



WILDCAT WIRE

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Enquirer Analysis Rates Williamsburg Schools a BEST BUY in Spending vs. Student Achievement

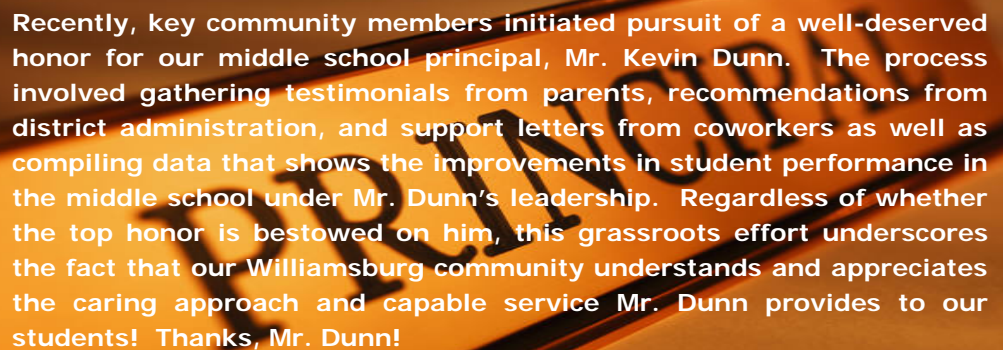
Just before the holiday season, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* ran a series of articles examining school taxes in Southwest Ohio. The paper's analysis revealed that many districts are not achieving academically in accordance with their per-pupil spending. As one article stated, "A district that spends more doesn't necessarily produce higher test scores ..." Districts such as Princeton, Cincinnati Public, Winton Woods, Lockland, Finneytown, Mt. Healthy, and Clermont Northeastern all spent more than \$10,000 per student but earned only Continuous Improvement or Effective designations on Ohio's Local Report Card in 2011.

So, which communities get the best bang for their bucks from their school districts?

The Enquirer's research answered that question: "On the other end of the spending spectrum are Bethel-Tate, **Williamsburg**, Springboro, Batavia, and Little Miami districts, which spend \$7,429 to \$7,959 per student, yet achieved Excellent or better report card ratings." Specifically, of the 49 districts in Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont Counties, Williamsburg had the second lowest spending per pupil in 2011 (behind only Bethel-Tate) and still earned an Excellent rating from Ohio's Department of Education!

The district leadership in Williamsburg Schools is proud of the successful combination of focused effort and fiscal prudence employed throughout the district that enables our staff and students to truly do more with less! In Williamsburg, the schools continue to offer a great return on our investment.

Grassroots Effort Leads Nomination of Middle School's Mr. Dunn for National Principal of the Year



Recently, key community members initiated pursuit of a well-deserved honor for our middle school principal, Mr. Kevin Dunn. The process involved gathering testimonials from parents, recommendations from district administration, and support letters from coworkers as well as compiling data that shows the improvements in student performance in the middle school under Mr. Dunn's leadership. Regardless of whether the top honor is bestowed on him, this grassroots effort underscores the fact that our Williamsburg community understands and appreciates the caring approach and capable service Mr. Dunn provides to our students! Thanks, Mr. Dunn!

Williamsburg Local Schools

Our vision is a continuously improving, high performing school district achieving academic excellence for all students.

Our mission is high academic performance for all students through quality instructional practices in a safe and nurturing environment in partnership with the community

Senior Science Challenge Team Wins Top Honor in Clermont County

Each school year, The Clermont County Educational Service Center facilitates a rigorous and competitive academic experience for groups of students throughout the county, The Clermont County Science Challenge.

This year, 57 teams from all 10 high schools in Clermont County faced off to vie for top honors in the areas of biology, earth science, nature of science, and physical science, with results from all of those areas combined to determine an overall ranking and Science Challenge Champion.

This year's overall **Science Challenge Champion** was a team of seniors from **Williamsburg High School**, who bested all other 56 squads including the other top 5 finishing groups from Batavia, Milford, Felicity-Franklin, and Amelia. The championship team included Emily Barge, Erica Comer, Emily Lefferson, Katie Varney, and William West.

Williamsburg was represented in the competition by 6 different teams. Williamsburg teams did particularly well in the Nature of Science category, in which the championship team earned top honors, another senior team from Williamsburg placed 2nd, and one of our sophomore teams finished 8th of the 57 groups. Congratulations to our great students and teachers for their fantastic achievements.

Sports Teams Find Success in Competition

Winter sports are moving into the heat of SBAAC league competition. Both high school basketball teams are looking to grab National Division crowns. Senior wrestler Jordan Smith recently recorded his 100th career win during the Adam Cox Memorial Invitational and placed first in that meet. Even as we support our winter teams, it's worth looking back at the fall seasons to recall the great successes Williamsburg teams achieved. Congratulations to the high school varsity football team on another winning season, finishing with a 7-3 mark. Our varsity volleyball squad dropped its first match of the year and then reeled off 19 straight victories on its way to capturing the SBAAC championship! Also, the 7th grade squad nearly ran the table as well and finished with an impressive 15-1 record. Cross country enjoyed another season of long-distance competition and this year the team hosted a meet on Williamsburg turf! After a long absence, the high school's golf team returned to competition and Wildcat linksters improved steadily over the season under the guidance of Coach Byron Jody. Thanks to Mr. Herb Rowan, Class of 1956 and inaugural member of the Williamsburg Athletic Hall of Fame, for his key contributions to the program. Thanks to all coaches and student-athletes for their dedication and efforts to keep restoring the roar of the Wildcats!

School Dates and other Upcoming Information

Here are some important dates to remember in our schools over the next couple months:

Friday, January 13	End of 1 st Semester
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – no school for students
Wednesday, February 8	Early Release Day
Monday, February 20	President's Day – no school for students

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great things happening
in the Williamsburg
Schools!*

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