QUALITY PROFILE
2018-2019
Yellow Springs Schools have historically scored relatively well on mandated assessments, but the metrics, expectations for proficiency, and content for these tests continue to change from year to year. Constant changes make it impossible for public schools to demonstrate progress on these ever-shifting and questionable metrics and continue to be a source of frustration for students, schools, and families.

It is our belief that Ohio’s standardized tests do not represent current best practice and continue to rely on an antiquated assessment model that focuses on rote memorization and regurgitation of information instead of deeper learning and the socio-emotional skills needed for success beyond high school.

Yellow Springs Schools will continue to use forms of assessment and methods that allow our students to demonstrate mastery of academic content over a period of time and through critical thinking and application of skills.

In order to begin holding ourselves to a higher standard of accountability and one that better reflects the skills and knowledge kids need for success after high school, we have started creating our own holistic assessment of our schools. The Quality Profile is an annual report to the community with quantitative and qualitative data included and was first introduced in 2016. We think it better measures the values and priorities our community believes in and supports.

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.

Sincerely,

Mario Basora
Superintendent
Make Sure Our Students Succeed
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.

ACADEMICS

- Yellow Springs High School's made its fifth appearance in the last six years on the Best High Schools List (U.S. News and World Report). YSHS ranked #1 in Greene County, #2 in the Miami Valley, #31 in Ohio, and in the top 4 percent in the nation.

- 71 percent of seniors have taken at least one AP exam while in HS; 60 percent have passed at least one AP exam.

- The average ACT score for YSHS students was 22.4 in 2017, compared to the state average of 22 and a national average of 21.

- Mills Lawn students grew an average of 1.1 years in reading and 1.6 years in math. In most grades, students finished the year above grade level.

- 98% YSHS graduation rate for the Class of 2017.

- 85% of the student body pursues college after graduation.

- 100 percent of YSHS grads do not require remedial math and reading classes in college, compared to 70 percent statewide.

- The District's preschool program at Friends Care Center earned a 5-star Step Up to Quality rating from the State of Ohio in 2018.

- McKinney seventh graders again embarked on a 53-mile, three-day educational journey, biking, camping, and bonding while they explored the environment, history and more.
Make Sure Our Students Succeed
YS Schools will strengthen the curriculum, increase student choice, develop creative programs, and increase opportunities for experiential learning through an innovative approach to education.

CURRICULUM

Our District is a leader in a student-centered approach to learning, educating the whole student through project-based learning (PBL).

"In both the combined high school and middle school and in Mills Lawn elementary school, project-based learning (or PBL) is the order of the day, and the projects that I saw will knock your socks off."
-Acclaimed author and former PBL/NPR Education Reporter John Merrow, who visited Yellow Springs Schools on March 1.

PBL Community Impact

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

- Fourth grade students surveyed community members on the street to identify important issues facing our community, before undertaking a project to look at affordable housing in Yellow Springs.

- A group of YSHS Fearless Thinkers visited Peru over Spring Break, where they participated in a service project in a local community, supporting efforts to build a workshop to house the community's entrepreneurial endeavors.

- At YSHS, Art and Health students collaborated to create an art exhibit taking on stigmas of mental health. Mind Matters: Confronting Stigma of Mental Illness was displayed at the K12/TEJAS Gallery in Dayton in April.

- Mills Lawn first grade students explored the idea of what it means to be a “hidden figure” in our community and interviewed African-American changemakers in our village to create a “YS Hall of Fame” display in their school.
Develop High Performing and Diverse Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

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.

**OUR TEACHERS**

- "I am blown away by everything I experienced today, but one thing that stood out is the culture. The students and staff at Yellow Springs have this amazing, collaborative... relationship that I believe stems from the process of PBL."
- "The leadership is outstanding and the commitment to what is best for students and the community is very impressive!"

To learn more about the Deeper Learning Training Center offerings, visit ysschools.org/DeeperLearningTrainingCenter.aspx.

**Awards & Recognition**

- In November of 2017, 7th and 8th grade teachers at McKinney Middle School were named the 2017 Team of the Year by the Ohio Middle Level Association.

"Your staff is passionate and that is so important."
-Visiting Educator Feedback

- McKinney Middle School Teacher Jaime Adoff was a top ten finalist for the prestigious biennial Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Teaching, sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance project. Adoff was also a recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English’s Affiliate Leadership Development Award.
**Better Together.**
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.

### OUR COMMUNITY

#### 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.

- Two members of the **YSHS Photography Club** were selected to have their work featured in the YS Community Foundation’s annual “Seeing Our Community” Photo Exhibit. The Photography is a new club, supported by the Yellow Springs Community Fund.

- The **United Students Society**, with other student clubs, hosted a community potluck for more than 80 people after Exhibition Night on November 20. The evening included a series of "courageous conversations" about race, gender, orientation, and identity.

- The McKinney Middle School and Yellow Springs High School Theater Department presented the first **Bulldog Theater Festival** in the fall of 2017. The festival ran for two weekends, featuring performances of “The Last Lifeboat” and “Eurydice.”

- Fearless Thinkers from Mills Lawn, McKinney Middle School and Yellow Springs High School participated in **March for Our Lives** demonstrations in March and April. Mills Lawn Student Justin Hamilton traveled to Washington, D.C., for the March 14 demonstration, and spoke to the Washington Post about his views and the demonstrations he and his classmates participated in at their school.

- **Women’s Swimming** won the Metro Buckeye Conference title for their third consecutive season.

- **McKinney Middle School Boys’ and Girls’ Track Teams** both won the Metro Buckeye Conference.

- The **Men’s Soccer Team** were the District runner-ups during the 2017 season.

- **YSHS Track and Field Athletes** Amani Wagner, Jasmine Davidson, Ayanna Madison, Haneefah Jones, Annlyn Foster were Regional finalists.

#### Yellow Springs Community Fund
The **Yellow Springs Community Foundation (YSCF)** maintains several funds that provide financial support to students and teachers of Yellow Springs Schools, including the **Yellow Springs Endowment for Education (YSEE) fund**.

These funds are made possible through the contributions of community members, school alumni, civic organizations and businesses.

Visit www.yscf.org to learn more about the YSCF and its funds.
Fiscal Stewardship: Funding the Future
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.

OUR FUTURE

Expenditures
Our per pupil expenditure is less than the Top 25 of Ohio Schools by US News and World Report. In fact, Yellow Springs Schools spends $1,700 less per student than other top districts in Ohio, providing a world-class education with value for our community.

Revenues
Where does Yellow Springs Schools funding originate?

Grants
The Advancement & Community Relations department brings financial (and other) resources to the District to help advance our mission. Some highlights from 2017-18 include:

- A $5,180 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation helped support the 2017-18 Into the Wild project.
- The District began implementation of the $150,000 Ohio Department of Higher Education grant to support an engineering internship program at the high school.

Open Enrollment
Open enrollment supports Yellow Springs Schools through the state funding that follows students who choose YS Schools. In 2016-17, Open Enrollment brought $1.126 million in to YS Schools.

More than $29,000 in grants from the Yellow Springs Endowment for Education fund (administered by the Yellow Springs Community Foundation) to support innovative learning at YS Schools. Over $17,000 in donations to our annual campaign.
On November 6, YS Schools residents will vote on a renewal of an existing permanent improvement levy. The renewal levy was first approved by residents more than 15 years ago.

- Permanent Improvement levies can only be used for repairs, maintenance and equipment that will last five years or longer.
- The levy on the ballot is a 1.2-mill renewal levy and does not increase taxes.
- The levy generates about $135,000 a year for district maintenance and repairs.
- Most recently, the funds from this levy have been used for the following projects: New gym floor at Mills Lawn, gym floor refinishing at YSHS, roof repairs and replacements, parking lot repairs and repaving, security doors and cameras, makerspace equipment, carpet and tile throughout buildings, and more.

Yellow Springs Schools
201 South Walnut Street
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Phone: 937-767-7381
Ysschools.org