



MOUNTIE MESSENGER

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023 | VOLUME 03

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Mapleton Local School District Board of Education has placed a 0.75% earned income tax levy on the May 2, 2023 ballot. This five year levy will raise \$1,002,992 annually for district operations. These funds will be earmarked for personnel, programs, services, equipment and supplies related to our four commitments: 1) providing a family atmosphere, 2) expanding opportunities for our students, staff and community, 3) emphasizing and addressing the individual needs of all our students, and 4) providing honest communication to all of our stakeholders. Specifically, these funds will be used to maintain and create new opportunities related to student services, special education, gifted education, family and community engagement, literacy, and STEA²M (science, technology, engineering, arts, agriculture and mathematics).

Student Services

Student Services includes personnel, programs and services related to pK-12 guidance counselors, school-community liaisons, and school-based therapist (Appleseed Community Mental Health Center), school resource officer (Ashland County Sheriff's Office), district nurse (psi Associates), occupational therapist and physical therapist (EJ Therapy), speech-language pathologist, Little Mounties STEA²M Preschool, and other related services (KidsLink Neurobehavior Center).

Special Education

Special Education includes personnel, programs, services, assistive technology, adaptive equipment and accessible surfaces on our playgrounds, and transportation (wheelchair accessible van) related to the specific needs of students identified with disabilities and requirements within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This also includes an increase in hours and/or additional staffing related to our special education director, school psychologist, intervention specialists, intervention tutors, and paraprofessionals.

Gifted Education

Gifted Education includes personnel, programs, services, resources and high quality professional development related to providing alternative, unique academic opportunities for students who have been identified as performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishments. Gifted Education occurs across all three schools and often it includes many Mapleton High School students participating in College Credit Plus (CCP).

Family and Community Engagement

Family and Community Engagement is a crucial part of helping our students achieve academic success. The Mapleton Local School District, in partnership with families and the community, strives to meet the needs of all students by providing a healthy, safe, engaging, and supportive environment for the physical and mental health of our students and staff.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

INSIDE

04-05

Elementary News

06-07

Middle School News

08-09

High School News

11

Community News

OUR COMMITMENTS



Family Atmosphere



Expanding Opportunities



Individual Emphasis



Honest Communication

MAPLETON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

635 COUNTY ROAD 801
ASHLAND, OH 44805
419.945.2188

GO.MAPLETONMOUNTIES.COM
WWW.MAPLETON.K12.OH.US

FOLLOW US ON   
@MAPLETONPROUD

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED

This includes personnel, supports, resources and equipment related to school safety, school climate and culture, self-care, mental and physical health services, nutrition, social-emotional learning, health education, and physical education.

Literacy

Literacy is a high priority for the Mapleton Local School District and the Ohio Department of Education as outlined in Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement. The district is committed to implementing a systematic, structured literacy program that is content-knowledge based and includes explicit instruction. Literacy coaches and additional intervention tutors and paraprofessionals, especially at Mapleton Middle School and Mapleton High School, are essential to improving literacy achievement within our Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) at each of the three schools.

STEA²M

Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Agriculture-Mathematics knowledge, skills, programs and opportunities are important to the 21st century student. The Mapleton Local School District received a \$450,000 Expanding Opportunities

for Each Child competitive grant in 2019 to add programs, equipment, supplies and curriculum that expanded our STEA²M offerings. Additional funding is required to maintain and expand courses, curriculum, drones, 3D printers, laser engravers, CNC routers, eSports, robotics, technology and other STEA²M equipment and supplies for our students to use as they are preparing for enlistment, enrollment in a two or four-year school, college or university and/or employment immediately after graduation. Unfortunately, STEA²M related courses are stagnant due to a lack of staffing at Mapleton Middle School and Mapleton High School. This is a direct result of a reduction in staff over the past five years.

We are making great strides in providing valuable services and opportunities for our students, staff and community in the areas of student services, special education, gifted education, family and community engagement, literacy and STEA²M, but we have a lot more that we can and must do. It is extremely important for the district to have the ability to sustain and ultimately create new opportunities for our students in order for them to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills required to achieve their goals in an ever changing world.

**- Scott Smith
GO MOUNTIES!**

FROM THE TREASURER

As we start the new calendar year, the Mapleton Local School District is focused on the future, which includes our ongoing funding challenges. The district is currently in deficit spending, which means that we are spending more money to pay for staff and operating services than the federal, state, and local tax revenue being collected. Our five-year forecast shows deficit spending of \$44,333 in 2023, \$159,646 in 2024, \$294,227 in 2025, \$483,994 in 2026 and \$640,923 in 2027 without fiscal responsibility of reductions in expenditures and/or additional revenue.

There are two ways to get out of deficit spending - either bring in additional revenue and/or spend less. We attempted to increase revenue with a request for a 3.2 mills operating levy in May of 2022, but it was not approved by voters. This would have cost the taxpayers .32 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

The last new money levy for operating expenses passed was in 1991.

The School Board voted on Monday, January 9, 2023 to move forward with a 0.75%, 5 year earned income tax levy on the ballot this May. This would cost a taxpayer making \$60,000 per year of earned income \$450 per year. (\$60,000 x .0075)

We have cut approximately \$350,000 dollars from the budget in the past two years. We have slated to cut another \$200,000 in personnel and service costs from the budget beginning in the 2023-2024 school year without additional revenue.

With annual enrollment shrinking and record high inflation, we have fortunately been able to maintain our services without asking taxpayers for new money, until now.

The average per pupil cost to educate a Mapleton student is \$10,562.93, which is well below the state average of \$13,577.69. The state share of revenue per pupil is \$6,941.13 and the local share per pupil is \$3,621.80.

Cutting costs will not be enough to eliminate our deficits over the next five years. Eliminating the deficit entirely would likely require eliminating some certified, classified and administrative positions. I do not believe we have positions that can be cut and maintain appropriate class sizes, learning opportunities, and safety in our buildings and on campus. Other measures to increase revenue would be higher school fees, athletic fees and extracurricular transportation fees.

Despite our best efforts to operate a lean budget, the combination of flat local funding, decreasing state funding as a result of declining student enrollment, and inflation at record levels requires the district to seek additional funds.

Mapleton Local School District belongs to our community, and charting a course for the future is a community responsibility and partnership. I hope you take the time to review the five-year forecast and other fiscal information located on the Mapleton website (<https://www.mapleton.k12.oh.us/Treasurer.aspx>) or by using the QR code in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at mapl_kwiley@tccsa.net as I look forward to having more conversations about the future of our district with our Mapleton community.

- Katy Wiley



**Scan with your phone
to review the five-year forecast and
other fiscal information located on
the Mapleton website!**

LEVY BREAKDOWN

30+ years without any new operating taxes approved by voters



**0.75% Earned Income Tax Levy
5 Years
\$1,002,992 annually**



Not Taxed

Retirement Income
Social Security Income
Pensions
Interest & Dividends
Unemployment Benefits
Workers Compensation
Alimony Payments



Taxed

W-2 Compensation
Self-Employment Compensation



Additional Funding For:

1. A high quality, well-rounded education with traditional community values
2. Small class sizes to maintain a family atmosphere
3. Maintaining adequate student services that are responsive to individual student needs
4. Improving literacy achievement as a foundation for all other learning opportunities
5. Additional science, technology, engineering, arts, agriculture, & mathematics elective courses and learning experiences

- Student Services
- Special Education
- Gifted Education
- Family & Community Engagement
- Literacy
- STEA²M



**Family
Atmosphere**



**Expanding
Opportunities**



**Individual
Emphasis**



**Honest
Communication**



ELEMENTARY NEWS

ELEMENTARY NEWS

AU Partnership Providing Math Tutoring

This school year has brought a new opportunity for a partnership with Ashland University unlike any other in the past. Each week we welcome AU students, who are studying to become teachers, into the building to provide small group and one-on-one math tutoring with our upper grades. The partnership has not only provided us the students with great knowledge and dedication, but also materials to enhance the tutoring sessions as well. This is a time that students look forward to each week, and we are happy to continue this partnership during the second semester.

AU student, Madalynn Aumend, is one of our three tutors. Maddie is in her second year at Ashland University. Her major is middle grades (4th-9th) with a concentration in Science and Social Studies, and a minor in Spanish. She also comes from a family of teachers. Her father teaches fourth grade at Crestview, and her mother, a Mapleton graduate, teaches second grade at Plymouth. Outside of school, Maddie enjoys soccer, reading books, and spending time with her family.

Maddie started tutoring fourth grade students in October. Since then, Maddie has made a huge impact in fourth grade Math. She is able to work with students one on one, and sometimes in small groups which benefits the students in many ways. They are able to ask questions more freely, they can go through the mathematical process a little slower so students can grasp math concepts better, and students are more focused. Liam LaChance says, "Maddie helps me find and correct my mistakes. It makes me feel good when I work with her."

Maddie's tutoring goes beyond just academics. Mrs. Garver has noticed that before Maddie even works with a student, she gets to know them. "Maddie has built an amazing rapport with the fourth grade class. The students are excited to work with her. It's like it's an award to work with Maddie!" Arabella Kucnick says, "When I work with Maddie, I feel good. It's more than just tutoring. She listens to me when I tell her about myself. I like the one-on-one attention." Maddie will continue to tutor in fourth grade until the end of the academic school year. It has been an absolute blessing to have Maddie along with our other tutors working with our students!



Beyond the Academics

Mapleton Elementary utilizes a whole child approach to help students reach their full potential. Along with this comes a wide variety of social-emotional learning that students and families have access to being in the Mapleton District. Students from Kindergarten through Fifth grade are receiving an evidence-based curriculum called Too Good For Violence which helps students learn how to differentiate feelings and actions, understand and practice respect between peers and celebrate diversity. Students also learn ways to manage bullying situations and chose peaceful ways to resolve conflict and manage stress and frustration. Every student receives this curriculum yearly with topics that build off the previous year's lessons.

Students in Kindergarten through fifth grade also have access to small groups, which focus on individual skill building such as impulse control, emotional regulation, coping skills, positive body image and many other topics associated with social-emotional wellness. These groups are created by teacher and parent requests as the needs arise. Often groups last six weeks, and are during the student's lunch once a week. A wide variety of students are placed in small groups to assure the group has diversity and different attributes to ensure a successful and beneficial group.

Students in fifth grade also have a unique opportunity to use their good character strengths they have learned about the past five years to stand out. Student Council is a great opportunity for students to give back to their school and community, and set good examples for those all around them. Through the year, student council is a part of many

activities to practice leadership and good character. Some of the activities Student Council has done in the past include spirit days, where they host fun events for the student body, food drives for our troops, different activities to show appreciation for various staff members, such as bus drivers and custodians, activities with Little Mountie Preschool to practice the character word of the month and other activities where they show their leadership.

Elementary students also have the opportunity to make a positive impression on different grade levels by participating in Construction Crews. Once a month, younger grades are paired up with classes from our older grades where they work together on an activity which focuses on our character word for that specific month. Every month a new character strength is introduced to our students to practice and learn about. So far this year, character words of the month include compassion, respect, teamwork, honesty and responsibility. For November, students practiced showing compassion with a food drive hosted by student council where all students could bring in specific items to be sent to our troops. Construction crews got together to make cards for troops as well as Assisted living communities and Ashland County's Developmental Board of Disabilities housing. Shelby Mackenzie, a first-grade teacher says, "My first-grade students are really enjoying their time with their fourth-grade crew member. I think the construction crews are a great addition to our PBIS initiative. It provides time for our students to work together in a positive way." We believe Construction Crews will continue to build great relationships and skills amongst students and teachers as the year goes on.

Mapleton Elementary Literacy Night "Mounties Under Construction"

The Mapleton Literacy Team and Title Teachers planned an annual Literacy Night on November 1st with over 50 families attending. Students and families were greeted with a hard hat and a badge with their construction worker name put on it. From there, families were able to stop by a photo booth, the book fair, and stations that involved a dirt pudding snack, digging for words, a building site, and a construction worker puppet craft. Students had the opportunity to listen to a read aloud and received a free book. Outside in the school parking

lot, local businesses brought in equipment for a touch a truck. Simonson Construction, of Ashland, allowed students to write their name on the bucket of their wheel loader. Leiby Construction, of West Salem, brought a Hydrovac truck that students could sit in and learn how the equipment works. NDK Scrapers, of Spencer, brought a K-TEC earthmoving scraper for students to view up close. Thank you to all the staff that helped make it a successful event and for the families that attended.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

IXL Winter Growth

Middle school students completed a winter academic "snapshot" for ELA and math courses in early December. Over half of the students showed considerable growth from the beginning of the school year. Students and staff alike have been working hard to implement new, rigorous curriculum and literacy interventions, and the hard work is starting to pay off. Students in grades six through eighth who showed academic growth received a certificate to showcase in the middle school entryway.



Drug Abuse Resistance Education for 6th Graders

Recently, our school resource officer, Deputy Brandon Hendrix, worked with sixth grade students to learn more about drug abuse resistance education or better known as DARE. Deputy Hendrix shares that "DARE gives me the opportunity to get involved with the students and see how much the students already know and also be able to teach them new things they didn't know. Throughout the lessons students get to participate in different activities within the lesson and also play different games." Some of the topics that students learned were about making good decisions, resistance strategies, communicating effectively, and reporting bullying. "Students have to write an essay at the end of their 10 lessons about what they learned and what they liked the most about DARE. The top three winners from each class get a prize and the first place winners of each class get entered in the running for the Ashland County District Wide Essay Winner. The winner then gets the opportunity to ride with their School Resource Officer in the Ashland Memorial Day Parade with their name on the cruiser," Hendrix explained. This year's winners were Ashtyn Olney, Jacob Bigham, and Emma Maggard. Students celebrated the completion of their course with an in-class party and received a DARE shirt. Deputy Hendrix commented "I look forward to teaching DARE and I can't wait to continue teaching for many more years."



Minecraft in Social Studies

Students in Mr. Long's sixth and seventh grade social studies classes have been using the video game Minecraft to recreate historical architecture. Mr. Long first got the idea during a staff professional development event, and Mr. Wentworth, district technology coordinator, helped with implementation and training. Long says, "I knew the kids would be familiar with the game, but the way they were able to demonstrate their knowledge and apply it creatively to the game was impressive." Long notes that sixth graders learning about Mesopotamia are applying what they learned in class to construct virtual ziggurat temples and hanging garden palaces. Additionally, Mr. Long is impressed with the engagement of typically reluctant learners. This project has allowed a new opportunity for a new pocket of students to experience academic success.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Harvest Day

Mapleton Middle School students celebrated academic and behavioral success with a "Harvest Day" to end the first grading period. On a beautiful October Friday, students enjoyed a hayride, scavenger hunt, and outdoor games and activities. In addition to partaking in outdoor activities and enjoying cider and doughnuts, students also participated in a square dancing session. Hard work was rewarded, and fun was had by all!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Academic Challenge

Mapleton High School's Academic Challenge team meets once a week to practice answering rounds of trivia questions based on a variety of subjects including literature, fine arts, geography, history, math, and science. The team participated in the Mid Ohio Academic Challenge Tournament in November. Each match is made up of five rounds of questions. Mapleton's varsity team placed 8th out of 10 teams. The junior varsity team placed 6th out of 8 teams. The members of Mapleton's Academic Challenge team are Ellie Hageman, Faith Lowery, Ava Miller, Ash Moherman, Emma Roar, Dio Schmidt, Jordan Swartzel,

Lauren Swartzel, and Ella White. Second year member Ellie Hageman says "I joined Academic Challenge to test my knowledge about things I know. I enjoy the team because I am always learning something new."

Their most recent two tournaments were February 28th and March 10th. The February 28th tournament was hosted by News 5 anchor Rob Powers and was filmed at the WEWS News 5 studio in Cleveland with a live studio audience. The show will be broadcasted on April 29th at 11 a.m. on News 5. Friends and family are encouraged to watch the show!

Mapleton eSports Offers Opportunities for Students

By the time you read this article, Mapleton eSports spring season will be concluding.

Why does a school promote playing video games when many parents are harping on children to put down gaming consoles at home? An eSports program like Mapleton's provides a team building opportunity for students that would otherwise not participate in extracurricular activities. eSports provides a place for harder to reach students to come together with a common interest. Like competitive sports, coaches oversee and provide positive interaction while gamers practice, strategize, compete, and analyze previous matches. The team bond is proven on match days showing disappointment or excitement with every loss and win.

Mapleton's eSports program has continued to grow since its inception in the spring of 2021. During that beginning season, eight gamers hustled to set-up laptops, monitors, and controllers to prepare for competitions twice a week. Through fundraising, grants, and efforts from some dedicated students and staff, the eSports program is now located in a dedicated space equipped with 12 gaming PC's and a Nintendo Switch station. The program continues to grow with nearly 20 students meeting daily for practice or competitions.

Dan Schritz, one of the students responsible for helping start eSports at Mapleton stated, "I think eSports is amazing. It's a time set aside in the day that I can hang out with people who have the same interests as I do. It's a time where we can bond over a game we love. I love the competitive side of it as

well. Being able to compete against other schools is pretty cool, because normally you wouldn't know who or where the opponent is if you were just playing standard online."

The Mapleton eSports team has come together to form a sense of camaraderie that rivals those of traditional sports. There is an understanding that among those participating in eSports, all are accepted and welcomed to the group. Gender, social economic status, and athletic ability have no bearing on being part of an eSports team. Like traditional sports, gamers are also required to meet an academic requirement.

Freshman, Evan Estep, who was involved in eSports as an 8th grader said, "eSports is a place to hang out and have fun with all your friends. I like eSports because it's a fun after school activity and I can talk to my friends that I don't get to see during school much and it actually got me to socialize a lot more than I used to. eSports helped me make more friends, and feel more confident going into high school. It's also helped me with my grades because I know they have to be good in order to compete." Mapleton competes through eSports Ohio, a group of volunteers with a passion for eSports and desire to provide positive opportunities for students. There is no charge to compete through eSports Ohio and no charge to join Mapleton eSports. The biggest hurdle for those wanting to participate is getting a ride home. In the past we've had grant funding that paid for transportation, but those funds have since gone away.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10...



Yearbook Staff Preserves Memories

The Mapleton High School yearbook staff works hard every year to produce our annual book, the "Chevalier." Yearbook is an elective course that is available to sophomores through seniors and even though it is a class, the students are running a small business and have a lot of responsibilities. They produce a 152 color page, hard bound cover book each year and that is no small feat. The yearbook staff is responsible for all page content and design. This means they have to create and design yearbook pages, collect photos, and conduct interviews with students, staff, and coaches. Walsworth, our yearbook company, has an online design program that students first have to learn to navigate before they can create their yearbook spreads. In addition to designing yearbook pages, students are also responsible for proofreading and editing their work and the class often conducts peer reviews for feedback. Students also learn to use Photoshop, how to caption photographs, and how to write headlines and copy. Photography is another element of the yearbook class. Students learn basic photography techniques and they are responsible for taking photographs during school events throughout the year.

On the business side of the yearbook, students are responsible for selling advertising and creating the ads for customer approval. This is an important part of our yearbook and there are one or two days that the students go to community businesses during the school day and sell ad spots for our yearbook. It is great for students to have this face to face business interaction and we appreciate all of our advertisers! A yearbook staff member serves as the Business

Manager and works closely with advisor Kerry Reisinger to produce and send invoices, collect payments, and deposit money in the yearbook account. Students have also created and filmed yearbook commercials for social media the past few years. If anyone is interested in advertising in the 2023 Mapleton Chevalier, please contact advisor Kerry Reisinger at mhsyearbook@imountie.org

The yearbook staff also has a lot of fun each year. In September they hosted a yearbook training with Walsworth and yearbook staff members from Ashland High School, Madison High School, Clear Fork High School, and Norwalk High School attended. It was a great opportunity to share yearbook ideas. National Yearbook Week was held the first week of October and the staff ran several contests and offered a flash sale on the yearbook. The yearbook staff also organized the annual Powder Puff football game in October and they always hold an annual retreat where they have fun and get to work on the book. Senior Co-Editor, Hunter Piteo, says "I love yearbook because it's a tight knit class and I love collaborating and being creative with my peers to create the best yearbook."

Yearbooks cost \$50 and can be purchased online at yearbookforever.com or at school. Students can personalize their yearbook by having a name stamp or icons printed on the cover, along with purchasing a protector. Sales end April 30th. Anyone that is interested in purchasing a yearbook from past years can contact Kerry Reisinger. There are extra copies available of most books from 2000 through 2021.



Thank You to Our Spring 2023 Newsletter Sponsors

If you are interested in sponsoring
Mountie Messenger, please email
mapl_ssmith@tccsa.net for details.



MAPLETON ESPORTS CONTINUED

Esports Ohio has a strong belief about having the students practicing and competing together at school, where they can be coached and be provided with good role modeling. Students practice under this guidance throughout the week with competitions against other schools once per week. Competitions are set-up by divisions based on the game played and one of three levels of play. Premier: the highest level of play; Reserve: secondary level; and Club: the lowest level of competition. This year, gamers are competing against other Ohio teams in: Valorant (Premier), a 5 person team based strategic shooter; Super Smash Bros. (Premier), a 1v1 fighter; and Chess (Club). This season, the students decided to make a switch from Valorant, to Overwatch, another team-based strategic shooter.

The popularity of eSports continues to rise. Viewership of some major eSports tournaments outplay the World Series and NBA Finals. With that rise in popularity comes more revenue and opportunities for careers in the area of eSports. Universities have taken notice and began providing eSports programs with scholarship opportunities. Ohio is home to two of the top ranked universities for eSports, Miami University



Not only are we a proud supporter of the Mapleton School District, but we also employ many Mountie alumni.

FOR ALL YOUR
COMMERCIAL
DESIGN-BUILD
INDUSTRIAL
EXCAVATION
CRANE SERVICE
TRENCHLESS BORING
(AND MORE)
NEEDS.



SIMONSON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.

SIMONSONCONSTRUCTION.COM
419-281-8299



SPONSORED BY BILL HARRIS AUTO CENTER AND THE CHEVY NETWORK

and The University of Akron. Last year, Mapleton students had the opportunity to visit Akron University's eSports program where students toured the campus and eSports facilities. Students learned about the academic, as well as the physical dedication and demands required to compete at the collegiate level. They also learned about the many careers available through eSports outside of gaming, like analysts, agents, announcers, network engineers, promoters, content creators, coaches, to name a few.

Although those starting the Mapleton eSports program believed in the benefits wholeheartedly, there may have been others that were and maybe still are unsure. We invite those that may be unsure to come see for themselves. Watching the students' personal growth has far exceeded anything we imagined when starting this program two years ago. The eSports program continues to grow and also continues to provide the students opportunities to grow, succeed and build relationships that surpasses anyone's expectations.

If you would like to know more about the eSports program, or would like to tour the eSports lab, email Craig Wentworth at mapl_cwentworth@tccsa.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Reaching All Students Literacy Grant

Mapleton Receives a \$200,000 Ohio Department of Education Literacy Grant

Mapleton Local District has been awarded the Reaching All Students Through Language and Literacy project grant for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. Mapleton is one of 25 districts and community schools throughout the state of Ohio who received a grant award in the amount of \$200,000 from the Ohio Department of Education. The goal of the grant is to help districts improve their literacy instruction by drawing on structured literacy approaches and proven literacy strategies. This includes understanding language and dialect in the classroom, family and community engagement, and building students' background knowledge and vocabulary to improve reading outcomes.

Data shows that students in rural school districts were among the students who suffered the most learning loss as a result of the pandemic. Although Mapleton Local Schools were fortunate to be able to keep schools open during much of the pandemic, the shut down in the spring of 2020 along with the need to quarantine students at certain points during the pandemic, led to a major disruption to learning. During the 2022-2023 school year, the district literacy team will be working with the Ohio Department of Education, the American Institute of Research, and various recognized experts in literacy, student culture, and family and community engagement to develop a project that will have the greatest opportunity for student growth in the area of literacy. This project will then be implemented during the 2023-2024 school year. The purpose of the grant is to fund all elements of this project.

School Safety Grant

The Mapleton Local School District has been awarded three \$100,000 Ohio K-12 School Safety competitive grants to be expended during the 2022-2023 school year. Each of our three buildings on campus will use their respective \$100,000 to improve school safety and to eliminate or mitigate vulnerabilities in and around the buildings. These funds will be used to provide physical security enhancements such as a mass notification system related to emergency communications, building access control systems, video surveillance, and facility lighting.

ARP Homeless Support Grant

The Mapleton Local School District was awarded a \$16,500 American Rescue Plan Homeless Target Support grant on February 1, 2023. This grant supports schools and districts with students experiencing homelessness. This grant money will be used to help our students with mentoring programs, school supplies, clothing, and other education-related needs. This grant also allows our Mapleton staff to participate in professional development and opportunities to connect with community-based organizations. Students experiencing homelessness are supported through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program to ensure that all children and youth, including preschoolers, have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as non-homeless children and youth. Please contact your child's building principal or guidance counselor if you are experiencing homelessness.

Grant Recipients

Mrs. Leiby, Kindergarten Teacher, and Mrs. Ralph, Middle School Intervention Specialist, were awarded an Ashland County Community Foundation Mini-Teacher Grant. Mrs. Leiby's project "Strong Hands" will provide students with ways to improve their fine motor skills. Mrs. Ralph's project "Promoting Positive Participation in the Post Pandemic Pupil" it is a digital PBIS program that gives immediate points to students where they can shop in the digital school store and receive items such as privileges or prizes. Congratulations to these teachers for bringing new resources to our students!





Mountie Christmas

For more than a decade, Mountie students, teachers, churches, and individuals have come together to provide gifts and needs for Mapleton families who are struggling. Each year ten to fifteen families receive gifts and food during Christmas. The Mountie family comes together in a wonderful way to help those who live in our school district. We wish

we could share all the stories of thankfulness and gratitude that come from these families. Sometimes those who receive one year step forward to help in a later year. This year more than fifty high school students, a dozen teachers in each building, five local churches, not to mention many entire families participated to provide Christmas for fifteen families. Yes, it is truly more blessed to give than receive.

Spring Craft Show

Come out and support the Mapleton STEA²M Teams (Drone Club, eSports, and Robotics), as well as local crafters, at the Mapleton Spring Craft Show on Saturday, March 25th from 10am-3pm. Last year the show featured 80 booths with nearly 60 unique vendors. We're looking forward to another successful event and hope to see you there.

LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH

- 13 2 Hour Delay
- 15 MES PTO Meeting 6pm
- 20 School Board Meeting 4:30pm
- 24 End 3rd Grading Period
- 25 Spring Craft Show @ MHS 10am - 3pm
- 27 MHS Pepperoni Rollers Fundraiser Starts
- 28-30 Ohio State Test/EOC for ELA

APRIL

- 3-7 Spring Break
- 7 MHS Pepperoni Rollers Fundraiser Ends
- 10 School Board Meeting 4:30pm
- 15 Prom
- 18-20 Ohio State Test/EOC for Science
- 19-21 6th Grade @ Outdoor School
- 22 FFA Banquet
- 25-27 Ohio State Test/EOC for Math
- 26 HS Academic Banquet
- 26 Art Show
- 26 MHS Academic Banquet
- 26 Visual Arts Show

MAY

- 2 Spring Blood Drive @ MHS
- 2-4 Ohio State Test/EOC for Social Studies
- 3-5 FFA State Convention
- 8 Mapleton Cares Day
- 9 MES PTO Flower Sale Pick-Up 3:15-5pm
- 15 School Board Meeting 4:30pm
- 15-19 Semester Exams (Seniors)
- 17-20 8th Grade @ Washington D. C.
- 22-26 Semester Exams (Underclassman)
- 26 Senior Graduation Practice 8:30am
- Senior Awards Ceremony 10:00am
- 28 Graduation
- 29 Memorial Day-No School
- 31 2 Hour Early Release
- Last Day for Students
- End of 4th Grading Period