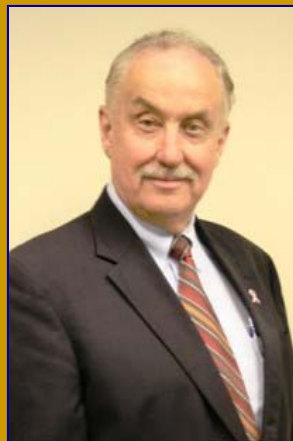




# Midview Messenger

Quarterly News from  
the Midview Local Schools

August 2008



**Howard Dulmage,**  
Superintendent

## Midview Faces a Difficult School Year

It is with great pride and some serious reservations that I begin my fourth year as the Superintendent of our Midview Schools. I am very pleased with the improved academic achievements and advancements in the past three years and we want to continue our march toward excellence. Our schools are a vital part of our community. Teachers and staff work hard each day to see that our children are prepared not only to be part of the workforce, but young people with "character".

Our Board of Education has worked extremely hard to be open, honest and financially responsible. I know that every taxpayer dollar is important and must contribute to the education and character building of our students. We spent less money per child to educate one student than anyone in Lorain County last year. And as fuel and utility costs increase we are constantly seeking new ways to reduce our budget and still maintain our educational system. In the future we will reduce busing, reduce the cleaning staff, not purchase supplies and eventually reduce academic programs for children. We are currently studying a "4 Day School Week" as well as closing our old, inefficient facilities at the Middle School and moving to split sessions in the high school. All of these things and more are on the table as we try to deal with increased costs and reduced funding.

The voters of the community will have an opportunity to keep our district operating reasonably well if they support a 2.5 mil Permanent Improvement Levy that will appear on the ballot. Without the support of the community and additional funding, even greater cuts will have to be made, cuts that will impact every child, every parent and homeowner.

Yes, there are struggles and serious problems that serious people must address. But we must keep in mind that every school day, 3,500 Midview children will appear at the school house door searching for their future. It is our job, yours and mine, to give our students the opportunity for a bright tomorrow. You have my word—we will do our absolute best with the resources the community has given us.

## Midview Board of Education Puts 2.5 mill Levy on November 2008 Ballot

After a recent community survey of voter attitudes, the Midview School Board voted unanimously in July to put a 2.5 mill Permanent Improvement levy on the ballot for the November elections. Passage of this levy will make it possible for Midview to maintain a quality education for all students. The hard work of our teachers and students has been paying off, and our students are accomplishing great things in and out of the classroom. The Midview School District is a vital part of our community that provides an educated workforce and helps our children compete nationally and globally.



Midview has been doing all it can to maintain quality education for our students. However, the current school funding system keeps our district's revenue flat while costs of daily operations and classroom materials continually increase. The district has been fiscally responsible and has cut more than one million dollars over the past two years—Midview has the lowest instructional spending per student in the county.

Even so, these actions have not been able to keep up with the rising costs of operations and materials, and further reductions threaten our classrooms. The Midview Schools are asking voters to approve a 2.5 mill levy that will stave off these difficult cuts and allow us to keep the programs, teachers, and technology our kids need to succeed. The funds would also help us maintain our schools, including the deteriorating middle school, and help us replace aging buses.

Without more funds, the district will need to cut an additional million dollars from the already bare bones budget. The Board has been meeting over the past few weeks to determine what cuts will be made if the levy does not pass in the Fall. Since the district is already spending the least out of any district in the county, these cuts will devastate our schools and impact our community. It's no secret that strong schools help keep property values from dropping, but more importantly, local employers need an educated workforce to succeed.

As we work toward November we will be reaching out to residents to make sure community members understand the needs of our schools and the importance of quality education to our community.



## Getting Ready for the 2008-2009 School Year



Summer is always a busy time in The Midview Schools, as we prepare for the start of a new school year. Our staff is busy at work repairing, maintaining and deep cleaning the school buildings, teachers are already in their rooms preparing for their students, and students are on campus getting a head start on the new year.

At the elementary schools, more than 60 students are enrolled in "Smart Start," a program that helps our students review skills learned the previous year and brush up on homework helpers and test taking techniques. At the middle school, more than 100 students are taking advantage of the "Getting Ready for 7th

Grade" program, which concentrates on study and organization skills, while providing students with the opportunity to become familiar with the building and middle school expectations. And at the high school, the air is filled with the music of band camp, and our sports teams are hard at work, already proving they're ready to give their competitors a tough fight.

Together, we're doing all we can to get this year started off on the right foot. Even as our schools face tough times, we are committed to providing our students with the opportunities they need to succeed. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the first day of school!



## WHERE ARE THE SCHOOL CALENDARS?

Due to severe budget restrictions and reduced advertising in the school calendar, Midview is unable to distribute copies through the Rural-Urban Record, as has been done in the past.

Midview parents may pick up a calendar during their student's orientations or school building open houses, whichever is applicable. Some copies will also be available in all school buildings on a first come, first served basis.

Midview community member copies of the calendar are available at the Midview School Board Office at 1010 Vivian Drive in Grafton.

Please note: As schedules are always subject to change, the most accurate district information can be found at [www.MidviewK12.org](http://www.MidviewK12.org).

### Dates for the Start of School:

- August 14: MMS Orientation  
9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- August 19: Board of Education Meeting  
6:30 at West Elementary
- August 20: MHS Freshman Orientation  
7:00 at Midview High School
- August 21: MHS Parking Meetings  
8:00 and 1:00
- August 22&25: Staff In-services
- August 25: West Open House  
5:00-6:00
- August 25: North Open House  
6:30-7:30
- August 25: MHS Parking Meeting 3:00
- August 26: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- August 27: MHS Open House  
6:00 *\*note new time!*
- September 1: Labor Day NO SCHOOL
- September 3: East Open House  
6:30-7:30
- September 4: MMS Open House  
6:30
- September 6: Midview Athletic Hall of Fame  
DeLuca's Place in the Park 6:30