



2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT



2018/2019 | A YEAR IN REVIEW



VISION

Preparing students to be Tomorrow Ready.

MISSION

The MSD of Decatur Township is Student Invested and Community Connected. We Prioritize Student Learning, Safety, and Customer Service, fostering a support system for our families.

BELIEF STATEMENT

A focus on student learning is essential for all of our children as we empower growth and development through a high level of expectations well beyond high school graduation. MSD of Decatur Township Graduates are prepared to achieve their life goals that they have developed through a focus on college and career readiness during their time at the MSD of Decatur Township.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township's School Board, our teachers, staff and students, I am pleased to present the 2018-19 Annual Report to the Decatur Township community. With an exciting school year comes many of the great successes that take place for our students and staff. Our community endorsed our schools with the renewal of the operating referendum that was first approved in 2014. We continued to maintain high graduation rates that have consistently remained over 90% at Decatur Central High School since 2015. Our development of career pathways to support our students is growing as students begin a successful transition into the areas of post secondary enrollment, employment into the workforce, or enlistment into our armed services. Our district vision of "Preparing Students to be Tomorrow Ready" is essential for us to continue our work. We realize that through technology, we are walking our children into a world that is unfamiliar to us. However, as a school community, we are Decatur Proud to lead in that challenge as our children are our future. Decatur Township Schools provides the necessary and essential opportunities for all of our children to be prepared, moving into the next level of life called adulthood.

Inside this report, you will learn more about how the fundamental goals of our district's vision continue the culture of educational excellence in Decatur Township schools. With our district mission of "Learning, Safety, and Customer Service," the 2018-2019 school year demonstrates our consistent commitment to our students and families.

Thank you for your continued support. In my 7 years here as superintendent, I have continuously experienced many examples of community investment in public education, whether through the Decatur Township Scholarship Association, PTA or Boosters. Please know that whether or not you have a school-age child, you are always invited to attend District performances, concerts and athletic events. Please visit our website at decaturproud.org for current listings of school events. Together, we are Decatur Proud!

Dr. Matthew J. Prusiecki
Superintendent



SCHOOL BOARD

President - Larry Taylor

Vice President - Jimmy Ray

Board Secretary - Estella Vandeventer

Board Member - Dale Henson

Board Member - Judy Collins



ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DECATUR

The Metropolitan School District (MSD) of Decatur Township is located in the southwest corner of Marion County and has a population of 32,583 people. Several small community areas (Mars Hill, Valley Mills, West Newton, Camby, and Ameriplex) make up Decatur Township. The school district serves as the hub of the community because there is no “town center.” The MSD of Decatur Township is the smallest of Marion County’s township school corporations and is comprised of two high schools, one middle school, five elementary schools, and one early elementary (Pre-K and kindergarten) building.



**Decatur Elementary
Learning Center
Blue and Gold Academy**
5650 Mann Road
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317-856-4100



Liberty Early Elementary
4640 Santa Fe Drive
Indianapolis, 46241
317-243-7559



Stephen Decatur Elementary
3425 S. Foltz Street
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317-241-0183



Valley Mills Elementary
5101 S. High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317-856-6363



West Newton Elementary
7529 Mooresville Road
West Newton, IN 46183
317-856-5237



Decatur Middle School
5108 S. High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317-856-5274



Decatur Central High School
5251 Kentucky Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317-856-5288



**Decatur Township School
For Excellence**
5106 S. High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317-856-0900

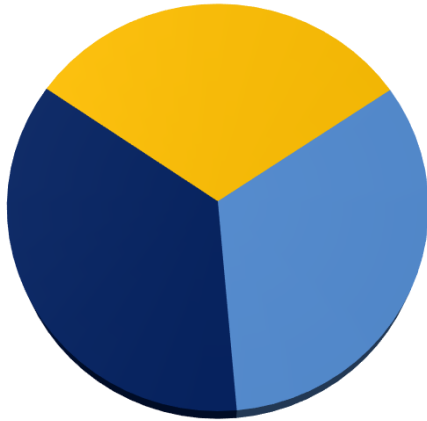
CONTACT

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5275 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46221
(317) 856-5265

Follow us on Facebook @MSDDecaturTownship
Follow us on Twitter @MSDDecatur
Website: www.decaturoproud.org

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

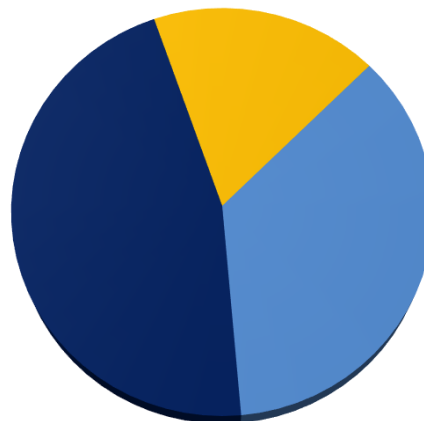
Teaching Staff 446 Full-time Educators



- 0-5 years of experience 35.9%
- 6-15 years of experience 31.1%
- 16+ years of experience 33.0%

16.6% of our students are enrolled in Special Education.

Schools and Enrollment 6,670 Students



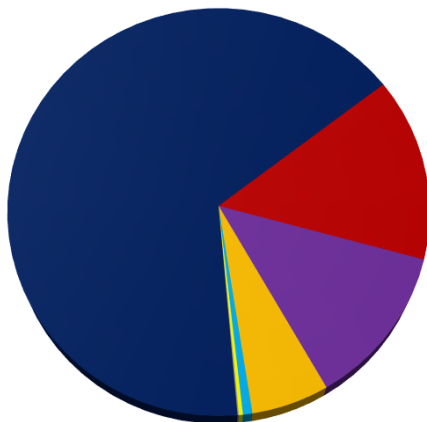
- Elementary 46%
- Middle School 18%
- High School 36%

Did you know?

There are 28 languages spoken in Decatur

6.9% of our students are English Language Learners

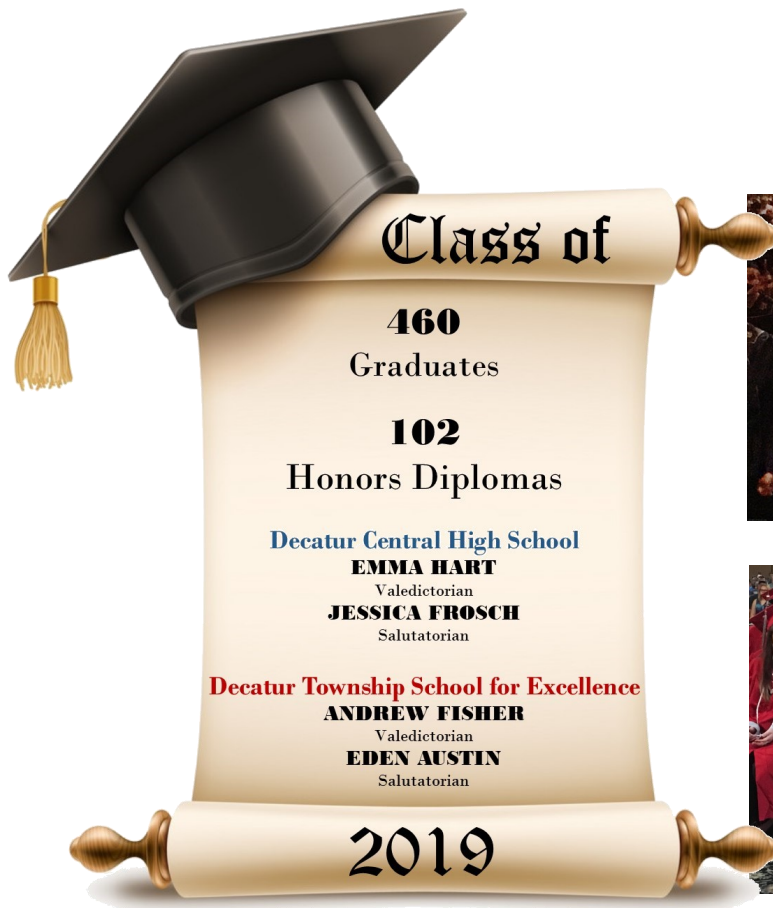
Student Demographics



- White 66.0%
- Black/African American 14.6%
- Hispanic/Latino 12.5%
- Multi-Racial 5.8%
- Asian 0.7%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native 0.3%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander 0.1%

68.3% of our students receive Free or Reduced meals

CLASS OF 2019



**25.5% of the graduates
earned Academic
and Technical Honors
Diplomas**

**67.2% earned Core 40
Diplomas**

**7.3% earned General
Diplomas**

**Students in the class of 2019
were awarded over
\$2.8 Million
in scholarships and grants**

2019 RECOGNITIONS

2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Brenda Taylor **Decatur Central High School**



DCHS Principal Scott DeFreese and Brenda Taylor

Taylor obtained a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a graduate work at Butler University. She has been teaching within the township for 35 years, and continues to make a significant difference in each of her student's lives. Teaching a variety of courses in social studies including Civics, U.S. History, Ethnic Studies, Indiana History, World History, Sociology, Psychology and Advanced Placement Psychology, she always strives to educate her students on compassion and seeing the world through a different lens. Throughout the years, Taylor has also coached Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Girls Track, and served as the Freshman class sponsor.

Taylor wants to continue teaching and reinventing the wheel as time goes on. She enjoys the professional development opportunities MSD of Decatur Township offers and can't wait to continue doing what she loves most – teaching students.

2019 SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

James Sheroan **School Resource Officer**

Sheroan is a graduate of Arsenal Technical high school and Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Sheroan began his career as an SRO in the Indianapolis Public Schools before coming to Decatur Township where he has been for three years.

Sheroan was chosen for this honor for his unwavering dedication to ensuring the safety of all Decatur Township students. Sheroan said, "being honored as the support staff of the year is by far one of the greatest accomplishments I've ever received. My team works hard to protect our students, while always keeping their best interests at heart. I'm so glad I get to work in an environment where hard work is appreciated."



School Board President Larry Taylor, James Sheroan, and Assistant Superintendent Tony Burchett





Griddy Award

Kyle Enright was selected as the **5A Coach of the Year** for the 2018-19 season during the 13th annual Griddy Awards ceremony. The Griddy Awards recognize the best players, coaches, and media representatives in Indiana High School Football. The award recipients are chosen after a panel of media and coaches review over 18,000 varsity athletes in Indiana. Kyle was named 5A Coach of the Year for his tremendous coaching and leadership abilities, along with fostering a positive and encouraging environment for his athletes and coaching staff.



Decatur Central High School Gymnasium Dedicated to David "Doc" Rather

David "Doc" Rather, a 1967 Decatur Central graduate, served in the township in many capacities from 1977 to 2010 including: athletic trainer, assistant principal, athletic director, and assistant superintendent. The gymnasium at Decatur Central High School was named after Mr. Rather to honor his dedication and service to Decatur Township Schools.



Indianapolis Urban League Education Excellence Award

For the second year in a row, an MSD Decatur Township School was awarded the [Education Excellence Award](#) from the Indianapolis Urban League. The Decatur Township School for Excellence was recognized for its *Student Transition and Enrichment Pathway program (STEP)* during the fourth annual Indianapolis Urban League award luncheon. The STEP program is designed to give freshman students the tools and resources they need in order to set them up for a successful high school career. After its implementation, the graduation rate for the class of 2018 increased by 16 percent from the previous year. We are thrilled to continue to provide resources for our students' success!

Career and Technical (CTE) Awards for Excellence



Ashley Provencio
Emergency Medical Services at Area 31

Ask an Expert

Several of our teachers were quoted in expert articles, showcasing their vast knowledge and education goal setting that will improve their teaching ability and better our students. Decatur Central's ESL teacher, **Kameron Packard**, was highlighted in [TEACH Magazine](#) on the effects of the shifting nature of the ESL population, while both **Susan Keene** and **Aimee Kroll's 2019 EdTech goals and resolutions were featured in *eSchool News*. Superintendent **Dr. Matt Prusiecki** was featured in an article in [Education Dive](#). He describes how changes in teaching and education such as the innovations implemented by the MSD of Decatur Township can drastically improve student potential.**

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Did you know?

47.7% of our graduates earned a college or career credential while at Decatur

College and career readiness measures whether students are prepared for postsecondary life by achieving college or career credentials while still in high school. College or career credentials include successful completion of an approved industry certification; successful completion of at least three credit hours of college-level courses; or a passing score (3, 4 or 5) on an Advanced Placement Exam. College and career readiness benchmarks are the minimum scores expected for students to have a high probability of success in college and careers.

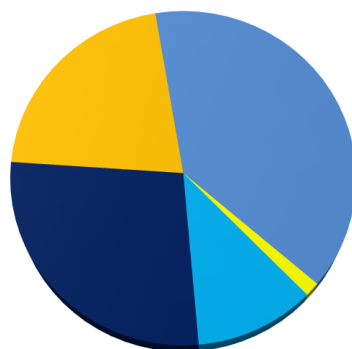
45.2% of students participate in SAT

- 48.5% meet benchmarks
- State average 52.3%

24.7% of students participate in ACT

- 26.7% meet benchmarks
- State average 56.7%

POST-GRADUATION INFORMATION



- 40% are attending a four-year college
- 31% are attending a two-year college
- 11% are attending technical training
- 2% entered the military
- 16% are working or have other plans



ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

Decatur Central offered 14 Advanced Placement courses and Decatur Township School for Excellence offered two AP courses.

**In 2018-2019 there were
429 AP exams given with
176 students scoring
a 3, 4, or 5**

DUAL CREDIT AND DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Decatur Central offered seven Dual Credit courses through the Ivy Tech *Professor on Loan* program and two Dual Enrollment courses.

- In 2018-2019**
- **132 students enrolled**
 - **804 college credits earned**
 - **\$113,050 saved in tuition**

GRADUATION AND CAREER PATHWAY NEWS

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is an essential component of the educational system that aligns with labor market demands and provides students with the knowledge and skills to be career and college ready. Teachers work directly with industry and higher education partners to bridge high school curriculums with relevant skills needed in today's world of work and align postsecondary programs to prepare students for their transition to college.

Students have access to CTE courses beginning in elementary and middle school through our partnership with Project Lead the Way. Students at these levels have access to Computer Science and App Development. At the high school level, there are 34 course offerings at Decatur Central including Computer Science, Business, Manufacturing, Engineering, Health Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Communication; and both Business and Computer Science at Decatur Township School for Excellence.

In addition to the CTE courses offered at our high schools, students have an opportunity to participate in CTE programs at Area 31 Career Center. These courses include Agriculture, Automotive Technology, Automotive Collision, Aviation, Construction, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, EMT, Fire and Rescue, Graphic Imaging, HVAC, Precision Machining, Supply Chain/Warehouse Management, Web Development, and Welding.



AAR Direct Hire Program

As a way to continue to evolve and grow postsecondary educational opportunities for our students, we recently formed a new educational partnership with *AAR Corp.*, a global provider of aviation maintenance services. The partnership includes the launch of the ***Direct Hire Aviation Maintenance Education program***, which is exclusively available to Decatur Township students seeking a career in aviation maintenance upon graduation.

This initiative takes a holistic approach toward supporting MSD of Decatur Township's ongoing mission to integrate more career-based learning opportunities into its existing educational pathways. We discussed this new partnership and program with [Inside Indiana Business](#), and students connected with [WTHR's Rich VanWyk](#) to shed light on this exciting new opportunity!



Aviation Sheet Metal Pathway

The MSD of Decatur Township developed a new locally created pathway (LCP) approved by the State Board of Education to meet the new Graduation Pathway requirements. The LCP is called **Aviation Sheet Metal**. In partnership with AAR Corporation and Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center (ATC), this new LCP will allow students to experience and learn the specifics of the aviation sheet metal career. Upon successful completion of the pathway, students in the second semester of their senior year will earn an aviation sheet metal certification. Additionally, the students will be eligible for employment at AAR and have a tremendous opportunity to continue their education at ATC to earn an airframe and power plant certification for aviation maintenance. The first cohort of students will enroll in the pathway in the spring of 2020.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Rolls-Royce Community Day

During the week of Sept. 10, 2018, approximately **200 volunteers** from Rolls-Royce dispersed throughout our nine schools to assist with various activities both outdoors and in the classrooms as a part of Rolls-Royce's inaugural "Rolls-Royce Community Care Week" in Indianapolis. This was a tremendous opportunity for our students to work alongside local professionals and gain valuable insight into future career opportunities.

Decatur Township Drug-Free Coalition



sustainable strategies through mobilization of community resources. To learn more about how students are becoming involved in the fight against substance abuse, visit [Fox 59](#).

[Decatur Township Drug-Free Coalition](#) kicked off its community prescription drug drop box program with the new box located at the Decatur Fire Station 74, allowing for safe drug disposal practices in Decatur Township. The Coalition exists to **prevent and reduce substance use among youth** in the community by providing proactive education and

Goodwill Excel Center-Decatur



In partnership with Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc., Decatur Township adults now have the opportunity for a **tuition-free high school education** at the [Excel Center](#)-Decatur. Since officially opening its doors in July at Decatur Township School for Excellence, nearly 150 students have enrolled to return back to school to earn a high school diploma. Check out [WISH TV](#) story about a current student, or visit our [website](#) to learn more about the school.



Community Clean up

In collaboration with the Decatur Athletic Department, Thomas Sharpe, a student in the Choice Academy organized a community clean up event as part of a Community Service project. With the help of the Decatur Fire Department and the school SROs, students and staff were able to safely get out into the community and remove about 300 bags of trash from the roadsides.



Decatur Proud Golf Outing

The first annual **Decatur Proud Golf Outing** raised \$4,649.60 for the Decatur Township Education Foundation (DTEF), Decatur Township Scholarship Association (DTSA), Alumni Association, and Decatur Cares to be used for Teacher grants and student scholarships.



Backpack Give-away

With a generous donation of backpacks from the **Indianapolis Airport Authority** and donations of school supplies from community members, over 500 students were prepared and able to get a positive start for the school year.



Decatur Township Health Fair

In April 2019, the Decatur Township Wellness Committee hosted the **Second Annual Decatur Township Health Fair**. The event was combined with the Annual Sports Physical Night. Thanks to a partnership with Community Health Network, middle school and high school athletes were able to undergo \$20 sports physicals. We invited families across Decatur Township Schools and welcomed all ages to attend. Community partners included the Decatur Township Drug Coalition, Communities in Schools, School Smiles, and the American Dairy Council. The Health Fair focused on physical activities for students and families. Activities included Train Yard 317, blender bikes, and DCHS basketball and football.

STUDENT SUPPORT



Technology

The focus of MSD of Decatur Township's technology plan is on how technology can help engage learners, focus instruction, advance professional development, support electronic resources, and continuously improve as new technologies emerge.

One of the main components of the plan is the Digital Transformation to a 1:1 environment, providing personal learning devices to all students in order to teach 21st Century skills and ensure students are college, career, and *tomorrow ready*.

The MSD of Decatur Township was the only school district in Indiana awarded a **\$700,000** two-year grant through **T-Mobile's EmpowerED** program in August 2018. As a result of this funding, every student enrolled at MSD of Decatur Township in third through eighth grades for the 2018-19 school year received a personal MiFi hotspot at no cost to the students. Through a similar program, **Sprint** provided MiFi hotspots to all students in grades nine through twelve in the district. In addition to our 1:1 mobile devices, the MiFi's will provide more equitable access to online learning resources, thereby helping to narrow the digital divide.



Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

The MSD of Decatur Township implemented Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum for students in grade K - 12. Students in grades K-8 were introduced to [Second Step](#), a holistic approach that helps build and refine a young learner's social intelligence through intentional, age appropriate lessons that utilize engaging games and interactive technology. Programs like Second Step equip students at a young age with the skills to not only avoid drugs and alcohol, but also improve their academic performance and overall behavior in the classroom.

In grades 9-12, students engage with SEL curriculum in their CCR class through the Naviance curriculum and Newsela. Decatur Central Media Specialist, Deana Beecher and district SRO/School Safety Specialist, Chase Lyday appeared on [Inside Indiana Business](#) to discuss the district's Social and Emotional Learning programs.

Did you know?

Decatur has 4 fully developed career pathways

39 high school and
1 elementary STEM teachers

6,610 iPads

249 MacBooks

GRANTS

PLTW GRANTS

During the 18-19 school year, Decatur Township received several **Project Lead the Way** (PLTW) grants to expand PLTW programming to our students. PLTW is a STEM program that embeds employability skills and aligns the curriculum throughout the district, specifically in computer science.

Elementary Pilot

- Blue Academy - *Launch* - Computer Science programming for grades 1-5
- Blue Academy - *Gateway* - Computer science for Innovators and Makers at the 6th-grade level

Middle School

- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers and App Creators
- Verizon Grant - \$15,000 award for computer science implementation at the middle school

High School

- Computer Science Principles
- Cybersecurity

All programs were part of creating a computer science pathway in grades 1-12 using the PLTW curriculum. The five grants awarded throughout the district combined for a total of \$32,200 dollars.

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING GRANT

In June 2018, the MSD of Decatur received the Lilly Endowment Comprehensive School Counseling Grant for the amount of \$671,300. The grant will provide additional support for students, counselors, and administrators over a four year period. The grant provides funds for Communities in Schools Site Coordinators at each of the secondary schools and additional Cummins Behavioral Health Systems services. An integral part of the grant is the development of a Comprehensive Evidence-Based School Counseling program.

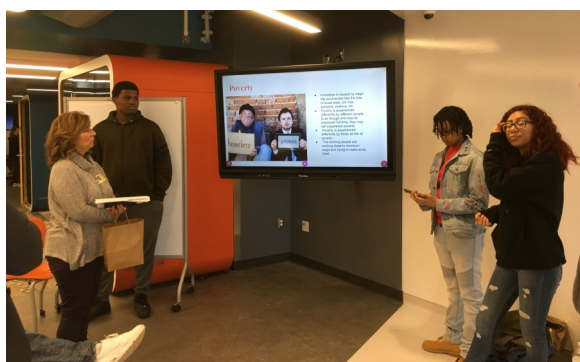
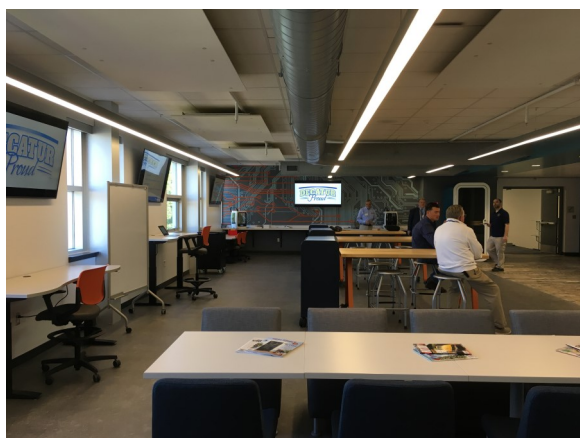
Part of the efforts of creating a comprehensive program is to reduce the caseload size of the school counselors. To begin this process an additional counselor - Mr. Austin Dodd was added to the staff at Decatur Central for the 2018-19 school year.

Innovation and Design Hub

In October of 2018, we announced the grand opening of our state-of-the-art [Innovation and Design Hub](#). The hub transformed the third floor of the Decatur Township School of Excellence to serve as an innovative learning space available to students and staff district-wide for enhanced instruction and learning opportunities. Read more about the Innovation and Design Hub in an article by [Inside Indiana Business](#).

The Innovation and Design Hub has hosted a wide variety of classes and student groups such as, Valley Mills 3rd grade students learning about soils, the Social Action class presenting projects to the United Way, Computer Science club, Hour of Code, and Entrepreneurship club to mention a few.

- Elementary school students in the MSD of Decatur Township received a head start in coding through the [International Hour of Code Program](#), an initiative created to give young students exposure to computer science in order to better prepare them for an increasingly technological society. Some Decatur teachers have even decided to continue coding efforts in their classrooms after seeing such a positive response from students who visited Hour of Code in the Innovation and Design Hub. Read more about the Hour of Code event in an article by [Inside Indiana Business](#).



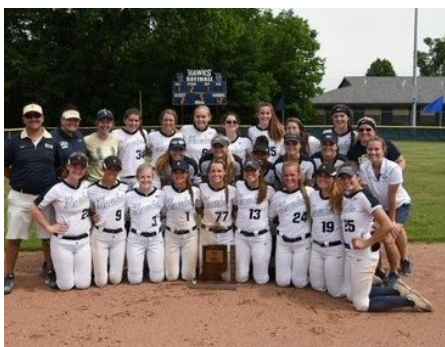
DECATUR ATHLETICS

Sportsmanship Award

The Decatur Central High School Athletic Department was awarded the 2018-2019 IHSA Sportsmanship award for the second consecutive year. This award recognizes schools within the state of Indiana that demonstrate a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. The intended outcomes for the IHSA Sportsmanship award are to ensure the Athletic Departments in the state of Indiana take an intentional approach to creating a learning environment that is focused on building leaders, developing responsible young adults, and retaining the goals of competition and winning.

Baseball

The varsity baseball team brought home the Sectional Champions title along with many notable wins throughout the course of the season. Coach Combs also celebrated his 100th career win with a 3-2 victory over Plainfield. Team MVP Nolan Wade hit 10 doubles and Parker Harrington showed his diversity on the field by playing in eight different positions during the Senior Night game.



Softball

Following a season in which the Decatur Central softball team won the IHSA State Championship, the 2018-2019 Hawks finished with a 27-2 record, which included a 23 game win streak with 17 shutouts. The Hawks also finished as Marion County Champions, Mid-State Conference Champions, and Sectional Champions.

Intercollegiate Athletics

Decatur Central High School sent a total of 14 student-athletes off to participate in intercollegiate athletics. The following 2018-2019 student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics are: *Jason Allen Jr.*: College of Dupage-Football, *Peyton Baxter*: Wright State-Softball, *Devin Brock*: Hanover College-Football, *Kelli Brock*: Hanover College-Track, *Brooklyn Enright*: IUPUI – Cheerleading. Will Gibson: Marian University-Football, *Nehemiah Jones*: Manchester University-Basketball, *Bryce Lewman*: Frontier Community College-Baseball, *Nick Pickett*: Marian University-Football, *Dylan Renick*: Marian University-Football, *Chamaar Smith*: Northern Illinois University-Football, *Chaikou Sow*: Rose Hulman Institute of Technology-Football, *Ajulu Thatha*: Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville-Basketball, *Larry Tracy*: Indiana University-Football,

Men's Golf

The Decatur Central Men's Golf Team had a spectacular season with an overall record of 7-8. For the first time in Hawk history, the team finished 3rd place in the Crispus Attucks Sectional and advanced to the Regional Qualifier after defeating Ritter by 3. Ryan Bostic shot a 75 (+3), which is a school record! Decatur Central placed 16th at the IHSA Regionals.

Women's Tennis

Our Women's Tennis squad picked up major momentum this season gaining their highest ranking ever at the Mid-State Conference Tournament, placing 6th overall. Every athlete on the Lady Hawk team was able to secure a place on the board and at least one win for all five positions. Additionally, Hawks #1 doubles pair, Yennie Tran and Taylor O'Dell, known as "Yaylor," put on an incredible performance with two back-to-back wins.

Men's Cross Country

The Men's Cross Country team completed their season at the Carmel Semi-State Championships. This was the first Decatur Central team in the 5k era to advance to semi-state. In his final cross country race, Kyle Gross led the Hawks running 16:31 while making an attempt to qualify for the State Championships. Sedrik Sweet and Austin Scott finished together running 16:52 and 16:53 respectively. Senior Taren Porter concluded his high school career running 18:35, a time comparable to Kyle Gross's semi-state final from last year. Sophomore Tyler Moses ran 18:53 and he was followed closely behind by Brock Rumpel (19:07) and John Wheeler (19:19).

Women's Cross Country

Faith Kline and Kamryn Arnold both advanced as individuals to the Ben Davis Regional. Kamryn Arnold ran a personal best 23:27 on the most difficult course of the season. Faith Kline put together an aggressive race that made her the 9th advancing individual.



Football

The 2018-2019 Decatur Central Football team finished the 2018-2019 season with a 12-2 record. The Hawks finished the season as Mid-State Conference Champions, Sectional Champions, Regional Champions, Semi-State Champions, and State Runner-Up. Coach Enright was named 5A Coach of the Year.

Athletic Awards

Congratulations to **Payton Baxter** for earning the *Rita Sparks Outstanding Female Athlete Award* and **Dylan Rennick** for earning the *Paul Hurst Outstanding Male Athlete Award*. Both athletes showed exceptional work ethic and commitment to academics and their teams. Additionally, congrats to **Izzy Burr** and **Emma Hart** for being recognized as *Athletic Blanket Award* recipients for earning 10+ varsity letters throughout their high school athletic careers. We are #DecaturProud to have such wonderful and dedicated student-athletes.

DECATUR FINE ARTS

The 2018-2019 school year brought a great deal of success to the Fine Arts Department at Decatur Central High School. Comprised of Theatre, Band, and Choir, this department is constantly on the go and working hard to provide opportunities for creative learning, growth and success for our students. Students participate in both co-curricular (in-school) and extracurricular classes and activities that provide experiences to encourage creativity, perseverance, teamwork, focus, and much more, through artful learning.

The Fine Arts Department thanks the MSD of Decatur Township and Decatur Central High School administrators for their unending support and encouragement as these programs continue to grow. It is the hallmark of any school corporation to offer a variety of programs and opportunities that prepare students to be *tomorrow ready* and our Fine Arts Department strives to be an integral part of student success.

Holiday Spectacular

At the 12th annual Holiday Spectacular, Theatre, Band, and Choir shared the stage to celebrate the holidays. This concert offered three performances in December, as well as opportunities for our elementary schools to get a preview of the show.



Theater



Theatre students have the opportunity to take classes in technical theatre, acting, and show production. Students can act or direct short plays in One Act shows or participate in solo performances in Coffeehouse nights. The theatre department produces two major shows each year; a fall musical and a spring play. The *Wizard of Oz* was a huge musical hit, utilizing high tech rigging that enabled students to “fly” across the stage. In addition to high school students and a live band, younger students from the district were cast as *Munchkins*. The spring play, *Almost, Maine*, was a funny and romantic production comprised of several short scenes about love and loss taking place in a small town called Almost, Maine.

DCHS Choir



Directed by Kelly L. Cassady and accompanied by Jennifer Pollard, our Choir Department is an incredibly well- rounded and talented group of students. With four active choirs, there are always great things happening! **Goldenaires**, our co-ed show choir, finished their season with ISSMA Gold Ratings in both sight-reading and repertoire, and won 1st place in Festival Class at Pike Music Fest with their high energy show, *Break Free and Fly Away*. Our all female show choir, **Expressions**, performing their inspirational and upbeat show, *A New World*, also earned ISSMA Gold Ratings in both sight-reading and repertoire and won 2nd place in Festival Class at Pike Music Fest. The Varsity Choir wrapped up their year with ISSMA Gold Ratings in both sight-reading and repertoire and a notably impressive perfect score in repertoire! The Cadet Choir also earned ISSMA Gold Ratings in sight-reading and repertoire. The all inclusive final performance of the year, *Singabration*, was the perfect way to celebrate both students and directors, and this productive year of successes.

DCHS Band



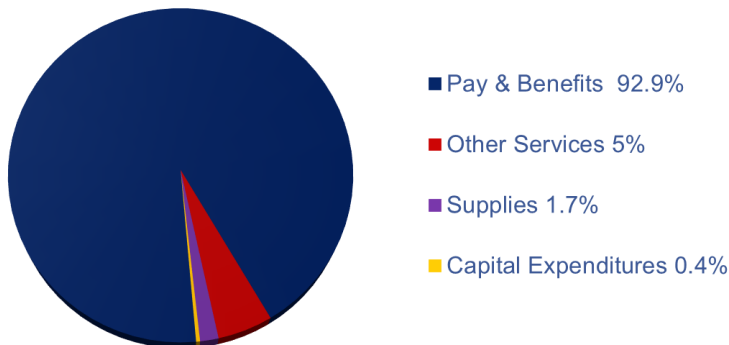
Keeping an incredibly fast paced tempo, our Band Department, directed by Tim Cox and Zach Crowder, is in full swing year round. With multiple ensembles and competitive performing groups, these kids never stop! The school year begins long before the first day of school for the marching band, with a music camp during the month of June where they begin learning parts of the show that they won't begin competing with until September. The **marching band** finished their season with an ISSMA Marching Band Regional Gold rating, performing their show, *Singularity*. Just as marching band ends, new seasons begin for our state and nationally competing winter groups, Indoor Winds, Winter Percussion Ensemble, and Varsity Winter Guard. The **Indoor Winds** were named the WGI Indy Regional Champion and ended their season, placing 4th at IPA State Finals and an impressive 5th place finish at WGI World Championships. The **Winter Percussion Ensemble**, known as WPE, kept a rigorous schedule and attended the WGI Indy Regional and WGI World Championships. The **Varsity Winter Guard** attended the WGI Indy and Mid-East Regional competitions; finishing 6th place at IHSCGA State Finals, and had an impressive run at WGI World Championships. Our two **Jazz Ensembles** both achieved ISSMA Gold Ratings with Distinction, earning their highest score in DC history! Both **Concert Band** and **Wind Ensemble** earned ISSMA Gold Ratings, with Wind Ensemble earning with Distinction honors and their 2nd highest score in DC history. Students also have the opportunity to showcase individual and small ensemble skills at Solo & Ensemble Contest. This year, an impressive 100 students earned gold medals on the district level and more students attended State Solo & Ensemble than any other year in DC History. This amazing year of growth and improvement earned DCHS the *ISSMA ALL-MUSIC AWARD* and the *CONN-SELMER All American School Award* for the 8th time. A program of this caliber could not achieve so much without a world class staff and the support of an active and incredibly supportive Band Booster Organization.



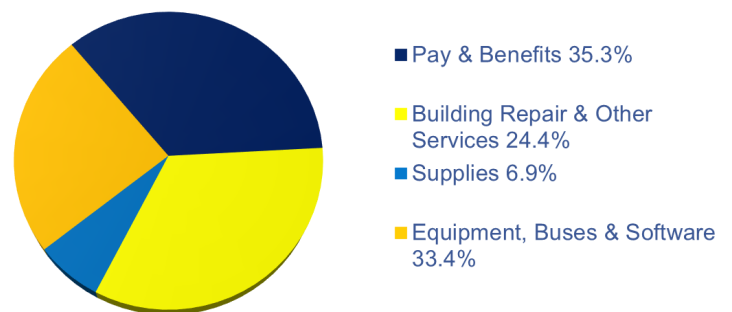
FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

	Pay and Benefits	Other Services	Supplies, Fuel & Utilities	Equipment & Buses	Total
Education Fund	\$39,347,203.45	\$2,130,005.39	\$709,946.47	\$152,316.30	\$42,339,471.61
Operation Fund	\$3,059,607.26	\$2,900,587.02	\$595,515.42	\$2,123,294.77	\$8,679,004.47
Referendum Fund	\$2,547,610.05	\$296,364.18	\$1,894,167.93	\$16,736.02	\$4,754,878.18
Total	\$44,954,420.76	\$5,326,956.59	\$3,199,629.82	\$2,292,347.09	\$55,773,354.26

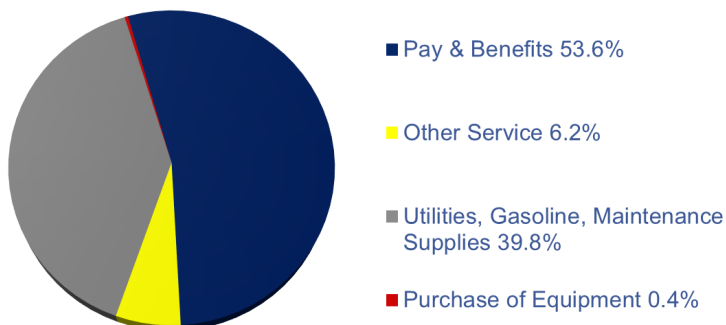
Education Fund



Operations Fund



Operating Referendum



To learn more about our budget, visit:
<https://www.decatrproud.org/finance/budget>

REFERENDUM

Passed in May 2019



Funds from the **Operating Referendum** - estimated to be \$5.3 million, will support transportation, electricity, building maintenance, and student and staff safety. The calculated amount from the operating referendum is based on a tax rate of \$0.2890. The previous tax rate of \$0.2986 will be replaced by the new referendum tax rate.

MSD of Decatur Township is dedicated to ensuring tax dollars are used wisely and effectively. This referendum ensures Decatur Township students will have the opportunity to thrive after the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district expires in June 2025.

How will MSD of Decatur Township spend the \$5.3 million?

Transportation: \$2,825,000

Each day, 4000 miles are driven by the district's school buses. On average, the buses drive 1,377,000 miles each year. The average lifespan of a school bus is 12 years, and in 2013, the district owned 81 buses with the average age of 9.34 years. In 2018, the district still owned 81 buses, but due to replacement of aging buses, the average age has decreased to 7.69 years.

Electricity: \$1,400,000

Decatur Township has cut costs in electricity by upgrading lighting throughout the district to more efficient LEDs.

Building Maintenance: \$575,000

The district is currently upgrading building system controls for more effective management of heating and cooling systems. Decatur Township continues to participate in cooperative purchasing of natural gas for heating and school bus purchasing.

Safety: \$500,000

Dedicated to the safety of our students, staff, and wider community, Decatur Township currently has a statutory police department with five school resource officers.





STUDENT INVESTED, COMMUNITY CONNECTED

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**PREPARING STUDENTS
TO BE TOMORROW READY**