

ANNUAL REPORT

Evergreen Local Schools

2022-2023



Evergreen Community Members,

As we close the 2022-2023 school year, we want to take a moment and share our annual report of our District's progress. This past year has been filled with significant achievements, continuous growth, and countless memorable moments. We pride ourselves on providing our students with an exceptional education and diverse opportunities.

As we look back on the school year that is now behind us, we also look for ways to improve our students' educational experience in the upcoming years. We updated our District's strategic plan this year and we have begun implementing this three-year guide and blueprint to ensure our students' future success as global citizens. The goals of our strategic plan are to increase student opportunities, improve student preparedness for the future, and to improve the student experience while at Evergreen. This plan continues to build upon Evergreen's strong educational traditions while ensuring the District's place as one of Ohio's excellent school systems.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed exceptional academic accomplishments by our students. Their dedication, hard work, and curiosity have propelled them to new heights of achievement. From outstanding test scores to impressive creative projects, our students continue to showcase their talents and potential in a variety of areas. Their growth and progress are a testament to the commitment of our dedicated faculty and staff. It is our employees who lead and inspire our students to great heights every day.

Behind every successful student there is a supportive network of parents, guardians, and community members. Thank you for your unwavering involvement in our children's education. Your partnership, encouragement, compassion, and active participation have played a crucial role in our students' achievements. Together, we have created strong connections that have made this year an exceptional one.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Evergreen students, staff, and community.

Go Vikings!

Eric J. Smola
Superintendent



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The District is currently in a healthy financial position with the assistance of federal and state grants. These funds have offset expenditures out of the general fund, but are one-time payments. Our upcoming income tax renewal, expiring at the end of 2024, is critical to maintain our budget. This levy alone will generate approximately 9% of our revenue. As expenses continue to increase, much like in our homes, we are seeing the impact of higher fuel prices, brakes, and tires for buses, cleaning products, and textbooks. Evergreen continues to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and remains fiscally responsible with the funding and resources entrusted to us.

- The District's 0.25% income tax levy renewal was passed during the November 2022 election. This was not a new tax and accounted for approximately \$670,000.00 of the District's General Fund. This levy was set to expire in December 2022, but with its passing, it will continue through December 2027.
- The District is proposing a 0.5% income tax levy renewal during the November 2023 election. This levy is also not a new tax and is set to expire on December 31, 2024 and accounts for approximately \$1.4 million of the District's General Fund. If passed, it will not take effect until January 2025 and it will run for five years, expiring at the end of December 2029.

DISTRICT RECOGNITION

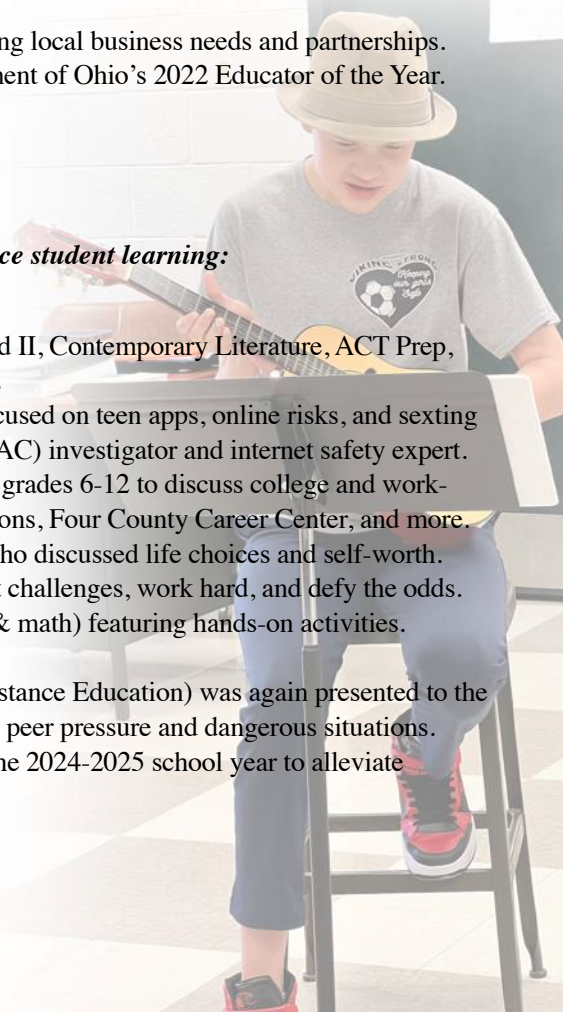
Evergreen was recognized with the following accomplishments during the 2022-2023 school year:

- Students in all three buildings, EHS, EMS & EHS, exceeded the state averages on all mandatory spring 2023 testing.
- Seven students received a perfect score on their state assessment tests.
- Evergreen has been awarded more than \$374,000 through various grants. These one-time allocations are in addition to the District's general fund and are being used to increase building security, STEM curriculum, career awareness, aid our homeless and economically disadvantaged, and provide additional social-emotional support.
- Evergreen Local Schools has been designated as a "Grief-Sensitive School" by the New York Life Foundation and awarded a \$500 grant to help create a student bereavement support plan.
- Administrators were chosen to attend Fulton County's Educator Bootcamp regarding local business needs and partnerships.
- Chris Lyons, EHS/EMS band instructor, was named the American Legion Department of Ohio's 2022 Educator of the Year.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

This past year, the following academic opportunities were made available to enhance student learning:

- A new Science Fusion curriculum was introduced to students in grades K-8.
- Nine new courses were offered at EHS including Beyond the Classroom, Jazz Band II, Contemporary Literature, ACT Prep, AG Capstone, Spanish IV, French II, Math Fundamentals, and ELA Fundamentals.
- Students, grades 6-12, participated in a Digital Empowerment Workshop which focused on teen apps, online risks, and sexting presented by retired Captain Frank, a former Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigator and internet safety expert.
- EHS hosted its first *Beyond Today: Preparing for Your Future* event for students in grades 6-12 to discuss college and work-force preparedness, course selections, College Credit Plus, AP & Honors class options, Four County Career Center, and more.
- EMS students attended an assembly, Finding Hope, with speaker Javier Sanchez who discussed life choices and self-worth.
- EES students attended an assembly with Brock Mealer who discussed how to meet challenges, work hard, and defy the odds.
- EES hosted its first Family STEAM Night (science, technology, engineering, arts & math) featuring hands-on activities.
- Ag Day was presented to students in grades K-5 by the EHS FFA.
- Presented by the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) was again presented to the sixth grade, and it was expanded to include second grade students. Topics included peer pressure and dangerous situations.
- Evergreen Board of Education voted to move fifth grade to the EMS building for the 2024-2025 school year to alleviate overcrowding in EES while allowing for more age-appropriate programming.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Evergreen students continue to excel in the classroom, community, and surrounding areas. Some of the accomplishments include:

- EHS Class of 2023 graduated 83 students, including 17 who attended the Four County Career Center. In addition, 16 students met the rigorous criteria set forth by ODE and received an Honors Diploma. The Class of 2023 also had 22 students receive Summa Cum Laude Honors, 7 received Magna Cum Laude Honors, and 6 were awarded Cum Laude Honors.
- Thirty-eight EHS students took 49 AP exams in the following subjects: AP Calculus, AP English Language Arts & Composition, AP English Literature & Composition, and AP U.S. Government & Politics.
- EHS Quiz Team qualified for the Small School National Tournament in Chicago where they placed 21st in the nation, placed first in the Fulton County Quiz Bowl, and won the Northern Buckeye Academic League Tournament while placing first in the league.
- EHS varsity Esports team finished fourth in the state of Ohio.
- Jacob Goodson, gr. 12, was named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program for scoring in the top 1% on the Preliminary ACT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).
- Adam Smith, gr. 11, took first place in the American Legion's local, county and district Oratorical Contests. He placed second in the state competition, the highest any Evergreen student has achieved in this contest.
- Meegan Gleckler, gr. 10, was selected to attend the National FFA Next Generation Conference in Animal Sciences in Denver, Colorado.
- Lilly Herr, gr. 11, took part in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2023 Student Visionaries of the Year Program. Her team raised \$2,700 toward finding a cure.
- Nine EHS students exhibited their artwork in the Black Swamp Arts Council Art Show where Ryland Komon, gr. 12, received "Best of Show." Students in 2D art won first place in the Ohio Department Of Transportation's (ODOT) Paint the Plow art contest.
- Kyle Feeback, Melanie Krempec & Michael Wheeler, EHS choir students, were selected for the prestigious OMEA All-State Choir.
- Numerous FFA members and teams placed in various contests, attended local and state conventions, and participated in community events, leadership opportunities, and volunteer activities.
- EMS wrestling team placed first in the Junior High Wrestling Tournament.
- EES Mini Vikings Choir was invited to perform at a Walleye hockey game and Toledo Mud Hens baseball game.
- Fourth grade students wrote and illustrated their own book, *Vinnie Visits*, based on Deputy Kathy Zumfelde's school facility dog.
- Boys varsity soccer team was named back-to-back Sectional Champions and Tyson Woodring was named NWOAL Player of the Year. Both the girls varsity basketball team and boys varsity baseball team were also named Sectional Champions this year. Girls varsity basketball player, Macy Chamberlin, was named NWOAL Player of the Year and recognized as 1st Team All-State for softball. Riley Dunbar qualified for state competition in the long jump event.

SAFETY, SECURITY & SUPPORT

In addition to providing a quality education, the District's top priority is the safety, security, and support of its students and staff. The following are some of the measures implemented in 2022-2023:

- Evergreen formed a Threat Assessment Team designed to address all types of safety concerns and participated in comprehensive training focused on crisis management for rural-based incidents.
- Evergreen partnered with USA Mental Health First Aid to better help our young people living with mental health challenges: 48 employees have been trained as Youth Mental Health First Aiders.
- Fulton County Deputy Sheriff Kathy Zumfelde began her duties as the District's SRO accompanied by her school facility dog, Vinnie. She has 27 years of law enforcement experience, and she is on Evergreen's campus full-time every school day.
- With the help of local law enforcement and emergency teams, Evergreen simulated a campus-wide safety drill.
- The Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Metamora-Amboy Volunteer Fire Department trained Evergreen's bus drivers on first aid and ALICE procedures (active shooter training).
- EHS conducted a mock accident for students in grades 9-12 to emphasize the dangers of distracted driving.
- EHS students participated in Think Fast, a game-show interactive program, focused on safe driving and accident prevention.
- Coats, boots, and cold-weather accessories were provided to 53 Evergreen students thanks to the generosity of the Gleaners.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Evergreen's facilities are a point of pride for all. This past year, the following upgrades occurred:

- Updated the District's website to include a more user-friendly interface with streamlined information and improved mobile app.
- Installed rooftop sensor units within the buildings via the Bureau of Workers Compensation School Safety HVAC grant.
- Upgraded the District's internal telephone system to be more compliant with current 9-1-1 laws.
- Three new diesel buses arrived and two more have been purchased in order to replace the oldest models. Funding was partially through the Ohio School Bus Purchase Program.

INCREASED CULTURE & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Evergreen is a great place to learn, work, and live. Strong efforts were made to provide our students, their families, and our community the opportunity to connect and learn in a fun, out-of-the-classroom atmosphere.

- Six Community Conversations were held at local establishment with Superintendent Eric Smola and Treasurer Brian Carroll to openly discuss District happenings.
- Several EHS students served as mentors assisting EES students with various tasks, lessons, and academic support.
- School year was filled with many positive elements in all buildings, including an increase in overall school spirit, elevated school atmospheres, and heightened energy. Many events were made possible with the help of our support organizations.
- Evergreen Athletic Boosters sponsored a community-wide Football Kickoff Tailgate and Homecoming Bonfire events.
- Mini Viking Parent (MVP) Association extended its support to include EMS and provide many additional activities, including an EMS Bowling Night and Ohio State vs. Michigan Dance. MVP also sponsored the EES Father/Daughter Dance, Mother/Son Night, Monster Mash, Family Movie Nights, and Teacher Appreciation Weeks.
- Some of the engaging activities this year included (at EHS) wiffle ball tournament, Trivia Night, student parking space painting, Student Appreciation Week, pep assemblies, (at EMS) all A's breakfasts, ROW competitions and character awards, (at EES) Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Grandparent Day, Spring Tea Party, and so much more.

NEW for 2023-2024

As a new school year begins, the District looks forward to implementing the following initiatives:

- Vape detectors will be positioned in both the EMS and EHS buildings.
- A new math curriculum will be introduced to students in grades K-12.
- All three school buildings will be equipped with Raptor technology to screen visitors upon entrance.
- New cafeteria management company, Variety Food Services, will direct campus food service.
- A notification and emergency management platform, 911 Inform, is being installed across the campus to aid in crisis situations.



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