

As I enter my seventh year as superintendent of Logan Elm Schools, I have been reflecting on how lucky I am to serve and to be part of this wonderful community. Our students and staff are committed to seeking continual improvement in all they do – and that shows, as we watch our students grow every single day. I wanted to take this chance to update you on some of the great things going on at Logan Elm.

Logan Elm Schools currently serve a little over 1,700 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 (note: these numbers can change on a daily basis, with students leaving and coming to the district). Right now, we have 608 students enrolled in our three elementary schools (grades K-4 – 207 at Laurelville, 181 at Pickaway, 220 at Washington); 277 at Salt Creek Intermediate School (grades 5-6); 265 at McDowell Exchange Middle School (grades 7-8); and 571 students in grades 9-12 at Logan Elm High School.

These students and their teachers work hard at each level, and their efforts are apparent: we are thrilled that Logan Elm Schools earned a “B” on this year’s state report card, putting us in the top 1/3 of all Ohio districts ranked! While the report card is only a snapshot of what a school district provides overall, it is a good indication that we are headed in the right direction.

Through problem-based learning – such as elementary students discovering the secrets of recycling directly from local experts, and high school students actually building a pole barn – plus other engaging approaches, we focus on preparing our students not only for tomorrow and next month, but for the day they graduate from Logan Elm and take their next steps to pursue college or a career.

We are also proud of Logan Elm’s accomplishments from an operations standpoint. The board and administration work diligently to keep expenses as low as possible. We have reduced staff positions through attrition, which has allowed us to control salaries and benefits. Staffing is lean, with many people wearing multiple “hats.”

This column is part of an ongoing commitment to ensure we are getting information out to our community on a regular basis. This past August, Mrs. Marsha Waidelich took on a third “hat” when she accepted the title of Director of Communications. Mrs. Waidelich has already enhanced communications with our community: be sure to check out our new website and sign up for our brand-new e-newsletter! You may also follow the district on Twitter (@loganelmschools) and Facebook (facebook.com/loganelmschools) – and of course, our individual schools are on Twitter as well. Treasurer Trey Fausnaugh and I will be writing columns regularly for our local papers, and you will also be receiving information through the mail from the district. And if you ever have questions, feel free to contact Trey Fausnaugh (treasurer) or myself directly: trey.fausnaugh@loganelm.org and tim.williams@loganelm.org.

Of course, the big question on everyone’s minds right now is the bond levy on the ballot November 6. We have worked with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to

identify the plan that is most appropriate and cost-effective for a district our size. The PK-12 building will be placed on the current Middle School/High School campus, and it will provide state-of-the-art, safe, and comfortable facilities for all our students. We have an extensive list of FAQs on the website if you'd like to learn more: www.loganelm.org/bondissueFAQs.

Keep an eye out for more information on the bond issue and throughout the year as we share our students' and district's successes.

Sincerely,
Tim Williams
Superintendent