

Westside
Community Schools

*We Are
Westside*

2019
Annual Report

We Are Westside... Leadership

Board of Education

Westside Board of Education meetings are 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. Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes can be found at www.westside66.org.



Left to right: Doug Krenzer, Treasurer; Mike Lucas, Superintendent; Adam Yale, President; Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer Elect; Beth Morrisette, Secretary; Kris Karnes, Vice President; Dana Blakely, Director

Message from Superintendent, Dr. Mike Lucas



As we head towards a new year, we are proud to share the terrific achievements and accomplishments we have celebrated in 2019 throughout Westside Community Schools. We have much to be excited about as you will see on the following pages. Rest assured that we will continue to work extremely hard to make improvements in all areas as we aspire to meet the high expectations of our community stakeholders through our commitment to our founding pillars from 1947 of innovation, community, and excellence.

It is an exciting time to be part of Westside Community Schools. We are growing more and more diverse in student demographics, backgrounds and needs, and we are thankful for the opportunities that come with these enriching changes. One constant remains, however, and that is the focus on our community mission to ensure academic excellence and to serve the unique needs of all learners.

We encourage you to stay updated on everything happening throughout Westside Community Schools, much because of our talented staff and our supportive community. Your continued investment in our children is an investment in our bright future.

We Are Westside!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike Lucas'.

We Are Westside... Who We Are



6,061 PreK-12 students

22 Students on average in each K-6 classroom

35% Of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch

34% Of our students live outside the district and opt-in

81% Of class of 2019 graduates attending college

70% Of Westside teachers have earned a Master's degree or higher, versus 55% state average

10+ Employee state or national awards



402 Learners in Westside Early Childhood programs

436 Students receiving dual credit hours

1:1 Technology Program, every K-12 student gets their own Apple device



We Are Westside... Academic Success

Westside **ACT**
Scores are Higher Than
State Average

Numbers reflect third year cohort
(junior) testing, Spring 2019

2

Perfect ACT scores

43

Students scored a 30
or higher

83

Students scored a
24-29

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



35 AP and Honors Classes
offered at Westside High
School

6 National Merit
Semi-Finalists and
3 Commended Students

5 National AP scholars in
2018-19

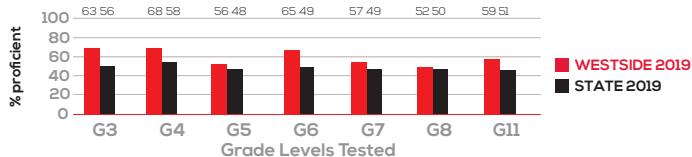
6 Nebraska Geography
Bee competitors

20 Seal of Biliteracy
recipients

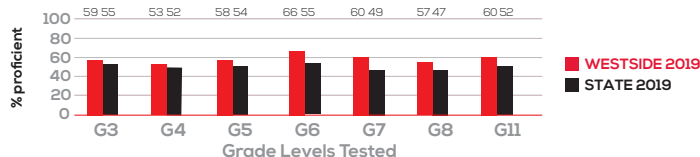
95% Average daily
student attendance

- Westside Community Schools classified as 'GREAT' by the Nebraska Department of Education
 - ALL schools 'GOOD' or higher
- Swanson Elementary classified as 'EXCELLENT', a ranking only given to 13% of Nebraska schools

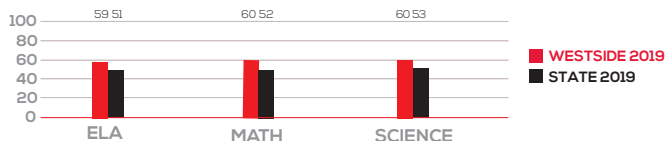
NSCAS **English Language Arts** Westside vs. State



NSCAS **Math** Westside vs. State

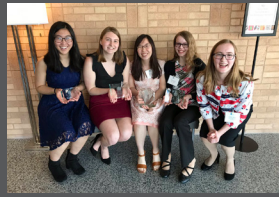


NSCAS **ACT** Westside vs. Peers and State



We Are Westside... Personalized Learning

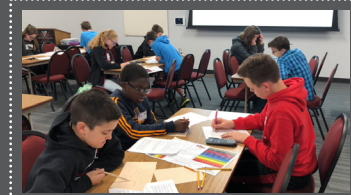
Nebraska's only Modular Scheduling system, allowing WHS students to choose what learning style, class size and length, and environment works for them



6th Grade Enrichment, providing career mentors to students



Genius Hour, allowing WMS students to identify and pursue a goal in their field of interest



Lexi Zeiss, Westside Middle School, attended USA Gymnastics Developmental Training camps in 2018 & 2019. Of the dozens of athletes invited, Lexi was the only student not home schooled. From her parents: 'Training 30 hours a week, and still maintaining a 4.0, is a testament to her, her teachers, administrators and coaches. Our family is grateful for personalized learning!'

We Are Westside... Student Awards and Honors

Activities Honors

- 91 Nebraska State Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- 2019 Poetry Bash Champion (Jules Wuestewald)
- 18 DECA students recognized in Nationals Top 20%
- 12 All State Instrumental Music selections
- 48 All State Choir selections from WHS & WMS



"25% of the entire All State Jazz Band was Westside High students in 2018/19. It's a testament to the strong level of talent that we have here at Westside High School, but even more so, it is a great testament to the great work ethic that so many of our students have."

Tommy Krueger
WHS Director of Bands and 2019 NSBA
Young Band Director Award Recipient



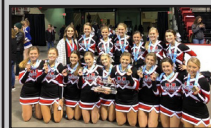
NATIONAL STUDENT REPORTER
Hannah-Kate Kinney



NATIONAL HONOR BAND
Ashleigh Madsen



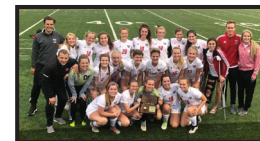
NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPIONS
ATSC Show Choir



STATE CHAMPIONS
Competitive Cheer, Golf (Kaitlyn Hanna) and Journalism

Athletics Honors

- Boys Basketball, District Champion
- Football, District Runner-Up
- Girls Cross Country, State Qualifier
- Girls Basketball, District Champion
- Girls Soccer, District Champion
- Swim & Dive, State Runner-Up
- Wrestling, 5 State Qualifiers
- Track, 13 State Qualifiers



We Are Westside... Ready for Life



\$3 million in college scholarships earned by the Westside Class of 2019



600+ business partnerships, including the Nebraska Furniture Mart School of Entrepreneurial Thinking



340 students attending college at 93 universities including Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Harvard, Princeton and Stanford



150 students learning and working in the new \$1.2 million Westside Welding, Fabrication & Manufacturing Lab



5 students in the University of Nebraska Medical Center Health Alliance program for future health professionals



3 students in the Henry Doorly Zoo Academy for future Life Sciences and STEM professionals



Roshan Spakota immigrated to the United States from Nepal at 5 years old. Roshan became an accomplished Westside High School student, was named Captain of show choir and Class President for 2019. He is currently attending Brown University on a scholarship earned through his work at Westside and partner organization College Possible.

We Are Westside... Serving All Learners

Special Services in Westside Community Schools

The mission of the Special Services Department is to provide quality educational opportunities to students with disabilities ranging in age from birth through age 21. In order to fulfill that mission, the goal is to educate all students in their neighborhood school to the greatest extent possible, regardless of their disabilities. This is made possible by offering a continuum of services designed to meet individual student needs. These services range from a consultative model to highly specialized alternative program options. Westside educates roughly 1,000 special education-identified students and employs approximately 120 certified staff members. Westside special educators are proud to be statewide leaders in the delivery of individualized, innovative, and inclusive special education services.



98%
Special
Education
graduation
rate

7-year cohort graduation rate highest in the metro area in 18/19

Expanded partnership with Children's Behavioral Health, providing on-site mental and emotional health services at Westside Middle School, Westside High School and West Campus

Unified Activities throughout our schools including Sparkles Cheer and NSAA sanctioned Unified Sports

Project Search partnership with Children's Hospital & Medical Center

Award-winning preschool program at Underwood Hills, including Peer Model program

"It was at Westside High School Kari Wilson came into our lives. 'Wilson' as D calls her was Darek's teacher all four years of high school. She was the teacher that every parent wants for their child - a consummate professional who knew her craft and loved our kid immediately."

Maddie Fennell

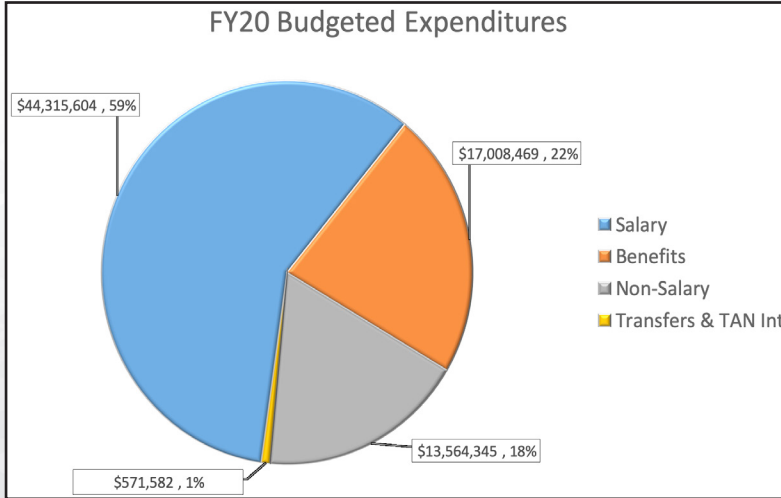
Westside parent and Executive Director of the Nebraska State Education Association



We Are Westside... Fiscally Responsible

FY20 Budget: \$75,460,000

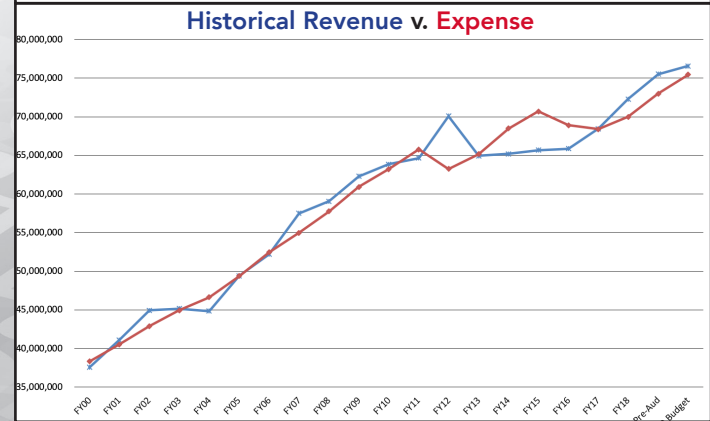
Where Does the Money Go?



- 2019/20 enrollment: 5,995 K-12 students, the highest in four years. Approximately 34% of our students live in other districts and choose to attend Westside through option enrollment, adding approximately \$20,270,000 in revenue to our district, allowing us to maintain 10 neighborhood elementary schools, 1:1 technology, modular scheduling and to provide robust programs and course offerings.

Revenue vs. Expenses

Since 2013/14, Westside has only had an average spending increase of 0.475%



- We reduced our General Fund levy by 1 penny, to \$1.1924
- The Total levy (General Fund/Bond/Bldg) then decreased by \$0.002514 or 0.18%, to \$1.3824
- Based on a \$250,000 home, the annual tax payment would be \$3,456, which is a decrease of \$6.28 from the prior year

We Are Westside... Building for the Future

We are currently working on our final project as part of Phase 1 in Westside's 2015 Facilities Master Plan. To date, all projects have been completed **on time and on budget**.

Oakdale Elementary, 9801 West Center Road

- Opened to students in January 2018
- 54,600 square feet
- \$14,504,000
- KEY FEATURES: Improved safety and security, dedicated art and music space, historical elements from 1871 school (architectural design and original school bell)



Prairie Lane Elementary *Under Construction* 11444 Hascall Street

- Opening to students in 2021
- 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



Sunset Hills Elementary, 9503 Walnut Street

- Opened to students in August 2018
- 54,600 square feet
- \$13,824,000
- KEY FEATURES: Expanded to become a 2-section school, improved safety and security, separate gym and cafeteria, new project-based learning areas



Swanson Elementary, 410 S. 86th Street

- Opened to students in August 2019
- 54,600 square feet
- \$13,904,000
- KEY FEATURES: Additional classroom space to replace portables, a dedicated outdoor education or science room with access to Arboretum, separate gym and cafeteria, improved safety and security including storm shelters



Hawkins Family Westside Boys & Girls Club at Westbrook 1414 Robertson Drive

- Opened to students in August 2019
- 15,000 square feet of dedicated club space
- Project financed by Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- KEY FEATURES: Safety and security improvements, drone obstacle course, learning space available for Westbrook elementary students



Westside Middle School, 8601 Arbor Street

- Renovation complete: January 2017
- 75,600 square feet renovated for 183,000 total square feet
- \$16,765,000
- KEY FEATURES: Utility and structural repairs throughout, science lab improvements, additional learning space to replace portables, improved special education areas



Be in the Know... Stay Connected

Would you like to receive updates about Westside Community Schools?

Register today to receive emails with updates on student achievement, finances, student & staff highlights and so much more. Send an email to: paul.brandi@westside66.net

Check us Out:



www.westside66.org



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



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

This annual report is provided as a quick snapshot of 2018-19. It has been produced by the Communications Department. For more detailed information, check out the District website at www.westside66.org or contact the central office at 402-390-2100

Westside Community Schools
909 South 76th Street
Omaha, NE 68114

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68114

Westside Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, marital/parental status, military/veteran status or any other category protected by law in its programs and activities or in admission or access to, or treatment in, hiring and employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following District personnel have been designated to coordinate compliance and can address inquiries about the District's nondiscrimination policies and procedures:

For questions or concerns by students, parents or others:

Coordinator of Student Services/Title IX Coordinator – ABC Bldg. 909 So. 76th St. Omaha, NE 68114, (402) 390-2100 E-mail: titleixcoordinator@westside66.net Director of Special Services/ADA & 504 Coordinator (disability/accommodation) ABC Bldg. 909 So. 76th St. Omaha (402) 390-2100

E-mail: ADAcoordinator@westside66.net For questions by District employees or applicants: Ass't Supt. for Human Resources/Lead Title IX Coordinator - 909 So. 76th St. Omaha, NE 68114, (402) 390-2100 E-mail: titleixcoordinatorHR@westside66.net For further information about anti-discrimination laws or to file a complaint of discrimination you may also contact the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Dept. of Education, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, MO 64106, Tele. (816) 268-0550, Fax (816) 268-0599, (TDD) (800) 877-8339, or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.