

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Dr. Lonny J. Rivera, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

May 3, 2016

Kevin O'Connell, Principal  
Maplewood Elementary School  
1699 Kinsman Rd  
North Bloomfield, OH 44450

Dear Principal O'Connell:

I am pleased to tell you that Maplewood Elementary School has distinguished itself as a school where success is possible for every student. The Ohio Department of Education has named your school both a School of Promise and a High Performing School of Honor based on your 2015 Ohio School Report Card.

Both of these programs look at proficiency in reading and math for all student subgroups in a school: economically disadvantaged students, students of every race and ethnic group, students who are limited English proficient and students with disabilities. The Schools of Promise initiative considers the most recent year's reading and math performance, while the Schools of Honor program considers the five most recent years of reading and math performance. For more on selection criteria, visit [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov).

We all know that student poverty is strongly linked to low student achievement and that schools with a high number of economically disadvantaged pupils have special challenges. Yet, Maplewood Elementary School is closing the achievement gaps among *all* students.

This kind of achievement takes a strong school leader and committed teachers, students and families. Thank you for your skilled leadership. Also, please pass along my thanks to others who contributed to your school's success. Together, you are building a wonderful legacy for your community.

I urge you to share the lessons you've learned with other Ohio schools. By learning from each other, all of our schools can better prepare Ohio's students—from every background—for college, other postsecondary training, jobs and life.

In the coming weeks, you will receive both School of Promise and High Performing School of Honor banners to display in your school building. If you have questions about the banners or the awards, please contact Sherry Panizo in our Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement at (614) 387-0546 or [sherry.panizo@education.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.panizo@education.ohio.gov).

Sincerely,



Dr. Lonny J. Rivera  
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

