



## From the Superintendent



The key to true greatness is recognizing that to reach it means consistently growing, and doing so together. At the beginning of this school year, we were delighted to have John Pepper, former CEO of P&G, speak to our teachers and staff. His inspirational speech reminded us to stay focused on what really matters: service, leadership, people and values. These are the fundamental values that

matter, and our schools won't lose sight of these values no matter what challenges come from Columbus or Washington.

Throughout this piece you will see the countless ways our students and staff strive to be "Consistently Great" each day and in every way. We are tasked with growing the next generation of leaders who can think critically, communicate effectively and solve problems. An important measure that we take seriously is seeing how well our MHS graduates are prepared for college. ACT and National Student Clearinghouse data show that our grads aren't just going to college at high rates - they are ready once they are there, and stay in college.

Our schools reflect what the community values. These community values set a standard far higher than any single test score, and include bench marking data in areas such as school safety, innovation, partnerships, finances and the whole child. We measure academic success in many ways and carefully monitor our students' level of preparation for further learning, meaningful work, and engaged citizenship. Using multiple measures to gauge a high-quality education ensures that we are growing together and meeting the needs of our students and families.

Mason does not settle for what is good enough. We know you expect excellence from us, and we are proud to deliver an exceptional education at a great value. We encourage you to share your ideas for helping our schools be even better. Share feedback by emailing [contactmason@masonohioschools.com](mailto:contactmason@masonohioschools.com) or tweet me @DocGKK.

Yours in Education,

Gail Kist-Kline, PhD  
Superintendent



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# M Academics

At the core of any strong school district is the academic success of our students and schools. We know that to truly capture our students' readiness for life after high school, we need to help them think beyond grades, standardized tests, and term papers. We need to help them become lifelong learners, adaptable to grow and change in a world where change and innovation are the norm. Our students need to know how to chart a course for their learning, set goals, and reflect on their progress. We are excited to step up to that challenge, and invest in a team of educators who help our district stay focused on what really matters.

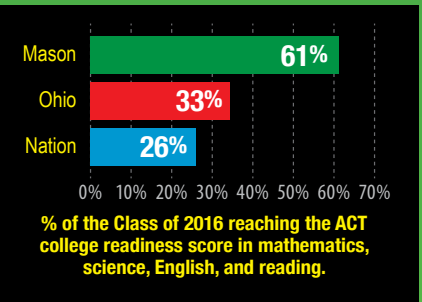


**86%** of MHS students enroll in college within one year after high school.

**92%** of those students return for a second year of college, according to the National Student Clearinghouse.

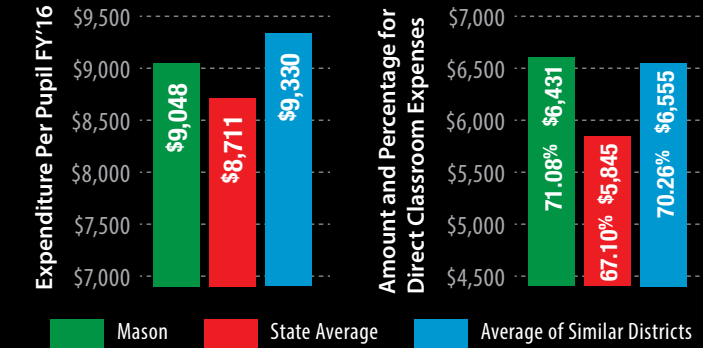
## Goal for Improvement:

Develop personalized learning portfolios where students capture and reflect on their progress toward educational and career goals, interests and aspirations, while collecting evidence of their learning.



# M Finances

Mason City Schools is committed to fiscal stewardship. We care about the partnership we have with our families and community to support our students' educational needs in an efficient manner, and are watchful of how much financial responsibility is borne by local taxpayers. The Mason School District prioritizes classroom instruction when it allocates resources, and spends less than the state average, and similar districts on non-classroom expenditures. Mason voters have not passed an operating levy since 2005.



## Goal for Improvement:

Build a network of staff and parent advocates to support local control and financial stability.

Source: Ohio Department of Education

# M Innovation

Change is the only constant in today's world. Our students are likely to change jobs and careers far more frequently over the course of their life than previous generations. This means that our students must be adaptable problem-solvers who communicate well while also mastering the art of "reading the room." At Mason, we are innovating our teaching styles and stretching students so that they are prepared for what comes after graduation.



During the 2015-16 school year,

**100%** of students in grades 1-3 participated in new weekly Innovative STEM Centers

**30%** of 7th and 8th grade students took the new MMS Robotics Course

## Goal for Improvement:

Expand opportunities for student innovation through STEM/STEAM, and experiential learning.

# M Safety

Our students and schools must be safe at all times. This certainly means ensuring the physical safety of our children by maintaining high quality facilities and grounds. However, it also means growing students who stand up to bullies, and who are not afraid to ask for help if they have a mental health concern.

## Elementary Students (Grades K-3)

At my school, I've told a friend to stop picking on another friend.

Answered: 643 Skipped: 54

**YES 74.81%**  
**NO 25.19%**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

## Intermediate Students (Grades 4-6)

When someone at my school was being bullied, harassed or pressured, I

Told/got help for the person **37.44%**  
Never saw someone bullied **54.27%**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

Additional Responses:  
Reported to Tipline **1.76%**  
Joined in **2.28%**  
Did nothing **4.24%**

Answered: 1,533  
Skipped: 84

## Secondary Students (Grades 7-12)

When someone at my school was being bullied, harassed or pressured, I

Told/got help for the person **30.60%**  
Never saw someone bullied **59.02%**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

Additional Responses:  
Reported to Tipline **2.73%**  
Joined in **0.91%**  
Did nothing **6.74%**

Answered: 1,098  
Skipped: 255

## Goal for Improvement:

Conduct a needs assessment to determine effectiveness of current practices for supporting students' mental health needs that connects families with community partners.

Source: MCS Student Stakeholder Survey, May 2016

# M Partnerships

We are fortunate to live and work in a community with dynamic and diverse businesses that connect Mason, Ohio to the world. Therefore, we're strengthening the education we provide to our students by tapping the talents of local businesses, and giving these partners the chance to work with the next generation of leaders.

During the 2015-16 school year,

**2000** MHS students attended guest speaker events

**424** students attended lunch-and-learns or the once a month 'Empower Hour'

**83** students attended manufacturing and business field trips

**121** students applied or interviewed for job shadowing opportunities

**70** job shadowing positions currently in progress

**More than 5** area businesses have partnered with the MHS Experiential Learning program: including ABC Pediatric, Assurex Health, CMO Axis, City of Mason, LEAP, and UC-West Chester Hospital.



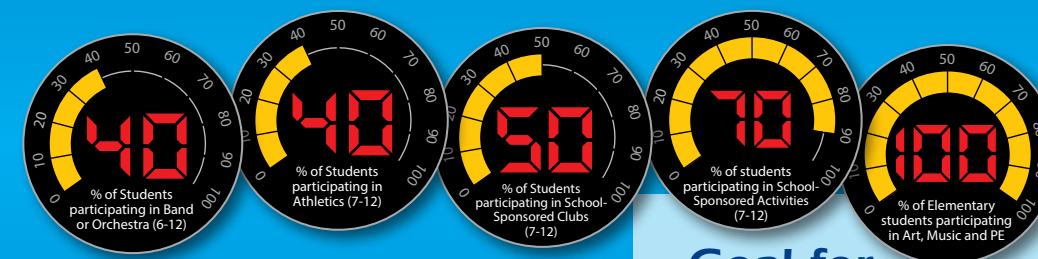
## Goal for Improvement:

Identify and expand partnerships rooted within the Mason community.



# M Whole Child

Education is about more than reading, math and science. Mason students learn valuable life skills by taking advantage of clubs, the arts, athletics, and other extra-curricular activities. Growing the next generation of engaged citizens, problem-solvers and leaders also means encouraging our students (and our administrators and teachers) to embrace a culture where students experience integration of learning and their life by embarking on projects outside of school that may include service learning and global learning.



## Goal for Improvement:

Provide leadership and service opportunities for all students in grades K-12 by establishing Personal Learning Days where students choose their own projects based on their passions and interests.