

# MAUMEE SCHOOLS DISTRICT REPORT

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## Maumee Schools Are Eclipsing Goals For School Year At Remarkable Pace

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MAUMEE CITY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

In my *Mirror Newspaper* column earlier this year, I outlined the district's areas of focus for the 2016-17 school year: People, Strategy and Beliefs.

Renowned author and speaker Simon Sinek refers to a model of understanding others and being successful that he defines as "Starting With 'Why.'" Sinek's research has revealed that asking "why" reveals an organization's core beliefs. He also says that your "why" needs to be your organization's driving force and that "why" has to be what you consider before you consider WHAT you do or HOW you do it. So what connection does this have to the Maumee City School District?

We have been using Sinek's premise this school year. After working with staff, community and students to formulate our strategic plan, we made it a priority to ask difficult questions so we could ensure we were targeting the most critical areas to allow the district to move forward and maximize our potential. We ask ourselves "why" before we make decisions, begin something new, change course or expand educational services. And, we make sure that we can explain the "why" behind our decisions and actions. Based on data we collected this school year from parent, student and staff surveys, this practice of asking "why" is working very well and we have a number of successes to celebrate.

### Successes This School Year

I truly believe that our successes are a reflection of living out our core values – our "why" – and maintaining a laser focus on people, strategy and beliefs. The Maumee community continues to provide support to the district in countless ways: mentoring students, providing after-school programs, donating musical instruments and books, attending student performances and so much more. Parents and caretakers are dedicated to the success of their children and the daily guidance, care and support children receive at home means they come to school prepared to learn. In addition, district leaders have maintained their focus on continuous improvement and made adjustments as necessary to ensure student success. All of this hard work has propelled us forward and we are eclipsing our goals at a remarkable pace.

- Named one of the top 100 High Schools in Ohio by U.S. News & World Report (up from 212 last school year).
- Outpacing national norms with both reading and math scores well above the 50th percentile.
- Fully equipped MakerSpace in each school.
- Additional AP course offered – AP Computer Science.
- Four-week summer school/camp with 200 students participating.

- Two specially trained "therapy" dogs working with students.
- Panther Pride Foundation launched – raising funds to enhance the student experience.
- Lighting project – retrofit 18,000 lights with LED bulbs to make classrooms more learning friendly, while saving \$100,000 annually.
- Increase in math scores. Maumee students who took the STAR Math assessment surpassed the growth of their peers nationally by 16 percentile points.
- We welcomed over 100 guests to tour our buildings and learn about the innovative education taking place in our buildings.
- Established a partnership with the Toledo Zoo and will have an on-site Urban Prairie at Gateway Middle School.
- Enhanced the safety and security of our buildings by updating security and phone systems.

### What's Coming In 2017-18 School Year

- One-to-one technology program will be expanded to grades 4-10.
- Gifted education program will be expanded. The board of education recently hired an additional educator to ensure we are meeting the needs of these exceptional students.
- New English/Language Arts curriculum will be rolled out to grades K-12.
- An English/Language Arts educational coach will replace current math coach to help elevate student success.
- MakerSpaces will continue to be upgraded.
- Maumee High School will add two additional Advanced Placement testing opportunities (AP Studio 3-D Art and AP Psychology), bringing the total AP offerings to 13.
- Enhanced programming to promote positive student attributes and celebrate success.
- Study group to examine school start/end times.
- A continued emphasis on putting students first, engaging in continuous improvement and maximizing the potential of everyone associated with our district.

### How To Help Maumee City Schools Tell Others All We Offer Students

If you know of a student who lives in our district but does not currently attend one of our schools, please encourage them to visit our buildings and give consideration to all Maumee City Schools has to offer. Let them know we work hard to create an incredible educational experience for each and every Maumee student. We hope that as families think about the best educational option for their child(ren), they will consider Maumee schools, come in and take a tour, meet with staff and see first hand why our schools deserve strong consideration.

Maumee City Schools has a proud tradition of excellence that is being continually enhanced. Students come first in Maumee.