



The EXPERIENCE

Official Newsmagazine of Mariemont City Schools

Superintendent's Update

As I reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, I can't help but be filled with pride at what our students and staff were able to accomplish over the last nine months.

You've probably heard about some of our major achievements – including outstanding results on the 2023 Ohio State tests, a 5-star designation on the state report card and earning the designation of Apple Distinguished School for our two elementary schools. These are tremendous accolades, and yet our district is about so much more.

This year each and every student in Mariemont City Schools had the opportunity to participate in our award-winning Warriors BEyond experiential learning program. Additionally, we saw National Merit scholars, Hall of Fame coaches, kindness champions and philanthropic giving. Our students and staff never cease to amaze me with their ingenuity, resilience and care for others.



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Superintendent's Update


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All of these amazing opportunities and accomplishments are a direct result of our *Destination 2026* strategic plan we put into practice almost a decade ago. In that time we have cultivated a learning environment that continuously challenges the status quo and searches for ideas, solutions and strategies to ensure Mariemont City Schools provides the best in education. We had the vision to dream big and our teachers and staff have worked tirelessly for 10+ years to make these dreams a reality for our students and families.

Later this year, our district will be on the ballot for a new operating levy that will allow us to maintain our programs and services. On pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter, you will find an update from our treasurer and CFO, Tom Golinar, and much more information regarding the current state of our district's finances.

I am so proud of what we have built together in Mariemont City Schools and I look forward to continuing to maintain this excellence for years to come!

As we officially say goodbye to the 2023-2024 school year, I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer – I will see you in August!



Steven Estopp
Superintendent



Congratulations to the Mariemont High School Class of 2024!

On Sunday, May 26, 2024, Mariemont High School presented 108 seniors to the Board of Education for commencement ceremonies. Mariemont City Schools is proud of the Class of 2024 and wishes them well in their futures after high school.



Where can you find the Class of 2024?

Appalachian State University
Art Academy of Cincinnati
Asbury University
Aveda Fredric's Institute
Butler University
Centre College
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
College of Wooster
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Employment in cosmetology
Employment in early childhood education
Employment in exercise science and sports medicine
Employment in IT
Employment as a nail technician
Employment at Sonder
Employment in veterinary assisting
Fairfield University
Florida Atlantic University
Furman University
Indiana University
Lehigh University
Loyola University - Chicago
Miami University
Michigan State University

Mount St. Joseph University
Ohio University
Otterbein University
Pennsylvania Gunsmithing School
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Salisbury University
San Diego State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
The Ohio State University
University of Cincinnati
University of Dayton
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Minnesota
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Oklahoma
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
U.S. Military Academy West Point
Vanderbilt University
Xavier University

The Class of 2024...



Will attend 46 different colleges and universities across 20 different states



Earned nearly \$13 million in scholarships and grants



Submitted 538 total college applications



Earned acceptance into 435 total colleges



Will see 8 members pursuing employment opportunities after high school

A Letter from Treasurer Tom Golinar

Dear Mariemont City School District,

If you have read the information I have been sharing in recent years, you will likely find this update to be no surprise. The Board of Education recently voted to place a 5.95 mill operating levy on the November 5, 2024, ballot to generate an additional \$3.1 million annually to operate the district.

The chart on page 5 details some of the pressures on our funding that have led to this decision, including inflation and bare minimum state funding. The reality is that 72% of our district’s revenue is generated through local property taxes. And the vast majority of our revenue, 72% to be exact, funds our staff – primarily teachers, instructional aides, student support, and counselors.

Our last levy was approved by voters in 2018 and initially promised to last until 2022. Due to grants, cost-saving measures, and efficient operational decisions, the district has extended that funding for an additional two years. Some of our cost-saving highlights are pictured on this page. We are incredibly proud of our work to maximize every dollar and stretch every penny, especially because the majority of our revenue comes from our local residents, whom we deeply respect.

We will continue to share fact-based information on our website, which has additional information about our finances. As usual, do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions regarding our school district.



In Service to Our Students,
Thomas S. Golinar
Tom Golinar
Treasurer, CFO

Mariemont City Schools Operations

Savings Receipt | 2018-2024

Staff reallocation and attrition	\$1.2 million
Gas Bill.....	27% reduction
Electric Bill.....	33% reduction
Healthcare Consortium20% less than state average
High School Facility Maintenance \$1 million annually
High School Utility Savings \$100,000 and counting
One-Time Grants.....	\$3 million
Grants.....	\$600,000 annually
Renegotiated Contracts \$200,000

Operating Levy Will Be On November 5 Ballot



\$208 annually per **\$100K** of assessed home value determined by the County Auditor



WHAT IF IT PASSES?



keep current programs
and services



stable funding
for four years

WHAT IF IT FAILS?

- **\$3.1 million** in cuts and reductions will be phased-in over a two-year period.
- **72%** of the district’s expenditures are staff salaries and benefits, so cuts would significantly impact staffing, class sizes and programs.



$$\text{\$8,100} \times \text{FSFP} = \text{\$1,900}$$

Basic State Aid
Per Pupil

Fair School
Funding Plan

Mariemont's State
Funding Per Pupil



2018



2024

\$1 in 2018 costs **\$1.24** in 2024, according to the Consumer Price Index



2018 FUNDING CAN NO LONGER BE STRETCHED

Promised 4 years, but stretched to 6 years of funding

BARE MINIMUM STATE FUNDING

The lion's share of responsibility lands on local residents in our local school district



Pressures on Mariemont City Schools Funding

INFLATION IMPACTS SCHOOLS TOO

The district has kept the impact of inflation on operations to an average of 3.2% growth per year.



NO REVENUE INCREASES WITH INFLATION

State Law (HB920) freezes tax revenue at the voter-approved dollar amount, not the tax rate. As costs rise and home values increase, voted revenue remains flat.



HOME VALUES & TAXES

Did You Know? Tax rates decrease over time to prevent the school district from getting additional dollars.

2023 School Tax Rate

57.13 mills

2024 School Tax Rate

48.79 mills

2023
triennial property
valuation occurs

As home values increase over time, the effective tax rate decreases so that only the voter-approved dollar amount is collected. This is state law.



Look up your home's assessed value (the value used to calculate taxes or 35% of market value)



A Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to the latest edition of our Warriors BEwell Mental Health Message, an annual report to our community designed to share what we are doing, what resources are available and how you can best support the students of our school district when it comes to mental health.

In this special edition of the Mental Health Message, we are combining this report with our final 2023-24 edition of *The Experience Newsmagazine*.

We began the Warriors BEwell initiative in early 2020 after seeing a rise in mental health challenges and concerns amongst our students and staff. Since then, we have leveraged important community partners, poured through research-backed data and instilled student-led and student-backed programming into all of our schools with a goal to end the stigma of mental health challenges and open real and honest conversations.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished under the Warriors BEwell umbrella, but I know this work will never be finished. I hope the information presented in this report is eye-opening, but also inspiring – because there are so many opportunities for our community to band together and affect positive change in the lives of our students and staff.

Thank you for your continued partnerships as we work to make each of our schools a safe and supportive environment for all of our students. Because when we are connected, we are protected!

Sincerely,

Steven E. Estepp

What challenges do Mariemont City Schools students face?

42.8%

of students in grades 7-12 report experiencing stress in their daily lives

Only **50.8%**

of students in grades 7-12 get the recommended 8+ hours of sleep each night

23.5%

of students in grades 7-12 feel nervous or anxious most or all of the time

11.2%

of students in grades 7-12 feel depressed, sad or hopeless most or all of the time

18.9%

of students in grades 7-12 report using alcohol in the last year

7.2%

of students in grades 7-12 report using marijuana in the last year

8.5%

of students in grades 7-12 report vaping in the last year

10.5%

of students in grades 7-12 report that playing video games impacts their school performance negatively

****Information sources:** Spring 2023 University of Cincinnati Impact Survey grades 9-12 & Fall 2023 Prevention First Survey grades 7-12



Students report that the most common places to use substances are parties at a friend's house or in their own home

When we are connected, we are protected!

Community Connectivity Cultivates Student Wellness



74.3%

of high school students
report having tools to
cope with stress



78.6%

of high school students
report knowing how to
practice self-care



73.3%

of high school students
feel connected to peers
at school



72.9%

of students grades 7-12
report that students help
each other when they are
hurt or upset



82.3%

of high school students feel
that their school is committed
to supporting and improving
students' mental health



Students report that protective
factors preventing substance
abuse include good grades,
faith community, school
activities, community
activities and adults
checking in with students

What can you do? – Get connected and volunteer!



JOIN THE WARRIOR CLUB

Stay connected to the
school district for
residents ages 55
years or older.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

Join one of our
support organizations,
the Mariemont School
Foundation, the
Mariemont Arts
Association, the
Mariemont Athletic
Boosters or a
school PTO.



CAREER EDUCATION

Be a mentor, support
an Experienceship or
connect to students
through our Warriors
BEyond programming.



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Learn how to
support students
with technology.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteer or
participate in the 1N5
Warrior Run (money
raised goes directly to
supporting our mental
health programming.)

UPCOMING DATES

JULY

- 24-28** MHS Band Pre-Camp
- 22-26** MHS Band Camp
- 29-31** Summer Reading Camp at ME
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AUGUST

- 1-9** Summer Reading Camp at ME
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 1** MHS Fall Sports Parent Meeting
6:00 p.m.
- 5-9** Camp BEyond at TPE
12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- 5** Athletic Boosters Meeting | 7:00 p.m.
- 6** MHS College Application Workshop
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 7** MJHS Transition Day | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- 8** MHS Sources of Strength Training
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- 8** MHS College Application Workshop
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 8** MJHS Fall Sports Parent Meeting
6:00 p.m.
- 12** MHS Schedule Pickup | 8:30 a.m.
- 12** MHS School Pictures
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- 12** MHS Freshman and New Student
Orientation | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 12** MJHS 8th Grade Orientation and
Pictures | 11:00 a.m.
- 12** MJHS 7th Grade Orientation and
Pictures | 1:30 p.m.
- 13** Mariemont Academy for Staff
- 13** TPE PTO Kindergarten Popsicle
Night | 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Mariemont Academy for Staff
- 14** MHS Freshman and New Student
Parent Orientation | 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Elementary New Family
Information Night | 6:30 p.m.
- 15** Mariemont Academy for Staff
- 15** MHS Fall Sports Meet the Teams
Night | 6:30 p.m.
- 16** Mariemont Academy for Staff
- 16** MHS Fall Sports Pictures | 1:00 p.m.
- 16** ME PTO Kindergarten Popsicle
Night | 5:30 p.m.
- 19** Teacher Work Day
- 19** Elementary Kindergarten
Information Night | 6:30 p.m.
- 20** Teacher Work Day
- 21** **First Day of School**
- 22** TPE Parent Information Night
(Gr. K-2) | 6:30 p.m.

- 22** ME Parent Information Night
(Gr. 5-6) | 6:30 p.m.
- 22** TPE Parent Information Night
(Gr. 3-6) | 7:30 p.m.
- 23** MJHS Fall Sports Pictures | 3:00 p.m.
- 26-29** Elementary Camp Kern
- 27** MHS College Planning Meeting for
Parents of Seniors | 6:30 p.m.
- 28** ME Parent Information Night
(Gr. 1-2) | 6:30 p.m.
- 28** ME Parent Information Night
(Gr. 3-4) | 7:30 p.m.
- 30** MHS Kusel Hall of Fame Dinner
4:00 p.m.



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