



# Fall Sports Updates



## Cross Country standouts

Ten student athletes on the girls team were led by four-year runner **Leslie Standard** and **Brittany Davis**, who finished in the top ten at a number of meets including first place at Garfield Heights Invitational.

The girls' team finished first at the Cuyahoga Heights Invitational. Six members made the all All-Lake Erie League Team, and the girls were L.E.L. champions for the fourth year in a row.

The boys team was led by sophomore **Joivally Turner**, who was the first Maple Heights runner to compete at regionals since 2001, where he placed 25<sup>th</sup>. Junior **Leslie Polley** placed first at the Lake Erie League meet. Four boys made the all L.E.L. team. Both Turner's and Polley's times put them in the top 12 in Maple Heights cross country history.

## Volleyballers post winning records

All three Mustang volleyball teams finished the 2007 season with winning records. The freshman team, coached by alumni player **Lindsey Welker**, set a new record for most wins at 15-7. The junior varsity squad, under the direction of **Rocco Covelli**, ended their season with a 17-5 record.

With a 17-6 record, the varsity team captured the Maple Heights Invitational Tournament championship for the first time since 2003. In the Lake Division of the Lake Erie League, the Mustangs finished second.

**Nile Whaley-Garrison** completed a stellar career and is the fourth player in school volleyball history to earn All-Ohio Honors.

## Football finishes 7-3 season

The 2007 football team finished 7-3, posting its sixth consecutive winning season. After graduating 28 seniors and 18 of 22 starters from the 2006 squad, the inexperienced Mustangs were just decimal points away from making the playoffs.

## Youth Sports Program adds winter activities

Register now for youth recreational activities offered by Maple Heights City Schools and the City of Maple Heights Winter Youth Sports Programs. Registration deadlines for competitive swimming and bowling were mid-month, while sign-up deadlines for basketball and cheerleading are November 30. Seasons run from December 10 to February 3.

Fees range from \$10 to \$25, which cover the cost of t-shirts and awards.

Registration forms may be picked up at Dunham Elementary, Stafford Elementary or the City of Maple Heights Recreation Department. For more information, contact **Rocco Covelli** at 587-6125, ext. 4133 or **Candy Benedick** at 587-3200, ext. 1071.



# Community Connection

Maple Heights City Schools  
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# Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection

News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

## Holiday concert calendar

Elementary Band Concert  
Monday, December 10  
7 p.m. at the High School auditorium

Stafford School Winter Concert  
Wednesday, December 12  
1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Stafford

Middle School Holiday Concert  
Thursday, December 13  
7 p.m. at the High School auditorium

Raymond School Winter Concert  
Monday, December 17  
1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Raymond

Dunham School Winter Concert  
Tuesday, December 18  
1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Dunham

Rockside School Winter Concert  
Wednesday, December 19  
2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Rockside

High School Holiday Concert  
Thursday, December 20  
7 p.m. at the High School auditorium

## Thank you Maple Heights for helping us keep our commitment to excellence

Thanks to the support of the Maple Heights community, voters renewed Issues 8 and 9 earlier this month.

The two issues will generate needed operating money, as well as permanent improvement funds, which will allow the purchase of four new school buses next year.

"We are so grateful to the people of Maple Heights for their support of our schools—and our students," says Superintendent **Charlie Keenan**. "Renewing these two levies was critical to the continuation of our success. I am so pleased that our community is providing the financial resources so we can keep our commitment to excellence by raising student achievement."



## You are invited to a special community information meeting Learn about an exceptional opportunity to build new schools in Maple Heights

**Monday, December 3 or Wednesday, December 5  
7 p.m. in the Maple Heights High School Auditorium**

Recently, state funding has been offered to Maple Heights City Schools to pay a substantial part of the cost of constructing new schools in our district. Each year all school districts in Ohio are ranked according to need. Because additional funding is now available and Maple Heights met the criteria, our district is now eligible for this special program available through the Ohio School Facilities Commission or OSFC.

After examining all our buildings and hearing local input, the OSFC has made its recommendations in a Master Plan. Now, the community is invited to hear about those plans and a proposed bond levy at an upcoming meeting.

**Read more details about this opportunity to build new schools on page 3!**





Senior Dante Wallace and Principal Wayne Marok stand near the "School of Promise" banner hanging near the front door of the high school.

## Maple Heights High School receives prestigious 'School of Promise' award

Maple Heights High School was recently honored as an Ohio Department of Education "School of Promise."

Fewer than 200 schools throughout the state were recognized with the prestigious award by State Superintendent of Schools **Susan Tave Zellman**.

The state defines the elite group as schools with more than 40 percent poverty that met or exceeded state standards in reading and math.

"Think of it as economically disadvantaged schools that produce above-average results," says Superintendent **Charlie Keenan**. "Our test scores tell the tale of our success."

Principal **Wayne Marok** says the award puts Maple Heights High School in an elite spot among Ohio's comprehensive high schools with a large African American population. "We are the only one in the state with a rating above Academic Watch," he says.

Smaller Learning Communities Coordinator **Dan Kovalak** explains that the faculty appreciates the recognition. "For our teachers, it shows that the work we're doing is valid, and it is nice to know that we are moving in a positive direction."

## National Honor Society inducts new members

National Honor Society at Maple Heights High School inducted 14 new members at a special candlelit ceremony on November 14. The new members joined 14 current members.

Speakers included President **Cassandra Simmons**, Superintendent **Charlie Keenan** and Principal **Wayne Marok**. Advisor is **Karen Kreizenbeck**.

To be admitted to National Honor Society, students must meet strict criteria, which include holding a 3.5 grade point average, participating in service projects, showing character and leadership and obtaining recommendations from teachers.

According to the group's Activities Chair **Dondre Cooper**, members recently helped assemble "Shoebboxes for Kids" and collected for a canned food drive. They also held fall parties at Rockside and Raymond elementary schools, organizing games and providing treats for the children.



National Honor Society officers Cassandra Simmons and Dondre Cooper pose next to the group's plaque, which hangs in the main office.

## Update on smaller learning communities introduced at high school this fall

In order to create a more personalized educational experience for students, smaller learning communities were introduced at Maple Heights High School this fall.

All sophomores, juniors and seniors are assigned to a "community" where they take math, social studies, science and language arts from the same team of teachers. The freshman academy, which offers incoming students special assistance, is now in its third year.

"Our students are accepting the changes and are happy with what's going on," explains Principal **Wayne Marok**. "Our teachers are working in teams and establishing positive relationships and common expectations."

Each "community" is made up of about 300 students and has its own school leader or assistant principal, as well as a guidance counselor and secretary.

According to Smaller Learning Communities Coordinator **Dan Kovalak**, "Our school climate and culture has changed, and we have fewer disruptions. Students are learning to get along with their classmates."

# Frequently asked questions about the opportunity to build new schools in Maple Heights

## Q: What is the Ohio School Facilities Commission?

**A:** OSFC is a state organization established to bring all of Ohio's schools up to a predetermined standard. This is to ensure that all Ohio children attend school in quality facilities. As an incentive to local districts selected for this OSFC program, a substantial portion of the construction cost is paid by the state. Recently, additional state funding was made available. Because Maple Heights meets the criteria based on need, our district is now eligible.

## Q: Why does the OSFC think Maple Heights needs new schools?

**A:** After conducting an extensive study of our buildings and hearing local input, the OSFC made its recommendations in a Master Plan. That plan shows that the cost of renovating our buildings would cost more than replacing them.

## Q: How much will the state pay?

**A:** The state of Ohio will provide 51 percent of the funding if the district provides 49 percent.

## Q: What's the timeline for this funding opportunity?

**A:** Right now! We have one calendar year in which to pass a bond levy to raise our local share. That means we could be on the ballot in March 2008.

## Q: What's in the Master Plan?

**A:** Build five new buildings including:

- Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 1
- Grades 2 and 3
- Grades 4 and 5
- Middle School for grade 6, 7 and 8
- High School for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 and Career-Tech

Abate and demolish Dunham, Raymond, Rockside and Stafford elementary schools, Milkovich Middle School, West Junior High School and Maple Heights High School.

## Q: What is the estimated cost of the entire project?

**A:** OSFC estimates the total cost of the Master Plan is just over \$109 million. This would be shared by the state and the district, according to the 51/49 percent formula. Final figures are based on 10-year enrollment projections.

## Q: If we participate, what guidelines must we follow?

**A:** OSFC has specific design guidelines and standards. If we accept state funding, we must comply completely and cannot modify the plan or pick and choose certain projects.



## Superintendent's message

Thank you to the citizens of Maple Heights for your support of our students and our schools. By voting for the two levy renewals, you are making sure our children have a good education. I am proud of the job we are doing in our schools and want to assure you we are working hard and remain committed to excellence.

As good stewards of the public's money, we are always looking for ways to save money—and to improve our facilities and services. As you read on page 1, an opportunity is now available to build five new schools in Maple Heights. Thanks to a special state program, our district has the potential of receiving about \$53 million in state funds to do this.

Of course, we would have to pay our share. The money would come from a bond levy, which voters must approve.

I realize this is a lot of information to process and I'm sure many of you have questions. I hope you will join us at an informational meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 3, or Wednesday, December 5. Board of Education members, administrators and architects from Fanning Howey Associates will address more specifics in the plan.

Our school buildings are in bad shape, and the state's report makes this clear. Soon, we will have to ask you for funds to replace and renovate. By taking advantage of this opportunity, the state will pay for more than half the cost. Please come to one of the meetings to hear what is happening.

**Dr. Charlie Keenan**  
Superintendent of Schools

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**7:00 p.m.**

Maple Heights High School in the Auditorium