

# UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT **2019** Annual Report

## Our Students



Student Enrollment:

**4,093** *up 20 from last year*

Home Languages Spoken:

**43**



2019 Graduates seeking  
2 or 4 year degree:

**94%**

## Our Teachers



Number of Teachers:

**296**

Teachers with a master's  
degree or higher:

**80%**



Average years of teaching  
experience in USCSD:

**14.43**

## From the Superintendent

Dr. John T. Rozzo

As we reflect on 2019 and the growth of our students, we are inspired by the efforts of our school community to build a better future for our students, our school district and the world around us.



While Upper St. Clair has been widely recognized for its excellence in education, we are most proud of the many ways our students, families and staff have made the world a better place. Whether it's helping others in need, displaying sportsmanship, supporting community organizations or simply connecting with classmates to build a more welcoming environment, our students go above and beyond in every way. I could not be more proud.

Our continued success is contingent upon having a clear vision for the future. This spring, we will begin charting our course for the next five years, as our 2020-2025 strategic planning efforts get underway.

We are excited about this ambitious endeavor and hope to benefit from input from all of our stakeholder groups including parents, students, senior citizens, civic leaders, faculty and staff. Involvement from diverse perspectives will ensure meaningful and future-focused goals for our district. We will kick-off our community input sessions in late March. Information regarding opportunities to participate, as well as progress updates are available on the district's website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

*John T. Rozzo*

John T. Rozzo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



*Planning is bringing the future into the present  
so that you can do something about it now.*

*- Alan Lakein, author*



## 2019-20 District Goals.....

**T**he Upper St. Clair Board of School Directors has adopted the following Goal statements for 2019-20 in our ongoing effort to Customize Learning, Nurture Potential, and Deliver Excellence in all that we do for the students, families, staff and community of Upper St. Clair.

Included within this document are the Strategic Plan Goals (2015-2020). Because of the importance of the Strategic Plan and its basis in community input and support, the Strategic Plan Goals comprise the Board's primary goals.

In addition to our Strategic Plan Goals, the following goals have been identified as priorities for the district to continue its mission of Delivering Excellence in 2019-20:

### **Strategic Planning:**

- Develop a new five-year Strategic Plan for Upper St. Clair School District for 2020-2025.

### **Goal Alignment:**

- Create and implement a district-wide strategic goal alignment process.

### **Board Development/Governance:**

- Board members will participate in a development activity designed to better define board governance and facilitate decision-making.

### **Financial:**

- Establish a financial budget not to exceed the current index of 2.3%.

### **District Operations:**

- Complete the capital projects on or below budget, and on time. Determine the new facilities' naming convention.
- Review, revise and create policies that provide the foundation for operational excellence.
- Determine how to best optimize the district's organizational structure and external support.

### **Support the current Strategic Plan Goals:**

- Support the delivery of 2015-2020 Strategic Plan Goals.



It was a great year for the Upper St. Clair High School girls' varsity golf team both in the classroom and on the greens. The team was awarded the Panther Cup – Academic Team Award for earning the school's highest average GPA among the 30 varsity sports teams during

the 2018-19 academic year. With a 3.87 average GPA, this marks the team's second consecutive Panther Cup victory. On the course, the golf team was crowned WPIAL champion and finished second in the PIAA state championship.





# Strategic Planning



More than 285 students in grades four through 12 participated in the district's week-long Leadership Academies from July 22-July 26, 2019.

The four academies are divided by grade level for the upcoming school year: Elementary, grade 4; Boyce, grades 5-6; Fort Couch, grades 7-8; and Upper St. Clair High School, grades 9-12.

This summer the Leadership Academies will take place July 20-24, 2020.

## Visioning Team Goals (adopted Jan. 2016)

### Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

- Develop and implement Beliefs for Student Learners to guide programmatic and instructional decision-making.
- Establish consistent Professional Learning Community practices that are in alignment with our Beliefs for Student Learners.

### Safety & Security

- Examine and prioritize safety and security needs for the district's physical plants.
- Systematically monitor and adjust policies and procedures to maximize the safety and security of students and staff.
- Enhance the implementation of programming and services that respond to students' personal well-being and safety concerns, as well as those that enhance student relationships and connectivity to school.

### STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)

- Increase the depth and breadth of STEAM curriculum offerings and improve the integration of STEAM across the curriculum.
- Enhance inquiry-based instructional practices and project-based learning opportunities.
- Equip teachers to educate students in STEAM areas by ensuring that they obtain STEAM content, pedagogy and technology experience through professional development.

### Technology

- Determine the best practices and strategies for expanding 1:1 learning opportunities.
- Define the necessary infrastructure, tools and human capital to support the district's tagline, "Customizing Learning, Nurturing Potential and Delivering Excellence."

- Research and implement best practices for self-directed, self-paced and personalized learning in blended and online environments.

### The High School Experience

- Establish a systematic process for teachers to collaborate, plan and deliver instruction that is responsive to the unique needs of all learners.
- Customize structures and learning opportunities to meet the academic and developmental needs of each learner by creatively using time, schedules and resources.
- Provide a comprehensive school experience in which students feel healthy, safe, engaged, supported, challenged and empowered.
- Leverage technology to create learning opportunities that empower students to become active learners in a dynamic and interconnected world.

# District Finances



## 2019-20 Budget

The 2019-20 final budget totaled \$85,642,128, which included a two percent millage increase of 0.5172 mills – resulting in a final millage rate of 26.3775 mills.

Throughout the budgeting process, the administrative team and school board embraced the theme, “Investing in Excellence” as they focused heavily on the goals and objectives of the district’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

“The ‘Investing in Excellence’ theme provided a shared framework that enabled us to prioritize projects and allocate resources appropriately,” Dr. John T. Rozzo, superintendent of schools, said. “As a result, this budget effectively supports the district’s strategic objectives.”

With a two percent millage increase, Upper St. Clair falls below the maximum 2.3 percent inflationary index established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

“We remain steadfast in our commitment to balancing the needs of our students while being responsible stewards of taxpayer monies,” Dr. Rozzo said. “The 2019-20 budget included the lowest year-to-year percentage increase in seven years.”

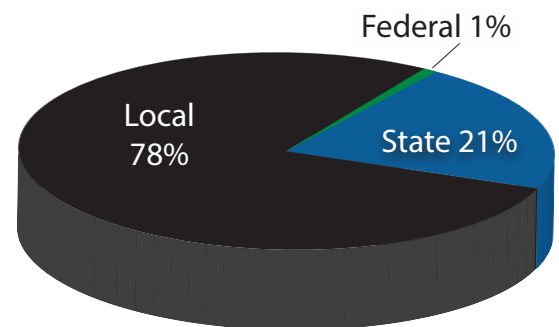
In addition to typical increases in salaries, benefits and health care, the district’s 2019-20 budget was impacted by nearly \$400,000 in mandated increases to the Public Employees Retirement System and more than \$200,000 in additional charter and cyber charter school tuition.

The district invested an additional \$800,000 to further its safety, security and student wellness initiatives. Also, nearly \$400,000 in capital funding was allocated for several projects throughout the district that included electrical, plumbing and other maintenance items.

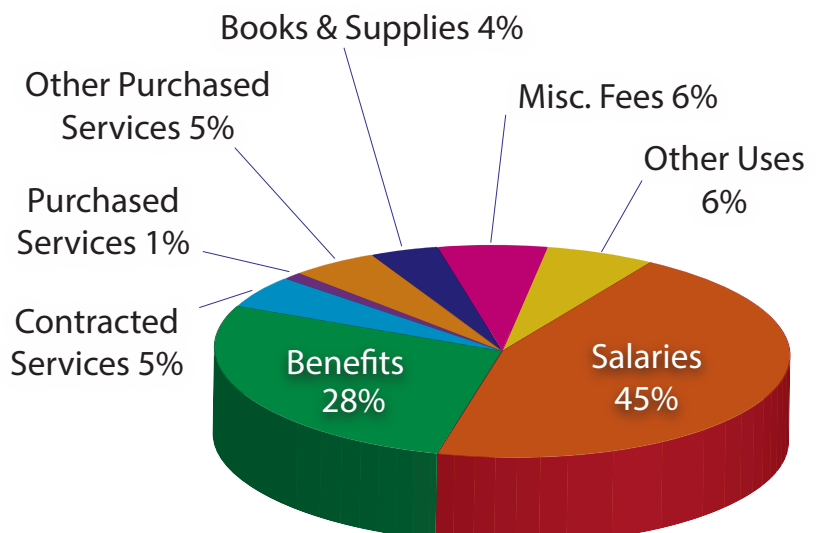
Preparation for next year’s budget is now underway. In December 2019, for the third consecutive year, the school board approved a resolution limiting any 2020-21 tax increase to within the inflationary index determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Passage of the resolution assures taxpayers that any proposed increase to the real estate tax rate will not exceed 2.6 percent or 0.6858 mills.

Throughout the next several months, budget updates will be provided during regularly scheduled school board meetings. By law, the final budget and tax rate must be approved by June 30, 2020. The school board is currently scheduled to take action on the final budget and tax rate at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

### 2019-20 Budgeted Revenue: \$85,642,128



### 2019-20 Budgeted Expenditures: \$85,642,128



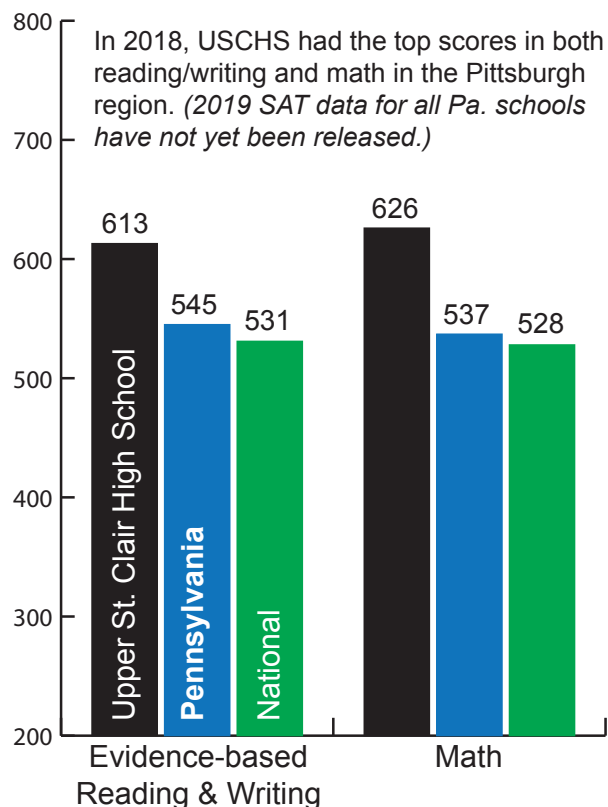


# Achievement

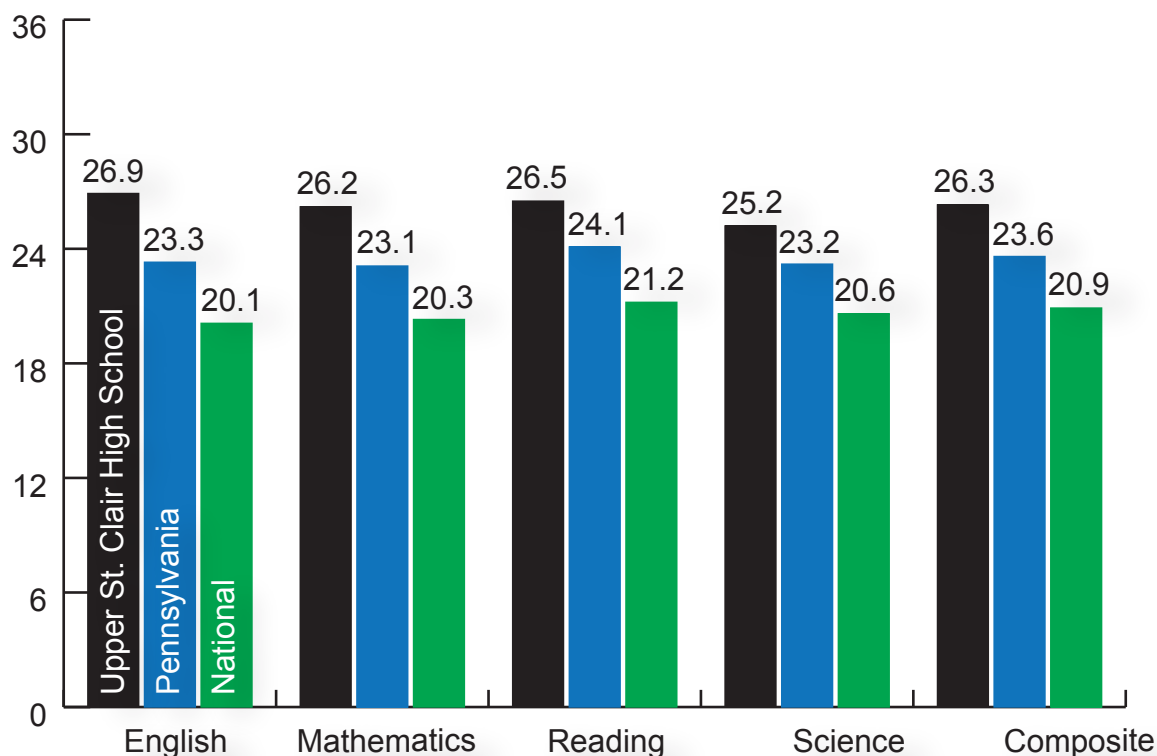
## National Exams

- ★ 139 Upper St. Clair High School students earned the designation of AP Scholar – including seven National AP Scholars. These students earned recognition for their exceptional achievement in the college-level Advanced Placement Program.
- ★ In May 2019, 344 students completed 703 AP exams in 23 subjects – earning an 89 percent pass rate. Upper St. Clair High School currently offers 23 AP courses
- ★ 25 seniors earned recognition in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Six were named Semifinalists – scoring in the top one percent of all test takers – and 19 earned recognition as Commended Students. Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT during the fall of their junior year. 2020 Finalists and Scholarship winners will be announced this spring.
- ★ 154 new members were inducted into the Upper St. Clair High School chapter of the National Honor Society last spring.

## 2019 SAT averages



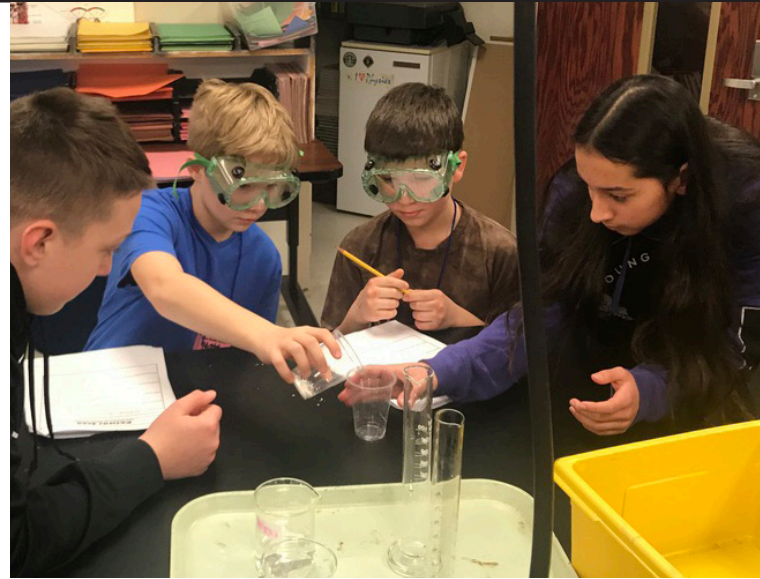
## 2019 ACT averages



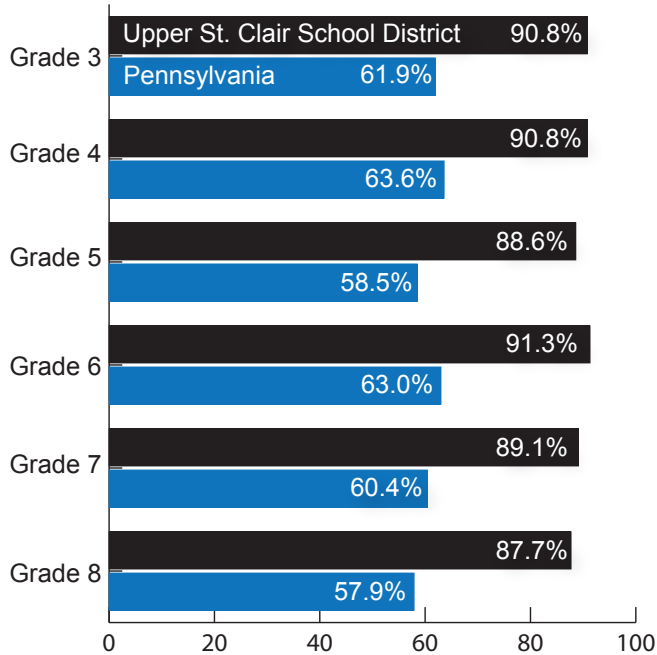
## Statewide Exams

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment used to measure students' attainment of academic standards. Students in grades 3 through 8 are assessed in English Language Arts and math. Students in grades 4 and 8 are also assessed in science.

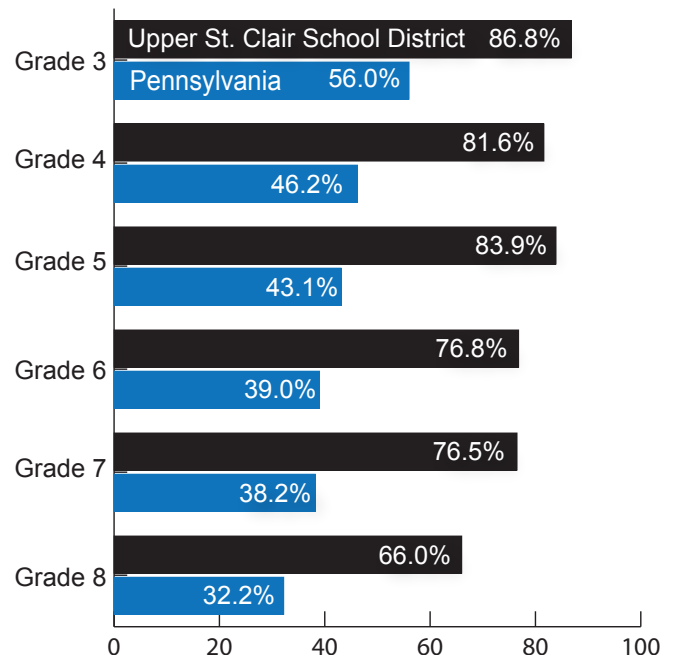
Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to measure proficiency in algebra, literature and biology. Exams are administered as students complete each course. For most students, biology is completed in grade 9; literature in grade 10; and Algebra I ranges from as early as grade 6 through grade 9.



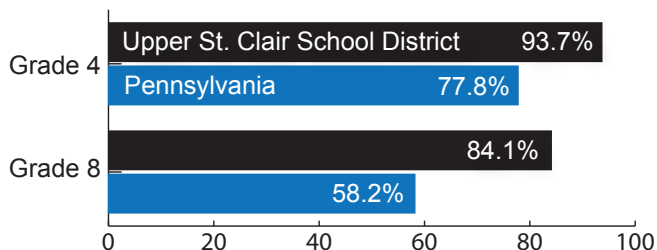
### PSSA: English Language Arts



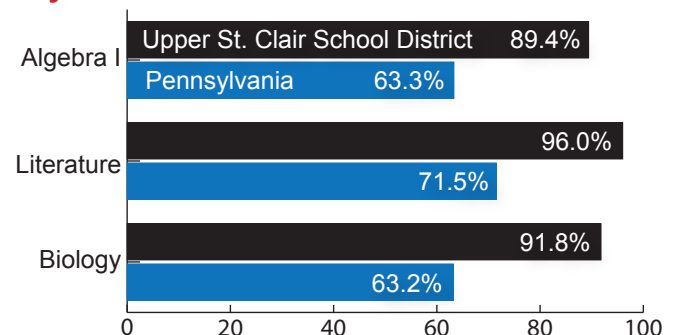
### PSSA: Mathematics



### PSSA: Science



### Keystone Exams







# Achievement

class of  
**2019**  
**USC**

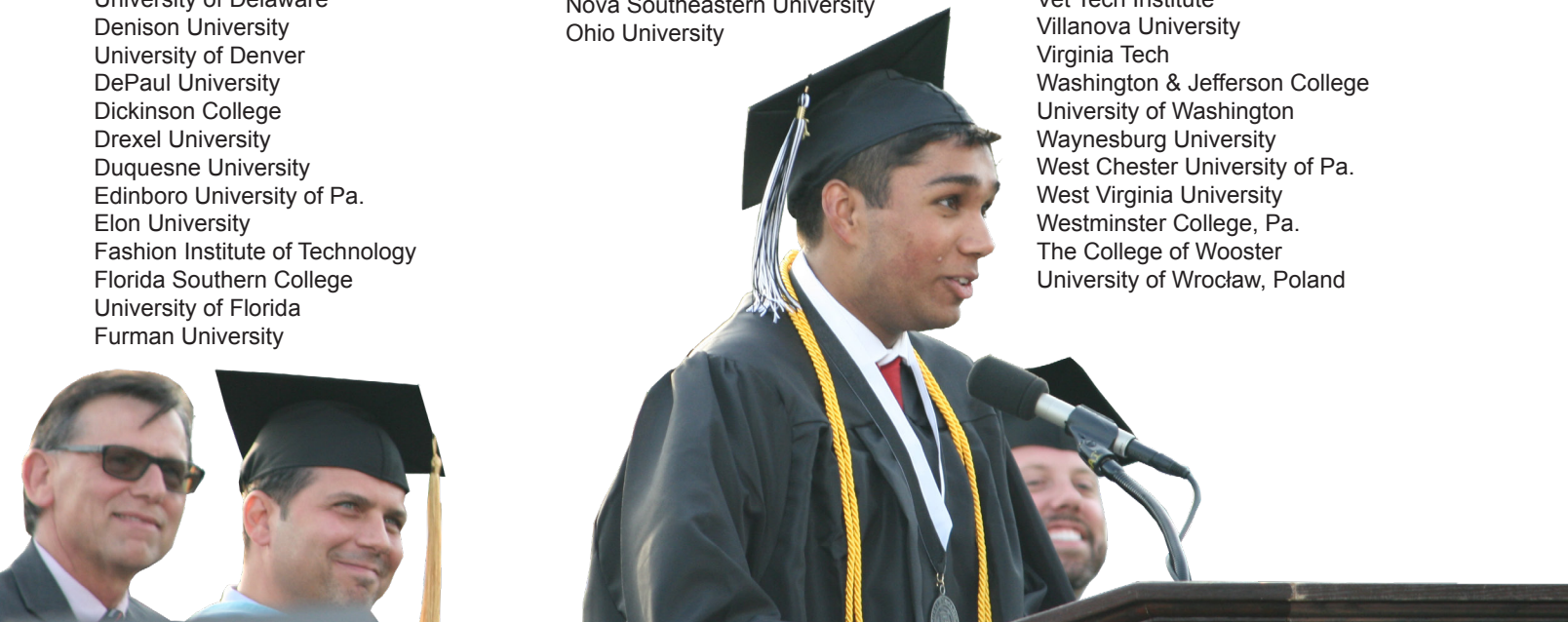


## Where are they now?

The University of Alabama  
Allegheny College  
American University  
Auburn University  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Bethany College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brigham Young University, Idaho  
Bucknell University  
California University of Pa.  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Carlow University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Chatham University  
Cincinnati Christian University  
Clarion University of Pa.  
Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Columbia University  
Columbus College of Art and Design  
Community College of Allegheny County  
Cornell University  
University of Dayton  
University of Delaware  
Denison University  
University of Denver  
DePaul University  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
Edinboro University of Pa.  
Elon University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Florida Southern College  
University of Florida  
Furman University

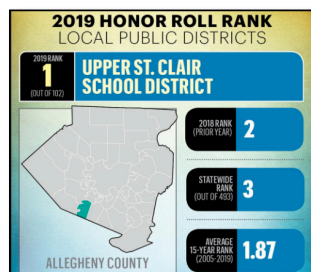
Geneva College  
George Mason University  
The George Washington University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
University of Georgia  
Grove City College  
Howard University  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Indiana University at Bloomington  
Indiana University of Pa.  
John Carroll University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kent State University  
University of Kentucky  
Marquette University  
University of Maryland, College Park  
Marywood University  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Mercy Hospital School of Nursing  
Mercyhurst University  
Miami University, Oxford  
Michigan State University  
University of Michigan  
University of Mississippi  
Montana State University, Bozeman  
Muskingum University  
New York University  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
University of North Carolina, Wilmington  
North Carolina State University  
Northeastern University  
University of Notre Dame  
Nova Southeastern University  
Ohio University

Otterbein University  
Penn Commercial Business &  
Technical School  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pennsylvania State University, Beaver  
Pennsylvania State University, DuBois  
Pennsylvania State University, Erie  
- The Behrend College  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown  
Pittsburgh Technical College  
University of Pittsburgh  
Point Park University  
Pratt Institute  
Purdue University  
University of Richmond  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University, Newark  
Saint Vincent College  
Seton Hill University  
Slippery Rock University of Pa.  
Southeastern University  
Stetson University  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
The University of Tampa  
Temple University  
Texas A&M University, Galveston  
The Ohio State University  
Tri-County Technical College  
United States Naval Academy  
University of Vermont  
Vet Tech Institute  
Villanova University  
Virginia Tech  
Washington & Jefferson College  
University of Washington  
Waynesburg University  
West Chester University of Pa.  
West Virginia University  
Westminster College, Pa.  
The College of Wooster  
University of Wroclaw, Poland



## 2019 Highlights

### Pittsburgh Business Times ranks USC #1



The Upper St. Clair School District ranks first among 102 school districts throughout the seven-county region and third among the commonwealth's 500 school districts, according to the 2019 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools, published by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

The rankings, which were released on May 7, 2019, are based upon PSSA and Keystone Exam scores – three years of data are used, with the current year given the most weight.

The Pittsburgh Business Times released its first school rankings in 2005. Upper St. Clair debuted at number two before spending eight consecutive years, from 2006-2013, in the number one spot. For the last five years, Upper St. Clair ranked within the top five each year before regaining the top spot this year.



Baker Elementary was named the Rookie Site of the Year for the Kids of STEEL program – an honor bestowed on the largest new site to the program. The announcement was made at the starting line of the Pittsburgh Kids Marathon on May 4, 2019.

### District & School Recognition

- Upper St. Clair School District has been named among the nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation for the fourth consecutive year. Upper St. Clair is one of only 14 school districts in Allegheny County, 92 in Pennsylvania and 624 from across the country to earn the distinction in 2019.
- Upper St. Clair High School ranks among the top two percent of high schools in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report. The newspaper released its list of 2019 Best High Schools on April 30, 2019.
- Boyce and Fort Couch middle schools were named Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch 2020. This marks the fifth time that the two Upper St. Clair schools

have earned this honor – an accomplishment reached by only two other schools in Pennsylvania. Boyce and Fort Couch first earned Schools to Watch honors in 2008. The schools were re-designated as Schools To Watch in 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2020.

### Leadership

- Steve Miller, Upper St. Clair High School mathematics teacher and curriculum leader, was named a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching. He is one of 215 in the United States and four in Pennsylvania to earn this honor.
- Gifted education teacher Patricia Palazzolo was named one of three K-12 educators to receive the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Foundation Educator Achievement Awards.

- Director of Business and Finance Scott Burchill was elected to the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials Board of Directors.
- Dr. Daniel J. Beck, Upper St. Clair High School assistant principal, was named to the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils.
- Jennifer Kirk, Upper St. Clair High School counselor and curriculum leader, was honored by the College Board through the 2019 College Board Counselor Recognition Program.
- Sixth grade English language arts teacher Kelly Pascarella was honored with the Promising Practitioners Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education. She was recognized at the PAMLE 2019 Conference in State College.