



# SUPERINTENDENT'S message

In Mason City Schools, we are committed to ensuring our learners are academically prepared and prepared for life. We accomplish this through a wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, STEAM experiences from kindergarten through graduation, dedicated educators who design meaningful, authentic, and relevant learning for all kids, and strong social and emotional supports that reinforce a Comet Culture of care, innovation, respect and belonging.

## Mason Quality Commitment Update

After voters approved the 9.96 mil phased-in operating levy in spring 2020, we made a series of Mason Quality commitments. We are proud to report that despite COVID-19 and rising inflation, we have been able to keep our commitments and are on track to ensure that we will not be back to ask voters for additional operating funds or capital improvement funds through at least 2026.

- **Reduce Class Size:** Since the 2019-2020 school year, we have reduced K-6 class sizes by 2.3%. We continue to work toward meeting class size target ratios of 20-22 in grades K-2, 23-24 in grades 3-4, and 24-26 in grades 5-6.
- **Invest in Safety & Mental Wellness:** Since the 2019-2020 school year we have expanded our commitment to support healthy Comets and safe schools. We now have 43 members of our Mental Wellness team - including 22 school counselors, 13 school psychologists, 4 Prevention & Wellness Designers, and 6 therapy dogs. In addition, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center provides 13 school-based therapists who take private health insurance and are able to see students during the school day. Our partnership with the City of Mason's Campus Safety Team ensures we have at least 1 armed law enforcement officer at each of our 5 schools.
- **Debt-Free Facilities Updates:** We are making a series of investments in our schools that do not require voters to approve a bond-levy. Instead, the district is using the proceeds from selling Western Row Elementary as well as dedicated funds from the district's Permanent Improvement Fund. Investments over the next 3-5 years include additional classrooms at MECC and Mason Elementary to reduce class size, adding space to respond to increasing behavior and mental wellness needs, reclaiming some spaces to use as they were designed and to increase flexibility, and to regenerate inspirational and innovative space for students, staff and community.
- **Mason Quality Compensation:** Our Board of Education has prioritized hiring and keeping top talent. In order to do so, we regularly conduct salary studies and make adjustments to ensure that our people are paid at the top-tier of school districts in the region. We have given hiring bonuses and other incentives to ensure we have Mason Quality bus drivers, substitute teachers, and nurses. Our educators earn 28% more than the state average with an average salary of \$86,210, and our administrators earn 16% more than the state average with an average salary of \$100,593.

## Join the Journey to 2030

The last couple of years have brought an unprecedented level of change and uncertainty. We had many opportunities to lean on our three Big Rocks of Culture, Inclusive Excellence and Personalized Learning. I'm excited to watch our COMMUNITY chart a course for the future of Mason City Schools over the next decade and beyond. Now more than ever, learning experiences for our students must not only provide for the acquisition of rigorous academic content, but must also foster critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and other future-ready skills and mindsets. We are actively engaging diverse perspectives from our staff, students, and broader community in developing a Portrait of a Learner, a collective vision that articulates our shared aspirations for every student.

From our preK learners to our seniors—this work has an enduring impact. Each of us will play an important role in making our Portrait of a Learner a reality for every student as we continue to create meaningful learning experiences every day. And, once we create our Portrait, the exciting work of implementing this new vision begins as we continue to create Mason Momentum together!

If you would like to be a part of a COMMUNITY Conversation about 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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MASON, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 32

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENT

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



Share your thoughts  
about the  
Journey to 2030.



# Mason City Schools

## GROWING GREATNESS TOGETHER

## 2021-2022 QUALITY PROFILE

#9 Best School District in Ohio | #121 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



ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

81%

of the class of 2022 is attending one of 137 American colleges or universities or one of two schools in Canada and Ireland  
77% chose colleges or universities in Ohio



OVER \$7.6

MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS EARNED

40

BILITERACY SEALS EARNED, DEMONSTRATING PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH & A SECOND LANGUAGE  
(6 languages represented)

27 59

PERFECT ACT SCORES  
(MHS avg. score 23.6)  
NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS  
(Finalists & Commended)

1,223

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP COURSES  
(27 different courses offered)

71%

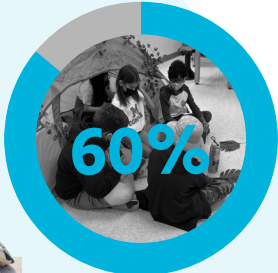
OF THE CLASS OF 2022 TOOK AT LEAST 1 AP COURSE  
(1.91 AP course enrollment average)



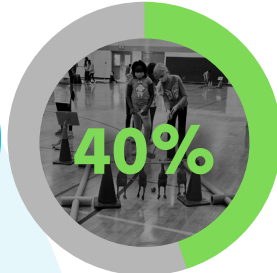
100%  
of students in grades 1-5 participated in STEAM offerings



86% of 6th graders took 1 STEAM course, 45% took 2 courses



60% of 6th graders took 1 visual or performing arts course, 40% took 2 courses



100%

of K-5 students participated in Arts offerings



FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

2.3%

REDUCTION IN K-6 CLASS SIZES SINCE VOTERS APPROVED THE 2020 LEVY

\$0 DEBT

TO UPDATE MCS FACILITIES WITH PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF WESTERN ROW & OTHER DEDICATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS (New classrooms at MECC & ME, regenerating Libraries/Media Centers to be innovative literacy learning spaces)

5.25 MILS

OF 2020 OPERATING LEVY OFFSET BY PAYING OFF BOND ISSUE TAXPAYERS APPROVED IN 2000 TO BUILD MASON HIGH SCHOOL

SPEND \$686.70 LESS

PER PUPIL THAN STATE AVERAGE

24

FEWER ADMINISTRATORS PER PUPIL THAN AVERAGE OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICT



FOCUS ON WELLNESS

6,467

CLINICAL HOURS OF MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

98

RISK ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED

512

REFERRALS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



- ♥ SOURCES OF STRENGTH TRAINERS IN GRADES K-6
- ♥ HOPE SQUAD IN PLACE IN GRADES 7-12
- ♥ 6 THERAPY DOGS - ONE ON EACH CAMPUS

PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

13

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS FULL-TIME IN DISTRICT

1

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S NURSE PRACTITIONER OF ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY SEEING STUDENTS ON-SITE

OVER 400

STUDENTS ASSISTED IN MEETING BASIC NEEDS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL DAY



PREPARED FOR LIFE

MORE THAN 5,000 STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-12 PARTICIPATED IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

66	143	347	60	441	590	250	71	157	100
BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	CROSS-COUNTRY	CHEER	CHOIR	CONCERT BAND	FOOTBALL	GOLF	JAZZ BAND	LACROSSE

1,624  
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING EXPOSURES



254	573	120	74	143	124	476	469	113	82
MARCHING BAND	ORCHESTRA	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	SWIM & DIVE	TENNIS	THEATER	TRACK & FIELD	VOLLEYBALL	WRESTLING

State Champions: Boys Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Science Olympiad, Ultimate Frisbee, Shyla Aggarwal (Singles Tennis), Carl Bloebaum (100 Butterfly Swimming), Vignesh Gogineni (Singles Tennis), Anish Gangavaram & Akshay Joshi (Doubles Tennis)