



XENIA
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**STATE OF
THE DISTRICT**



PATHWAYS TO

SUCCESS



SPRING 2021

STATE OF THE DISTRICT: A SNAPSHOT

From a focus on academics and the arts to athletics and growing student leaders, Xenia Community Schools is working to nurture students with opportunities and resources to match their needs, creating new paths to success for every student, every day.

The district's award-winning School Board and Treasurer's Office are setting a high standard for governance, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. **PAGES 4-5**

Student Learning, Life & Leadership **PAGES 6-7**

From our **Five-Star Step Up to Quality Preschool**, which sets our youngest learners on a solid path to a lifetime of learning, to the **40+ clubs and activities for high school students**, our district is moving forward to support our students and grow the leaders of tomorrow. Whether students are taking advantage of programs ranging from arts to robotics teams, or participating in leadership opportunities like National Honor Society or Student Council, there are opportunities for student development at every age level.



From **Shawnee Elementary receiving the Momentum Award (2019)** from the Ohio Department of Education to **100% of students meeting the 3rd grade reading guarantee**, students continued to learn together. Through the creative use of technology paired with quality teaching, the district continued to meet the needs of every student, every day.



Facilities **PAGES 11-13**

A renewed commitment to creating the best possible learning environment for students at every age level includes developing the whole student—from classroom spaces to athletics to arts facilities.



CHAMPIONS

Athletics **PAGES 14-15**

From a **championship MVL football team (2019)** to crowning XHS alum **Samari Curtis as Ohio's "Mr. Basketball" (2019)**, the district supports the growth and development of our student-athletes on all fronts.





A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Looking back over the past several years, the sheer number of changes and adjustments that all of us have made in our daily lives feels staggering to contemplate. Like districts across the country, Xenia Community Schools has been faced with making many difficult decisions in the midst of a global pandemic—often with no road map to follow!

While the pandemic may have accelerated some plans—and delayed others—our basic goals remained largely the same: help students develop to their fullest potential, create the best possible learning environment while ensuring the wellbeing of students and teachers, and ensure that all students and teachers have access to critical resources.

In recent years, we have worked hard to expand our 1:1 technology commitment, ensure that students have internet at home to access learning regardless of outside factors, and continue on our path to modernize and equip our physical learning spaces to meet the needs of students today and for decades to come.

The need to create the best learning environment for students drove us to push forward with our ten-year Infrastructure Plan, focusing on much-needed renovations and construction projects. In addition to the current state-of-the-art Athletics facilities, over the past two years the district has tackled multiple major projects, including a renovation of the Bob Hope Auditorium at Xenia High School, as well as an extensive reconstruction of Benner Field House last fall. Other significant projects ranged from technology upgrades on Secondary Campuses to parking lot repair and a district-wide LED lighting project that will benefit the district for years to come.

I hope you will enjoy this snapshot of how far we have come together, and will join me in looking forward to building a brighter future for all of our students!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabe Lofton
Superintendent



BY THE NUMBERS

In a district that covers more than **126 square miles** in the heart of Greene County, Ohio, Xenia Community Schools is home to **4,100 motivated students** that learn daily with more than **500 dedicated teachers, aides, secretaries, and other staff members.**

The district features eight buildings, including:

Xenia Preschool, Arrowood Elementary,

Cox Elementary, McKinley Elementary,

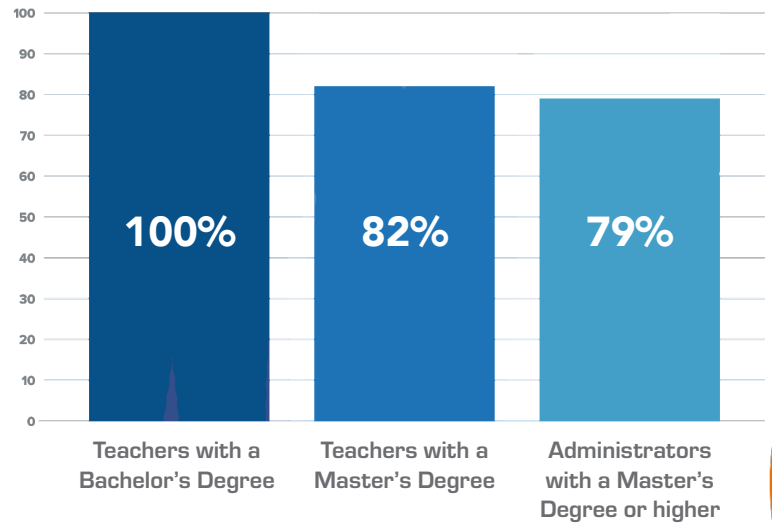
Shawnee Elementary, Tecumseh Elementary,

Warner Middle School, and Xenia High School.

Our elementary buildings, all built in 2012, offer the comfort of small populations in neighborhood schools that serve students in their own backyard.

Our middle and high school buildings are more centralized to prepare students for their future together.

501 Staff Members



2021 XENIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

6

Consecutive years the XCS Board has been recognized as a **GOLD LEVEL Board** by the Southwest Region of the Ohio School Boards Association.

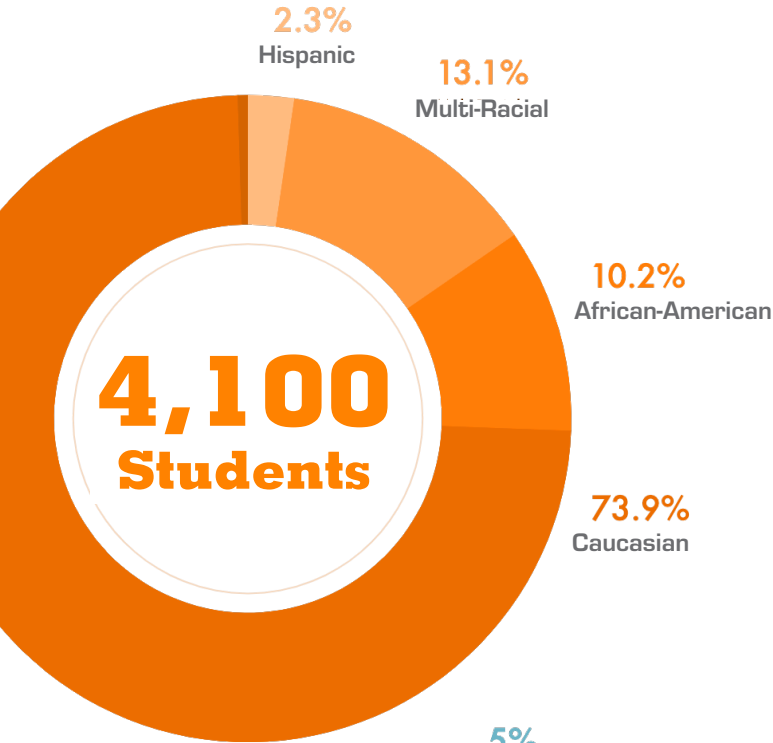


L-R: Cheryl Marcus, Jennifer Marietta, Dr. Robert P. Dillaplain, President Tamara Bartley, Vice President Dr. Pam Callahan

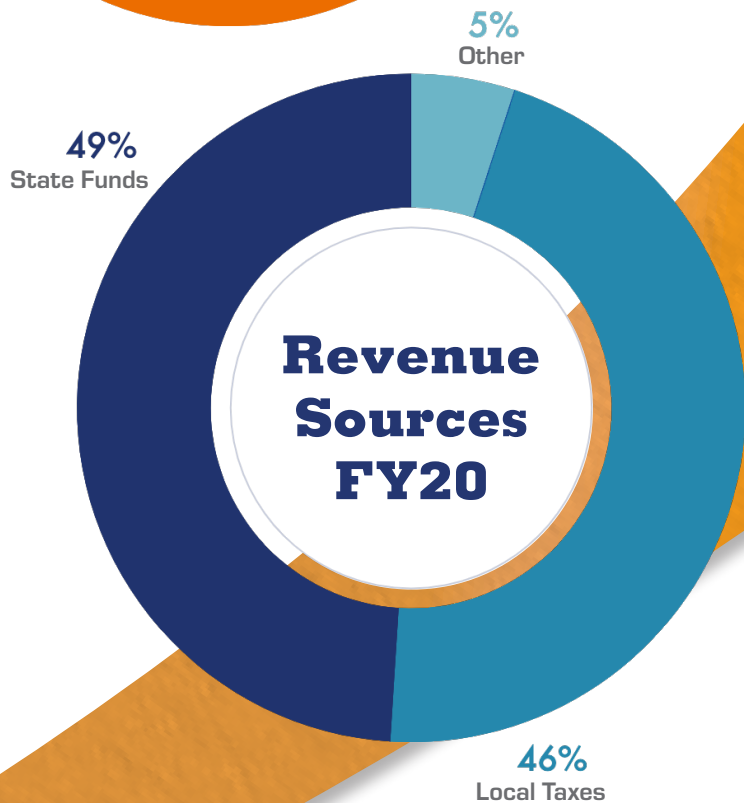
OUR AWARD-WINNING BOARD OF EDUCATION IS COMMITTED TO GOOD GOVERNANCE!

70%

of district funds support classroom instruction.



4,100
Students



Revenue
Sources
FY20

DISTRICT FINANCIALS

With a bond rating of A+ (S&P), Xenia Community Schools is on solid financial footing, and has been recognized for transparency and excellence in managing funds.

The district received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction from the State of Ohio Auditor in 2019 and 2020. In addition, the Association of School Business Professionals recognized the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) with its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The district has also been recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 for our CAFR.

The GFOA also awarded the district for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting for our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which provides our community with an easy-to-understand overview of the district's spending, financial trends, and other key data for the current year.

These reports and other financial information are available to the public at XeniaSchools.org.

APPROPRIATIONS FY20

General Funds
\$53,072,067

Total—All Funds
\$66,358,080

STUDENT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Students enjoy the XTAR Makerspace during the opening in September 2019.

Xenia Community Schools supports and motivates students through a wide variety of course offerings and extracurricular activities to prepare them for the workplace of the future. From STEM and technology to honors curriculum and gifted programming, the district works to meet the needs of every student, every day.

Our youngest learners get a great start to their academic career at our Five-Star Step Up to Quality Preschool, while our elementary students benefit from small classes in buildings right in their own neighborhood.

Students are encouraged to explore and learn in a variety of ways. Whether it is through participating in clubs and activity groups or growing as citizens of our community through service projects, students have the opportunity to learn, grow, and explore the world around them in ways that will provide a solid foundation for years to come.

AN INTERRUPTED YEAR

The path of the last year is one that no one could have predicted when they dropped off their students on Day One of the 2019-2020 school year. While not something that anyone would have wished for, the course of learning over the past year is one that students and teachers have walked together, making a successful shift to online learning platforms such as Google Classroom and Seesaw, while becoming masters of Zoom.

Thanks in part to numerous hours of learning and planning by our educators, we have proved that meaningful learning can continue for every student, even when circumstances change radically!



In spite of the challenge of moving nearly one-third of our students online for the first time, the district is also working to implement a new ELA curriculum for grades 4 and 5, and continues to assess and improve curriculum across the board.

COMMITTED TO ENSURING ACCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Having the right tools is key! From digital whiteboards and projectors to cameras and state-of-the-art learning software, technology is incorporated into every classroom across the district.

In addition, every student from our smallest Kindergartener to your Senior who is more-than-ready to graduate this spring, is issued a Chromebook device for the year. This 1:1 Chromebook commitment makes learning accessible equally to every student, and is part of the district's unwavering dedication to ensuring that every student has the chance to reach their fullest potential.



Google Classroom



4,100

School-issued devices in the hands of Xenia students.



Teachers worked to send messages of support when buildings closed in March 2020, including this video message to our sixth grade students at Warner Middle School.

Mr. Richards gives a thumbs up to signal approval for a class of Visual Arts students during remote learning.

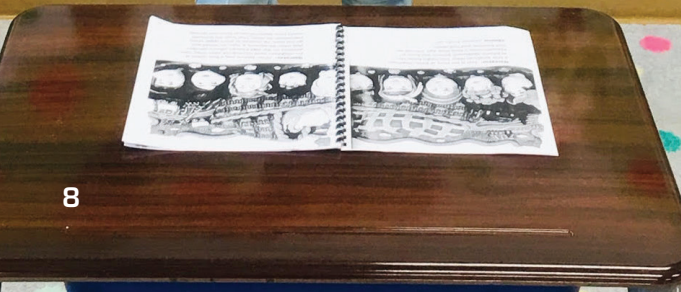


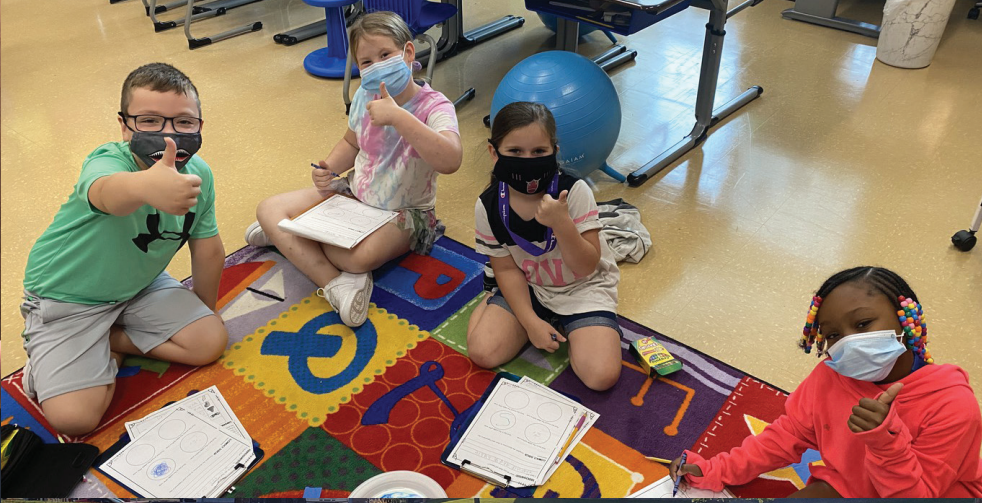
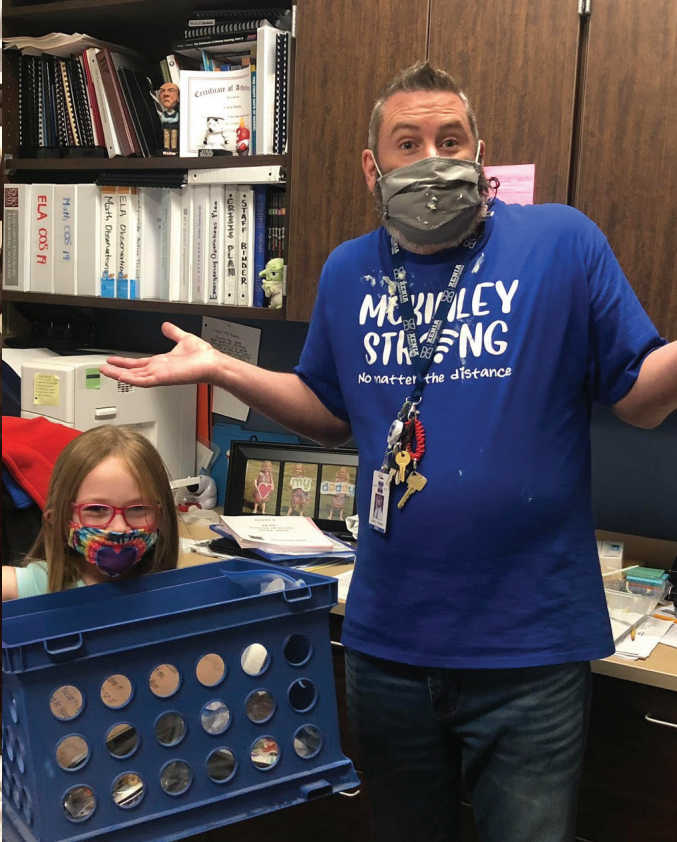
A LOOK AHEAD

As we look to the year ahead, the district continues to expand options for student growth and learning. Plans for this summer include expanded learning options for all students, including ELA and math instruction for summer school and “bridge” opportunities for all students. In addition, a transition program for first-year middle school and high school students will take place prior to the start of the school year!

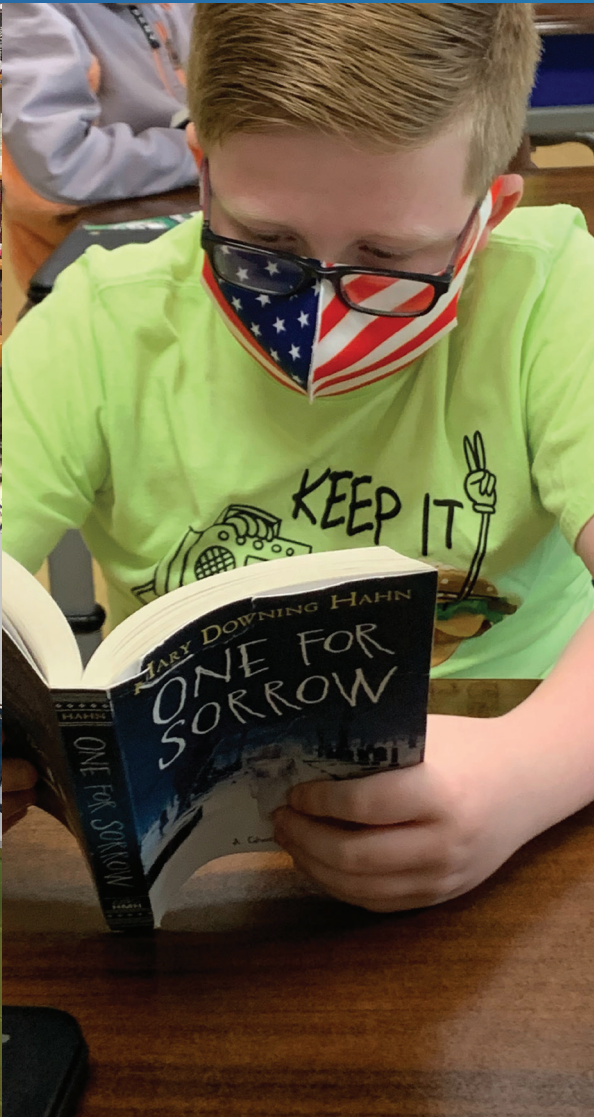


STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING..





...EVEN IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC!

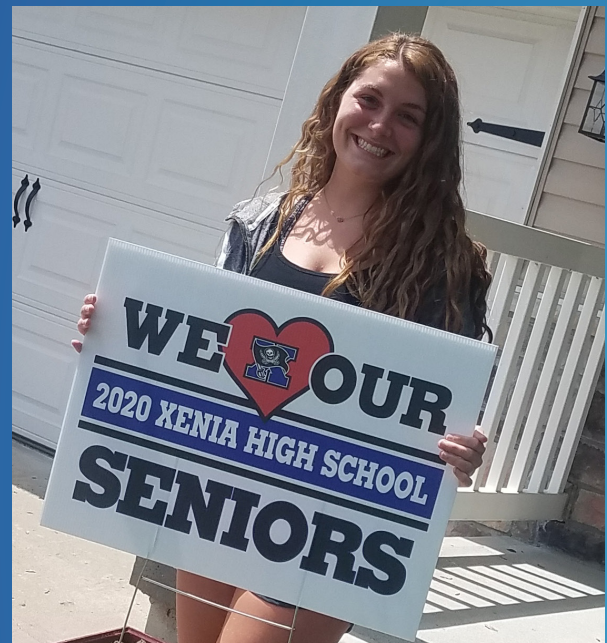


CLASS OF 2020: A VIRTUAL GRADUATION

While every graduating class has something about it that makes it unique, the class of 2020 experienced a senior year unlike any we have seen to date.

The closing of buildings in March 2020 and restrictions on gatherings meant the cancellation of some of our time-honored traditions—but not the end of the celebration of their many accomplishments.

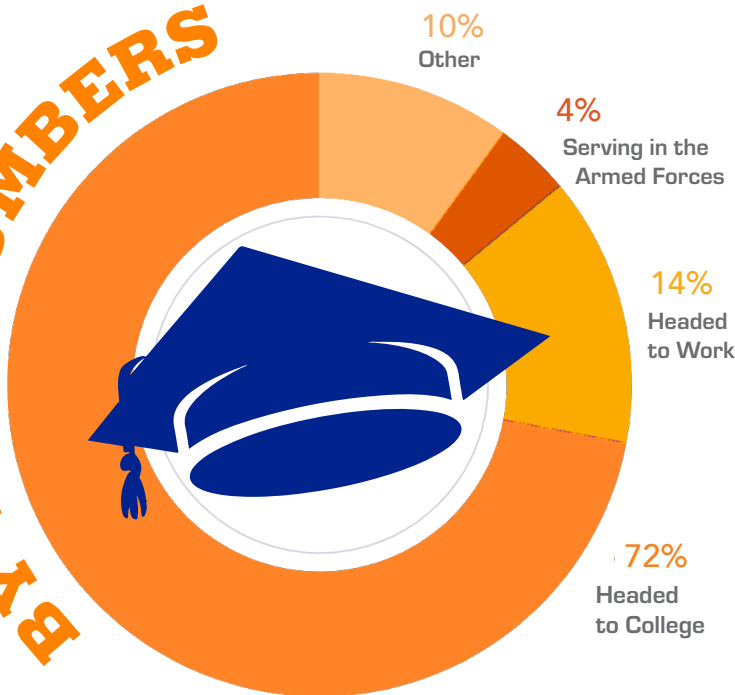
Graduating seniors were celebrated in multiple ways across our city and townships, with celebratory yard signs distributed by their teachers and coaches. Students were able to walk the stage with their closest family members present, and the virtual graduation ceremony can still be seen on the high school YouTube channel.



XHS yard sign project for the Class of 2020.



BY THE NUMBERS



\$7.2 MILLION
Earned in scholarships
and grants

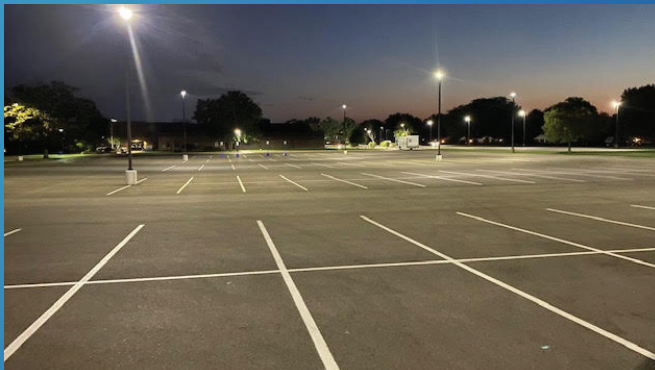




New directional signs point the way for visitors.



New softball batting cages constructed by the XCS Facilities Department at Xenia High School. (February 2021)



Interior and exterior LED lighting projects across the district light up parking lots and conserve energy in buildings.



Bob Hope Auditorium at XHS.

FACILITIES

Being good stewards of our properties and maintaining them in good order helps create a positive and effective learning environment for all students. This underlying philosophy is at the heart of our current Facilities Plan.

MASTER FACILITIES PLAN

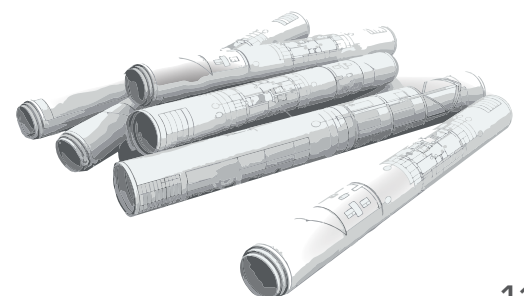
Beginning with a complete inspection of all XCS properties in 2017-2018, XCS has made concerted efforts to build the best possible learning environment for all of our students.

Following the creation of new elementary schools in 2012, current plans focus on maintaining those facilities in good working order and improving other properties, based on need.

PROJECTS LARGE AND SMALL

Recent major renovations include a renovation that made the Bob Hope Auditorium one of the most advanced theatres in the region, as well as a complete restoration of Benner Field House that made this historic facility accessible to Xenia students once again. The Field House had been closed for several years, and reopened in November 2019.

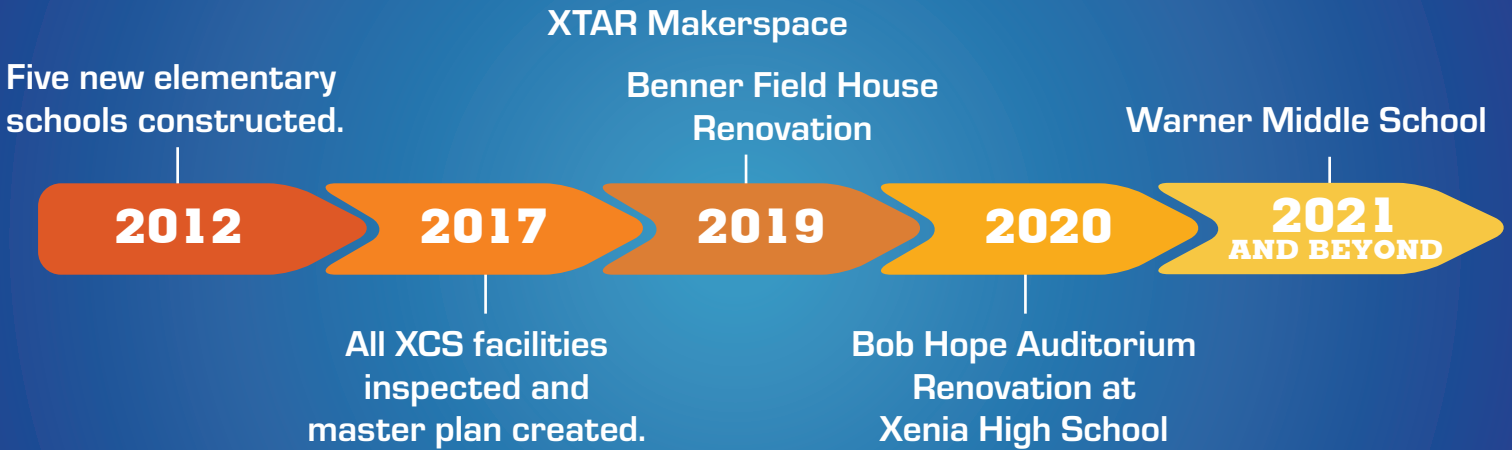
Other projects include an extensive district-wide LED lighting project, parking lot resurfacing, replacing digital whiteboards in classrooms across the district, and more.



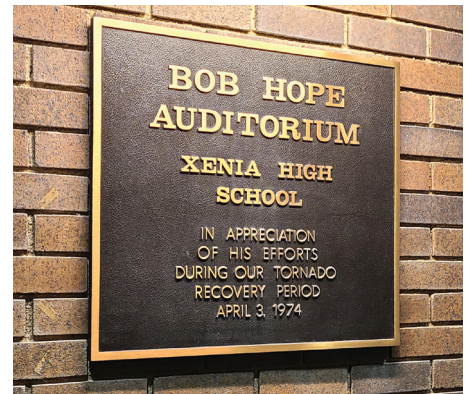
TIMELINE OF MAJOR PROJECTS: 2012-PRESENT

Since the creation of the renewed Facilities Plan in 2017, Xenia Community Schools has completed dozens of improvement projects to enhance the learning environment for students and implement cost savings.

In addition to these numerous projects large and small, a number of major construction and renovation projects have also been completed in recent years:



SPOTLIGHT: BOB HOPE AUDITORIUM RENOVATION (2021)



The Bob Hope Auditorium at Xenia High School features professional-grade sound and lighting, structural upgrades, and accessible seating that make it the most technically advanced school theatre in the region. The Auditorium will provide both a fabulous venue for productions and a training facility for students interested in technical theatre.

SPOTLIGHT: BENNER FIELD HOUSE RESTORATION (2019)



Benner Field House, which was renovated and reopened in 2019, offers student-athletes the opportunity to compete in a truly unique facility for both players and fans.

MOVING FORWARD

The ongoing improvements to district facilities are funded in large part by a Permanent Improvement levy that has been in place for many years. This fund generates approximately \$400,000 per year, funding major projects like the restoration of Benner Field House and the Bob Hope Auditorium at the high school.

The current initiative to replace Warner Middle School, which is nearly 60 years old and does not have the capacity or infrastructure to support our students and prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow, will be decided by Xenia voters on the May 2021 election ballot. A proposed 2.3 mil levy would generate \$36 million to replace that facility on the same property, creating a facility that will serve the needs of Xenia students for decades to come.

Learn more about the district's Master Facilities Plan at XeniaSchools.org.

ATHLETICS

With nearly 650 student-athletes at the middle and high school levels competing on teams, Xenia Community Schools is committed to developing students both on and off the field.

Our Athletics programs help grow the leaders of tomorrow through community service and encouraging students to be active members of our local community. In addition, students are encouraged to pursue academic excellence, preparing them for the next phase of life.

ATHLETICS FACILITIES

The district features state-of-the-art athletics facilities, including our Xenia High School Gym, Doug Adams Stadium, Benner Field House, softball/baseball facilities, and tennis courts.

In near-constant use, these facilities benefit our own students, but unique spaces like Benner Field House also offer a one-of-a-kind experience to hundreds of student-athletes from districts across the region that help make Xenia a destination.



HIGH SCHOOL



XENIA
BUCCANEERS

41

XHS Sports Teams

24 Varsity Teams

400 Athletes

60 Coaches

MIDDLE SCHOOL

13

WMS Sports

19 WMS Teams

250 Athletes

26 Coaches

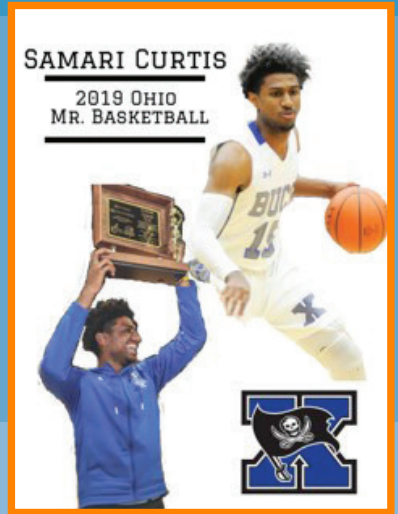
BY THE NUMBERS

SUCCESS STORIES



Lacrosse Becomes First School-Sponsored Team in the MVL (2019)

Samari Curtis Named Ohio's "Mr. Basketball" (2019)



Girls Varsity Bowling Team Heads to State for the Second Time in School History (2021)



MVL Championship Football Team (2019)





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***NOTE:** Many of the photos used in this publication were taken preCOVID, and may not reflect social distancing safety measures.*



VISION

Expectations, Excellence,
Extraordinary Students, Every Day.

MISSION

Xenia Community Schools consistently develops independent, successful, and life-long learners in an environment of diversity, collaboration, and unity. The inseparable bond of schools and community is strengthened by a “can-do” spirit that resonates across the district.