

NH

2018-19

Annual Report



PRIDE • TRADITION • EXCELLENCE

North Hills School District

We Are North Hills

The mission of the North Hills School District is to excel at educating and preparing each student to become a responsible, contributing member of society by providing a caring and an academically challenging environment.

Rooted in our proud tradition of excellence, the North Hills School District will be recognized as one of America's great public school districts.

MISSION

VISION

VALUES

- Demonstrate genuine care, concern and fondness for students.
- Adopt a client-centered focus – students come first, followed closely by the needs of their parents.
- Develop and nurture healthy, productive and cooperative relationships with colleagues.
- Communicate regularly and clearly with clients, their families and the community.
- Demand quality – high expectations will yield high achievement.
- Create and cultivate a district-wide Learning Community.
- Benchmark programs, services and students' results against the best.
- Encourage innovation and risk-taking.
- Establish community and regional partnerships.

About Our Schools

The North Hills School District serves Ross and West View, 8 miles North of Pittsburgh.

GRADES
K-6

4 Elementary Schools

HIGHCLIFF, MCINTYRE, ROSS, WEST VIEW
Enrollment: 2,554 Students

GRADES
7-8

1 Middle School

Enrollment: 650 Students

GRADES
9-12

1 High School

Enrollment: 1,312 Students

A Message from Dr. Mannarino



Dear North Hills Families,

We are North Hills. These words are often said and we say this knowing North Hills has always been a community that takes care of each other. We are North Hills represents the Pride, Tradition and Excellence that this district delivers to every student, every day. Beyond the academic excellence we strive to, North Hills strives to host a community that cares for each other.

We continue to make improvements to take care of our students, teachers and staff. This year we have added new staff to the district whose sole purpose is to protect our students. I am very proud to introduce the North Hills School District Police force – a team of 7 law enforcement professionals.

Our students have new programs focused on taking care of each other. In the elementary schools, the middle school and the high school, we have new programs in place that encourage kindness and unity.

Most of all, I am extremely proud with the fundraising and volunteer efforts of our students and staff. We have had students sew items for hospital patients, plant trees in local parks, host countless food drives and fundraising efforts for those in need. The high school student council and Hands for Service Club grew the district's existing THON, which benefits Make-a-Wish and UPMC Children's hospital, from a single event to three events so the entire community could participate.

I hope you feel the same pride as I do when you review this year's classroom stories and achievements in the 2018-2019 Annual Report.

Sincerely,



Dr. Patrick J. Mannarino
Superintendent

North Hills Board of Education



BACK ROW, LEFT: Class of 2019 Student Representative Mr. Olav Carter; Mr. Thomas L. Kelly; Mr. Timothy F. Burnett; Superintendent Dr. Patrick J. Mannarino; President Mr. Edward M. Wielgus; Solicitor Michael J. Witherel, Esq.; Mr. Louis A. Nudi **FRONT ROW, LEFT:** Board Secretary Mrs. Lori Rieger; Mrs. Kathy A. Reid; Vice President Mrs. Helen "Dee Spade"; Mrs. Allison Mathis; Ms. Sandra Kozera; Dr. Annette Giovengo Nolish; Class of 2019 Student Representative Miss Grace Cloonan (absent)



Proactive Plans and Procedures Protect Our Students & Staff

Our priority at all times is to protect all students and staff members. North Hills takes proactive measures to create the safest facilities possible for our entire community. While we hope that a natural disaster or other serious incident never occurs, our goal is to be as prepared as possible for any potential emergency.

Our crisis and safety plans and emergency preparedness plans are designed and annually reviewed with the assistance of local law enforcement, emergency management and public health officials. As part of the district's updated safety and security plan, we employ a variety of tools and measures including a school police department, frequent safety drills, a tip reporting system and a district-wide standard response protocol.

Safety Drill September

At the start of the school year, every student and staff member learned the district's Standard Response Protocol. The Standard Response Protocol is a set of research-based actions/ drills designed to prepare students, staff and parents for emergency situations. It was created by the I Love U Guys Foundation and implemented in summer 2018.

Each school building runs various drills beginning in September to educate students on the five possible actions of the new standard response protocol -- Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate, Shelter and Hold. These drills help create a shared language among all those in our community, so that everyone knows exactly what to do in an emergency situation.

To incorporate all stakeholders, North Hills worked collaboratively with Ross Township and West View Borough Police Departments, West View Ross EMSA and other emergency service providers to ensure everyone is following the same protocols/ procedures in our schools.



The I Love U Guys Foundation is committed to school and community safety, and family reunification following a crisis.

Its programs have been implemented by over 25,000 schools, agencies and organizations across the United States and Canada.

School Police Officers Build Relationships (and Gingerbread Houses)

Following a multi-year process, with advice from top law enforcement professionals and crisis experts, North Hills welcomed school police officers to our district this school year. Each district police officer is a retired or current state, federal or municipal officer who has been trained and certified by the state police academy or a municipal training academy. Each officer is required to complete a mandatory 24 hours of training yearly and attend training courses with the National Association of School Resource Officers.

Our first-ever school police officers strive to be educators and mentors. They listen and help our students to establish a positive rapport with them. These positive relationships between our school police officers and our students are an invaluable resource to identify and clarify problem situations related to personal, family or peer issues.

Our officers have quickly become beloved staff members. They have taught students to play chess, participated in classroom lessons, sat for interviews with the high



school student newspaper and cheered on our students at sporting events. They have even worked with students during special holiday events – carving pumpkins and building gingerbread houses.

The NH police officers also monitor reports and investigate tips provided through the statewide Safe2Say Something system that was launched in January. The non-emergency system is utilized by all 500 school districts throughout Pennsylvania and was created by the state Attorney General's Office.



OUR SCHOOL POLICE DEPARTMENT: School Police Chief, Dean Lawrence; School Police Officer, Chuck Bossong; School Police Officer, Robert J. Lagoon; School Police Officer, Trina Loesch; School Police Officer, Robert Muchenski; School Police Officer, Adam Steinheiser; not pictured: Police Officer Randy Ruediger





Elementary Computer Science Teaches Skills for Future Success

At North Hills, our new K-6 computer literacy and computer science curricula aim to ensure that every student is prepared for a successful future. The new curriculum offers lessons on keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, computer coding/programming and digital citizenship. It uses digitally-based lessons as well as hands-on physical computing tasks to teach technical skills in addition to life skills such as communication, teamwork and problem solving.

History & Coding Combine for Unique Programming Activity

Ross Elementary sixth-graders raced chariots of their own designs as part of a combined computer science and social studies activity. Each group of students constructed a chariot out of various materials including straws, cardboard, plastic cups, and duct tape in computer science, basing their design on research done as part of their Ancient Civilizations unit in social studies.

After construction, they attached their chariot to a Sphero robot ball and wrote code to enable their chariot to navigate a race course faster than any challenger.



“ This curriculum has been a great addition to our elementary schools. It teaches students not only computational thinking, programming concepts and problem solving with persistence, but also it teaches them how to be responsible digital citizens in the 21st century. ”

– Kathy Weber,
West View Elementary
Computer Science Teacher



Hands-On Physical Tasks Lay Groundwork for Coding Lessons

Highcliff and McIntyre Elementary second-graders learned the connection between frustration and persistence and how to create a plan to move past those moments in their first computer literacy lesson. Students were assigned to build a stable structure that was taller than a Dixie cup and could hold up a hardcover book using only gumdrops and toothpicks. The task utilized physical computing, a hands-on and technology-free task to teach students about computational thinking through interactive lessons and physical tools.



Remembering



This year, the North Hills School District mourned the passing of our North Hills School District Board of Education Vice President Arlene Bender. Mrs. Bender served our school district as a board member for nearly 35 years and was a fixture at district events, athletic activities and music happenings – especially those of the North Hills Marching Band.

“It was my extreme privilege to work for and with such an amazing woman. Arlene was always willing to talk with people, to listen to their opinions and concerns, to make each person feel that they’d been heard and that they mattered. She saw people for who they were, overlooked their flaws and accepted and celebrated differences and diversity.

Fred Rogers once said “Anyone, who does anything, to help a child, is a hero to me.” Arlene was a hero. To North Hills, to her family and friends, and to me. We will all miss her so very much,” said North Hills superintendent Dr. Patrick J. Mannarino.



Sandy Hook Promise Programs Promote Kindness & Connections

We introduced new inclusion programs aligned with Sandy Hook Promise, a national non-profit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. “Start with Hello” enables students to make a difference with their peers in a simple, fun, and impactful way by encouraging them to take small but powerful actions to promote connectedness and inclusion, and to identify and help others who are showing signs of social isolation. “Say Something” provides tools and practices to recognize the signs and signals of a potential threat, especially in social media, and teaches and instills in students how to take action and “Say Something.”



Start with Hello Week Creates Culture of Inclusion

Start with Hello Week introduced students to the new Sandy Hook Promise programs and helped them to gain the skills to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness, while encouraging them to reach out to and include those dealing with social isolation.

At elementary schools, students participated in classroom lessons with school counselors. Ross Elementary first graders crafted Kindness Rocks and McIntyre Elementary created a wall of ways

to be kind during Random Acts of Kindness Days. Students thanked someone who has helped them in school during Thankful Thursdays. Students introduced themselves to someone new to make a new friend every Friendly Friday.

For Say Hello Day at the high school, everyone in the building wore a name tag and exchanged tickets with someone they had never greeted before with the goal of distributing all their tickets by the end of the day.

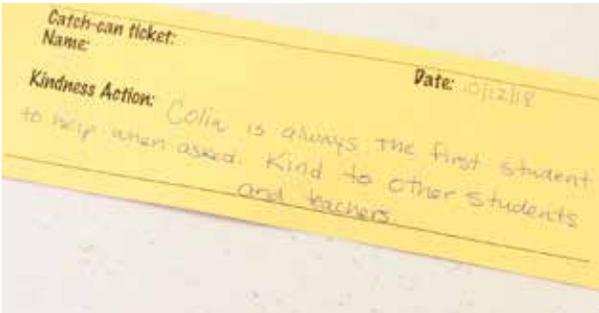


NHMS is No Place for Hate

The middle school was designated as a No Place for Hate school by the Anti-Defamation League at the end of last school year. The school was awarded the designation due to its efforts encouraging inclusion for all and by all students.

The middle school was selected for its work to build inclusive and safe communities based on respect; empowering students, faculty, administration and family members to take a stand against hate and bullying by incorporating new and existing programs and sending a clear, unified message that all students have a place to belong.

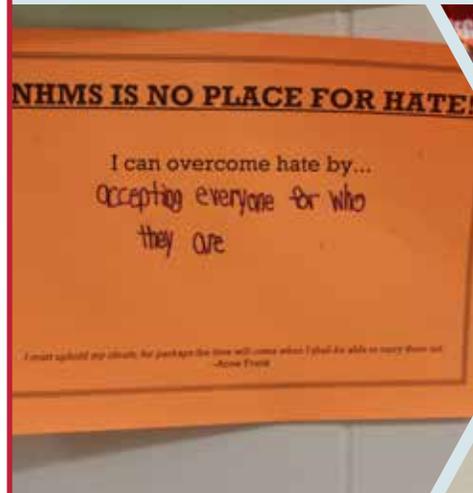
This year students participated in Unity Day where they stood up against bullying and created a rock garden and Mix It Up Day where they sat with someone new and learned about them and hung signs throughout the building following the Tree of Life tragedy with ways to stand against hatred.



High School Grows Kindness Initiative & Unity Efforts

This fall, as part of the #GetCaught effort, bins were placed in each classroom for nomination slips for Kindness Student of the Week. Students from Hands for Service, National Honor Society, SADD and Student Council collect all slips from each room, and a student winner is randomly picked each week from the nomination slips. All the nomination slips are strung together to create a kindness chain that is hung alongside a large banner in the cafeteria.

This effort coincides with the district's Sandy Hook Promise programs as well as other efforts such as No One Sits Alone, where students are paired up to eat lunch with other students, and Speed Friending, similar to speed dating but for friendship. High school staff members also are supporting the increased emphasis on kindness efforts with bright yellow kindness T-shirts worn throughout the year.





Assessments

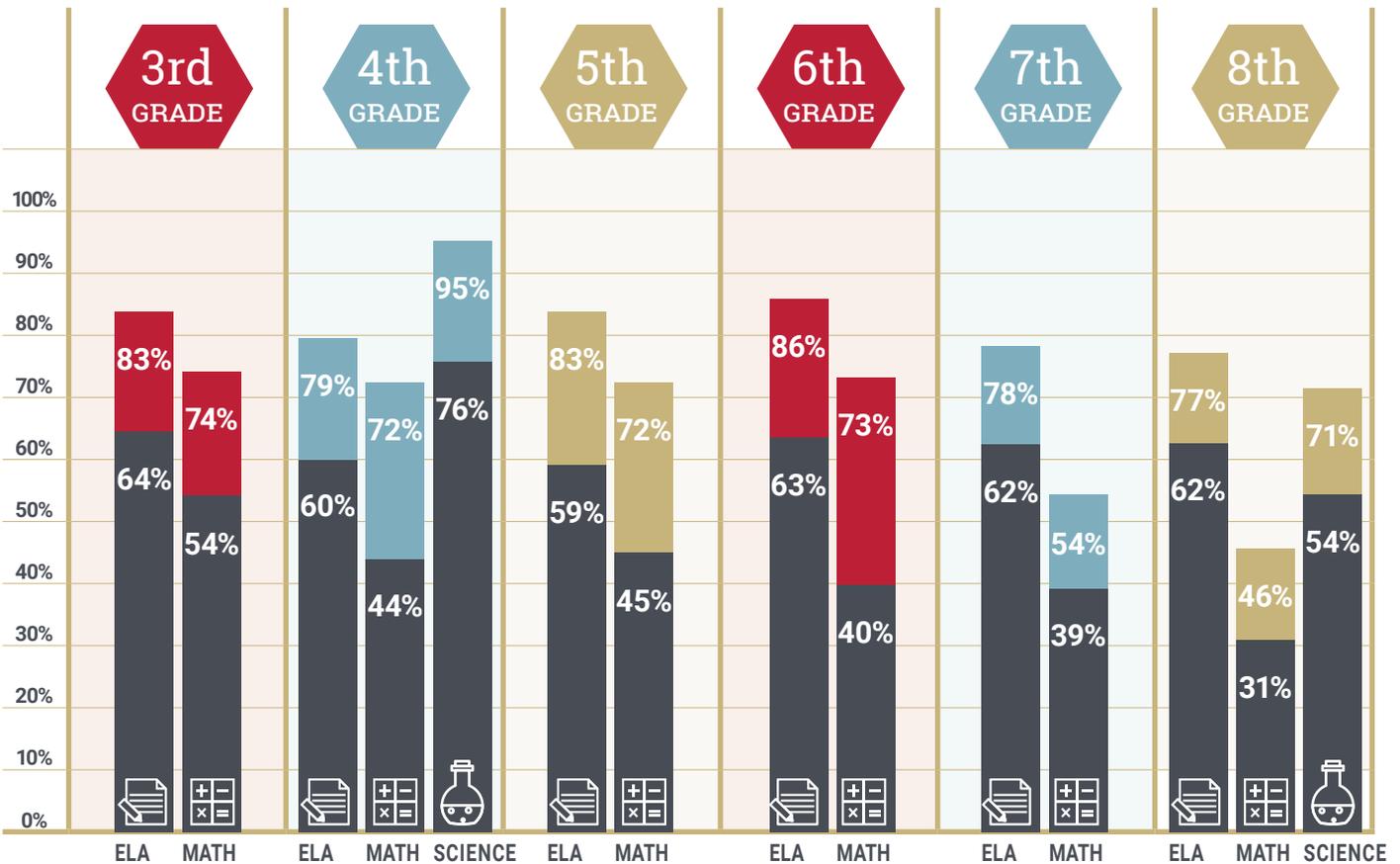
The mission of the North Hills School District is to excel at educating and preparing students in an academically challenging environment. While we know that measures of school effectiveness and learning are far more comprehensive than the summation of test scores, it is an excellent measure to know that our programs are providing our students best in class education.



Our PSSA scores are 17% to 30% HIGHER than PA averages

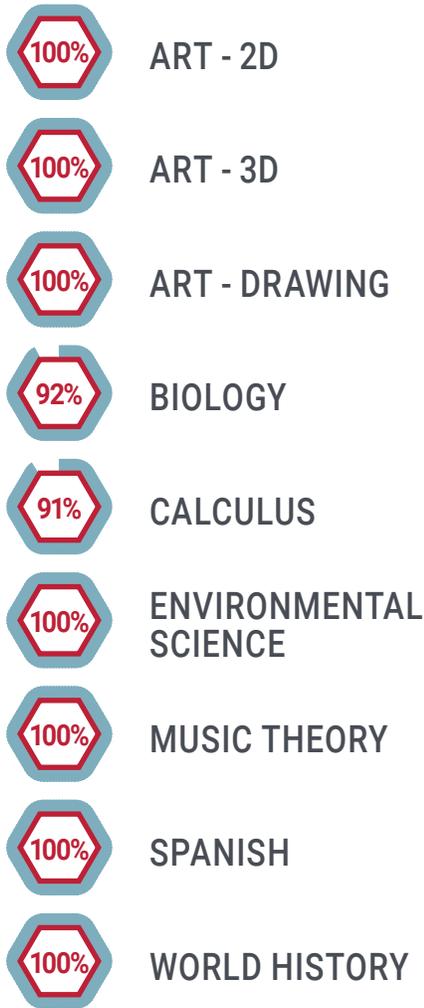
2018 PSSA Scores

The Commonwealth's assessment system for students in grades 3-8 is known as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). This testing in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science identifies what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels and provides students, educators and the community with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of proficiency of the academic standards.



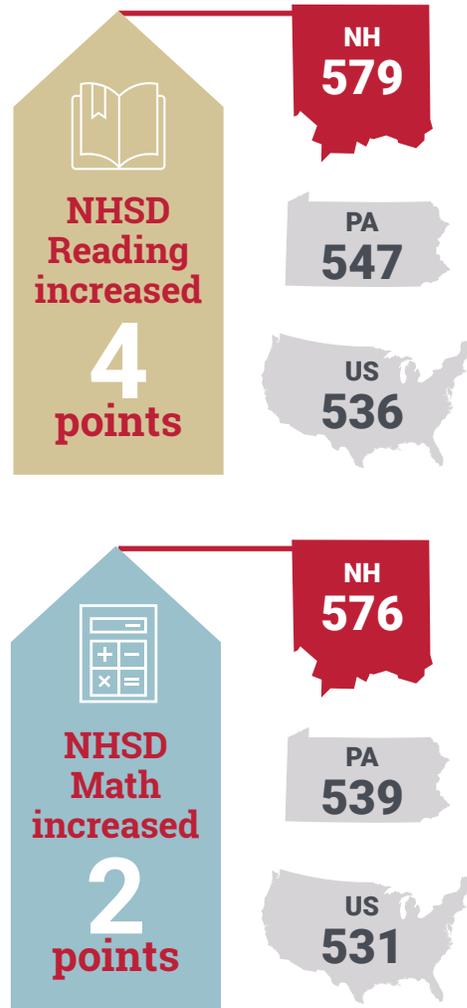
Advanced Placement Honor Roll

This percentage of students who took the noted Advanced Placement course in 2017-18 notched scores of 3 or higher on the AP exam earning college credit. North Hills offers 27 AP courses, the most in Allegheny County.



SAT Scores Exceed PA, U.S. Averages

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The purpose of the SAT is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants.



2018 Keystone Exams Passing Rate

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. They are a component of Pennsylvania's statewide high school graduation requirements.

		NH	PA
ALGEBRA	7TH GRADE	96%	95%
	8TH GRADE	89%	82%
	9TH GRADE	53%	38%
BIOLOGY	9TH GRADE	73%	72%
LITERATURE	10TH GRADE	82%	67%



Our Millage Rate

North Hills School District strives each year to deliver a high-caliber, quality education for every student while adhering to a fiscally conservative budget.

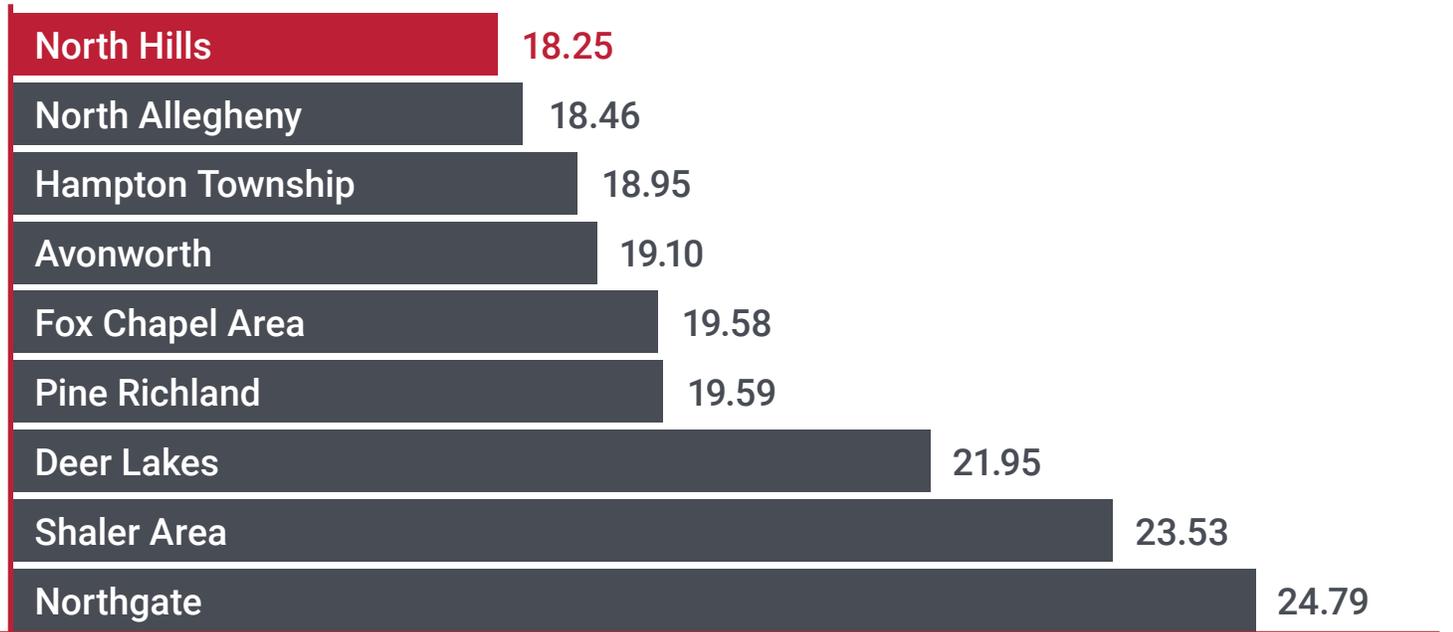
Those efforts continued with the 2018-19 budget. The operating cost for the school district was \$84,166,526, which was funded with a millage increase of .25 mills, bringing the millage rate to 18.25 mills.

At 18.25 mills, North Hills has the

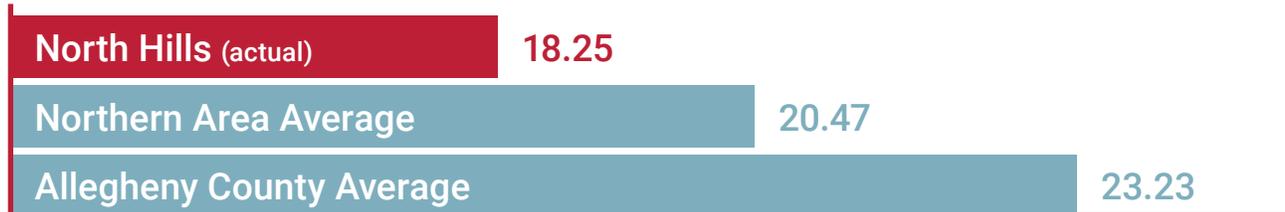
5th **LOWEST MILLAGE RATE**

of 41 Allegheny County suburban school districts

Millage Rates of Allegheny County's Nine Northern Area School Districts



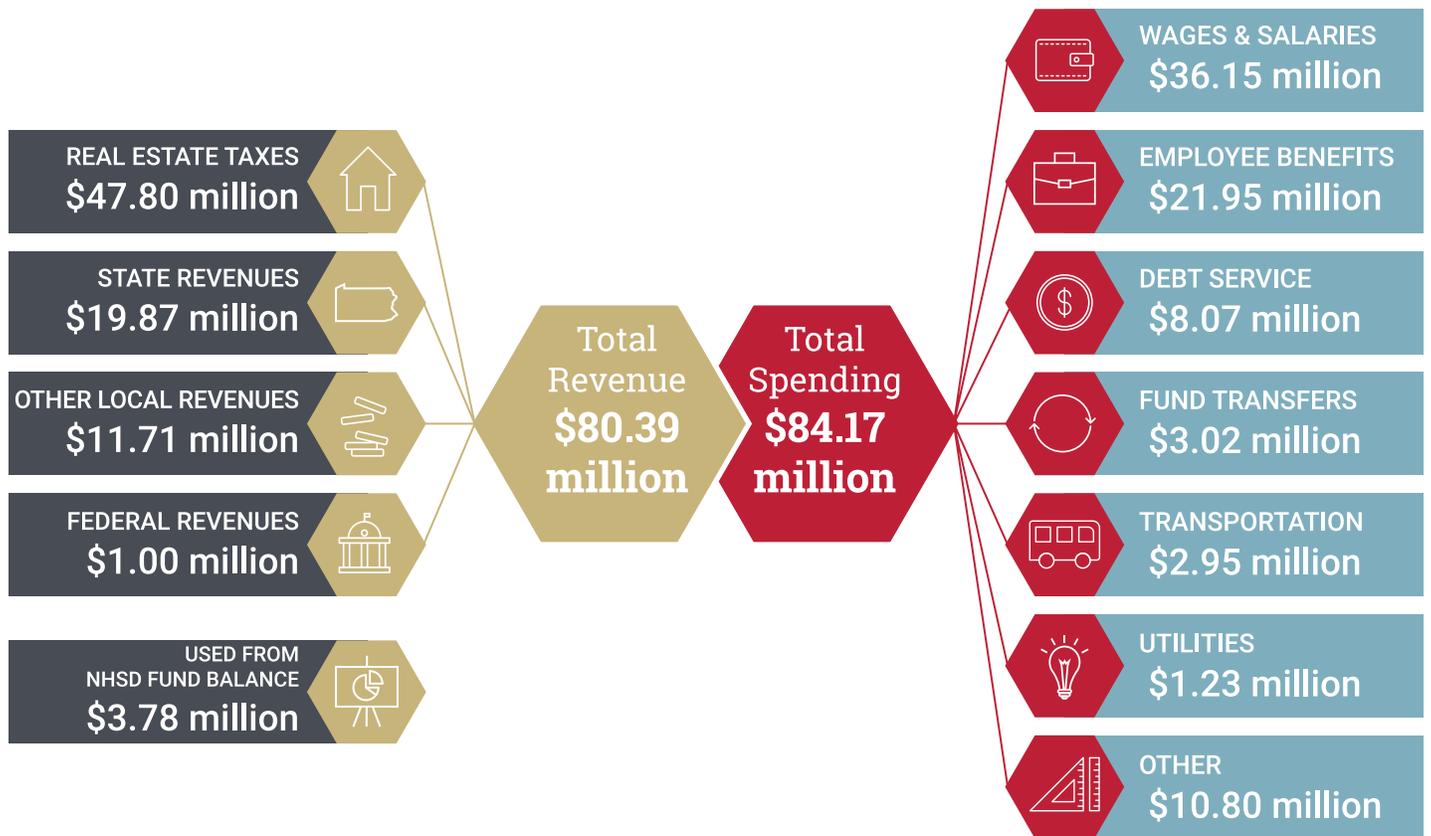
Millage Averages of Area School Districts



Our 2018-2019 Budget

The 2018-19 budget has revenues of \$80,389,127 and expenditures of \$84,166,526. It was balanced with a \$1,277,399 transfer from the PSERS (Public Schools Employee' Retirement System) fund balance, specifically set aside to counteract state-mandated increases in pension contributions, and a \$2.5 million transfer from the general fund balance to the capital projects fund to cover the high school roof replacement.

The overall budget marks a 2.5% increase in total expenditures; 2.3% from the addition of 15 new positions in various departments across the district. This amount marks an increase of 4.15 percent over 2017-18 personnel costs. Beyond personnel expenditures, the budget increased by only 0.67%.



In 2018-19, curriculum updates, safety and security upgrades and personnel changes enhanced North Hills' programs and facilities:

- Funds for additional staff positions across all grade levels and subject areas due to growing student enrollment
- Creation of a safety and security fund to pay for enhancements to the district's safety and security programs and procedures
- Additional security cameras and replacement of older security cameras at various buildings
- Updated curriculum materials in elementary math, secondary family and consumer science and secondary world languages.
- Equipment and curricular materials for secondary health and physical education department

Our Year at a Glance

North Hills School District has led another year in the tradition in excellence – excellence in academics, arts, athletics, and leadership. We are proud of all of our students, faculty and staff who have done wonderful things this year and are so proud to share some of the highlights with the community.



October

- **Marching Band Festival**
North Hills Marching Band held their 58th annual festival in September.
- **Voter Registration** – High school History Club members held a Voter Registration Drive during all lunch periods in advance of the November general election.
- **Walk-A-Thons & Fun Run**
Students at Highcliff Elementary, McIntyre Elementary and Ross Elementary participated in walking and running fundraisers to support their building's parent-teacher organizations.
- **NHSD held homecoming activities at Martorelli Stadium** – Each club, activity and athletic team at the high school was represented by a student representative and their escort. The Homecoming Court was announced: Queen Jessica Kappeler, first runner up Juliet California and second runner up Julia Fedorachak.
- **NHSD Smart Programs for Parents** – Digital boot camp for parents (hosted with NA).
- **Be Smart Parent Meeting & School Police Meet and Greet**



September

- **National History Teacher of the Year** – Middle school social studies teacher Joe Welch has been selected as the 2018 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.
- **Elementary Computer Science** – For the first time, our elementary students are taking part in Computer Science classes as part of their six-day cycle.
- **AP Scholars** – The College Board named 51 North Hills students AP Scholars following their outstanding performances on the college-level Advanced Placement exams.
- **2018 graduates Adyn Gallagher, Neil Wible and Neville Wolf were named National AP Scholars.** This honor places these graduates among the nation's most elite academic performers.
- **Johnny Appleseed Days & Fall Fests** – Students -combined learning with apple-themed activities.
- **Start with Hello Week** – North Hills took part in the nationwide Start with Hello Week to roll out our new Sandy Hook Promise programs to students.
- **Sew Fabulous Club** – The service club was awarded a \$400 grant from Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles to help fund projects including port pillows for chemotherapy patients, baby blankets for UMPC patients, and dresses for children in Africa.
- **Author's Day** – West View Elementary and Ross Elementary students heard from children's advocate and award-winning author Trudy Ludwig during Author's Day activities sponsored by the PTA/PTO.



November

- Hands for Service Club and Student Council members hosted the high school's **third annual Jake Wudarczyk Monster Dash 5K and Spooky Stroll** benefiting Make-A-Wish and the Children's Hospital Foundation.
- **Pumpkin Carving** – Students in the elementary schools continued a NHSD tradition of carving pumpkins with family members and friends for Halloween.
- **World Robot Summit** – Highcliff Elementary sixth-grader Kyleigh Johnston competed in the World Robot Summit in Toyko.
- **Tree Planting** – Ross Elementary students partnered with Tree Pittsburgh, One Tree Per Child, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Ross Township Parks and Recreation to plant trees at Sangree Park.
- **Pumpkin Characters**
Ross Elementary kindergarten students used a pumpkin to create a character from a chosen story; combining reading, writing, public speaking, respect for peers and creativity skills into a fun project.
- **National Merit Scholars**
Seniors Alyssa Aguglia, Andrew Bensch, Elena McGoey and Donatas Miseikis were named 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students.
- **Marching Band Stadium Review**
North Hills Marching Band held their annual Stadium Review show. As part of admission, they collected toys and books for the Labor of Love Toy Drive.
- **Veterans Day** – Highcliff Elementary students celebrated Veterans Day by partnering with a veteran or member of the U.S. armed services to take part in a Day of Service. West View Elementary sixth-graders continued their tradition of attending the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Pittsburgh. McIntyre Elementary third-graders created a Veterans Wall with stars honoring family and friends who are veterans as well as stars for Officer Mutch and computer tech Ed Porter.
- **Pumpkin Explorations**
Ross Elementary first-graders used pumpkins during a hands-on experimentation activity measuring the circumference of their pumpkins, calculated the height of their pumpkins and tested the buoyancy of multiple pumpkins.
- **High School Fall Play**
The Drama Club performed 3 showings of "The Beverly Hillbillies."
- **IUP Choral Collage Concert**
The North Hills Singers were the featured guests at Indiana University of Pennsylvania during the university's Choral Collage concert.
- **PIAA Cross Country Championships**
Senior cross country runner Joey Buehner qualified for the PIAA Championships and the WPIAL Championships.
- **The varsity football team advanced to the WPIAL 5A playoffs** and faced Penn-Trafford High School.
- **Stronger Than Hate** – High school students decorated hundreds of rocks and collected donations in remembrance of the Tree of Life Synagogue tragedy. The football players' helmets were adorned with Stronger Than Hate stickers, created by Penn-Trafford High School graphics students.
- **Unite on Game Night** – North Hills and Penn Hills "United on Game Night" to raise more than \$950 for the American Heart Association.
- The high school's **National Honor Society sponsored a blood drive** in partnership with Vitalant, formerly known as Central Blood Bank.
- **Food drives**, coordinated by the high school National Honor Society, class officers and Hands for Service Club and the middle school Service Club, helped provide Thanksgiving meals for nearly 200 NHSD families in need.
- **Multi-cultural thanksgiving feast at McIntyre Elementary**
first-graders enjoyed homemade holiday dishes from 11 different nations during their Multi-Cultural Thanksgiving Feast.



- **Senior Lirion Murtezi** was chosen for the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association Big 33 Football Classic, and **senior Tyler Brennan** played in East-West All-Star Game.
- **Light the Night Walk**
McIntyre Elementary staff members raised \$3,780 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and participated in the organization's Light the Night Walk.

January

December

- **Winter Music Concerts** – North Hills Music Department hosted winter concerts celebrating the holiday season.
- **North Hills Choirs Annual Madrigal Dinner** – Guests were transported back to the Renaissance complete with a royal procession, singing and entertainment
- **World Kindness Day** – Highcliff Elementary students celebrated by painting Kindness Rocks and creating bookmarks for Carnegie Library in Squirrel Hill, Northland Library and Shaler North Hills Library.
- **Earthquake-Proof Buildings** High school students in Jim Cassandro's Engineering, Drawing and Design II class tested carefully researched, designed and constructed cardboard buildings on the North Hills Earthquake Simulator.
- Gifted education fourth-graders participated in the **annual Science Olympiad**.
- McIntyre Elementary second-graders in Michelle Kress's classroom partnered with their fifth-grade buddies from Rebecca Good's class to make **Thanksgiving cards and placemats for Meals on Wheels**.
- **30th Annual Elves Fund** Staff members contributed a record-high \$4,082 to the Elves Fund to provide a little extra help this holiday season to more than 100 NHSD families.
- High school students in the Environmental Club, GSA and German Club came together to **play kickball and raise money for charity**.
- **High School Varsity Club** Student-athletes spent a morning reading books and answering questions about their sports with kindergarten and first-grade classes.
- **National Believe Day** – North Hills students partnered with North Allegheny students to deliver 7,515 Letters to Santa to Macy's. The letters resulted in a \$15,030 donation.
- **West View Food Drive** – West View Elementary Student Council conducted a Holiday Food Drive and collected more than 1,500 items to provide families with boxes of food items for the holiday season.
- **Holiday Music** – Elementary band students performed holiday favorites during a special performance at The Block Northway. They collected funds for the district's Elves Fund, which supports North Hills families during the holiday season, and food donations for North Hills Cares.

- **17 high school students took top honors at the regional competition of the Future Business Leaders of America.** Six of the students won first-place in their events.
- **Seventh-grader Dalton Billeter won the middle school's Geography Bee.**
- **Six high school students passed the 1.1 Vertical Open Root Weld Test** – Each student is now eligible for nine credits from the CCAC through the only high school partnership of its kind in our area.
- **Top Automotive Mechanics** A.W. Beattie Career Center seniors Armond Crippin and David Uhl earned third place in the Greater Pittsburgh Auto Dealers/CCAC Competition.
- **Drug-free Art Contest Winner** Ross Elementary fifth-grader Allie Gujski was named one of 13 winners in the statewide Pennsylvania Attorney General's Drug-Free Calendar Contest.
- **Mary Poppins Jr.** – The North Hills Drama Club presented Mary Poppins Jr. featuring seventh, eighth and ninth-grade actors, singers and dancers.
- **National Qualifiers** Competitive Spirit Team competed in the National High School Cheerleading Championship and in the PIAA Championships.



- **Senior Tyler Brennan will be attending the U.S. Military Academy and Lirion Murtezi will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy** as student athletes. Both will play football.

- **Snuggle Up and Read Day**
McIntyre Elementary kindergarten students packed gift bags of donated stuffed animals and books for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

- **Return to Hogwarts**
The Hilltop Heroes Club transformed the high school into a Harry Potter-themed castle, welcomed 460 attendees for their "Return to Hogwarts" event and raised nearly \$2,500 to support CASA of Allegheny County.

- **Project Linus Blankets**
Highcliff Elementary first-graders and fifth-graders teamed up to craft more than 40 blankets for Project Linus benefiting children battling serious illnesses.

- **20 Days of Giving** – Ross Elementary third-graders completed "20 Days of Giving" which included bookmarks for local libraries, place mats for Meals on Wheels, holiday letters to U.S. troops, cards and paper flowers for all 197 residents at Kane Community Center and fleece blankets for Project Linus.

- **Middle School Service Club members visited residents at Vincentian Home** – During their visit, students made a craft, played bingo, sang songs and surprised everyone with stockings full of gifts.



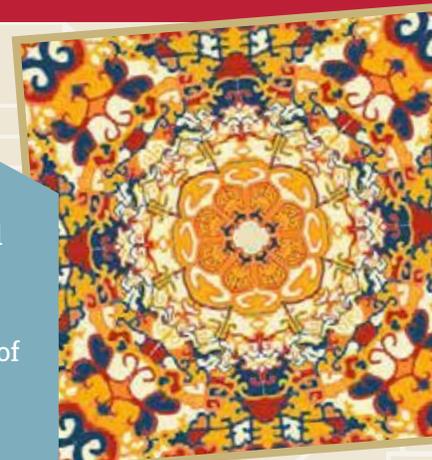
February

- Elementary students throughout the district celebrated the **80th Day of School and the 100th Day of School** with special outfits and learning activities themed around 80 and 100.
- **Cardboard Carnival**
Highcliff Elementary gifted education students constructed games entirely from cardboard for the annual Cardboard Carnival at Celebration of Learning.
- **West View Science Fair** – 122 students participated in the 25th annual West View Science Fair
- **Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science** – Sophomore Hannah Sciulli participated in the state competition after winning first-place honors at the regional competition. Junior Emma Polen won second-place honors at the regional event.
- **Shakespeare Contest** – North Hills elementary students competed in the Pittsburgh Public Theater's 2019 Shakespeare Scene and Monologue Contest. Retired Highcliff librarian Doris Stupka was honored with the contest's first Award for Excellence in Arts Education.
- **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** – Middle school students Adam Serowik, Andrew Boyle, Grant Norberg and Caitlin Holmes won regional awards in the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition.
- **Music in Our Schools Month**
North Hills Music Department celebrated with a variety of activities including Choir Cabaret Night, Orchestra Night, Band-O-Rama, Elementary Bands Spring Concert, Children's Choir performance, Pittsburgh Youth Chorus concert
- **Service Club Valentines**
The middle school Service Club celebrated Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve Day with special valentines, raising \$354 for Reflections of Grace, a charity supporting families affected by pediatric brain cancer.
- **Shear Da Beard** – Middle school students raised \$3,395 for pediatric cancer with former Steeler Brett Keisel's "Shear Da Beard" campaign. The middle school is the first school in the area to partner with Keisel in his efforts.
- **Souper Bowl** – Highcliff Elementary Student Council spearheaded their annual Souper Bowl Food Drive in partnership with North Hills Community Outreach.



Community THON

The three THONs sponsored by the high school Student Council and Hands for Service Club **raised more than \$12,000** for Make-A-Wish and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. This year was the first year for the middle school's THON Jr. and the Community THON.





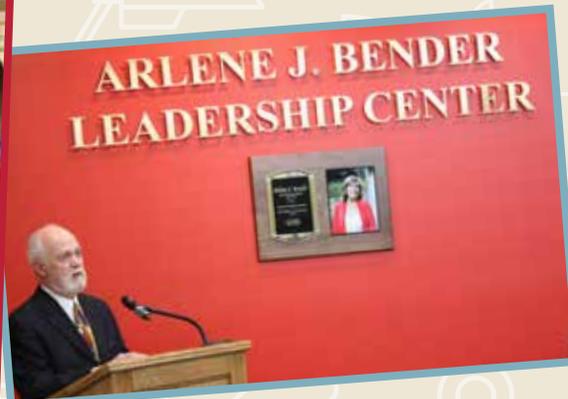
March

- **GWU History Professor Talk**
George Washington University history professor Denver Brunsman gave a talk to high school and middle school students about “Washington, Hamilton and the Founding Era.”
- **Pedal Car Challenge** – North Hills and A.W. Beattie Career Center students Shane Badami, Angelo Ford, Jacob Kotchey, Rich McAllister, George Parker, Taylor Solomon and Deven Wentzel were part of the 20-member team that won the World of Wheels Pedal Car Challenge.
- **Junior Achievement Days**
Elementary students took part in Junior Achievement Days where they learned valuable lessons on entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness.
- **State Speech & Debate** – Senior Nickolas Bartel and freshman Kevin Tian won top honors at the regional Pennsylvania High School Speech League contest and qualified to compete at the state tournament.
- **Wind Ensemble’s National Honor** – The high school wind ensemble has been selected for the fourth time to perform at the National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Convention.
- **Workshop with Trumpet Player**
Los Angeles College of Music professor Bryan Lipps visited high school classes and gave a jazz workshop while in town as the touring trumpet player with singer Michael Buble.
- **“Tuck Everlasting”** – North Hills Drama Club performed to a sold out crowd! North Hills is one of only two high schools in the state to perform this recently available Broadway hit.
- **PIAA Wrestling** – Junior Sam Hillegas finished in third-place at the PIAA Wrestling Championships after winning his third, consecutive WPIAL title.
- **PIAA Swimming** – Swimmers Josh Bogniard, Maddie Mahoney, Maddy Cordial, Chloe Septak and Sarah Grace Kuchma competed in the PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships setting new North Hills records in their events at the WPIAL Championships.



April

- **Arlene J. Bender Leadership Center** – Administration board room dedicated to the late Arlene Bender, who served on the School Board for 35 years.
- **Arrows for Caring** – Arrow Men’s Ensemble hosted a charity concert featuring several student-led music ensembles benefiting North Hills Cares, Inc which provides assistance to North Hills families.
- **High School National Honor Society Induction** – This year we are inducting 59 students into The National Honor Society (NHS), the nation’s premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students.
- **North Hills Education Association and North Hills School District agreed** on the terms of a collective bargaining agreement through August 2024.
- **Nicholas Bartel** – North Hills High School senior Nickolas Bartel qualified to compete in the Congressional Debate event at the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament in Dallas, Texas, in June.





May

- **Arts Alive** – The annual event celebrates the creative accomplishments of students in kindergarten through high school.
- **North Hills School District has selected its 2019 Distinguished Alumni awardees.** – Class of 1987 graduate Dr. Robert Dimeo and Class of 1995 graduate Rev. Kimberly Greway are the newest honorees to receive the district's annual Distinguished Alumni Award.
- **Grade 3 Wax Museum at Ross** – Ross third graders presented a Wax Museum presentation where students personified an influential current or historical figure and presented a display of the figure's biography and timeline.
- **Super Science Day** – Highcliff students in grades K-4 participate in super science day activities that include: learning about the life cycle of a plant and planting seeds, the science of bubbles, building bridge structures, nature scavenger hunts, an egg drop, and experiments with gravity, vibration and sound.
- **Track and Field Day** – sixth grade student athletes from each of the elementary schools compete in track and field events. The event is held at Martorelli Stadium
- **Grade 6 Band Tour** – The 6th Grade Band Tour is a nearly 60 year tradition for 6th grade band students in the North Hills School District. Each year the 6th Grade Advanced Band performs a full concert of diverse repertoire for students and faculty in each of our 4 elementary schools and one open to the public show at the Ross Community Center.
- **Mock Crash** – North Hills High School held their annual Mock Crash event in advance of senior prom festivities sponsored by the high school's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club, that reminds students of the power and impact of their decisions. There are police cars, ambulances and a helicopter on the secondary schools campus as part of the demonstration.
- **Kennywood Picnic** – The North Hills School District's annual school picnic at Kennywood Park is scheduled for May 25th.
- **Graduation Day** – Commencement exercises for the Class of 2018 will be held on May 31 at Martorelli Stadium. We are so proud of our graduating seniors and wish them good luck on their future endeavors!
- **Best Community for Music Education** – North Hills School District has been honored as one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the noted NAMM Foundation for the fifth year in a row.
- **National Board Certified Teachers** – Three educators from North Hills School District earned their National Board Certifications following a rigorous assessment process from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Congratulations to Sonny Amato at McIntyre Elementary School, Abigail Linn at Highcliff Elementary School and Barbra Weaver at McIntyre Elementary School.





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Physical Education Curriculum Focuses on Lifelong Fitness

All high school students are required to take a semester of health coursework and a semester-long Personal Fitness course.

The high school's new physical education courses aid our students in reaching their fitness goals while also teaching them how to efficiently and effectively incorporate physical activity into their day-to-day routines and established hobbies to meet health and wellness targets throughout their entire lives.

- Lifeguarding Certification, First Aid and CPR
- Foundations of Yoga, Pilates and Mindfulness
- Cardio and Lifetime Fitness
- Sports Officiating and Principles of Coaching
- Outdoor Adventures (environmental and survival skills, kayaking, canoeing, fly fishing, rock climbing, archery)



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance in concentration and memory tasks and classroom behaviors.