PERSEVERANCE
PERSISTENCE: CONTINUING THE WAYNE WAY

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Displayed in each of our classrooms are posters celebrating what we call the Wayne Habits of Success. These posters depict the habits that are woven into the fabric of our daily school life. One or two of these habits are highlighted each month. They are aimed at helping students become better learners and better people.

One of the Wayne Habits of Success - assigned to the month of May - is the habit of persistence. As we overcame one challenge after another this year, I believe this habit served us better than any other. Time and again, we persisted. We persevered.

Had we not been persistent, we could not have opened our doors in the midst of a pandemic. We could not have found creative, engaging, and successful ways to serve students learning at home. The Class of 2021 might never have made it to graduation day. Instead of giving up, those students - nearly 1,500 of them - earned diplomas, degrees, certificates, or even U.S. citizenship.

On the pages that follow, you’ll see how we persevered through a year unlike any other. As always, we didn’t do it alone. Our great schools always depend on the support of our great community - in 2020-21, more than ever. Our gratitude for that support can’t be measured.

Dr. Jeffrey K. Butts
Superintendent

PERSISTENCE: THROUGH THE CHALLENGES OF COVID 19

Creating a Plan
During the summer of 2020, seven committees made up of more than 200 MSD Wayne employees engaged other stakeholders in Wayne Township as they developed our Roadmap Back to School. The committees focused on staff and student safety during the pandemic. This continues to be our focus moving forward.

Masking Up
Following public health guidelines, we began and ended the 2020-21 school year requiring our students and staff to wear face masks. We purchased personal protective equipment (PPE) on our own, and received donations that included a delivery of 10,000 masks from the State of Indiana.

Staying Connected
At certain times during the height of the pandemic, public health officials required us to shift all our students to at-home learning. Our technology team made sure students had the computers they needed, and the ability to connect from home. About one fifth of our students opted to learn at home five days a week in our Wayne@Home program.

Feeding Children
When our students were required to learn at home, we didn’t stop feeding them. Our child nutrition and transportation teams worked together to deliver meals in Wayne neighborhoods. We also provided five days’ worth of meals for families from throughout the district to pick up at two school locations on Fridays.

Fighting Germs
Our custodians continually went the extra mile to provide the healthiest environment possible for our students and staff.

Dr. Jeffrey K. Butts
Superintendent
We developed our Wayne@Home program for families who wanted their children to learn online full time during the pandemic. About 20 percent of our students chose this pathway. Bridgeport Elementary kindergarten teacher Debbie Wilson was one of many MSD Wayne teachers who did an excellent job of engaging her students online.

Learning in person takes both discipline and creativity during a pandemic. Our students did their job by wearing their face masks and washing their hands. Our teachers found innovative ways to create social distance for their students, including finding outdoor learning spaces.

Drive-through recognition ceremonies became the norm in 2020-21. We didn’t let the pandemic stop us from honoring our outstanding students and staff. Our “Dare to Dream” ceremony (pictured) for heroes in our special needs community was just one example of this.

McClelland Elementary received national recognition for its wonderful work in nurturing diverse learners and helping them succeed. McClelland was named one of 100 National ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Distinguished Schools in the country.

Our community never stopped supporting us throughout the pandemic. Carrier, for example, presented a major donation to the Area 31 Career Center’s HVAC program. We’re grateful for our Giant Partners, who are always there for us!
CLASS OF 2021: IN PERSON, AND TOGETHER (MOSTLY)

As the number of COVID-19 cases began to decrease toward the end of the school year, it became clear that we could hold our graduation ceremonies in person. We created social distance, dividing Ben Davis High School’s graduating seniors into two groups with separate graduation ceremonies to achieve that. We wore masks and fist bumped instead of shaking hands. It still looked different from pre-pandemic graduation ceremonies, but it represented a step back toward what we’re used to. And that was a joy to behold.

MOVING FORWARD

We’ve learned many lessons from the pandemic. One of them is that some students and teachers, for various reasons, really like doing most of their learning online. For some, it’s the best option.

To continue to serve these students, we’re creating a new elementary school, along with a new middle-school opportunity. We’re expanding our Achieve Virtual Education Academy (Indiana’s first public virtual high school) to include students in grades K-12.

Starting with the 2021-22 school year, students in grades K-8 who want to pursue blended learning (online combined with in-person learning) will attend Achieve Virtual Elementary or Achieve Virtual 7-8. We’re renovating part of Lakeview Christian Church to provide classroom space for the in-person part of this learning opportunity. Achieve Virtual 9-12 (fully online) will be housed at Lakeview as well.

We’re excited about providing another pathway for our students to realize their full potential! For more information on our Achieve Virtual schools, please visit achievevirtual.org or call 317-988-7144.
WAYNE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

OUR PRESCHOOL
Wayne Township Preschool

OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Achieve Virtual Elementary
Bridgeport Elementary
Chapel Glen Elementary
Chapelwood Elementary
Garden City Elementary
Maplewood Elementary
McClelland Elementary
North Wayne Elementary
Rhoades Elementary
Robey Elementary
Stout Field Elementary
Westlake Elementary

OUR 7TH & 8TH GRADE CENTERS
Achieve Virtual 7-8
Chapel Hill 7th & 8th Grade Center
Lynhurst 7th & 8th Grade Center

OUR SPECIALTY SCHOOLS
Sanders School
Wayne Preparatory Academy

OUR HIGH SCHOOLS
Achieve Virtual 9-12
Ben Davis 9th Grade Center
Ben Davis High School
Ben Davis University High School

per·se·ver·ance
pər-se-vir-ən(t)s
: continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition : the action or condition or an instance of persevering : STEADFASTNESS

MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY

TOWNSHIP AT A GLANCE

Enrollment.............................................................. 16,451
Limited English pupils ........................................... 3,251
# of home languages spoken by students............... 74
Students in high ability programming..................... 1,761
Students in special education programming.............. 2,529
Summer feeding sites............................................. 21