

# Westside Community Schools



Celebrating the **Past**... Impacting the **Future**

2022 **ANNUAL REPORT** to the Community

# Who We Are... District Leadership

## Board of Education

Westside Board of Education meetings are primarily twice a month on Monday evenings unless otherwise posted. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. at the ABC Administration Building at 909 S. 76th Street. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found at [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org).



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

## Message from Superintendent, Dr. Mike Lucas



**THANK YOU** for reviewing our Annual Report.

We have much to celebrate and be proud of as a result of your support. Our theme for the 2022-23 school year has been to RISE UP. We want to be **R**esponsible, **I**nfluential, **S**tudent-Centered, **E**levated, **U**nited and **P**assionate in what we do and who we do it for. This is our 75th year as a school district and we are so proud of our decorated and successful past and just as excited about our promising future!

There are many things to take in and learn from this annual report. You will see the demographics of our diverse student body that we are proud to serve with a mission of "belonging for all." You will see academic information regarding how our students do on assessments and the amazing, robust curriculum we get to offer. You will see efficient financial data as our Board of Education continues to work hard to maximize our budget to meet the needs of our students and staff. You will see many awards, championships, and accomplishments to celebrate.

We are always going to be an organization that is pushing forward through our Strategic Plan to get better in all areas. We are working to address our next set of facility needs. We are working to retain and recruit high-quality staff that makes a difference with over 6,000 students each day. It's an exciting time to be part of Westside Community Schools. We thank you for your support and for sharing your children with us. There's no better place to be than Westside!

*Mike Lucas*



# Who We Are... Fast Facts

**6,123** PreK - 12 students

**1,080** Staff Members

**38.4%** Of our students qualify for free/reduced meals

**9.8%** Students identified as High Ability Learners

**32** Number of languages spoken (230 English Language Learners)

**24** Employee state or national awards

**200** Battle of the Books participants

**26** AP courses at WHS  
WHS students have enrolled in more than 900 AP classes annually over the past three years.

**76%** of Westside teachers have earned a Master's degree or higher, versus 58% state

**14%** of students receive Special Services

**30** Dual credit courses offered at WHS

**23** AVENUE SCHOLARS  
Your Foundation for Success  
WHS students are registered with Avenue Scholars

**8,640** Meals packaged for Food Bank for the Heartland by the WHS Community Service Learning class

**20** Students, on average, in each K-6 classroom

**8**

New teachers were former Educational Assistants

**4** Westside Community Walks

**20** Students annually attend career academy programming with UNMC, MCC, and the Henry Doorly Zoo Academy

**350** Learners in Westside Early Childhood Program

**10%** of the class of 2022 scored a **30 or better** on the ACT

**36%** of our students live outside the district and opt-in

**338** Students earned 2,046 credits with Metro Community College in the 2021-22 school year

**450+** Dual enrollment registrations with UNO and Nebraska Wesleyan

# Who We Are... Academic Excellence

## Dr. Mark Weichel

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

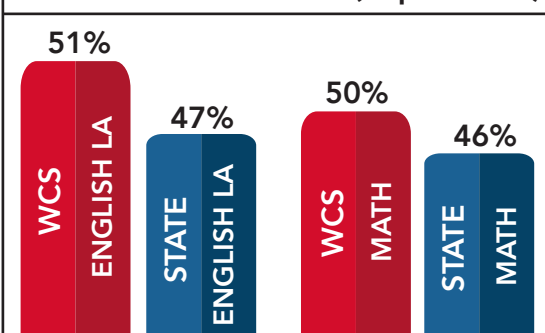


Student achievement and well-being are the two main focus areas every year for our work in Westside Community Schools. Academic excellence is one of the principles our district was founded on and serves as a key component of our strategic plan. We are constantly working to improve how we teach to ensure the success of our students. Just as we measure their learning with tests and exams, there are several state and national barometers that do the same for us as public school districts.

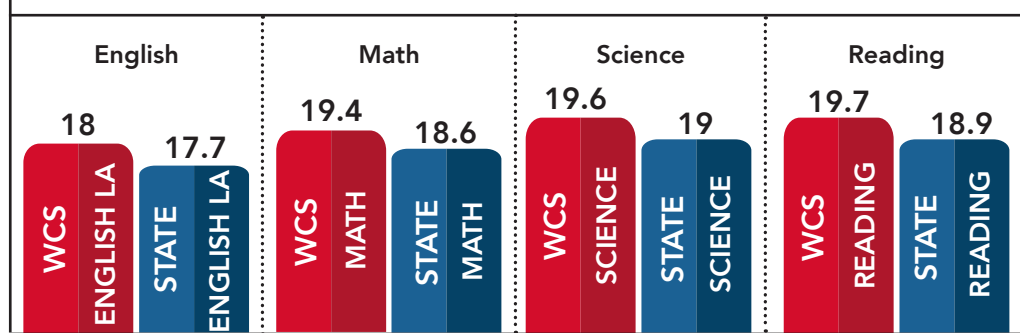
With that, we want to add a note for clarity to the test results presented to you in this report. The NSCAS assessment has been in a state of change since 2019, making these results muddy for interpretation. In addition to a new test design, there were inconsistencies in the new test that created an inability to accurately compare year-over-year scores. Furthermore, new cut scores for English Language Arts and Math will be established in the summer of 2023, which will again make annual comparisons a challenge next fall.

Because Westside prioritizes student achievement, we utilize multiple measures of academic achievement beyond NSCAS scores throughout the year to ensure we are data-informed in all of our decisions on how to best educate our children, including grade-level common assessments, FASTBridge, and NWEA MAP. Such assessments allow instructors to see students' current level of academic achievement so that teams of educators can collaborate and determine which students need extra time, extra support, or extensions. We will continue to analyze these results and work with all of our learners to ensure we are helping each child reach their full academic potential at Westside.

### 2021/22 NSCAS Scores (% proficient)



### 2022 NSCAS ACT Scores



# Who We Are... Academic Excellence

## Academic Highlights

### Prairie Lane: 2022 Mirador Math Award



- Math composite for K-1 students up 22%
- 86% of 2-6 graders made typical or aggressive growth, proficiency at benchmark up 24% (highest growth in district)

### Sunset Hills: 2022 Lighthouse Literacy Award



- 87% of K-1 students at/above benchmark (highest in district)
- 77% of 1-6 students made typical/aggressive growth
- 90% of 2-6 students at/above benchmark, (highest in district)

### Westside Middle School



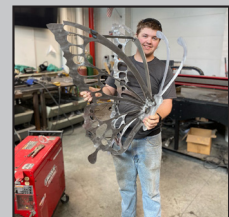
- 514 WMS students with 3.5 GPA or higher (Spring 2022)

### Westside High School



- 17 Buffett Scholarship winners
- 36 University of Nebraska Regent Scholarship recipients
- 900 AP course registrations (2021-22 school year)

### Emeron Christensen - Class of 2022



Emeron Christensen, Class of 2022, attended Paddock Road Elementary and Westside Middle School. At Westside High School, he was named a Skills USA State Champion in 2021, enrolled in Westside's Dual Enrollment program with Metro Community College, and earned his Career Certification in Welding. Emeron left a legacy at Westside, creating custom steel pollinator garden art for Westgate Pool.

### Lademi (Hadassah) Davies - Class of 2023



Lademi Davies, Class of 2023, is a State Champion Track & Field athlete, a National Merit Semi-Finalist, All State Band Member and Drum Major, and Westside's 2022 Homecoming Queen.

From Lademi: *"Being at Westside High School has helped me grow in all things that I love. The fact that I can learn in innovative ways from great teachers, be involved in music in so many different places, and continue to improve under great track and field coaches means a lot to me. I truly couldn't have selected a better place to spend the last four years. As I go on in life, I'll never forget the impact Westside has made on who I am today."*

# Who We Are... Academic Excellence

## Academic Highlights

17

Buffett Scholarship winners

36

University of Nebraska Regent scholarship recipients

900

AP course registrations (2021-22 school year)

6

New classes added at WHS for 2022-23

4

Nebraska State Science Olympiad qualifiers

279

Dual enrollment courses through UNO in the spring of 2022

34

National DECA awards

3

National Academic Pentathlon qualifiers

471

National Merit semi-finalists (including 3 from fall 2022)

11

Skills USA state qualifiers

9

International Academic Competition national qualifiers

180,000

Scholarship money earned by Soniel Hiner, USMC NROTC scholarship

2

Young Crime Writers USA Contest winners

14

National Latin Exam award winners

12

State or National journalism awards

50

Varsity Academic All-State student athletes

- National African American Recognition award winner (College Board), **Laurel Sekpe**
- National History Day qualifier, **Lauren Buban** (WHS)
- National Geography Bee qualifier, **Ethan Brooks** (WMS)
- National Science Bee quarter-finalist, **Will Allpress** (Swanson)
- 2022 Nebraska Robotics State Champions and 2022 Global Innovation awards qualifiers (**Gizmo Gang**)
- National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement award, **Elizabeth Bender**
- National American Junior Academy of Science qualifier, **Ella Humphrey**
- 2022 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing honorable mention, **Yelyzaveta Frolova**



### NEW CLASSES ADDED AT WHS FOR 2022-23

- Advanced Algebra Lab
- Teaching as a Profession
- Intro to Special Education (dual credit, UNO)
- English Composition I (dual credit, MCC)
- English Composition II (dual credit, MCC)
- Avenue Scholars with Career Coaching

# Who We Are... WE-SIDE

## WE-SIDE HIGHLIGHTS

- Unified Basketball Metro Tournament Division 2 Champions
- Unified Sideline, State Runners Up
- 3 finalists for 2022 MLK Jr. Social Justice Competition
- All 13 buildings designated as No Place For Hate Schools
- 8 Project Search graduates
- \$2,022 raised by the Polar Plunge for WE-SIDE Unified
- 4 Westside Community Walks



## NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Westside Community Schools is proud to share that all 12 District 66 schools have been named National Banner Unified Champion Schools for 2022. This honor recognizes an organization's commitment to inclusion by achieving ten set standards of excellence developed by leaders in education and Special Olympics, including ongoing efforts to connect students with and without intellectual disabilities. Westside is the first district with elementary schools who have earned this honor, believed to be the first multi-school District in the state to receive this honor, and possibly the first multi-school District in the country to receive this honor.

All of Westside's 10 elementary schools, Westside Middle School and Westside High School have been awarded this distinction. Westside formally celebrated this honor by recognizing students from every school at the 2022 Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday, October 7. The entire community, as well as all students, families and staff, packed the stands at Phelps Field to celebrate this honor, and banners are now on display in all of our schools.

- Monthly Unified activities including fishing, movie nights, and bowling, intended to partner students with and without intellectual disabilities
- WHS Unified Sparkles Cheer, a cheerleading program involving students with and without intellectual disabilities, the first ever selected to perform at an NSAA State Championship
- Unified Clubs and Sports opportunities available at each level of learning
- Project SEARCH, a transitional program providing internship and job placement opportunities for young adults with special needs
- Creation of Arts For Me program, providing teenage students with special needs access to art training and creation, with opportunities to display their work at professional galleries



*Scan here to learn more!*



# Who We Are... Awards and Honors

■ State Champions

■ National Champions

## Activities

**DECA:** **10 STATE CHAMPIONS:** Zev Gordman, Jack Smith, Bree Bell, Mary Nilius, Jack Gerard, Umanga Ghimire, Lilly DiPrima, Charlotte Murphy, Chase Kroeger, Simon Hanus

**DANCE:** National Team Semi-Finalists (Pom & Jazz)

**CHEER:** Heartland Championships Class A Non-Tumbling Champions; Nebraska State Cheer 1st Runner Up, Class A Non-Tumbling Unified Sideline: State Runner Up

**VOCAL MUSIC:**

**ATSB & ATSC**

**ATSB: National Champions in Best Band at Heart of America**

ATSC: National 3rd Place at Heart of America

**Westside Connection (WMS):** 5 Overall Grand Champion awards, 14 season awards

**58 WHS & WMS students named to All State Music Ensembles & Choir**

47 WHS students named to All-State Music Ensembles

11 WMS students selected for Middle-Level All State Choir

**Bow Tie Boys, selected to perform National Anthem at NSAA State Football Championships**

**BAND:** 22 selections for All State Band events (WMS and WHS)

5 Omaha Performing Arts Jazz Academy selections

**Concert Jazz Band: STATE CHAMPION for NSBA State Jazz Festival Class AA, Sweepstakes Award, Best Rhythm Section**

**Stage Band: STATE CHAMPION for NSBA State Jazz Festival Class AA 2nd Bands**

Colin Worthington: selected to the NAFME All National Band on clarinet

**ORCHESTRA:** 9 selections for All State Orchestra events (WMS and WHS)

Heike Lowe: 2022-23 Omaha Youth Orchestra Concert Competition winner

**JOURNALISM:**

Jaden Taylor: 1st Runner Up, Nebraska Student Journalist of the Year

3 National Federation of Press Women awards

**DRAMA:** 8 NSAA Play Production Outstanding Acting awards

**E-SPORTS:** **STATE & REGIONAL CHAMPIONS (Rocket League),**

State Runners Up & **REGIONAL CHAMPIONS (Valorant)**

**RED SHIELD: STATE CHAMPIONS**



ATSB



Dance Team



E-Sports



WMS All-State Band



# Who We Are... Awards and Honors

■ State Champions

■ National Champions

## Athletics

**Omaha World Herald 2022 Class A All-Sports Champion**

**BOWLING:** Girls District Champions, 4 state qualifiers

**BASKETBALL:** Boys District Champions

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:** State Runners Up

**GOLF:** Boys Golf, State Runners Up -

Trevor Gutschewski, Wells Fargo Open Low-Amateur Champion

Jackson Bengé & Kolby Brown, US Junior Amateur Championship qualifiers

Jackson Bengé & Katilyn Hanna, Girls & Boys Nebraska Junior Match Play Champions

**FOOTBALL:**

**VARSITY STATE CHAMPIONS**

**UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS**

**SWIMMING:**

**STATE CHAMPIONS:** Nate Germonprez (100 Fly & 200 Free), Jack Ellison (500 Free)

Girls & Boys Swim Teams: State Bronze Medalists

**Nate Germonprez: 2024 Olympic Swim Trials qualifier & selected for 2022-23 USA Swimming Junior National Team**

**SOCCER:** Boys State Runners Up

**VOLLEYBALL:** State Runner Up & District Champions

**TENNIS:** AJ Shefsky, member of the 2022 Summer Tennis Europe Tour

**TRACK & FIELD:**

**STATE CHAMPIONS:** Lademi Davies (Long Jump), Stella Miner (800M)

**WRESTLING:**

**STATE CHAMPION:** Regan Rosseter, Wrestling

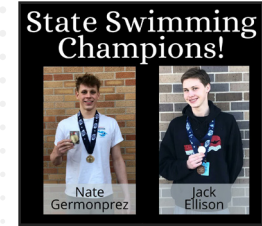
11 State Wrestling qualifiers (2 State Runners Up: Michael Myers & Cole Haberman)

Metro Wrestling Champions: Regan Rosseter, Piper Zatechka, Alicia Gubalke

2 Pre-Season All Americans: Regan Rosseter and Zoey Barber



Bowling



Swimming



Regan Rosseter



Warrior Football



Stella Miner



Lademi Davies

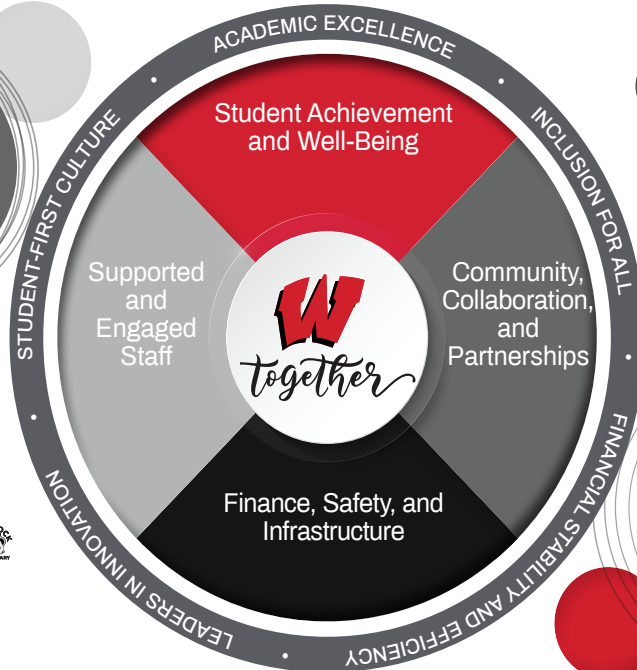
# Who We Are... A Strategic Plan for Success



## Westside Community Schools Strategic Plan 2021-2026

### Mission

The mission of the Westside Community School District, as an innovative educational system, is to ensure academic excellence and to serve the unique needs of all learners.



### Vision

Westside Community Schools will relentlessly pursue innovative educational ideals and promise to personalize learning for every student. We invite the challenge of developing a community of learners who embrace a broader, richer definition of success.

The Westside Community Schools Strategic Plan is a detailed outlook and playbook that will take our district through 2026. This plan came to be after 15-months of community-wide surveys, research and focus groups including parents, teachers, administrators, community members, business owners and more. What do we want Westside to look like over the next several years and how are we actively working to reach those goals?

Visit [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org) to view our Strategic Plan Dashboard for an updated progress report. You can also scan the QR code below to learn more!



# Who We Are... A Strategic Plan for Success

In addition to our Strategic Plan Dashboard posted online, we are working to frequently update you with evidence on how we are focusing on each of these key areas. Monthly recaps are shared in our Westside Pride newsletter.

## Student Achievement and Well-Being

- Nebraska students, including at Westside, are scoring among the best in the country on national math and reading assessments according to 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shared by the Nebraska Department of Education in October (Source, KMTV)
- Multiple career fairs, college and business tours, for both Westside High School and WHS West Campus students
- Number of credit hours, earned by Westside High School students dually enrolled with Metro Community College, doubled year to year, from 890 in 2021 to 2,046 in 2022
- Westside students scored a 3.75 out of 4.0 on the Likert scale, reflecting their level of belonging and dignity as part of our school community

## Community, Collaboration, and Partnerships

- Westside leaders hosted State Senators, State Board of Education members, and Westside parents and patrons in a series of meetings this past fall to detail what we cover in our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum, how we introduce math and reading concepts at the elementary level, and how we work on overall curriculum alignment
- We currently have 57 strategic community partners and business affiliations
- We have over 1,900 community members, alumni and neighbors receiving district newsletters and email updates and we'd like to add more. Visit [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org) and subscribe to our list!
- During the 2nd semester of this school year, Westside leaders will be hosting a community legislative overview, a State Senator reception, and multiple Community Coffee and Lunch & Learn sessions for our public

## Supported and Engaged Staff

- Staff stipends for certified and classified staff members
- Multiple staff recognition campaigns including the Westside Royalty Cup, 'Westside Loves Me' and flex days off for staff, #MyWhyWednesday videos highlighting staff
- Westside HR developing/pursuing Grow Our Own Initiatives to better recruit and retain staff, including partnership with Midland University to provide 16 classified staff members free tuition to pursue teaching degrees and careers at Westside. (Source, Omaha World Herald)

## Finance, Safety, and Infrastructure

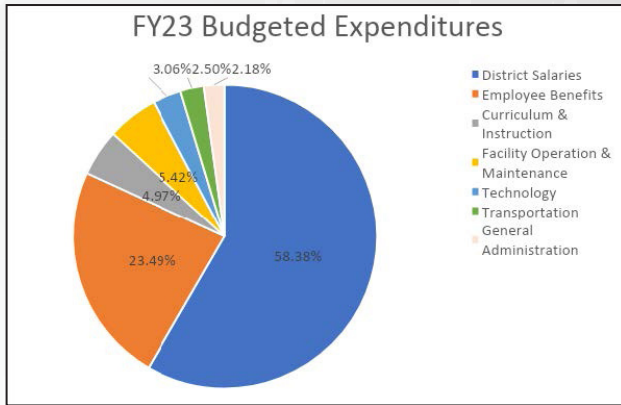
- This past fall, our tax levy rate decreased for the 4th year in a row to our lowest total levy rate since 2015
- Our current 2022-23 total tax levy is 9.9 cents LOWER than it was in 2018-19
- The district has reworked its budget to allocate sustainable, annual budgetary dollars to better keep up with ongoing facility needs throughout the district
- School safety and security remains a top priority as we conduct regular audits to see how we can better enhance our buildings and campuses through more secure measures

# Who We Are... Fiscally Responsible

FY23 Budget: \$88,656,156

We are excited to announce that thanks to the efforts of our amazing Board of Education, we reduced our tax levy rate for the 4th year in a row, with the second highest year-to-year levy rate drop in 25 years!

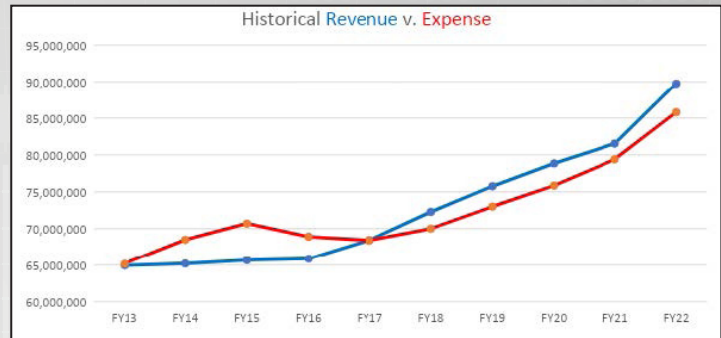
## Where Does the Money Go?



For FY22, approximately 34% 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 \$20,123,942 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 3.52%



- For FY22, we **reduced** our General Fund Levy by 9 pennies, the fourth year in a row it has decreased
- For FY23, the total levy (General Fund/Bond/Bldg) **decreased** by 5 pennies
- Based on a home valued at \$250,000, the annual tax payment would be \$3,213, a **decrease** of \$124.44 from the prior year

# Who We Are... Building for the Future

In 2013, the District's 15-Year Facilities Master Plan was created. At that time, it identified approximately \$240 million worth of work that needed to be done throughout District 66. In 2014, Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan was approved by our voters for \$79.9 million worth of work that focused on **safety and security** and included **new buildings for Sunset Hills, Oakdale, Swanson, and Prairie Lane**. Extensive remodeling work was done at **Westside MIDDLE School** as well. All projects were done **ON TIME** and **ON BUDGET!**

We invite you to review the work completed in Phase 1 and to stay informed about future projects, visit our website: [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org), click **Our District** and **Construction Updates**.

## ← Infrastructure Expansion →



Westside Middle School



Westside High School

## ← New Construction →



Westgate Elementary



Hillside Elementary



Loveland Elementary

## ← Renovations →



Westbrook Elementary



Paddock Road Elementary



Rockbrook Elementary

Through the help of parents and community members on our Facilities Task Force, we are hoping to move into PHASE II of our facilities plan soon. Building needs at Loveland (built in 1932), Westgate (originally built in 1956 and then hastily rebuilt in 1975 after the tornado), Hillside (built in 1954), Paddock Road, Rockbrook, Westbrook, WMS, and WHS will look to be addressed when Phase II is brought forward. We are thankful that our current tax levy is 9.9 cents LOWER than it was in 2018-19. Look for much more information this spring as we look to make meaningful enhancements across the district.

# Who We Are... Rising Up Together

Our staff members at Westside Community Schools are the heart and soul of our district, dedicated to the success of thousands of children year after year. We are committed to our strategic goal to be innovative in attracting, selecting, developing and retaining excellent staff in a quality work environment. All staff members will learn and grow in a culture where everyone belongs.

## 2022 EMPLOYEE HONORS

- Amanda Moon, 2022-23 NAESP Principal of the Year (Region II) • Paul Limongi, Huskerland Football Coach of the Year
- Craig Secora, Nebraska Strength Coach of the Year • Erin Lunsford, 2022 National Art Education Association national presenter
- Abbey Sualy, Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Leadership Cadre selection • Leon Micek, Star 104.5 Teacher of the Week
- Mike Jernigan, 2022 Metro Wrestling Coaches Association Head Boys Coach of the Year
- Julie Schmitz & Stephanie Pueppka, 2022 Schragger Distinguished Teaching Award winners
- Bob Mulligan, 2022 Metro Wrestling Coaches Association Head Girls Coach of the Year
- Reed Weber, 2022 Metro Wrestling Coaches Association Assistant Boys Coach of the Year
- Rick Painter, 2022 Outstanding Counselor of the Year
- Jon Preister & Andy Rider, 2022 Schragger Outstanding Coach Award winners
- Dylan Travis, World Gold Medalist, 3x3 basketball for Team USA
- Sarah Dohman, Claudia Kinnaman, Marlo Tomich & Carol Steiner, Cox Education Heroes
- Doran Johnson, 2022/23 Nebraska Outstanding Music Educator of the Year
- Ashley Palumbo & Brie Friis-Hansen, 2022 Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Award winners
- Aaron Stepp, 2022 Dick Lundquist Excellence in Teaching Award winner
- Kim Briggs, Kim Reagan & Erin Hamilton, 2022 Omaha Firefighter Lifesaver Awards



Julie Schmitz & Stephanie Pueppka



Rick Painter



Jon Preister & Andy Rider



Aaron Stepp



Kim Briggs, Kim Reagan & Erin Hamilton

# Who We Are... A Team United

## Dr. Andrea Haynes

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations



*Realizing Student Success  
through Employee Engagement*

Westside Human Resources



As we review the past year, our Human Resources department and our District Operations teams have remained committed to excellence and ensuring a safe, productive, and welcoming work environment that enables our approximately 1,200 staff members to do their best work every day. We re-emerged from the pandemic, finding joy in being together in person once again, but also weaving the lessons from the previous years into new ways of operating and serving the Westside community.

Within our Human Resources Department our approach to attracting, retaining, and developing the best talent has evolved since the pandemic and will continue to do so. Through a national labor shortage, we initiated several new recruitment methods, including a unique and innovative veterans recruitment and support program. Westside also continues to focus on recruiting the most highly qualified teachers and diversifying our teacher pipeline to serve the unique needs of all learners within our district community.

Our Business/Finance team rolled out new processes to improve the efficiency and efficacy of their services through the digitalization of tasks and additional support provided to both internal and external stakeholders. Led by our District Officer of Business and Finance, the team continues to work diligently to balance the fiscal needs of academic programs, facilities, technology infrastructure, human capital, student programs/services, and operations while maintaining our status as responsible stewards of public funds.

Our Nutrition Services teams and Facilities/Operations teams maneuvered around lagging supply chains and talent shortages to solidify their daily tasks of serving schools and students. With improved staffing patterns during the Fall of 2022, they remain focused on providing the essential infrastructure that fuels the daily activities in our schools, ensuring our facilities are safe and clean and our students are fed nutritious meals each day.

Our Student Services team continues to provide essential enrollment, student records, and safety services to the entire district community, focused on the highest degree of accuracy. Since most services are provided through tech-based platforms, the team strives to provide data integrity and better accessible systems (PowerSchool) for not only staff, but also for students and their families.

As our entire HR and Operations divisions press forward, we continue to let our district's Strategic Plan serve as our North Star. We will remain focused on deploying innovative solutions, while also providing support to motivate, engage and care for our dedicated team members. Our biggest asset as a district are the teams of talented adults who serve our students. It is through them that we are able to make a difference in the lives of our young people each and every day.

# Who We Are... A Team United

Westside Community Schools employs a diverse roster of staff, approximately 1,200 employees, to serve our district and to pursue innovative, educational ideals and personalized learning for every student. We strive to recruit and hire top talent for all positions, from administrators and teachers to operations and nutrition services.

## **CERTIFIED Staff** **Overview (2022-23)**

*Certified Staff members include teachers, administrators and instructional support providers who hold an educator's license or Nebraska teaching certificate.*

- 572 certified staff members
  - 123 bachelor's degrees
  - 8 bachelor's plus degrees
  - 297 master's degrees
  - 89 master's plus degrees
  - 10 specialist's degrees
  - 12 doctoral degrees
  - 33 certified administrators

## **CLASSIFIED Staff** **Overview (2022-23)**

*Classified Staff members include Westside employees who are not required to hold an educator's license for their position, but offer important support services to our students and staff, vital for district operations.*

- 508 classified staff members
  - 59 classified professionals
  - 38 administrative assistants
  - 236 educational assistants
  - 63 nutrition services employees
  - 112 building services employees

236 of our team members, approximately 21% of our staff, are Educational Assistants, vital to our classrooms, support of teachers, and the success of our students.





# Who We Are... A Team United

Westside continues to enhance our framework for supporting new certified staff. This year we rolled out a survey to teachers new to Westside to better understand their experiences and needs. Teachers are provided with a 3-year support and mentoring program as they make their transition into Westside's collaborative environment. One of the unique opportunities of our opening program was to take all new teachers on a tour of Westside boundaries and option neighborhoods, with 92% of participants reporting that the tour was helpful in understanding Westside.

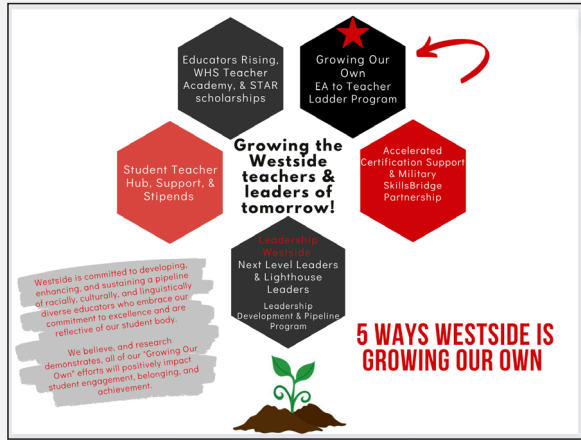
## STATS FOR TEACHERS HIRED IN THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR:



As a part of Goal 2 of our Strategic Plan, we have implemented an EA to Teacher Ladder Program. Below are a few exciting updates:

- ✓ 15 current EAs are enrolled
- ✓ Participants are taking full-time classes at Midland University's Omaha campus
- ✓ Participants have an average grade of "A" for all course work thus far
- ✓ Participants are projected to graduate with teaching degrees and certification in the Spring of 2024

We are excited to add these hardworking team members to our teaching ranks!



# Who We Are... Warrior Alumni

## Warriors for Life

Foundation and Alumni Association → 

Westside Community Schools has helped nurture remarkable talent, influence and goodwill in countless people spanning the globe. Students have left Westside to become doctors, philanthropists, business leaders, teachers, artists, entrepreneurs and industry leaders. We invite all Westside graduates to sign up for our newsletters, and to consider joining the Westside Alumni Association and/or Westside Foundation for updates on Westside Community Schools. You are always welcome home!



**DR. GARNET BLATCHFORD**  
Class of 1975  
Physician and CMO

Dr. Garnet Blatchford, only the fourth woman to complete the general surgery program at that time at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, has since practiced at seven different Omaha hospitals, while teaching and authoring countless publications and textbooks. She is the Vice President of Medical Affairs, Chief Medical Officer for Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital, the first woman to hold this position.



**JAKE MEYERS**  
Class of 2014  
World Series Champion

Jake Meyers helped lead the Westside Warriors win back-to-back Class A Baseball State Championship titles before he was recruited to pitch for Nebraska. Meyers was drafted by the Houston Astros in 2017; he made his MLB debut in 2021, and was part of the 2022 World Series team.



**MAC SMITH**  
Class of 1992  
Emmy Award Winning Sound Editor

Mac Smith, a former member of Westside's Broadcast Journalism program, is now a Supervising Sound Editor with Skywalker Sound. An award-winning documentary producer and director, Smith won an Emmy in 2022 for Outstanding Sound Editing for Marvel's Moon Knight.

# Who We Are... Celebrating 75 Years of Innovation... Community... Excellence



## WE-SIDE UNIFIED CELEBRATION

- 3,500 viewers watched online
- 9,000 reached on social media

## HOMECOMING PARADE

- 831 watched online across the country
- 1,100 reached on social media

## HOMECOMING PEP RALLY

- 1,300 watched online
- 9,000 reached on social media



Sunset Hills Elementary



WMS Fall Sports



Swanson Elementary



Loveland Elementary



WHS Warrior Band

WESTSIDE  
HOMECOMING  
PARADE  
2022



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*This Annual Report is provided as a quick snapshot of 2022. It has been produced by the Communications Department. For more detailed information, please visit the district website at [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org) or contact the Central Office at 402-390-2100.*

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