Above and Beyond

Beachwood City School District
2001 Annual Report
Above and Beyond
2001. It was an exceptional year for the Beachwood School District – a year of accomplishment and acclaim, opportunity and growth. A year of significant progress in our quality journey. A year of synergy and a year of vision.

A year that we truly, as a District, went above and beyond. How fitting then that we chose this theme for our 2001 report to the community. But before you read in these pages about our students and staff who have taken these words and made them their own, we’d like to give you a progress report on the state of your schools – where we are, how far we have come, and where we are going.

In the year 2000, the Board of Education adopted six carefully crafted, compelling and focused goals. These goals serve as a framework for our academic and administrative operations, the basis for everything we do in every department and every building.

**Process Improvement**
Create and foster a culture that uses process improvement as a means to achieve quality and excellence in the delivery of educational and extracurricular services to students.

**Accountability**
Requires that all members of the community, including Board members, administrators, staff and students, be accountable for their actions, as governed by Board policy and the behavior necessary to achieve educational quality and excellence.

**Dynamic Improvements to Curriculum**
Maximize efforts and resources employed in the identification and implementation of improved curriculum content and teaching models as a way of providing premier customer service to the students of the District.

**Robust Communication**
Using state-of-the-art methods, implement improved delivery channels and systems of communication in order to optimize the conveyance of knowledge at all levels of the District.

**Enhanced Use of Technology**
Seek ways to integrate the use of the computer and other advanced technology in all aspects of the District’s business in order to achieve efficiency, quality and excellence. Commit the District’s resources to promote technology as a common tool to join together the various academic and administrative disciplines.

**Safety**
Achieve the atmosphere of comfort and security throughout the District and its facilities in order to enhance the ability of the administration and staff to serve the needs of all stakeholders within the District.
In the 2001-02 school year, 200 Beachwood High School students are taking 14 Advanced Placement courses and 193 students are enrolled in 10 honors classes. 75 percent of students who took AP tests in 2001 scored a 3, 4 or 5.
Let’s look at a sampling of the initiatives we have undertaken in 2001, each of which specifically relates to one or more of these governing goals:

- Begun work on a $4 million construction and renovation project that will add a cafeteria at Bryden; a new gymnasium and 4,300 square feet of classrooms to Hilltop; and new science labs, auditorium sound and light dimming systems, and other renovations at the High School.
- Completed a new women’s varsity softball field and renovated men’s baseball field.
- Launched an Advisory Program in the High School to provide students with personalized mentoring as they plan for college and beyond.
- Expanded our Professional Development Committee to ensure continual opportunities for staff to model best practices in teaching and learning.
- Continued the process of curriculum articulation to ensure a smooth transition in teaching and learning as our students grow.
- Adopted a method of performance assessment to enhance teaching practices on an ongoing basis.
- Continued the integration of the arts into our academic curriculum, highlighted by a District-wide celebration of poetry in a series of interactive performances.
- Developed a coordinator position for gifted education to provide enhanced programming for all students.
- Expanded the string orchestra program at Hilltop to 80 students and initiated a traveling performers’ troupe.
- Added a state-of-the-art digital sign, with the support of Beachwood Community PTA, to provide a vehicle for instant, highly visible communication to our community.
- Established a dedicated e-mail address at the Board of Education offices for community questions and concerns, which are promptly answered by administrators. (feedback@bw.beachwood.k12.oh.us)
- Continued to use technology not as enrichment, but as an integrated educational tool in the classroom.
- Expanded our wireless computer labs at Hilltop, the Middle School and High School to include 120 computers for student use.
- Secured all entrances in the elementary schools and Middle School; visitors can only be admitted through a buzzer system.
Technology is not just an enrichment tool in the Beachwood School District. It is an integrated part of the classroom curriculum for students of all ages.
But perhaps the best example of where we, as a District, stand today lies in the extraordinary upward trend of our proficiency scores. In 2001, our overall 6th grade proficiency scores were the highest in the seven-county Northeastern Ohio region. Our 4th and 6th grade reading results also were the highest in the seven-county area, at 89 and 94 percent respectively.

The significance of our proficiencies, however, lies not in the numbers each year, but in trends. Over the past four years, every 6th, 9th and 12th grade proficiency score in every subject area has increased, in many cases, dramatically – for example, a 26 percentage point increase in 6th grade math over four years.

This is no accident, but instead the result of a comprehensive, carefully planned effort to change our curricula and our teaching methods to meet world-class standards of excellence. Today, our 1st and 2nd graders are learning advanced new math concepts twice as quickly as they did in previous years, using Japanese mathematics as a model. Our elementary teachers are using a Smithsonian-developed, hands-on science curriculum that teaches problem-solving and analysis in addition to rote memorization of scientific facts – physics and chemistry as well as biology and geology. This resulted in a 17 percentage point increase in 9th grade science proficiency scores over five years, a direct reflection of our elementary curriculum. And in the Middle and High Schools, our students are studying college-level curricula using advanced new methods of teaching and learning that, in many cases, allows them to graduate with one or more years of college credit fulfilled.

All of our efforts District-wide are centered on our mission statement: To develop intellectual entrepreneurs with a social conscience. This is our vision for the Beachwood School District and for each and every one of your children. As we continue to move forward in this quality journey, we offer our heartfelt thanks to you, the Beachwood community, for your support, for your commitment and for entrusting your children to us as together, we shape the world leaders of tomorrow.

Paul R. Williams, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Martin S. Horwitz  
President,  
Board of Education

The 2001 Beachwood Board of Education, from left: (seated) Sylvia W. Aarons, David B. Ostro, Vice President, Beth Rosenbaum; (standing) Dr. Scott Peters, Martin S. Horwitz, President.
Pushing yourself to more than the limit.
Striving to do better than your best.
Reaching for the stars.

**Learning for your lifetime.**

In this, the 2001 Beachwood School District Annual Report to the Community, you will read about six examples of above and beyond. It wasn’t easy to select just a few. We see above and beyond every day – in our students as they learn, in our teachers as they teach, in the support of our parents and our community.

These shining examples reflect a community that is ever striving toward excellence. We are proud to present their stories.
Joseph Marmerstein: Third grader, wrestler, karate blue belt, world-class pianist
His feet don’t quite reach the floor, so he rests them on two phone books.

He wants to be a baseball player when he grows up.

And he is most proud of his 20-some medals – for karate and wrestling.

But when 8-year-old Joseph Marmerstein sits down at the piano to play Prelude by Bach... well, you could close your eyes and imagine that you’re in Carnegie Hall, listening to a world-class pianist.

And you might very well be.

Joseph has played Carnegie Hall. As a gold medalist in the American Music Scholarship Association’s 2000 World Piano Competition, he took the Carnegie Hall stage along with 50 other young pianists from throughout the country. He was 7 at the time.

So what was it like to play in one of the world’s most famous concert halls? Joseph shrugs. “I just went in and played. I wasn’t that scared.”

Joseph’s piano awards number almost as many as his karate medals. He received the highest rating of Superior from the National Federation of Music for three consecutive years and a piano soloist award in 2001. He was the youngest medal winner in the 2001 Ohio Music Teachers Association Northeast Piano Competition. He will compete in three festivals this year.

Joseph’s fingers lift in a crescendo. The music soars, then stills. You open your eyes and you’re back in his living room.

“My grandmother loved the piano,” Joseph remembers as he bounds from the piano bench and back up to his room. “But when she was little, she couldn’t afford a piano. So she used to line up knives on the kitchen table and pretend to play.”

Practice time is over. Now it’s time for baseball, or maybe homework. “I still hate to practice,” Joseph grins. “Well,” he thinks for a minute, “…maybe not as much as I used to.”

Joseph Marmerstein

Named #1 School District of 65 communities by Cleveland Magazine • Harvard Business School Club “Excellence in School Management Award,” Beachwood High School
Sign Choir has been one of the most exciting experiences I have had in Beachwood. I now know how to sign the alphabet and much, much more. I no longer think of deaf or hard of hearing people as being disabled. I think of them as my classmates.

5th Grader Lauren Henkin
Seventy-five voices and 75 pairs of hands sing the words, loud and clear and strong. With not a dry eye in the house.

Hilltop’s Sign Choir – the largest sign choir of its kind in the country – has soared to new heights this school year, under the direction of interpreter Tony LaPerna.

The sign choir, comprised of deaf, hard of hearing and hearing 4th and 5th graders, played to standing ovation crowds throughout the Cleveland community in 2001, including at the Very Special Arts Festival at NASA and a program at the Cleveland Convention Center commemorating the events and heroes of Sept. 11.

The Beachwood School District has been part of the Cooperative Hearing Impaired Program, serving students from more than 15 Northeast Ohio school districts, since 1977. The Hilltop Sign Choir was launched in 1994 as music curriculum for students in the program.

This year, sign choir enrollment was open to any 4th or 5th grader. Some students joined with basic sign language skills. Some use them at home, others with a family member or classmate. Many did not know sign language at all. No matter.

“What we’ve done here is, we’ve bridged a gap between our deaf and hearing kids,” explains Mr. LaPerna. “There are no more barriers, no more isolation, no more fear of communicating. Sign choir has brought our deaf and hard of hearing children closer to those who can hear.”

Fourth grade teachers Alesha Listopad and Terri Singleton help coordinate the sign choir productions, along with scores of parent volunteers. After the events of Sept. 11, the theme of the performances changed to reflect a celebration of the American spirit in song and dance.

No one is more enthusiastic about the sign choir than Mr. LaPerna.

“Let’s face it,” he exclaims. “Our kids are busy. They have soccer, dance, piano, homework.

“Here at Hilltop, out of anything and everything they could choose to be doing after school, 75 students chose sign choir. They are making a difference. They truly are an inspiration. And I think this makes an important statement about who we are.”

“My hands are small, I know. But they’re not yours, they are my own.”

Hilltop Sign Choir
Beachwood again earned the highest rating in the latest state report card based on 2001 proficiency results. Only 71 of 611 Ohio school districts received this distinction, reflecting a score of 26 or 27 standards met.

In closely watched proficiency test results for reading, Beachwood 4th and 6th grade students scored higher than any other district in seven counties. In reading, 89 percent of 4th graders passed the reading proficiency test, compared with 57 percent statewide.

In 6th grade, 94 percent of students passed reading proficiencies, an increase of nearly 20 percentage points over 2000 scores.

The only area in which Beachwood did not meet the standard was 4th grade science. This was not unexpected news. The new elementary science curriculum aligns with world-class standards of excellence, which currently differ from the Ohio proficiency objectives. As the state continues to evaluate curricula to reflect these international standards of excellence, change in proficiency testing in this area should be forthcoming.

Beachwood proficiency scores in all 6th, 9th and 12th grade tests have increased over the past four years.

Proficiencies
Robert Klayman: Honor student, Robotics programming captain, bass drummer, computer whiz
Robert Klayman really knows his way around the brain.

This computer whiz kid wrote and designed an interactive Web site called “The Brain Explorer” for an international Internet competition sponsored by ThinkQuest.

The site “splits the brain into two components,” says Robert, “physical and mental.” Navigators can take an interactive walk through the anatomy of the brain. Explore a timeline of “the revolutionary ideas and discoveries that have shaped modern man’s understanding.”

But that’s not even close to all you will learn about your own brain and brain power by logging on to http://library.thinkquest.org/C0110299. You will learn how to boost your memory. Improve your perception. Analyze your dreams. Find out how creative (and how smart) you really are.

“The site focuses on interaction,” says its young designer. “I wanted to make it really easy to navigate, easy to understand and useful.”

There are 20 different activities available, Robert explains. Visitors can discuss, compare, post public comments, store personal notes, be linked to related research or a comprehensive glossary. There’s even a list of teacher resources.

“There have been more than 50,000 non-repeat unique hits in the past three months,” Robert says proudly.

He estimates that he worked on the site “eight hours a day for two years” to get it up and running. “The idea came from a unit that we studied on the brain in 8th grade,” he remembers.

All that hard work and brain power resulted in honorary semi-finalist and achievement awards from ThinkQuest.

Robert, a junior, hopes to attend Carnegie Mellon University when he graduates, where he plans to double major in computer science and engineering.

So far, he has taken six AP courses (with plans to take four more) and five honors classes at Beachwood High School. He also serves as programming captain of the BHS Robotics Team, plays the bass drum in the marching band and is actively involved in Academic Challenge, Junior Council on World Affairs and National Honor Society. He also has logged more than 250 volunteer hours at Menorah Park.

In his spare time, Robert fixes computers. “I can figure out how to fix just about any computer problem,” he shrugs.

Can he tell us which side of the brain he uses to figure it out? Robert laughs. “Check out my site.”

Advanced Placement: 116 students took 201 AP tests, 150 tests scored 3, 4 or 5 • Destination Imagination: State Championship – Elementary • FIRST Robotics: “Rookie of the Year”
Amanda Martin: NHS president, Ecology Club co-president, scholar athlete, track champion
They invented the word “well-rounded” to describe senior **Amanda Martin**. There are no other words that do her justice.

Of course, you could simply call her “track star.” A member of the two-time state champion women’s 4x100 relay track team, Amanda was part of the highest-ever Beachwood finish in any sport in a state tournament.

But Amanda is also president of National Honor Society. Felix (actually, Florence) in the fall 2001 High School production of *The Odd Couple*. Co-president of the Ecology Club. A varsity cheerleader.

Amanda truly exemplifies the term “scholar athlete.” A two-year member of NHS, she holds a 4.1 grade point average. When she ran for president, she had to forego her speech because of track regionals. She wasn’t even there to vote. She won anyway.

Amanda comes from a family of track stars. Like sister, **Sarah**, and brother, **Victor**, she started running at a young age, and began pursuing the sport seriously in 7th grade. Her team almost made it to states when she was a freshman.

Then, as a sophomore, she took off and hasn’t stopped since. “We got better,” Amanda says modestly. What really happened was that her 4x100 relay team – **Amanda, Tina Ngangana, Arealia Warren, Leslie Williams** and alternate **Ashleigh Fritz** – started winning. And winning again and again – all the way to a Division III state championship.

By Amanda’s junior year, they were “the girls from Beachwood – the team to beat.” They moved up a division, where the competition was tougher. And the fact that they were defending their title made it even harder.

The girls lived up to their own high standards, taking first place in the 4x100 meter relay (again) and third place overall.

Amanda is gearing up for this season. Conditioning began in November. Meets begin in March. All this in between wrapping up her senior year (she will attend Northland College in Wisconsin next year, where she will study environmental liberal arts), participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., last November, serving as student representative at City of Beachwood meetings to develop the Shaker median, and once in a while, writing an article or two for the *Beachcomber*. Oh yes, and she also went to Australia and New Zealand last summer as part of a Girl Scout tour.

“I guess I just like having something to do,” says this all-around star. “And,” she adds, “I have so many opportunities here to do so much!”

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**Knowledge Master Open: State Championship – Elementary, State Championship – Middle School • National Merit Scholarship: 2 Finalists, 5 Commended Students**
Beachwood offers more than 40 academic and fine arts cocurricular activities to serve the talents and interests of students of all ages. In 2001, our students won awards at regional, state and national competitions for American High School Mathematics, Destination Imagination, FIRST Robotics, Junior Council on World Affairs, Knowledge Master Open, Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Press Association, Ohio Music Educators Association, Ohio Tests of Scholastic Achievement, Power of the Pen and Science Olympiad.
Beachwood has exceeded by more than 10 percentage points the proficiency performance improvement goal established by the SMART (Science and Mathematics Achievement Required for Tomorrow) Consortium of 30 Northeast Ohio school districts.

In 1995, each member district in the SMART Consortium established five-year benchmark goals for proficiency passage. Beachwood’s benchmark goal was to improve the overall District proficiency passage rate from 70.08 to 76.49 percent; the District actually achieved an 86.97 percent passage rate, exceeding its goal by more than 10 percentage points.

The SMART Consortium provides materials and training in math and science teaching strategies that were developed by the Smithsonian Institute. The Consortium was organized by the Ohio Department of Education, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and the Ohio Aerospace Institute.

The Beachwood District’s performance improvement can be directly attributed to SMART teacher training.

SMART training has enabled Beachwood teachers to identify curricula and teaching methods that will have the most positive impact on not just proficiency scores, but overall learning. The District has developed and incorporated challenging courses of advanced study for every grade level that meet world-class standards of peak-performing countries. And, as a result, every Beachwood 6th, 9th and 12th grade proficiency score in every subject area has increased over the past five years.
Brian Kaufman: Entertainer, comedian, magician, entrepreneur
Do you believe in magic? No joke about it. If you don’t, Brian Kaufman will make you believe – believe, that is, in his own particular blend of magic, humor and downright charisma.

Brian is a real-life, professional magician. He started at age 5 with a toy magic kit that his parents gave him. Went pro at the age of 10, performing at restaurants and birthday parties. Today, his gigs at the Cleveland Improv, Six Flags and hundreds of private and corporate events each year easily could make him financially self-sufficient.

Brian’s act goes beyond illusion. It’s a magic potion of special effects, sleight of hand, humor and charm.

Make a card disappear? Of course – but first, let’s extinguish the flames that shoot out when the pack is opened.

Levitate a friend? Easy – he practiced for years on his sister, Amy.

Move an audience member’s watch (in a stunt called “Time Flies”) from a sealed bag to a shelf high on stage? You really have to see it to believe it.

“How did you do that?” someone always asks. And Brian smiles that smile and responds, “Perfectly.”

He’s even enchanted the skeptics among us. The Plain Dealer calls him “skilled, poised and funny.” Crain’s Cleveland Business says he’s a “budding biz wizard.” Cleveland Radio Personality Dan Deely sums it up. “This guy,” he says, “is amazing.”

Brian has several promotional agents, a lawyer (his dad), a promo kit that includes a video and slick glossy (five Brians in different poses, surrounded by smoke) and thousands of dollars in equipment. He also has (of course) a bunny named Merlin.

What’s next for this 18-year-old charmer/entrepreneur? Perhaps a stint on a cruise ship. Maybe a comedy club circuit tour. Definitely college – all this and Brian has maintained a 3.1 grade point average.

He also will continue to attend entertainment conventions throughout the country, perfecting his tricks and adding a few to his repertoire. “I love to entertain,” he grins. “I love amazing the audience. I love making people laugh.”

Must be magic.

Junior Council on World Affairs: 30 awards for excellence in political analysis and debate • Power of the Pen: 10 awards for excellence in creative writing
Kerry Eaton: Bus driver, lunch aide, scorekeeper, “cool guy”
Kind of hard to interview Kerry Eaton. We keep getting interrupted.


Kerry doesn’t like to talk about himself. He’s quiet, on the shy side. Not sure why he was singled out as a Beachwood “Above and Beyond.”

Three hellos, one pat on the back and one high-five later, he says, “I guess it’s just because whatever needs doing, I do.”

Kerry has been with the Beachwood School District for 11 years. He drives Bryden and Middle School bus routes, works as a lunch aide at Bryden, does the athletic scoreboards in the evening and works on the school grounds during the summer.

Every single day, he starts off the same way. “No matter what, when every kid gets on the bus every morning, I always, always say good morning. I feel like it gives them a good start.”

A 1st grade class marches by on their way to art. This time, Kerry gets hugs.

“I really enjoy the little ones,” Kerry resumes. “Maybe it’s because I was a single parent for eight years, from when my son was 7 months old. We played together, grew up together. Today, he’s my best friend.”

Kerry runs into his former Bryden students all the time when he works at High School athletic events. “That’s one of the best parts of my job, watching them grow up,” he says. “They always stop and say hello.

“I guess…well, I guess I just hope I can make a difference in their lives.”

Another high-five and another hug. No more words are necessary.
Beachwood offers 19 varsity sports. In 2001, our athletes earned regional awards in cross country, football, golf, soccer (men’s and women’s), swimming, track, volleyball, and wrestling; were state qualifiers in golf, swimming, women’s tennis and wrestling; and earned a state championship in women’s track for the second year in a row and a state award in wrestling.
Financial Report

General operating fund

Salaries/benefits: $19,729,804
Purchased services: 3,335,820
Supplies: 907,697
Equipment: 468,858
Other expenses*: 936,214

*Advances, transfers, dues and fees (the largest portion charged by the county auditor for tax collections)

Revenues

Real estate taxes: $14,753,319
Personal property: 4,654,144
Other*: 4,379,869

*State, rollback taxes, interest

Enrollment: 1,662
Average class size: 20 in elementary, fewer in secondary schools
College-bound: 96%
Graduation rate: 100%
Graduated with honors: 54%
Attending “Highly Selective Colleges and Universities”: 34%
Faculty: 70% with Master’s degrees and/or Ph.Ds
Average teaching experience: 13 years
Foreign language: K-12
Counseling service: K-12
Athletics: 75% of High School and Middle School students play one or more sports; 70% scholar athletes maintain a B average or better.
Special programs for gifted education in grades 4-8, accelerated learning in math and science grades 1-3, exceptional learning styles in grades 1-12

The Beachwood School District serves consortium students in a Total Communication program for the deaf and hard of hearing and multi-handicapped High School students.

This Annual Report covering the 2001 fiscal year has been prepared for the information of citizens of the Beachwood City School District as required by Section 3313.94, Ohio Revised Code.

It is the policy of the Beachwood City School District that educational activities, employment, programs and services are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, handicap or age.

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Varsity Sports: State Championship – Women’s Track, State Qualifiers – Golf, Swimming, Women’s Tennis, and Wrestling
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