



UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT: 2022



Dr. John T. Rozzo
. Superintendent of Schools

It is with great pride that I present the 2022 Annual Report for the Upper St. Clair School District. The report highlights just some of the individual and collective accomplishments of our school community over the last year.

Upper St. Clair is a special place to teach and learn. Families often share with us that our high quality school system was a major factor when purchasing their home. What's the secret to our success? Our people. Whether it's our students, parents, teachers, staff members, coaches or other community members, there is a shared commitment to providing our students with exceptional experiences both in and out of the classroom. The momentum of having everyone working toward a common goal continues to propel our district forward within our academic, athletic, and fine and performing arts programs.

Pennsylvania's schools are largely funded at the local level through real estate taxes and local income tax. In Upper St. Clair, nearly 80 percent of our budget is funded locally. We understand and respect our responsibility to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We hope this publication provides assurances to our residents that the Upper St. Clair School District continues to be an outstanding asset for our children and the broader community.

It is an incredible honor to serve as Upper St. Clair's superintendent of schools. Several years ago, my wife and I chose to raise our children here in Upper St. Clair. With a soon-to-be USCHS graduate, it remains one of the best decisions we have made.

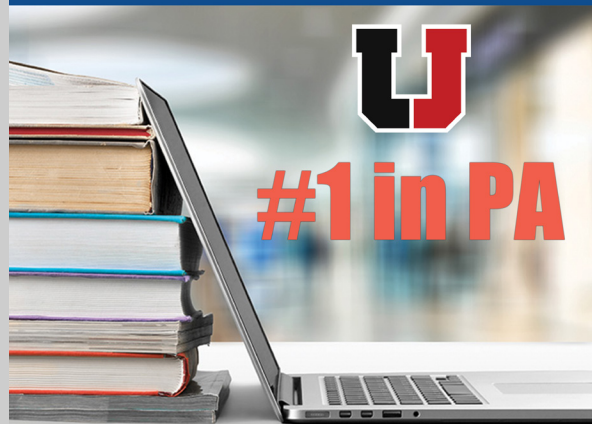
Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. John T. Rozzo
Superintendent

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

2022 SCHOOL GUIDE



Upper St. Clair School District ranks No. 1 among Pennsylvania's 500 public school districts, according to the 2022 School Guide published by the Pittsburgh Business Times (PBT). For the third straight year, Upper St. Clair ranks No. 1 among the 105 school districts in the region.

"Teaching and learning through a pandemic created enormous challenges," Dr. John Rozzo, superintendent of schools, said. "We are incredibly proud of the tenacity and fortitude shown by our students and staff throughout the last two years."

This marks the first year that Upper St. Clair has reached No. 1 in the statewide rankings, which began in 2017.

"Upper St. Clair's students were the top-scoring in the region based on this year's Honor Roll Rank. It is the third straight year Upper St. Clair claimed the top spot on the PBT Honor Roll," the PBT article stated. "Upper St. Clair also landed in the top five in every grade ranking, topping the rankings for eighth grade and seventh grade, and was No. 1 on the statewide rankings."

For each of the last five years, Upper St. Clair has ascended in the state rankings. Debuted at No. 10 in 2017, the district climbed to No. 5 in 2018, No. 3 in 2019, and No. 2 in 2020.





Our Students

- Boyce and Fort Couch middle schools earned the **Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch** (STW) designation for the sixth time. Only two other Pennsylvania schools have achieved this accomplishment since the program's inception in 1999.
- Four Upper St. Clair High School seniors were named candidates in the 2022 **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**. Milan S. Giroux, Alex J. LeKachman, Sambhav Saggi and Daniel J. Wang were identified for their outstanding performance on the SAT or ACT exam.
- For the third year in a row, Upper St. Clair's Speech & Debate team was named one of the **Top 100 schools by the National Speech & Debate Association** (NSDA). Upper St. Clair ranked 36 out of more than 3,000 schools nationwide – up from 38 the previous year.
- USCHS ranks among the top high schools in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report. The newspaper released its list of **2022 Best High Schools** in April 2022.
- USCHS launched its Interscholastic **Unified Indoor Bocce team**. The co-ed team, partially funded and sponsored by Special Olympics PA, is comprised of an equal number of students with and without disabilities.
- The Upper St. Clair Speech & Debate team won the **Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championship** for the third time since 2017.
- USCHS junior Yoshna Venkataraman was named among the inaugural class of **18 Under Eighteen** honorees by Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania.

Varsity Athletics

WPIAL Champion

- Dani Prunzik, Track
1st Place, 100 meter dash

WPIAL Runner-Up

- Girls Basketball
- Boys Swimming
- Baseball

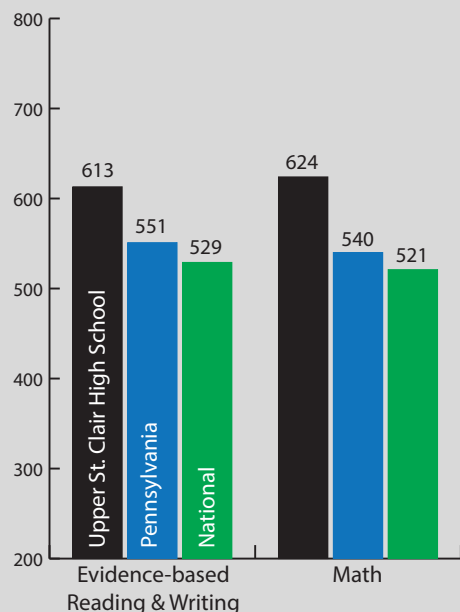
Section Champions

- Boys Basketball
- Boys Swimming
- Boys Volleyball

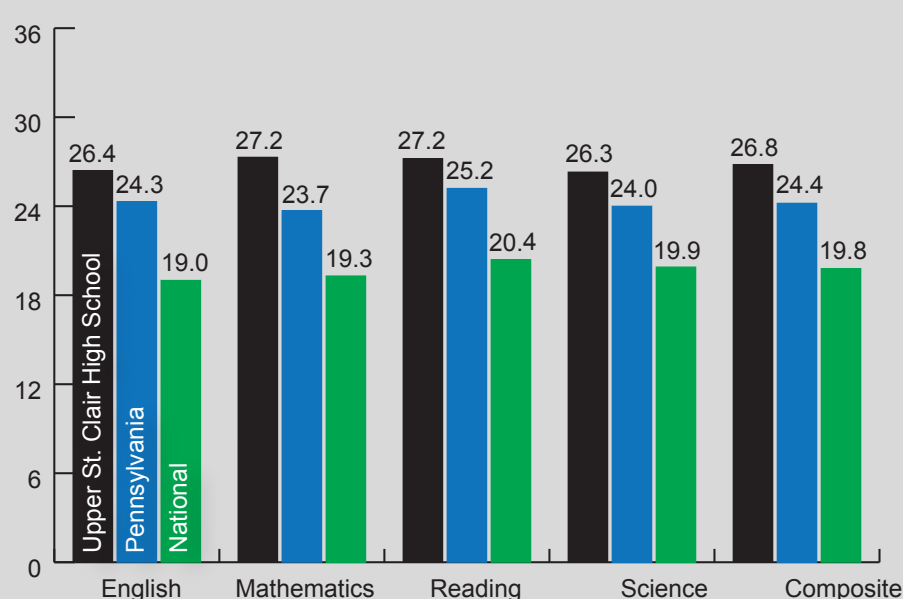


- A team of USCHS students were crowned **KDKA Hometown High Q champions** of the 2021-22 season. This marks the first time that Upper St. Clair has won the competition since it began in the 1999-20 school year.

2022 SAT averages



2022 ACT averages

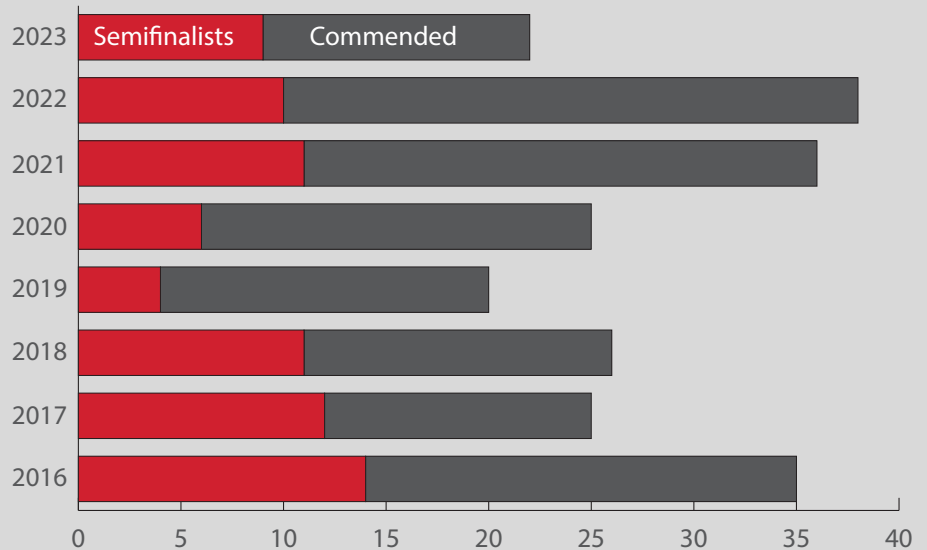


Our Students



- USCHS junior Autumn Ma earned a **Silver Medal** from the **Congressional Award Program**.
- For the second year in a row, a team of USCHS students won the statewide **Academic WorldQuest** competition, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. Team members include Keshav Narasimhan, Daniel Wang, Ben Wasson and Qadir Khan.
- Six USCHS students earned recognition as **2022-23 Scholars** by the College Board for their academic achievements and outstanding performance on the PSAT. Junior Lucia Miles was named a National African American Recognition Program Scholar. Seniors Ava Keating, Sarah Robert, Benjamin Rush and Elisa Tucker, along with junior Grace Atencio were named National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars.
- The USCHS chapter of the **National Honor Society** inducted 199 new members in May 2022.
- Teams from Boyce and Fort Couch middle schools placed third at the **Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind State Finals** – advancing to the **World Finals** at Iowa State University.
- Seventh grader Suhavi Singh finished among the Top Winners in the grades 6-8 category in the 2022 **Gandhi Creative Writing & Art Contest**.

National Merit Scholarship Program

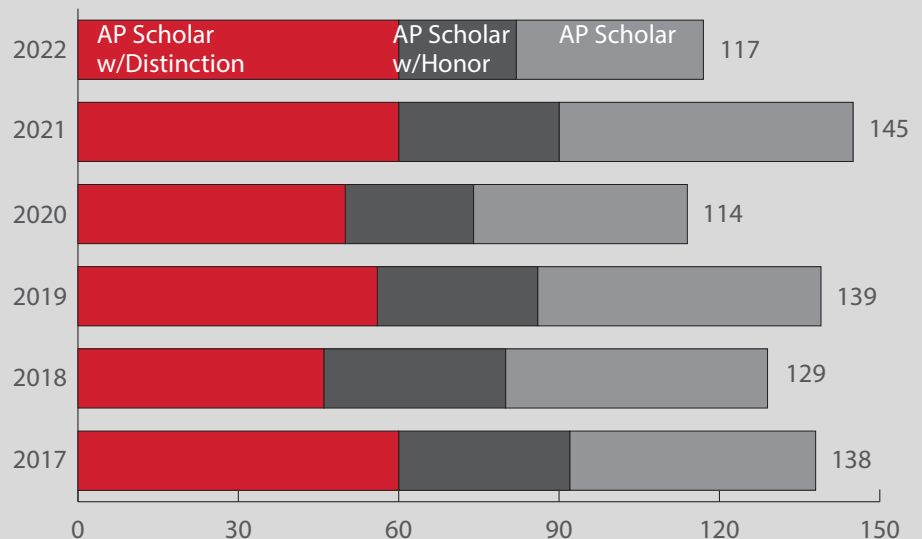


Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT – the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test – during the fall of their junior year.

Semifinalist: scores in the top 1%

Commended Students: scores in the top 3%

AP Scholars



AP Scholar with Distinction: average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams

AP Scholar with Honor: average score of 3.25 or higher on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams

AP Scholar: scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams





Our Students



- For the seventh consecutive year, Upper St. Clair was named among the nation's **Best Communities for Music Education** by the NAMM Foundation. USC is one of only 14 school districts in Allegheny County and 118 in Pennsylvania to earn the distinction in 2022.

- Boyce Middle School fifth grader Arjun Kairi was awarded first place in the flute category at the **2022 Crescendo International Music Competition**.

- USCHS senior Edy McCurrie was selected by competitive audition for the **2022 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National Honor Choir**.



- Three USCHS seniors were selected to the 2023 **National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Honors Choir Ensembles**: Sia Iyer, Rebecca Lang and Edy McCurrie.

- Four USCHS students were selected to participate in the **PMEA All-State Choir**: Skyler Bruno, Rebecca Lang, Sia Iyer and Edy McCurrie.



- Four USCHS students were selected for the **PMEA All-State Orchestra**: Leona Chen, violin; Sophie Chen, violin; Miriam Gutensohn, violin; and Joe Phillips, cello.

- USCHS senior Phoebe Chen successfully auditioned for the **PMEA All-State Band**.

Our Students



2022 PSSA & Keystone Exam Scores

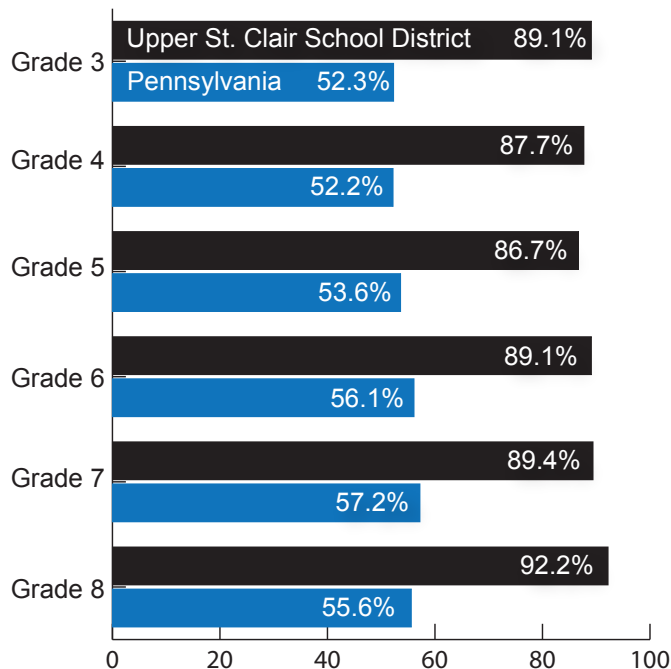
The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment used to measure students' attainment of academic standards. The standards identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels. Students in grades 3 through 8 are assessed in English language arts

and math. Students in grades 4 and 8 are also assessed in science.

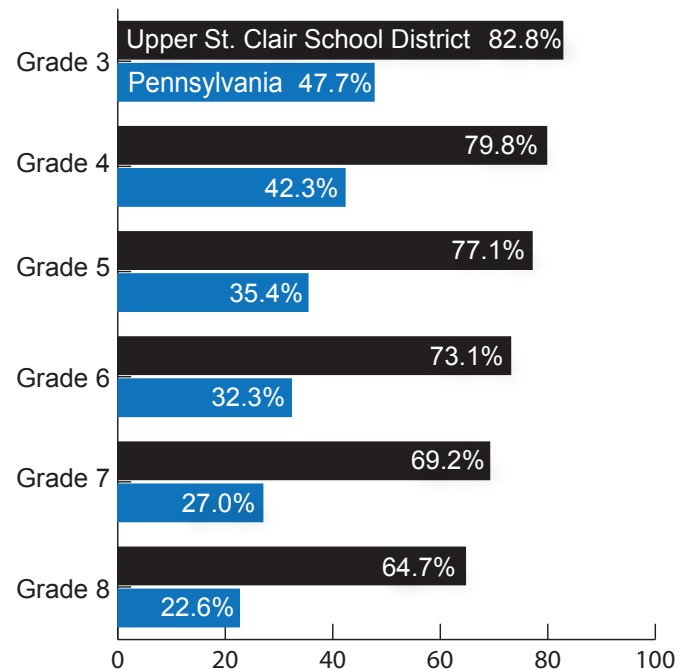
Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to measure proficiency in algebra, literature and biology. For most students, biology is completed in grade 9; literature in grade 10; and Algebra I ranges from

as early as grade 6 through grade 9. The data below is for students in the Class of 2023 – regardless of when the Keystone Exam was administered. Due to the pandemic, there is insufficient data to report for the biology Keystone.

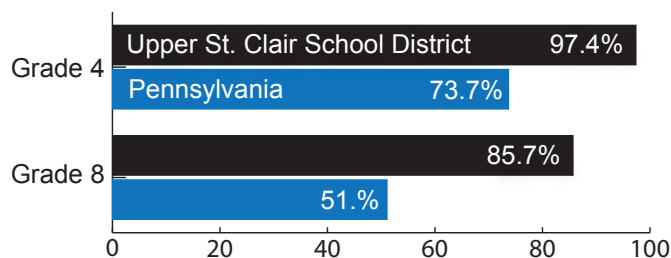
PSSA: English Language Arts



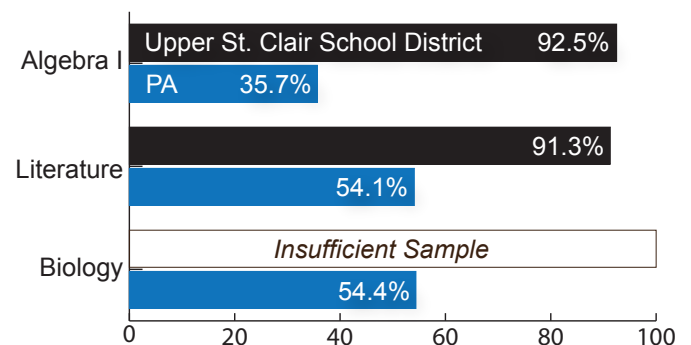
PSSA: Math



PSSA: Science



Keystone Exams





Our Staff



- **Erin Peterson**, who had served as Fort Couch Middle School assistant principal since 2013, was named the school's principal in June 2022. She takes over for **Joe DeMar**, who retired at the end of the school year. **Gordon Mathews**, who previously served as a school counselor at USCHS, was named Fort Couch assistant principal in August 2022.



Erin Peterson



Gordon Mathews

- **Christine Hestwood**, middle school strings teacher and high school orchestra conductor, was honored with the Outstanding Music Educator Award from the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.



Christine Hestwood

- USCHS biology teacher **Monica Erwin** was named a 2022-23 Scholastic Fellow by the North America Scholastic Esports Federation. Mrs. Erwin, who serves as the school's esports club sponsor, is one of 30 individuals and the only Pennsylvania teacher selected for this honor.



Monica Erwin

- **Dave Watson**, USCHS English teacher and speech & debate coach, earned his second Diamond Award from the National Speech & Debate Association.



Dave Watson

- **Danny Holzer**, social studies teacher and boys varsity basketball coach, was named athletic director, effective Feb. 1, 2022.



Danny Holzer

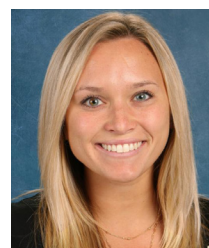
- Three middle school teachers were honored with the Promising Practitioners Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE). Congratulations to **Bridget Kaufman**, sixth grade English language arts teacher; **Erin Kyle**, fifth-grade science teacher; and **Paige Steinhaus**, eighth grade English language arts teacher.



Bridget Kaufman



Erin Kyle



Paige Steinhaus



Fiscal Responsibility



2022-2023 Budget

The 2022-23 budget totals \$95,751,292, which included a 3.2% millage increase of 0.8856 mills – resulting in a final millage rate of 28.5628 mills.

Throughout the budget process, district leaders continued to focus on three primary goals as it balanced the needs of students and its fiscal responsibility to taxpayers.

“We have remained steadfast in our commitment to maintain a high-quality education for our students; balance the needs of the school district while recognizing our fiduciary responsibilities to our community; and remain cognizant of the interdependence of all aspects that directly and indirectly affect our students’ school experience,” Dr. John Rozzo, superintendent of schools, said.

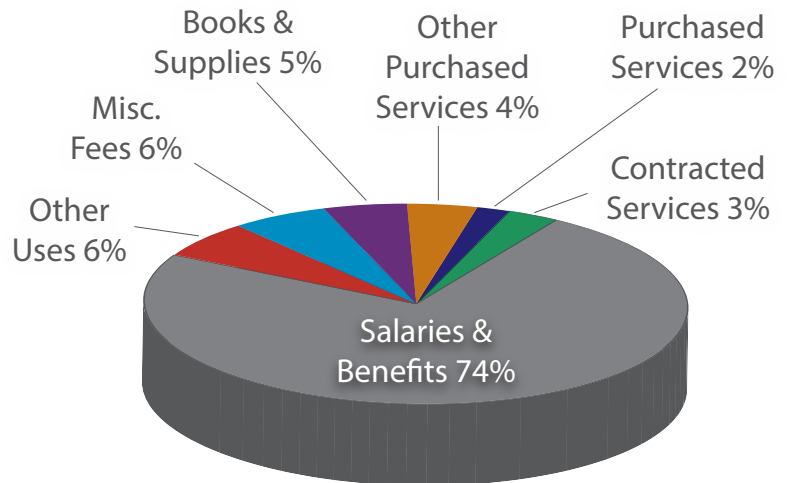
Upper St. Clair’s budget is primarily funded by local taxpayers – amounting to more than 78% of all district revenues. State funding totals approximately 21%. Federal revenues account for less than one percent of the district’s funding.

There are several areas of the budget that have experienced increases in recent years related to safety and wellness. In particular, expenditures have increased in the areas of special education, nursing services, school counseling and school psychologists, and school police. In addition, the district continues to support co-curricular and athletic opportunities for students that foster connectivity, including the fine and performing arts, WPIAL sports and numerous clubs at the high school and middle school levels.

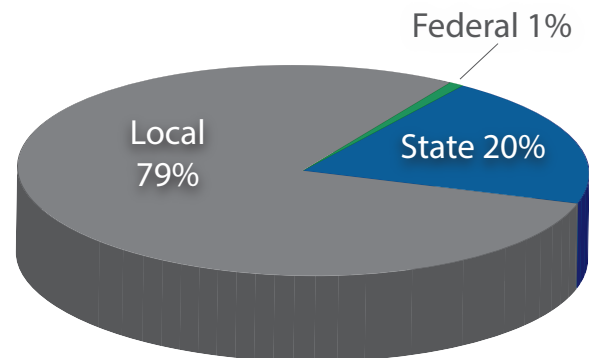
The 2022-23 budget includes several capital improvement projects including HVAC repairs to the high school as well as waterline and drainage repairs to the stadium and Baker field.

“In addition to supporting all existing educational programs and activities, the 2022-23 budget protects the district’s short and long-term financial health,” Scott Burchill, director of business and finance, said. “In particular, we continue to be intentional in our use of the district’s fund balance – limiting its use to funding one-time expenses rather than recurring costs.”

EXPENDITURES: \$95,751,292



REVENUE: \$95,753,425



Real Estate Tax Savings

Qualifying homeowners benefited from a homestead exclusion that resulted in an assessment reduction of \$10,305.36, which equals a real estate tax savings of \$294.35. This property tax relief program is funded through the distribution of a portion of gaming funds provided from taxes on slots and casinos throughout Pennsylvania.

To qualify, the property must be an owner-occupied residence and the property owner must have filed and received approval via a homestead exemption application with Allegheny County by March 1. To obtain an application, please visit the Allegheny County website.





Class of 2022



Where are they now?

Allegheny College
American University of Paris
Arizona State University
Army National Guard
Baldwin Wallace University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowling Green State University
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University
Bucknell University
California University of Pennsylvania
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Chatham University
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Clemson University
College of the Holy Cross
Community College of Allegheny County
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Emory University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grand Canyon University
Harvard University
Haverford College
High Point University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana University-Bloomington
James Madison University
Kalamazoo College
Kent State University
La Roche University
Liberty University
Miami University
Michigan State University
New York University
Newberry College
Northeastern University

Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
Penn State New Kensington
Pennsylvania State University
Pittsburgh Technical College
Purdue University
Queen's University
Rice University
Ringling College of Art and Design
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Joseph's University
San Francisco State University
Seton Hill University
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
State University of New York at Fredonia
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Thiel College
Towson University
Tulane University of Louisiana
United States Air Force
University of Akron
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California-Berkeley
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder

University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Melbourne
University of Miami
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Vermont
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Washington & Jefferson College
Waynesburg University
West Virginia University
Westminster College
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University

- 2022 Valedictorians: William Andrew Bacdayan, Bridget Catherine Boal, Phoebe Mei-Yin Chen, Sophie Chuang-Yin Chen, Alyana Sara Childs, Shivani A. Jajoo, Maggie Farrell Lowden, Eden Ma, Molly Catherine Maher, Luka Mistic, Kaelyn Grace Moran, Dev K. Patel, Victoria Ann Pete, Serena Fair Ploeger, Julia Eve Roeschenthaler, Sujay Shah, Nikhil Evan Shetty, Madeleine Joy Wetzel, and Andrew H. White

