

Our mission is to maximize learning for all students

MAXEY Messenger



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Important Dates for the Remainder of the Year

Thurs., May 29: Maxey Field Day
(9:10-11:15am: AM Knd, 3rd, 4th, 5th-Bailey, Beechley, Kozak)
(1:15-3:15pm: PM Knd, 1st, 2nd, 5th-Maxwell, Schoening)
Fri., May 30: End of 4th quarter (last day of school), Report Cards go home
HAVE A SAFE AND FUN SUMMER!!!

*** **Backpack Reminder** for last day of school, Friday, May 30 – **Do NOT** bring your backpacks to school on the last day of school, unless you are donating it to the LPS Backpack Program or the collection for the Iraqi Children. If you are going to donate your backpack to one of the charities, drop it in the appropriate box in the front hall immediately when you get to school on Friday. If you do not plan to donate your backpack, **Do NOT** bring it with you to school on Friday!***

Important Dates for 2008/2009 School Year

Monday, August 18: Maxey Open House
Thursday, August 21: 1st Grade Parent Information Night
Monday, August 25: 5th Grade Parent Information Night
Tuesday, August 26: 2nd Grade Parent Information Night
Thursday, August 28: 4th Grade Parent Information Night
Tuesday, September 2: 3rd Grade Parent Information Night
Thursday, September 4: Kindergarten Parent Information Night

Update on 2008-09 Staffing at Maxey Elementary School

Staffing information for Maxey School is coming to you later than usual, due to a few reasons. As you may recall, the state legislature made a decision to reduce anticipated state aid in April causing all Nebraska school districts to adjust their projected 2008-09 school budgets. Lincoln Public Schools did receive a reduction in anticipated state aid, thus causing each LPS school to make reductions in its anticipated staffing. Specifically to Maxey we have reduced a teaching position at 5th grade and were not able to add a teaching position to 3rd grade, as we had anticipated. First grade was reduced from 6 sections to 5 sections, due to lower enrollment in this school year's kindergarten classes.

Our specialist programs will remain the same as this present school year. (Art, music, P/E, technology, and media)

As of today, here is what our 2008-09 staffing looks like as noted below:

Kindergarten: 6 sections
First Grade: 5 sections
Second Grade: 6 sections
Third Grade: 5 sections
Fourth Grade: 5 sections
Fifth Grade: 4 sections

We do have some staff leaving us at the end of this school year. They are as follows:

1. Jason Glines, Maxey 4th grade teacher, is transferring to the new Adams Elementary School to teach physical education. Jake has been with us for 10.5 years. Returning to physical education has been his desire for the past several years. Mr. Glines has served our students very well in his tenure here and has made a difference in student learning. We will miss him.
2. Diane Gilfillan, Maxey Media Specialist, is moving with her husband back to Colorado. Diane has been with us since we opened Maxey School in 1995. She will be a media specialist in Pueblo, Colorado in a school that is implementing an elementary International Baccalaureate Program. Mrs. Gilfillan has developed the Maxey Media Program as the "instructional hub" of our school.
3. Amy Kozak, Maxey 5th grade teacher, is transferring to Culler Middle School as a 6th grade teacher. Amy has been with us for 7 years, serving as a technology and 5th grade teacher. Her desire to return to a school with a diverse cultural student body has been calling to her for the past few years. She also has made a real difference for students over the past 7 years at Maxey School.
4. Suzanne Reimers, Assistant Principal, has been promoted to Principal at Beattie Elementary School. Suzanne has been at Maxey School, since its inception in 1995. She has served as a third, fourth, and sixth grade teacher at Maxey School in addition to her administrative duties. Suzanne has served as an excellent role model for our students and their families. Her talents will serve the students and parents at Beattie Elementary well.
5. Susan Holton, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher is retiring after 25 years of service to LPS. Susan also helped open Maxey Elementary School in 1995 and has served in her present position for the past 13 years. We all wish her a relaxing retirement.
6. Mary Helen Peters, Media Paraeducator, is retiring, also. Mary Helen has worked at Maxey for 10 years in her present position. Prior coming to Maxey School, she worked at Prescott Elementary School. She and Diane Gilfillan made a wonderful team for the media center. Mary Helen will be greatly missed too.
7. Lori Eddmeiri, Maxey Paraeducator, is transferring to Lux Middle School as a para. We have appreciated Lori's work ethic and her wonderful skills working with our special needs children.
8. LuAnn Montgomery, School Social Worker, will be moving with her husband to Kansas City. LuAnn has been social worker at Maxey since we opened 13 years ago. We have appreciated all the work she has done with our children.

The above changes in staff, due to retirements, transfers, and relocations, along with the reductions in anticipated staffing mentioned above, have created changes in grade level/program assignments for the next school year. They are as follows

1. Shari Bitney from 1st grade to 3rd grade
2. Jim Glenn-Hash from 1st grade to 2nd grade
3. Sibyl Gruhl from 2nd grade to all day kindergarten
4. Dwight Thiemann from 3rd grade to 4th grade as team leader
5. Carole Glenn from 3rd grade to 4th grade
6. Krissy Lassek from 4th grade to 3rd grade
7. Katie Wobig from 4th grade to 1st grade
8. Alisa Meyer from .5-fte special education resource teacher to full time new "Excite" program.

The retirements, transfers, relocations, and implementing all day kindergarten have also created the need to hire staff. We have hired the following staff as of today:

Diane Ziemer-- all day kindergarten. Diane is an experienced kindergarten teacher from Norwood Park Elementary. She has been teaching all day kindergarten for several years and will be a real asset to our kindergarten staff.

As of today, here is our 2008-09 "Line Up" of Certified Staff

Excite Pre-School Program: Alisa Meyer

All Day Kindergarten: Judy Sorensen, Team Leader
 Linda Freye
 Dawn Cade
 Sibyl Gruhl
 Diane Ziemer
 _____ (Vacant)

First Grade: Kim Uhing, Team Leader
 Joan Daharsh
 Erin Campbell
 Mindy Pinkelman
 Katie Wobig

Second Grade: Chris Dinneen, Team Leader
 Holly Southwick
 Bobbi Heibel
 Jim Glenn-Hash
 Barb Gray
 Sherri Key

Third Grade Carmen Zalman, Team Leader
 Ann Hagaman
 Pam Siefert
 Shari Bitney
 Krissy Lassek

Fourth Grade Dwight Thiemann, Team Leader
 Kim Meyers
 Carole Glenn
 Nancy Dondlinger
 _____, (Vacant)

Fifth Grade Sean Bailey, Team Leader
 Kris Oakland-Maxwell
 Ruth Beechley
 Suzan Schoening

Specialists Beth Lenzen, Art
 Sylvia Bailey, General Music
 Stephanie Benischek, .75 General Music
 Nathan Armogost, Physical Education
 Devin Kosmicki, Physical Education
 Greg Tebo, Technology
 _____, Media (Vacant)

Reading Recovery, 1st Grade: Becky Balfany and Joni Calkins

Gifted Facilitator Tracey Peterson, .75

Special Education Jenni Absalon, Resource
 Angie Maranville, Resource
 *Speech and Language Therapists have not yet been
 Assigned by LPS

School Psychologist Terri Nelson (2.5 days)
School Social Worker Unassigned by LPS (1 day)

Administration Patrick Decker, Principal
 _____, Assistant Principal (Vacant)

Our anticipated special education staffing allocation was determined to be lower than requested. In addition to being reduced a .5 special education resource teacher, our paraeducator staffing points also were allocated to Maxey School less than requested. I have made an appeal to receive additional special education staffing. Our request will be acted upon in July. Therefore, it is not possible to inform you about special education staffing, including all para positions for 2008-09 at this time.

The Backpack Off Your Back?

More Backpacks Needed...it is so wonderful that we have two ways to help children in need with our backpacks!

We're excited about the money raised during the BackPack Extra Mile Walk. This money went directly to the Food Bank of Lincoln to provide food for kids on the weekend. The kids take the food home in **Backpacks**. We can help by giving our backpack so they can be filled with food next year. Check the storage room. Give *your* gently used one. Bring in the backpacks, new or used, anytime during the last week of school. There will be large boxes set up in the front hallway. Thanks for going that Extra Mile!

Lunch Account Balances

Snap balances will automatically carry over from this year to next, even for students changing schools within Lincoln Public Schools. Students leaving the district can obtain a refund for any amount. Students must request their refund at their school by May 29th. Students who do not request their refund at the schools by May 29th can receive their refunds at the District Office Accounting Department starting June 9th.

School Supplies for Iraqi Children

Trenton Otto is a Bellevue West graduate and a cousin of Julie Sorenson (parent of Tyler, 1st grade). He is currently stationed in Iraq and during his downtime he volunteers at the local elementary school. Trenton has asked family & friends for contributions that will be given to Iraqi school children. His unit noticed the children have very little school supplies and not one child has a backpack, but the children are very determined to attend class & learn. With this in mind, we are asking for donations of any gently used backpacks and/or school supplies to send over to Trenton's unit in Iraq. The children will benefit greatly from your generosity. During the last week of school there will be a box where you can place your backpack and/or other items for donation if you wish to help. If there are any questions, please contact Julie Sorenson at 438-4694 or jsorenson2@neb.rr.com. Thank you very kindly.

Lost and Found

The lost and found area is overflowing once again! Please come and check it out to look for anything that your child may be missing. The lost and found items will be collected again on the last day of school and donated to Hartley Elementary.