



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

My wife, four children, and I feel privileged to live and serve in Mason. We moved our family here because we believe in what is happening in our schools and community. And, we're not the only ones. In our many conversations with students, business leaders,

alumni, grandparents and families, one central theme keeps coming up - this is a special place.

Residents and businesses appreciate our community's diversity, and credit our strong schools and diverse neighbors as being one of the major factors for choosing (and staying in) Mason. Neighbors share that it's safe and, whether you've lived here 50 years or five months, you feel like you belong.

Business partners create internships so that students can enter the workforce more prepared. First graders through high school students get opportunities to explore robotics, coding, and programming. With over 80 percent of secondary students engaged in a school-sponsored club, sport or activity, we're intentional about growing students' leadership skills so they can have a positive impact on the world around them.

And, while our schools are special, we know we're not perfect. We appreciate feedback and input from caring and invested families, dedicated students, and wise business leaders. Last year, I attended over 70 COMMUNITY Conversations in people's homes, places of worship, and businesses - and heard from over 700 participants. We've made changes that reflect the priorities our families and community asked for during those conversations.

- **\$1 million MCS Investment in School Safety**

This is our second year partnering with the City of Mason to ensure law enforcement presence in each school. The City of Mason's Campus Safety Team consists of full-time and part-time Police Officers, DARE and School Resource Officers, Firefighters, and security personnel.

- **\$500,000 MCS Investment in Mental Wellness**

This year we established a new mental wellness team after increasing concerns about our students' mental health and risk of suicide. The team consists of a Mental Wellness Supervisor, three Mental Wellness Coordinators, District Resource Coordinator (Warren County ESC), and 10 full-time therapists in our schools employed by Children's Hospital and Solutions.

- **\$1.5 million MCS investment in Lowering Class Sizes**

This is our second year working to strategically lower class size. Following the 2010 levy failure, our class sizes had increased to levels that made it increasingly difficult to deliver the kind of education our students and families expect. We now have class sizes of 24:1 in grades PK-2, 26:1 in grades 3-6 and class loads of no more than 165:1 in grades 7-12.

MCS Operating Levy

On March 17th the Mason City School District will have an operating levy on the ballot. Most school districts are on the ballot every 3-5 years. It has been 15 years since Mason voters passed an operating levy, and the district faces a \$13 million deficit by 2022.

Following the 2010 levy loss, district leaders did not come back to voters, but listened to the community and instead made reductions that included:

- eliminating 160 positions;
- two years of pay freezes for all MCS staff;
- closing two schools.

If the levy does not pass, we will need to make \$6.5 million in additional cuts this summer - which will mean significant staff reductions (the equivalent of 80 teachers) and reduced safety and mental wellness personnel and program investments.

If the levy passes, we will maintain the current level of service. This levy doesn't add new people or programs, but will instead keep teachers, and safety and mental wellness supports.

My door is always open. If you'd like to host or attend a COMMUNITY Conversation with me, email communityconvo@masonohioschools.com or call (513) 398-0474, ext. 24004.

Thanks for your continued investment in our children and community!

Respectfully,

Jonathan Cooper
Superintendent/CEO

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SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENT



MASON CITY SCHOOLS
211 N. EAST STREET
MASON, OH 45040



MASON CITY SCHOOLS 2019-2020 QUALITY PROFILE



GROWING GREATNESS TOGETHER

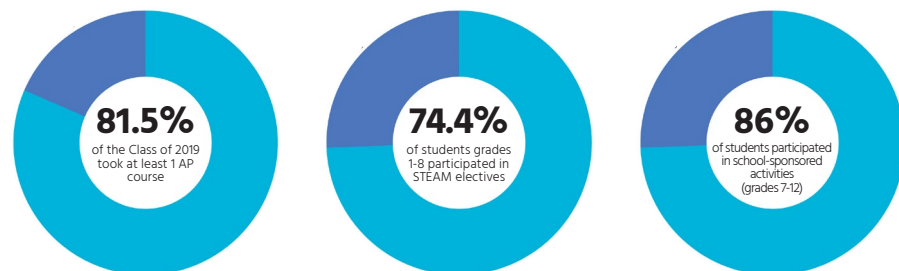
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LEARNING & LEADING

Mason strives to develop the whole child by personalizing learning - guiding students to find ownership and belonging in their learning. As we teach essential core academic content (reading, writing, math, science, and social studies), we work to integrate the critical skills and mindsets needed to thrive in the classroom and beyond.



BIG ROCKS

MCS focuses on three broad buckets of work that we call Big Rocks. The Big Rocks include Culture, Inclusive Excellence, and Personalized Learning. They are always underpinned by our Foundational Rock, Fiscal Stewardship.

In an effort to sharpen our Big Rock focus, MCS transitioned to a short-cycle, agile goal-setting methodology called Objectives and Key Results. We measure, review, and revise Big Rock Key Results on a quarterly basis with a key group of internal stakeholders that includes teachers and administrators.

CULTURE

GOAL: Collectively build a positive, inclusive, engaging culture.

KEY RESULT: 100% of all MCS staff have been trained in the Event+Response=Outcome framework.

This year, students are learning how to optimize their RESPONSE to any EVENT to ensure the best OUTCOME for others. (E+R=O).

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

GOAL: Deepen appreciation for diversity and commitment to equity and inclusion.

KEY RESULT: 100% of all MCS staff received training in strategies to address incidents of bias in our schools.

This year, with the support of local experts, teachers are creating and delivering developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for students to help them understand and respond to bias.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

GOAL: Personalized learning takes flight!

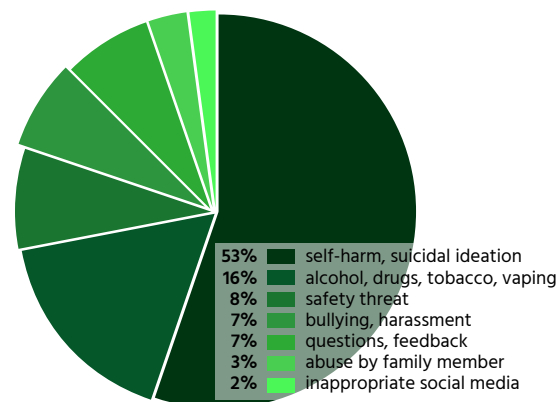
KEY RESULT: 25% of MCS teachers are involved in either the Personalized Learning Academy or a Personalized Learning Cohort.

To support and enrich each of our learners, MCS educators are deepening their understanding and practice of personalized learning with Learning Experience Designers (teacher coaches).

SAFETY & MENTAL WELLNESS

Safety is always top-of-mind in Mason. This year, we launched a team of five mental wellness staff who increase students' access to mental health services and help coordinate care. By investing in the City of Mason's Campus Safety District, we now have 13 safety experts and law enforcement officers dedicated to school safety - a 650% increase from two years ago when we had 2 officers.

2018-19 Safe Schools Tips

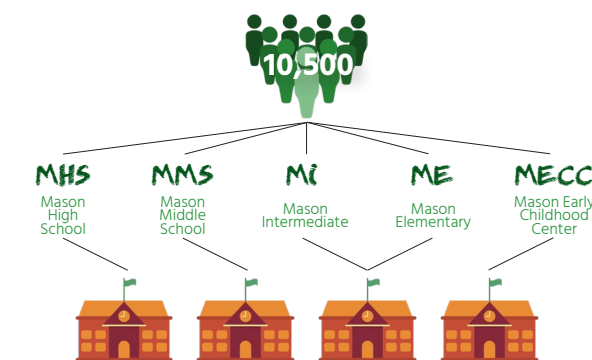
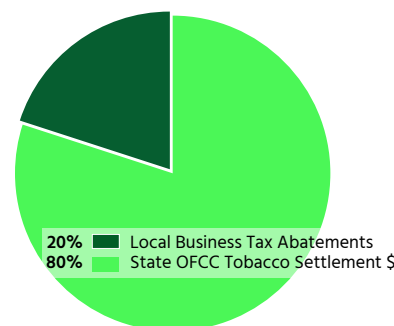


224 classmates referred to help by a MHS Hope Squad member. Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program.

FACILITIES

This year, the district finished implementing the Master Facilities Plan that has been in the works since 2000. There are not many school districts who are able to be debt-free on Day 1 when opening what feels like a brand new middle school. This is a tribute to wise decisions made by former school boards and administrations over the last 20 years, and a strong commitment by the City of Mason and Deerfield Township who have made our community a hub of economic development. The last two years of additions to the Mason Early Childhood Center, Mason Middle School's total renovation, and updates to Mason Intermediate School were **funded without new local taxes**.

Funding Buildings without Increasing Taxes



Careful planning means 10,500 students attend 5 different schools located in 4 buildings.



FINANCES & LEVY INFO

Mason earned an "A" on Ohio's report card and ranked 5th in the state for high quality education and student opportunities according to the 2020 Ohio Niche rankings, while spending \$3,096 less than Ohio's Top 10 average, and \$725 less per student than the state average.

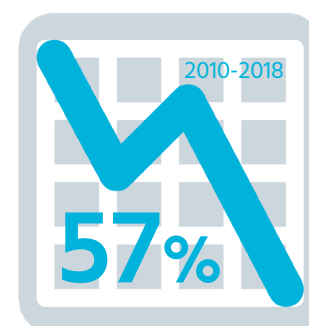
MCS Delivers Value: Fiscal Stewardship

Ohio's Top 10 School Districts

2020 OH Niche Ranking	Expenditure per Pupil
1. Solon City Schools	\$15,352
2. Indian Hill Schools	\$16,670
3. Beachwood City Schools	\$20,580
4. Wyoming City Schools	\$13,010
5. Mason City Schools	\$11,228
6. Dublin City Schools	\$13,129
7. Madeira City Schools	\$12,822
8. Ottawa Hills Local Schools	\$15,307
9. Olentangy Local Schools	\$11,007
10. Sycamore City Schools	\$14,130

FY 18 Cupp Report

Inflation has Outpaced MCS Spending



MCS inflationary costs are 57% less than U.S. and Ohio peers

Mason Prioritizes Teaching & Learning

85% of MCS operating budget is salaries & benefits

75% of those salaries & benefits pay for teachers

It has been 15 years since Mason City Schools voters passed an operating levy. MCS will have a 9.96 mil phased-in operating levy on the March 17, 2020 ballot. In January 2021, 4.71 mills would go into effect, followed by 5.25 mills in 2022. Due to prior taxes expiring, taxes will only increase by 4.71 mills over the current level - costing less than \$14 a month per \$100,000 in home value, or \$165 a year.

This levy is crucial to support the day-to-day operations of the district and maintains the current level of service. It keeps teachers, and safety & mental wellness supports.



Mason has not passed an operating levy in 15 years.



per \$100,000 home true value or approximately \$165 a year. Visit www.wcauditor.org for your home's true value according to the County Auditor.