



FOCUS on Mad River Local Schools

BETTER SCHOOLS - BETTER CITIZENS

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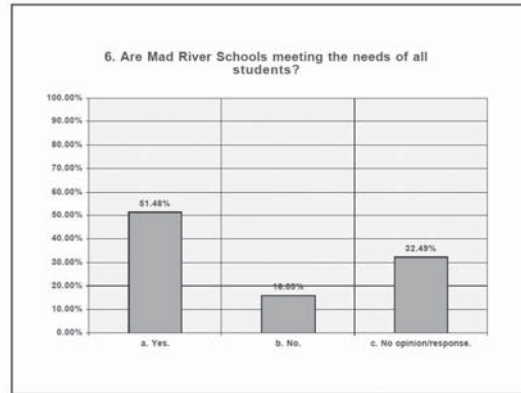
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District Receives Encouraging Feedback from Community Survey

September survey shows positive feelings for Mad River Local Schools

Every few years, in an effort to know more about what all members of our school community think about our schools, the district conducts a telephone survey to determine statistically valid perceptions. This information will provide the district with important data that determines policy making on the district and school level. We are pleased to announce that the September survey conducted by

the district continues to show an overwhelmingly positive feeling for Mad River Local Schools. Based on interviews with over 200 residents across the community, the survey found that voters are pleased with instruction, school safety, and preparation that students receive for state testing. The survey shows residents feel strongly about maintaining the high quality of their schools and education provided by our



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Beverly Gardens Celebrates Beloved Teacher

This past year, the district lost a member of their family; Lori Schiavone passed away February 18, 2009, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. In honor of her memory and 20-year career with the district, on October 22nd, the staff at Beverly Gardens dedicated a special bench to commemorate her memory.

More than 50 of Lori's friends, family, and colleagues attended the touching ceremony where people spoke of her love and devotion to education and the students of the district. "Lori's Bench" is located near the front entrance to the school; a plaque featuring Lori also



Lori Schiavone's family stand near "Lori's Bench".

hangs in the library honoring her years of service to Mad River Local Schools.

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.



A LETTER FROM MIKE EAGLOWSKI,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Community,

The Mad River Lions Club is conducting its 2009 "Project Share" Christmas Basket food drive. The Lions do a wonderful job helping many residents of Riverside with this worthwhile project. They have been doing this for many years. We are honored to help the Lions at each of our schools and with the assistance of the Stebbins High School Student Senate.

Project Share is one of the numerous projects conducted by the Lions that benefit the community. We thank Project Share Chairperson Freda Wagner and all of the Lions who donate their time and effort to make the project successful every year.

The November 3rd election has mixed results for funding for Ohio's public school districts. Overall, 106 out of 176 issues on the ballot passed. In general, having a passage rate of over 50% is good. However, 76 out of 82 successful issues were renewals or replacements. Only 1/3 of the new issues were successful. Funding for Ohio's public school districts remains a controversial issue that relies heavily on tax payers.

As winter approaches, so does the possibility of inclement weather. In the event of school being delayed or cancelled due to hazardous road conditions, we will again make announcements via the "One Call" telephone system. We will also make the announcement on television channels 2 and 7, and numerous local radio stations.

Finally, I would like to say Good Luck to all of our students and staff who are participating in winter extra-curricular activities. Go Indians!

Sincerely,

Mike Eaglowski
Mike Eaglowski

Mad River Local Schools
Board of Education

Michael Eaglowski, Superintendent
Amy Twarek, Treasurer
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Community Survey

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programs, teachers, and staff.

Survey results showed that parents believe that district curriculum, instruction, and testing meet state standard goals, and that the curriculum prepares students with skills needed in today's world. Popular means of communication for residents include the Focus, followed closely by the district's email communication —Weekly Highlights.

Community members were also very pleased with class size, extra curricular activities being offered, and programming for special needs students.

In other matters, residents stated that they loved our new buildings and how clean and well maintained they are.

Other highlights of the survey include:

- More than one-half (51.48%) of the respondents say Mad River Schools are meeting the needs of all students.
- A large majority of voters

believe Mad River teachers adapt their instruction to meet the needs of individual students.

- More than eight of 10 (81.43%) respondents say Mad River students are very safe or somewhat safe at school.
- Seven of 10 (73.84%) respondents say Mad River's student-to-teacher ratio of an average of one teacher for every 20 students is the right amount of students for each teacher to have.
- A majority of voters believe school officials are accessible to parents and other residents.
- Nearly seven of 10 (66.24%) respondents strongly agree or somewhat agree that tax dollars are used wisely and appropriately by Mad River School District officials.
- Many voters believe that Mad River Schools place the right amount of emphasis on the

Ohio Achievement Test.

- Finally, a large number of voters believe property value is directly affected by the quality of schools. Our voters do not believe the time has come to vote against all new taxes. Residents want us to continue to maintain the high level of excellence needed to invest in their schools and classrooms and properly improve their schools to meet educational needs well into the future.

We are appreciative of the time/interest that the citizens of our school community took in responding to the survey questions. We believe that these results represent another step forward in our continuing efforts to “work together” to improve Mad River Local Schools. If you wish to view the results of our community survey, it can be viewed on the district's website at: www.maddriverschools.org.

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update



A Brantwood student receives his H1N1 shot during a vaccination clinic this past November.

Over 2000 students received the H1N1 Vaccine in their home schools during the months of November and December. Students ages 10 and up received one dose of the H1N1 vaccine and ages nine and under received two doses, one month apart. Dayton and Montgomery County Public Health provided the vaccine at no charge to all students who provided parental/guardian consent. “We immunized about 60% of

our student population.” Mike Eaglowski, Superintendent stated.

Another claim to fame was captured by local television stations and The Dayton Daily News on November 18th at the Stebbins Clinic. High School Allied Health Students planned, organized, and assisted in every detail of the Stebbins operation, moving over 500 students through their shots in under two hours.

Better Schools, Better Citizens

District Looks to Pilot New Educational Advancement Program

At the beginning of the second semester, a select number of Stebbins students will have the opportunity to participate in a semester-long, pilot program matching technology, highly qualified teachers, project based learning, and high standards. These students will be participants in the districts' new Educational Advancement Program which will allow them the opportunity to earn credit faster than their peers currently in traditional high school courses. The Educational Advancement Program will utilize an

altered student day and learning environment to accelerate courses based more on student knowledge than on a traditional school calendar.

The program, which will be initially housed at the district's Central Office, will first target at-risk junior and senior aged students in an effort to assist them in graduating with their same age peers. Students will attend school daily, albeit on a shortened schedule, and have access to core curricular software via the web. Each course has been designed with an

emphasis on using software to individualize instruction, while providing an opportunity for teacher guided, hands on learning. The program will match end-of-course requirements of traditional high school courses to ensure the integrity of awarding credit.

If successful, this program may have a significant impact on the high school curriculum and course offerings. The district is looking to expand the program to students seeking credit advancement and dual credit options in the future.

AFJROTC Transitions into Career Tech Program

Did you know that Stebbins High School offers an elective course on citizenship and leadership? This course has been offered since 1967 and is the Air Force Junior ROTC program.

It's a common misconception that the purpose of AFJROTC is to recruit students for the military services. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. The AFJROTC instructors are not recruiters and do not actively steer students to the military. In fact, less than five percent of students who take AFJROTC enlist in the armed forces. Of the 102 students enrolled in AFJROTC during the 2008-2009 school year, only two joined the military.

Many of our students have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships and military academy appointments. We also have the 18-time state

and six-time national champion drill team that students can join (but not required). The drill team competes in several drill meets around the state each year.

Another exciting prospect for AFJROTC is the potential for the program to include a Career Technical Education component in acquisitions and logistics. This could take place by 2010-2011. Through this curriculum, students would have the potential for an internship opportunity at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, a scholarship with Sinclair, a four-year pathway through a university or possible civilian employment at Wright Patterson.

The AFJROTC is much more than students wearing uniforms and marching. It's a program that



seeks to help students become well-rounded individuals and leaders. If your child wants to get involved in a course that goes beyond simply learning from a textbook and allows them hands-on opportunities then AFJROTC might just be the class they've been looking for. Please feel free to contact Lt. Col (Ret) Morris or MSgt. (Ret) Hood for more information at: 237-4250.

Stebbins Career Technology News

Jordan Wilcox Earns Trip to Anaheim



Jordan Wilcox

Jordan Wilcox, a senior in the Information Technology program at Stebbins High School is headed to Anaheim, California. Jordan was elected Business Professionals of America Ohio Association Historian at the State Fall Leadership Conference which was held at the Columbus Convention Center Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

Approximately 1700 students attended the conference, which included the 300 voting delegates from throughout Ohio who cast ballots on behalf of their schools after hearing candidates' speeches. Jordan and five other officers will represent nearly 10,000 student members throughout the 18 regions in Ohio.

Engineering Program Receives Donation from Ohio Department of Education

The Ohio Department of Education has awarded the Stebbins Engineering Program and instructor Jim Prater for their excellence as an exemplary program in the State of Ohio. Mike Cowles from the Ohio Department of Education recently gave engineering robotics sets to the class. Mr. Cowles represents the Trade & Industry side of Career Technical Education.



Randall Sharp and Amanda Kirby are shown standing with Mike Cowles.

Mr. Cowles is also in charge of Skills USA at the state level. He directs and organizes competitions and leadership conferences for the State of Ohio. In addition, Mr. Cowles is involved at the national level setting standards and expectations for competitions. The Engineering Tech Prep Program is an award-winning program; this past year, they won a challenge to attend a conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Two students also attended the national competition in Kansas City after receiving a gold medal at the state competition.

Ashley Flanagan to Speak to Women in Engineering

Ashley Flanagan, a senior in the Tech Prep Engineering Program, has been chosen by Beverly Smith, Tech Prep Engineering Pathway Manager with the Miami Valley Tech Prep Consortium at Sinclair Community College to address high school students at Centerville, Miamisburg, Thurgood Marshall and Jefferson Township High Schools for two days in December.

The two women plan to present to over 300 girls who are interested in the engineering pathway. Ms. Flanagan will be presenting projects she has been developing and working on, as well as leading small discussion groups in a question and answer format.

Ashley has been a very successful student in Engineering at Stebbins High School. She is currently heading up the National Engineering Design Challenge as the Project Manager. The first competition is in December with a final competition in Washington D. C. in February if they make it through the first levels of the competition. Last summer, Ashley earned a trip to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a member of the winning team for the InvenTeam Challenge. She recently interviewed with MIT and has plans to enter ROTC on the college level and pursue a degree in Engineering.

Better Schools, Better Citizens

Mad River Honors Distinguished Alumni

The Walter E. Stebbins Outstanding Alumnus Committee is pleased to announce their Outstanding Alumni awards for the year 2009. The group was honored during an induction ceremony on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Dee Ross Hastler – Class of 1965

A 1965 graduate, Dee Ross Hastler attended Bowling Green State University where she played basketball. She graduated from BG in 1969 and was immediately hired as a physical education teacher at Spinning Hills Middle School. In 1985, she was appointed director of athletics. Hastler retired from the district in 2009.

Bobbie Heath Strobhar – Class of 1971

A 1971 graduate, Bobbie is a teacher of harp and the leader and coordinator of the Dayton Area Harp Association. In her career, she has been honored as a principal harpist for the Wright State University Community Orchestra and Wind Symphony, the Wright State Chamber Orchestra and the Miami Valley Symphony.

Raymond Monell – Class of 1976

A 1976 graduate of Stebbins High School, Ray Monell received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wright State University in 1980. Ray has worked at several companies serving as a producer/director, production coordinator/director, and senior video staff member responsible for the design and hands-on execution of



2009 Outstanding Alumni: (l-r) Raymond Monell; Bobbie Strobhar; Dee Hastler; Robert Pratt.

video productions. In 1995, Ray started Monell Communications.

Robert Pratt – Class of 1991

A member of the Class of 1991, Rob attended the University of Dayton graduating summa cum laude then receiving advanced degrees of M.S. and PhD from the University of North Carolina in math. Rob serves as a research software specialist for Pack Optimization Solution.

To nominate someone for the Walter E. Stebbins Outstanding Alumni Award, visit www.madriver-schools.org and click on “Alumni” to download a nomination form.

Stebbins Chosen As Location Site for Commercial

Stebbins High School continues to be a showpiece for the Riverside area and Dayton community. This December, the high school was chosen by a production company to be a location site for an upcoming DP&L commercial. The company chose to shoot part of their commercial in the school’s engineering classroom. Staff and students were also on hand to be part of the filming. “What an exciting opportunity for our high school and its students,” said Superintendent Eaglowski. “The Riverside community should be proud that their high school and its students draw such positive attention in this area and state.”



Production crews prepare a classroom at Stebbins for the DP&L commercial shoot.

Ja'Monica Orton Signs Letter of Intent to Play Basketball at Ole Miss

Stebbins senior Ja'Monica Orton has signed a national letter of intent to play on the Ole Miss women's basketball team. The 6-foot forward averaged 17.1 points, 14.3 rebounds, 10.2 assists and 6.3 blocked shots per game under head coach Suzanne Loudner en route to being named an All-American honorable mention by The Sporting News. She was selected to the All-Central Buckeye Conference team each of the last two seasons and also won the District 15 Basketball Underclass All-Star award in 2009. In addition, Orton was also named as her team's MVP last season as a junior.



Ja'Monica Orton signs her letter of intent to play basketball at Ole Miss on November 11, 2009

Stebbins Earns Superior Rating at State Marching Band Finals



Members of the Stebbins Marching Band gear up before competition begins at Welcome Stadium.

It's been another phenomenal season for the Stebbins Marching Band. On Saturday, November 7th, the band performed for the first time ever at the Mid States Band Association Championship where the band went toe-to-toe with some of the best bands from Kentucky,

Indiana, and Ohio. At the contest, the band won the "People's Choice Award" for the second straight weekend!

On Sunday, November 8th, the band received a Superior Rating at the State Marching Band Finals. This is only the fourth Superior Rating in school history and it is the first time ever for the band to receive a Superior Rating two years in a row!

Congratulations to all marching band members and their instructors Kenny Carpenter and Justin Cusick for an incredible season!!!!

Highly Qualified Teacher Report

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides for all public schools to be staffed by highly qualified teachers. To this end, the Mad River School District has been working diligently to ensure that all core teachers meet the definition of a "highly qualified teacher". This teacher holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree, has obtained full state certification or licensure, and has demonstrated subject area competence in each of the academic subjects in which he or she teaches.

The Mad River School District is pleased to notify all of our parents that 100% of our core teachers meet the specific qualifications outlined in NCLB for "highly qualified", 100% of instructional paraprofessional staff also meets the "highly qualified" standards.

As a parent/guardian of a student in the Mad River School District, under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, you have a right to know the professional qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct your child. If you would like to receive more information, please contact Ms. Necia Nicholas, Assistant Superintendent, 801 Old Harshman Rd., Riverside, OH, or by telephone at (937) 259-6602, or by email at necia.nicholas@madriverschools.org.



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School Closing Information

When conditions like extreme wind chill, heavy snow, ice, or hazardous driving conditions exist, the decision to close school will be made between 5:00 – 6:00 a.m. ALL LOCAL radio and television stations are notified if Mad River Schools are closed.

WHIO
WDTN
WKEF

Please tune into these stations to find out if school has been cancelled. Generally, early dismissals will be on the air when notice can be given and TV scheduling permits. PLEASE do not call the schools or the Administration Building, as district personnel may not be in the buildings.

In addition, parents will receive a telephone call through One Call Now, the district telephone notification system. For more information on school closings or One Call Now, please contact your child(s) school.

Superintendent Sets Date for Fourth Annual Community Breakfast



The Mad River School District will hold its fourth annual Community Appreciation Breakfast at Mad River Middle School on Saturday, February 20th.

From 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Superintendent Mike Eaglowski will cook up a delicious breakfast complete with: eggs, sausage, pancakes, orange juice, coffee, and milk. Come and meet our Board of Education, teachers, staff, and students who will be on hand to make this great event possible.

The cost is \$3 for adults (18-59) and \$2 for children and senior citizens (60+). Mad River Middle School is located at 1801 Harshman Rd. Tickets can be purchased at any Mad River School. For more information contact Jenny Birtle at 259-6609.