



# UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ANNUAL REPORT: 2023



### Dr. John T. Rozzo . . . . . . . . . . Superintendent of Schools

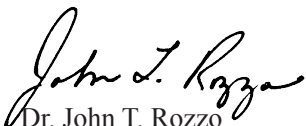
The 2023 Annual Report for the Upper St. Clair School District provided an opportunity to reflect on all of the amazing accomplishments that our students, our staff and our district achieved throughout the last 12 months. Whether big or small, individual or team, the accomplishments in academics, the arts and athletics are a source of pride for our entire Upper St. Clair community.

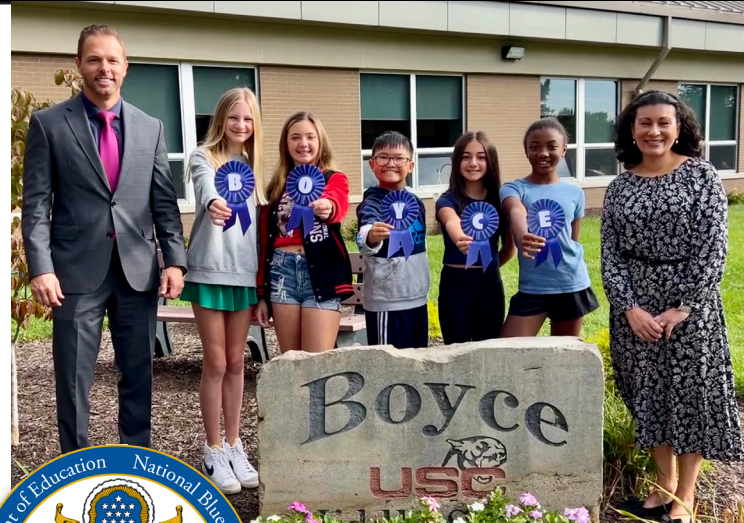
These eight pages provide a glimpse of the great things that are happening in our schools. To learn more, we invite you to visit the District's website — [uscsd.k12.pa.us](https://uscsd.k12.pa.us). Articles and photos highlighting academic competitions, community service projects, special events, as well as honors and awards are shared regularly throughout the year.

While we are incredibly proud of Upper St. Clair School District's many achievements, we recognize that our greatest asset is our people. We have a highly talented faculty and staff who care deeply about our students. Collectively, our families serve as educational partners, volunteers and advocates for our district who enhance the welcoming culture in each of our buildings. Most importantly, our students work hard and leverage the many opportunities that are provided within our school community in order to reach their fullest potential.

When I began my tenure as Upper St. Clair's superintendent of schools in July 2018, I remarked that "there is no greater honor or responsibility than to be entrusted with the education and care of our community's children." That still holds true today. Thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dr. John T. Rozzo  
Superintendent



## 2023 National Blue Ribbon School

Boyce Middle School is among the 353 schools in the nation that were named 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

This marks the second Blue Ribbon for Boyce Middle School and the 13th overall for the Upper St. Clair School District.

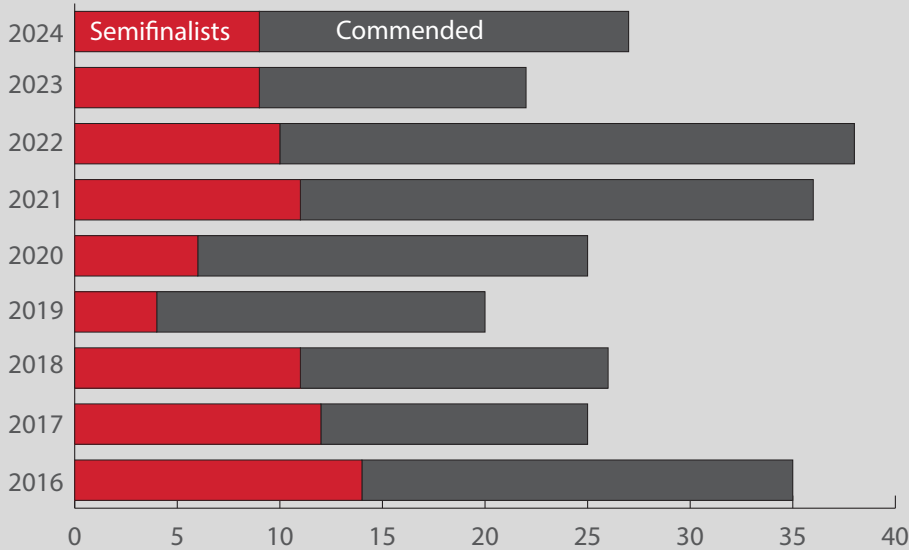
Boyce Middle School, which serves 620 students in grades five and six, earned its first National Blue Ribbon in 1992. The school is led by Principal Dr. Dan O'Rourke and Assistant Principal Dr. Christine Mussomeli, who described the accomplishment as a monumental achievement.

"The Blue Ribbon Award is one of the most coveted awards in education," Dr. O'Rourke said. "Only 13 public schools in Pennsylvania can be nominated, so to be one of a fraction of a percent of schools to receive the award is an immense accomplishment for the students, staff, district and community."



# Our Students

## National Merit Scholarship Program

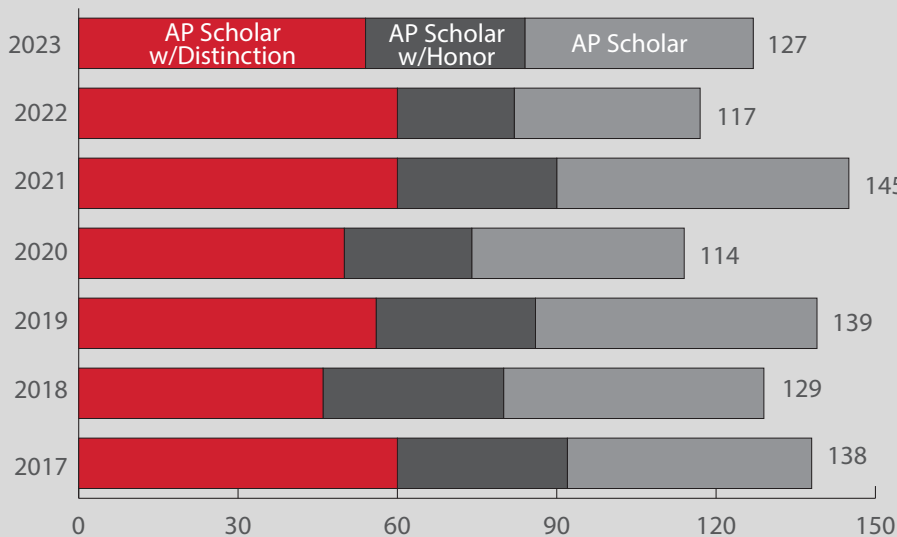


Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT – the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test – during the fall of their junior year.

**Semifinalist:** scores in the top 1%

**Commended Students:** scores in the top 3%

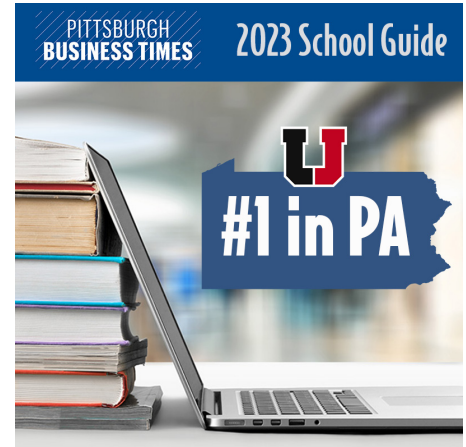
## AP Scholars



**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



Upper St. Clair ranks as the No. 1 school district in Pennsylvania, according to the 2023 School Guide published by the Pittsburgh Business Times. This marks the second year in a row that Upper St. Clair has reached No. 1 in the statewide rankings, which began in 2017.

Superintendent Dr. John Rozzo attributes the District's success to the collective commitment to quality public education.

"Great communities make great schools, and great schools make great communities," he said. "We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of parents, students, teachers, administrators, staff, a school board, and other community members who share our commitment to providing our students with a world-class educational experience."

For each of the last five years, Upper St. Clair has ascended in the state rankings. Debuting at No. 10 in 2017, the district climbed to No. 5 in 2018, No. 3 in 2019, and No. 2 in 2020, before reaching No. 1 in 2022. There were no rankings in 2021 due to the pandemic.

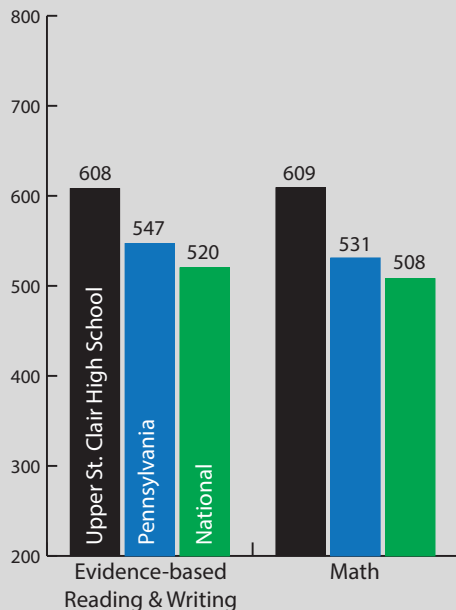
For the fourth straight year, Upper St. Clair ranks No. 1 among the 105 school districts in southwest Pennsylvania.

# Our Students

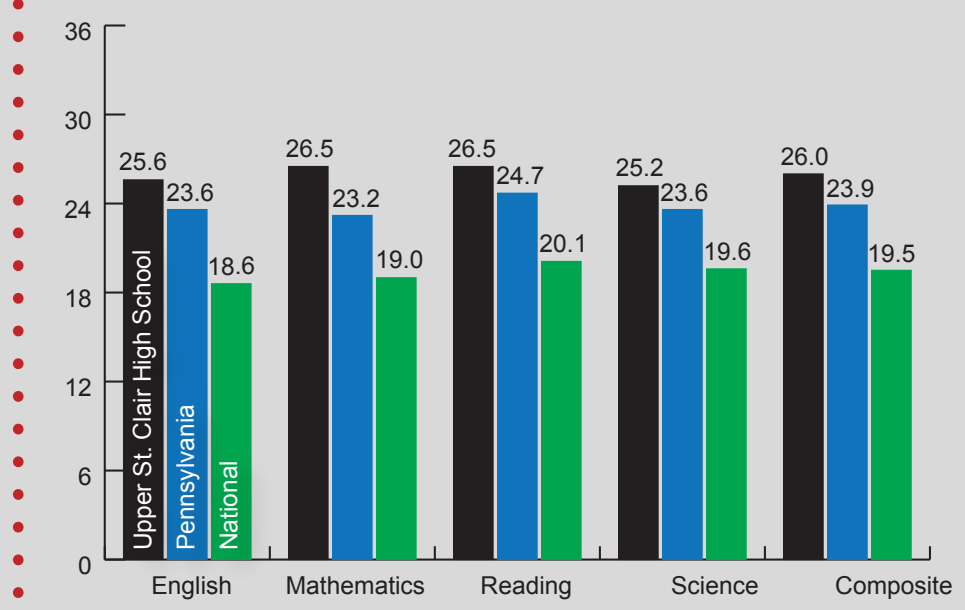


- All schools in the Upper St. Clair School District have earned top rankings in the list of **2023-24 Best Elementary Schools, Best Middle Schools and Best High Schools** by U.S. News & World Report.
- The USCHS World Language Department earned a **2023 Golden Globe Award** from the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association.
- Streams Elementary third grader Lillian Pfeiffer placed first in the Pittsburgh region in the **National Energy Technology Laboratory's 2023 Earth Day Poster Contest**.
- A team of Fort Couch Middle School students won the 2023 Pittsburgh Regional **Future City Competition** and advanced to the international competition, where they earned two awards – Best City Essay and the Special Award for Best Management of Water Resources.
- Senior Lucia Miles and junior Giuliana Amorosa were named **Fellows at the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh**.
- USCHS has been named to the **2022-23 AP School Honor Roll** – recognizing Advanced Placement programs that deliver results for students while broadening access.
- Nate Grabowski was named **Student of the Month** for the Power Motorsports Technology program at Parkway West Career & Technology Center in May and October 2023.
- The USCHS Speech and Debate team won the **Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) State Championship** – marking the team's fourth state title since 2017.
- For the fourth year in a row, the USCHS Speech & Debate team was named one of the nation's **Top 100** schools by the National Speech & Debate Association.
- USCHS students Isaac Bernstein and Kriti Gupta were among Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania's **18 Under Eighteen** honorees for 2023.
- For the eighth consecutive year, Upper St. Clair has been named among the nation's **Best Communities for Music Education** by the NAMM Foundation – one of only 15 school districts in Allegheny County and 123 in Pennsylvania to earn the distinction in 2023.
- Four USCHS musicians successfully auditioned for the **Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Band** – Isaac Bernstein, percussion; Gabe Pacella, trumpet; Lauren Tenney, clarinet; and Ben Wasson, trombone.
- Three USCHS students were selected to perform in the **PMEA All-State Chorus** – Elliott Bruno, Reese Copenhaver and Colin Eccher.

## 2023 SAT averages



## 2023 ACT averages



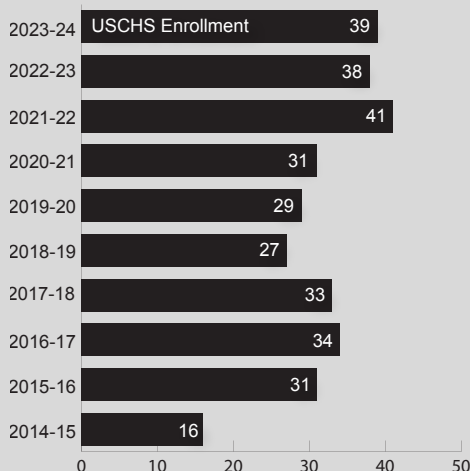




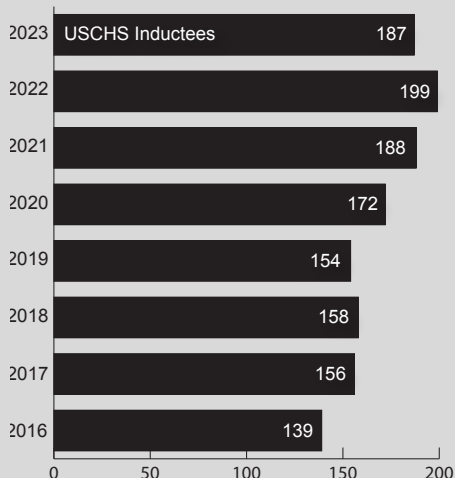
# Our Students



## Parkway West Career & Tech. Center



## National Honor Society



- USCHS Student Council was honored as a **2023 National Gold Council of Excellence** by the National Student Council.
- Fort Couch student Raana Parchuri was crowned champion of the 2023 Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee – reaching the quarterfinals in the **Scripps National Spelling Bee**.
- Fort Couch Middle School students placed first at the regional **PA Media and Design Competition**. Seventh grader Felix Chen won the 3-D Design category and eighth grader Priyaharshini Sivakumar finished first in Animation. Both qualified to compete at the state competition.
- Junior Priyasha Itani and seventh grader Audrey Wetterau were honored as **Junior Women of Achievement** at the 2023 Women of Achievement Awards, sponsored by the nonprofit Cribs for Kids.
- Nine USCHS artists and writers earned recognition for 17 entries in the annual **Scholastic Art & Writing Competition**. Awards included two Gold Keys, seven Silver Keys and eight Honorable Mentions.
- Four USCHS students were top performers at the **Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference** – advancing to nationals.
- Boyce Middle School sixth grader Kaaveri Patil tied for winner in the Lower Division Monologues category at the 29th Annual **Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest** at Pittsburgh Public Theater.
- Senior Isaac Bernstein was selected as one of 16 American students to participate in the **2023 High School Diplomats Japan program** – attending a 10-day cultural enrichment experience in Japan.
- Senior Yog Trivedi placed 10th in the Advertising event at the 2023 **National Leadership Conference of Future Business Leaders of America**.
- Two teams of USCHS students were top performers at the **Future Problem Solving (FPS) State Bowl** – qualifying for the FPS International Conference.
- Sophomore Braidyn Recker was selected to participate in the week-long **FBI National Academy Associates Youth Leadership Program** at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.
- Seventh grader Arjun Kairi placed first in the statewide **2023 School Bus Safety Poster Contest**, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

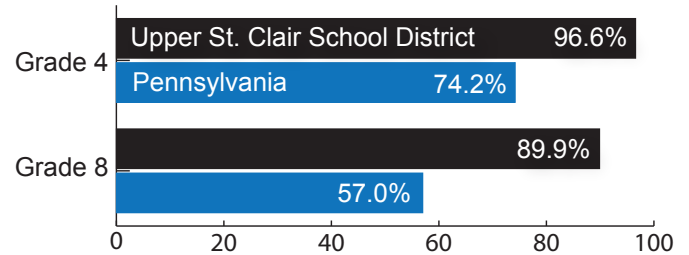
# Our Students



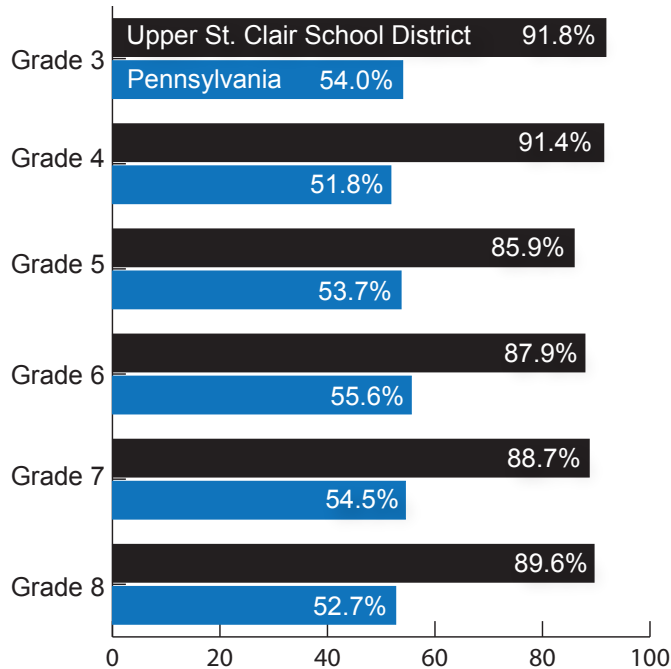
## 2023 PSSA Scores

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.

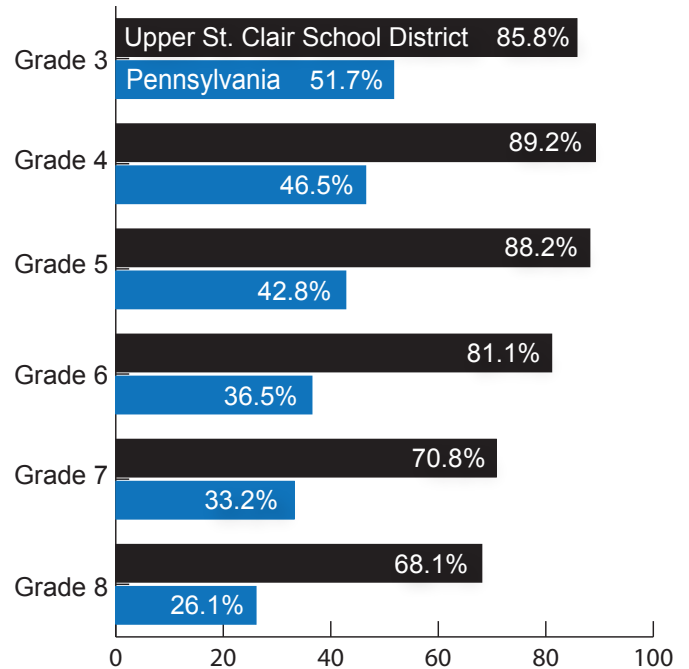
### PSSA: Science



### PSSA: English Language Arts



### PSSA: Math







# Our Students

## Varsity Athletics

### WPIAL Champions

- Kaitlyn Connors, Girls Swimming, 100 freestyle
- Dani Prunzik, Girls Track, 100
- Dani Prunzik, Girls Track, 200

### WPIAL Runner-Up

- Connor McKenzie, Boys Golf
- Girls Basketball

### Section Champions

- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer

## Club Sports

- Ultimate Frisbee, Spring League Champion
- Ice Hockey, PIHL Penguins Cup Runner-Up



## Our Staff & School Board

- Dr. Timothy Wagner was named Pennsylvania's 2023 Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Principals Association.



Dr. Timothy Wagner

- School Board Member Barbara Bolas was honored with the 2023



Barbara Bolas

William Howard Day Award from the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to public education.

- Dr. John Seybert, USCHS band director, was honored with the Citation of Excellence Award from the National Band Association. In addition, Dr. Seybert presented a clinic at the 14th annual JENerations Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Jazz Education Network.



Dr. John Seybert

- USCHS boys' soccer coach Uwe Schneider reached his 300th career win.



Uwe Schneider

- Two Boyce Middle School teachers were honored with the Promising Practitioners Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE). Abbey DiGregorio, a physical education teacher, and Ellie Oxenreiter, a learning support teacher, were recognized during the PAMLE State Conference 2023.



Abbey DiGregorio



Ellie Oxenreiter

- Recently retired USCHS choral director, Lorraine Milovac, was honored with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 1 Citation of Excellence.



Lorraine Milovac



# Fiscal Responsibility



## 2023-2024 Budget

The 2023-24 budget totals \$100,255,600, which included a 3.75% millage increase of 1.0711 mills – resulting in a final millage rate of 29.6339 mills.

Throughout the 2023-24 budget process, district leaders focused on three primary objectives: deliver extraordinary learning experiences for students; balance the needs of the school district while recognizing the fiduciary responsibilities to the community; and remain cognizant of the interdependence of all aspects that directly and indirectly affect students' school experience.

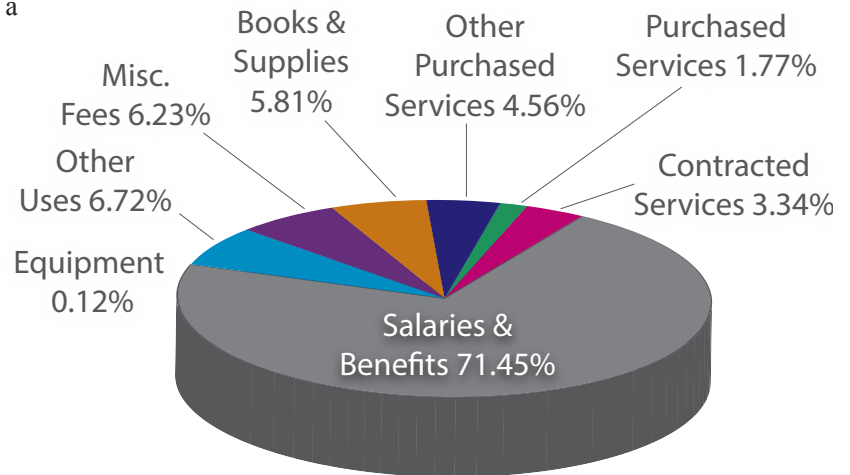
Several external factors impacted the budget, including uncertainties regarding Allegheny County's common level ratio. The common level ratio is a mathematical calculation that measures how the county's base-year assessments compare to new assessments determined by recent sales. Intended to provide greater fairness to property owners, the common level ratio recently dropped from 81.1% to 63.5% for 2022 appeals and 63.6% for 2023 appeals.

“With nearly 80% of the District's funding coming from local taxpayers, this change could have a significant impact on the district's revenues,” Scott Burchill, director of business and finance, said. “In previous years, the district experienced revenue growth from real estate annually. However, there is no growth built into the 2023-24 budget to offset the uncertainty surrounding the common level ratio.”

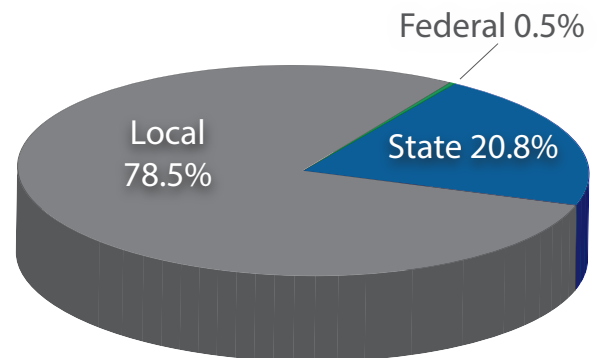
Salaries and benefits account for nearly 80% of the district's budget. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, there were 22 total retirements throughout the school district, 11 of which were teachers.

Five operations/administrative positions were eliminated and/or have remained vacant for the 2023-24 school year. All position eliminations are attritional cuts and include a custodial position, operations coordinator and transportation manager. The assistant superintendent and custodial manager positions remained unfilled for the current fiscal year. The savings from these five positions helped to offset a 15% increase – nearly \$1 million – in medical insurance costs.

### Expenditures: \$100,255,600



### Revenue: \$100,256,762



## Capital Improvements

All six district schools experienced capital improvement projects during 2023-24. Projects included:

- new roof and water heating system at Upper St. Clair High School
- safety enhancements at all buildings
- new HVAC control systems at all three elementary schools
- insulation and ductwork repair and replacement at Boyce and Fort Couch middle schools
- additional plumbing repairs at the high school.







# Class of 2023

## Where are they now?

Air Force Academy  
Allegheny College  
Auburn University  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Bates College  
Belmont University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Butler University  
Carlow University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University of America  
Citadel Military College  
Clarion University  
Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University  
College of Charleston  
College of New Jersey  
Commonwealth University of PA  
Community College of Allegheny County  
Community College of Beaver County  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
Davis & Elkins College  
Denison University  
Duquesne University  
Edinboro University  
Elon University  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Florida State University  
Fordham University  
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Gannon University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Grove City College  
High Point University  
Hiram G. Andrews Center  
Hope College  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
John Carroll University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kansas State University  
Kent State University  
Kenyon College  
LaRoche University  
Lycoming College  
Marist College  
Messiah University  
Miami University  
Michigan State University  
Middlebury College  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Nova Southeastern University  
Ohio State University  
Ohio University  
Patrick & Henry Community College  
Penn State University, Behrend  
Penn State University

Penn State University, Greater Allegheny  
Penn State University, Harrisburg  
Penn West, California University  
Phillips Exeter Academy  
Pittsburgh Technical College  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Robert Morris University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Saint Francis University  
Saint Vincent College  
Seton Hill University  
Slippery Rock University  
Southern Methodist University  
Suffolk University  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Texas Christian University  
Tulane University  
University of Alabama  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Connecticut  
University of Dayton  
University of Delaware  
University of Florida  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Mississippi  
University of Mount Union  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of North Carolina  
University of North Texas  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Pittsburgh, Bradford  
University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg  
University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown  
University of Richmond  
University of South Carolina  
University of Tampa  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin  
UPMC Mercy School of Nursing  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
U.S. Air Force ROTC  
Virginia Peninsula Community College  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Washington & Jefferson College  
West Chester University  
West Virginia Potomac State College  
West Virginia University  
Westminster College  
Wittenberg University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute



2023 Valedictorians: Delaney Kathryn Andrejcik, Aashna Banerjee, Jasmine Francine Diefiker, Lily Catherine Gessel, Ansh Goyal, Morgan Elizabeth Huzjak, Cassidy Mae Jordan, Julia Laura Kania, Ava Mercedes Keating, Raniya Kethavath, Rebecca Grace Lang, Jenna Frances Mantel, Phillip Theodore Markovitz, Carter Patrick McClintock-Comeaux, Anna Jean McElligott, Quinton B. Miller, Mariah Marie Rainier, Maanasa Saayi Reddy, Sarah Elizabeth Robert, Ashvita Saxena, Lauren Elizabeth Starr, Cole Alexander Super and Benjamin George Wasson.

