



MOUNTIE MESSENGER

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023 | VOLUME 04

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As you drive by the Mapleton campus this summer, you will notice a lot of construction workers, equipment and materials. This construction project will completely replace the Mapleton Middle School gym roof that was damaged during a wind storm on June 13, 2022. The current roofing system is from the early 1960s construction when Mapleton High School was originally built. The complete removal of the old roofing system and decking and the installation of a new Garland Company roofing system is being completed by M. Smith Roofing and Simonson Construction Services. This project is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2023-2024 school year weather permitting.

There were numerous academic, co-curricular and athletic improvements that occurred on the Mapleton campus over the past school year. This edition of the Mapleton Messenger highlights many personal and collective accomplishments by our students and staff over the past three months. All items found in this newsletter emphasize servant leadership and a growth-mindset by our students and staff both on the Mapleton campus and within our Mapleton community. I'm extremely proud of the efforts put forth by our students, parents, staff, administration, Board of Education, volunteers and community especially during times of extreme adversity that occurred during this past school year. Our students and staff, much like our Mapleton community, have shown they are extremely resilient and resourceful.

The Mapleton Local School District is in the process of reallocating resources and developing a fiscally responsible budget as we prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. At the time of this newsletter publication, the Mapleton Board of Education has not taken any official action on specific reductions and increases to academic and athletic fees for the 2023-2024 school year; however, the district must make adjustments to the budget to avoid \$225,000 in deficit spending during the next fiscal year. Some budget adjustments may not be noticeable while others may directly impact our students, parents, staff, administration and community. More specific information related to expenditure reductions, fee increases and the possibility of a levy returning to the ballot in November 2023 will be announced as final decisions are made this summer.

As one school year concludes and as another one begins in the not so distant future, the Mapleton Local School District remains committed to providing a family atmosphere, expanding opportunities for our students and staff, emphasizing and further developing individual student talents and providing honest communication. Please feel free to contact me (ssmith@imountie.org or 419.945.8170) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Mapleton Local School District as together we build a better future for our students and community.

GO MOUNTIES!

- Scott Smith

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OUR COMMITMENTS



Family
Atmosphere



Expanding
Opportunities



Individual
Emphasis



Honest
Communication

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SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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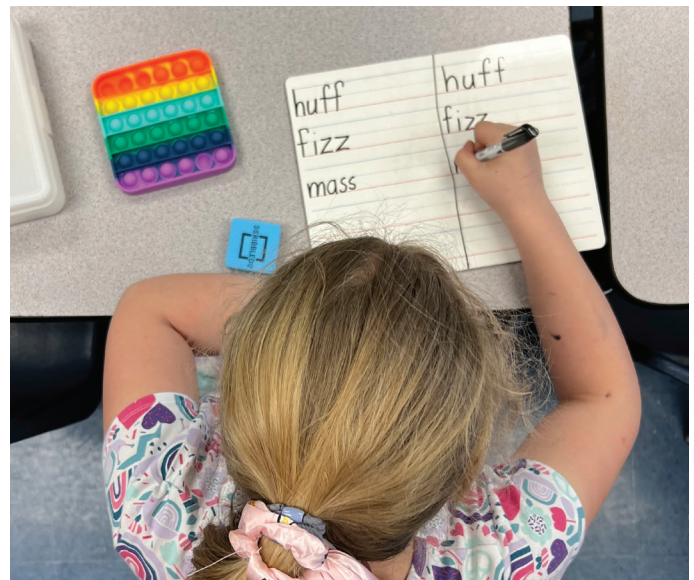
ELEMENTARY NEWS

Title I Initiatives

Mapleton Local Schools receive Title I funding to help support the academic needs of various students. The purpose of the Title I program is to ensure that all children have a fair and significant opportunity to succeed. Through this program we provide reading intervention to students who need additional support in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and/or comprehension. Our Title I teachers utilize the IMSE Impact Structured Literacy Program that is based on Orton Gillingham's Multisensory Approach (OG). This is a short-term intervention program designed to improve literacy achievement for readers based on their strengths and weaknesses. For kindergarten through second grade our teachers use a research based program called Heggerty to improve phonological and phonemic awareness with students. For third grade through fifth grade students, our teachers use David Kilpatrick's One Minute Drills to improve phonological and phonemic awareness for those students who struggle with these skills.

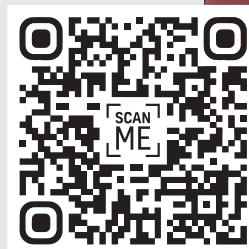
To keep track of all students' progress, our Title I teachers use DIBELS 8th Edition grade level assessments. They utilize these approximately every two weeks to check-in with each student they work with and see the progress they have made. These bi-weekly assessments provide the teachers with important data on how to guide their instruction for the students they work with. Our Title I teachers love to celebrate with their students as they make growth and show progress throughout the year.

To get families involved, our Title team hosts a Family Literacy Night every year. For this year's literacy night, there were approximately 45 families in attendance. Students were able to come and enjoy construction themed literacy activities, a tasty treat, and a chance to touch different construction equipment donated by local businesses for the event. It is an incredible experience to connect with families and to have some fun with literacy each year.



Mapleton Elementary School Summer Reading Program

Mapleton Elementary School invites all elementary students to participate in our Summer Reading Program! To help prevent the notorious summer reading slide and also build a love of reading, students are encouraged to read books, magazines, and/or digital texts this summer and complete digital reading responses as they read. Students that complete 10 or more responses will earn a fall reward celebration when we return to school! After reading, simply scan the QR code to submit a reading response.



Sensory Room

A new addition that has been added to the Elementary School is a sensory room. The sensory room is intended for students to come to a calming place to regroup and refocus themselves. We have had many students this year take advantage of this room. The students have a chance to swing on a therapeutic swing which can help release endorphins in the body to allow students to become calm. Also in the room is a Jungle Jumparoo that was donated to the school. The Jungle Jumaproo helps students control their movement, balance, and body awareness. The elementary school intends to keep adding more sensory items for all of our students in the upcoming school year. The students have taken advantage of the sensory room to explore, imagine and release their energy.



Touch-a-Truck

The Mapleton Elementary students celebrated their fourth nine week PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) reward in May. Students who worked hard to show and follow our Mighty Mountie expectations of "Be respectful, be responsible, and be ready to learn" were treated to a Touch-a-Truck event. We had the pleasure of having Bates Garage and Towing, ODOT, Simonson Construction, Aber's Towing, Elson Farms, and Hilltop Logistics help make this event possible. These volunteers set up for students to see and explore different large equipment that they work with every day. Students were

able to learn about how the equipment works, the jobs it is used on, and how to stay safe while using the equipment.

This school year our PBIS team and teachers put together four different reward days for the students. Our reward days were created to celebrate students who achieved their behavior goal for each nine weeks. This year students participated in a build it day, game day, a scavenger hunt, and the touch-a-truck event. The PBIS team would like to thank all the staff, parents, and volunteers that helped make these reward days possible!

Earth Day

Mapleton Elementary Kindergarteners partnered with Armstrong for an Earth Day presentation. This was a culminating review for students on their knowledge unit, Taking Care of the Earth, that they had previously completed. Kindergarten students have learned about the importance of taking care of the Earth by reducing, reusing, and recycling. They put this to use when presented with litter that students had to decide to sort into recycling or trash.

Armstrong also brought a tree for kindergarten students to help plant. Each student was able to use a shovel given to them by Armstrong to put a scoop of dirt around the tree. They were able to take this home to remember this special day. This tree was marked with a sign representing their graduating year of 2035. What a great picture each year as students grow through the grades; watch the tree and the children grow together!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Mapleton Robotics Worlds

What a season for Mapleton Robotics' Gear Busterz! They truly displayed hard work, dedication and persistence throughout the season. After finishing in the bottom 20 percent at their first tournament they slowly rose to a top 5 finish at their last, earning them a spot at the Ohio State Championship. Here they had a top 6 finish in skills earning them a qualification for the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas where they competed with nearly 800 teams representing all 50 states and nearly 50 nations from around the world. J Ortiz said "It was cool knowing we were one of the 800 teams that made it to worlds. It was awesome collabing with teams from around the world!" Keith Donley agreed. His favorite part was seeing different robot designs and meeting people from around the world.

The Gear Busterz didn't place as well as they would have liked, but they had an amazing time and learned many lessons of which they have already put to use in planning their design for the new season. Grant Kettering said "I learned that faster isn't better. We need to take our time to build something correctly the first time rather than rush through. We're ready to start building and we've even started sketching out our designs for the new game."

Thank you to the many sponsors that made this trip possible. You were responsible for creating an amazing experience and

memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to the following: Romich Foundation, Rob Robertson (SchoolNow), Ruggles Troy Volunteer Fire Dept Co-Ed Auxiliary Association, Daniel and Donna Kettering, American Augers, Tom Zupan, Mapleton Elementary PTO, Schantz Makerspace, Hynek's Machine and Welding, Suzanne Ortiz, Bates Oasis, Travis and Laura Kettering, MC Concrete, Polk Lion's Club, Firelands Electric Cooperative, Mark and Gale Andress, Kerr Trucking, Rohr's Lake (Kenny Rohr), Anna Cowen, Callihan's Corner Store, Barb Bates, Jose Ortiz, Kevin and Sally Canfield, Shelly and Larry Spade, Bates Outdoor, John and Beth Wentworth, The Farmers Savings Bank, Meyer Hatchery, Gibson Family Dental, Christine Ortiz.



eCYBERMISSION Competition

eCYBERMISSION is a virtual STEM competition for middle school students. The competition has students identify a community problem through hypothesis, research, and experimentation. This year the first place team called themselves "The People" which consisted of 7th grade student's Jack Gove and Dominic Knighton. "We will be trying to stop the harm to people allergic to or whose house is infested with wasps. The question we will be testing is: How many wasps will be draped with increasing amounts of sugar in our experiment". The second place team called themselves "Veggie-Tales" which consisted of 7th grade students Jack Sheppard and Ethan Dennison. "We will be trying to test vegetable oil as an alternative fuel for the petroleum based fuel in a Zippo Lighter. The question we will be testing is: If we use vegetable oil in a Zippo Lighter will it burn as well as the lighter fluid in a Zippo lighter, cost less, and then reduce air pollutants called ground-level ozone". Both teams were advised by Mr. Coffey, middle school science teacher.



6th Graders Take On Camp Nuhop

In April, Mapleton Middle School sixth graders once again traveled to Camp Nuhop to experience outdoor school. Students enjoyed problem-solving and team-building activities in "tribes," in addition to learning about a variety of topics through immersive mini lessons. Students had the opportunity to build shelters in survival class, karaoke around the campfire, partake in a high ropes course, play gaga ball and football, and much more. Family-style meals were enjoyed by students and staff alike.



Mapleton 8th Grader Regional Spelling Bee Bound

On January 31, four Mapleton Middle School students competed at the Ashland County Spelling Bee. Sixth graders Macklin Ross and Madalie Runals, seventh grader Amelia Ashley, and eighth grader Tyler Hartzler. All four MMS students represented the district well as they placed within the top half of competitors. After taking a competitive virtual test, eighth grader Tyler Hartzler qualified to compete at the regional spelling bee in March, held at Ohio University.



NJHS Completes Community Service Hours

The National Junior Honor Society focuses on building students skills in leadership, character, citizenship, and service. Kail Callihan, 7th grader, shares "I have learned a lot from doing community service. Doing things for others gives you a different perspective on day-to-day life. I also have had a lot of good experiences when doing a little for my community". During the 2022-2023 school year members have completed 283 community service hours. Students helped unload flowers for the Mapleton PTO, served at the Mayor's Veteran Breakfast and Breakfast with Santa. Members also helped with the Elementary Literacy Night,


Trunk or Treat, Mapleton Craftshow, and ran concessions at middle school basketball games. Hayleigh Mosley, 7th grader, states "I have gotten a new perspective on life through NJHS's community service. I have learned that doing a simple deed, like setting up the Fall Mumkins, can put a smile on a lot of people's faces, including mine". Beyond the school's campus, students also provided community service to the following local community organizations: Ashland County Historical Society, Nankin Community Church, Cat Feline Sanctuary, Ruggles-Troy Youth League, Relay for Life, Nova-Troy Firemans Auxiliary, and YMCA Youth Basketball.



Thank You to Our Summer 2023 Newsletter Sponsors


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Thank you for your help this school year with:

- concessions/donations*
- quarterly/PBIS incentives*
- birthday books*
- teacher appreciation week*
- special events*

Your support during the 22-23 school year
is greatly appreciated!

Happy Retirement!

Congratulations and best wishes to them both
as they embark on this new journey!



31 Years
as a Mountie

Dreama Beattie



32 ½ Years
as a Mountie

Leslie Reisinger



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Cares Day 2023

Mapleton Cares Day was held on May 8th and students participated in community service projects in Ashland County. This annual event, now in its seventh year, is a great opportunity for students to volunteer and give back to the community. The event started on a Saturday in 2016 with about 50 students volunteering. In 2017, Cares Day moved to a school wide day of service and most of the student body participated. The tradition has continued each year since, except during the Covid pandemic in 2020. Senior Hunter Piteo, president of NHS, said Cares Day is one of her favorite events. "Being able to share laughs, happiness, and a full heart from helping the community is something that cannot be topped," Piteo said. "Cares Day is always so fun for everybody involved."

This year's slogan was "Work for a cause, not for applause." High school students went to 18 sites in the community to work. Projects included painting, staining, and mulching in three Ashland County Parks, washing and cleaning fire trucks at local fire departments, preparing ball fields for the local youth leagues, working in township parks, and doing landscaping and painting work for several area nursing homes and churches. Students also assisted with projects at the Ashland County Fairgrounds, the Ashland County Historical Society, and the Ashland County Soil & Water Conservation District. Middle school students worked on projects on the Mapleton campus, such as mulching, cleaning trophy cases, cleaning bleachers, restoring the sand volleyball court, and reorganizing the track shed and library.

The event was spearheaded by the National Honor Society. Sponsors were secured to help with the cost of volunteer shirts for every student and a picnic lunch for the high school students when they returned from volunteering. NHS Advisor Kerry Reisinger believes that community service is part of being a good citizen. "This event is a great opportunity for students to work with community partners and learn about the needs in our community. Student learning is not limited to a classroom and community service can have a lasting, positive impact on students." Sophomore Owen Beattie also likes Cares Day and says "I enjoy the opportunity to help out our community."

The National Honor Society would like to thank our sponsors for their support of Cares Day. The annual event would not be possible without their generous support. Please join us in thanking these local businesses: The Norma Foundation, Willowvale Farms, VFW Post 1067, A. R. Earl Trucking, Gerwig's White Barn, Hilltop Logistics LLC, Firelands Electric, Flashes Trash, Meyer Hatchery, Beyond Measure Market, Leiby Construction Inc, Callihan's Corner Store, Mapleton PTO, Simonson Construction Services, Dine & Dash Mobile Kitchen, Mid-Ohio Graphics, Grundy Properties, Shakely Mechanical, Kerr Trucking, Limitless Tool & Supply, Longsdorf Farms, and Mapleton HS Student Council.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Graduation

Mapleton High School held its 61st Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 28th. Graduating 73 seniors, there were 33 students graduating with honors and one student who graduated with her associates degree before receiving her high school diploma. Congratulations to Tressa Moody on her outstanding accomplishment. Salutatorian, McKayla Burdette and Valedictorian, Rylee Steigerwalt gave beautiful speeches addressing their classmates and their bright futures ahead.

The day was filled with joy, excitement, and sorrow as the 2023 High School Yearbook was dedicated to retiree, Leslie Reisinger, and the late, Mr. Joshua Olin. Receiving the 5A award was Hope Keener and Garret Kern. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in the following areas: academics, arts, activities, athletics, and altruism. Overall, it was a tremendous day celebrating the amazing achievements of a class receiving over \$160,000 in scholarships.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2023.



End of the Year Bash

Mapleton High School celebrated their end of the year in style. Student council raised money to celebrate a successful school year and all of their classmates' hard work and achievements. Students played on an inflatable obstacle course, participated in yard games, and a competitive basketball inflatable game. Teachers Matt Hess, Cory Runkle, Nick Hickey, and principal,

Corey Kline, were all voted on being dunked in the dunk tank by their students. It was a fun-filled day that ended in snow cones provided by the Katsaris family and their food truck, Dine and Dash Mobile Kitchen, LLC. Thank you to the student council and their advisors Lauren Elson and Raichel Herte for putting on a fun day to celebrate the end of the year.



Music Department

Our school band and choir program has experienced tremendous growth and improvement over the past year. With the guidance of our passionate music teachers and the dedication of our talented students, our ensembles have reached new heights. Looking ahead, we have exciting plans to expand our program even further next year, building upon our success.

The 2022 -2023 school year started with the marching band performing at Cedar Point in August and the Parade of Bands at the Ashland County fair. In addition to performing at all of the regular and postseason football games, the band also participated in the Ashland County Holiday parade and most students participated in pep band during basketball season. Middle school and high school music students touted their talents at the annual Holiday concert in December and the spring concert in May. Band students ended the year with a performance at the annual Memorial Day program held in Nova.

Our students have achieved notable milestones and recognition. Mason Kilgore received a Superior Rating (I) in solo and ensemble, showcasing his exceptional musical abilities. Reaghan Machin had the honor of performing in

the Tri-County Honors Band, a testament to her talent and hard work. Jacob Wood, Lilly Moherman, Emily Katsaris, and Jordan Swartzel represented our school with distinction in the Tri-County Honors Choir. The accomplishments continue with Maggie Bogner, Tyler Hartzler, Cole Kelley, and Elena Peters earning a place in the Ashland University Junior High Honors Band. Their selection demonstrates their outstanding musical prowess. Moreover, our Spring Concert was a true highlight as 8th grader Tyler Hartzler showcased his original compositions, captivating the audience with his creative talent. Senior Mason Kilgore was honored with the John Phillip Sousa award and Senior Jacob Wood was honored with the National School Choral Award.

As we reflect on these achievements, we are filled with anticipation for the future. Our school band and choir program will continue to nurture and develop our students' musical skills and artistic expression. With their passion and dedication, we are confident that our ensembles will continue to grow and thrive, bringing exceptional musical experiences to our school and community in the upcoming year. The 2023-2024 school year will kick off with band camp the week of July 10th.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

National Honor Society

The Mapleton High School chapter of the National Honor Society had a year full of community service and fun. Members volunteered for over 700 hours of community service since May of last year! The school year started with assisting senior citizens around the Ashland County Fair, volunteering at the Mapleton XC Haunted 5k event, working at the Ashland County Historical Society Pumpkin Glow, and volunteering for Cider Days at Sauers Park.

One of the chapter's favorite events is game night at Brethren Care where they play board games and card games with residents. Students participated in several game nights throughout the year. Senior Jaylynn Knuth said "Being with the residents of Brethren Care is an incredibly fun time. The stories they tell are very interesting!"

In November, five senior NHS members had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. with a Veterans Honor Bus. The trip was a wonderful experience for students as they assisted veterans around the monuments and saw Washington D.C. through their eyes. Senior McKayla Burdette said "Visiting Washington D.C. with the veterans and their families on the honor bus was incredibly touching and changed my entire perspective on what the word "freedom" really means."

NHS members also volunteered for the Veterans Day breakfast hosted by Mapleton Local Schools.

NHS members participated in Adopt-a-Family at Christmas time, volunteered at Breakfast with Santa, and also held their annual Pajama Drive over the holidays. The chapter collected 120 pairs of pajamas for children in the Ashland County foster children program. A new project for the year was volunteering as ushers for the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. Students volunteered at several shows throughout their season. NHS also hosted a self-defense class for Mapleton students. Led by Sara Keener, Taekwondo World Champion, over 25 Lady Mounties learned self defense basics. The year ended by volunteering with the Council on Aging at their annual Senior Citizen Fair held at the Ashland County fairgrounds.

Chapter inductions took place in April and 15 new members were welcomed to the chapter. Congratulations to juniors Maggie Hellickson, Shea Lawson, Bre McKean and Anna Sas. Congratulations to sophomores Hailey Bergosh, Ellie Hageman, Madgie Hartley, Dylan Hartzler, Scotty Hickey, Kassie Keating, Kellie Keating, Jay Kettering, Val Klimkewicz, Julia Kline, and Taren Kramer.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Teacher Mini-Grant Winners

Congratulations to Ashland County Community Foundation Spring teacher mini-grant recipients, Monica Ralph, Steve Coffey, and Bryan Spade. Mrs. Ralph, MS Intervention Specialist, plans to use her grant dollars to expand the middle schools "Mapleton Market" which is used for their new Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support System. Mr. Coffey, MS Science Teacher, will use the funds to purchase robotics materials to expand STEM initiatives. Lastly, Mr. Spade, ES Technology Teacher, will use the money to purchase VEX GO education kits to expand the robotics curriculum for third graders.



2023 Excellence in Educational Leadership Award

The District Literacy Leadership Team was awarded the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award by Making Schools Work of Northeast Ohio. This award recognizes outstanding district and building administrators, instructional coaches, and leadership school improvement teams who create essential conditions for shared school improvement teams to achieve meaningful systemic change in culture and student achievement. The District Literacy Leadership Team consists of Skip Fulton, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments, Shelby Ortiz, District Literacy Coordinator, Cassie Newcomer, pK-6 Literacy Coach, and Cassie Swanson, 5-12 Literacy Coach.





Mapleton Community Survey

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. 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.

Quantitative and qualitative data collected from a series of surveys along with other educational datasets will allow the district to develop a five-year strategic plan that includes goals and action steps to ensure that the needs of our students, parents, staff and community are being met.

Please use the QR code to complete the Mapleton Community Survey to contribute to the collection of multiple perspectives regarding the district's commitment to family atmosphere, expanding opportunities, individual emphasis and honest communication.



LOOKING AHEAD

JULY

- 10-14 FFA Camp Muskingum Summer Camp
- 17 School Board Meeting 4:30 pm in MS/HS Makerspace

AUGUST

- 1-4 Mapleton Elementary Mountie Jump Start Summer Camp
- 8-11 Mapleton Elementary Mountie Jump Start Summer Camp
- 10 Open House
- 14 Teacher In-Service
- 15 Teacher In-Service
- 16 First Day for Students
- 21 School Board Meeting 4:30 pm in MS/HS Makerspace

