



**Department  
of Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Dr. Richard A. Ross, Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 16, 2013

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

Dear Principal O'Connell:

Maplewood Elementary School is proving every day that failure is not an option for *any* student. Because of that, I am pleased to recognize you, your students, teachers, administrators and families for being named a 2013 School of Promise.

The Ohio Department of Education recognizes your success in closing the math or reading achievement gaps for the students in your school. As a former district superintendent, principal and teacher, I know how difficult your job is. I'm proud of your hard work and commitment to overcoming the obstacles that you and your students face each and every day. You are providing the boys and girls in your school with the skills they need to be successful.

As one of an elite group of 141 Schools of Promise in Ohio, you have set a strong example of what we can achieve when educators, parents and community members come together to help all students succeed. I thank you for your leadership and ask you to also pass on my thanks to others who made your success possible.

In the coming weeks, you will receive an official School of Promise banner to display in your school building. If you have questions about the banner or the award, please contact Sherry Panizo in the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Policy and Research at (614) 387-0546 or [sherry.panizo@education.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.panizo@education.ohio.gov).

Congratulations once again on this achievement. Schools like yours are blazing the way for our education system to ensure that every child, in every school, in every community in Ohio is getting the best education possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "R" and "A".

Dr. Richard A. Ross  
Superintendent of Public Instruction