



Madeira Board of Education, 7465 Loannes Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45243
Kenji Matsudo, Superintendent Emily Hauser, Treasurer/CFO
Dave Bergan, Assistant Superintendent
Diane Nichols, Public Relations

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Madeira's High School's Senior Lunch Tradition

In 1995, then Madeira City Schools Superintendent Dr. Michelle 'Mikie' Hummel started inviting every Madeira High School (MHS) senior class member to a pizza lunch in her office - 10 or 12 at a time, until she had greeted them all. Dr. Hummel initiated these Senior Lunches because she never wanted to hand a diploma to a student she didn't know. The MHS Senior Lunches have continued and today are hosted by Madeira Superintendent Kenji Matsudo. The menu has changed to subs but the goal remains the same.

At the first lunch of the 2023-2024 year, Superintendent Matsudo introduced Madeira Schools Foundation (MSF) Director Mindi Hilgeman who spoke to the seniors about the MSF scholarships they are eligible for. The nine students in attendance then introduced themselves and shared the clubs and activities they've been involved with at MHS, and their plans after graduation.

Another part of Senior Lunches is the students sharing what they loved about Madeira, and what they'd change. Things they loved were a sense of community, their teachers, the school spirit when everyone shows up for each other, and that Madeira's small size means everyone knows everyone. "It's nice the Superintendent knows us each individually," senior Peter Breidenbach said. Zoe Abrams added, "We like the freedom you've given us as seniors, and the trust you place in us." Things the seniors would change were the use of backpacks between classes and more regulated and even temperatures in their classrooms.

At the end of the lunch, Superintendent Matsudo told the group about the Made in Madeira Scholarship they'd receive in the spring and talked about the importance of finishing strong. "You are each incredibly special and important," Mr. Matsudo told the group. "It's been amazing watching you grow up and I'm excited for the next chapters in your lives."



(l to r): Ryan Ashton, Nathan Bishop, and Peter Breidenbach listen to Mr. Matsudo talk about the Made in Madeira Scholarship.



Pictured (l to r): MHS Senior Lunch attendees Mindi Hilgeman, Peter Breidenbach, Nathan Bishop, Ryan Ashton, Corbett Alexander, Eva Apanius, Mariana Caceres, Baxter Brinson, Zoe Abrams, Margot Andruss, and Superintendent Kenji Matsudo.