

Frequently Asked

questions about the opportunity to build new schools in Maple Heights

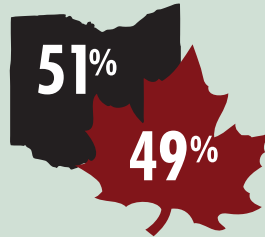


Q: What is Issue 5 on the March 4 bond levy all about?

A: Maple Heights Schools have been offered the opportunity to build five new schools at less than half the cost. This is thanks to a special state program resulting from a settlement with tobacco companies. Recently, additional state funding was made available. Because Maple Heights meets the criteria based on need, our district is now eligible.

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

A: Total cost of the Master Plan is just over \$109 million, according to estimates by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission. The State of Ohio will provide 51 percent, or \$55.6 million, if the district provides 49 percent, or \$53.4 million.



Q: How much will the owner of a \$100,000 home pay in additional taxes?

A: A homeowner will pay about \$237 a year. This is less than 65 cents per day to build five new schools in Maple Heights.

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's why the issue is on the March 4 ballot.

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: 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. If we accept state funding, we must comply completely and cannot modify the plan or pick and choose certain projects.



Community Connection

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Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection

News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

City government may partner on use of Rockside Elementary for seniors, community

When Maple Heights city government officials learned about the school district's opportunity to build five new schools if the March 4 bond levy passes, interest in the possible use of one of the current school buildings was raised.

City officials, working with the mayor and City Council, put together an education subcommittee. This subcommittee was asked to examine and consider potential uses of the Rockside Elementary building.

This education subcommittee recently made preliminary recommendations to city officials. They presented three possibilities for Rockside Elementary—using it for a senior center, a community recreation center and for City Hall offices.

"The possibilities of collaborating on future use of Rockside Elementary if the bond levy passes seem positive," says Superintendent **Charles Keenan**. "Although we cannot even discuss this unless the bond levy passes, I'm pleased that city government appears open to the idea."

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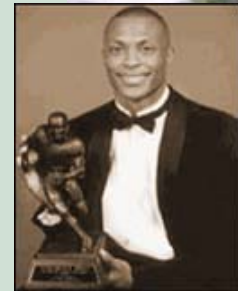
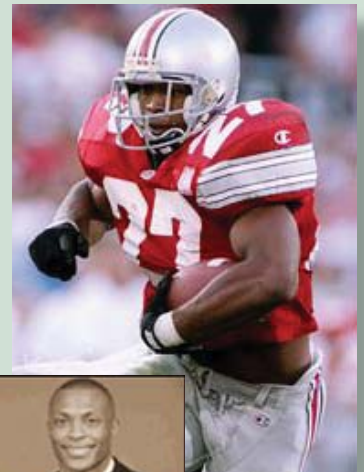
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You are invited

FREE Spaghetti Dinner and Community Forum Hear Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George

All members of the Maple Heights community are invited to a special event on Wednesday, February 27, beginning at 6 p.m.

- Join us for a free spaghetti dinner from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- Hear Heisman Trophy winner **Eddie George** at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium talk about the importance of education and why communities must work together.
- Learn about the "once in a lifetime opportunity" to build five new schools in Maple Heights at less than half the total cost.
- See a DVD about the need for new schools in our community.
- Win an autographed football and jersey, which will be given away at the end of the program.



Meet Eddie George

- Winner of the 1995 Heisman Trophy, the most prestigious award in college football
- Played running back for Ohio State
- Selected first round draft pick by the Houston Oilers
- Won 1996 Rookie of the Year
- Named to the Pro Bowl in 1997, 1998 and 1999
- Graduated from OSU in 2001 in Landscape Architecture
- Honored by OSU when his No. 27 was retired





Superintendent's message

A 'once in a lifetime' opportunity

We've worked hard to get the word out about our "once in a lifetime" opportunity to build five new schools in Maple Heights. If voters approve Issue #5 on Tuesday, March 4, our students—your children, grandchildren, neighbors and future leaders—will have the chance to learn in a wonderful environment. And, our district will receive about \$53 million in state funds—or 51 percent of the cost—to pay for it.

Of course, we must agree to pay our share. That 49 percent totals 7.8 mills over 28 years. I know that is a commitment and a sacrifice on your part, but I believe it is worth it.

Our teachers and staff are behind the effort, too. They know better than any of us that we desperately need to upgrade our facilities. With the latest in technology, new libraries and inviting classrooms, our students will definitely benefit from the opportunities provided by their community.

A study by the state showed that our buildings are in bad shape. There is no doubt that soon we will have to ask for funds to replace or renovate our schools. By taking advantage of this "once in a lifetime" opportunity, the state will pay for more than half of the cost.

On Saturday, March 1, teachers, staff, students and community volunteers will be walking the precincts to spread the word about Issue #5. Talk to them about what this means or feel free to call me at 216-587-6100, ext. 3001 with any questions.

Dr. Charlie Keenan
Superintendent of Schools

Maple Heights High School outperforms state on Fall OGT testing

According to the Ohio Department of Education, students at Maple Heights High School who took the Ohio Graduation Test this fall consistently scored higher than students in like districts, as well as students across the state.

The fall test is administered to upperclassmen who initially did not pass one or more sections of the exam. Students have up to five opportunities to pass the five sections of the test, now required for high school graduation.

Maple Heights students at all three grade levels scored as much as 50 percent higher than students in like districts and as much as 15 percent higher than the state average in both reading and social studies. In math and writing, Maple Heights students outscored like districts by as much as 20 percent and the state average by as much as 23 percent. In science, Maple Heights tenth graders performed higher than like districts and were equal to the state average.

Superintendent **Dr. Charles Keenan** commended students and staff at Maple Heights for the results. He cited the strong intervention strategies implemented at the high school as one of the reasons students did so well.

"We've put a lot of support systems by teachers and tutors in place to assist our students," he says. "Our students have obviously worked hard and taken advantage of these opportunities. It's a great feeling to see positive results and know that everyone is taking our vision of raising achievement seriously."

Maple's innovative liaison program recognized by Title 1 state group

A group of administrators from Maple Heights will make a presentation about the district's unique liaison program at a statewide conference in April.

Marcia Michalak, Director of Innovative Programs, **Zelina Pames**, Interim Principal at Rockside School, and **Darcy Sentowsky**, Liaison at Rockside School, have been invited to present at the 2008 OAASFEP Title 1/Federal Programs Spring Conference in Columbus. The Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs provides professional development and other support services for schools offering state and federal programs.

Called "Thrive...at school, at home, in life," the discussion will focus on Maple's K-6 grade-level liaisons. The initiative began last year after the district reorganized into grade level buildings.

According to Michalak, "Maple's liaisons are full-time teachers who serve as a 'parent' with students while they are at school. They know the kids and can head off any problems." Each liaison is assigned to a grade and moves up with students each year, providing a consistent presence.

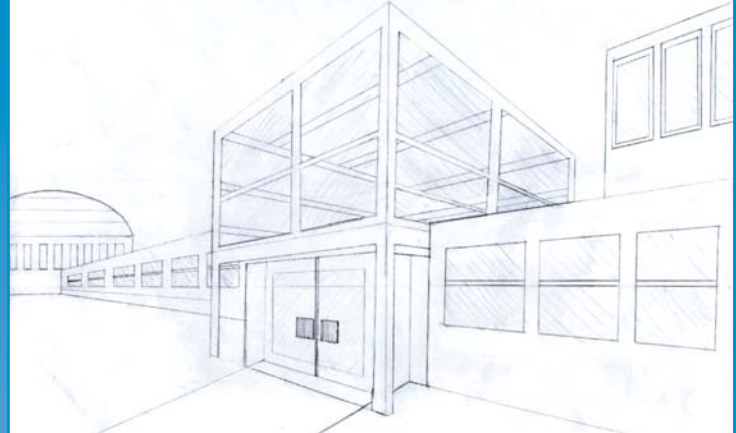
"Liaisons also work directly with individual students and small groups, as well as parents," Michalak says. "They help recognize students for their accomplishments by sending home postcards and promoting other positive reinforcements."

According to Superintendent **Charles Keenan**, "This is an innovative, novel concept that ensures that students always have an adult watching over them. It is important to all of us that our students are able to make the crucial transitions between grades and buildings."

"The program encourages a strong link between home and school so that parents and teachers become partners in children's success," Michalak says.



Ramondo Miller, Kindergarten



Dorothy Bowser, Grade 10

Here's how our students envision their new schools!

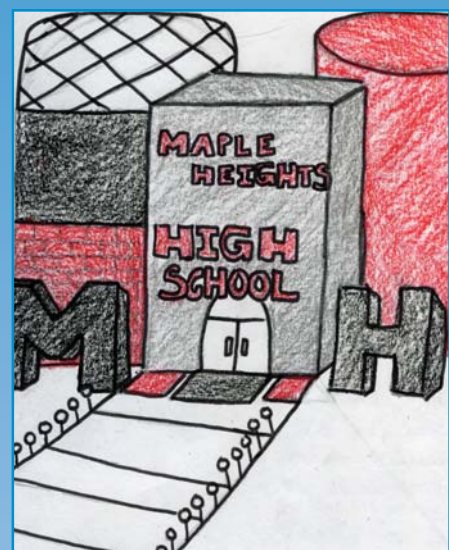
Maple Heights students were asked to submit their visions for new school buildings, as part of a district-wide contest.

High school teacher **Dale Walter** and Maple Heights parent **James Harris**, who are serving as co-chairs of the Bond Leadership Committee, helped select these interpretations of what the new schools might look like, based on student input.

The Ohio Schools Facilities Commission, an independent state agency, provides standards and regulations about the construction of the new buildings for districts involved in the building program.

According to Maple Heights Superintendent **Charles Keenan**, decisions about the look of the new buildings have not been made.

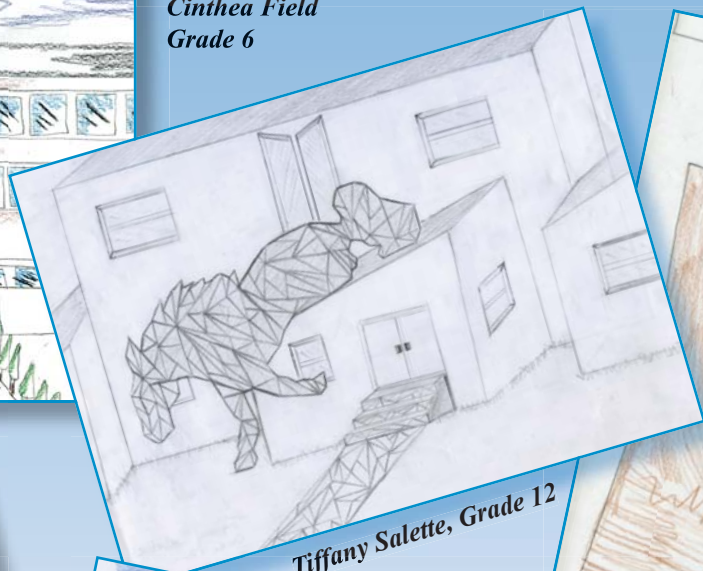
"We do know that our new schools will be energy efficient, filled with natural light and definitely handicapped accessible," he says. "Designs will include the latest in technology, beautiful libraries and inviting classrooms."



Devyn Scott, Grade 6



Cinthea Field
Grade 6



Tiffany Salette, Grade 12



Raven King
Grade 2



Ronelle Drakeford, Kindergarten



Alexis Knox, Grade 3