at UAHS

24 International Baccalaureate courses at UAHS

Various College Credit Plus courses at Columbus State Community College and Ohio State University

National Merit Honors

Class of 2021

14

 National Merit Semifinalists

13

 Commended Scholars

Class of 2020

93% are attending a two or four year college at **114** colleges and universities across the country.

Other Education 1.2%
Military 0.5%

Employment 3%
Gap Year 0.5%

Other 1.8%

\$4,336,537

total scholarships accepted

Funding Our Future

Upper Arlington Schools is committed to keeping a keen eye on efficient and effective use of our financial resources while also responsibly planning for our growing enrollment and a sound financial future for our schools.

Projected K-12 Enrollment

21%

projected increase—or
nearly 1,300 students

2020-2021 to 2029-2030

Enrollment growth is one of our most exciting challenges as a district and a community. Enrollment has been growing districtwide, and projections show it will continue to grow even more significantly in the years ahead. We also expect an enrollment increase in the fall of 2021 because of families choosing alternate programs or delaying kindergarten for the current school year.

2021 School Property Taxes

per \$100,000 in home value*

Upper Arlington Schools remains in the middle of the pack on local school property taxes in comparison with other districts in Franklin County. Property taxes represent the majority of our revenue—approximately 82%.

Olentangy	\$1,991
Westerville	\$1,833
Worthington	\$1,820
Dublin	\$1,780
New Albany	\$1,738
Hilliard	\$1,640
Gahanna	\$1,633
Bexley**	\$1,620
Upper Arlington	\$1,617
Whitehall	\$1,381
Reynoldsburg**	\$1,346
Columbus	\$1,339
SouthWestern	\$1,301
Grandview Heights	\$1,250
Pickerington**	\$1,221
Groveport	\$1,209

*Includes state credit of Homestead and Rollback.

** These districts also collect income tax that is not included in the amounts.

House Bill 920 Impact

Because of a state law known as **House Bill 920**, when property values increase, tax rates decrease so that the school district receives essentially the same amount of money on voted operating levies, with few exceptions. That's why school districts return to voters to keep up with the cost of doing business.