

WE are WESTSIDE



Westside
Community Schools



2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

We Are Westside... Leadership

Board of Education

Westside Board of Education meetings are primarily twice a month on Monday evenings unless otherwise posted. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the ABC Administration Building at 909 S. 76th St, and are broadcast via Facebook Live on the district page, Westside Community Schools - District 66. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found at www.westside66.org.



Back row: (left to right): Doug Krenzer, Vice President; Mike Lucas, Superintendent; Adam Yale, Interim President;
Front row (left to right): Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer; Beth Morrisette, Treasurer-Elect; Kris Karnes, Interim Director; Dana Blakely, Secretary

Message from Superintendent, Dr. Mike Lucas



THANK YOU

for your support of Westside

Community Schools. This 2020-21 school year is like no other. We couldn't do it without you.

We appreciate your patience, kindness, and understanding as we all work to navigate this global pandemic together. Our teachers, principals, and school staff have risen up to this monumental challenge and we could not be more proud of their efforts. We are thankful that our students, their families, and our community work hand-in-hand with us as we prioritize teaching and learning in whatever format we can best make work.

Westside is a special place because of its PEOPLE. While we are proud of our technology, our facilities, our programs, and our community support; it is our PEOPLE that make Westside what it is. That has never been more evident than during COVID-19. Even during a global pandemic, our students, staff, and community are doing amazing things and we hope you take a sense of pride in that as you look through this Annual Report.

It's a GREAT time to be part of the Westside COMMUNITY Schools family.

A handwritten signature of Mike Lucas in black ink.

We Are Westside... Who We Are

11+

Employee state or national awards



71%

Of Westside teachers have earned a Master's degree or higher, versus 56% state average



6,095

PreK-12 students



35%

Of our students live outside the district and opt-in



20

Number of languages spoken



430

Students receiving dual credit hours or certifications



32%

Of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch



250

Classes offered at Westside High School each term



15%

Of students receive special services



307

Learners in Westside Early Childhood programs



19.5

Students on average in each K-6 classroom



1:1

Technology Program, every K-12 student gets their own Apple device



We Are Westside... Academic Success

Westside **ACT** scores are above state average in college and career readiness in all 4 major categories

6 Perfect ACT scores

58 Students earned a composite score of 30 or higher

Significant gains from Junior to Senior Year:

ENGLISH: 19.2 to 19.9

MATH: 20.4 to 20.9

READING: 21.0 to 21.6

SCIENCE: 20.6 to 21.0

Westside provides direct preparation for the ACT for all students, including incorporated curriculum, online tutoring, and Assistance League services.

SCAN to learn more!



43 AP and Honors Classes offered at Westside High School

7 National Merit Semi-Finalists

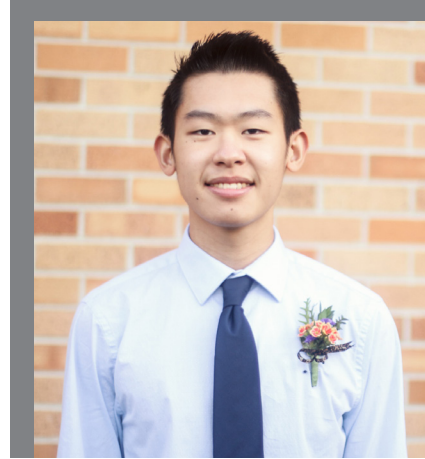
3 National Scholastic Award Medalists

2 National School Awards (College Success Award, Program Excellence Award)

8 Nebraska Geography Bee qualifiers

38 Student qualifiers at the McMillan Math Contest

82% of all K-1st graders proficient in reading



ANDREW LI

Andrew Li, Westside High School, was named a Finalist for the International Breakthrough Challenge and eligible for \$250,000. Among his many achievements at Westside: Andrew created an app to help his fellow students, current and future, to better navigate Westside's modular scheduling model. He also earned a 36 on the ACT, was selected as a National Young Arts Merit Winner and National Merit Semi-Finalist, and was voted the 2020 Westside Homecoming King.

"Westside has been at the heart of my success. From the lifelong friends and teachers that support and encourage me to pursue knowledge relentlessly, to the band program and modular scheduling system that inspires me to grow and create, Westside has provided me with many opportunities that I am incredibly thankful for."

- Andrew Li, Class of 2021

We Are Westside... Awards and Honors

Employee Honors

- 2020 Teacher Excellence Award, Matt Bova (WMS)
- 2020 Head Football Coach of the Year, Brett Froendt (WHS)
- 2020 Outstanding Student Teacher, Davis Clouse (WHS)
- 2020 Employer of the Year Award, Ollie Webb Center
- 2020 K-8 Teacher of the Year, Kristeen Shabram (WMS)
- 2020 Boys Assistant Coach of the Year, Justin Haberman (WHS)
- 2020 Tech Educator of the Year, Dr. Lynn Spady (Westgate)
- 2020 UNO Distinguished Professional Achievement Award, Doug Hauserman (WMS)

Activities Honors

- 39 All State Chorus, Band and Orchestra Selections
- National Young Arts Merit Winner, Andrew Li
- Mayor's Medallion, Omaha Arts Showcase, Zam Zam Farah
- International Breakthrough Junior Challenge Finalist, Andrew Li
- 4 Nebraska Jazz Orchestra Competitors (Winner: Reese Pike)
- Global Innovation Award Finalists, 1 of 6 in Nebraska (Rockbrook)
- 24 All-State Academic Award Winners
- Nebraska State Youth of the Year, Erica Smith



STATE CHAMPIONS



FOOTBALL
November 2020



SWIMMING 100 FLY
Logan Kuehne



JOURNALISM



SWIMMING 200 MEDLEY RELAY
Nate Germonprez, Thomas Lundin,
Kaden Guzman, Colin Davis



TENNIS
AJ Shefsky

Athletic Honors

- Boys Basketball, District Champion
- Girls Basketball, District Champion
- Tennis, State Bronze
- Wrestling, 8 State Qualifiers, Silver Medal (Cade Haberman)
- Swim/Dive, 32 State Qualifiers, Silver Team Medal (Boys)
- Golf, Silver Medal (Kaitlyn Hanna)

We Are Westside... Ready for Life

Dual Credit Courses, Work Certifications, and Career Experiences Available at Westside High School



Dual Credit with Nebraska Wesleyan

- AP Language & Composition
- AP Literature & Composition

Other Career Experiences

- UNMC Health Alliance
- Zoo Academy
- Intern Omaha

80+ Service hours
required of every
graduate

Nebraska's only
Modular Scheduling
system

80% of Class of 2020
graduates attending
college

Dual Credit with Metro Community College

- Advanced ARC Welding
- Oxy-Acetylene Welding
- Modular Math
- Career Academy
- Playwriting
- Intro to Education
- Drawing & Painting
- Spanish 5
- Human Relations

Work Certifications

- Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- Registered Youth Apprenticeships
 - Welder Combination
 - Automotive Technology
 - Industrial Manufacturing



Dual Credit with UNO

- AP Biology
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics 2
- AP Physics C
- AP Government
- AP Geography
- AP U.S. History
- Honors Sociology
- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science
- Intro to Education
- AP Drawing
- AP English Lit and Comp
- AP Latin
- AP Spanish

We Are Westside... Endless Opportunities

Honors and Advanced Placement Courses Available at Westside High School

AP Courses at WHS

- American Government
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science AB
- Computer Science Principles
- Design Portfolio 2D
- Design Portfolio 3D
- Drawing Portfolio
- Economics (Macro and Micro)
- English Language and Comp
- English Literature and Comp
- Human Geography
- German 5
- Latin 4
- Music Theory
- Physics 1
- Physics 2
- Physics C
- Psychology
- Spanish 5
- Statistics
- United States History

Honors Courses at WHS

- Advanced Algebra
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English 1
- English 2
- French 4
- French 5
- Geometry
- German 4
- German 5
- Latin 4
- Pre-Calculus
- Publication Editing
- Sociology
- Spanish 4
- Spanish 5
- World History

57 Clubs & Activities



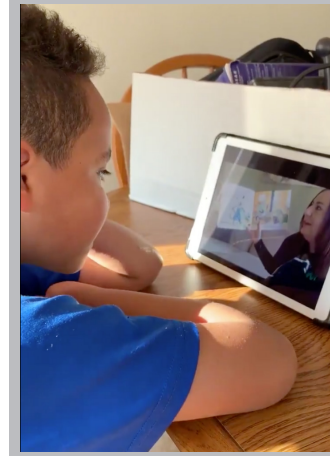
We Are Westside... Personalized Learning

When the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic paralyzed much of the world, Westside was among the first metro school districts to offer an organized system of instruction to support learners at home. Through Extended Campus Learning, Westside educators were able to continue teaching remotely thanks to a robust curriculum plan and 1:1 technology with internet access for every student.

As the pandemic stretched into the 20/21 school year, Westside was again among the first to offer a remote learning option, allowing families and students the choice to learn in an environment most comfortable for them. Thanks to tireless innovation, teamwork and dedication, Westside educators simultaneously taught students both in the classroom and through devices at home. Nationally recognized filmmakers, Nebraska Loves Public Schools, later featured District 66 in a special film entitled 'Standing Up To COVID.'

"During this challenging time you continue to strive and show why this is the greatest school district in the country. Thank you for all you do for our children, our district, our community, and our city."

- John Thomas, Community Member



We Are Westside... Fully Embracing the WE

Westside Community Schools launched the **WE-SIDE Community Council** in the summer of 2020. This stands for **Welcoming Equity Support Inclusion and Dignity for Everyone**. Our goal is to ensure that all of our students and staff feel welcomed and valued at Westside.

We began by asking our community and our employees to discuss inclusion and to contemplate what Westside could do to better support students and staff of all backgrounds, races and religions. We formed a WE-SIDE steering committee to design our next steps.

We are focusing on things that bring us together by gaining a greater appreciation of our similarities and differences. Our tools are open dialogue, data, active engagement and continuous learning and programming throughout our district.

This is not going to be a one-time issue; it is going to be fully incorporated into the fabric of Westside. Please look for more information and opportunities to get involved in 2021 as we look to expand our steering committee. We plan to have students, staff, parents, and community members join us as we analyze our curriculum, gain a better understanding of one another, address sometimes uncomfortable but critical topics, and more, with the goal of being a school district where EVERYONE belongs.

We continue to work to recruit, hire, and retain a high quality workforce that has similar demographics to our student body. WE-SIDE is just getting started!

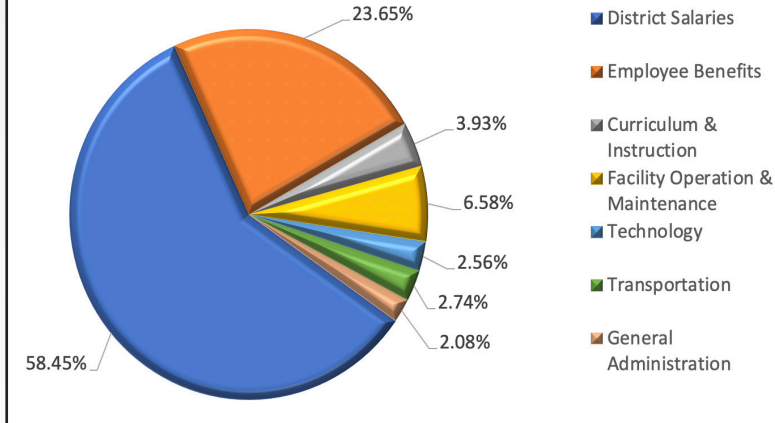


We Are Westside... Fiscally Responsible

FY21 Budget: \$78,864,437

Where Does the Money Go?

FY21 Budgeted Expenditures

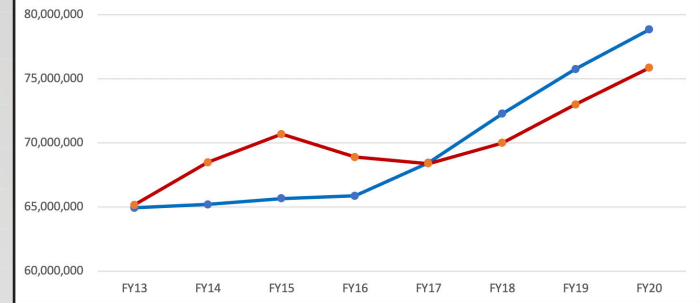


- For FY20, approximately 35% of all Westside students were enrolled in the district through the option enrollment program. These students who chose to not enroll in their resident district in favor of coming to Westside **added \$18,671,869 in state aid revenue to our district**, allowing us to maintain 10 neighborhood elementary schools and to provide robust course offerings at Westside High School.

Revenue vs. Expenses

Since 2012/13, Westside has only had an average annual spending increase of 2.34%

Historical Revenue v. Expenses



In an effort to show our patrons we acknowledge that Nebraska's K-12 schools are over-reliant on local property taxes for revenue, we are working to become even more fiscally efficient. As a result...

- For FY21, we **reduced** our General Fund Levy for the second year in a row
- For FY21, the total levy (General Fund/Bond/Bldg) **decreased** by 2.5 pennies, which means...
- Based on a home valued at \$250,000, the annual tax payment would be \$3,393, a **decrease** of \$63.50 from the prior year

We Are Westside... Building for the Future

Our final project as part of Phase 1 in Westside's Facilities 2015 Master Plan will be completed this spring. To date, all major projects have been completed within budget.

PRAIRIE LANE ELEMENTARY

- Opening April 6, 2021
- 11444 Hascall Street
- 41,000 square feet renovated and added for a total of 54,600 square feet
- \$10,750,000
- KEY FEATURES: Improved safety and security, improved drop-off/pick-up, improved utilities, separate gym and cafeteria



WESTSIDE FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS

- Robert Sturm Welcome Center at WHS
 - Security/safety enhanced vestibule entrance with custom improvements
- Family Resource Center at Westgate
 - Food pantry and clothing closet available to all Westside students and staff
- The Swede Center at WHS
 - Premiere indoor golf training center for a public school in the United States



Be in the Know... Stay Connected

Be in the know about what's happening
with Westside Community Schools!

Check Us Out:



www.westside66.org



[westsidecommunityschools-
District 66](https://www.facebook.com/westsidecommunityschools-District-66)



[@westside66](https://twitter.com/westside66)



[@westsideschools66](https://www.instagram.com/westsideschools66)



communications@westside66.net

This Annual Report is provided as a quick snapshot of 2020. It has been produced by the Communications Department. For more detailed information, please visit the district website at www.westside66.org or contact the Central Office at 402-390-2100.

Westside Community Schools
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OMAHA, NE
68114

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