

# MAUMEE SCHOOLS DISTRICT REPORT

BY DR. TODD CRAMER  
Superintendent  
Maumee City Schools



## *Living Out Maumee's Core Beliefs*

It has been a busy seven months in the Maumee schools as we actively live out the district's core beliefs and implement our strategic plan. After administering a mid-year survey to measure the impact our current initiatives are having, I am pleased to share that we have made significant progress since August. This success is possible thanks to support and dedication from our parents, community, staff and most importantly, our students.

*Students Come First* – Students continue to be our focal point. Each week, I visit classrooms across the district. Although visits to our elementary classrooms and cafeterias are often filled with questions such as, "Are you the mayor?" or "Why do you wear a suit all the time?" Maumee middle and high school students are anxious to provide me with direct and frank feedback on a variety of topics. Recently, I listened to presentations from a freshman English class that focused on mandating courses that are applicable to life after high school and changing the school day start time to align with the circadian rhythm of teenage students. I am pleased that these types of student-initiated discussions are taking place across the district and that students are sharing their opinions for enhancing their own educational experiences.

*Continuous Improvement* – It is energizing to hear these types of lively student discussions because they keep our district focused on our core value of continuous improvement. Having recently reviewed our strategic plan, I am proud of the progress we have made. Based on pre- and post-surveys, we know that we have seen significant increases in the morale of both staff and students. Also, when we examine the academic progress our students are making, we see that Maumee is outpacing national norms, with student growth calculations in both reading and math well above the 50th percentile. This growth can be directly attributed to the support parents provide, outstanding classroom instruction and targeted professional development provided for all staff. We will continue to monitor data points throughout the remainder of the year because we believe that continuous improvement is critical to our success as a school district.

We are directing efforts toward increasing the "relevance" of what we teach and toward helping students make connections between the content of their coursework and their lives outside of school. As examples of this, all five Maumee schools have had activities including: career days, guest speakers from our community and engaging MakerSpace challenges. On Friday, May 19, the high school will host its first-ever, daylong career exploration event, during which students will select from over 50 guest presentations and explore up to six possible career paths.

*Maximizing the Potential of Others* – The MHS career exploration event emphasizes our core belief that we should maximize the potential of others. By inviting community business professionals into our school, as well as having our students take part in and volunteer at community-sponsored events, we believe we help students and the district maximize our potential. It has been great to see the participation of students in so many community-led efforts this school year. Staff are active as well, volunteering their time to serve on the district wellness team, finance committee and recruitment and retention committee to attract families to the district and help ensure students choose Maumee over an alternative school option. We are creating opportunities to support those working to solve issues beyond our school walls by hosting events such as the American Cancer Society's upcoming Relay for Life in May and the Maumee Rec 5K in July that benefits the Maumee Senior Center.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Maumee school system. In the first seven months of this school year, we initiated a take-home technology program and created science, technology, engineering and mathematics MakerSpaces in all five schools to enhance student education. Our successes are no longer a secret, as districts from across the area have come to us to learn and replicate our creative and engaging student experiences. If you would like to tour our buildings or learn more about any of our innovative programs, please let me know. I am proud of all we have accomplished and the bright future ahead.