



2018 Annual Report

Building a Strong Foundation for Success





Message from the Superintendent

It is an honor to share information with you about the state of Groveport Madison Schools.

To say it's been a great school year already is definitely an understatement. We started the school year with the dedication of the new high school (which was completed on time and more than \$2 million under budget!). The new building has become a source of tremendous community pride, and it has created a wonderful learning environment in which our students can grow and thrive. Already, the building has hosted large athletic and community events, providing an opportunity for visitors to see the exciting things happening in our District and how the school can help support the local economy.

Very good news came in mid-September, with the release of the 2018 State Report Cards. For the third year in a row, the District received the highest possible grades on the Value-Added portion of the report card, meaning that our students achieved more than a year's worth of academic growth from one year to the next. As a result of our continued academic improvement, the Ohio Department of Education named Groveport Madison a "2018 Momentum School District." Of Ohio's 608 public school districts, only 70 other districts earned this honor. There is no doubt that we are on the right track academically, thanks to the hard work of our teachers and administrators.



Garilee Ogden
Superintendent

Another highlight this year was the historic land agreement that we signed with Columbus City Schools. The agreement secures the District's boundaries for the next 100 years. It will not only protect residential areas from being transferred into Columbus City Schools, it also protects extremely valuable commercial growth areas that are in the immediate proximity of the Rickenbacker Regional Airport.

Our students are a great source of pride, and they have brought many accolades to the District already this year. From the recognition of our scholar-artists and our Model United Nations program, to our successful fall and winter athletics seasons and our high school band earning the Grand Champion's award at the 2018 Peach Bowl Parade and Music Festival, our students have proven themselves to be hard working and very talented. We are very proud of these and many other achievements, and we look forward to seeing many more exciting accomplishments from them during the 2018-2019 school year.

I want to sincerely thank you for your support of Groveport Madison Schools, and I hope this report gives you insight into the many wonderful things going on in your school district.

With great appreciation and respect,



Bryan Shoemaker
President



Chris Snyder
Vice President



Nancy Gillespie



Libby Gray



Mary Tedrow

Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education

Keeping our Promises. Leading the Way to a Promising Future.

Groveport Madison Schools has changed significantly over the past five years – and it's almost exclusively because of the investment you've made in the District, through passage of the 2014 five-year operating levy and the bond issue, which led to the construction of the new high school.

Prior to 2014, the District's academic performance was well below state standards. Textbooks, classroom technology, and instructional materials were out-of-date, and classrooms had very little in the way of supplies. Three years of budget cuts eliminated programs and services that impacted student, staff and community morale. As a result, many parents withdrew their students and enrolled them in community schools. Some even sold their homes and moved their families to other school districts.

Passage of the 2014 operating levy and bond issue set the stage for the much-improved school district we have today. During that levy campaign, the Board of Education made several promises to the community – promises designed to improve the quality of education for our students, stabilize the District's finances, and provide increased accountability to the community.

The Board of Education is happy to report that the District has met and/or exceeded the promises that were made in 2014. Improved academic performance and investments in programming and facilities have resulted in the return of community pride and a new level of trust in the District and its leadership.

In May, we will again ask for your continued support. With our current five-year operating levy set to expire at the end of the 2019 calendar year, the Board will place a new 6.10 mill operating levy on the May ballot. The upcoming operating levy will simply replace the millage that will expire at the end of the year. Without passage of this issue, the District will once again be forced to make budget cuts that in all likelihood will slow or reverse much of the progress we've made over the past five years.

The Board of Education looks forward to continuing our partnership with the community, and to working together for the benefit of our students.

OUR MISSION

**THE MISSION OF GROVEPORT MADISON SCHOOLS IS TO
BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS, LEADERS AND
RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.**

OUR VISION

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY LESSON, EVERY DAY

Academic Achievement Update

District Earns Overall Grade of “C” on State Report Card

Attains Grade of “A” on Value-Added Score for the Third Year in a Row

For the first time, Ohio’s schools and districts were awarded overall letter grades on the State of Ohio Report Card. The grade takes into consideration six components: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers, Graduation Rate and Prepared for Success. We are pleased to report that the District earned an overall grade of “C” on the 2018 State Report Card (of Ohio’s school districts, 41.6 percent earned a “C” for the year).

When looking at the overall grade among the 16 Franklin County school districts, only one district earned an “A” (Bexley), five earned a “B” (Dublin, Gahanna-Jefferson, Grandview Heights, Worthington, and Upper Arlington); four earned a “C” (Groveport Madison, Hamilton Township, Hilliard, and Westerville); four earned a “D,” and one earned an “F.”

For the third year in a row, Groveport Madison Schools earned an “A” on the Value-Added grade on the State Report Card, meaning that students achieved more than a year’s worth of academic growth over the course of the year. The District also received “A” grades for the academic growth of our students who have struggled the most (the lowest 20% of achievers), for students with disabilities, and for students who receive gifted services. Other than Groveport Madison Schools, only one other Franklin County school district (New Albany-Plain Local) earned all A’s on their Value-Added State Report Card ratings.

Another important achievement this year was the District’s “Gap Closing” grade, which increased from an “F” to a “B.” The Gap Closure component indicates how the District is meeting the performance expectations for our most vulnerable students in English language arts, math, English language proficiency and graduation rates.

We are working hard to ensure our taxpayers are getting value for the investment they are making in our schools. For the District to be ranked in the top three area school districts for student growth scores on this

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WE COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED WITH THE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OUR STUDENTS ARE MAKING. OUR STAFF HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO ENSURE OUR STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL. WE ARE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT IS ACHIEVING TO HIS/HER MAXIMUM POTENTIAL, MAKING EVERY LESSON AND EVERY DAY COUNT. WE FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE ARE MOVING.

Garilee Ogden, Superintendent

year’s state report card is quite an accomplishment, particularly when considering Groveport Madison Schools has the next to lowest tax millage rate in Franklin County.



Students Earning College Credit on Area Campuses or in the District

Encouraging students to push themselves beyond perceived boundaries is important to their academic growth. One program doing just that is the Ohio College Credit Plus (CCP) program. The CCP program allows seventh through twelfth graders to earn college and high school credits simultaneously, while taking college courses from area colleges and universities. Some of the courses are taught right in our schools, while others are available only on college campuses. College Credit Plus is a no-cost way for our students to earn college credit while still being enrolled in Groveport Madison Schools.



District Expands “Cruisers with Chromebooks” Program

Technology is a big part of student learning. Nearly 80 percent of the District’s curriculum and textbooks are available in an electronic format and are accessible at home or in school, 24-hours a day. Cruisers with Chromebooks is the District’s student technology program that puts a Chromebook computer in the hands of every student from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Students use his/her Chromebook computer to complete homework and other assignments, conduct research, and take school and state assessments. Last year, we initiated a program that encouraged middle and high school students to take their Chromebook computer home in the evenings and over the weekends to complete assignments. Recently, we began a pilot program at three of our elementary schools where fourth and fifth graders are taking their Chromebook computers home as well.

Our student technology program has enabled students to access many free educational apps from Google, including Google Sheets, Google Drive, Google Calendar, and Google Sites, as well as YouTube. Students are responsible for keeping track of their computer and making sure it is charged and ready for school each day. At the end of the school year or when they leave the District, they turn in their computer.

Gifted Education Students Excelling in Advanced Math Courses

Meeting students where they are and helping them to grow and expand their knowledge is essential to every student’s academic success. Many students in the District’s fifth-grade gifted education program have done exceptionally well in their math classes, so much so, that some of them are taking sixth-grade level math classes. By providing students with access to more rigorous programs, their skills have grown exponentially – and they are rising to the challenge of the higher-level courses.

Early Literacy: The Key to Student Academic Success

Ensuring students achieve solid literacy skills is the foundation for our elementary education program. The District uses the Fountas and Pinnell literacy framework, which utilizes guided reading, small-group reading and customized lessons to help students become accomplished readers and writers.



Groveport Madison Graduates are Prepared for Many Options Following Graduation

Our goal is to provide our students with a high-quality education and the skills and experiences necessary to allow them an array of good choices following graduation. Some students choose to directly enter the workforce, represent our country through military service, or even start their own businesses. Others may choose to attend a college or university; the choice is theirs.

Below is a list of the colleges in which members of the Class of 2018 were accepted to attend:

- Arizona State University
- Art Academy of Cincinnati
- Ashland University
- Bowling Green State University
- The Bradford School
- Ball State University
- Capital University
- Central State University
- Cleveland State University
- Columbus State Community College
- Culinary Institute of America
- Denison University
- DeVry Institute of Technology
- Hocking College
- Indiana Institute of Technology
- Kent State University
- Miami University
- Mount Carmel School of Nursing
- Northern Kentucky University
- Northwood University
- Ohio Christian University
- Ohio Dominican University
- Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Otterbein University
- Owens Community College
- Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
- Shawnee State University
- Sinclair Community College
- University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Kentucky
- University of Rio Grande
- University of Toledo
- Urbana University
- Walsh University
- Wilberforce University
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University

It's Great to be a Cruiser!



2018 Fast Facts



6,037

Total District enrollment



11

Number of schools

40 square miles

Geographic area



841,871

Total building square footage maintained

150

Total acreage maintained



272,174

Breakfasts served annually

568,731

Lunches served annually

19,645

À la carte meals served annually



67

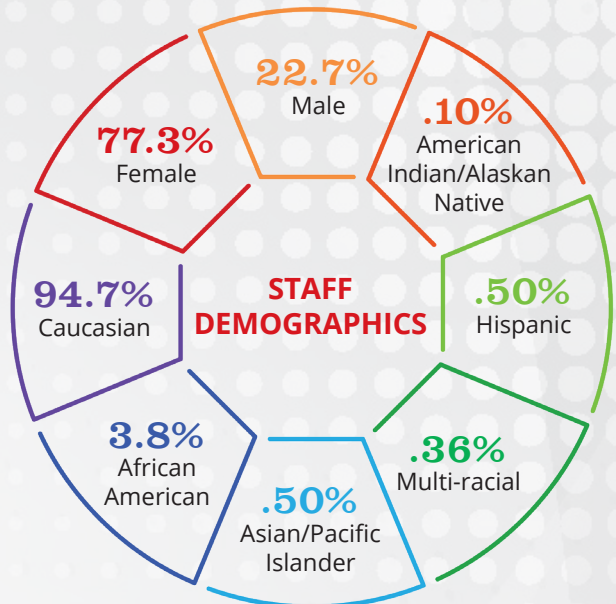
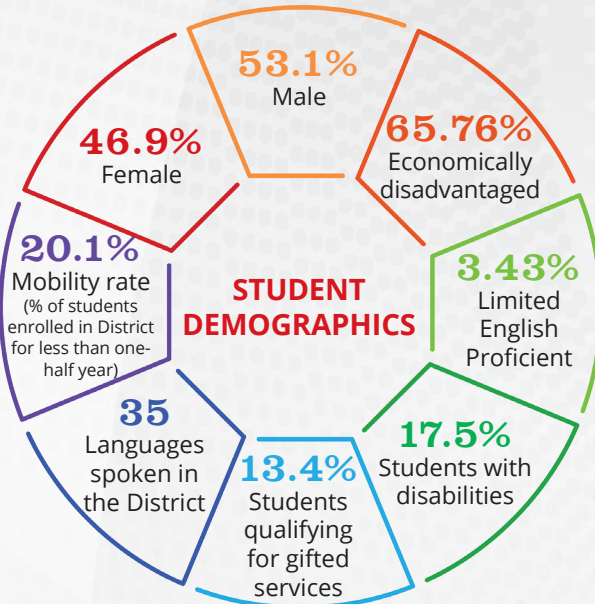
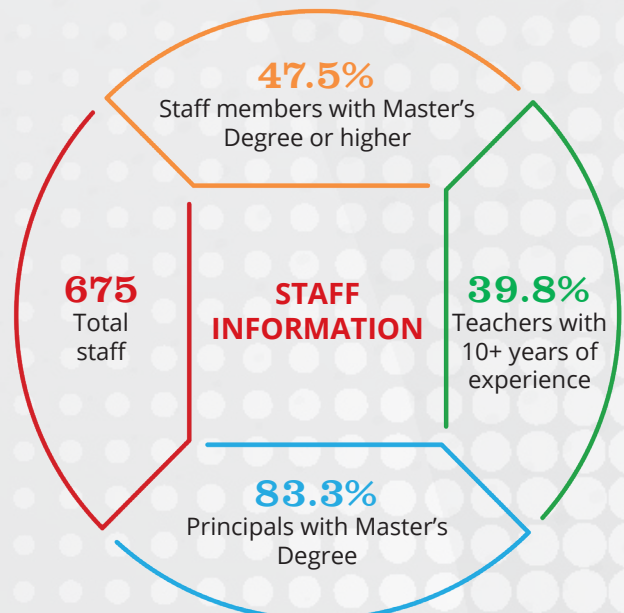
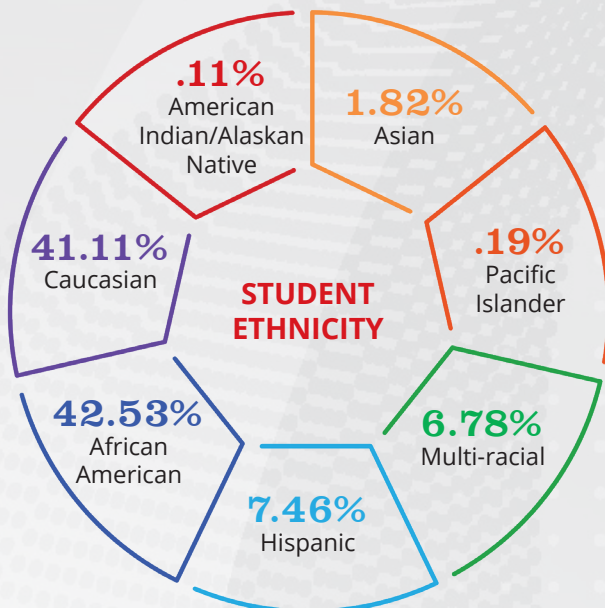
District bus routes serviced daily

5,706

District students transported daily

1,149

Non-public & charter schools' students transported daily



Treasurer's Update

From 2010 to 2013, the District's finances were running in a deficit, requiring more than \$11 million in cuts to balance the budget. These cuts resulted in eliminating numerous teaching and administrative positions, deferring the purchase of new textbooks, delaying much-needed maintenance to school buildings, and eliminating high school busing.

With the 2014 passage of the 6.18 mill five-year operating levy and the .5 mill permanent improvement levy, the District has been able to stabilize its operations, as well as invest in facility improvements and address deferred maintenance needs. We've also invested in staff, programs, materials, and equipment to improve student achievement.

At the end of calendar year 2019, the District's five-year operating levy will expire. Without passage of a new operating levy, the District will again run into a deficit situation that will require budget cuts.

The Board of Education has directed the administration to place a combined operating levy and bond issue on the May 2019 ballot. While the bond issue portion of the request is an increase in taxes to cover the cost of constructing new schools, the 6.10 mill operating levy essentially replaces our current operating levy and will generate the same taxes as today.

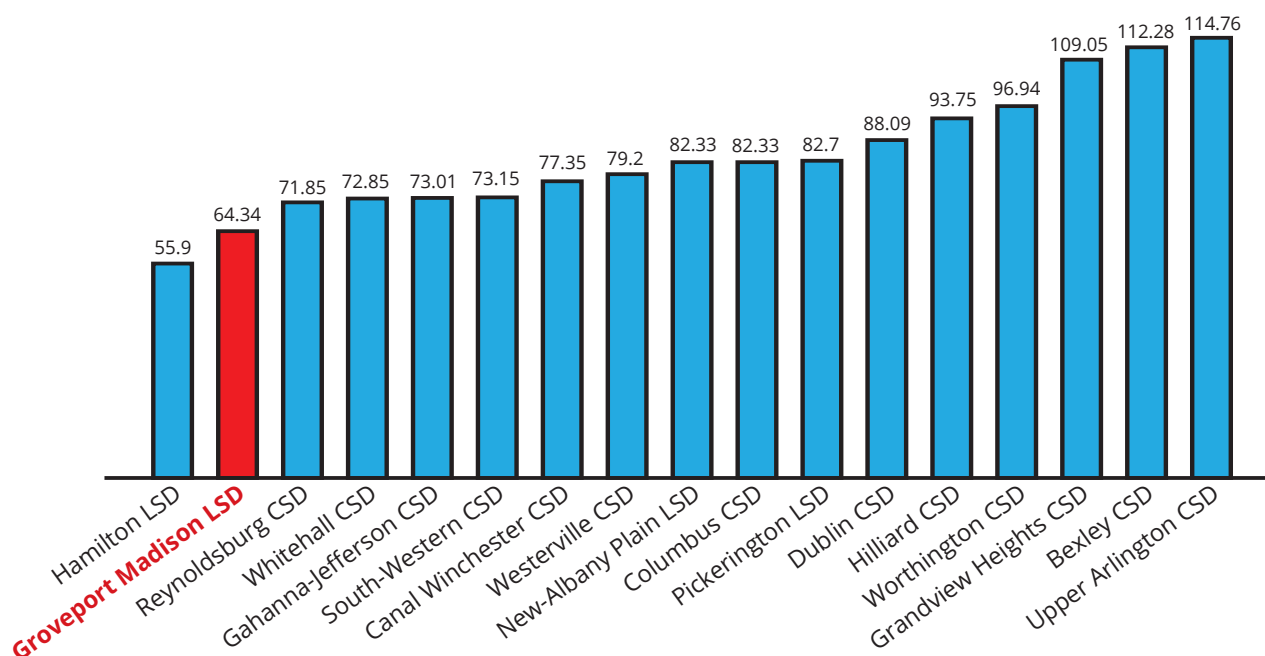
The District has held true to its promise of not returning to the community for additional funds for five years after passing the 2014 levy. By investing in staff, curricula, technology, new programs and staff training, we have seen student achievement increase every year. In fact, the District could not have earned the state's Momentum Award for improved student achievement were it not for the investment the community has made over the past five years.

We believe that we have proven to be good stewards of the community's investment, and that our students are realizing possibilities and dreams that many people thought were impossible.



John M. Walsh
Treasurer

Comparison of Millage Rates by School District



District's Move to Self-Funded Insurance Plan Saves \$2.6 Million

With the nation's healthcare costs increasing by double digits every year, Groveport Madison Schools looked at ways it could reduce the expense and have more control over costs. In 2018, the District moved to a self-insured plan, which eliminated a large portion of the profit customarily paid to the insurance carrier because the employer (Groveport Madison Schools) takes control of the assets of the plan. By self-funding our health insurance plan, we have eliminated many of the taxes, charges and fees that are required under a fully insured plan, which led to a savings of \$2.6 million in this first year. Realizing there is additional risk with self-funded insurance plans, the District added "Stop Loss" and "Excessive Risk" insurance to protect itself in the event of high-dollar, catastrophic claims.

District's Credit Rating Upgraded to A2

Last year, with the District's improved financial condition, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the District's credit rating from an A3 to an A2 rating. The higher credit rating reflects the level of confidence the rating service has in the financial outlook and the management of the District. In addition, the increased credit rating helps to reduce interest paid on any future borrowing.

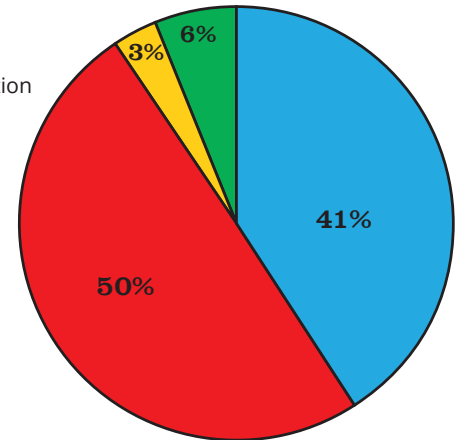
District Receives "Clean Audit" from State Auditor's Office

For the third year in a row, the District has received an unqualified opinion, also known as a "clean audit" from the Ohio Auditor of State. This accomplishment indicates that the District's financial records are in good order and free of any material misstatements, and that the monies are accounted for in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and state and federal law.

Financials

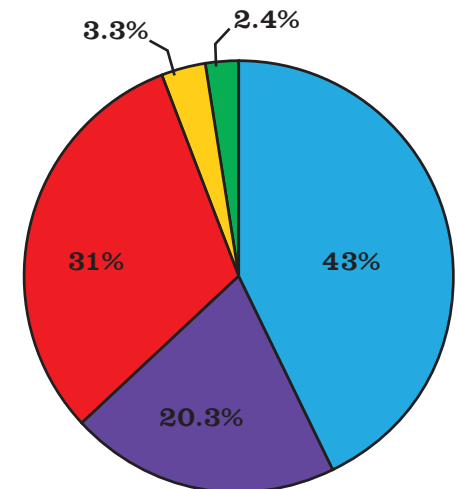
Revenue Sources

- Local Taxes
- State Aid
- Property Tax Allocation
- Other



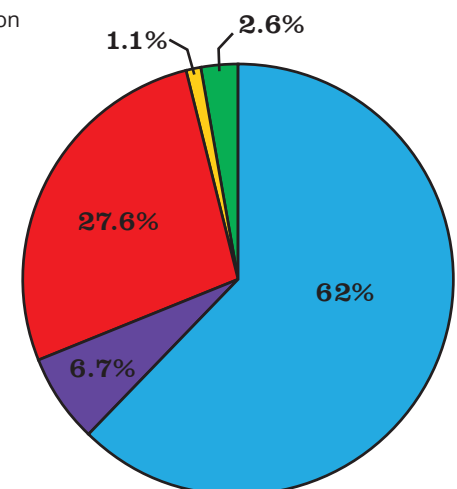
Expenses by Object

- Salaries
- Benefits
- Purchased Services
- Supplies
- Other



Expenses by Function

- Classroom Instruction
- Support Services
- Operations
- Extracurricular
- Facilities



New High School Nets Nearly \$80,000 in Energy Savings



Treasurer, John M. Walsh

American Electric Power (AEP) presented a check in the amount of \$79,324.43 to the District for the projected savings associated with the new high school when compared to the electrical usage for a building

constructed to meet the minimum standards for efficiency.

From the outset of the design process for the new high school, creating an energy-efficient building was a priority. The use of LED lighting, high-efficiency windows and mechanical systems, and high-performance insulating materials have resulted in a much more efficient structure than the former high school – even when considering that the new school is 100,000 square feet larger than the old building. A savings of nearly \$80,000 is quite an accomplishment.

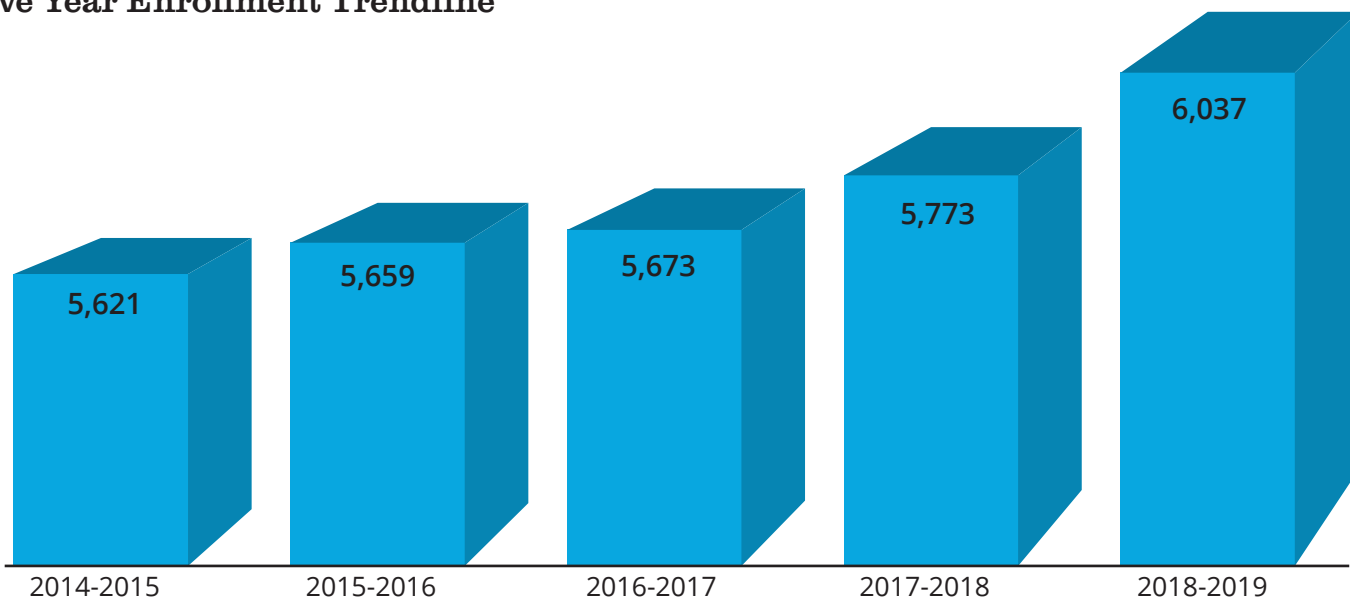
As the District is able to replace its older buildings, we will employ the same energy-saving philosophies. New schools will most certainly result in reduced energy consumption and net additional savings – which will be a benefit to taxpayers for years to come.

Enrollment Update

District Enrollment Tops 6,000 Students

With enrollment for the 2018 – 2019 school year approaching 6,100 students, the number of students attending Groveport Madison Schools has grown by more than 400 students over the past five years. The District's improved academic performance and the availability of reasonably-priced homes are expected to drive the District's enrollment growth for the foreseeable future.

Five Year Enrollment Trendline



The Impact of Overcrowding

Overcrowding has an impact on students and staff alike. In many schools, storage areas, offices, conference rooms and even hallways have been converted into classroom space. Libraries at all of the District’s elementary schools have been eliminated so that the space could be converted into classrooms. Without the libraries, books and research materials are often in storage cabinets or on rolling carts that line hallways.

Overcrowding even affects lunchtime for students, with some eating lunch as early as 10:20 a.m. or as late as 1:30 p.m. Crowded lunchrooms and hallways are also very noisy and have the unfortunate side effect of creating the perfect atmosphere for potential altercations between students.

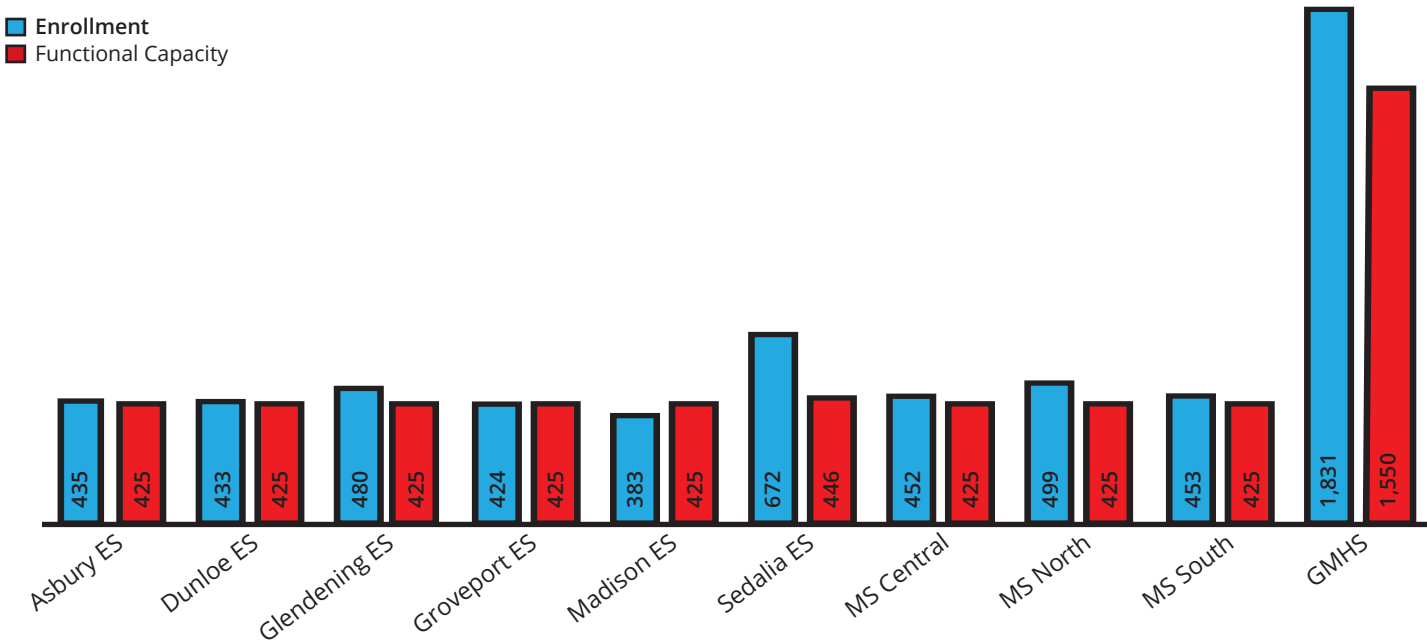
There also are concerns with the impact of overcrowding on student and staff safety. Parking lots and public streets alongside schools are jammed with cars, so much so that buses are sometimes unable to get into or out of the school’s bus loop. Students whose classrooms are in modular units must go outdoors just to get into the main building. This is a particular concern in the event of an emergency or lock-down situation.

Modular Classrooms - an Expensive Solution

The District currently has 22 modular classrooms to house our ever-growing enrollment. Both Asbury Elementary and Groveport Elementary have two modular classrooms. Dunloe Elementary has four, and Sedalia Elementary has 12. While the modular classrooms can accommodate short-term enrollment growth, they are an expensive solution that doesn’t truly address the overcrowding issue. A double-classroom modular costs approximately \$85,000; however, it can cost upwards of \$100,000 to complete site preparation work, install foundations, walkways and ramps; and to connect sewer, water, and other utilities. In addition, modular classrooms are three times more expensive to operate (because of their energy inefficiency) than brick-and-mortar classrooms.



Enrollment-vs-Functional Capacity



Facilities Update

New Groveport Madison High School Opened on Time and Under Budget!

The opening of the new Groveport Madison High School is among the most exciting happenings in Cruiser Country in many years. The building officially opened on August 29, 2018, with nearly 2,000 people attending its dedication and ribbon cutting.

Construction of the 240,000-square-foot building began in March 2015 and was completed in late May, 2018 - on time and more than \$2 million under budget.

In 2014, when planning for the new high school began, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) completed an enrollment study which projected the District's enrollment to remain relatively steady, with only small increases in enrollment expected over the next decade. Based on that data, OFCC determined the new high school should be constructed to house approximately 1,550 students.

Throughout the design and construction process, the District believed that as our student achievement improved and new programs were added, the high school's enrollment would increase beyond the 1,500 the state had projected. With OFCC continuing to plan for only 1,500 students, the District had the forethought to install foundation piers and an upsized HVAC system to accommodate expansion of one of the academic wings, should it be needed.

By the time the new high school opened in September, the building was housing more than 1,800 students. As a result, the District has taken the first steps to request approval from OFCC to construct a four-classroom addition onto one of the wings of the building. Our plan is to use the \$2 million saved from the initial project to cover the majority of the addition's cost. Fortunately, because the foundation piers and the upgraded HVAC systems have already been installed, the District will save hundreds of thousands of dollars when compared to what it would have cost to start from scratch.



State of Ohio: District's Elementary and Middle Schools Exceed Useful Life and Should be Replaced

As far back as the late 1990's, the OFCC recommended replacing the District's elementary and middle schools. Twenty years later, when the OFCC updated the District's Facilities Master Plan, its report indicated the existing elementary and middle schools were well beyond being renovated, with the cost to renovate the buildings expected to exceed 2/3 the cost of new construction – the standard by which OFCC determines whether a building should be renovated or replaced.

The buildings are not only inadequate because of their deteriorating condition, nearly every school is housing more students than can reasonably be accommodated. Storage rooms, offices, conference rooms and stages have been converted into classrooms, and 22 modular classrooms are being used to accommodate enrollment that is increasing daily. Programs such as gifted education have had to be consolidated into two buildings, with some students having to travel up to two hours per day to get the services they need.

Student and staff safety is also a serious concern, with some of the buildings originally constructed as "Open Concept" schools, which lack permanent interior walls and doors. These areas are impossible to secure in the event of an emergency. In addition, the general age of

the schools prevents them from being retrofitted with up-to-date safety and security systems.

Additionally, many parking lots are undersized and are unable to accommodate the amount of traffic they must handle on a daily basis.

DATE OF SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	
BUILDING	YEAR
ASBURY ELEMENTARY	1963
DUNLOE ELEMENTARY	1967
GLENDENING ELEMENTARY	1968
GROVEPORT ELEMENTARY	1923
MADISON ELEMENTARY	1967
SEDALIA ELEMENTARY	1969
MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTRAL	1952
MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH	1975
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH	1975
GM HIGH SCHOOL	2018

Facilities Planning Team Recommends Constructing New Schools

In November 2018, the District held community meetings to share information about the conditions of the buildings and the concerns regarding severe overcrowding. Nearly every participant agreed that the elementary and middle schools should be replaced; they also identified their priorities to be considered when constructing new buildings.

From the community input meetings, a Facilities Planning Team was formed. The team represented community members, the business community, governmental entities, senior citizens, parents, and staff members. The Facilities Team gathered feedback on many construction options and took into consideration the priorities from the community meetings. Its conclusion was to recommend construction of three K-6 buildings and one 7-8 building. This recommendation seeks to provide all

students with equal access to all programs without having to be transported to other schools. It was also determined to be a cost-effective option from both a construction and operating standpoint; it reduces the number of schools the District would have to construct and operate, as well as reduces the number of bus routes needed and the amount of time students would have to spend on buses.

In January, the Board of Education accepted the recommendation of the Facilities Planning Team and voted to place a 4.72 mill bond issue on the May 2019 ballot. Just as with the high school program, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission will pick up 53 percent of the base cost of the new buildings.

New Initiatives for 2018-2019



Superintendent Focuses District Through “A.I.M.”

In July 2018, shortly after becoming the District’s superintendent, Garilee Ogden, began uniting staff around the principles of “A.I.M. (Academics, Intention, and Mindset), as a focused approach to setting goals and measuring progress. At the District’s all-staff convocation, Ogden stated, “We must be committed to making sure that we are supporting every student, every lesson, every day through our work in academics, being intentional to support each student’s needs, and working on creating a positive mindset, culture and climate that is conducive to student learning and promotes student achievement.” By the start of the school year, every school and department had already begun working through their A.I.M. goals, which are monitored on a quarterly basis.



New “GoCruisers” Website Designed for Ease of Use

Providing information to our stakeholders in an easy to use and attractive manner was the foremost goal in redesigning the District’s website (gocruisers.org). The District’s Communications and Community Relations Office worked for several months to create a clean and visually-appealing design for the new site. The department spent a lot of time analyzing the District’s previous website to determine the pages that were most visited and how easy or difficult it was for our customers to find information. They also analyzed dozens of other school district and university websites across the country to help inform their design. Since its launch, in October 2018, we have heard great feedback from visitors to the new site. You can check it out yourself, at gocruisers.org.



New Bus Tracker App Keeps Parents Informed

For parents whose children ride a District bus to and from school each day, knowing where the bus is, or if it may be running late, is no longer a worry. Working with our school bus partner, Petermann Transportation, the District has launched a new online app to provide real-time bus locations, including the scheduled arrival time of all of the District’s buses. The system uses the student’s I.D. number to securely track the location of the bus. The Bus Tracker app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or the App Store, at no charge.



District Launches Safe Schools Hotline

In January 2019, the District launched an anonymous tip line for reporting concerns or threats to its schools, or potential harm to students or staff. The Safer Schools Ohio tip line is operated through the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Department of Education, accepting tips 24-hours a day. Calls or texts to 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764) are answered by analysts in the Ohio Homeland Security’s Threat Assessment and Prevention (TAP) Unit. When action is needed, the TAP Unit immediately forwards information to the school district and to local law enforcement agencies. The District and local law enforcement officials will work together to investigate the report and ensure that it is resolved. The TAP Unit also follows-up with both entities to ensure the report has been investigated and that appropriate actions have been taken.

Contact Information

Groveport Madison Schools

District Service Center
4400 Marketing Place, Suite B
Groveport, OH 43125
614-492-2520

Asbury Elementary

Staci Peters, Principal
5127 Harbor Boulevard
Columbus, OH 43232
614-833-2000

Dunloe Elementary

Natalie Lewellen, Principal
3200 Dunloe Road
Columbus, OH 43232
614-833-2008

Glendening Elementary

Curt Brogan, Principal
4200 Glendening Drive
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4972

Groveport Elementary

April Bray, Principal
715 Main Street
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4975

Madison Elementary

Tricia Faulkner, Principal
4600 Madison School Drive
Columbus, OH 43232
614-833-2011

Sedalia Elementary

Ken Pease, Principal
5400 Sedalia Drive
Columbus, OH 43232
614-833-2014

Middle School Central

Neil Britton, Principal
751 Main Street
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4957

Middle School North

Jeffrey Jones, Principal
5474 Sedalia Drive
Columbus, OH 43232
614-837-5508

Middle School South

Darren Fillman, Principal
4400 Glendening Drive
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4953

Groveport Madison High School

Dr. Jaivir Singh, Principal
4475 S. Hamilton Road
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4964

Cruiser Academy

William Young, Administrator
4400 Marketing Place, Suite A
Groveport, OH 43125
614-237-8756

Get and Stay Connected!



The Groveport Madison Schools' website, gocruisers.org, is loaded with information to help keep you connected to District happenings on a daily basis. Find your child's bus route or lunch menus, access your ProgressBook account, and stay on top of school- and district-wide events and celebrations. Make gocruisers.org one of your "favorite" websites.



To check out our photos and get the latest news, "Like" us on Facebook @GoCruisers and follow us on Twitter @GMSchools.

Groveport Madison Schools

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gocruisers.org

