

MILFORD MATTERS!

2019-2020

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

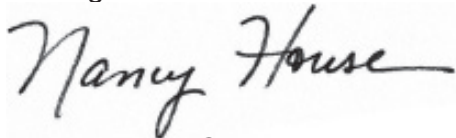
Dear Milford Residents,

A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside the classroom to prepare them for life in a diverse and dynamic world. At Milford, we are extremely proud of our continued academic success, our students' community service, and how we are fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars.

In 2020, we are excited to build upon our accomplishments, and we want to share with you the district's priorities for educating and producing tomorrow's graduates and workforce. It is more important than ever to communicate and update the entire community on how we fulfill our mission, which is why we are launching this first edition of Milford Matters, to provide you with a snapshot of the state of our school district on topics that matter most. We intend to follow this publication with periodic mailings throughout the year, to share stories from our classrooms and keep you updated on our student's accomplishments and important district news. You can also sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter by visiting our website, MilfordSchools.org.

As always, we encourage all residents to become involved in educating our students. We welcome everyone to support our Eagle athletes, artists, future scientists, and entrepreneurs at the various events held throughout the school year at our buildings.

Go Eagles!



Nancy House, Superintendent

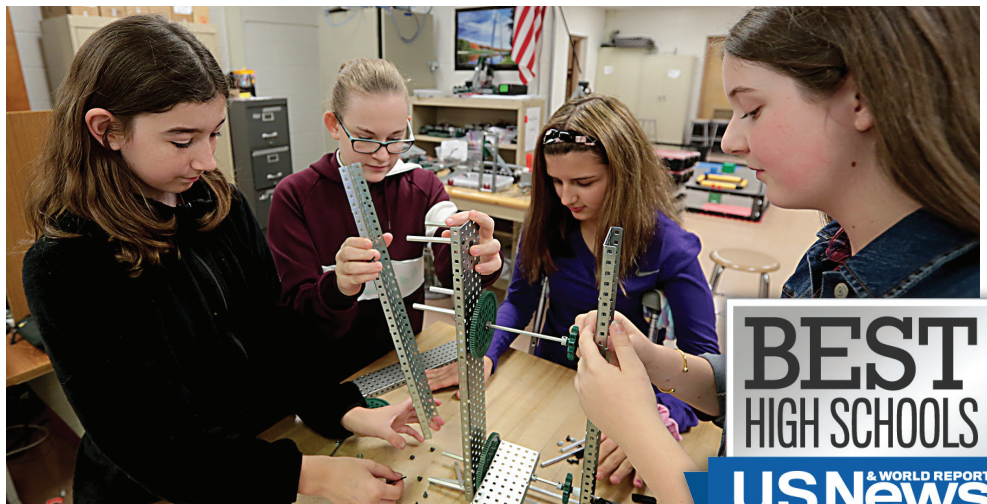
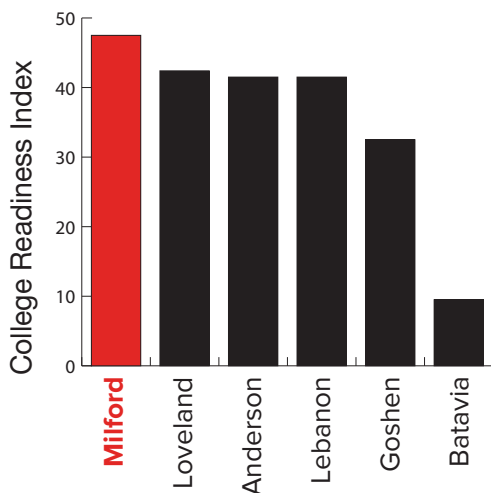


Engaging, Rigorous Academics Lead to Successful Graduates

Rigorous academic standards and curriculum are instrumental to the success of Milford students.

In the annual U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, Milford High School earned a Silver Medal. Milford was ranked in the top 100 high schools in the state (out of nearly 750) based on students'

graduation rates, performance on state tests, and college readiness benchmarks. In 2018, the high school's college readiness ranking was again the highest in Clermont County and a top choice in our region.



**BEST
HIGH SCHOOLS**
& WORLD REPORT
U.S. News
**SILVER
2018**

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS of 2019

488
GRADUATES

42
CAPSTONE
DIPLOMAS

Seniors graduated with an AP Capstone Diploma, having completed an intensive college-level program, and also earned a score of 3 or higher on 4 additional AP courses.



88

Seniors earned a cumulative GPA of 4.25 or higher, and graduated Summa Cum Laude



352
Planned to attend a 2 or 4 year college

MORE THAN
2000

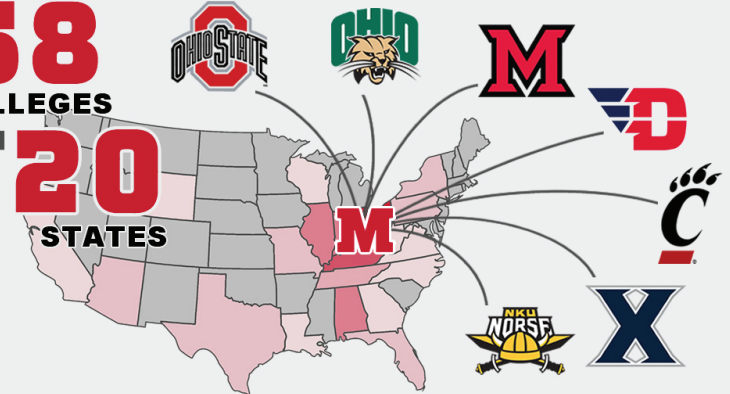


Hours of Community Service during 18/19 School Year



18
Students entered military service after graduation

68
COLLEGES
IN
20
STATES



\$11,000,000
in scholarships offered to the Class of 2019



25
Student Athletes committed to playing college athletics



#AllForThem



Collaborative Learning Through Technology

Technology in and out of the classroom is helping to produce self-directed, lifelong learners.

We introduce digital learning and online collaboration for students to dive deeper into computer science. We offer two Advanced Placement (AP) computer science classes at the high school - including courses on coding. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) investigation courses are offered at the junior high, as well as biomedical engineering and robotics for grades 7 through 12. We also offer Project Lead the Way and Gateway to Engineering programs at the junior high and high school through a partnership with Great Oaks Career Center. These courses provide students with technical knowledge increasingly necessary for entrance into top colleges and offer skills training to prepare them to go directly into the workforce and find jobs after graduation.



We are teaching all of our students to navigate the web safely and confidently, with a focus on appropriate online behavior, privacy, and cyberbullying prevention.

Student Leadership and Activities

A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities. Milford students have the opportunity to supplement their classroom learning experiences by engaging in community service opportunities, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities.

Among students in grades 6-8, 55% participate in student activities. In grades 9-12, 50% of students participate in student activities.

EDUCATION THROUGH THE ARTS

Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

Milford High School offers a Creative and Performing Arts program of study that gives students the opportunity to develop artistic competence, to prepare for a variety of majors and careers in the creative and performing arts, and to gain a broad cultural and academic background.

Honors & Awards recently received include:

- **MHS Marching Band** - 3rd in class AAA at Bands of America Grand Nationals
- **MHS A Cappella Choirs** selected to perform at the National A Cappella Festival
- **John Balzer**, class of 2020, placed 2nd in Rudimental Snare (he was 1 of 9 students invited from across the country to compete) at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention
- 14 pieces of art and writing created by Milford High School students received awards in the **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Contest**. The work was judged regionally against other high schools in the county. Five pieces received Gold Key Awards and will go on to a national judging contest.



ATHLETICS

We have 21 different sports for both girls and boys and 98 teams, serving 1,650 student-athletes at Milford Junior High School and Milford High School.



We're proud of the titles & awards our athletes have recently earned, including:

- Back to back OHSAA Football playoff appearances in 2017 & 2018
- 23 Individual ECC Champions over the last 2 years (Wrestling, Swimming, Track)
- 14 Individual State Participants over the last 2 years (Cross Country, Swimming, Track)
- Cheerleading National Championships 2017 & 2019
- Cheerleading ECC Championships 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- Boys Soccer District Championship 2019
- Boys Swimming ECC Championship 2019
- ECC Champions 2018 - Boys Golf, Baseball, Softball
- ECC League Title 2017 (1st in school history) - Girls Bowling & Boys Lacrosse

Pathways to the Military & Support for Veterans

In partnership with the United States Army, we offer our high school students a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) character development program that prepares Cadets with leadership, self-confidence, and discipline training.

Milford Schools support veterans and those still active in the military in a variety of ways. The Ohio Department of Education selected Milford High School as a Purple Star designee. The Purple Star Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military.

At our commencement ceremonies each year, graduates who are enlisting in the military are honored with a special eagle wing pin when they receive their diploma.



Individualized Student Services

We offer a variety of services to provide options that ensure all students receive individualized instruction, enrichment, and support. A full continuum of special education services are offered to students based on special education eligibility, which includes individualized instruction, related services, and other supports based on need.

Students identified as gifted are served by their classroom teachers through differentiated instruction in reading, math, science, and other electives.

32%
of students are identified as gifted in all grades

13%
of students are identified as having disabilities in all grades



Expanding High-Quality Preschool Opportunities

Our preschool program serves children ages 3 to 5 in an integrated setting, which is mandated by law. It is a highly sought after program and we're proud that the State of Ohio has awarded it with its top five-star rating.

We have continued to invest in educating our youngest learners because research shows quality preschool makes a major difference: impacting students' readiness to learn, reading achievement in elementary school, high-school graduation rates, and the behavioral and social skills necessary for success in life.



Staff Accomplishments

More than 80 percent of our teachers hold a master's degree or higher. All Milford teachers are designated "Highly Qualified" according to the Ohio Department of Education criteria.



Lisa Holt-Taylor, third grade science and social studies teacher at Boyd E. Smith Elementary, won the President's Excellence Award in Science, the highest award given by the U.S. Government

to kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers.



Boyd E. Smith Elementary joined the prestigious ranks of 362 schools nationwide by being named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2019 by the U.S. Department of Education. The school was nominated by the Ohio Department of Education and was only one of 14 public and non-public schools in the state to receive the honor in 2019. Milford is unique in that we now have two Blue Ribbon Schools as Charles L. Seipelt Elementary received the designation in 2014.

A Focus on Fiscal Stewardship

We take pride in eliminating costs, living within our means, and stretching every dollar. We have kept our expenses in check, all while funding from the state has remained relatively flat.

Examples include:

- Milford School District's last operating levy request was in 2013. At that time, the district promised to make the levy last three years. According to current financial projections, we anticipate the levy will last 9 to 10 years.
- We have outsourced services that are not related to the direct instruction of students such as transportation and aspects of technology.
- Under District Treasurer Brian Rabe's leadership, we are transparent about all of our financial expenditures and report them through OhioCheckbook.com.
- Moody's Investors Service, a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis, upgraded the school district from an Aa3 rating to an Aa2 rating. Milford was able to refund its outstanding bonds to obtain a lower interest rate, saving the community money.

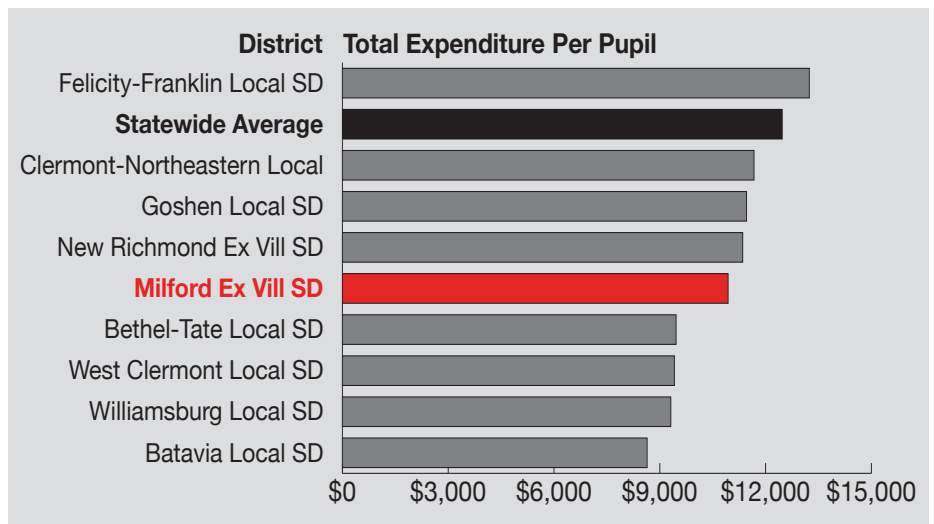
SAVING MORE THAN \$1,500 PER PUPIL THAN THE STATE AVERAGE

State of Ohio Average: \$12,472.40*

Milford: \$10,936.66

68.4% of funds are spent on classroom instruction

*Total Expenditure Per Pupil, CUPP Report FY19



Parent and Community Involvement

Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school and community.

Milford's parent teacher associations, booster and alumni groups, and the Milford Schools Foundation, are generous and caring groups of parent and community volunteers who share their time and talent for the welfare of all children. They help enhance classroom learning, provide equipment, resource materials, school programs, and entertainment for our students and staff.

Feed our Flock is our vital partner in assisting students: the organization helps to relieve poverty by

promoting wellness and tending to the care of Milford's neediest kids. Learn more: FeedOurFlock.org

Milford students have supported several charities, including:

- Students in the 2019 graduating class worked more than 2,000 hours of community service during their senior year.
- Milford High School students participated in the Wrapping Clermont Together project: gathering donations to fill 75 laundry baskets with toiletry items families need. They also raised

\$2,000 in donations for the Mary Miller Foundation, which go to families in need.

- Junior High students made holiday cards for residents of The Laurels of Milford Nursing Home and also collected donations for a local battered women's shelter.
- Seipelt Elementary's Kindness Club members collected snacks for Ronald McDonald House - they were able to make more than 500 snack bags - and they collected diapers for the Sweet Cheeks organization.

Facilities Planning

Even the most fiscally responsible organizations have to replace outdated equipment and mechanical systems and fix plumbing problems and leaky roofs. We need to make sure our students have access to modern equipment and technology so they are prepared for college and the modern workforce.

To evaluate our current and future facility needs, the Board of Education formed a Community Advisory Team last summer, which included parents, business owners, retired residents, supporters and opponents to the May 2019 bond request. The Board of Education

and Administration will continue to seek community input on the plan that the Community Advisory Team recommended this past fall: building a new junior high school for grades 6-8 including site safety at the shared junior high/high school campus, which includes updated traffic flow and parking, and adding space for programs currently held in modular classrooms.

With that recommendation, we will continue to study timing for a future bond request to maintain the current quality of education provided to Milford students and to modernize school facilities with state-of-the-art



equipment and technology that is needed for current college prep and job skills training. The district will not be on the ballot in March 2020. The next possible option to be on the ballot is November 2020, but no decisions have been made yet.

Creating a Safe and Secure Environment

The safety and security of our students and staff is our #1 priority.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Milford is committed to curbing student bullying and creating a positive learning environment for all. In 2016, a new student/parent StaySafe Speak Up hotline was implemented to report student safety issues, ranging from concerns raised about bullying or harassment, threats, suspected suicidal behavior, or abuse, via a 24-hour call center as well as an online form. For more information, visit our website (milfordschools.org) or call the toll free hotline: 1-800-listen2me.



SCHOOL ACCESS PROTOCOL

We strive to make sure that our schools are safe, caring, healthy, and inclusive places in which to learn and work. Fire drills, visitor badges/sign in, and other safety and security protocols and practices are important components of our commitment to maintaining a safe and secure school environment. All staff wear ID badges, and all visitors must stop at the main office before entering any building, as all doors are locked. Visitors provide a government-issued ID that is scanned into a system called Raptor, which checks for people in the sexual predator database and other alerts.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Milford offers a variety of school-based mental health services, including prevention, case management and direct individual mental health psychotherapy through both Milford mental health interventions and contracted agencies. Additional support for social emotional learning and needs is offered through school psychologists and school counselors. This comprehensive approach and district-wide referral ensures and promotes positive mental health and wellness.



Milford Exempted Village Schools
1099 State Route 131
Milford, OH 45150

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 6207



#MilfordSoars
#ShareHopeMilford

DISTRICT MISSION

To inspire and prepare our students to reach their fullest potential in a diverse and dynamic world.

STAY CONNECTED

MilfordSchools.org

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent, Nancy House
Treasurer, Brian Rabe

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chris Hamm, Board President
Andrea Brady, Board Vice-President
Emily Chesnut, Board Member
Dave Meranda, Board Member
Dave Yockey, Board Member

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Milford Preschool
Boyd E. Smith Elementary School
Charles L. Seipelt Elementary School
McCormick Elementary School
Meadowview Elementary School
Mulberry Elementary School
Pattison Elementary School
Milford Junior High
Milford High School

