

# We are **EXCELLENT!**

Ranked Excellent by the Ohio Department of Education



That may seem like a bold statement, but we have always known our students and staff are doing great work in the Wapakoneta City School District. Our student results prove it. Plus, we have independent confirmation. In 2013 the Ohio Department of Education ranked our district one of Ohio's **EXCELLENT** school districts.

How does a large, diverse public school district rank so well? It's because of the way we approach education. Our objective is to be the leader in providing excellent learning experiences for our students while helping them become responsible, productive citizens.

Our success is the result of what we believe:

- We believe education is a group effort among our students, school staff, parents, and community that recognizes academic growth, achievement, and creativity.
- We believe successful teaching occurs in a caring environment with high expectations based on effective planning and instruction for all of our students
- We believe students learn best when they have adults who care about them and their learning – and a community ready to provide safe and well-equipped schools.
- We believe students succeed when they try their best, are prepared, and take an active role in their education, while helping those around them.

We invite you to review the information inside and discover why our students and staff can proudly and justly say, **WE ARE EXCELLENT !**



# A long tradition of excellence



Education has been a priority for Wapakoneta residents from the community's very beginning.

The Society of Friends actually established the first school for the children of the Shawnee who had founded Wapakoneta in the 1780s. The effort dates back to the first decade of the 19th century, sometime around 1809.

After the departure of the Shawnee in 1832, the school system for the newly established village of Wapakoneta opened in 1834 in a one-story building near the south bank of the Auglaize River. During its early years, it served as a church and town hall. At the time, it was the only

public building in Wapakoneta.

In 1856 the citizens of Wapakoneta determined that they needed a new school and constructed a three-room brick building on West Main Street. After the Civil War the building was expanded in 1865. As Wapakoneta grew, this building was replaced in 1875 with a large, Gothic-Revival School at the same location. In 1889 a second school building was constructed on the east end of town. Blume High School was constructed on South Blackhoof Street in 1908. It served the community until 1958 when a new high school was built near the north bank of the Auglaize River. Blume became a junior high school. As our needs for education evolved, local citizens have invested in a number of other new school buildings. During the 1960s the district grew to include the neighboring communities of Buckland, Cridersville, Uniopolis, and St. Johns.

Today, the Wapakoneta City School District is one of the finest in Ohio. Our communities are committed to providing a quality education in modern, well-equipped facilities. Our tradition of excellence continues.

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Photo credits: John Zwez, Wapakoneta Daily News







## Wapakoneta City School District

### Administrative Offices

1102 Gardenia Drive Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895  
419.739.2900

Welcome to the Wapakoneta City School District! On the following pages we will show you why the Ohio Department of Education ranked our district EXCELLENT.

Our success is based on the quality of our students, the support they get at home, and our outstanding staff and facilities throughout the district. You can tell much about a community from the investment it makes in its children and their education. During the past ten years we have invested more than \$67 million in new buildings, total renovations, and state-of-the-art technology. That's how much we believe in our kids and their futures.



*Aaron Rex, Superintendent*

We want our students to leave our schools believing that their lives and the lives of others matter. We want our students to be good people – confident, courageous, and inquisitive – as well as scholarly and analytical. We want them to know the joy of being life-long learners.

We give our students opportunities in the classroom, on the stage, and on the athletic court or field. We want all of our students to experience a sense of accomplishment and pride. We realize that if we want students to excel, they have to feel good about themselves and what they have done.

We are a large public school district that understands education and thinks like a private school. We promise to never become complacent about the success of any of our students. Providing a quality education is our job and we take it very seriously. That is what makes us EXCELLENT!

If you would like additional information about our schools, please stop at our administrative offices or contact us at 419.739.2900 or [info@wapak.org](mailto:info@wapak.org).

*Aaron Rex*

Superintendent  
Wapakoneta City School District



# Love for learning Pride in Accomplishment



The Wapakoneta City School District is dedicated to our students' intellectual, social, and ethical growth. To help our students grow, we provide challenging academics – geared for each student – plus enriching experiences in arts and athletic programming. We strive to build supportive relationships between students and staff, and to do it all within a diverse student enrollment.

We want our students to discover their individual potential, strive for excellence in all they do, and be ready to accept challenges and meet opportunities with success. That is the core of our responsibility to each of them and our communities.

## DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

### Wapakoneta City School District

- 2966 students - grades K through 12
  - K-Fourth Grade: 1242 students
  - Fifth-Seventh Grade : 686 students
  - Eighth-Twelfth Grade: 1038 students
- 96% attendance rate
- 92% graduation rate
- Four school buildings: 2 elementaries (Pre K-4), middle school (5-7), high school (8-12)
- Annual operating budget: \$24,014,387
- 177 Certificated Staff (teachers, guidance, library, IT technicians, administrators)
- 102 Classified Staff (cafeteria, bus drivers, para-educators, custodians, secretaries, maintenance, aides, administrative)
- 82% of our teachers hold Masters Degrees or above
- 149 square miles - approximately 1/3 of the land area of Auglaize County
- **RANKED EXCELLENT IN 2013 BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**







# Investing in technology increases student success



We believe using varied forms of new technology in every aspect of our curriculum is critical to help our students become successful 21st century citizens. That's why we have invested more than \$1 million to put technology in every classroom, program, assignment, and project.

At the elementary level, our classroom use of technology helps our students

develop digital proficiency and self-confidence. We want to imbed technology in the culture of our students' daily lives. Our classroom teachers, at every level, incorporate technology in their lesson plans and assignments.

Using the best of traditional teaching methods and supplementing them with state-of-the-art technology, we challenge our students to excel beyond basic knowledge and develop critical thinking and analytic skills. That's how we help them become problem solvers and life-long learners.



## Examples of how we use technology:

### Interactive White Boards

The boards allow teachers to present information in each classroom in a digital format, including documents, websites, and software programs. They can create interactive demonstrations that come to life as students use the stylus. Rooms are equipped with document cameras that project high resolution images on the boards.

### Classroom Performance Systems

The CPS in many classrooms provide student response capabilities. Each student responds to questions on the white board via a remote control clicker (as shown above right). The responses are transmitted to the room's computer which provides the teacher with a report. Teachers can determine if the lesson should be reviewed or if any student requires individual attention.

Our technology has become a seamless part of instruction and enables teachers to help every student excel.

# Wapakoneta Elementary School

## Preparing Students for Tomorrow — Caring for Them Today

The bedrock of a successful education comes from a good start in elementary school. At Wapakoneta Elementary, grades K-4, we believe each student is unique and presents individual needs when it comes to learning. We strive to provide each of our students with the tools they need to succeed. We structure our programs to work with groups of students with similar instruction needs. In our Guided Reading and Guided Math programs we are able to take our students from where they are and push them forward to academic success.

Our building opened in 2010 and is filled with state-of-the-art technology which allows our students to interact with their lessons. Classrooms are equipped with sound amplification systems allowing teachers to maximize listening and learning opportunities. Recently, we have begun to use iPads as tools for our students to increase their reading, writing, and math skills. These new technologies don't replace our excellent teachers. Good, caring teachers remain the most important components of our student success.



We also want our students to learn beyond academics.

They receive high-quality visual and performing arts instruction as well as physical education. Our proximity to the Wapakoneta High School Performing Arts Center allows our students the chance to see wonderful arts programming. Helping our students to gain an appreciation of the arts and physical activity helps them grow into successful young adults.

Wapakoneta Elementary has twice been ranked as an *Excellent* Ohio elementary school. We consistently meet or exceed all requirements regarding student passage on reading and math and student attendance. We attribute our high student achievement to differentiated instruction, planning designed to meet the needs of each student, and a culture of teamwork among our entire staff and parents to provide our students with what they need to succeed.



### About Our Building

- 113,719 Sq. Ft.
- Current enrollment: 956 (grades K-4)
- 41 regular classrooms
- 11 special education classrooms
- Media Center
- 2 Computer Labs
- Art Room
- Music Room
- Cafetorium with Stage
- HVAC system: geothermal with chilled beam forced air
- Building constructed in 2010

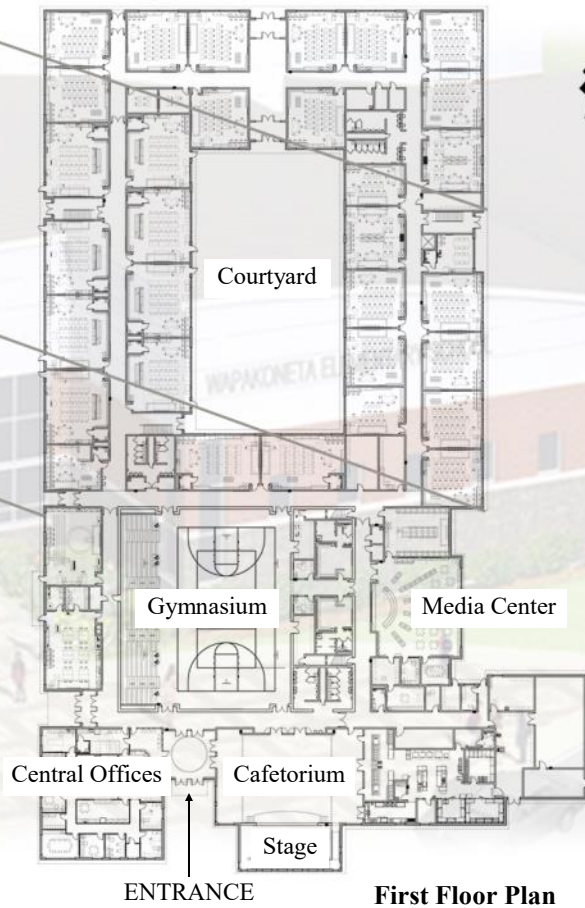




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**Second Floor Plan**



Courtyard

Gymnasium

Media Center

Central Offices

Cafetorium

Stage

ENTRANCE

**First Floor Plan**



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# Cridersville Elementary School

## A Great Place for a Good Start



Cridersville Elementary serves the northern portion of the district. We have earned the *Ohio School of Promise* award four different years. The award recognizes Ohio schools that have high levels of achievement in reading and mathematics. Our school also does well on the Ohio School Report Card earning the rank of *Excellent* several times and *Excellent with Distinction* recently.

In addition to an excellent staff, we have a highly successful Guided Reading Program at all grade levels. Nearly every staff member is involved in the program, which provides time each day for every student to read at her or his level in small groups. Our school staff believe this is the core of their success. Reading is the cornerstone of all learning. We believe every student can become a good reader and enjoy reading, enabling them to be successful in every subject. Several area schools and universities have visited Cridersville Elementary to learn about our program and its implications for their school building or education classes.

Our school, which opened in 2010, sits on a beautiful 22-acre campus adjacent to a nature park. It is located near the Otterbein Retirement Community. Our students and staff regularly collaborate with Otterbein residents in intergenerational tutoring programs.

Everyone at Cridersville Elementary works hard every day to fulfill the school's mission statement – Learning together to be responsible, respectful, and do our best!



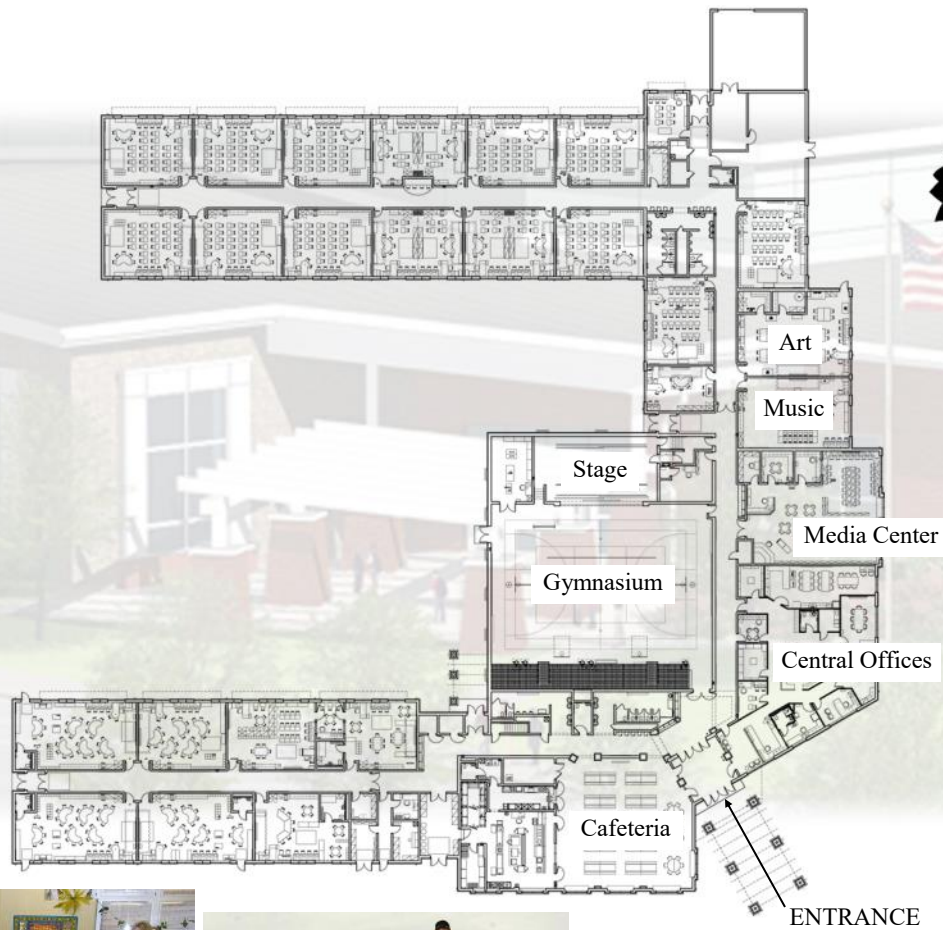
## About Our Building

- 59,000 Sq. Ft.
- Current enrollment: 342 (grades K-4)
- 16 regular classrooms
- 10 special education/reading rooms
- Media Center
- 28-seat Computer Lab
- Art Room
- Music Room
- Gymnasium with performance stage
- HVAC system: geothermal with chilled beam forced air





CRIDERVILLE  
ELEMENTARY



# An outstanding staff! Our secret to student success



Good facilities and modern technology are important, but great staff is what makes a school district EXCELLENT. That is the secret to our students' success. Our staff has a good blend of veteran teachers with more than 25 years of experience, as well as younger staff in their first 5 to 10 years in the profession. More than 80% of our teachers hold Masters Degrees or above.

The heart of our educational process is in the classroom. Our teachers are determined to create an environment that nurtures and protects our students and supports their curiosity, talents, and integrity. We strive to keep our class sizes small and provide every student with one-on-one interaction with her or his teacher.

Our teachers use a variety of progressive and differentiated teaching techniques to support the diverse learning styles of our students. We encourage opportunities for collaboration among students, teachers, and parents. We partner with our parents to make their children – our students – the best people they can be. That's our job!

## Every child is important

We believe every child should have the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed at school. We offer a wide spectrum of special education services for our special needs students – from self-contained classrooms to full inclusion in a regular class setting – based upon the individual needs of each child.

In addition, we partner with our local Educational Service Center to provide specialized services through multiple handicap, autistic, and emotionally handicap classrooms and alternative and opportunity schools. Most of these are offered in our school buildings.

We also provide our own Virtual School program for students in grades 8-12. If they choose, they can earn a diploma virtually and yet participate in all extra-curricular activities.

Our goal is to provide the best learning opportunities for every child.







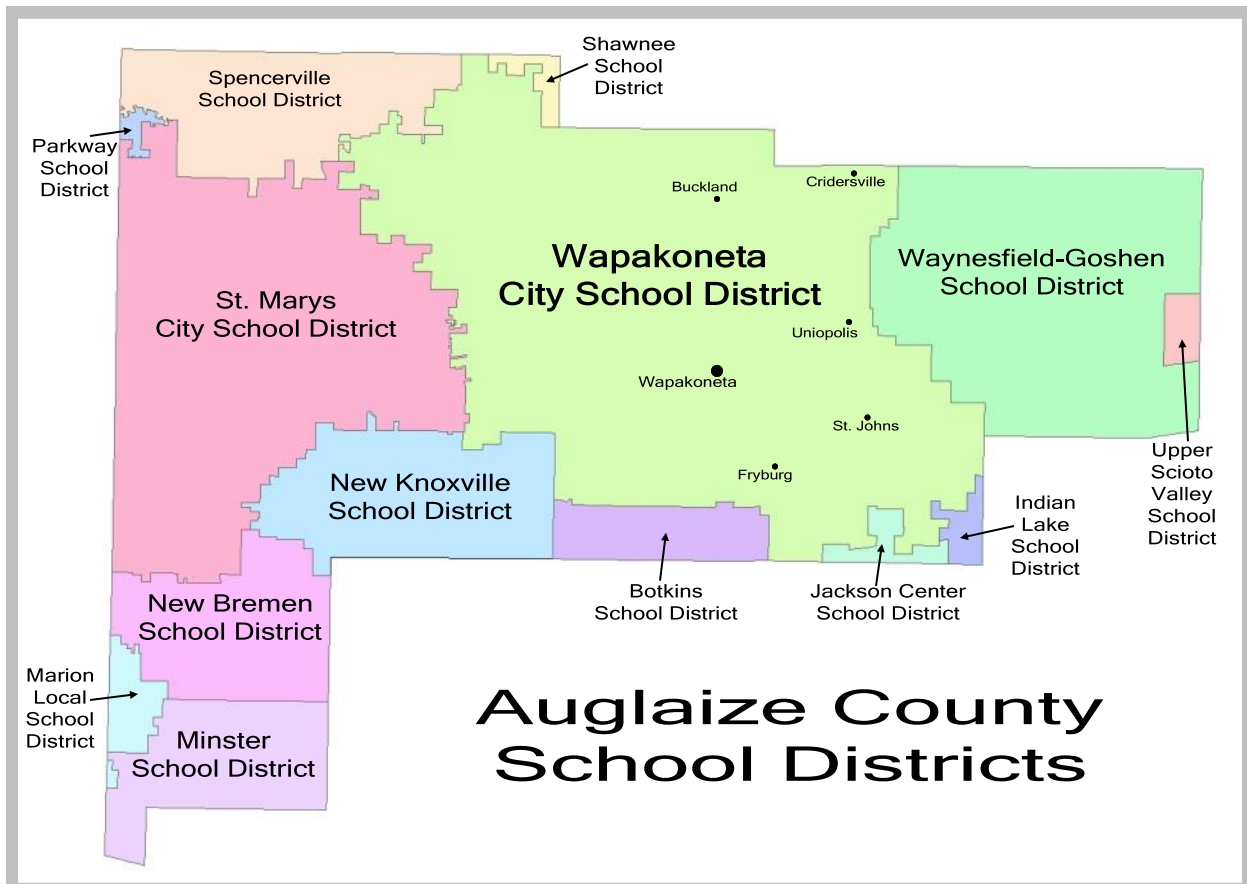
*A portion of the Class of 2026 on their first day at school*



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Wapakoneta City School District is one of the largest, in terms of land area, in the State of Ohio. The district includes more than 149 square miles. It encompasses one full township and portions of six others. It is nearly 1/3 of the land area of Auglaize County.

Each school day the district's fleet of 30 busses travels more than 1,827 miles transporting 1,916 students to school. That totals more than 328,000 miles every year – 13 times around the world or 2/3 of a trip to the Moon and back.



# Wapakoneta Middle School

## Using a Team Approach to Education

Wapakoneta Middle School, grades 5 through 7, educates the *whole child*. We want our school to be a community of learners where academic performance, artistic and athletic achievement, and community service grow along with strong friendships and mutual respect. In our opinion a good student is a good person and destined to be a good citizen.

We use a team approach to teaching. Teachers plan together and develop common expectations, which we believe increases opportunities for student success. Students are assigned to teams of two to four teachers. This allows our staff to work with fewer students and provide more opportunities for one-on-one interaction. Every nine weeks our students rotate in an exploratory class schedule that allows them to experience computer literacy, keyboarding, health, physical education, and a variety of art, music, and drama opportunities.



Each day at the Middle School concludes with our *Red-skin Resource* time. This designated time enables our teachers to work with their students, identify who needs help, and then schedule re-teaching assistance. This is how we ensure students fully grasp what has been taught and are ready to move on to the next lesson.

We take our role in helping our kids become excellent student citizens very seriously. We use the *Six Pillars of Character* approach. The program encourages positive student performance through an emphasis on Respect, Caring, Fairness, Trustworthiness, Responsibility, and Citizenship. We have great success in teaching our students to look for the best in others, speak with kindness, choose positive influences, and dream big.

Partnering with our parents and community, the Middle School is an exciting place in which to learn, have fun, and grow. That's why we, too, were ranked EXCELLENT!



### About Our Building

- 105,094 Sq. Ft.
- Current enrollment: 686 (grades 5-7)
- 27 academic classrooms
- 8 special education classrooms
- Media Center
- 3 Computer Labs – total 200 stations
- Auditorium – 430 seats
- Choral Music Rooms
- Band Room
- Art Classrooms
- Gymnasium – 1265 seats
- Cafeteria – 325 seats

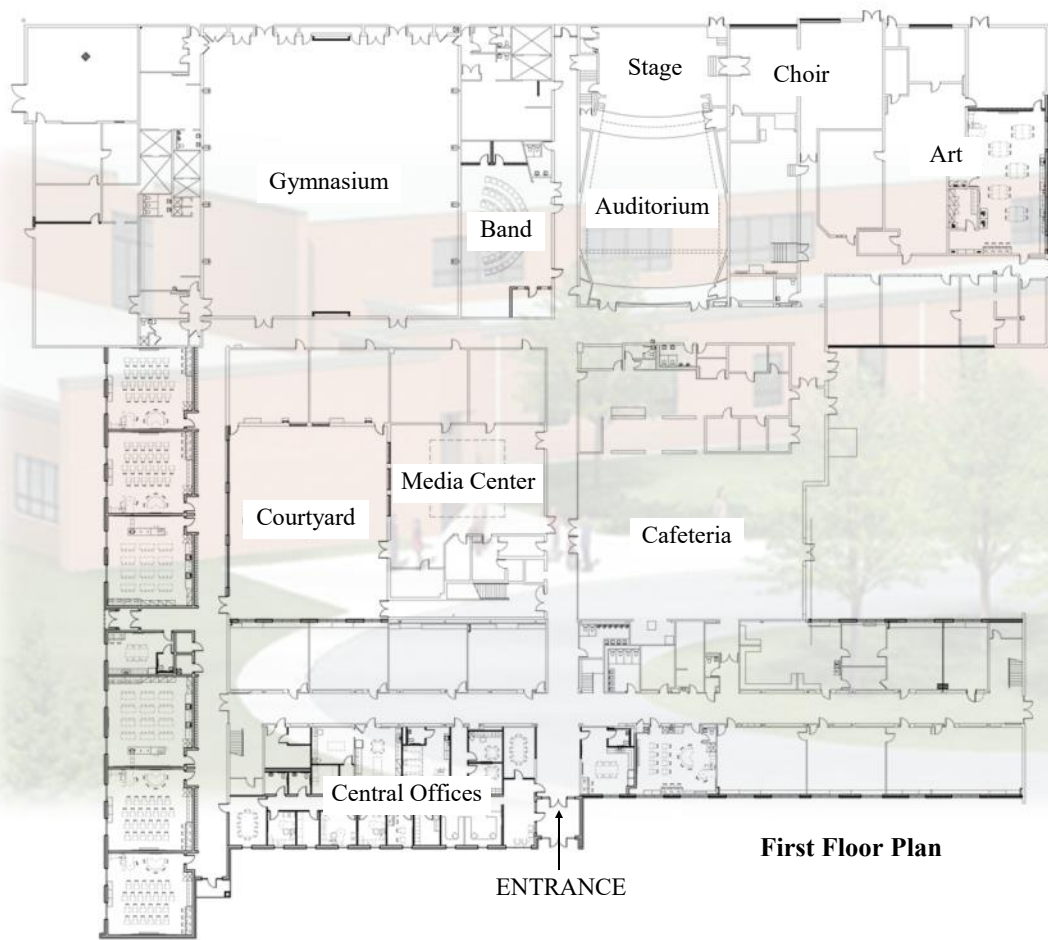




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# Wapakoneta High School

## Finishing an Excellent Education!



Wapakoneta High School is about opportunities – a wide spectrum of opportunities for our students to put the finishing touches on an excellent K-12 education.

We do that with a top quality staff and a modern, high tech campus including a new fine arts wing and performing arts center. Although built in 1988, the school underwent a com-

plete \$15 million renovation in 2010. It includes a 150-seat lecture hall, state-of-the-art science labs, 4000 sq. ft. media center, video production lab, and high quality athletic facilities. All of these were designed to give our students maximum opportunities to learn and grow. They support excellent academics and a host of extracurriculars.

Our students may choose from a general program of studies or an academic program that prepares them for college. We offer six advanced placement classes in Calculus, Psychology, Statistics, American History, and U.S. Government, and four dual enrollment classes in Advanced English, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Dual enrollment allows our students to earn college credits in classes at Wapakoneta. In addition, our qualifying students have the opportunity to attend classes at local universities earning credit toward high school graduation, college credit, or both.

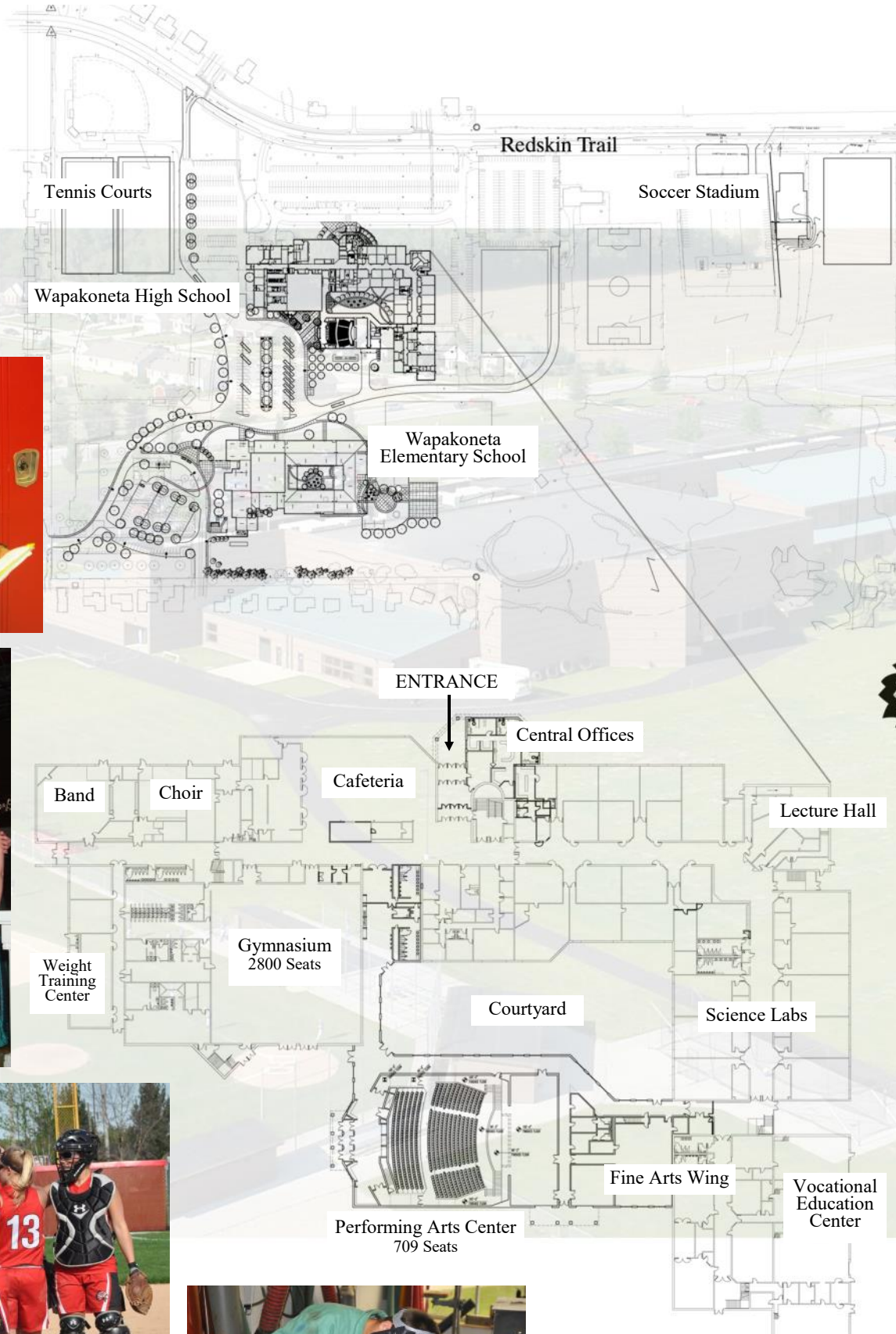
Our goal is to provide our students with the most opportunities to excel in academics as possible. Last year, 74% of our graduates went on to post-secondary education and they went well prepared. Among college freshmen, our students require among the lowest levels of remediation in Ohio. Thanks to a great staff, hard working students, and a highly supportive community, a diploma from Wapakoneta High School has important value.



## About Our Building

- 219,173 Sq. Ft.
- Current enrollment: 1038 (grades 8-12)
- 73 academic classrooms
- Lecture Hall –150 seats
- Media Center
- 7 Computer Labs – total 202 stations
- Video Production Lab
- 2 Band Rooms
- Vocal Music Classrooms
- 2 Art Rooms
- Computer Assisting Drafting Lab
- VOAG (FFA) Program Area
- Performing Arts Center – 709 seats
- Competition Gymnasium – 2800 seats
- Auxiliary Gymnasium
- Weight Training Center





On the Second Floor:  
 30 Class Rooms  
 Foreign Language Labs  
 Media Center  
 Video Production Lab

MASTER SITE PLAN

WAPAKONETA HIGH

## Our APOLLO Partnership

Our school district is a proud partner of the Apollo Career Center, a vocational consortium of 11 area school districts. Apollo offers a wide spectrum of career-focused instructional programs ranging from information technology to nursing and advanced manufacturing to construction trades. In addition, our high school offers several industrial technology courses on its campus in manufacturing and computer assisted drafting that are taught by Apollo instructors.

Our goal is to provide our students with the widest possible selection of educational and career development opportunities. Our strong partnership with Apollo helps us to maximize their choices. Currently, 86 of our students attend Apollo Career Center.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Wapakoneta City School District serves more than 360,000 lunches and 65,000 breakfasts every year. Those meals are prepared by 34 food service staff in the district's four buildings.

Here are a few examples of the types and volumes of food used by the district:

- Milk – 75,000 1/2 pints white milk  
320,000 1/2 pints chocolate
- Cheese – 6,500 pounds
- Beef – 9,500 pounds
- Chicken – 15,730 pounds
- Pork – 2,387 pounds
- Turkey – 4,663 pounds
- Peanut Butter – 3,128 pounds
- Potatoes—37,329 pounds



## How Do We Measure Success?

We believe it is important to track our success. We owe that to our students, parents, and communities. We think it is important for our staff, as well. Our district-wide attendance rate exceeds 96% with graduation at 92%. These are remarkable statistics for a large, diverse school district with more than 3000 students.

Last year, 74% of our graduates went on to post-secondary education – 52% to four-year colleges and 22% to two-year community colleges or license programs. Our students attending college received more than \$2 million in scholarships. During the past four out of five years, our district has had one or more National Merit Finalists. Last year nearly 90% of our seniors participated in ACT testing. Their average score was 21.8.

Our success is also measured via state testing and performance metrics. In 2013, the Ohio Department of Education ranked us as one of Ohio's EXCELLENT school districts.



# Our Team for Success: Students, Staff and Parents!

In the Wapakoneta School District we believe the relationship between our schools and the families of our students is very important. Success at school is directly linked to the support and involvement of families at home.

Our parents work in partnership with us. They are an integral part of our work and their children's success. We encourage our parents to volunteer their time and talents to help extend classroom experiences and extracurricular activities. For example, many of our parents assist in our customized reading programs.

We foster a strong school-family relationship by hosting Family Nights at our schools focused on science and reading. Our Science Nights allow families to explore science with hands-on activities and displays. Reading Nights encourage families to read together with costumed characters and book swaps. These events help make our families a vital part of our school team. Plus, there is nothing better than a family that enjoys learning together.



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2011 Wapakoneta was selected by *Ohio Magazine* as one of the *Best Hometowns in Ohio*. The magazine's staff researches communities across the state and determines the best communities based on education, business environment, health and safety, culture and heritage, entertainment, and community spirit. They look for those great places to live, work, raise a family, and open a business.

The quality of our schools played a very important part in our designation as *Best Hometown in Ohio*.



# A school community dedicated to quality education

We believe teaching our students to be active in our communities is another important lesson. Teaching respect, responsibility, and good citizenship are among our primary goals. Plus, our connections to the community open doors to valuable partnerships with a wide variety of people, businesses, and organizations.

We encourage our students, at every grade level, to participate in local food drives, fund drives for the Cancer Society and Heart Association, soliciting supplies for our local troops overseas, special fundraising efforts for victims of natural disasters, and many more community service projects. We want our students to know the joy of helping others and understanding what it means to be a good citizen.

Coming into our schools, we host hundreds of parent, grandparent, and community volunteers every year. They assist us with tutoring, field trips, our Family Nights, music and sporting events, and many other special activities.

An excellent example of a community partnership is the *Young Astronauts Program* and *Space Camp* at our local Armstrong Air & Space Museum. Our students participate in extracurricular programs focused on science, technology, engineering, and math taught by museum staff, engineers from Honda of America, and engineering students from Ohio Northern University. These are wonderful programs for our students who have interest in science and math. We want them to have every possible opportunity to learn.

## DID YOU KNOW?

During the past five years private citizens and companies in our school district have donated more than \$686,000 to help with special projects to enhance our school facilities and programs. Here are a few examples:

- Enhancements to the Performing Arts Center — \$100,000
- Construction of two additional tennis courts — \$139,000
- Installation of artificial turf at the football stadium — \$296,000
- Assistance with purchase of iPads for classrooms — \$8,000
- Assistance with purchase of new Steinway grand piano — \$5,000
- Improvements to soccer stadium — \$25,000
- Purchase of video scoreboard for football stadium — \$116,000



*Young Astronauts working with a Honda engineer*



*New video scoreboard at the football stadium*



# OPPORTUNITIES Beyond the Classroom

We are not just about academics. We want our students to also have fun, make good friends, and challenge themselves in arts and athletics. We provide a variety of clubs, music and theatre opportunities, and sports activities to make their lives rewarding and healthy.

We believe that feeling good about yourself and your abilities is another important part of being successful. We want our students to also have outside-the-classroom opportunities that provide excellent team-oriented experiences.

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS:

Academic Team	National Honor Society
Quiz Bowl	Foreign Language Clubs
Yearbook Staff	Volunteer Tutoring Programs
Art Club	Octagon Club
FFA	

## PERFORMING ARTS:

Symphonic Band	Marching Band & Flag Corps
Concert Band	Musical Theater Productions
Show Choir	Symphonic & Treble Choirs

## FALL SPORTS:

Football	Volleyball
Soccer	Cross Country
Golf	Girls Tennis
Cheerleading	

## WINTER SPORTS:

Basketball	Wrestling
Bowling	Swimming & Diving
Cheerleading	

## SPRING SPORTS:

Baseball	Softball
Track & Field	Boys Tennis

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our school district's most famous graduate was the first person to walk on the Moon. Neil Armstrong was born in a farm house near Wapakoneta on August 5, 1930. He graduated from Wapakoneta's Blume High School in 1948.

He went on to attend Purdue University and graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He also served as a combat pilot in the Korean War. In 1962 he entered the NASA astronaut program. He commanded the Gemini VIII and Apollo 11 missions. On July 20, 1969, as the world watched, he became the first person to step on the Moon.



After retiring from NASA in 1977, he became a professor of aeronautical engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Armstrong passed away on August 25, 2012.



Few people in history will be remembered and honored forever. Neil Armstrong will be among them. We are very proud he called Wapakoneta home.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Wapakoneta was founded by the Shawnee Indian Nation in the 1780s. With their departure in 1832, many of the streets in the new village were named for Shawnee chiefs – Blackhoof, Willipie, (John) Perry, and (Joseph) Park. Local citizens were proud of their community's Shawnee heritage.

As the community grew and high school sports were established in the early 20th century, that pride resulted in the selection of the *Redskins* as the school's mascot. For nearly a century our students have proudly carried the name *Wapakoneta Redskins* onto fields and courts throughout Ohio. The Shawnee were known for their courage, intellect, and athletic ability. Our teams are proud to honor those Native American traditions in every endeavor. *Go Redskins!*



Chief Blackhoof



## Wapakoneta City School District

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**Wapakoneta Elementary School**  
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**Cridersville Elementary School**  
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**—We are EXCELLENT!**

Ranked Excellent by the Ohio Department of Education