

# WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA



**Sandra Boone,**  
Southwood school nurse.

*"Before I became an MSD staff member, our three sons graduated from Southwood. Each of them had a really good experience, but of distinctly different types. We were especially pleased with the support we received from teachers and administration with our middle son, who has a variety of special needs. Now all three are MSD educators. I believe in MSD."*



## *An Excellent Place to Call Home*

If you're looking for a place to live that offers a balanced, exceptional quality of life and lots of attractive choices, consider Wabash County. Located in a picturesque rural setting on the edge of Northeast Indiana, Wabash County is out of the fast lane, yet easily accessible to it. Whether you prefer a small city, suburbs, small town, or the country, you can find something to meet your tastes in the area.

So many things come together here—a rich history, strong families, strong faith and values, abundant cultural and recreational opportunities, modest cost of living, and much more. Higher educational opportunities abound, with two colleges in the county and a host of colleges and universities within an hour. And the attractions of the big cities—Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, South Bend, Chicago—are within easy driving distance, when the need or desire beckons.



*...providing a great education is a partnership venture. To do so we need the help, input, involvement, and support of parents.*



If you're looking for "something more" out of life, you may very well find it in Wabash County.

## *From Excellent Communities, Come Excellent Schools*

Over the years, the people of Metropolitan School District (MSD) of Wabash County have made it clear they want excellence in their schools. Yet they have made it equally clear that their concept of excellence includes not only academics, but also the overall educational experience.

Without sacrificing academic quality, the people of MSD have not bought into the concept that "bigger is better." When it comes to their students, MSD patrons believe that a young person consists of more than just his or her classroom experience—that the concept of the neighborhood school still has value—that kids should not fall through the cracks—and that a young person has the best opportunity to develop as a future adult in a smaller setting.

MSD believes that when you combine excellent academics with an excellent overall experience, you have an excellent school system.

## FOR YOUR SPECIALIZED NEEDS, BIG OR SMALL

### *Heartland Career Center*

MSD is one of five member school corporations of the Heartland Career Center, located in central Wabash County. MSD students with a career or personal interest in a vocational area may apply for admission to a wide variety of vocational education programs at the center.

Most programs can be taken for either one or two years. Students attend either morning or afternoon classes for three hours, while continuing their studies and extracurricular activities at either Northfield or Southwood High Schools. Upon graduation students may enter the work force or pursue further training or education. Students in many areas can earn Technical Proficiency Certificates from the State of Indiana. In some cases, students may earn dual credits from both Heartland and Ivy Tech State College. Other



**Travis Schuler,**  
work-college scholarship recipient, Caterpillar Corporation.

*"Ever since I was six years old I knew that I wanted to be a heavy equipment diesel mechanic. Northfield really worked with me to develop the specialized program I needed in gasoline-diesel technology, including an internship working on heavy equipment my senior year. Heartland was a great opportunity for me and a lot of other kids. It opens up so many opportunities to get a 'real world' education."*



opportunities include internships for some programs, and a number of co-curricular vocational student organizations.

### *Wabash-Miami Area Program for Exceptional Children*

MSD students with special physical, mental or emotional challenges may receive a continuum of services from the Wabash-Miami Area Program for Exceptional Children. MSD participates in this special education cooperative, along with three other area school corporations.

An individual education plan (IEP) is developed for each student who is eligible for services. Students are thoroughly evaluated according to their specific need by a multidisciplinary team. Parents also actively participate in the planning of their child's educational program. Once the plan is developed, students then receive services tailored to their specific situation.

### *Gifted and Talented Programs*

For academically and intellectually gifted students, MSD offers a wide array of specialized programming to meet their specific needs. Students in grades K-3 participate in PEP (Primary Enrichment Program). In grades 4-6, Quest



challenges highly able students from throughout the district with a curriculum stressing problem solving, creativity, and critical thinking skills. In high school, MSD offers enriched/accelerated classes for both English and mathematics, as well as Advanced Placement and dual credit opportunities. Both Southwood and Northfield high schools offer numerous opportunities for academic competitions.

Students talented in art and music have a variety of options, including the Visual and Performing Arts Cooperative, and Summer Youth Theater.



## LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### *Smaller Schools = Bigger Opportunities*

A quick quiz: What are the odds of being the starting quarterback on the varsity football team? Or of playing second-chair clarinet in the band? Or of being the junior class treasurer? Or of being a homecoming king or queen attendant? Or the best humorous speaker on the speech team? Or playing Aunt Polly in a production of Tom Sawyer?

Whatever the odds, MSD believes they're much better in a smaller school.

While we have an unwavering commitment to quality academics, we feel the overall school experience includes a lot more. The school years, from kindergarten through graduation, are essential to the development of a well-rounded adult. Often those characteristics that society values so highly—character, hard work, perseverance, leadership,



teamwork, emotional intelligence, courage, and more—are forged not only in the classroom, but also in the choir room, the gym, the track, and the stage; before the first bell, and after the last.

At MSD we don't ever want any of our students to feel like "just a number." That's why we've chosen to maintain some of the things we feel have worked well for us for a long time—like our size (or rather the lack of it).

We strive to provide ample extracurricular opportunities for all of our students, whether in elementary, junior, or senior high, to find their niche, to feel important, to develop skills, to grow as a person.



**Kimberly Treska,**  
owner of "Portraits by Kimberly."

*"I enjoyed Northfield very much. As a cheerleader I worked very hard and learned to be focused, disciplined, and to be the best I could be. In Art Club, I learned principles I now use daily as a professional photographer. I also liked the small classes, with teachers who really knew us. My family lives in the Northfield area, and I want my children to have similar experiences, and know they'll be safe."*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Southwood Knight and Northfield Norsemen athletic teams have won state championships or been runners up in football, baseball and volleyball
- Knight and Norse athletic teams frequently win championships in the rugged Three Rivers Conference
- Speech teams from the two high schools have achieved state and national prominence
- Many Northfield vocalists have been selected for the all-state honors choir
- Southwood FEA teams and individuals have achieved state, regional, and national recognition in judging competition and leadership



## We're Big on Academics

So what makes for a great education? Preparing students to become doctors? Secretaries? Or maybe farmers, beauticians, construction workers, teachers, nurses, and truck drivers? What about learning to be a good citizen? Or providing services for those students who need a little extra help to "get over the hump?"

At MSD, the answer is a resounding "Yes!" Because we have students of just about every shape, size, and description—and we believe they're all important. We also believe they all deserve the very best education we can provide, whatever their particular need or goals in life.

It all begins with a challenging, diversified curriculum\* with plenty of options to match students' ability levels, career goals, and interests. Emphasis on the basic subjects of reading, writing, and mathematics is complemented by specific courses selected to further students' unique programs. In high school, students are encouraged to pursue Core 40 programs, and at all grade levels computer technology is incorporated into the total range of subjects to the maximum extent possible.

Our teachers overall are an experienced group, with over 80% having master's degrees or higher. In addition, all participate in rigorous, on-going professional development activities. Administrators, guidance counselors, health services staff, and other professionals support teachers' efforts in the classroom.

MSD strives to provide facilities that are clean, attractive, well maintained, and safe. Each school building features an up-to-date media center which is well stocked with books and advanced multi-media technology.

Last, and possibly most important, is an understanding that providing a great education is a partnership venture. To do so we need the help, input, involvement, and support of parents, citizens and community leaders. That's why we're committed to a policy of open and regular communication. Got an idea about how to make a great education even better? Knock. The door's always open.

\*MSD's comprehensive curriculum features Reading Recovery, Early Prevention of School Failure, Counseling/Remediation, Title I, comprehensive science program, gifted/talented program, Advanced Placement courses, distance learning via IHETS, Tech Prep, Cooperative Fine Arts Program, and an expansive summer school curriculum.

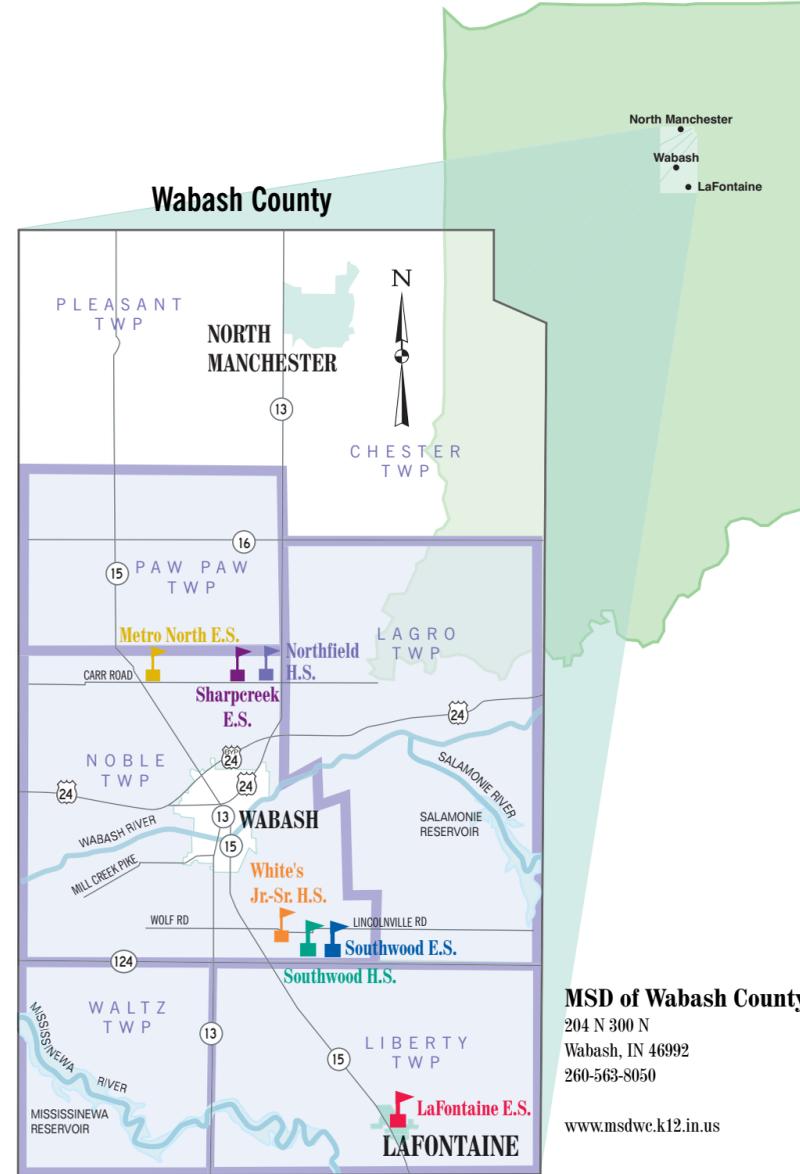


**Jason Knight,**  
M.D. & Ph.D. candidate,  
University of Michigan  
Medical School.

*"As a Southwood Elementary student, I really enjoyed the Quest program. It provided diverse opportunities and I made friends with kids with similar interests and goals from other schools. In high school, the Science Olympiad and other academic competitions showed me that I could hold my own with students from larger schools, which was a real confidence builder. I also had some great teachers, and feel I benefited from the individual attention I received. Being in a smaller school also allowed me to participate in athletics, which I might not have been able to do in a larger school—you can learn some things in athletics you just can't learn in the classroom. I feel I had an excellent, well-rounded experience."*

## ACADEMIC FAST FACTS

- MSD ISTEP+ test scores exceed state averages
- MSD schools have received numerous school improvement awards
- MSD elementary schools have received Four Star recognition
- MSD schools are rated a "Best Buy" by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- MSD students compete very successfully in academic competitions
- MSD students have been named Academic All-Americans, Indiana Academic All-Stars, and National Merit Scholars
- MSD uses NWEA MAP assessment to continually monitor and improve teaching and learning



**MSD of Wabash County**  
204 N 300 N  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-8050

[www.msdbc.k12.in.us](http://www.msdbc.k12.in.us)



**Mission Statement** MSD of Wabash County, a partnership of students, educators, parents and community, is committed to providing a positive educational environment characterized by high expectations for success. Students will be taught to be active life-long learners, functioning cooperatively and independently in a changing world.

**LaFontaine Elementary**  
207 N Wabash Avenue  
LaFontaine, IN 46940  
765-981-2291

**Metro North Elementary**  
3844 W 200 N  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-8050

**Sharp Creek Elementary**  
264 W 200 N  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-774-8050

**Southwood Elementary**  
840 E SR 124  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-8050

**Southwood Jr.-Sr. High School**  
564 E SR 124  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-8050

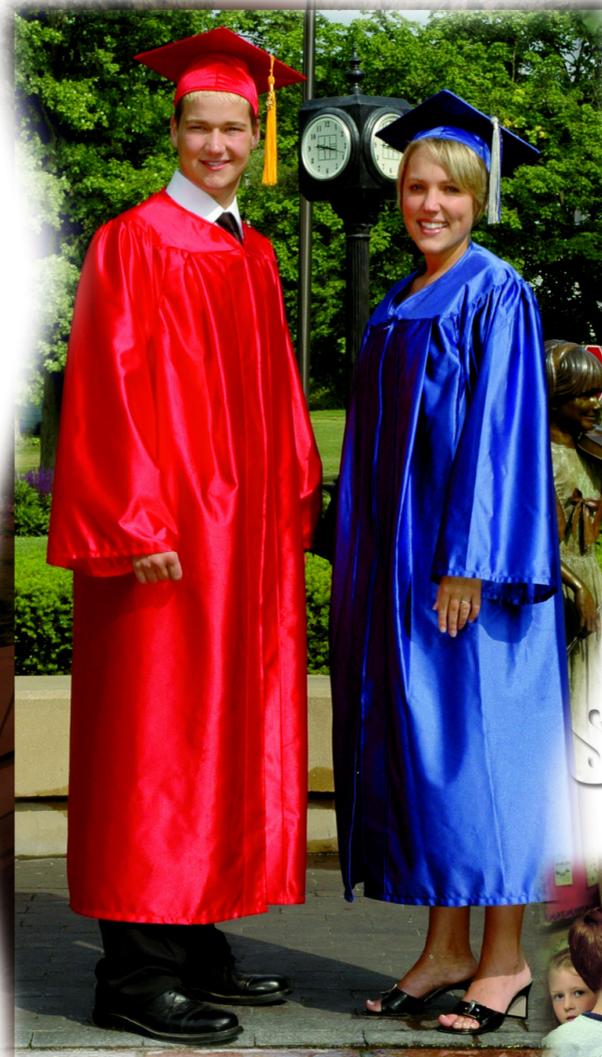
**Northfield Jr.-Sr. High School**  
154 W 200 N  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-8050

**White's Jr.-Sr. High School**  
5233 S 50 E  
Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-1158



# MSD

*Metropolitan School District of Wabash County*



# BIG

Enough To Give You A Great Education

# SMALL

Enough To Give You A Great Experience

