



## SUPERINTENDENT'S message

Dear Comet Families,

As we reflect on the incredible achievements of the past year, I'm filled with pride and hope for what lies ahead. Mason City Schools continues to be a place where **Meaningful Learning** happens every day, from the strong literacy foundations laid in our youngest learners to the college-bound aspirations of our high school graduates. Our students seize **Extraordinary Opportunities**, excelling in academics, sports, and the arts, while our educators care, connect, innovate and inspire.

This year, we also took bold steps in shaping the future of our community as part of our Journey to 2030. We kicked off this transformative initiative with a keynote from Dr. Bill Daggett, bringing together over 150 staff, students, families, and community members. Through the dedicated work of our 30-member Student Design Team and 100-member Staff, Family, and Community Design Team, we co-created Mason's Portrait of a Learner. This vision is centered on ensuring that each and every student leaves Mason with the enduring human skills of **Integrity, Adaptability, Empathy, Communication**, and **Critical Thinking**—the essence of what it means to be a Comet.

Through **Operational Excellence**, we've expanded our facilities and strategically invested in our students' success while being mindful of our community's resources. The **Portrait of a Learner** will guide not just the learning and life experiences we offer, but also the facilities and resources we provide to ensure that every Comet Kid can achieve their highest potential.

As we look forward to 2025 and beyond, let's continue to celebrate our diverse community, honor our shared accomplishments, and move ahead with confidence and optimism. Together, we are shaping a bright future for all our students.

If you would like to be a part of a CommUNITY Conversation focusing on what Mason Quality will look like in 2030 and beyond, please email [communityconvo@masonohioschools.com](mailto:communityconvo@masonohioschools.com)

Respectfully,

Dr. Jonathan Cooper | CEO & Superintendent

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MASON, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 32

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENT

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



Check out the  
JOURNEY TO 2030  
ROAD MAP ON OUR  
WEBSITE!



## Mason City Schools

GROWING GREATNESS TOGETHER

### 2022-2023 QUALITY PROFILE

#4 Best School District in Ohio | #70 Best School District in U.S.  
Niche.com

[www.masonohioschools.com](http://www.masonohioschools.com) | 513.398.0474 | 211 N. East Street Mason, OH 45040



# MEANINGFUL LEARNING

William Mason High School, Ohio's largest high school, continues to foster a college-bound culture. With 90% of the Class of 2023 pursuing two or four-year degrees, it remains a hub for ambitious, well-prepared learners.

**94 students** in the Class of 2023 recognized by College Board as AAPI, Black, Hispanic, Commended, and/or National Merit Scholars

**361** diploma with honors graduates



Many students at Mason High School take advantage of the 26 Advanced Placement courses offered and, when they do, they excel. In 2022-2023, 1,248 students took one or more Advanced Placement courses. Students earned a score of 3 or higher on 83% of AP tests taken.



**524 students** were recognized as AP Scholars, including:

- **173** AP Scholars
- **225** AP Scholars with Distinction
- **126** AP Scholars with Honors.

Proficiency in early literacy skills have been shown to be a key indicator in future school and life success. Mason's teachers in grades K-3 are dedicated to building strong foundational literacy skills, as well as developing a lifelong love of learning with their students. Strong and consistent literacy instruction across early childhood ensures that our youngest learners are prepared to take on any challenge as they continue their learning journey here in Mason City Schools.

**99.2%** of Mason third graders met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion requirements for fourth grade.



Mason City Schools students hail from over 100 countries and speak over 80 languages. Our learning community appreciates the rich cultural and linguistic diversity that international families bring to our schools. Our educators strive to develop a culture and environment that embraces the wide range of students' strengths, and needs. Approximately 1,000 of our students with linguistically diverse backgrounds meet the criteria to be identified and served as English learners every year.



**1,158** English Learners at Mason City Schools in May 2023

- **92%** of English Learners meet Ohio State Test Achievement Targets in English Language Arts
- **94%** of English Learners meet Ohio State Test Achievement Targets in Mathematics



In Mason City Schools we foster wellness and belonging by investing in meaningful connection opportunities. There are over 25 athletic teams and 70 school-sanctioned clubs at Mason High School and more than 15 athletic teams and 30 school-sanctioned clubs at Mason Middle School.

**64.8% of 7-12 students** are involved in a school-sponsored sport, club, or activity.



Mason City Schools' robust experiential learning program provides opportunities for students to explore and expand their career interests in collaboration with local employers and business professionals. We can only imagine what these pathways and talent pipeline will mean to our students and community in the years ahead.



**1,126** experiential learning exposures in 2022-2023 that included job shadows, internships, and speaker sessions



## 2022-2023 State and National Champions:

**Guhan Krishnan** - Speech & Debate, 2023 • **Shayla Aggarwal** - Girls Tennis, 2022

**Science Olympiad** - National Champion, 2022 • **Boys Ultimate Frisbee** - State Champion, 2022 • **Girls Tennis** - OTCA State Champions, 2022

# EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES

# OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Mason Early Childhood Center facility project was completed in 2023 on time and within budget. New MECC classrooms were needed to meet our 2020 levy commitment to lower class sizes in grades K-6. While student enrollment has stabilized and we are no longer growing, we have seen growth in the diverse needs of our learners. Having fewer students in each class can give our teachers more time to build relationships and personalize learning. All of Mason City Schools' debt-free facility upgrades did not require voters to improve a bond levy, and instead used proceeds from selling Western Row Elementary and dedicated capital funds from the district's Permanent Improvement Fund.

**11,024 square feet** of new learning space at Mason Early Childhood center with **8 new classrooms**



Mason City Schools works to align its resources to get the biggest bang for tax payers' dollars. The majority of resources go toward instruction, pupil support, and instructional support.



**70%** of costs spent on instruction and pupil support which is higher than the state average

**9.2%** of costs spent on administration which is less than the state average

In the early 2000s, the district saw a decade of explosive growth - averaging over 600 new students a year and hiring more than 60 teachers a year in some years. Many of those educators have been legacy builders, and a majority of our staff will likely retire in the next 10-15 years. The Mason City Schools Board of Education has committed to paying our staff at the top of the market in order to recruit and retain top talent.

**26% of Mason staff** are eligible to retire over the next decade

