



FOCUS on Mad River Local Schools

BETTER SCHOOLS - BETTER CITIZENS

Volume 20, Number 1
Fall 2009

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MAD RIVER LOCAL SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Mad River Local Schools, a district committed to excellence, is to provide quality educational programs to ensure the development of knowledgeable, productive, responsible citizens able to adapt to a changing society.

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!

The First Day of School is Tuesday, August 18th.

The Mad River School District welcomes back returning students, as well as new students and their families. For back to school information, including school supply lists, go to the district web site at: www.madriverschools.org.



A LETTER FROM MIKE EAGLOWSKI, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Community,

Welcome back to school for the start of the 2009-2010 year. I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable summer. We certainly are excited about the upcoming year and we anticipate outstanding accomplishments from our students and staff.

Ohio finally has a new two year budget. We still are not certain how different areas of the budget will affect us. Also, much of the educational reform issues will need further explanation from legislators and the Ohio Department of Education. Below are some of the highlights of House Bill 1.

- The current funding foundation formula will be replaced by the Ohio Evidence Based Model (OEBM). Some aspects will be phased in over a 10 year period.
- Sets the financial gain cap on the OEBM at .75% in each fiscal year.
- Requires "All Day - Every Day" Kindergarten.
- Reduces Calamity Days from five to three for the 2010-2011 school year only. We will remain at five Calamity Days for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Replaces the Ohio Graduation Test with a nationally standardized college prep assessment, end-of-course exams in core subjects, and a senior project. An implementation date has not yet been announced.
- Changes numerous areas in teacher licensure and tenure.
- Eliminates the School Bus Purchase and line item.

There are many other aspects of the bill, as it is a 703 page document. We will pass along more information once it is provided to us.

Speaking of school funding, we are forming a Finance Committee. Many area districts have recently made drastic budget and staff reductions due to their financial situations. The purpose of our Finance Committee is to be pro-active. We want to solicit the input of staff, parents, and community members prior to the need of making reductions. Our goal is to brainstorm ideas for areas that could be reduced with the least impact on education. We will remain fiscally responsible to the district.

I wish everyone good luck with the upcoming year. I hope it is a successful one for all. Thank you for your continued support of our students and district.

Sincerely,

Mike Eaglowski
Mike Eaglowski

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Bus Stop Information

Families whose children ride a bus to school will receive a postcard in the mail notifying them of their child's bus stop location and pick-up time for the 2009-10 school year. If you have not received the postcard by August 10th, please call 237-4280.



The school bus information provided on the postcard is based on current school records; *if a student's address information has changed, please contact the student's school to update their records.*

Telephone Notification System

The Mad River School District is now able to communicate, by telephone/e-mail; with every parent/guardian of a student in a very short period of time should there be an emergency or other situations which may warrant district-wide notification.

"One Call Now" will help our schools contact parents in the event of cancellations due to weather, emergency school situations, transportation/bus schedule changes, or other unforeseen situations by making large numbers of phone calls in a very brief period of time, usually within 15 minutes.

The telephone service will store up to four numbers per child, so parents/guardians are urged to keep contact numbers updated for the "One Call Now" system to be most effective.

The "One Call Now" system can also be tailored to call parents/guardians of any particular program, particular club, etc. for relevant information.

Parents/guardians should contact their child's school office if they are not receiving telephone calls or if they are receiving calls in error.

Classes Resume August 18th Grades 1-12

Stebbins	7:40 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
Mad River Middle School	8:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.
Spinning Hills Middle School	9:10 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.
Elementary Schools	8:10 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.
Early Childhood Center	
MORNING SESSION:	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
AFTERNOON SESSION:	12:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.



E-Mail Alerts

Want to learn more about the great things taking place inside Mad River Schools? Weekly Highlights is a weekly newsletter designed to provide community and parents with information about what's going on inside our schools.

If you register for a public user account online with our district, you will be able to provide us with your contact information, set up a customized dashboard of news, events, and blog updates for the schools and departments you are interested in. In addition, you enable us to communicate with you via e-mail newsletters. <http://www.madriver.schools.org/protected/PublicUserLogin.aspx>

Emergency Closing Procedures

If inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances cause schools to be delayed or closed, announcements will be made on the following local media outlets:

WHIO Channel 7
WDTN Channel 2
WKEF Channel 22/Fox 45

Parents will also receive a telephone call through One Call Now, the district's school-to-parent telephone notification system.

Mad River Local Schools Board of Education

Michael Eaglowski, Superintendent
 Amy Twarek, Treasurer
 Necia Nicholas, Asst. Superintendent
 Brent Speas, Dir. of Student Services
 Louis Kramer, Dir. of Curriculum

Scott Huddle, President
 Marilyn Steiner, Vice President
 Connie Cole, Member
 Ken Davenport, Member
 Cristina Pickle, Member

Important Numbers:

BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

801 Old Harshman Rd.
Phone: 259-6606.....FAX: 259-6607

FOOD SERVICES Phone: 259-6601

HUMAN RESOURCES Phone: 259-6602

STUDENT SERVICES Phone: 259-6603

TREASURER’S OFFICE Phone: 259-6610

CURRICULUM OFFICE Phone: 259-6600

TRANSPORTATION

Phone: 237-4280.....FAX: 237-4282

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE Phone: 259-6609

BUILDING & GROUNDS Phone: 237-4275

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER *Located at Board of Education*

Phone: 259-6603

BEVERLY GARDENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5555 Enright Ave.
Phone: 259-6620FAX: 259-6614

BRANTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4350 Schwinn Dr.
Phone: 237-4270FAX: 237-4277

SAVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5800 Burkhardt Rd.
Phone: 259-6625FAX: 259-6648

VIRGINIA STEVENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

805 Old Harshman Rd.
Phone: 259-6630FAX: 259-6628

SPINNING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

5001 Eastman Ave.
Phone: 259-6635.....FAX: 259-6644

MAD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

1801 Harshman Rd.
Phone: 237-4265.....FAX: 237-4273

STEBBINS HIGH SCHOOL

1900 Harshman Rd.
Phone: 237-4250FAX: 237-4262
Guidance: 237-4257
Athletics: 237-4260

MRLS 2009-2010 Calendar

August	13	9 th Grade Orientation
	18	K-12 First Day of School Kindergarten Assessment
	19	Kindergarten Assessment
	20	½ Kindergarten Full Day
	21	½ Kindergarten Full Day
	24	All Kindergarten in Session
.....		
September	07	Labor Day – No School
	16	2 Hr/25 Min Early Release K-12
	24	9-12 P/T Conferences
.....		
October	5-9	Ohio Achievement Testing
	16	WOWA Day – No School
	20	End of 1st Grading Period 1 Hr Early Release K-12
	
November	03	Prof Dev/Waiver Day No School
	05	K-8 P/T Conferences
	06	No School Grades K-8 Grades 9-12 In Session
	12	K-6 P/T Conferences
	25-27	No School – Thanksgiving
	
December	3	9-12 P/T Conferences
	21-Jan. 01	No School – Winter Break
.....		
January	01	No School – Winter Break
	04	Students Return to School
	08	End of 2 nd Grading Period 2 Hr/25 Min Early Release K-12
	18	ML King Day – No School
	27	2 Hr/25 Min Early Release K-12
	
February	10	Grades 9-12 P/T Conferences
	11	Grades 7-8 P/T Conferences
	12	No School Grades 9-12
	15	President’s Day – No School
	24	2 Hr/25 Min Early Release K-12
	
March	12	End of 3 rd Grading Period 1 Hr Early Release K-12
	15-19	Ohio Graduation Testing
	22-26	OGT Make-up
	24	2 Hr/25 Min Early Release K-12
.....		
April	5-9	No School – Spring Recess
	12	Students Return to School
	19-30	Ohio Achievement Testing
	29	9-12 P/T Conferences
.....		
May	27	Last Day of School 2 Hr/25 Min Early Release K-12
	28	Last Day Faculty
	

For a full district calendar, visit the Mad River School District web site:
www.madriverschools.org. All dates subject to change.

Better Schools, Better Citizens



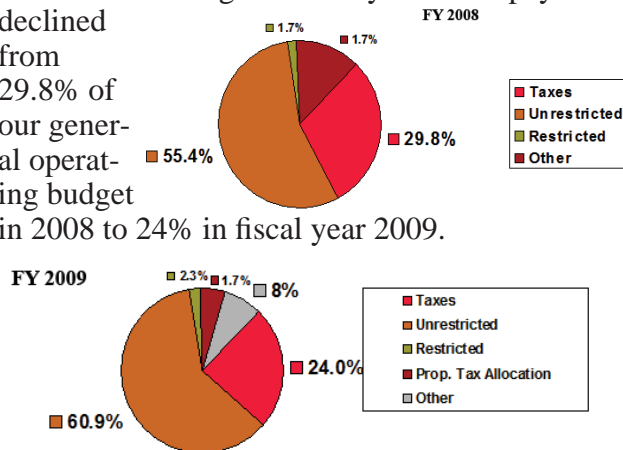
School District Financial Update

AMY TWAREK, TREASURER

As many of you know, the past year has been a tumultuous and challenging financial year for area. In spite of these difficult times as well as an unstable economic picture at the state level, I am happy to report that the district has ended another fiscal year with unrestricted general fund revenues in the bank. This is due to the diligent review of expenditures and revenues compared to forecasted figures and historical information as well as an ongoing reevaluation of priorities, district goals and the reallocation of resources necessary to make sure that the academic goals of the district are fiscally attainable.

Many people think that school districts are immune from national and state-wide economic weakness. Unfortunately, this is not true. In many ways, a school district is like a large business. Unlike a business, however, we do not sell a product or service for profit. Our only service is educating our students. Therefore, we must rely upon our tax payers and state funding to support our operations. Due to the decline in our district's property values as well as the continuation of the phase out of the local tangible personal property tax, the local tax payers' share of Mad River Schools continues to decline.

As the following graphs illustrate, the share of total revenues generated by local tax payers declined from 29.8% of our general operating budget in 2008 to 24% in fiscal year 2009.



In spite of the decline in the share of our budget that is generated by the local taxpayer, like most school districts in the state, our district remains very dependent upon our local tax rev-

enues to sustain our fiscal viability. Without that continued support, fiscal feasibility would not be attainable.

Eighty-two percent of the district's general fund operating expenditures is comprised of salary and benefits.

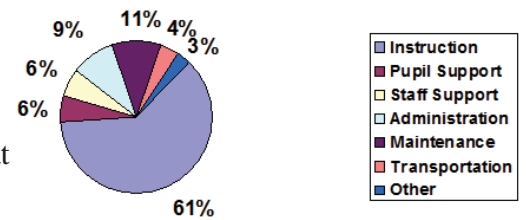
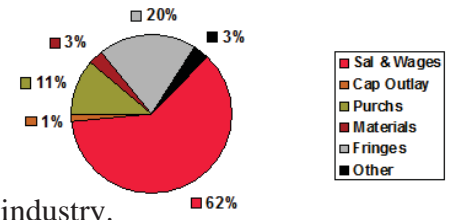
This is easy to understand as school districts are a labor intensive industry.

Our natural resources are our teachers, aides, custodians, bus drivers, and administrators working with our children both in and out of the classrooms to help them achieve academic success (our product).

Another key financial statistic that is often discussed in the educational arena is the ratio of general operating expenditures spent on education in relation to the amount spent overall and perhaps most critically on the administration of the district. As the following graph illustrates, our school district spends the lion's share of its general fund expenditures on items that directly impact

the student: pupil education (regular, special and career tech), pupil support (ex. counselors, librarians, and speech therapists), and staff support (ex. curriculum services, technology), transportation, and maintenance. Only nine cents of every general fund dollar was spent on principal, secretarial, fiscal and central office services.

As a taxpayer, I hope you can see that the school district has made a number of positive decisions that have improved the quality of education for our students, while remaining fiscally responsible to our citizens. I look forward to continuing to build upon the efforts the district has made to keep our schools in good financial shape as well as partnering with members of our community to maintain the high quality of education our area has come to expect.



2009-2010 Food Service News

The Food Service Department would like to welcome everyone back to another school year. Our department is proud to announce that lunch prices will remain the same as last year!

Anyone receiving lunch benefits through our district at the end of last school year will start the school year with the same lunch benefit until September 9, 2009 or until your new lunch application is approved. Lunch applications will come home with your children on the first day of school. Fill out one application per household and return the application to school with your most responsible student as soon as possible. Remember to fill out all necessary information on the application, incomplete applications will be returned to you. An application must be approved and on file to continue receiving lunch benefits for the 2009-10 school year.



A no-cost breakfast is offered at the following schools: Beverly Gardens, Virginia Stevenson, Brantwood, Saville, Spinning Hills and Mad River Middle. Breakfast service will begin on August 24, 2009. Breakfast will be available at Stebbins High School for \$1.25 for full paid students / 30 cents for reduced students / no cost for free students.

Meal Prices 2009-2010

	Breakfast	Lunch	Extra Milk
Elementary	No Cost	\$1.75	50 cents
Spinning Hills	No Cost	\$1.85	50 cents
Mad River Middle	No Cost	\$1.90	50 cents
Stebbins	*\$1.25	\$2.00	50 cents

**30 cents for reduced students / no cost for free students*

Pay for school meals on-line

Mad River Local Schools Food Service Department offers an online payment processing system called PaySchools, that allows parents easy and convenient online access to purchase and pay for items 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Parents can now make payments on the school's web site: <http://lunch.madriver.k12.oh.us/> with an e-check or credit card. To ensure your security, PaySchools does not store personal bank or credit card information. Items that may currently be purchased online include: (Lunch). **YOU MUST HAVE A USER ID AND PASSWORD OBTAINED FROM THE FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT BEFORE YOU CAN PROCEED WITH ANY TRANSACTIONS.**

Please call the food service office at 259-6601 to obtain this information or you may e-mail Tom Zsembik, Food Service Supervisor at: tom.zsembik@madriverschools.org to help walk you through the process or answer any questions.

2009 Open Houses

Beverly Gardens		
8/17	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Open House
Brantwood		
8/17	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Open House
Saville		
8/14	2:00-3:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social
8/26	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Open House
Stevenson		
8/14	2:00-3:00 p.m.	Unpack Your Backpack
9/01	TBA	Open House
Spinning Hills		
8/13	2:00-3:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social
8/27	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Open House
MRMS		
8/11	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Fee Night
8/24	7:00 p.m.	Open House
Stebbins		
8/25	7:00-9:30 p.m.	Open House

Better Schools, Better Citizens

District Partners With City for School Resource Officer

Program aimed at Promoting a Safe, Secure Learning Environment

A focus on safe schools has brought the Mad River School District and the Riverside Police Department back together in a partnership to have a school resource officer (SRO) in the district.

Beginning this August, Officer Jeff Wightman will become the school resource officer for all seven Mad River Schools (Wightman will be based at Stebbins High School). Officer Wightman served as the district's school resource officer nearly seven years ago, before the position was cut due to budget restraints.

The concept of an officer in school is three-fold; first, the officer is there to provide a law enforcement presence. By being visible to prevent problems and to be available to handle police related functions, such as crime investigation, the officer provides a safe learning environment. The second part of the SRO's job is to be a teacher. By working with classroom teachers and other faculty members, the SRO can present information and answer questions on a variety of topics, including the law, drugs, safety, crime prevention, violence prevention, and community awareness of these issues. Finally, the officer can offer advice, mediation and direction to students, parents, and faculty in various matters. As part of this counseling, they can also offer direction to other resources in the community.

Superintendent Mike Eaglowski said, "This is a win-win situation for both the district and the City of Riverside. Other area school districts have found that having the school resource officer position in the schools creates a great working relationship between the schools and the police department. Students who feel safe become better learners and better citizens."



Riverside Officer Jeff Wightman will be the district's new school resource officer.

School District to Conduct Community Survey

The Mad River School District will conduct a community telephone survey during the evening hours of September 15th and 16th. The purpose of the survey is to discover the attitude of community members toward Mad River Local Schools. The findings of the study will greatly assist us to enhance school improvements and discuss long range planning.



The district will be telephoning 1,500 hundred randomly selected Mad River School District residents to ask their opinions about the schools. Respondents will be asked questions on topics ranging from school communication to curriculum. Residents will also be asked to grade various school district programs and services.

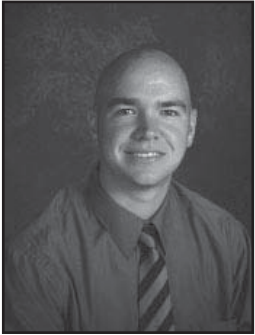
The survey will take about six minutes to complete, the district urges those community members who are called to participate in this important project. Once the survey responses are coded and analyzed, a report will be prepared for the Board of Education and findings will be shared with our valued public in the near future.

Stebbins Revises Exam Policy

Exam Policy: In striving to be a school of excellence, exam rigor is necessary to achieve this goal. It is the belief of the Stebbins staff that all students will benefit from taking exams whether they are college bound or not. Therefore, effective with the 2009-2010 school year, our exam policy will be as follows:

ALL students will take ALL exams each quarter. Seniors will be exempt from exams fourth quarter only if they do not need the exam to pass the course.

District Welcomes New Assistant Principal



Cory Miller

While not a new face to students and staff at Spinning Hills Middle School, Cory Miller will be stepping into a new position at the school this year. Miller will be filling in for Assistant Principal Ashley Coyne who is taking a year off. Since 2004, Cory has served as a sixth grade

teacher at Spinning Hills. Prior to that, he was an instructor in the Findlay City School District.

Cory received both his undergraduate degree and master's degree from The University of Findlay. He is a two-time All American Scholar Athlete and recipient of the US Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award. The district wishes Cory the best in his new position!

Stebbins Students Place in Top Ten at BPA National Conference

During the week of June 17-21, four Stebbins students in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) group attended the BPA's National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas. All four qualified through a progression of competitive events at the region and state levels. The four students were: Christian Addison, Austin Bauer, Kyle Mildebrandt, and Brandon Parrott. A fifth, Jason Norwood, also qualified for Nationals but was unable to attend when the conference was postponed in May due to the swine flu scare in Texas.

The Mad River School District is pleased to announce that two students, Kyle Mildebrandt and Brandon Parrott, both received top 10 awards at Nationals, making this the first time that two Stebbins students were recognized with a prestigious top 10 award in the same year. Kyle competed in Fundamental Accounting and Brandon competed in Advanced Spreadsheet Applications.

The five students that qualified this year represents the second most in school history!

I Walk the Line

Mad River Receives Walk to School Grant



The act of walking to school may seem basic but it can send a strong message

– especially in October when millions of children, parents, and leaders worldwide will take to the streets as part of Walk to School Day.

Walk to School Day was established in the United States in 1997 by the Partnership for a Walkable America to encourage parents to walk to school with their children to promote physical activity, pedestrian safety and awareness of the difficulties children face on their trip to school. In order to provide communities with resources to support WTS Day events and activities, the Ohio Department of Transportation has awarded up to \$1,000 per school (K-8) to help with expenses related to conducting International Walk to School Day.

Many schools in the Mad River School District are planning special activities in conjunction with International Walk to School Day.

BG – 10/12

Saville – 10/13

Stevenson – 10/14

Brantwood – 10/15

Mad River Middle – 10/19

Spinning – 10/20

Freshman Orientation

The Link Crew Transition program will conduct its annual orientation program for incoming freshman on Thursday, August 13th. Freshman orientation is considered as the first day of school for ninth graders; attendance will be taken and will count toward their permanent attendance record. Because of the early start date, freshman WILL NOT attend school August 21st.

Bus transportation will be provided to those who are eligible. Eligible bus riding freshman should refer to their bus stop postcard (mailed to homes on August 6th) for locations and times. If you have any questions, please call the transportation department at 237-4280.



Mad River Local Schools
801 Old Harshman Road
Riverside, Ohio 45431-1286

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Mad River Local Schools

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H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

District recommends that parents keep sick children home from school

The Mad River School District continues to monitor the developing situation regarding the H1N1 Flu. Statewide, school districts have been provided with information from the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and locally, we have been in contact with Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County.

Our administrators and school nurses continue to monitor developments and review materials shared with us by state and county health officials. Even though most cases of H1N1 in the United States at this time involve only mild illness, flu spreads easily. However, due to the recent developments regarding cases reported in Ohio we would like to inform our parents of some helpful, preventative measures.

If you suspect your child is getting the flu, it is important your child does not attend school or go anywhere else— such as group childcare, the mall, or sporting events—where other people would be

exposed to flu germs.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), recommends the following precautions be taken:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick.

While there is no reason to panic, be assured that all district employees are committed to doing everything within their power to protect the good health of our students while they are on school grounds. If you have questions or would like to speak with someone, please feel free to contact Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County at (937) 225-4508, the superintendent's office at (937-259-6606) or one of our nurses at (937-259-6603). Thanks for your cooperation in striving to keep our children and our schools healthy!