



# MAUMEE CITY SCHOOLS SCHOOLNOTES

A newsletter for the residents of the Maumee City School District



• JULY 2021 •

## Superintendent's Column

By Todd Cramer, Ed.D.



### Ending Rollercoaster Ride of a School Year

For all of you who have ridden the Cedar Point Corkscrew – or any mega rollercoaster for that matter – that rollercoaster experience pretty much summarizes the 2020-21 school year. We started off looking up at the challenge ahead and found the strength to get on board, even though we were not quite sure what to expect. We started the climb up the big hill feeling like we had all the momentum we needed. Then came the freefall – the month of December 2020 in the case of this global pandemic – and we were turned upside down, spun around, and ordered to stop in-person classes and return to remote learning for several weeks. However, we stayed on the tracks – students, staff, and parents alike all working together – returned to the classroom five days a week and offered an online option for those who preferred to learn away from our campus this year. Here we are, successfully at the finish line.

#### Thank You Community Members

On behalf of our Maumee City Schools Board of Education, led by president Stephanie Piechowiak and including vice president Janet Wolff, and members Diane Balcerzak, Jennifer Campos, and Mike Wiley, I want to say thank you to the entire Maumee community. Your support of our students – in all grades and at all times – never ceases to impress.

#### Thank You Students & Parents

To every Maumee student, from our preschoolers to our high school seniors, we witnessed your perseverance, dedication to your education, your support of your friends and your school as you followed the ever-changing health and safety rules. We understand it was not an easy year for parents and we appreciate everyone's willingness to trust our decisions and for your patience as we navigated our way through the pandemic. Parental support allowed us to stay committed to our core values and walk the fine line between keeping our students and staff safe while providing the best education possible.

#### Thank You Staff

I cannot say enough about how proud I am of Maumee's teachers and support staff members. There is no group of educators I would have rather taken this rollercoaster ride alongside. They were champions of our students, providing the best possible education, in the safest environment, throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic.

#### Looking Forward to 2021-22 School Year

We have more than 300 students participating in summer camp with us this year. Following these educational/enrichment camps, we will put the 2020-21 school year behind us and look forward to the future when we will be welcoming all of our students back into our classrooms this August.

We have all our "normal" special events and athletic competitions on the calendar for the coming school year and are looking forward to Richard Kazmaier Stadium and our gymnasiums being filled to 100% seating capacity. And, we are excited to welcome the community back into our buildings for events including open houses, conferences, fall plays, and the spring musical. These events are already posted on our calendar that you access from the front page of the district website. There are many reasons to be optimistic as we look forward to the start of the 2021-22 school year.

## Grant Infusion Will Support Maumee MaKERS Program for Next Three Years

Maumee City Schools was thrilled to learn that our Maumee MaKERS (Maumee Kids Enrichment & Reading Success) program will be receiving a three-year United Way of Greater Toledo grant for \$55,575 annually.

Maumee MaKERS is an after-school program for students in kindergarten through grade 3. Students are transported from Fort Miami and Fairfield to Union School Monday – Friday. Transportation from MaKERS to home is also provided. Maumee MaKERS was custom-designed to improve a child's reading while providing enrichment, a warm meal, and a fun, supportive environment for after-school care.

"After two years of operation, the data show that Maumee MaKERS is strengthening students' social relationships as well as making an impact on their academics. It is a very unique educational enrichment opportunity with a focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics)," explains Michelle Shafer, Maumee City Schools Director of Teaching and Learning.

Receiving this grant from the United Way of Greater Toledo will allow the school district to continue working with the Wood County Community Learning Centers to keep MaKERS costs low and continue to provide a full range of services to children, on an incredibly affordable sliding scale cost and we want to say 'thank you' United Way as well as all of our community partners.

Maumee MaKERS is a partnership between Maumee City Schools, Wood County Community Learning Centers, First Presbyterian Church Maumee, and the JLW Foundation.



## Nine Staff Members Retire from School District



*Pictured (L-R) Julie Johnson, Teri Miller, Mary Lankey, Randy Rice, Lisa Steinbauer, Roseanne Martinez, Amy Gorman. Not pictured: Karen McCall and Cheryl Warren*

It is always difficult to say farewell to staff members and faculty who have had a profound impact on the lives of children and their colleagues. On June 7, 2021, nine employees were recognized by the Board of Education for their dedication to the children of this community. With this many retirements, the district will be welcoming the largest group of new staff members since 2015.

**Amy Gorman** was hired in June 1993 as a choir teacher at Gateway Middle School and Maumee High School throughout her 28 years of employment with Maumee City Schools.

**Julie Johnson** was hired in July 1988 as an English teacher at Maumee High School where she continued to teach throughout her 34 years with Maumee City Schools.

**Mary Lankey** started her career in April 1990 as a substitute bus driver. In August 1994, she was hired as a regular staff bus driver and drove a bus in Maumee for 25 more years.

**Roseanne Martinez** was hired in June 2001 as a modern language teacher where she remained throughout her 20-year career in Maumee City Schools.

**Karen McCall** was hired as a playground monitor in August 1995 and remained there until August 1999 when she started as a classroom assistant, where she remained until her retirement this spring.

**Teri Miller** was hired in August 1999 as a kindergarten teacher at Wayne Trail and then moved to Fort Miami in the elementary school reconfiguration. She was one of Maumee's kindergarten teachers for 28 years.

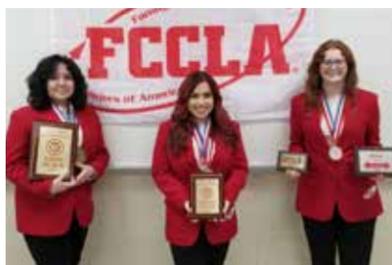
**Randy Rice** started his career in Maumee in June 2012 as a building engineer. In February 2018, he transferred to the facilities specialist-maintenance position and will retire in July 2021.

**Lisa Steinbauer** was hired in June 1993 as a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Union School, and also taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Union. She concluded her 27-year career as a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Wayne Trail.

**Cheryl Warren** was hired as a food service department substitute in August 2001. She became a regular staff member in 2002 and retired after an 18-year career with Maumee City Schools.

## Students Excel at State, Advance to National Competition

Maumee High School students Nadia Jabri, Jenna Jabri, and Kara Crawford (L-R) competed at Ohio's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) conference this spring, with Nadia scoring high enough to advance to national competition.



Kara and Jenna placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in National Programs In Action (Level 3 Division), and Nadia Jabri placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Professional Presentation (Level 2 Division). Note: SchoolNotes went to print before the results of national competition were known.

"Maumee FCCLA students had a very successful year," explains Maumee's advisor and high school family & consumer sciences teacher Christina Jackson. In addition to the honors already mentioned, Kara earned a \$500 Jay Hershey Memorial Scholarship and a national FCCLA Power of One award. The chapter received a state Service Learning award and Go For The RED award.

## Inclusive Playgrounds and Other Projects Underway

The community will see a variety of projects underway this summer on school properties, including installation of inclusive playground equipment at Fairfield, Fort Miami and Wayne Trail.



"Inclusive playgrounds allow all children, both able-bodied and those with physical difficulties, to play together and this promotes understanding and encourages genuine social interactions," says Maumee's Director of Educational Services Tricia Samuel.

Also happening this summer: sidewalk repairs, paint and carpeting in our Performing Arts Center, high school restroom renovation, construction of a storage building and south-side ticket booth at Kazmaier Stadium, and a major air-quality improvement project that will touch all six Maumee Schools (Union included). These improvements are possible thanks to federal pandemic relief funds (ESSER/CARES Act), permanent improvement levy funds and gifted funds from the JLW Foundation.

**MAUMEE CITY SCHOOLS:** 716 Askin St. • Maumee, OH 43537  
419-893-3200

**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)

**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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# 300+ Students Attend Summer Academic & Enrichment Camp

Maumee Schools Buses Still Rolling Around Town



Maumee High School students like Jayden Gordon and Avery Fowler are earning community service hours by helping with a variety of tasks for younger students, including grading math worksheets.



Small groups of students in grades K-6 work with Maumee City Schools instructors on lessons around the themes of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics and also the Summer Olympics

Closing learning gaps and offering enrichment, mentoring and community service opportunities for students are goals of Maumee's summer school programming. Summer Camp has expanded from three to six weeks and from grades K-6, and now includes grades 7-12 as well. Older students are taking part in a brand new offering called Summer Blitz and they are being invited to "attack the summer." In addition, the Maumee MaKERS program is providing afternoon educational programming for families who want a full-day option for their children.

"While Summer Blitz is assisting students who are credit deficient or had attendance issues during the pandemic, it is also providing opportunities for those who are interested in volunteer opportunities and we have a learn and earn and mentorship option for them as well," says 7-12 camp director Justin Fulst.

"Our focus is on providing real-world and hands-on activities for students that they may have missed out on during the pandemic," adds K-6 camp director Stacey Snyder.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Get Unique Outdoor Education Experience

The pandemic prevented Maumee's traditional fifth grade sleep-away camp (outdoor education) experience this year, so The Trail's End was created by the staff at Wayne Trail Elementary School. Students got to participate in many of the learning opportunities they would have at Camp Michindoh.

The Trail's End featured archery, geocaching, fire building, river study, orienteering, animal tracking, team building, STEAM activities, square dancing, tie-dyeing, and skits. Students rode a school bus to Side Cut Park during the week of May 24 and Metroparks staff led the activities. Maumee High School students who would have been the cabin leaders at Camp Michindoh were also on site and rotated through activities with their groups of 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

"I am really glad we got to come to the park to do these fun activities rather than stay inside like we had to do so much of the time during the pandemic," says 5<sup>th</sup> grader Lilyana Magana.



## 2021 an Extraordinary Year for Maumee Graduates



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On Saturday, May 29, we celebrated the 187 members of the Maumee High School Class of 2021 as they walked across the stage at the Huntington Center. Each graduate invited family and friends to the ceremony that was live-streamed for others not in attendance. While they were able to enjoy many of the normal senior year experiences, they got creative to overcome pandemic-related obstacles that threatened other traditional senior-year special events. Each graduate has endless potential to make a difference in the world.



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**Tour Union School**  
August 14 – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Time to Enroll Students**  
New to the School District

**Families Enjoy First Ever**  
*Literacy on the Lawn*



Maumee City Schools is celebrating the sesquicentennial of Union School with an event during Maumee Summer Fair. Look for us on the front playground of Union School from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, August 14. The Summer Fair parade ends at Union School and current Maumee High School students and district staff will be there to conduct tours. There will be birthday cake and games for children.

Just moving in to the  
Maumee City School District?  
*Welcome to the neighborhood!*

Have a child ready to enter kindergarten?  
*We are excited to meet them!*

It is time to contact the school district and  
enroll children in school.

The new school year begins in mid-August so  
please visit our website today to see how to  
begin the enrollment process.



Members of the Passalacqua family enjoy Literacy on the Lawn at Wayne Trail Elementary School on June 17. Wayne Trail teachers organized the event for all Maumee elementary families. The event featured guest readers, a raffle, food trucks, and free books for everyone in attendance to encourage students to read all summer. Wayne Trail principal Nick Neiderhouse and teacher Steven Kiss both said they are planning to host another literacy event this fall.