



## Community Connection

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Maple Heights, Ohio 44137-1023

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# Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection



News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

## Contact Information

### Abraham Lincoln School

6009 Dunham Road  
216.438.6030  
Alicia Lenczewski, Principal ..... ext. 5001  
Main Office ..... ext. 5021

### John F. Kennedy School

5933 Dunham Road  
216.438.6010  
Zelina Pames, Principal ..... ext. 6001  
Main Office ..... ext. 6003

### Barack Obama School

5800 Glenwood Avenue  
216.438.6020  
Dawn Besteder, Principal ..... ext. 4001  
Main Office ..... ext. 4003/4002

### Milkovich Middle School

19800 Stafford Avenue  
216.438.6000  
Susan Harvey, Principal ..... ext. 2001  
Jeremy Hunter, Assistant Principal ... ext. 2012  
Main Office ..... ext. 2002

### Maple Heights High School

5445 West Boulevard  
216.438.6400  
Mariel Sallee, Principal ..... ext. 1001  
Main Office ..... ext. 1018  
Aaron Newman, F/A Principal ..... ext. 1340  
F/A Office ..... ext. 1624  
Muata Niamke S2C Principal ..... ext. 1320  
S2C Office ..... ext. 1026  
Deanne Miklovic, A3 Principal ..... ext. 1330  
A3 Community Office ..... ext. 1332



## Spring Sports Update

### Lady Mustang Softball

The Lady Mustang Softball team is looking for its 7th consecutive winning season this year. The team is led by seniors **Jasmine Carpenter**, **Arielle Sanders**, **Keirra Walker**, **Toresha Fairfax** and **Shontia Gardner**. Juniors **Stephanie Russell**, **Taylor Robinson**, **Taylor Lattimore**, **Madison Palja**, and freshman **Dominique Daniel** round out the squad while newcomers **Ma-kayla Belfiore** and **Ramandeep Mann** join the team as pitchers. **Coach Rocco Covelli**, in his 10th year as head coach, thinks this year's team has the capability of providing another winning season, adding to the winning tradition that the Mustang Softball team stands by.

### Mustang Baseball

The Mustang Baseball program is looking to improve its record over last season (9-16). The team, under the direction of **first year head coach, Josh Mayle**, is led by juniors **Tim Brown**, **Carlton Flanagan**, and **Taylor Roundtree**. Coach Mayle is depending on seniors, **Kyle Harper**, **Quincy Carrier**, **T.J. Tulshi**, **Ben Wherry**, and **Kory Graham** to provide the leadership the team needs to get back on the winning track.

### Boys & Girls Track

**Boys' Track**, led by senior **James Burge**, **Dezmenn Fedrick** and **Aaron Thomas**, hopes to win this year's league title. **Fedrick** is one of the area's fastest sprinters and **Burge** holds the school record in the 800 meters. Our weightmen, led by senior **Mark Everett**, along with teammates **Antonio Weatherspoon**, **Justin Early** and **Treyvon Swanson** took 4th at their recent meet. Newcomers **Cliff Garner**, **Rob Hardin**, **Nick Reid**, **Martez Butler** and **Myles Moore** help to speed up our relays while freshman **Rob Taylor**, a runner and long jumper has been a great surprise.

The **Girls' Track Team**, led by senior **Sharhonda Rowell**, a state qualifier in the discus, hopes to make a return trip this year. Contributing to this year's team are: **Paris Throwsdale**, **Jazmyne Maxwell**, **Alleayah Crutchfield** and **Imari Davis-Thomas**. The team has a lot of young runners who continue to improve and do their best each day.

*Come and Support the Teams this Spring! - GO MUSTANGS!!*

## A Message From the Superintendent



I'm so proud of all our students. They are doing great things every day and we are living out our vision to raise student achievement. I am pleased with their individual and group accomplishments. This year we

have seen students who have had school projects published, elected as state and National Officers of the FEA organization and recognized for both academic and athletic completions at the state and regional levels. It is fantastic to walk around our new schools and see the positive climate and hard work going on in our classrooms. Our staff works hard to build strong relationships and strive to provide quality, engaging learning experiences to our students. You will read about some great things happening in our schools in this issue.

As we approach the end of the year, it will be a very eventful time for our students and staff. The following is just a few of the upcoming activities: *Band concerts, awards and recognition programs, Top 20 Scholars Banquet, Wellness Fair, Field Day, Kindergarten Tea, and Prom.*

As you can see, we have a busy, yet exciting time ahead—there are so many great things happening. I am proud of the staff and I am grateful to our parents for their cooperation and support in keeping our schools strong.

Thank you.

Dr. Charlie Keenan

## Celebrate Success!

### Teacher Academy/FEA Students Excel

*Represent District with Excellence; Earn Numerous Awards*

In March students in the **Teacher Academy Program** attended the **Future Educators Association (FEA)** of Ohio State competition. This year's state conference was designed and led by our very own seniors, **Alethia Bell-Collier** and **Jalen Brown**. **Bell-Collier** and **Brown** serve as the current State President and Vice President, respectively. They were extremely organized, professional and creative in their execution of leading the conference. We couldn't be more proud of their leadership!

In addition to this great feat, our students came away with numerous awards, earning many top honors. First place was earned by **Jalen Brown**, **Alethia Bell-Collier**, **Kiana Ford**, and **TJ Tulshi** in the Ethical Dilemma. Other award recipients included: **Kevin Jackson** (2nd) and **Kiana Ford** (3rd) in the Lesson Plans competition; **Aleah Montgomery** (4th) and **TJ Tulshi** (5th) in T-shirt Design; and **Jalen Brown** (9th) in Essay Composition. As a group, our students placed fourth in Children's Literature and their Display for Class of 2013 took 7th. Our senior group received honors chapter as they earned over a 3.0 in combined service learning, leadership, and fundraising skills.

**First Place winners Brown, Bell-Collier, Ford, and Tulshi** will advance to the Nationals held April 25-28 in Orlando, Florida to compete in the ethical dilemma competition. While at Nationals, Brown will also compete in the impromptu speech category and the students will present a workshop called Stop the Bull that they designed which addresses the dangers of cyberbullying.

Additionally, **Jalen Brown** ran and won for **National Vice President of FEA**. He will travel to Washington, DC in May to help design next year's national conference. He also will tour the U.S. speaking on leadership.



Alethia Bell-Collier

Moreover, **Talia Montgomery** was selected as a **State Public Relations Officer** for 2013-2014. **Talia** will be part of the Executive Committee that designs next year's conference and works with the Ohio Department of Education on communication issues as a student representative. Congratulations to all participants and officers, and good luck to advancing students. The Academy is under the direction of **advisor, Melissa Jacot**.

# Community

## Wellness Fair & 5K Run/1 Mi Walk

The Maple Heights Board of Education will host a **Wellness Fair** on **Saturday, May 11**, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Stafford Stadium. The event will kickoff with the **Maple Education Foundation's 5K Run/1 Mile Walk** in the morning and will include health information, screenings and local business representation. Food and drinks will be available. This event is for community members of all ages. Please join us!

For information on the 5K Run/1 Mile Walk, contact Dale Walter at 216.438.6400, ext. 1084.

Bricks from the old high school will be available on May 11, 8:30-11:00 a.m. at Stafford Stadium. Bricks are available for a \$5 donation to the **Maple Education Foundation**

*Community members are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you!*



*Pictures from past years*



# 2013 Pathfinder Awards!

## Recipients Recognized for Creating Path of Success

Maple Heights City Schools held its **Ninth Annual Pathfinders' Assembly** in February. The Pathfinders' assembly is the culmination of Black History Month activities and recognizes individuals who have been trailblazers to success in five different areas: the arts & science, citizenship/government, business, education, and humanitarianism. Individuals are recognized for finding or creating a path of success that our students can follow – thus the name Pathfinders. In addition to recognizing our honorees, the assembly serves to inspire our students to achieve goals they set for themselves throughout their lives.

This year, high school student ambassadors introduced special guests and hosted a luncheon. **Students Indigo Askew, Brittany Burton, David Jenkins, and Asya Turner** sang the National Anthem; while sixth graders **Alana Colvin, Kenya Gilbert** and **Martell Howard** were selected to read their essays. Students **Asya Turner, Abdul Freeman, Deoshanae Caldwell, and Karen Carr**, and **Imari Davis-Thomas** each contributed. The program was rounded out with performances by the gospel choir, and the high school and middle school dance squads.

## Meet the 2013 Pathfinders



Wright earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 2012.

Currently, Wright serves as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas as a vehicle operations officer in charge.

Alumnus **Elliott Anderson**, is our **Business Award** recipient. Anderson, Salutatorian of the Class of 1996, took his academic achievements to the college level when he enrolled at the Ohio State University. While at OSU he studied chemical engineering until he transferred to the University Akron and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

Anderson has worked in numerous capacities related to software engineering and development at Rockwell Automation in Mayfield Heights. Additionally, Anderson is involved in many civic activities and serves in several leadership positions with Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. He gives back to community youth as an instructor for Rockwell's summer internship program and as a junior achievement event coordinator. Anderson is the husband of last year's Education Award winner, Demetria Bell-Anderson.



**Education Award recipient Herbina Sheperd** has dedicated her professional life to helping others make the transition from inexperienced high school students to successful university scholars. Sheperd, a 2004 Maple Heights graduate, earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in communication from the Ohio State University. She continued her studies at the University of Central Missouri, earning a Master of Science in College Student Personnel Administration.



Since that time, she has served as a residential life coordinator at Hope College in Holland, Michigan and as the coordinator of multicultural student services for Muskingum University. In her current position as an area coordinator at Muskingum, she oversees the operations of four residential areas and directly supervises its staff.



Upon graduating from Maple Heights High School in 1976, it would have seemed that **Humanitarianism Award** recipient, **Carlos Jones** was headed for a career in auto mechanics or mechanical engineering. However, a Bob Marley and the Wailers concert, changed all that. That concert opened Jones' eyes to the world of reggae music--and he hasn't looked back.

In the beginning, Jones was a percussionist and backup vocalist; however, by 1984, he had formed his own group, First Light. First Light's rock, funk, and reggae sounds drew national attention, and after cutting two albums, he opened for many of his musical heroes, including Carlos Santana, the Neville Brothers, and the Wailers.

These days Jones spends his musical energies on his group The Peace Love Unity Syndicate, playing music that lifts the spirit and sends a message of peace and love for humanity. The band has been voted "Best of Cleveland" several times. Additionally, Jones has been recognized as one of Fox 8 News hometown heroes, for his work in the community.

**Alumnus Diaz McDaniel**, a mechanical engineer with Devro Inc. in S. Carolina, is the **Arts & Science Honoree**. Encouraged by his high school counselor, he applied for and was awarded a scholarship by Kent State University. While attending KSU, McDaniel channeled his interest and talent in mechanics and science. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree, concentrated in manufacturing technology and a Master of Technology Degree.



McDaniel has served as an associate manufacturing engineer for General Motors in Michigan, and has excelled as a process engineer, developing laser programs. His education and vast experience has given him the opportunity to work in differing industrial sectors; automotive manufacturing, flexible electronics, and food processing. Additionally, it has provided him the opportunity to work for small, medium, and large multi-national corporations. His skills and knowledge in the field of engineering has taken him to many parts of the country.

# Sharing

## High School Hosts Career Day

The 2013 Maple Heights High School Career Day was super Successful! This year over 20 professionals, representing many areas of business, service, political, and educational professions contributed to the day's success.



Each presenter rotated through classrooms. This allowed an opportunity for the majority of the student body to take part in Career Day.



Presenters shared information about their professions and encouraged the students to

strive for their goals. The presenters were very effective in engaging students. Our high school student ambassadors, represented by over 25 students, did an outstanding job of hosting, escorting and presenting our guests to their peers and teachers.

A thank you goes out to the presenters/professionals who were able to contribute their time and resources. An additional thank you to the **Academic Booster Organization** and to parent, **Karen Leak**, for their coordination efforts and leadership in this event.



*The included pictures were taken by our student photographers.*