

Thank you for visiting the Hillsdale Local School District website. We believe you will find Hillsdale living up to its motto: **“Building Character, Expecting Excellence.”** Here at Hillsdale we focus on the whole child and strive hard to meet each student’s needs through innovative curriculum and a wide variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Many of these accomplishments and opportunities are outlined below:

- 77 % of our staff has a master’s degree or beyond.
- Over 99% of our students have passed the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee.
- We house two preschool units, run by the Tri-County ESC.
- We offer inclusionary and self-contained classrooms for students with disabilities.
- We offer diverse opportunities for gifted students (see details below).
- We participate in the International Baccalaureate Program.
- We offer 8 different College Credit Plus / Advanced Placement classes taught onsite.
- Our students earn over 600 college credit hours annually, including College Credit Plus offerings and online courses.
- We participate in the College Now Program.
- We have state-of-the art wireless and networking equipment with laptop carts available for every classroom.
- Our FFA program is nationally recognized.
- Our STEAM classes at the middle school provide students with a variety of hands-on learning experiences.
- Our STEM class at the high school gives students the opportunity to explore pre-engineering concepts.
- We offer a full online curriculum.
- Our school is a member of Drug Free Clubs of America.
- We emphasize character education in each building.
- 85 % of our students participate in co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities.
- Our football team has qualified for the playoffs for 7 of the last 9 years, earning berths to the Elite 8 in 2010 and 2017.
- Our softball team has earned 6 state titles along with 3 state runner-up finishes.

Middle School STEAM Education

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) is the focus of several “specials” courses in the Middle School. Students begin in 5th grade with an online curriculum

called “Easy Tech” from Learning.com. After learning basic computer skills and some keyboarding, students spend a little time with Ozobots! In 6th grade students continue a short study into the Internet, learn responsible usage, and utilize various helpful websites like PixlR, Symbaloo, and PowToon. Then, students work with electricity kits from Elenco and finally, create solutions to a variety of design engineering challenges. In 7th grade, students focus on computer programming and coding using a variety of “free” websites like code.org to learn basic skills. They also use MIT’s website for App Inventor, creating their own apps, and MIT’s website For Scratch where they further hone their programming skills to then use on the Finchbots from Bird Brain Technologies. The 8th grade curriculum is all tied to Lego Mindstorms EV3 bricks that students learn to use as they construct robots, program them, and then compete in a series of challenges.

These opportunities in STEAM education provide students with valuable critical thinking and problem solving skills. They learn about the design process, but also about teamwork, meeting deadlines, and practicing ingenuity as they strive to complete each task. There is a great diversity in the tools used and the skills acquired, but all of them focus on 21st century learning strategies that will equip our students for their place in the future workforce. In addition, they learn the importance of traits like responsibility, kindness, and leadership. At Hillsdale we strive to educate the “whole” child, so we truly believe in our mission to build character and expect excellence in every facet through our STEAM experience for students.

Gifted Education

The Hillsdale Local School District is proud to offer opportunities for gifted students in nearly every grade. Our Gifted Intervention Specialist works closely with classroom teachers to develop individual plans for gifted children.

State – accredited programs taught by a licensed gifted teacher are available in grades three through six. Enrichment opportunities are available for grades one through eight.

Advanced math, College Credit Plus courses, and Advanced Placement courses are available in junior high and high school.

Please contact Andrew Lewellen, gifted coordinator, at tesc_lewelle@tccsa.net or at (419) 369-4911 if you have questions about our program.

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Hillsdale Local School District. Feel free to contact any of our administrative team below with questions or to visit our schools.

Steve Dickerson, Superintendent –	419-368-8501
Tom Williams, Elementary Principal –	419-368-4364 Ext 8700
Tim Keib, Middle School Principal –	419-368-4911 Ext 8600
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