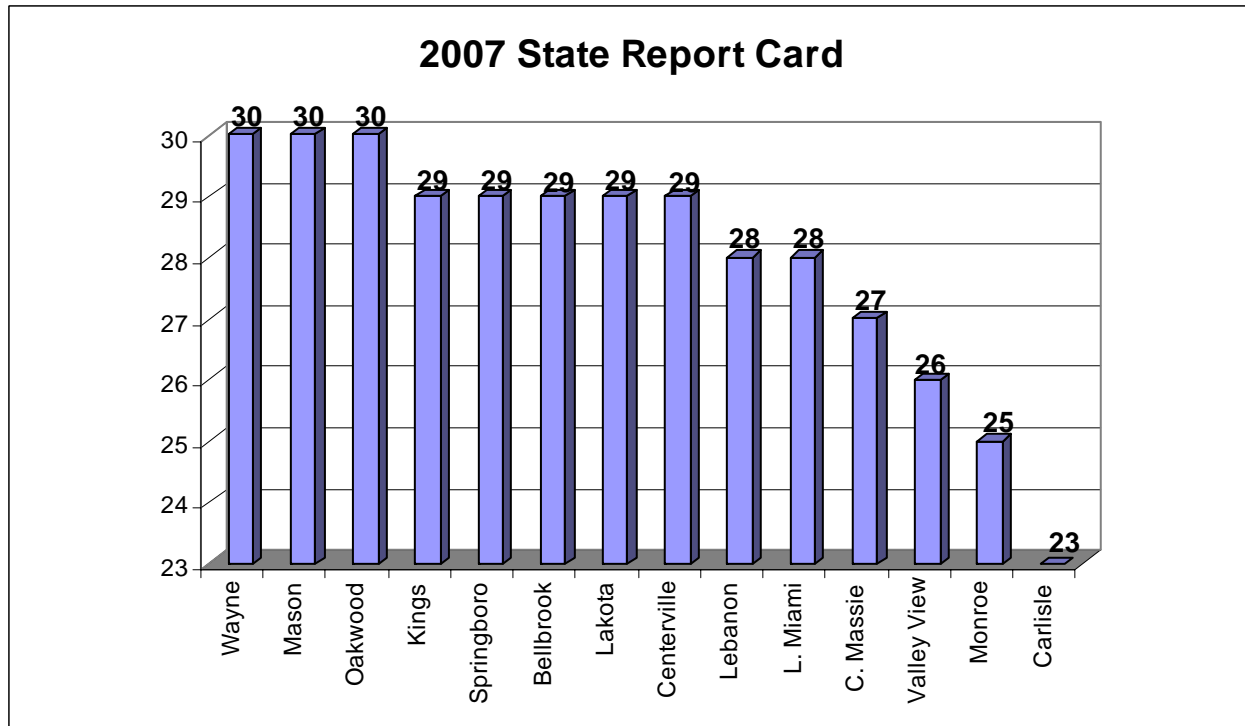


# Wayne Local Schools News

Volume XXIV, No. 2

September 2007



## WLS HAS A PERFECT REPORT CARD SCORE!

Did you know... not only is Wayne Local School District rated Excellent (the highest rating possible) by the Ohio Department of Education, but also WLS is one of only 30 school districts in Ohio with a **PERFECT** report card score of 30. This places our achievement in the top 5% of all Ohio school districts. Listed below are Ohio's top 30 school districts with a PERFECT score of 30.

ANNA	FOREST HILLS	MINSTER
BAY VILLAGE	GRANVILLE	OAKWOOD
BEACHWOOD	HUDSON	OTTAWA HILLS
BERLIN-MILAN	INDEPENDENCE	REVERE
BEXLEY	INDIAN HILL	RUSSIA
BLUFFTON	KENSTON	OLON
BOTKINS	MADEIRA	ST. HENRY
BRECKSVILLE-	MARIEMONT	SYCAMORE
BROADVIEW	MASON	*WAYNE LOCAL*
CHAGRIN FALLS	MILLER CITY	WYOMING
CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS		

## PARENTS CAN IMPROVE STUDENTS GRADES AND ACHIEVEMENT

Improving reading comprehension has been a primary focus in Wayne Local Schools in recent years. All teachers have been encouraged to increase the amount of time they read out loud to students, the amount of time students read silently during the school day, and the amount of time students write in school and at home. We have created fun contests to encourage students to read and have promoted the great programs available at the Mary L Cook Library. Most of our students leave kindergarten with basic reading skills. It is not unusual for our students to test one or two grade levels above national norms. Reading comprehension is an essential skill for success in all classes, at college, and at work. The best thing is learning to read, and reading to learn can be a great family activity. The first daily reading activity is reading for pleasure. *We strongly urge students of all ages to spend at least thirty minutes each day independently reading materials that are easy to read and of high interest.* For the second type of daily reading activity *we suggest every parent spend at least thirty minutes reading out loud to their child.* For this activity choose books that are above the child's reading ability to help them learn new vocabulary and hear new concepts and ideas. Reading aloud can be especially powerful when the parent stops to ask the child open ended questions, such as, "What do you think about...?" or "What do you predict...?" Reading at home is a sure way to help your child get better grades and score higher on achievement tests!

## CHILD FIND: A Search for All Children with Disabilities Ages: Birth—21

If you know a child who may have special needs, help is available. Please contact Mrs. Pam Harsacky, Special Education Coordinator at 897-2761.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

The safety of students and staff is a primary concern in Wayne Local Schools. One of the most important areas for safety training is our transportation department. Our bus drivers are led by Mr. Ben Purkey who is in his 23<sup>rd</sup> year. Under his leadership our drivers have maintained a tremendous safety record. For a safe and successful year on the bus, please read and share the following rules and regulations with your student:

- Be at the bus stop **five minutes** before your scheduled morning arrival time.
- Students must wait for the bus at their **assigned point of safety** each morning and remain there until the bus has come to a **complete** stop. Safety points are usually 10 giant steps (approx. 20 ft) into the driveway on the residence side. However, the driver may assign a specific safety point for your child's bus stop. In the afternoon, students must again walk to this safety point and remain until the bus pulls away. This enables the driver to know the location of your child at all times.
- If your child must cross the street to board, please stress to your child how important it is to watch the driver for the proper crossing signal (hand is straight up and is lowered when it is safe to cross) The student needs to be watching the drivers instructions and not be distracted. If the driver blows the horn, the child should immediately check traffic before looking at the driver.
- Students are to ride only their assigned bus to and from school unless there is an emergency. In case of an emergency, a signed request from the parent must be **received and signed by the school office** or transportation office (897-8511) to allow a student to ride a different bus. The bus driver is **not** permitted to accept verbal requests.
- Kindergarten students must have an adult present at the afternoon bus stop.
- Keep toddlers and other children far away from the bus at bus stops. Drivers are trained to count and maintain their student locations but could lose sight of a stray child near the bus.
- If your child has something to take to school, please put it in your child's backpack. This prevents dropped items that can roll under the bus.
- A school bus is not equipped with seat belts; however, a bus is 172 times safer than the family vehicle. The seats in a school bus are situated closer together and have higher, fully padded backs with an energy absorption material which provides a compartmentalization that protects students. Please encourage your student to remain properly seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
- Students will have assigned seats on each bus. This discourages the moving from seat to seat while the bus is in motion and also facilitates the loading and unloading process.
- Arms, legs and heads must remain inside the bus at all times. Pumping an arm to signal honking from an approaching semi truck could result in startling the driver or surrounding cars and causing an accident.
- Do not throw any object from the bus window.
- Obey and respect the bus driver. Physical or verbal abuse of a bus driver will result in immediate suspension of transportation privileges.
- Abusive or profane language is not permitted at any time.
- Striking, pushing or otherwise abusing another pupil on the bus will result in a write up and possible suspension of riding privileges.
- Yelling, stamping feet, kicking walls or any other sudden and loud noises can startle the driver, resulting in an accident. Please encourage your child to be reasonably quiet on the bus.
- Eating or drinking is **NOT** permitted on any school bus under any circumstances. This poses serious choking hazards due to the motion of the school bus. A choking child would not be immediately visible to the driver due to the high seat backs.
- Skateboards, scooters, roller blades, hockey sticks, baseball bats, glass, live animals or other dangerous materials are not permitted aboard the school bus.
- No weapons, firearms, or look-alikes are permitted aboard the bus.
- Drivers are not permitted to brake or swerve for any animal in the road. This prevents accidents that could injure students. Please keep pets away from the buses.

**All of the above rules also apply to extra curricular field trips and sports trips.**

It is extremely important for our drivers to remain focused on their driving and loading and unloading of students at every moment. Added to this task is also the responsibility to maintain reasonable order among students on the bus while driving. If your child should have a problem on the bus, encourage your child to discuss it with the driver while exiting the bus (unless it is an extreme emergency) so that the driver can take necessary steps to prevent future problems. A driver's first priority is road safety. Your help in stressing proper behavior and common courtesy with your student while on the bus is critical to a safe and enjoyable ride. Thanks for your help, and we look forward to a very productive and safe school year.

**Wayne Local Schools**  
**659 Dayton Rd.**  
**Waynesville, OH 45068**

Central Office  
Tom Isaacs, Superintendent  
897-6971 wasu\_ti@swoca.net

High School Office  
Randy Gebhardt, Principal  
897-2776 rgebhardt@wayne-local.com

Elementary School Office  
Jean Hartman, Principal  
897-2761 jhartman@wayne-local.com

Ron James, Treasurer  
897-7031 wabo\_rj@swoca.net

Middle School Office  
Shawn Lenney, Principal  
897-4706 slenney@wayne-local.com

Transportation (school buses)  
Ben Purkey, Supervisor  
897-8511 wats\_bp@swoca.net

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 34  
WAYNESVILLE, OH

**LOCAL POSTAL PATRON**  
**WAYNESVILLE, OH 45068**