

After-school program expanding to grades 4-8; Three-hour sessions include tutoring, snacks, activities

Selected students in the fourth through the eighth grades will be invited to participate in a free, after-school program beginning in late September. Parents should receive invitations soon.

Sessions will run Monday through Thursday. Projected hours are 2:45 to 5:45 p.m. for the middle school and 3:15 to 6:15 p.m. for fourth, fifth and sixth grades. Parents can choose the days their children will attend.

India Ford, who has taught English at Milkovich Middle School for eight years, will lead the 21st Century Community Learning Center. She holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University. Ford's master's degree is from Cleveland State University where she is finishing her doctorate in Urban Education.

"Our main purpose is to increase academic achievement in the classroom," she explains. The program is funded by the district's 21st Century Grant.

Maple Heights teachers will be hired as educational tutors. They will assist students with their homework and monitor each student's academic plan. In addition, tutoring for the OAT, or Ohio Achievement Tests, in reading, social studies, math and science will be offered. Nutritious snacks will be served.

During the last one and a half hours, students can choose enrichment or sports activities. Ford plans to offer a book club, drama club, poetry club, debate club and chess club. Other activities may include artistic expressions, science world, social issues and cultural studies.

"Boys to Men" and "Girls to Women" sessions will be led by counselors for middle school students. They will discuss decision-making skills, anger management and other topics.

Intramural sports, as well as youth recreational activities offered by the City of Maple Heights and the schools, are another option for the second half of the sessions.

Ford has devised an incentive plan based on a token economy. Students can "buy" prizes with tokens earned over a semester. Award ceremonies will be held every quarter.

"I want this program to be very effective not only for the kids, but for the teachers and administrators, too," Ford says. "We are offering free, after-school care, homework help and tutoring. Plus, the kids will have fun."



India Ford

For more information, please call India Ford at 216-587-3200, ext. 2038 or e-mail her at india.ford@Lnoqa.org.



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Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection

News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

Welcome back!

Here's how to contact us

Maple Heights High School

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Maple Heights, OH 44137
Principal: Wayne Marok
(216) 587-3200

Milkovich Middle School

5460 West Boulevard
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Principal: Tracy Williams
(216) 587-3200

Dunham Elementary

5965 Dunham Road
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Principal: Zelina Pames
(216) 587-6125

Raymond Elementary

18500 Raymond Street
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Principal: Tara Scott
(216) 587-6135

Rockside Elementary

5740 Lawn Avenue
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Principal: Denise Hieronymus
(216) 587-6140

Stafford Elementary

19800 Stafford Avenue
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Principal: Susan Harvey
(216) 587-6145

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Planning meetings held this summer; First step in new school construction

Over the summer, a committee of teachers, staff, parents and community members met in a series of work sessions to make decisions about the upcoming elementary and middle school building projects in Maple Heights. Meetings about the high school will be held in January.



Moving the "rooms" around using color-coded blocks.

Thanks to the community's support of a bond issue last spring, five new schools will be built at less than half the cost to taxpayers. A special state program provides 51 percent of the funding.

A master timeline, prepared by project architects Fanning Howey and construction managers Heery International, was approved by the Board of Education in July.

Plans must meet the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission planning and design guidelines, which specify rules about classroom and building space.

According to **John Willi**, Director of Design Research at Fanning Howey, "As part of the Program of Requirement, participants were involved in an early planning exercise that explored building organization, including grade-level groupings, teaming, community use and site parameters. Participants were able to see the possibilities, and we obtained some great ideas."

Willi says that the space design for Maple's middle school is unique because it is based on the district's commitment to small learning communities. Tentative plans call for separating the building by grade levels and locating support staff, counselors and administrators near that group of classrooms.

"Although we must follow the state guidelines," Willi explains, "we have flexibility in the way we organize and allocate the space. I'm excited about the way the middle school will support the district's philosophy of teaching."

Dunham Principal **Zelina Pames** says she has enjoyed being a part of the planning group. "It's a wonderful opportunity to be involved," she says.

According to Superintendent **Charlie Keenan**, another meeting this summer focused on possible environmental features in the new buildings. More than 30 people attended the meeting and expressed interest in making the buildings more environmentally friendly.



2007-08 *Points of Pride* in the Maple Heights Schools

Raymond Elementary – pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grades

- Raymond Around the World, a year-long, school-wide project helped students learn about countries and cultures around the world and included musical concerts and exhibits at the art/academic fair.
- A Parent Resource Room was created by staff members as a part of their Professional Learning Community.
- Raymond was named Ohio Lottery School of the Year at a special assembly featuring the Cleveland Gladiators and Lake Erie Monsters.

Rockside Elementary – second and third grades

- A team of teachers mapped curricula from language arts and math to show which state standards are taught and the resources available.
- Students participated in the “Caught Being Good” contest where they were awarded tickets for following school rules. Each morning, winners received a prize.
- Black History Night in February was attended by more than 300 people who enjoyed a performance by the Drama Club, as well as instructional activities.

Stafford Elementary – fourth and fifth grades

- Students participated in Best Practice Time (BPT) and received differentiated reading skill instruction for ten weeks with the assistance of classroom and Title I reading teachers. Other new programs implemented included a writing lab and after-school tutoring program called A.S.S.E.T.
- Academic Awards assemblies were held each quarter and the Class of the Month was awarded with dances and game days.
- Stafford students benefited from the PTO’s fundraising efforts, which helped purchase playground equipment and teacher resources, as well as subsidized assemblies, holiday parties and the Fifth Grade Farewell.

Dunham Elementary – sixth grade

- Students participated in many extracurricular activities, including Chess Club, Science Club, Project GRASP (science enrichment), Modern Dance, Gospel Dance, Gospel Choir, Intramurals, Safety Patrol, Drill Team, Pep Squad, Math Enrichment, Student Council, Math Problem Solving Team, and Middle School Mentoring.

Milkovich Middle School

–seventh and eighth grades

- Over 10,000 Mustang Pride Certificates were given to students for being “Ready, Respectful and Responsible.”
- Twenty-eight students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Members must maintain a 3.4 GPA or higher, demonstrate outstanding performance in leadership, service, citizenship and character.
- The middle school’s first-ever drill team performed at all home basketball games.
- In sports news, the seventh grade girls’ basketball team was undefeated, and the boys’ track team broke four school records. Sharhonda Rowell, new track and field team member, broke a school record in the shot put.

Maple Heights High School

- Teachers in the Freshman Academy spent the year planning and will implement a block schedule beginning this year to help increase student academic contact time in core subject areas.
- The Mustang athletic teams posted outstanding performances in wrestling and track programs.
- One hundred and eighty six seniors graduated this year. Awards and scholarships totaled several millions of dollars.

Meet Zelina Pames, new Dunham principal

Zelina Pames, new principal at Dunham Elementary, says she has met many students and parents in her three years in Maple Heights.

First, she served as assistant principal at Raymond Elementary. Then Pames was named Parent Liaison for third graders at Rockside Elementary. Last year, she filled in for six months as interim principal at Stafford Elementary and then returned to the liaison position with fourth graders. Previously, she taught in Warrensville for seven years.

"The culture is different in each school," Pames says, "but I don't have a favorite school or grade."

"Sixth graders must prepare for middle school, take responsibility and be accountable for their actions," she explains. "All students need routine and stability because when they are secure, they feel safe to learn."

Pames received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Ursuline College. She and her family live in Bedford.

Principals play a dual role in their schools as both an "instructional leader and a climate creator," she says. "Dunham has a very positive reputation, and the entire staff is awesome."



Gifted and talented program expanding;

Now serving students in grades 3-12

In an expansion of services offered by the Maple Heights City Schools, programs for students identified as gifted and talented will be offered in the third through the twelfth grades.

Susan Jaroscak, who has taught for 24 years in the district, has been named Gifted and Talented Coordinator. The former Susan Fetko, she is a Maple Heights High School graduate. She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Cleveland State University.

Two new teachers, **Annie Buccieri** and **Carolyn Mizak**, will work in the elementary and middle schools.

In addition to her elementary classroom duties, for the past year Jaroscak has served as district Design Team facilitator. Now in its fourth year, the educational initiative offers training and coaching for teams of teachers encouraging them to focus on creating engaging work for students.

"The exciting part of this job is that we will be designing a framework to customize and meet the needs of our particular students—specifically in reading and math," Jaroscak explains. "It's a great opportunity."

Report Card results issued

For the fourth straight year, Maple Heights City School district has maintained a "Continuous Improvement" designation. Previously, the district was ranked "Academic Watch."

Scores saw some increases, including five indicators in the eleventh grade.

"We continue to dedicate ourselves to our vision of raising student achievement," says Superintendent **Charlie Keenan**. "Our intensive intervention plan at the middle and high schools is working."

Superintendent's message

As I begin my fourth year as your superintendent, I want to thank the citizens of Maple Heights again for your support of our levies and the bond issue last year. Our teachers and staff are

energized about the possibilities for our students and excited to begin the year—and the building process. Thank you to our community members who have already volunteered to be a part of the planning for our five new schools.

Sustaining success and making gains is more challenging as the district continues to improve. Thank you for supporting our vision of building strong relationships and focusing on engaging work. Congratulations to the class of 2008. Many of them are headed to college with substantial scholarships.

Parents continue to support our children by getting involved with our schools. Collaborative efforts with the City of Maple Heights are making a real difference. Working together, we have made many gains, but our work is just beginning. Because of your belief in the power of education, the young people of our city will benefit for years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlie Keenan
Superintendent of Schools



First community forum set for Sept. 15

Superintendent **Charlie Keenan** will be hosting bi-monthly community forums this year. The first one is set for Monday, September 15, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Keenan will make brief remarks about current issues in the schools, including the building projects. A question and answer session will follow.

All community members are invited to attend.