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 of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of your school district in areas that matter most to our communities.
Dear Sycamore Community,

It is my honor to present the fourth annual Sycamore Community School’s Quality Profile, which provides a year in review of program highlights and accomplishments during the 2015-16 school year. This Quality Profile is a supplement to Sycamore’s state report card which contains demographic details and results of state tests. While we know that there is some value in these test results, they alone do not fully depict what distinguishes our district as one of the highest performing districts in the state of Ohio. This edition of the Quality Profile offers a broader understanding of the factors involved in providing a well-rounded educational experience for all of our Sycamore students.

In Sycamore, we are extremely proud of our accomplishments and are constantly seeking new opportunities for continuous growth and improvement. Our population of nearly 5,300 students is a mixture of different cultures, races, religions and socio-economic status, forming a community that provides rich experiences for students from all parts of the world. We enjoy a reputation of having high expectations, a rigorous curriculum, highly-trained staff, reasonable class sizes, extensive course options, a wide variety of extracurricular experiences, and a commitment to meeting the needs of the whole child. How do we do all of that? We hire and grow highly qualified and committed staff who participate in ongoing professional development to keep them abreast of new instructional techniques, and who constantly analyze data to guide instruction. We offer extensive training for newly hired staff before the start of the school year and assign them highly trained mentors for two years. Students are offered a wide variety of learning options that best suit their needs including the traditional classroom; vocational training at Great Oaks; Aves Academy, a progressive learning approach for nontraditional students; credit flex options for students who wish to create a course of interest for high school credit; and dual credit courses offering high school and college credit simultaneously.

We are truly fortunate to have our parents support us by actively participating in all aspects of our daily operations. Our Parent Teacher Organizations and numerous Booster Clubs offer hands-on involvement, conducting fundraisers and coordinating events that enrich the educational experience. We closely partner with local law enforcement and city officials, recognizing that great schools make great communities and great communities make great schools. We build strong relationships with universities and business advisors who guide us on college and career readiness, internships and operational recommendations. Finally and most important, we are blessed to receive incredible support from our community in our mission of providing a top notch educational experience for all students.

Communication is important to our success. To learn more about our district, visit our website (www.sycamoreschools.org), join us on Facebook (facebook.com/sycamoreschools), read newsletters from our seven buildings and stay updated through our Twitter feed (@SycamoreSchools). Follow me on Twitter as well @TopAviator.

With immense pride and gratitude,
Frank A. Forsthoefel, Superintendent
Sycamore Community Schools Named #66 in 2016 Best School Districts in America
*Niche Report

17 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists
*3rd highest in state of Ohio

Sycamore High School Named #13 in 2016 Best Public High Schools in Ohio
*Niche Report

Sycamore Community Schools Named #6 in 2016 Best School Districts in Ohio
*Niche Report

Sycamore Community Schools Named One of the Best School Districts for Your Buck in Ohio
*Nerd Wallet

Class of 2016:
3.332 Average GPA
26 Average ACT
1209/1600 Average SAT

89.2% of AP Students scored 3 or higher on AP Exams

Sycamore High School offers more than 223 courses, including five global languages and 23 Advanced Placement courses

24 National Merit Commended Scholars
*More than any other school in Ohio
Sycamore High School’s Mitch Radakovich, Matthew Schuetz, and Marshall Hall advanced to the Ohio National History Day Competition.

Blue Ash Elementary’s Abinav Dinesh earned 8th place out of 300 participants at the US Chess Federation’s National Chess Championship.

Blue Ash, Maple Dale, Montgomery & Symmes Elementary Schools Named in the Top 20 Elementary Schools in Ohio *Niche Report

Sycamore High School’s Max Guo was one of 200 students nationwide to qualify for the U.S. Junior Mathematical Olympiad exam.

Sycamore High School’s Aaron Charnay & Ben Charnay were two of 1,000 students nationwide to qualify for the US National Chemistry Olympiad exam.

99% of students passed the Third Grade Reading Guarantee

E.H. Greene’s Kevin Dong advanced to state in the Mathcounts competition.

E.H. Greene Intermediate won 1st place in the Continental Mathematics League Contest.

Attendance Rate: 95.7%
Sycamore’s LEGO League expanded to 5 schools in 2015. Six of 13 teams received awards.

Brick Girls & Omegabots advanced to FLL Ohio State Championship.

Brick Girls won Rising Star Award for their Innovation Solution

Two Thousand, nine hundred eighty-eight students identified as Gifted, some in more than one area

One2One Program: All students grades 5-12 receive Chromebook devices to use at home and school. Learn more: one2one.sycamore-schools.org

Sycamore partners with UC Blue Ash to host elementary & intermediate with hands-on learning experiences:

Symmes Elementary & Sycamore Junior High students collaborated at Symmes Nature Trail for an outdoor science lesson

Sycamore Community Schools received the Harold C. Shaw Award for Excellence in Science Education and Scientific Research

Sycamore High School’s “The Radical Six” advanced to FIRST Tech Challenge State Competition

X is for X Ray

Stepladder to STEM Education Program

First Aid for 2nd Graders

Cool Chemistry Reactions

Foodmaster

Brains, Bones & Bacteria

Sycamore Junior High’s Jacob Smilg received national media recognition for inventing a LED device to help a friend communicate for the first time since being involved in a tragic accident

Makerspace at E.H. Greene Intermediate

Students run daily news station at Sycamore Junior High and E.H. Greene Intermediate. Students even control district stadium scoreboard equipment during games

2,988 students identified as Gifted, some in more than one area

ELEVATING INNOVATION

ACADEMICS

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GOING PLACES
ACADEMICS

99% graduation rate

84.7% of Class of 2016 attending college in the Fall

1,615 College Applications Submitted

The Class of 2016 is headed to 75 colleges & universities including MIT, Harvard, Brown, Purdue, Duke, Georgia Tech & Northwestern.

64.7% of Class of 2016 attending college in the Fall
Sycamore High School students advanced to DECA State Competition, eight went on to compete at International Conference.

Connecting the classroom to future careers: Students Grades 5-12 learn about potential career paths through curriculum embedded activities such as speakers, “Inspire” trips, and service learning.

Aviator Flight Plan

Molecules to Medicine

Learning Communities
Sycamore High School students have the opportunity to take various courses that will help them learn about careers they may be interested in.

- Business/Marketing
- Coaching & Leadership
- Criminal Justice
- Data Analytics
- Drawing & Painting
- Engineering
- Fashion
- Global Language
- Health Studies
- Interactive Media
- Meteorology
- Molecules to Medicine
- Musical Theatre
- Photography
- Research & Discovery
- Teaching Professions
- Theatre Learning

Internships
Sycamore High School offers students internship opportunities with more than 40 local businesses and organizations:

- GE
- Currito Burrito
- City of Montgomery
- Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas
- WKRC-TV
- Google Earth
- Children's Hospital
- Cincinnati Observatory
- Cincinnati Eye Institute

24 Sycamore High School Teacher Professionals Academy (TPA) students competed in the Educators Rising Ohio Conference.

TPA students logged 1,300 hours of classroom internship experiences.
Minority Enrollment:
Asian - 789 (14.93%)
Black - 411 (7.78%)
Hispanic - 260 (4.92%)
American Indian - 6 (.11%)
Multi-Racial - 338 (6.4%)
Pacific Islander - 3 (.06%)

We embrace our culture:
Japanese Club
Latin Club
French Club
Council on World Affairs/Model UN
Chinese Club
United for Uganda Club
International Club
Global Language Honor Society

World languages offered:
Spanish
French
Chinese
Latin
American Sign Language

Students come from more than 54 birth countries

Students speak a total of 30 languages

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American Sign Language

Students come from more than 54 birth countries

Students speak a total of 30 languages
“I like working at Sycamore because I feel genuinely cared about and respected as an educator and as a person. I feel my opinion and ideas are valued,” Beth Gaines, Maple Dale Elementary teacher.

Sycamore Community Schools named #9 in 2016 Districts with the Best Teachers in Ohio
*Niche Report

Sycamore High School named #13 in Best Places to Teach in Ohio
*Niche Report

Child Nutrition and Wellness Director Jessica Johnson named the national winner of the 2016 Excellence in Practice for School Nutrition Services

Symmes Elementary Teacher Steve Reinke named the 2016 Celebrate Excellence Educator of the Year

76.8% of teachers have a Master’s Degree

Average Years of Experience: 15

13 National Board Certified Teachers

Sycamore Community Schools named one of the 2016 Top Workplaces in Greater Cincinnati.

The district was named “Best in Show” winning the category for “Meaningfulness.”
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:
Join your school's PTO
Sycamore Athletic Boosters
Aves Vocal Boosters
Sycamore Band and Orchestra Boosters
Aves Theatre Boosters
Sycamore Gifted Education, Advocacy, and Resources (GEAR)
District Wellness Committee
Sycamore Executive Advisory Council
Sycamore Advisory Commission (SAC)
Sycamore Alumni & Friends Association (SAFA)
Sycamore's Lindsey Wong won the Instrumental Music Division of the 2016 Cincinnati Overture Awards.

Sycamore High School's Kiri Wang selected to participate in the 2016 All-National Honor Ensembles Symphony Orchestra.

The E.H. Greene Intermediate Sixth Grade Vocal Ensemble earned their 14th Superior Rating at the 2016 Trills and Thrills Music Festival.

Sycamore High School's Kiri Wang selected to participate in the 2016 All-National Honor Ensembles Symphony Orchestra.

Renowned electric violinist Joe Deninzon performed with Sycamore High School's Rock Orchestra at the SEE1 Concert. Deninzon also held workshops with students Grades 7-12.

The Sycamore High School Marching Band named a finalist at the 2015 Mid-States Band Association Marching Band Championships.

High School Music Offerings:
3 Concert Bands
3 Choirs
Orchestra
3 Levels of Piano
3 Levels of Guitar
Music Theory
AP Music Theory
2 Levels of Music Technology
Study of Rock Music

The Sycamore High School Choral Select Ensemble, Bella Voce and Aviator Chorale all earned Superior Ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association Choral Adjudicated Event.

Sycamore Community Schools named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America for the 7th consecutive year.

Sycamore Junior High School’s Orchestra and Eighth Grade Band were selected to perform at the 2016 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Conference.

Sycamore High School Orchestra earned Class A Straight Superior Ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association State Orchestra Adjudicated Event for the 22nd time.
ACHIEVING HIGH ALTITUDES

ARTS

Sycamore High School students earned 90 Scholastic Art Awards including 30 Gold Key Awards.

Students submitted 48 AP portfolios to the College Board for AP credits.

Thirteen paintings by Sycamore High School artists will be published in the 2017 Montgomery City Calendar.

Four Sycamore High School students received silver medals at the National Scholastic Art Competition.

Sycamore High School students had their artwork displayed at the Taft Museum’s Artists Reaching Classrooms exhibition.


Windows of Hope Project: Sycamore High School students created custom paintings for families at the Ronald McDonald House.

ACTING AVIATORS
ARTS

Thirteen paintings by Sycamore High School artists will be published in the 2017 Montgomery City Calendar.

Symmes Players Presented “The Lion King, Jr.”

Check your school calendar for this year’s Variety Show dates.

Aves Theatre Productions:
- The Yellow Boat
- Bring It On: The Musical
- The Yellow Boat One Acts
- The Improv Show
- Almost, Maine
- Noises Off
- Bring It On: The Musical

Sycamore High School’s Lily Freiberg starred in leading role of the Cincinnati Ballet’s “The Nutcracker”

Sycamore Junior High Theatre Presented “Schoolhouse Rock”
The Aviators received a “Golden Football” from the NFL in recognition of the 50th Super Bowl and former Aviator and Super Bowl Champion Michael Matthews.

838 Student-athletes participated in a sport

173 All-Conference Athletes

1 OCTA Team State Champion

57 organizational activities are offered Grades 7-12

1 OHSAA State Champion

Girls Lacrosse Coach, Eddie Clark, won his 300th career game during the regular season.

568 student-athletes were awarded with Academic Honors (GPA 3.3+)

17 Athletes signed to play at the college level

4 GMC Athletes of the Year:

Kellen Alsip, Women’s Golf
Gary Traub, Wrestling
Alex Taylor, Men’s Tennis
Zach Richardson, Field Hockey

4 GMC Coaches of the Year:

Mike Teets, Women’s Tennis and Men’s Tennis
John Benham, Men’s Cross Country
Hank Ray, Men’s Track and Field

3 GMC Team Champions:

Chess
Men’s Swimming
Men’s Tennis

The Aviators received a “Golden Football” from the NFL in recognition of the 50th Super Bowl and former Aviator and Super Bowl Champion Michael Matthews.
Recycling and Composting Program: Sycamore’s Green Team has implemented recycling and composting in all seven school cafeterias, reducing waste from 540 bags of trash every week to 122.

Symmes Elementary wins Ohio Environmental Education Fund $5,000 grant to fund enhancements at Symmes Nature Trail.

Sycamore High School’s Bennett Heyn won the 2016 Caring For Our Watersheds state contest.

Sycamore High School teacher Ron Hochstrasser won the 2015-2016 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.

Join the award-winning Green Team to make a significant impact on the district’s environmental footprint!
WITH SERVICE TO... STUDENT SERVICES

**Special Education:**
Sycamore Community Schools’ Special Education Department offers a continuum of services to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.

**Aves Academy**
Progressive educational program to help students who experience difficulty within a traditional high school setting. 100% graduation rate in 2015-2016.

**Adaptive PE**
Special needs students from across the district enjoyed Adaptive PE Days using a variety of adapted equipment to assist them in participating to their fullest potential.

**Baseball Day at Kim and Donzetta Nuxhall Field**

**Perfect North tubing trip**

**UC Launch**
Special needs students ages 18-22 learn money management skills, life skills, and job training at the University of Cincinnati.

**TIP students learn authentic independent living skills at the district-owned Aldine House**

**Transition Internship Program (TIP)**
Sycamore prepares special needs students ages 18-21 for life after high school, including employment and community involvement.

“TIP Instructor Tamara Brewer and TIP student Whitney Philpott won the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award and the RA Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for ADD SPACE State Support Team #13.

**Work Study**
More than 50 high school students with disabilities participate in Sycamore’s Work Study Program. Many local businesses support the job skill development of our students as they prepare to enter the adult world and seek employment.

**Field Day at Blue Ash Recreation Center**

**Alternative Options:**
Great Oaks partners with Great Oaks to offer 36 career and vocational training programs. Upon completion, students receive their Sycamore High School diploma.
Sycamore provided 1,700 district-owned Chromebooks to every student Grades 5-8 to use at school and at home.

City of Montgomery
- Shared technology staff, school-community relationship
- Cost effective savings $20,000

Shared Services

Learn 21
- Shared technology staff, innovative teaching practices
- Cost effective savings $50,000

IPTV
Sycamore now can stream live video to every classroom for innovative teaching practices.

Parent Portal
Parents can view grades, schedules, courses, and pay fees through district’s online portal.

Final Forms
Families can register and update all academic and athletic forms online.

Technology Support
There are four Instructional Technology Facilitators (ITFs) in our buildings to help staff and students.

K-12 Integration of digital resources with teaching and learning

Blended Learning

- Pilot program for Grades 9-12 with 150 students
- Sycamore provided each student Grades K-4 with a device to use in the classroom.
- NEW IN 2016-2017 One2One Program expanding to all students Grades 5-12
The property tax rate paid by Sycamore residents of 31.96 mills is the third lowest of 25 schools in Hamilton County along with our neighboring districts, Mason and Kings. It is nearly 12 mills lower or 37% less than the average rate in this comparison group.

**HAMILTON COUNTY & SYCAMORE NEIGHBORING SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Comparison of Residential Tax Rates for School Districts (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finneytown</td>
<td>63.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mariemont</td>
<td>57.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>St. Bernard</td>
<td>57.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Winton Woods</td>
<td>55.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Madeira</td>
<td>51.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mount Healthy</td>
<td>49.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Loveland</td>
<td>48.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>47.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>47.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Deer Park</td>
<td>46.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>46.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>44.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kings</td>
<td>44.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>43.79</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>43.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Norwood</td>
<td>42.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Forest Hills</td>
<td>41.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>North College Hill</td>
<td>41.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>39.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lockland</td>
<td>38.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>36.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Oak Hills</td>
<td>35.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Three Rivers</td>
<td>34.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>31.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Indian Hill</td>
<td>25.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>23.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sycamore Community Schools**

2015-16 Capital Project Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology - Infrastructure/Equipment</td>
<td>$809,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Improvements/Security Upgrades</td>
<td>1,584,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Improvements/Athletic Facilities</td>
<td>558,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture/Engineering Services</td>
<td>64,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Replacements</td>
<td>309,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom, Media and Office Furniture</td>
<td>133,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,460,197</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2005, the Board of Education and Sycamore administration have utilized financial parameters to monitor and contain expenditure growth. By utilizing these parameters, the district has held the growth of its budget for operations at an average rate of approximately 1 percent per year for the last decade.

Sycamore Community Schools is one of four Ohio public school districts to receive an “AAA” rating from Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services.
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Treasurer Beth Weber received the OASBO Distinguished Service Award for the Southwest Region. A $500 scholarship was awarded to a Sycamore High School graduate in her honor.

Sycamore received the Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction for Fiscal Year 2015.


Sycamore Schools has saved $5.9 Million in energy costs since implementing energy efficiency and cost-savings methods in 2011.

The Transportation Department has saved $361,000 since 2015 through efficiency efforts including fuel reductions.

REVENUE

SYCAMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
2015-16 General Fund Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Property Taxes</td>
<td>$54,617,052</td>
<td>72.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Local Revenue</td>
<td>3,524,725</td>
<td>4.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Foundation</td>
<td>3,495,040</td>
<td>4.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Rollback Exemption</td>
<td>4,317,052</td>
<td>5.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State TPP Supplement</td>
<td>942,146</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State TPP Reimbursement</td>
<td>7,757,868</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other State Revenue</td>
<td>655,133</td>
<td>0.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenue</td>
<td>$75,309,016</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Operating Revenue</td>
<td>62,902</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total General Fund Revenue</td>
<td>$75,371,918</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENDITURES

SYCAMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
2015-16 General Fund Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>$44,654,233</td>
<td>61.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>15,911,301</td>
<td>21.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased Services</td>
<td>6,409,972</td>
<td>8.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>2,215,370</td>
<td>3.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>341,043</td>
<td>0.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenditures</td>
<td>1,056,738</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>1,927,118</td>
<td>2.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenditures</td>
<td>$72,515,775</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital/Non-Operating Expenditures</td>
<td>3,208,606</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total General Fund Expenditures</td>
<td>$75,724,381</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TAKING FLIGHT

Vision:
Cultivating a culture that honors a tradition of excellence and diversity where learners are respected, valued, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential in an ever-changing world.

Mission:
Sycamore Community Schools will provide challenging, inspiring, and engaging educational experiences to equip students with critical skills that promote the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth needed to be highly successful in college and careers and to be productive citizens.

We believe that...
- students are the focus of all that we do;
- we must address the needs of the total person, teaching the mind and the heart;
- we must be proactive in preparing for a changing world;
- there is power in a collaborative relationship with our families;
- all persons have an innate desire and the capacity to learn;
- diversity enriches the human experience;
- integrity, respect and open communication promote trusting relationships;
- we must value the citizens of our community and seek collaborative partnerships to improve our effectiveness;
- it is necessary to support, encourage, and provide continuous professional development of our employees;
- a safe and secure learning environment supports success;
- we attract and employ highly talented staff who are held to a high standard of accountability; and
- we are fiscally responsible and good stewards of our resources.

Sycamore Community Schools
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