Staff and families toured Max during "Family Night," part of CO Week 2009. They are seen here in the dining room.

Mission Statement

The mission of Maximum Security is to provide custody, control and security during the process of confining those persons sentenced under the provisions of a duly appointed court of law. During confinement: (1) to provide correctional treatment, training, care, and supervision commensurate with custody grade and category necessary to return each inmate to society as an effective member of that society and as a useful citizen with improved attitude and motivation; (2) It is the responsibility of each inmate to seek out and take advantage of those programs offered within Maximum Security.

Available Programs

Educational/Vocational Programs: Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED), English As A Second Language (ESL), remedial reading, art classes, CCRI Visual Arts and Computer Literacy, *Changing Lives Through Literature*, and barber licensing.

Many inmates take advantage of educational opportunities in the facility.

Rehabilitative Programs: Anger Management, Cognitive Self Change, Domestic Violence Group 1 & 2, Parenting Class, Sex Offender Treatment Program, Life Skills, and many more. Numerous religious services and programs are offered to inmates throughout the year.

Maximum Security

James Weeden, *Warden*

Matthew Kettle, *Deputy Warden*

Opened: 1878
Average Facility Population: 442 (FY '09)
Operational Capacity (FY '09): 409
Annual Cost Per Offender (FY '09): $52,179

A postcard of Old Max

The Maximum Security facility is the state's oldest operational prison. It opened in 1878 and inmates were marched from Providence to Cranston in shackles. It is modeled on the Auburn style of construction, consolidating all inmate cells into one main building. Maximum Security once served as the state's prison for both awaiting trial and sentenced inmates. As the sentenced population grew and the needs of the prison system changed, other facilities were added.

Maximum was originally designed to house 252 inmates. Due to a growth in population, an addition was built in 1924 consisting of two cell blocks and 198 cells which became known as "Steel City."

Prudence 2, one of the Maximum cell blocks, all of which are named after islands in R.I.

Surrounded by a wall with observation towers and a double chain-link security fence equipped with an electronic intrusion detection system to prevent and detect escape attempts, the facility is divided into six housing areas, one segregation unit, kitchen/dining area, recreation yard, education/gym building, and an industrial area.

Aquidneck 2, another cell block. Max inmates live in single cells.

The inmate population at Max is comprised of prisoners serving long sentences for a variety of offenses along with those serving shorter sentences who have been transferred from other facilities for serious discipline and/or behavioral problems.

The yard at Max.

The staff at Maximum is well aware of the RIDOC's philosophy which encourages inmates to have regular social visits with relatives and friends to maintain close family ties and other positive relationships. The facility offers two different daily visiting periods, one from 1:30-3:45 p.m. and one from 6-8:40 p.m. Most inmates are eligible for five visiting periods per week.

A view of Tower I at Maximum

Maximum Security employs over 230 inmates, approximately 59% of its total population. Inmates perform a variety of functions to help maintain the institution. Approximately 190 inmates work in areas such as the kitchen, laundry, barber shop, library, and as porters within the housing modules and recreation areas. Industries consists of a print shop, carpenter shop, and laundry.

An aerial view of Maximum Security