

MOUNTIE MESSENGER

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023 | VOLUME 06

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

Greetings Mapleton residents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Great things are happening in our District, and I'd like to highlight just a few. Most recently, our State Report Card ranking improved from 503 to 323. Yes - we surpassed 180 schools in just one year! This is the direct result of strategic planning by our administrative team, combined with diligent implementation of some new teaching methods by our teachers. There were certainly a few growing pains along the way, and there will undoubtedly be more to come, but this validates the fact that we are heading in the right direction. Our entire administration and staff are to be congratulated. Overall, our District received a rating of 4 stars (1-5 scale).

This success occurred while we were in a state of economic stress. Significant cuts, retirement positions being absorbed by existing staff members, and reduced course offerings were the result. While it is true that ESSER funds (let's call this Covid dollars) kept us afloat during the pandemic, this Federal money is now gone, and our economic future is not bright. But I believe it's reasonable to ask, "With the recent success we've achieved, where might we be if we had the financial support other districts have received?" Mapleton has not passed new operating money in over 32 years.

The recent increase in our "pay-toparticipate" (\$400/sport in high school & \$200/sport in JH) has undoubtedly been tough on our parents. Please know this was not an easy decision for the Board, but we collectively felt that we could not subsidize extra-curricular activities with general fund dollars...dollars that are ear-marked for education. I pray that this policy can be reduced sooner rather than later, but that

will require the support of our community.

As a life-long Mountie, it has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of Education. Mapleton is truly a special place. My wife and I chose to raise our family here. The friendships we've built have & will last my lifetime. But I would be lying if I didn't admit frustration in our community's failure to pass needed funding for our school. 32 years is a long time to wait. The need is very real, and it's the result (amongst other things) of numerous unfunded state mandates and soaring inflation...factors we have absolutely no control over. We've witnessed virtually every other district in the area step up and support their school. It pains me that Mapleton has not. For what amounts to a single cup of cheap coffee/day (for most income levels), we could do SO MUCH MORE FOR OUR STUDENTS. The 0.75% earned income levy, on a \$50,000 income, equates to \$1.03/day.

I know no one likes to discuss the topic of a levy, but as I only have 3 months left to serve, please allow me to unburden my conscience. In my 12 years on the board, I've been part of 4 levy campaigns. One thing I've taken away from those experiences is that many residents are unwilling to accept the truth of what would be taxed and what wouldn't be taxed. To be clear: an EARNED INCOME LEVY DOES NOT TAX property, retirement pensions, Social Security, Dividends, 401K's, and the like. Thus, if one were retired, one could support our students (vote for levy) and - if passed - not pay any additional taxes. I'm not sure how or why this gets misinterpreted, but it does. I hope all residents know this truth come November.

Shawn Grundy **BOE** President

INSIDE

District News

Elementary News

Middle School News

High School News









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DISTRICT NEWS

- New Certified Staff Introductions -

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MEGAN CARLSON Intervention Tutor

"I am very excited to join the Mapleton community this year as an intervention tutor! This is my 10th year teaching and I am very passionate about helping students learn to read.

In my free time I enjoy reading, hiking, and helping crew for hot air balloon pilots."



LORI SLOTER 3rd Grade Math & 4th Grade Science Teacher

"I am excited to be teaching our community's future leaders! I grew up in Rinard Mills, Ohio. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in General

Science from the University of Rio Grande. I taught 3rd grade at New Haven Unified School District, Union City, California, where I also served as the K-5 Curriculum Leader for Language Arts and Social Science. Since moving to Ashland, I have been a parent volunteer inside and outside of the classroom at Mapleton, serving on various committees and as PTO President, as well as filling multiple long-term substitute teaching positions. My husband, Eddie, and I have raised two proud Mounties. Our older son Cameron is a PharmD student at Ohio Northern University, and Kyle is a senior at Mapleton. I am excited to be back in the classroom teaching and sharing my zeal for learning. When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy reading, gardening, cuddling with my dog, raising chickens, and spending time with family and friends."

MIDDLE SCHOOL



MITCHELL YOUNG Intervention Specialist

"I am super excited to join the Mountie Family! Growing up in Spencer and graduating from Black River, a small tight knit community is exactly where I wanted to be. I graduated from

Bluffton University as an Intervention Specialist, focused on grades K-12. Within my time in college I was able to play four years of college football. I serve as one of the high school varsity football assistants and enjoy being around the community as much as possible. In my spare time, I love working with my dad running the family farm. This school year, I look forward to building quality relationships with fellow staff, students, and members of the Mapleton Community. Go Mounties!"



KATE BOYER 7th & 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

"I am so excited to be joining such a welcoming community here at Mapleton! I am from Wooster, Ohio but went to school up in Cleveland for Middle Childhood Education at John

Carroll University. I love baking sweets, reading, and just spending time with my family at home. This school year, I look forward to getting to know all of the students and sparking an authentic love of reading and writing."



ADAM WRIGHT 7th & 8th Grade Math Teacher

"I am looking forward to being a part of the Mapleton community as a middle school math teacher and assistant high school football coach. Math has always been a passion of mine, and I am excited

to show students how math can make their lives easier! I enjoy playing piano, singing songs, sports, over indulging on awful foods, being outside with my family, and watching my twin babies grow in my free time."

HIGH SCHOOL



NATE PERRY Government & World Studies Teacher

"I'm a first year teacher, fresh from the College of Wooster, who's lived in Medina county my whole life. I coach the school's eSports team, and advise Middle School Yearbook in addition to

teaching Social Studies. I am blessed to be starting my journey into education here at Mapleton, and I hope to contribute greatly to the district throughout my career."



DAYNA MARTENS Geometry & Consumer Math Teacher

"I just graduated in May 2023 from Ashland University with a double major in Integrated Mathematics Education 7-12 and a BA in Mathematics. While I grew up in Strongsville, I am

super excited to be staying in Ashland and joining the incredible community at Mapleton! In my free time I enjoy reading, video games, and riding my horse. This year I am looking forward to jumping into my career as a teacher and focusing on meeting every student's needs."



CHYANN COLLINS Biology & BioMed Science Teacher

"My family has lived within the Mapleton district for the past 5 years, and I am so grateful to be a part of the amazing staff here at the high school. I am so excited to share my love of learning and

science with the students. When I am outside of school I enjoy reading, hiking, and playing pickleball."



MELISSA KODGER Chemistry, Physics, & Environmental Science Teacher

"I am excited to join the Mapleton community as the Chemistry and Environmental Science teacher. I grew up in a small town and love the familiar, close-knit feel

of Mapleton. I am looking forward to weaving myself into the fabric of Mapleton throughout the coming years. I graduated from Wright State University with my Bachelor's in Biological Sciences and continued at Ashland to earn my teaching certification in Integrated Sciences. In my spare time, I enjoy getting outside to enjoy the weather, riding motorcycles, reading and taking my golden retriever, Baker, to Groovy Plants Ranch and other excursions."



FAITH LUTZ 9th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

"As a Mapleton alumni, my passion for and pride in this district is immense. I am overjoyed to have the opportunity to give back to the community that gave so much to me as a

student. In my classroom, I look forward to challenging ideas, expanding knowledge, and shaping character. Outside of school, I assist in directing a church camp in Lakeville, Ohio called Camp Bethany and attend Crossroads Church in Mansfield. My free time is best spent outdoors, especially hiking with my husband, playing games with my family, and spending time with my eight nieces and nephews. Here is to a great year! Go Mounties!"

VALERIE UECKER Literacy Intervention Instructor

"I am Valerie Uecker and I retired after 30 years of teaching at Mapleton. I am back for the 2023-2024 school year to teach students reading skills in the Rewards program. Mapleton students are the best and I am looking forward to a great year!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10





ELEMENTARY NEWS

- STANDARDS-BASED GRADING AT MES -

Mapleton Elementary Families,

This year we are taking on standards-based grading in its entirety. You have always seen the standards listed on report cards, but now you will have a more detailed understanding of what knowledge your student has demonstrated on each standard and skill. The teachers have worked hard to identify the critical standards in each grade level that will be assessed with the use of a rubric for each critical standard. These rubrics will provide a breakdown of the standard in focus to help students and parents understand what is required to demonstrate mastery. Teachers will provide feedback that is specific, constructive, and actionable by highlighting strengths and areas for improvement related to the standards rather than assigning a grade on completion or effort. Standardsbased grading will encourage students to self-reflect and provide opportunities to revise their work in order to demonstrate improved mastery of standards over time.

Ultimately, we are working to foster a growth mindset that values effort, persistence, and continuous improvement.

The grading scale will be:

- A Extended Thinking or Application
- B Meets Knowledge Requirement
- C Incomplete Knowledge Requirement
- D Limited Knowledge Requirement
- I/F No Evidence of Learning

We hope you find this as an informative way to understand the progress your student is making. If at any time you have questions, feel free to contact your student's teacher or myself.

Mandy Charnigo

MES Principal

Mapleton Elementary PTO News

Thank you to all students who sold Mumkins for the Mapleton Elementary PTO. We sold 1,050 mums this year! The PTO had its first meeting on Monday, September 11th, discussing the Mumkin sale and setting dates for upcoming events. We will have a Spirit Wear Sale at the end of October and these items will be ready at the beginning of December; they make great Christmas presents. Our annual book fair in conjunction with the Literacy Team will be October 30th-November 2nd. The PTO and Literacy Team will host Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2nd in the elementary cafeteria from 8-11. PTO meetings for upcoming months are October 16th and November 13th both at 6:30 in the elementary library.



Second Grade **Tulip Project**

The second grade students will be a part of the Journey North tulip test garden project again this school year. Students and gardeners across North America can join this special project. Each student in the second grade will plant a Red Emperor tulip bulb this fall in our second grade flowerbed at the elementary school. Students will be able to make observations and predictions about when they think the bulbs will grow and what will happen to them over time. They will also be able to compare their observations to other students in the country who are also participating in the project. You can follow the progress of the second graders tulips by going to the Journey North website at journeynorth.org and selecting the tulip test gardens link.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Patriot Day

MES celebrated Patriot Day by learning about the events of 9/11. Fourth grade classes walked up to visit the memorial in front of the high school, and fifth graders conducted interviews of an adult at home to learn about their experiences and feelings from that day.













Breakfast with Santa











Fifth grade student council members are off to a great start showing leadership here at Mapleton Elementary! New members this year are Parker Gove, Boyd Galloway, Aubrey Elkins, Carter Brown, Arabella Kucnick, Zoey Meckley, Jenna Leininger, Evelyn Donner, Tre Ortiz and Shaw Hartzler. Students applied to be a candidate in an election process and were voted into student council by their peers last school year. The process included referrals from teachers and other adults as well as speeches that were written and given in front of the student body. So far, they have kicked off their term by being in charge of morning announcements as well as putting on a food drive to support the Ashland County Jr. Fair board's event "Stock the Trailer". Council members are eager to show their leadership skills and make a difference here at Mapleton Elementary and in the community!





MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



NJHS Begins Year with Service Projects on School Campus

National Junior Honor Society began the school year by participating in a few community service projects. Students pulled up their sleeves and helped by pulling weeds in front of Mapleton Middle School. Students were eager to clean up the flower beds and were impressed how much better it looked when they were all done. Additionally, members helped the Mapleton Elementary PTO unload, sort, and organize over 1,000 mums from their Fall flower sale. Student's always look forward to doing this annual service project!







Upcoming Trips

Outdoor School

APRIL 17-19, 2024

Parent meeting for outdoor school will be held in the early Spring!

8TH GRADE

Washington D.C. Trip

MAY 15-18, 2024

If you missed the informational parent meeting for the DC trip, please contact Mr. Runkle with any questions! (crunkle@imountie.org)



One School, One Book

Mapleton Middle School has decided to continue our One School, One Book program, however, we will be partnering with Black River Middle School and making it "Two Schools, One Book"! Both schools will be reading the same novel school-wide and we are planning some activities to do across districts. The goal of the One School, One Book program is to captivate staff, students, and families in an opportunity to read, discuss, and engage around the same text to build background knowledge, promote character, and the importance of literacy.

The book, Restart by Gordon Korman, is about a boy who's been a bully and hanging out with the wrong friends. He gets a new start after a memoryloss-inducing accident. He knows he is Chase, but who is Chase? Soon he's hearing stories of the alpha jock and bully who held a reign of terror over an entire school. Is that the person he was ... and is destined to be again? Is it possible to restart? Each student and staff member will receive a copy of the book to find out.

We will launch the program again in the Fall of 2023. Our hope is that our students and staff will enjoy reading this book. We are very excited to see what the One School, One Book program can do to help build students background knowledge, develop their character, and create more literate Mounties.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

River Trip

In September, student leadership groups from Mapleton High School had the opportunity to enjoy a river trip on the Mohican River. Students from the National Honor Society, the Student Council, the Yearbook staff, and the FFA officer team all gathered to canoe or raft in teams down the river. Following the river trip, students enjoyed a cookout and team building activities. In one activity, there were nine students standing on a 10 x 10 tarp. Students had to work together to find a way to turn the tarp completely over while they were all standing on it. If any student stepped off the tarp, the group had to start over. It proved to be a difficult challenge for some and it was a great team exercise.

This leadership group outing also gave students the opportunity to interact with other students that they might not share classes or extracurriculars with at Mapleton. Freshman Neveah Anderson, who is the FFA treasurer, said the trip was really fun. "I got to talk to several new people that I haven't really talked to before."

Senior Elly Keener, who is serving as the National Honor Society president this year, said the trip was very leadership driven and very fun. "I especially liked that we worked on leadership/teamwork activities after the river. I like that I was able to bond with fellow leaders at Mapleton, even the ones I don't see that often at school."

Leadership skills are life long skills that can continue to be developed and strengthened over time. The advisors of these groups believe that building student leadership will build a better school culture and a stronger community for the future.









HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Mapleton FFA Shines at Ashland County Fair: A Display of Agriculture Excellence

The Mapleton FFA Chapter showcased their agricultural achievements at this year's Ashland County Fair, leaving a lasting impression on attendees. With an impressive display of produce, still projects, and student work, as well as active participation in various livestock shows, the Mapleton FFA members demonstrated their dedication to the agricultural industry.

Two meticulously arranged booths served as the centerpiece of the Mapleton FFA's exhibition at the fair. These booths were a testament to the hard work, knowledge, and creativity of the students involved. The first booth showcased an array of vibrant and meticulously cared-for produce, highlighting the horticultural skills of the FFA members. From plump pumpkins to juicy tomatoes, each item bore witness to the dedication and expertise of the young agriculturists.

The second booth was a display of the students' still projects and various pieces of student-made work. These included studies in agricultural careers, livestock science, plant science and agricultural mechanics. The range of careers in agriculture displayed in this booth was a testament to the comprehensive education provided by the Mapleton FFA.

But the achievements of the Mapleton FFA did not stop at the booths. The students were actively involved in the livestock shows throughout the week, exhibiting a diverse array of animals. From the confident handling of pigs to the graceful showcasing of horses, the Mapleton FFA members demonstrated an impressive understanding of animal husbandry and showmanship.

The livestock shows saw Mapleton FFA members participate in various categories, including pigs, lambs, goats, steers, poultry, rabbits and horses. Each participant showcased the result of months of hard work, dedication, and a deep-seated passion for agriculture.

The Mapleton FFA chapter has a long-standing tradition of excellence in agriculture education and has consistently demonstrated its commitment to nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders. The students' accomplishments at this year's Ashland County Fair serve as a shining example of their dedication to this mission.

As the fair draws to a close, the Mapleton FFA members can look back on a week filled with accomplishments and memories. Their impressive display of produce, still projects, and livestock exhibits will undoubtedly be remembered as a highlight of the Ashland County Fair, showcasing the Mapleton FFA's vital role in the community and the future of agriculture.

WINTER 2023

Mountie Mentoring Program: Making a Positive Impact

Mountie Mentoring is a program designed for high school students interested in mentoring younger Mapleton students, from PreK to 5th grade. We seek responsible high school students with strong communication skills, patience, and a positive attitude. This presents a fantastic opportunity for high school students to give back to their school community and explore whether education might be their future path.

Senior Emilee Dennison, who has participated in Mountie Mentoring for two years, shares her experience: "I enjoy helping in the classroom. I would like to be an elementary teacher one day, so this program has been fun." This year, nineteen high school students have been paired with elementary students for mentoring. Students provide one-on-one assistance, work in small groups, and, in some cases, even share lunch or play during recess with their younger mentee.

Mapleton FFA Cultivates Knowledge at Annual Soil Evaluation Contest

The Mapleton FFA Chapter recently attended the Sub-District Soil Evaluation Contest, a dynamic event that fosters a deeper understanding of soil science among the participating students. This educational competition not only serves as a platform for learning but also showcases the dedication and knowledge of the young agriculturists.

The contest, hosted by Ashland County Soil and Water was held on the farm of community member Mr. Willard Welch, brought together students from various schools in the region. Participants were tasked with evaluating different soil samples, analyzing their properties, and making recommendations for appropriate land use based on their findings.

Teams of students diligently examined the physical characteristics of the soil, such as texture, structure, and moisture content. Additionally, they assessed the chemical properties, including pH levels and nutrient content. These comprehensive evaluations provided valuable insights into the soil's fertility and suitability for different types of crops.

Mrs. Ashley Sherman, the lead advisor of the Mapleton FFA chapter, emphasized the significance of the contest in the agricultural education curriculum. "The Soil Evaluation Contest is a hands-on learning experience that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world situations. It's an invaluable exercise in critical thinking and problem-solving," she remarked.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



FFA Participants included: (Back Row) Zaden Hughes, Chance Brown, Kaelan Kelly, Makenzie Osborne, Tia Bryant, Parker McKissick, Gary Windsor, Preston Rohr. (Front Row) Dalton Pay, Danielle Stemen, Haley Callihan, Nevaeh Anderson, Eastyn Rohr, and Kendall Ramey.





Sophomore Audrey Hellickson explains her motivation for participating: "I participate in Mountie Mentoring because I like younger kids; they are fun to be around." The Mountie Mentoring Program firmly believes that even the smallest positive influence can alter the course of a life. Junior Hailey Bergosh expresses her sentiment, saying, "I enjoy interacting with the kids and making connections with them."







New Staff Introductions Continued from Page 3

AROUND THE DISTRICT

CHAR PATTERSON District Nurse

Char Patterson is the new District Nurse for Mapleton who will provide RN oversight to the elementary, middle and high schools. She has 34 years experience as a registered nurse. She is a graduate of Mapleton High School. She graduated from NCSC with an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Nursing, from AU with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, and from Ball State with a Master of Science in Nursing. She is in the process of obtaining certification for vision and hearing screenings. In addition, she has a substitute license for PK-12. Currently, she is attending AU pursuing her school nurse license, which will be completed in December 2023. She resides with her husband in Hayesville.

AMBER LACHANCE Cafeteria Aide - Mapleton **Elementary School**

I am Amber Lachance, a wife and the mother of two Mapleton Mounties. I've lived in the area my whole life and find it rewarding to work with children.

SHELLY STACKHOUSE Middle School Athletic Director and Bus Driver

After a 29 year career at Home Hardware I decided to leave Retail and start a new career. I chose to become a Bus Driver. I have always loved kids and wanted to become part of the school system. I now really enjoy subbing, driving and coaching the girls golf team. Being the Middle School Athletic Director has also gotten me closer to the teams and coaches and I am able to watch the games."



EMILY GORDON High School Paraprofessional

"I am a Texas native, but have lived in Ohio for 13 years. I recently moved into the district with my husband, Kyle, who is an administrator in the Madison school district, and our two children, Elaina and Easton, who are

new to Mapleton this year. We are excited to be a part of the community and look forward to a great year."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Thanks to generous donors in our community, Mapleton student athletes now benefit from five endowment funds at Ashland County Community Foundation.

Local businessman and 1970 Mapleton graduate Bob Simonson recently established four funds to support the Boys' football, wrestling and baseball as well as the Boys' and Girls' track teams. The funds include "Robert Simonson" Family Fund, for the benefit of Mapleton Baseball," "Robert

Simonson Family Fund, for the benefit of Mapleton Boys' and Girls' Track," "Robert Simonson Family Fund, for the benefit of Mapleton Football" and Robert Simonson Family Fund, for the benefit of Mapleton Wrestling."



Additionally, Thomas and Kristie Donelson recently established the "John R. Donelson Memorial Fund, for the benefit of Mapleton High School Girls' Softball Program" in memory of Thomas's father, John, who was a fan of the Mapleton Girl's softball program.

Endowment funds are a way of providing annual income for a particular cause, long into the future. When a donor designated fund is established for a Mapleton athletic team,

Ashland County Community Foundation invests the donors' gifts and uses investment income to pay a distribution to the school district each year to benefit the designated team. These extra dollars can be used for items like uniforms and equipment.

Donations to any of these existing funds can be made in any amount by anyone at any time. To donate online, visit www.ashlandforgood.org. Checks made out to Ashland

> County Community Foundation with the fund name in the memo line can be mailed to Ashland County Community Foundation, 300 College Ave. Ashland, OH 44805.

New donor designated funds can be started at ACCF for any extracurricular activity. In other districts, donors have established funds not only for sports but also for band programs, FFA programs and mock trial teams. For more information about starting a new fund, visit www.ashlandforgood.org or contact ACCF President/CEO Jim Cutright at (419) 281-4733 or cutty@ashlandforgood.org.

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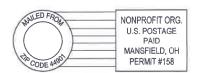
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Mapleton Local Schools See Improvements on the State Report Card

The 2022-2023 State Report Cards for Ohio districts and schools were released in September and the report card for Mapleton Local Schools saw significant achievements and gains over previous

years. The highlight for the district was an overall rating of 4 out of 5 stars, which indicates the district exceeds state standards, and a significant overall jump in the state ranking of districts. This dramatic improvement is a result of the district's focus on literacy, numeracy, standards-based instruction, and family engagement and the hard work of our teachers, administrators, school staff, families, and the Mapleton community.

The areas in which the district had the most improvement were in Progress (1 star to 3 stars) and Gap Closing (2 stars to 4 stars). The Progress component measures the growth all students are making based on their past performance, while the Gap Closing component measures the reduction in education gaps for identified district subgroups of students in English Language Arts and Math. Of the 8 reported categories in the Gap Closing component, the district was able to eliminate the educational gap in 7 of those categories. Most importantly, the overall Gap Closing rating for both Mapleton Elementary School and Mapleton Middle School was 5 out of 5 stars. This indicates that educational gaps for all students in both buildings are being eliminated providing the building blocks for future academic success.

OOKINGAH

NOVEMBER

2	Parent/Teacher Conferences 8am-7pm
	(No School for Students)

- 2 MES Scholastic Book Fair Ends
- 3 Teacher In-Service (No School for Students)
- 3 National Honor Society Poinsettia Sales
- 10 MMS Fall Dance 3pm-5pm
- 10 Veterans Day Breakfast
- 13-30 NHS Pajama Drive
- 17 Fall Blood Drive @MHS
- 20 School Board Meeting 4:30 pm in MS/HS
 - Makerspace
- 22 Conference Comp. Day (No School)
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Break (No School)

DECEMBER

- 11 School Board Meeting 4:30 pm in MS/HS Makerspace
- 18-29 Winter Break (No School)

JANUARY

- 1-2 Winter Break (No School)
- 8-12 Semester Exams for HS
- 12 End of 2nd Grading Period
- 15 MLK Day (No School)

FEBRUARY

- Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00pm-7:00pm 1
- 1 Early Release for Students 1:00pm
- 2 Teacher In-Service (No School for Students)
- 5-16 Gifted Testing for 2nd Grade
- 19 President's Day (No School)
- 27 **ACT Testing**

MARCH

- 22 End of 3rd Grading Period
- 25-29 Spring Break (No School)

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