

Message from the Superintendent

By Todd Cramer, Ed.D.



Work Continues in Areas of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are concepts that are driving much of Maumee City Schools' strategic planning work. We are developing a staff and student body that speak and act intentionally to always show respect, kindness, and understanding of the unique and special differences that make each of us better as individuals, and stronger as a community.

We have always strived to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion and we are undertaking this work with a renewed focus and energy. We know that students and adults alike thrive in diverse and equitable environments. Here are some basic definitions we are using:

Diversity. Diversity celebrates all the ways in which people have different identities and experiences, including race, ethnicity, gender, physical appearance, disability, religion/spirituality, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, language, ideas, and values.

Equity. Equity means ensuring that all individuals are fairly treated and have access to the same opportunities. Equitable and equal are not synonyms. Equity seeks to identify, acknowledge, and eliminate barriers that prevent students from being able to fully participate in activities or that prevent them from accessing the same opportunities as others. It also ensures that rules, discipline, and policies are implemented consistently and fairly.

Inclusion. Creating an inclusive school community means creating a school environment in which every student/adult or group of students/adults feels respected, supported, and valued. An inclusive school environment welcomes everyone and embraces and celebrates what makes each individual unique.

Our DEI work started in earnest when we began crafting our four-year strategic plan in early 2019 with input from more than 40 community members and staff. The school district already had a number of initiatives in place to address specific aspects of diversity, equity, and/or inclusion but we knew we needed to do more. Now we have a DEI leadership team at work in every school as well as a continuum of positive mental health supports in place, which includes our PBIS programs, bullying prevention curriculum, Positivity Project curriculum, Second Step curriculum, and the Ruling our Experiences (ROX) curriculum for girls, as examples.

We kicked off this school year with awareness training for every employee that is part of a multi-year collaboration with Bowling Green State University. A three-person team from the university, whose work is concentrated in DEI, is leading staff training, facilitating leadership team meetings, and supporting the creation of our DEI plans for the coming years. BGSU is also supporting the school district in our data analysis as we look at trend and outcome data for our students.

We are asking the Maumee community for your support and engagement in these efforts because we believe this work will benefit our students and staff and also our entire community.

DECA Completes Annual Harvest for Hunger Food Drive High School Students and Staff Collect \$800 and 500 Food Items

Community service is important to the Maumee High School/Penta Career Center DECA program and they sponsor an annual food drive to support the Angel Tree project at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Maumee.

"This project allows us to take action, have an immediate impact for struggling local families and bring attention to the importance of donating to others," says MHS senior Sidney Hazard, DECA Vice President of Hospitality. "It is heartwarming to all of us and we are happy to have the chance to give back to a community that is always so supportive of Maumee High School students and our DECA program."



Maumee's Preschool Program Awarded 5-Star "Step Up to Quality" Rating

Maumee City Schools collaborates closely with the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESC-LEW) and they run Maumee's award-winning early childhood (preschool) program. We offer a developmentally appropriate educational program for young children who have delayed development, young children from income-eligible families, as well as many children, without unique learning needs, seeking a high-quality preschool experience. The curriculum is language-based and focuses on play and hands-on experiential learning.

Maumee preschool teachers expertly assist the 57 enrolled children in development of cognitive skills, social and emotional development, and physical development through active learning. Union School also houses the Perrysburg City Schools preschool program and approximately 162 children who reside in Perrysburg cross the bridge into Maumee four days each week to attend Union School. Perrysburg reimburses Maumee for the use of space at Union School.



The Cost of COVID & Other Financial Realities

By Paul Brotzki, Treasurer

Our state funding was cut by \$450,000 between May and June of this year (the end of fiscal year 2020), basically with no advance notice, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We immediately set to work to find an additional \$800,000 to cut from our fiscal year 2021 budget in anticipation of even more state funding reductions during the current fiscal year that began on July 1.

Maumee's Board of Education has been positioning the school district to stay off the ballot for a new property tax levy for as long as possible; hopefully at least until 2023. Consequently, this budget stabilization of \$800,000 was deemed necessary.

Building and department operating budgets were immediately cut 10%, vacant positions were not filled as staff retired or resigned, and the new revenue stream of open enrollment was instituted. Maumee welcomed 63 open enrolled students to the district for the 2020-21 school year and this will increase our revenue by approximately \$379,000/year. With all these measures now in place, we are maintaining our rigorous academics and other essential programming that defines our school district.

Fortunately, the State of Ohio and the United States Department of Education has recognized the negative financial impact the pandemic is having on school districts and several one-time funding opportunities were offered to attempt to shore up some losses. Maumee City Schools has proactively sought out and applied for each opportunity as it was made available to us.

Beyond COVID: Spending from General Fund vs. PI Fund

Permanent improvements are school district items or projects expected to have a useful life of five or more years. Examples include fencing, asphalt, roofs, school buses, building repairs, textbooks, technology, and the like. Funding for these items is necessary for a well-maintained and modern school district. These funds are generated from a permanent improvement (PI) levy that voters graciously approved in November 2014. These funds cannot be commingled with other funds and can only pay for permanent improvements. The school district has a PI plan for these funds projected out for the next three to five years.

Items and projects that are considered "consumable" must be funded from the general fund or with other specially earmarked funds. These expenses include utilities, employee payroll, athletics, and other extracurricular activities, as well as all other items and supplies necessary to operate a school district of 2,300+ students and 300+ staff members. These general operating necessities are paid for using a combination of State of Ohio and US Department of Education funding along with property tax levy dollars. The school district's annual operating budget is approximately \$32 million.

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Board of Education: Mrs. Stephanie Piechowiak (President), Mrs. Janet Wolff (Vice President), Mrs. Diane Balcerzak, Mrs. Jennifer Campos, Mr. Mike Wiley

Dr. Todd Cramer (Superintendent), Mr. Steven Lee (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Paul Brotzki (Treasurer), Mrs. Nancy Sayre (Editor)

Vision: Engage, Inspire, Empower.

Mission: Maumee City Schools is a community that invests in every child, every day, to ensure all students find their success.



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Maumee City Schools ensures that every student has opportunities to excel both inside and outside the classroom. This QUALITY PROFILE highlights just a few of the programs, services and initiatives in place so that all students find their success.



Learn more
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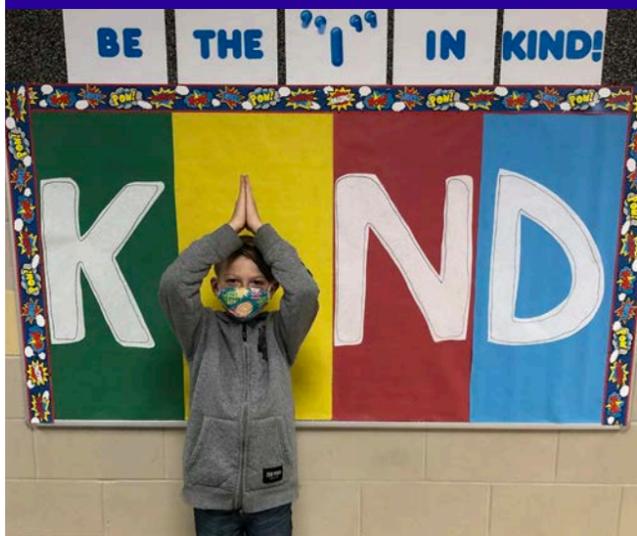
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Alumni Selected for Annual Awards

Congratulations to these accomplished alumni and a coach selected for Maumee High School's highest honors: the Distinguished Maumee High School Alumnus Award and induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame and Hall of Excellence & Contribution. Unfortunately, these awards will not be formally presented in January 2021 due to ongoing pandemic limitations. Winners will be invited to Maumee for a banquet and recognition at a varsity basketball game the weekend of January 21 & 22, 2022.

- 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Award**
- William Patrick (Pat) Donnelly – MHS '61 (1943 – 2020)
 - Jeremy Joan Hewes – MHS '62
 - Marshall B. Otwell – MHS '62
 - Judith (Thompson) Barr, Sc.D., M.Ed. – MHS '63
- 2021 Athletic Hall of Fame**
- George L. (Caith) Chapman, IV – MHS '95
 - Benjamin "Bo" Waggoner – MHS '07
- 2021 Athletic Hall of Excellence & Contribution**
- Larry Welch – Coach & Educator

Corner Alumni



Students are the 'I' in KIND

Maumee City Schools has a focus on making children aware of character strengths and how they lead to self-confidence and self-awareness. Using the nationally recognized Positivity Project, students explore how their feelings, thoughts and actions intersect, with individual character at the apex.

Kindness is one of the 24 character strengths woven into the curriculum, along with fairness, forgiveness, integrity, leadership, and perseverance as examples. The Positivity Project framework is designed to help students better understand why everyone is different and how to appreciate the differences.

Middle School Students Take Field Trip to Ancient Rome

Actual field trips may not be possible right now but traveling to places near and far is possible thanks to virtual reality. Gateway Middle School student teacher Ethan Jessing recently led 7th grade students on an excursion to Ancient Rome. Maumee City Schools has 120 pairs of VR goggles and students across the district use them to travel around the globe.



Congratulations to Maumee's Regional & State Competitors

It was a very successful fall season for a number of Maumee High School athletes.

Junior **Eric Board** advanced to the state cross country tournament after finishing 5th at the Division II regional cross country meet. Eric finished top 50 at States.



The **girls volleyball team** finished 1st at sectionals, are the district champions which earned them a spot in the District II "Sweet 16." Senior Brynn Brown was named district player of the year and Head Coach Lindsay Vannett was named district coach of the year.



Boosters Annual Gold Card Drive Underway - Virtually

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, high school and middle school athletes will not be going door to door for donations this year, so the Maumee Athletic Boosters (MAB) invite the community to donate to the Annual Gold Card Drive – virtually.

You can enter now for your chance to participate and win.

- \$10 donation = 1 entry ticket
- \$20 donation = 3 entry tickets

The Winter Gold Card drawing will be held at halftime of the varsity boys basketball game on January 2. (need not be present to win)

- First place - \$500
- Second place - \$100
- Third place - \$50

To participate: Scan QR code, visit www.maumeeathleticboosters.org, call 419-260-2261

Community Invited to Upcoming MAB meeting:
 January 6 @ 7pm.
 Meeting location listed on MAB website.
Facebook: @MABBoosters
Twitter: MaumeeAthlctBoosters




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MAUMEE BY THE NUMBERS

 Safety Inspections Rating for all Maumee School Buses	 Red-Light Cameras on School Buses	 Breakfasts & Lunches Served During Summer Break 2020	 Number of Maumee High School Alumni
 College Credit Hours Earned Through College Credit Plus (Class of 2020)	 Advanced Placement Tests Taken in Pursuit of College Credit (Class of 2020)	 United States Military Enlistments (Class of 2020)	 Cost of COVID-Related PPE and Supplies Necessary for Return to In-Person Classes
 Area of the School District in Square Miles	 Miles of Fencing Around School Facilities	 Students Transported by School Bus Each Day	 2020 Grads Earning Latin Honors

Anonymous Donor Gifts \$455,000 Since 2012

Maumee City Schools recently received a \$75,000 donation from the JLW Fund to support the Maumee MaKERS afterschool support and enrichment program housed at Union School and also the newly remodeled MakerSpaces at Maumee's three elementary schools.

Since 2012, the JLW Fund has given Maumee City Schools a total of \$455,000. Each year, the donor meets with district staff to talk about priority projects that will specifically benefit students with all types of special learning needs.

"What's most important to us is knowing how a new program or type of technology will help students with special needs, both gifted and talented and those with a learning disability or other unique learning need," explains the donor who asks not to be publicly identified. "Every year we have the opportunity to visit Maumee City Schools to see students taking part in these new programs or utilizing new technology. It always brings me to tears because I am so happy to give back to a school district that made such a lasting impact on my children when they attended here."

"It is very inspiring to think about the hundreds of children whose daily learning experiences have been so greatly enhanced thanks to the generosity of this one benefactor," says Michelle Shafer, Maumee's Director of Teaching & Learning. "From our MaKERS program to Summer Camp to equipment for MakerSpaces in all five Maumee schools, the JLW Fund has, for many years, ensured that Maumee students have both assistive technology tools and cutting-edge technology at their fingertips every day."

