

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



A YEAR FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

Message from Superintendent Garilee Ogden

To say it's been a challenging year is likely one of the biggest understatements I've ever made. In January 2020, the words "Coronavirus" and "COVID-19" became part of daily news reports. By March 13 of that year, Governor DeWine temporarily closed Ohio's schools to reduce the virus' spread. What we thought was going to be a three-week shutdown ended up lasting the remainder of the school year.

Despite not having in-person classes, we could hold classes remotely thanks to the Board of Education's support of our "Cruisers with Chromebooks" program, launched three years ago. Each of our students had already been assigned a Chromebook computer, with our sixth-through-twelfth graders taking them home nightly, on weekends, and on breaks. All we had to do was to get a check-out procedure in place for our K-5 students, help some of our families get a Wi-Fi connection, and teachers were able to assign work and hold classes online. And, in true Cruiser fashion, our staff quickly came up with new, creative ideas to replace some of our traditional end-of-year celebrations – and a successful drive-through graduation celebration that allowed parents to attend in-person to see their child receive their diploma.

Planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year was a daunting task. COVID-19 conditions were worsening, and information from state and local health departments was ever-changing. There were hundreds of questions that we needed to address. As a result, we put together two 24-page documents explicitly tailored to parents and staff. These documents were titled "Responsible Restart Guides." Along with a comprehensive COVID-19 website, they became the centerpiece of our decision-making and communications process.

We recognized that many of our families would not be comfortable sending their child to school if and

when we were permitted to hold in-person classes. We created "Cruiser Digital Academy" (CDA), a 100% remote online school, where nearly one-third of our student body remained in remote classes for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. As a result of having fewer students in our schools, we could meet the social distancing requirements and offer in-person classes to students in a blended learning (hybrid) format. Half of the students went to school two-days-per-week and took online classes the remaining three days – and vice versa.



As we approached the holidays, COVID-19 infections in Ohio were dramatically increasing. By mid-November, several bus drivers and transportation office staff became ill, and we had to move to 100% remote online instruction for all students. We remained in the remote learning model until January 23, 2021, when we resumed the blended learning schedule. By March 23, 2021, the District began to return to four-day-per-week in-person classes, and plans are to return to five-day-per-week in-person classes on May 3.

I attribute much of our success in navigating this past year to our administrative team's hard work, outside-the-box thinking, and having a trusting and supportive Board of Education. I also credit our labor associations, who worked closely with us to resolve potential obstacles quickly. The focus always remained on "what's best for our students?" Among our entire staff, there indeed was a "we can do this" attitude. I am so grateful to our staff, parents, and the whole Cruiser community for your support and encouragement over the past year. I know we still have a long way to go to eradicate COVID-19. Yet, by working together, following recommended public health guidelines, and continuing to be vaccinated, we will get it behind us.

The one thing I can say for sure about 2020 . . . it's definitely a year for the history books!

OUR BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe all Cruisers are valuable. We will unconditionally SERVE, SUPPORT, and INSPIRE. Therefore, every Cruiser will maximize their unique PURPOSE, POTENTIAL, and POWER to produce the results they want.



OUR VISION

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY LESSON. EVERY DAY.



Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education



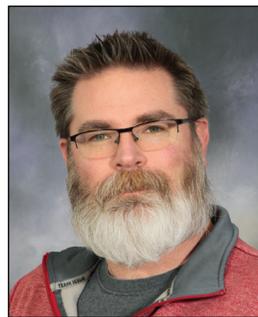
Libby Gray
President



LaToya Dowdell-Burger
Vice President



Nancy Gillespie



Chris Snyder



Kathleen Walsh

Community Support: The Key to Moving Forward

EDUCATION CONTINUED DUE TO CRUISERS WITH CHROMEBOOKS PROGRAM

If there was ever a year to expose public education's most apparent vulnerability, it was 2020. In March 2020, 50.8 million U.S. public school children were sent home due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Most remained out of their school buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year – with an undetermined number of them unable to take classes or complete online lessons because they didn't have access to a computer at home. Thanks to you, our taxpayers, that wasn't the case in Groveport Madison Schools.

As a result of the passage of the 2014 operating levy (and its renewal in 2019), the District was able to purchase and maintain a supply of Chromebook computers so that every child in the school district has access to their own computer. Almost overnight, all 6,000 of the District's students were thrust into an online learning format that required them to have computer access. Your support of our levies allowed that to happen. This year, 2,000 students remain in 100% remote online classes due to health concerns over COVID-19. From our kindergarteners to our seniors, none of them could have continued their learning without the investment you've made in our school district.

“ It wasn't difficult to come up with the Board's message to the community for the District's 2020 Annual Report. To sum it up in one word, it's “Grateful.”

NEVER A GREATER NEED FOR STUDENTS' SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

We've recognized for many years the significant social-emotional needs of today's students, particularly students living in poverty or those dealing with challenging home situations. When a student is dealing with emotional trauma or other non-academic issues, it's extremely difficult for them to focus on their schoolwork.

The social-emotional needs that have manifested themselves as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting isolation are alarming. It's been critical to have the trained counselors and social workers in place to help students and their families. The District plans to use some of the expected funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

Act to secure additional social workers and provide training and support to administrators and teachers to better equip them to see the signs of these stressors on students and respond accordingly.

These items mentioned above are two critical illustrations of the interdependence between our schools and their communities. If we want a citizenry prepared to graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to be productive and responsible members of our community, we need to invest where it will make a difference – in our schools.

On behalf of our 6,000+ students, thank you for your support of Groveport Madison Schools. We are truly grateful for your trust and investment in our schools and our community.

2020 Initiatives & Accomplishments



LIL' CRUISER CAMPUS SERVES PRE-K STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND PEER MODELS

To better serve our special needs pre-kindergarten students and increase available classroom space in our elementary schools, the District consolidated the three school-based programs into the District Service Center (DSC) complex. The program serves up to 96 children ages 3 or 4 identified as having special needs. Lil' Cruiser Campus (LCC) offers half-day services (AM and PM) four days a week. In addition, up to 72 peer models participate in the program to provide an inclusive environment serving students with - and without - disabilities.

For the second time in a row, the District's preschool program has earned a "Five-Star Step Up to Quality Rating" from the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services evaluation teams. The Five-Star rating is the highest possible score, and it remains in place for three years.



GROVEPORT, ASBURY, AND DUNLOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY ODE

In December 2020, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recognized three Groveport Madison elementary schools in a virtual ceremony honoring 230 of Ohio's 9,020 public schools. The schools were honored for their integration and implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. PBIS aims to establish and implement social, emotional, and behavioral supports and expectations to improve academic outcomes for all students.

Schools being recognized included:

- Groveport ES, 2020 Ohio PBIS Gold Award Winner
- Asbury ES, 2020 Ohio PBIS Silver Award Winner
- Dunloe ES, 2020 Ohio PBIS Bronze Award Winner.



GRAB & GO MEAL PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS AS COVID-19 IMPACTS MANY FAMILIES

After Governor DeWine ordered schools to be closed due to COVID-19, the District immediately figured out how it could continue to provide meals to students. In less than 72 hours, the District had identified six school-based and seven community-based sites in which to distribute free breakfasts and lunches to thousands of hungry youth 18 and younger in our community. The federal government covers the cost of the meals. The program ran throughout the summer and continues today. In February 2021, the Ohio School Breakfast Challenge recognized the District as a "2021 Super Star Award" winner for the innovative and collaborative approach taken to maximize participation in meal programs, ensuring all students have access to school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.



NEW SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM PLANNED FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Keeping our curriculum and materials up-to-date is essential to maintaining high educational standards for our students. Currently, the District's curriculum is on a four-year review cycle to ensure all aspects of the curriculum are current and align with the State of Ohio academic content standards. We also want to ensure that the accompanying support materials are applicable, easy-to-use, culturally relevant, and remain up-to-date with the District's technology infrastructure.

A committee of teachers and administrators spent several months researching available options to update our social studies curriculum. After getting input from parents, and the Board of Education approval, our plan is to have the new social studies curriculum in place for the 2021-2022 school year.



LAUNCH OF UNIVERSAL BREAKFAST PROGRAM LAUDED BY CHILDREN’S HUNGER ALLIANCE

In March 2020, Groveport Madison Schools was recognized by the Children’s Hunger Alliance for implementing a universal (free) breakfast program for all students. The program was initiated in one classroom by a sixth-grade math teacher, Jillian Hetki, who saw her students struggling to remain attentive in class. She learned that many of the students hadn’t eaten anything for twelve hours or more. After getting donations from friends and family to help feed her students’ breakfast, Ms. Hetki approached her principal for assistance. Soon, the District started a pilot program in three schools, and by the 2019-2020 school year, free breakfast was available to all students. Meals are paid for through the U.S.D.A. National School Lunch Program, so there’s no financial obligation to the school district. All students are encouraged to pick up their breakfast and eat it in class during morning announcements and meetings.



SPECIAL ED PROGRAM EARNS 3.83 OUT OF 4.0 ON STATE EVALUATION REPORT

The District’s Special Education program earned a “Meets Requirements” rating (3.83 out of 4.0) on the State of Ohio’s compliance evaluation. Areas of strength (earning 4 of 4 points possible) identified in the report are:

- Identification of Disabilities for Special Education/Disproportionality
- Timely Evaluations
- Reading Proficiency Rate
- Third Grade Reading Proficiency Rate
- Secondary Transition
- Timely and Accurate Data Submitted.



ASBURY ELEMENTARY REMOVED FROM FEDERAL “WATCH LIST”

Groveport Madison Schools has remained steadfast in our efforts to improve our students’ and schools’ academic performance year-after-year, as measured by the State Report Card. The state uses numerous data points to assess whether schools are making satisfactory progress.

We’re delighted to report that with Asbury Elementary School’s removal from the federal “Watch List.” All eleven schools are performing at or above the federal standards of performance for English learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged and gifted students. Full credit for this achievement goes to the staff at Asbury Elementary. We’re very proud of this accomplishment.



DISTRICT ESTABLISHES RACE RELATIONS, EQUITY & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Early this year, the District launched a Race Relations, Equity, and Diversity Committee. The committee includes parents, community leaders, and school and District staff members (two community members chair it). The committee’s mission is to help the District research and put into place policies, practices, and the mindset to ensure all of those associated with our schools feel respected, valued, and safe.

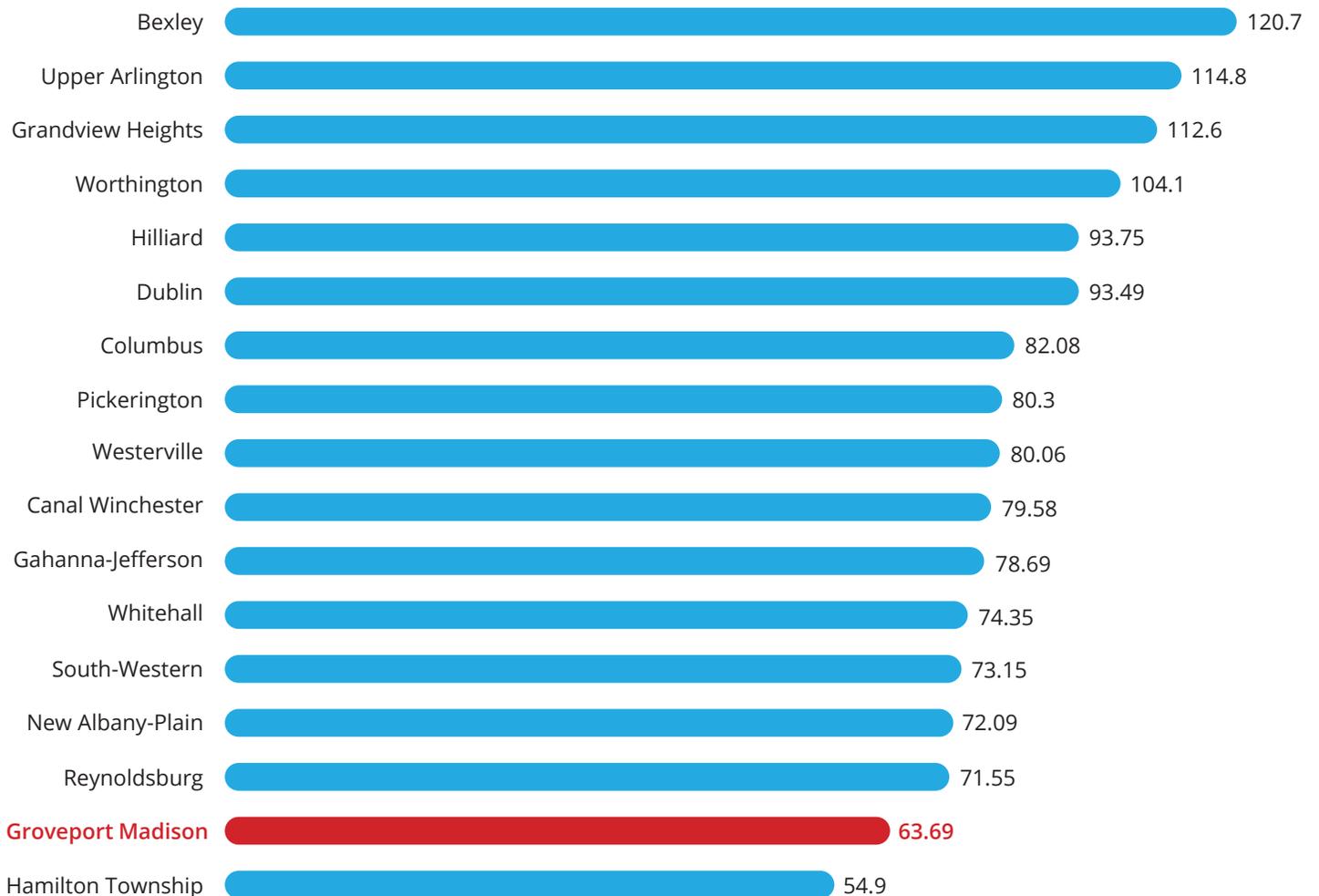
The committee will use data from the District’s student and parent equity and diversity surveys and other research and to formulate recommendations for improvement in aspects of the curriculum, Board of Education policies, staff recruiting and retention practices, and other areas of the District.

Superintendent Expands Student Advisory Committee to Include Elementary and Middle School Students

Getting input and perspectives from students is vital to Groveport Madison Schools Superintendent Garilee Ogden. In 2019, Ogden pulled together a group of high school students to serve as ambassadors/advisors to provide her with feedback on topics ranging from the student dress code to improving student discipline. Having received some great ideas and positive feedback from the students, Ogden decided to expand her committee to include elementary and middle school students. To ensure she has a good representation of the student body, she chooses the students herself. Despite having to meet virtually this school year, Ogden has been very pleased with the ideas and perspectives the students have shared with her. Among the ideas from students that have been implemented:

- Vape Detectors in G.M.H.S – Students were concerned about smoking in the restrooms. New sensors have been installed to detect smoke and vaping, sense loud noises, and alert staff to a concern via an app.
- Middle School Wellness Program – Students asked if the District would add a wellness program at the middle school level. Thanks to their suggestion, a new program is being added for the coming school year.
- Next-Level Visits – To help create a smooth transition from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school, the District will schedule days where fifth- and eighth-graders will visit the school they'll be attending the following year. Students will tour the schools, meet some of the teachers, and learn about the programs and opportunities they'll experience at the start of the new school year.

Comparison of School District Total Millage Rates



Update from Treasurer Felicia Drummey

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

With the renewal of the District's 6.68 mil operating levy in November 2019, the District is on firm financial footing. Funds from the levy enable the District to provide for day-to-day operations, including funding for classroom teachers, materials and supplies, utilities, fuel, equipment, student technology, safety and security, and much more that's needed to provide the high-quality education that our students deserve.

By investing in staff, curricula, technology, new programs, and staff training, we have seen student achievement increase year after year. In fact, the District and many of our schools have been recognized by the State of Ohio and others for our academic progress over the past six years.

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



DISTRICT RECEIVES "CLEAN" AUDIT RESULTS FROM STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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



DISTRICT MAINTAINS A BALANCED BUDGET IN SPITE OF STATE FUNDING CUTS

In May 2020, with COVID-19 projected to wreak havoc on state sales tax revenue, Governor DeWine reduced state funding to Ohio's schools by \$300 million. Of that amount, Groveport Madison Schools' cut equaled approximately \$1.1 million (appx. 2.67 percent of the District's FY20 Unrestricted State Aid). Of even greater significance, the cuts were announced with only six weeks remaining in the fiscal year (ending on June 30, 2020).

While the \$1.1 million in state cuts immediately impacted our budget, thankfully, we were in a better financial position than many school districts.

As a result of the superintendent's previous realignment of spending priorities from May 2019 and other cost-cutting measures, the District was more than \$988,000 under budget in FY20 at the time we received word of the state's initial budget cuts.

State projections for FY21 indicated further budget cuts that could exceed \$4.2 million. As such, the District implemented a budget response action plan in May 2020. Planned spending was reduced by \$2 million dollars through reorganization and staff attrition to ensure financial stability while maintaining a balanced budget.

In October 2020 the District was fortunate to be awarded \$1.9M in Federal CARES funding and \$362,349 in State COVID Relief Funds used to address additional expenses in response to the pandemic. We are so grateful that these grants offset the state education funding cuts allowing the District to maintain financial stability during the pandemic.

REVENUE

WHERE FUNDING COMES FROM



STATE AID
\$42,495,522 **50.5%**

LOCAL TAXES
\$35,433,955 **42.1%**

RESTRICTED STATE AID
\$2,306,131 **2.70%**

MISCELLANEOUS
\$2,057,267 **2.44%**

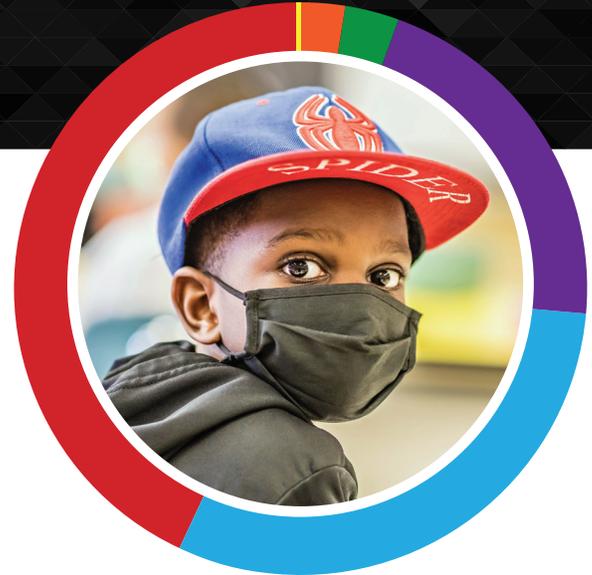
TUITION
\$1,290,151 **1.53%**

INTEREST
\$620,929 **0.73%**

\$84,203,955

EXPENSES

WHERE FUNDING GOES
BY OBJECT



SALARIES & WAGES
\$35,366,157 **42.8%**

PURCHASED SERVICES
\$25,402,817 **30.7%**

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
\$17,113,072 **20.7%**

OTHER
\$2,577,814 **3.11%**

SUPPLIES & MATERIALS
\$2,098,849 **2.50%**

CAPITAL EXPENSES
\$153,953 **0.19%**

\$82,712,662

EXPENSES

WHERE FUNDING GOES
BY FUNCTION



CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION 64.8%
\$53,611,549

SUPPORT SERVICES 31.8%
\$26,320,792

OTHER 1.70%
\$1,400,358

EXTRA CURRICULAR 1.07%
\$887,934

OPERATIONS 0.43%
\$348,803

FACILITIES 0.20%
\$143,226

\$82,712,662

OUTLOOK

THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

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The District is on firm financial footing. Passage of the operating levy enabled us to invest in staff, curricula, technology, new programs, and staff training, resulting in student achievement increases year after year.

District Fast Facts

5,922

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

40 sq. mi.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

11

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

841,871

TOTAL BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE MAINTAINED

150

TOTAL ACRES MAINTAINED



16%

MOBILITY RATE
(PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT FOR LESS THAN HALF OF A YEAR)

53 DISTRICT BUS ROUTES SERVICED DAILY (68 IN 2019)

3,237 DISTRICT STUDENTS TRANSPORTED DAILY (5,110 IN 2019)

1,200 NON-PUBLIC & CHARTER STUDENTS TRANSPORTED DAILY (262 IN 2019)



LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN THE DISTRICT

29

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CRUISER DIGITAL ACADEMY

34%

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN BLENDED LEARNING/ IN-PERSON CLASSES

66%

3,500

AVERAGE NUMBER OF GOOGLE MEETS PER DAY

1,325

ACTIVE GOOGLE CLASSROOMS

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

ETHNICITY

- .07% - American Indian/ Alaskan Native
- .22% - Pacific Islander
- 1.9% - Asian
- 8.2% - Multi-racial
- 8.8% - Hispanic
- 36.8% - Caucasian
- 44.1% - African-American

4.5%

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT

17%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



47%
FEMALE

9.7%

QUALIFIED FOR GIFTED SERVICES

69%

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED



53%
MALE

STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

77%



FEMALE

23%



MALE

675

TOTAL STAFF

61%

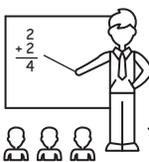
TEACHERS WITH MASTER'S DEGREE

50%

TEACHERS WITH 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

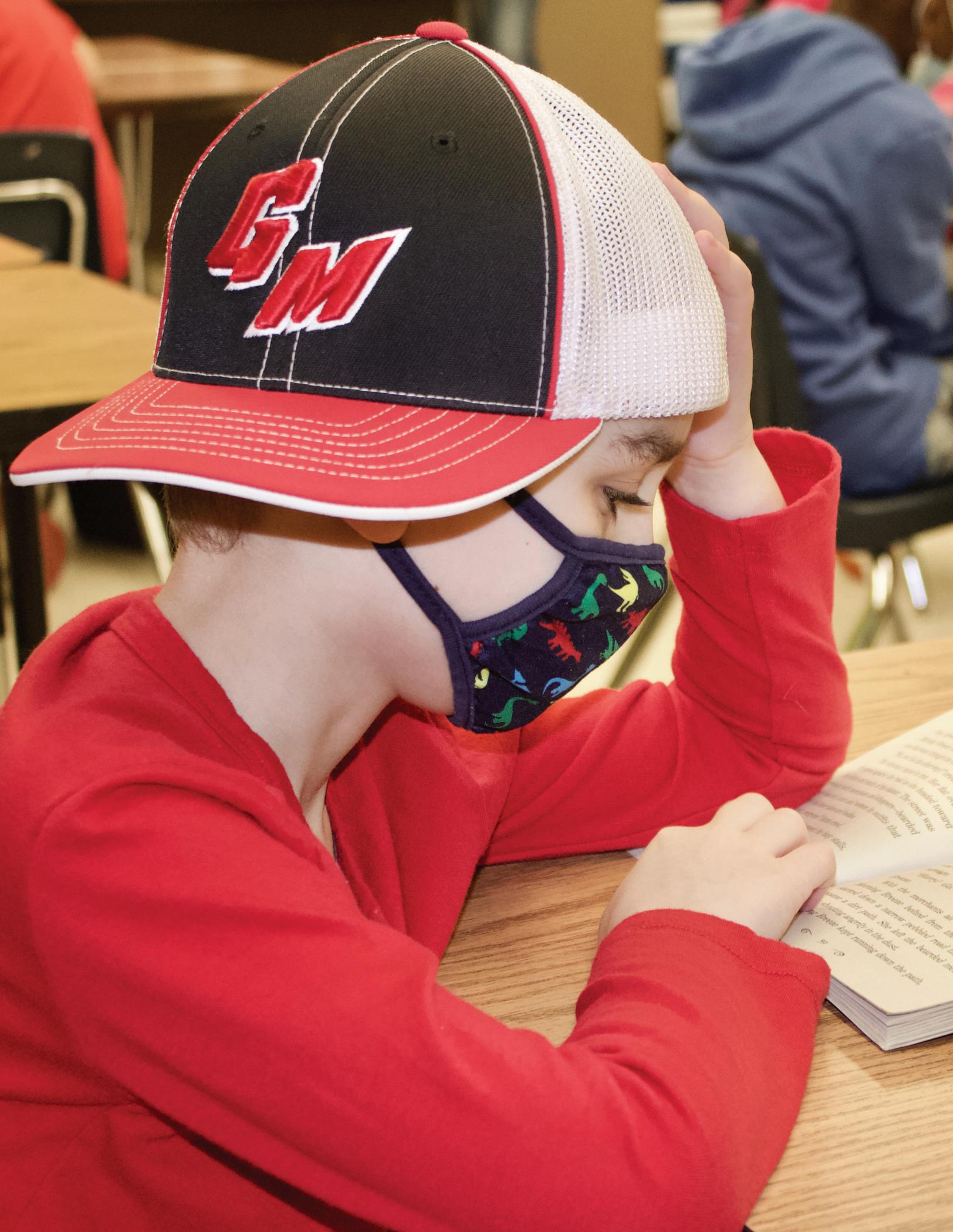
100%

PRINCIPALS WITH MASTER'S DEGREE



ETHNICITY

- .11% - American Indian/ Alaskan Native
- .37% - Multi-racial
- .51% - Hispanic
- .51% - Asian/Pacific Islander
- 3.8% - African-American
- 94.7% - Caucasian





Contact Information

Groveport Madison Schools

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

Lil' Cruiser Campus

Mitzi Boyd, Principal
4400 Marketing Place, Suite A
Groveport, OH 43125
614-237-8756

Asbury Elementary

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

Dunloe Elementary

Lori Green, 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

John Brown, Principal
751 Main Street
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4957

Middle School North

Chris Mosure, Principal
5474 Sedalia Drive
Columbus, OH 43232
614-837-5508

Middle School South

Matthew Misener, Principal
4400 Glendening Drive
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4953

Groveport Madison High School

Paul Smathers, Interim Principal
4475 S. Hamilton Road
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-4964

Get and Stay Connected!



The Groveport Madison Schools' website, www.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 www.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.



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2020 Annual Report

