



ANTHONY WAYNE SCHOOLS

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District Enrollment and Classroom Space

The 2010-11 school year is off to another wonderful start. The beginning of the year is an especially exciting time for students, parents, and the staff. Our administration, faculty, and staff look forward to working with all community stakeholders to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students in a clean and safe environment. As I have been out talking with parents and community members, I am often asked about the district's current enrollment. I would like to take this opportunity to update our school community about our enrollment, staffing, and some thoughts I have as we move forward.

At the beginning of the school year our district enrollment was 4468 students. This number was down slightly from last year at this time. The lowest enrollment was in Kindergarten (264 students) and our highest enrollment was in 5th and 9th grades (381 students). As a result, the High School (1417) and Fallen Timbers (750) have seen a significant increase in student numbers.

The following information is provided to give you an idea of current enrollment, staffing, and classroom space in each building.

High School (Enrollment = 1417)

At this time last year, the high school enrollment was 1367 students. The high school has four administrators, four counselors, one media center specialist, one nurse, and 74 teachers. Seven of our high school teachers are Penta County Career and Technical center satellite teachers. Six of our high school teachers are shared with the Junior High. Five high school teachers do not have a specific classroom and travel from room to room throughout the day. Currently, there are no open classrooms at the high school.

Junior High (Enrollment = 684)

At this time last year, the junior high enrollment was 726 students. The junior high has two administrators, one full time and one half-time counselor, one nurse, and 44 teachers. One of the teachers at the junior high is a Penta employee as described above. Six teachers from the junior high are shared with the high school. One teacher and one counselor are shared with Fallen Timbers. Currently, there are no open classrooms at the junior high.

Fallen Timbers (Enrollment = 750)

At this time last year, the Fallen Timbers enrollment was 704 students. Fallen Timbers has two administrators, one full time and one half-time counselor, one nurse, two LEAP teachers, and 42 teachers. One teacher and one counselor is shared with the junior high. Due to the high enrollment, over the summer we converted a storage/copy room into a classroom. Currently, there are no open classrooms at Fallen Timbers.

Monclova Primary (Enrollment = 638)

At this time last year, the Monclova Primary enrollment was 710 students. Monclova has one administrator, one dean of students, one counselor, one nurse, and 36 teachers. One Kindergarten teacher is shared with Whitehouse. Currently, there are no open classrooms at Monclova.

Waterville Primary (Enrollment = 451)

At this time last year, the Waterville Primary enrollment was 462 students. Waterville has one administrator, one counselor, one nurse, and 28 teachers. Currently, there are no open classrooms at Waterville.

Whitehouse Primary (Enrollment = 528)

At this time last year, the Whitehouse Primary enrollment was 553 students. Whitehouse has one administrator, one counselor, one nurse, and 32 teachers. One Kindergarten teacher is shared with Monclova. Currently, there are no open classrooms at Whitehouse.

Trend Data on Enrollment

- We registered 34 new first grade students who did not attend our Kindergarten program last year. This year our Kindergarten enrollment is 264 students.

- We will need to monitor the current 4th grade (360), 5th grade (381), 6th grade (369), 7th grade (351), and 9th grade (381) enrollment numbers as they move through each building.
- When the current 4th grade through 7th grade group is in the Junior High and High School, there will be several issues of adequate space to educate students based on the current numbers.
- Based on the current enrollment, next year at the Junior High we will have 720 students. In two years we will have 750 students and in three years we will have 741. These enrollment numbers will result in space issues at the Junior High in a variety of areas.
- The district's average grade size is 350 students. Within each grade we are typically seeing a 3-5% increase every year.

Final Thoughts...

Last spring I spent time analyzing the available space in our district with the building principals and director of operations. As we walked through the buildings the lack of space to educate students was evident. We will need to continue to monitor the enrollment in each grade level to ensure that we will have enough space to educate our students.

In the Spring of 2010, a focus group of community leaders, parents, and district staff discussed the space issue in our district. Participants were asked to answer questions in relationship to our student enrollment and current facilities. Based on data gathered during this meeting, the focus group believed there was a need for a new school facility. However, they did not believe the community would support additional taxes given the current economical climate.

In July of 2009, Governor Strickland signed into law House Bill One. Within this bill there were several mandates placed on school districts. Minimum class sizes in grades K-3 and 4-12 and all-day, every-day kindergarten are two mandates that create additional space issues for our district. House Bill One requires school districts to have an average K-3 teacher to student ratio of 1:19 in the 2011-12 school year, a 1:17 in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years, and 1:15 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter. In grades 4-12, school districts will be required to have an average teacher to student ratio of 1:25. This bill also mandates that school districts implement all-day, every-day kindergarten for the 2010-11 school year. The Ohio Department of Education allowed school districts a one-year waiver of the requirement (for the 2010-11 school year) based on funding and/or space issues. We were granted the waiver based on funding and space issues. In order to meet this requirement, along with the class size requirement in kindergarten, we project that we will have to hire between 15-19 new teachers (this includes kindergarten, art, music, and physical education) and need approximately 15-17 additional classrooms. These two state mandates create significant space and staffing issues for our district. There is some discussion among the state legislature of eliminating the unfunded mandates within House Bill One. The November elections will determine the future of these discussions and potential action.

Research shows that academic performance can be maximized in a comfortable learning atmosphere. Our goal is to provide a safe and secure environment that is conducive to learning. The Anthony Wayne administration will continue to monitor the various elements that effect classroom space in our district.

Dr. Jim Fritz
Superintendent



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