Welcome Back!!

Classes Start Monday, August 23, 2004

Mad River Local Schools would like to welcome back returning students and parents, as well as welcome into its schools new students and their families. The Mad River staff would like to stress the importance of student attendance, especially the first week of school. If you cannot find the information you’re looking for in this back-to-school issue please contact the school your child will be attending or call the district’s administrative office at 259-6606.

School District To Host Dedication Ceremonies For Three New Elementary Schools

Brantwood, Beverly Gardens, and Virginia Stevenson Elementary Schools will be officially dedicated Sunday, September 19, beginning at 1:00 pm with a special ceremony at each of the new schools.

The new schools are three of seven new school facilities that will open this year and next year in the Mad River School District. Beverly Gardens will host its dedication at 1:00 pm, and be followed by ceremonies at Virginia Stevenson at 2:15 pm, and Brantwood Elementary at 3:30 pm. “A dedication ceremony is an opportunity for the school district and the school family to publicly thank the community for their support in making these new schools possible,” said Alex DiNino, superintendent.

The three new elementary buildings, which currently house students in grades 1-4, opened this summer and feature modern school design and technology. Participants in the program will be elementary students and administrators, board members, superintendent, and other special guests. “We hope the members of our school family and community will come and help us dedicate our new schools,” said Board President Scott Huddle. “This is our thank you to the City of Riverside for making these facilities a reality.”

The public is invited to the dedication ceremonies, which will be held in the gymnasium of each building. Following the program, refreshments and school tours will be available. Brantwood Elementary is located at 4350 Schwin Dr., Beverly Gardens can be found at 5555 Enright Ave., and Virginia Stevenson is situated at 805 Old Harshman Rd.
The 2004-2005 school year has arrived, and the future continues to be bright for Mad River Local Schools. The first day of school is always one of the most exciting days of the year, not only for students and parents, but also for all of us who work with your children. It is gratifying to see children being welcomed into their new classes, meeting students who are taking their first steps into a new school, or greeting those students who are returning from a relaxing summer, the smiles on their faces set the tone for the coming year. It is this enthusiasm that I share with those students, as they prepare to be challenged in knowledge, creativity and learning.

This year marks an exciting time in our district, full of hope and opportunity. I cannot help but get excited about the positive changes that will take place this school year. Students who attend Beverly Gardens, Brantwood, and Stevenson Elementaries will start their school year in brand new, state-of-the-art facilities; of course this would have not been possible without the generosity of our community. What a wonderful opportunity for learning!! We are currently in the midst of planning dedication ceremonies for those schools in September; please see the front page for more information. Our four other district schools now under construction will open in 2005 (Mad River Middle and Spinning Hills in January, Stebbins and Saville in August); look for more information on their openings in upcoming Focus editions.

I am also pleased to announce that this year, effective August 2004, the district is introducing all-day kindergarten and an integrated preschool program. These programs will allow our students to experience a larger form of developmental activities at an earlier age, which will be very beneficial to our district’s test scores in future years. In addition, Mad River Local Schools has assumed the responsibility and accountability for our multiple handicapped students or children. For the past several years we have been developing the necessary plans toward assuming primary responsibility for these programs and are ready to take on these important changes.

The district is also examining the benefits of adding year-round schooling. The Educational Services Institute of Cincinnati reported that districts with year-round schools have seen basic skills and attendance improve and that students retain more of what they’re taught and need less time to review lessons when they return to school, compared to students who take summers off under a traditional school calendar. It’s important for all district residents to know there is no proposal right now, getting as much parent and staff input as possible is a key part of the study. I will continue to update you as we gain further information.

This year we welcome 60 new teachers and other staff to Mad River Local Schools. We have great confidence in the skills and talents they will use to contribute to Mad River students and the district. Best wishes for a rewarding school year, and of course, our very warmest welcome!

To those parents who have children in our schools, I ask you to continue to be involved in your child’s school and develop a stronger partnership. Active and involved parents are key to academic and social successes of students. You can become an integral part in your child’s education by getting to know their teacher(s) and classmates, reviewing their daily progress through homework assignments, or volunteering in the school or classroom.

Our students are showing significant educational progress, and our community is applauding the direction our schools are taking. We expect this trend to continue. I encourage you to visit our schools and see for yourself the valuable education the children in our district are receiving from our entire staff of dedicated teachers, administrators, and volunteers. We aim each and every day to meet these expectations of our parents. Please join me in supporting your child’s school by attending open houses, school performances, parent conferences, athletics, and student assemblies. Our children need the benefit of your time, energy, and concern. Together, we will make this a productive and memorable school year.

I wish all of our students and families a happy, healthy, and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Alex J. DiNino
Superintendent
New Student Registration

The Mad River Local Schools will begin registration for new students for the 2004-2005 school year beginning Tuesday, August 3rd, 2004.

At the time of registration, the parent/legal guardian is requested to have: proof of residency; the child’s birth certificate; immunization record; and court custody papers, if applicable. Information on the required immunizations is available at the school. Physical and dental exams are recommended.

All Elementaries and Mad River Middle School (Grades K-6): Registration times will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the building, which the student will attend, beginning Tuesday, August 3rd.

Students who will be five years old on or before September 30, 2004 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. Parents are reminded that children must successfully complete an approved kindergarten program prior to entry into the first grade. Exceptions for children who will be six by September 30th and who have not successfully completed kindergarten require the approval of the district Pupil Services Committee.

Spinning Hills Middle School (Grades 7-8): Registration times will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm in the building, which the student will attend. Parents of new students entering grades 7 and 8 may pick-up registration information beginning Tuesday, August 3rd. Parents will be asked to make an appointment with the school counselor during the week of August 16th to finalize student schedules for the coming school year.

High School (Grades 9-12): Parents of high school students are encouraged to pick-up, complete and return “preregistration” materials in the Student Services Office of Stebbins High School. Registration times will be from 8:15 to 11:00 am and 1:00 to 2:30 pm during the summer. Parents will be asked to make an appointment with the school counselor during the week of August 9th to finalize student schedules for the upcoming school year. Appointments will be taken by phone starting August 3rd.

Integrated Preschool to Operate in Mad River For The 2004-2005 School Year

The Mad River Local Schools, in cooperation with the Montgomery County Board of MRDD, will co-sponsor an integrated preschool program for “typical” children and children with disabilities ages 3 to 5 for the 2004-2005 school year:

- Play based program
- Small class sizes
- Language-rich environment
- Licensed, qualified staff
- Quality, affordable preschool program

Classes will be held at the Mad River Early Childhood Center (formerly Stevenson Elementary) Monday-Thursday. Morning (9:00-11:30 am) and afternoon classes (12:15-2:45 pm) available.

For more information or to obtain an enrollment packet for “typical” preschool, please contact: Mindy Leab, MRDD Family Consultant, at (937) 918-2160.
TechPrep Program Shines At State Competition

The Stebbins’ Career Technology program continues to prove why it’s one of the best in the area. During the week of June 21st, three students from Steve Amlin’s Digital Design program traveled to Kansas City to compete in the 40th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC).

Mad River Local Schools, along with Stebbins High School, are pleased to announce that Shawn Malouf, Kyle Smith, and Andrew Zimmerman received the bronze medal for their work in the TechPrep-Arts, Audio Visual Tech and Communications contest.

The three developed a communications plan for the Stebbins’ Lift-A-Thon. Using tools and techniques they learned in class, they produced t-shirts, posters, scorecards, and a banner.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the national-level competition for public high school and postsecondary college and technical students enrolled in trade, technical, and skilled service profession instructional programs including allied health occupations.

More than 4,000 outstanding career and technical education students—all state-level gold medalists, competed hands-on in 77 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts.

Food Service Information for 2004-05 School Year

The Food Service Department would like to welcome everyone back to another school year. The full-price lunch cost per day for the 2004-05 school year will be: Elementary: $1.60, Mad River Middle: $1.70, Spinning Hills Middle: $1.75, and Stebbins H.S.: $1.80 (milk included). Reduced priced lunches are 40¢ per day/$2.00 week for those that qualify. Extra milk can also be purchased for 40 cents per carton.

Anyone receiving lunch benefits through our district at the end of last school year will start the school year with the same lunch benefit until September 13, 2004 or until your new lunch application is approved. Lunch applications will come home with your children on the first day of school. Fill out 1 application per household and return the application to school with your most responsible student as soon as possible. Remember to fill out all necessary information on the application; incomplete applications will be returned. An application must be approved and on file to continue receiving lunch benefits for the 2004-05 school year.

Breakfast is offered at the following schools: Beverly Gardens, Virginia Stevenson, Brantwood and Saville. Breakfast service will begin on August 25, 2004. Breakfast will be served at no cost to students attending these schools.

Anyone needing to purchase lunch tickets may do so through the Food Service Department either in person or by U.S. mail. The Food Service Office is open weekdays from 8:00 am -12 noon and from 12:30-4:00 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 259-6601.

Students need lunchtime nourishment to be able to concentrate in the afternoon. Please make sure your student has a lunch from home or money to purchase lunch unless they qualify for benefits.
Mark Henderson Named Spinning Hills Principal

With the move into their new school building fast approaching and a new principal, the 2004-2005 school year will be a time of change and new beginnngs for staff and students at Spinning Hills Middle School.

During the June board meeting, Mad River Board of Education members unanimously approved Mark Henderson as the new principal of Spinning Hills Middle School. Mr. Henderson brings a strong background as a former high school teacher and vice principal, and middle school principal. He is known for his in-depth knowledge of instruction, strong discipline procedures, and success in developing positive relations with teachers, parents, and students. Alex DiNino, Mad River Local Schools Superintendent, said Henderson proved to be exactly what the district was looking for to replace the retiring Ron Holbrook. “With sixteen years of experience in both urban and rural school districts, Mark brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise, along with a strong commitment to public education. He will be a visionary leader for Spinning Hills, while guiding our students and staff to their highest possible levels of learning and success,” he said. “He comes with excellent recommendations and a stellar resume. We are looking forward to working with him.”

Henderson joins the Mad River School District most recently from Versailles Middle School where he served as principal for the last nine years. Prior to that he was principal at Mason Middle School and assistant principal at William Mason High School. He received his B.S. in biological sciences from Bowling Green State University and his Masters in Secondary Education from Xavier University. He expects to meet with Spinning parents over the coming months. “One of the key priorities is to continue to foster a school climate where student learning is a top priority. I believe that high expectations for the academic and social achievement of students and the performance of staff are essential for fostering success,” Mr. Henderson said. “I am thrilled and very excited. I’m really looking forward to getting to know everyone in the district.”

Henderson replaces Ron Holbrook, who retired this past July.

Stebbins Begins 2004 Football Season With New Coach

Mad River Local Schools is pleased to announce that Brian Connor has been selected as the new head football coach. We are anticipating a very exciting season for our Indians!

Hired on June 10, Connor takes over the Indians program that spent its last four seasons under Jason Krause. Krause is leaving to take the head football coach position at Monroe High School. Alex DiNino, Superintendent of Mad River Local Schools, said Brian brings a strong reputation as an effective teacher and football coach. “We wanted to hire a coach who understands and executes the process for winning games.”

Coach Connor is a graduate of Archbishop Alter High School. After his high school graduation, he attended the University of Toledo on a football scholarship where he double majored in health and history. After his playing career, he spent two years as the assistant varsity football coach at Lehman Catholic High School. During the 1997 football season, Connor assisted in helping the Lehman Cavaliers become SRC champs, which earned them a playoff berth. He also had assistant coaching stops at Alter and Oakwood. Since 2000, he has served as an assistant

Former Stebbins assistant football coach Brian Connor, moves into the head coaching position for the 2004-05 school year.
First Annual Alumni/Homecoming Celebration

One of the highlights of the 2004-05 school year is homecoming weekend. This year’s event will be held Friday and Saturday, October 8th and 9th. Preparations for the weekend are well underway, and include plans to hold the first annual Stebbins Alumni Homecoming celebration during the Stebbins vs. Fairborn football game. A tent will be set up near the Student Activity Center for the gathering of all former Stebbins graduates, Mad River teachers, and administrators.

The Indians alumni gathering begins at 6:00 pm providing a chance to eat, drink, and socialize with former teachers, administrators, and friends. Alumni and former staff who gather at the tent will be given the opportunity to purchase a special discounted ticket for the homecoming game (this special price is only being offered to Stebbins alumni and Mad River retirees).

For some of you, this may be your last chance to see Stebbins High School the way you remember it; during the summer of 2005, the building will be torn down to make room for the new high school, which will open in the fall of 2005.

So mark your calendar for October 8, (bring your best Indian pride and don’t forget to wear scarlet and gray) come and join in the fun, see familiar faces, and talk to some of the best people around!

Stebbins High School Athletics

2004-2005 Ticket Prices

Athletic passes for the 2004-05 sports season can be purchased at the Athletic office starting August 16th from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Here are the options:

- **Varsity Football:** At the Gate-adults and students $6.00, students presale only $3.00
- **9th and Junior Varsity:** adults $4.00, students $2.00
- **Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling:** adults $6.00 and students $3.00
- **Family Pass:** $300.00 (father, mother, children) includes reserved seats for football and basketball
- **All-Sports Pass:** adults $100.00/students $40.00

**Individual Sport Pass:**

- **Football adult:** $30.00/student $20.00 includes reserved seat
- **Soccer adult:** $40.00/students $20.00
- **Volleyball adult:** $30.00/students $20.00
- **Basketball adult:** $40.00/students $20.00
- **Senior Citizens @ student rates $3.00**

***Riverside senior citizens can obtain a card which allows them to attend any regular season, at-home athletic event FREE. Contact Pat Spears (259-6606) for more information.

Per MML Policy
New clothes, new school supplies, new facilities! August 23rd not only marks the start of the first day of the 2004-05 school year. It also marks the day that our district’s elementary teachers and students will begin learning and teaching in their new school facilities.

The new Brantwood Elementary, Virginia Stevenson Elementary, and Beverly Gardens Elementary Schools were all completed this summer. Each building includes a new gymnasium, cafetorium, media center, computer lab, approximately 22 classrooms, and bright, interior designs to create a fun learning environment. To celebrate the opening of the new buildings, the district will host dedication ceremonies at each of the new facilities.

The new middle schools are on schedule for a November 2004 completion. The exterior brick at Spinning Hills is nearly complete and contractors have started on exterior sidewalks and windows. The roof is also more than halfway done. Inside, case-work installation, painting, drywall, ceiling grid installation, and plumbing are all underway.

At Mad River Middle, the exterior brick and electrical installation are complete. Outside, the sidewalks, paving, window installation, and roofing will soon be completed. Inside contractors are installing drywall, ceiling grids, casework, and HVAC ducts as well as painting completed walls.

Renovations at Stebbins High School are nearly completed. The renovations to the existing gymnasium and locker rooms are scheduled to be complete by September 2004 and the auditorium will be complete by November.

The new addition at Stebbins is on schedule. Exterior brick, roofing, and structural steel are all underway. Construction of the walls is nearly complete and contractors have begun creating rough-ins for HVAC ducts, electrical, and plumbing.

Both the Stebbins High School addition and the new Saville Elementary School will be completed by the summer of 2005.

Phone Numbers for Mad River Local Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Gardens</td>
<td>259-6620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal, Cristi Fields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brantwood</td>
<td>237-4270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal, Charlcie Ogg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saville</td>
<td>259-6625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal, Kathy Jonas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mad River Middle</td>
<td>237-4265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal, Dan Dodds</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinning Hills</td>
<td>259-6635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal, Mark Henderson</td>
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Stebbins

Principal, Todd Nichols
Guidance Office 237-4257
Athletic Dept. 237-4260
Athletic Director, Dee Hastler

Administration Offices
Curriculum 259-6600
Food Service 259-6601
Human Resources 259-6602
Pupil Services 259-6603
Superintendent’s Office 259-6606
Treasurer’s Office 259-6610
Transportation 237-4280
Introducing The Newest Mad River Staff....Welcome Home!!!

Schools Announce Open Houses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  (K-4)</th>
<th>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Gardens  August 23, 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Mad River Middle ( Grades 5-6) August 31, 6-8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brantwood August 20, 5-6 pm</td>
<td>Spinning Hills (Grades 7-8) August 17, 6-7 pm (7th graders) August 17, 7-8 pm (8th graders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saville August 20, 5:30-7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Stevenson August 18, 5:30-6:30 pm</td>
<td>STEBBINS HIGH SCHOOL (9-12) September 8, 7:00 pm</td>
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Regular meetings of Mad River’s Board of Education are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. The public is welcome at these meetings which are held at the Administration Building, 801 Old Harshman Rd. Phone 259-6606.

Board of Education
Scott Huddle, President
Cristina Pickle, Vice President
Charles Farlow
Ben Steele
Marilyn Steiner

Alex DiNino, Superintendent
Susan Strubing, Treasurer
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