



# Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection

News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

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## No new taxes: Renewal levies on Nov. 6 ballot

Maple Heights voters will be asked to renew a school operating levy on the November 6 ballot. That levy means no new taxes, according to Treasurer **Christopher Krause**.

"Because this is a renewal," Krause explains, "approval of the levy will not affect taxes."

The 15.5-mill levy generates \$6.7 million in operating funds each year. Operating levy funds pay for supplies, equipment, utilities and contractual obligations, including salaries and health insurance.

In addition, voters will also be asked to renew a small permanent improvement levy. This 1.5-mill levy will generate approximately \$476,000 a year and will be used for capital equipment or supplies like textbooks, which last at least five years.

## Report Card results show improvement; 14 of 18 areas increase scores

Results from the Ohio Report Card show gains in the district's goal of raising student achievement. According to Maple Heights Superintendent **Charlie Keenan**, "We are making some great strides in our scores, and I'm proud of our progress."

Keenan praised the dedication of Maple Heights teachers and the hard work of the students. "Our intensive intervention plan at the middle and high schools helped students get the one-on-one tutoring they needed, especially in science and math," he says.

Here are some highlights from the Maple Heights City Schools Report Card results:

- Achieved the largest gain of all Cuyahoga County schools over the past four years in Performance Index (shows how well students score overall).
- Earned "Continuous Improvement" designation as a district for the third straight year.
- Improved scores in 14 out of 18 indicators and earned nine indicators, the highest in the history of the district.
- Achieved "Effective" ratings for the first time for two buildings.
- Made significant gains in middle school scores, including more than a 10 point gain on the Performance Index over three years.



# 2006-07 **Points of Pride** in the Maple Heights Schools



## **Raymond Elementary School – pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grades**

- Special events included a visit by members of the Cleveland Opera who sang a rendition of “Green Eggs and Ham” during Dr. Seuss Week. Mr. G Productions performed “Peter and the Wolf.”
- Children’s author John Becker shared his book, “Mugambi’s Journey” during school assemblies. This event was sponsored by Nestle USA.

## **Rockside Elementary School – second and third grades**

- Thanks to an Ohio Integrated Systems Model (OISM) grant, teachers took part in training in Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) and the use of the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test.

## **Stafford Elementary School – fourth and fifth grades**

- Stafford’s partnership with Nestle USA continued in its twelfth year. Volunteers from Nestle served as Ohio Reads tutors, part of the speaker’s bureau and as pen pals. As part of the annual Reading Challenge, fifth graders were challenged to read novels and report on them. Nestle USA provided an incentive trip to reward the students.
- Four Tuskegee Airmen visited Stafford and shared their experiences as fighter pilots during World War II.

## **Dunham Elementary School – 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 Programs.
- Students competed in the Greater Cleveland Council Teachers of Mathematics Problem Solving Competition and gained exposure to many valuable ideas about problem solving. Students also competed in the Annual Science Olympiad. Others attended Great Lakes Science Center’s “Tinkering with Toys” overnight science camp. Students competed in the Annual Invention Convention held at Cleveland State University. Two students won high honors.



## **Milkovich Middle School – seventh and eighth grades**

- Twenty-six students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Selected students must maintain a 3.4 GPA or higher, demonstrate outstanding performance in leadership, service, citizenship and character.
- Over 25 different presenters, including many Milkovich parents, took part in Career Day held at the school.

## **Maple Heights High School**

- Our 234 graduating seniors earned more than \$3 million in scholarships.
- At the third annual Pathfinder’s Assembly, individuals who have been trailblazers to success were recognized. They included alumni who have served as an inspiration to minorities either locally or elsewhere, as well as Maple Heights residents who have been an inspiration to the community.



## Meet our new high school principal

**Wayne Marok**, new principal of Maple Heights High School, believes in smaller learning communities. In fact, that's why he wanted this new challenge.

Most recently, Marok served as principal of Rhodes High School in Cleveland. Rhodes implemented the small schools model 10 years ago when Marok first joined the staff.

Since 2003, he has been the "campus administrator" of the four small schools at Rhodes where he also directed a renovation of the high school.

"The model for smaller learning communities is based on rigor, relevance and relationships," Marok explains. "But I believe in the fourth 'R' which is results."

He continues, "I honestly believe student academic improvements result from smaller learning communities."

Marok received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Toledo. He began his career in the corrections field, including five years as principal of Cuyahoga Hills Boys School.

An avid sports fan, Marok says he is anxious to see the Mustangs in action.

## About the changes at the high school

In preparation for the implementation of the smaller learning communities, minimal renovations were completed at Maple Heights High School over the summer. This is the second year of a five-year \$800,000 federal grant, which funds the transformation to the small schools concept.

Classrooms were reassigned, and offices reconfigured to give each learning community its own space. In addition to a freshman academy, students could choose one of three communities made up of 300 tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders.

Each of the four communities will have its own school leader or assistant principal, as well as a guidance counselor and secretary.

According to Principal **Wayne Marok**, "Each community will be developing its own programming ideas for community service focused on serving senior citizens, youth or business/government."

## Fast facts about smaller learning communities

- Implemented in an effort to create a more personalized educational experience for students.
- Allows students and teachers to form closer relationships centered on student achievement.
- Concentrates on new ways of teaching and learning by emphasizing engaging work.
- Includes a Freshman Academy and three communities of students focused on service learning.
- Funded by a five-year, \$800,000 federal grant.



## Superintendent's message

Welcome to a new year and the first issue of Community Connections, news for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools. Our transformation continues thanks to all the hard work of our Board of Education members, teachers and staff, as well as our students and parents. The commitment of the Maple Heights community remains the key to our success in raising student achievement.

For the third straight year, we have made significant gains in our Ohio Report Card results. I hope you will read about our progress, as well as the changes we are making at the high school in implementing smaller learning communities. That initiative, combined with the reorganization of the elementary buildings last year, is such a positive move. It will allow the district to take the next step towards becoming an effective school district.

Thanks to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers federal grant, we will be offering after school activities and academic enrichment opportunities at the middle school this fall. The five-year \$850,000 grant will allow us to expand to the elementary buildings next year.

Thank you for your support of our schools.

Dr. Charlie Keenan  
Superintendent of Schools



# 2007 Maple Heights City Mustangs Fall Sports Schedule

## VARSITY FOOTBALL

Day/Date	Opponent	H/A	Time
Fri. 8/24	Detroit Crockett	H	7:30 p.m.
Fri. 8/31	Bedford	H	7:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/8	Villa Angela-St. Joseph	A	7:30 p.m.
Fri. 9/14	Chaney	H	7:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/22	Shaw	A	2:00 p.m.
Fri. 9/28	Cleveland Heights	H	7:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/5	Admiral King	A	7:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/12	Mentor	A	7:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/19	Euclid	H	7:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/27	Shaker Heights	A	2:00 p.m.

## VOLLEYBALL

Day/Date	Opponent	H/A	Time
Sat. 8/25	Maple Quad	H	9:00 a.m.
Sat. 8/25	Orange Quad	A	-
Tues. 8/28	Garfield Heights	A	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. 8/30	Willoughby South	H	6:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/1	Euclid Quad	A	-
Tues. 9/4	Regina	H	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. 9/6	Mentor	H	6:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/8	Maple Invitational	H	9:00 a.m.
Sat. 9/8	Field Quad	A	-
Tues. 9/11	Euclid	A	6:30 p.m.
Wed. 9/12	Shaker Heights	A	6:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/15	Streetsboro Invit.	A	-
Sat. 9/15	Nordonia Invit.	A	-
Tues. 9/18	Bedford	A	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. 9/20	Southview	H	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. 9/27	Mentor	A	6:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/29	Lakeside Tourn.	A	TBA
Tues. 10/2	Euclid	H	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. 10/4	Shaker Heights	H	6:30 p.m.
Tues. 10/9	St. Joseph Academy	H	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. 10/11	Southview	A	6:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/13	Akron Firestone Invit.	A	-

## CROSS COUNTRY

Day/Date	Opponent	H/A	Time
Sat. 8/25	Chanel Invitational	A	9:00 a.m.
Sat. 9/1	Mentor Cardinal Classic	A	12:00 p.m.
Sat. 9/8	Dover Invitational	A	10:00 a.m.
Wed. 9/12	Maple Hts. Invitational	H	4:15 p.m.
Sat. 9/15	McDonough Invitational	A	9:00 a.m.
Sat. 9/22	Malone College Invitational	A	9:00 a.m.
Sat. 9/29	Woodridge Invitational	A	10:00 a.m.
Wed. 10/10	Bedford	A	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/13	L.E.L. Meet	A	1:00 p.m.



**Community Connection**

Maple Heights City Schools  
14605 Granger Road  
Maple Heights, OH 44137

### Board of Education

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