

High jump champion Ranly soars at State



PHOTO BY: JESSE RANLY

Senior Ava Ranly stands atop the podium at the Spire Institute after winning the Indoor State Championship in high jump.

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

GENEVA – Success is wanted by any athlete, especially for those on March 7. The Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches (OATCCC) 2025 Indoor State Championship Meet was held at the Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

Nine track athletes represented Marion Local at the State meet, including senior Ava Ranly, who competed in high jump. Ranly jumped an incredible 5'2" and became State Champion in high jump.

When asked about her win, Ranly said, "Finishing off the indoor season as a State Champion was an amazing feeling! I'm really proud of how well I did in indoor. I'm so ready to grind out the outdoor season."

The stellar athletes who joined Ranly to represent Marion Local at the State Championship meet were seniors Victor Hoelscher, Justin Knouff, and Derek Otte; juniors Owen Kemper, Wade Kremer, Grace Moeller, and Cale Nagel; and sophomore Max Ranly.

Knouff and Hoelscher both ran the 60m dash. Knouff, Hoelscher, Nagel, and Kemper ran the 4x200m relay. Max Ranly ran the boys' 60m hurdles and also, like his older sister, competed in high jump. Otte and Kremer both did pole vault, and Moeller ran the girls' 60m hurdles.

Congratulations to Ranly for her win and to all the Flyer athletes who competed at State.

Basketball Division VI Runner-Up



PHOTO BY: ELLA SCOTT

The 2025 boys' basketball team with senior Austin Niekamp holding the Division VI State Runner-Up trophy after their matchup in the State Championship with Monroe Central on March 22.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

DAYTON – For the first time since 2018, the Marion Local Flyers returned to the State Finals in boys' basketball. The Flyers faced off against the Monroe Central Seminoles, and the final score of the matchup was 43-35. The Flyers finished State Runner-Up for the second time in school history (2004) to add to our State Titles in 1975, 2003, and 2018.

Right out the gate, the Seminoles went on a 7-0 run, but the Flyers were able to hold on without the lead getting too out of hand. Heading into halftime, the score was 17-23 with Monroe in the lead.

The game remained close into the fourth quarter, when senior Ryan Homan was able to draw out Monroe's fifth foul with 5:55 left in the game. At 3:00, the Flyers received their fifth foul of the fourth quarter, giving both teams BONUS in the final minutes of the State Final.

The Seminoles pulled away with free throws, making over 80 percent of their free throws throughout the game.



PHOTO BY: ELLA SCOTT

Senior Austin Niekamp tipping off during the State Final matchup against the Monroe Central Seminoles on March 22.

Bruns commits to Bluffton



PHOTO BY: MR. KOENIG

Marion Local senior Josie Bruns is supported by her parents and coaches as she signs to Bluffton University to continue her running career.

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – On March 25, senior Josie Bruns signed to run track next year as a college athlete at Bluffton University.

Bruns is a distance runner who specializes in the 800 meter run. She also runs the mile, 4x400 meter relay, 4x800 meter relay, and occasionally runs the two mile. Bruns has been a crucial aspect to the Flyer track team throughout her high school career.

Bruns said, "Thanks to my coaches and teammates. Here's to a new beginning at college!"

Guggenbiller gains gold at State



PHOTO: MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Marion Local junior Avery Guggenbiller (top center) and Coach Rachel Craft with the Mercer County Sparks Cheer Team, the 2025 Ohio Special Olympics Indoor Cheer Champions.

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

COLUMBUS – Marion Local junior Avery Guggenbiller and the Mercer County Special Olympics Sparks Cheer Team won State on March 7. The girls competed at The Ohio State University at 2:00 p.m., winning the Ohio Special Olympics Indoor Cheer Championships in the historic 50th year of the competition.

Guggenbiller, excited about the win, stated, "I was surprised that we won! There were 16 teams there. Other teams said to me I keep a smile, and they said they were proud of me."

Hope Week ‘plants’ hope in Flyers



PHOTO BY: ALEA POHLMAN
Students high-five English teacher Mrs. Howell during the Hope Walk on Friday, March 28.

By: Chloe Bergman
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN – The Marion Local Hope Squad sponsored Hope Week on March 24-28. This week sparked hope in our school and raised awareness for suicide prevention. A lot of exciting activities took place, and Flyer participation helped spread hope around the high school.

Throughout Hope Week, there were different dress-up themes each day. Monday’s theme was PJ’s, Tuesday’s was Christmas, Wednesday’s was

Black Out, Thursday’s was Hawaiian, and Friday’s was Hope Week T-shirts. Thank you to all the Flyers who showed their support of Hope Squad by having fun with their outfits!

Hope Squad brought guest speaker Shannon Denniston (Mama D.), partner Jaime LeVeck, and others from the “Women Warriors Ministry” team to Marion Local on Monday, March 24. Denniston started Women Warriors Ministry to spread awareness and educate people about mental health subjects. Hopefully, our Flyers enjoyed their presentation and became more educated about mental health topics.

Hope Squad sponsored a lot of exciting activities in addition to the guest speaker and daily dress-up themes. Hope Squad offered an opportunity for Flyers to decorate their own pots during flex on Tuesday. The students were then able to plant a plant in their pot on Thursday. This was a huge success, as many Flyers went home with beautiful potted plants.

Junior Oliver Huelsman described what he did with his plant: “My mom was having a rough day, so I made her day a lot better and decided to gift her my beautiful palm plant.”

In addition, Hope Squad served free breakfast



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN
Sophomores Evelyn Bills, Mya Eckstein, Gina Bruns, and Junior Grace Moeller paint their flower pots on Tuesday, March 25.

sandwiches on Wednesday morning alongside Morning Mugs to spread a little joy. Hope Squad also sponsored a Hope Walk outside around the school on Friday, March 28, and everyone was invited to participate. Nearly all participants wore their Hope Week shirts to show support.

Thank you to everyone who participated in all of Hope Week’s exciting activities!

El Club Español disfruta de la cultura española



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT
Hispanic flamenco ballet dancers show off their moves for Marion Local’s Spanish Club.

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

SIDNEY – The Marion Local Spanish Club had many fun activities in March. Several club members traveled to Sidney High School to see a high-energy Spanish dance. Afterward, the members ate at a Mexican restaurant and enjoyed some Crumbl “galletas.”

50 club members boarded a bus on Friday, March 21, and made their way to Sidney High School. The club members enjoyed the Latin Iberian Show, which highlighted the rich melodies of Mexico as dancers presented “Son de la Negra” and the haunting beauty of “La Llorona.” The students also experienced the traditional grace of “Escuela Bolera” and the passionate “Clasico Español.” The music and dancing showcased the art of Spanish dance.

Club advisor and Spanish teacher Mr. Salazar spoke about how much he enjoyed the dance: “Last year was the first year we went on a Spanish Club field trip. We got to watch a flamenco dance

last year, which is a big deal in Spain. I was impressed with the music and style of dance that they performed. The students also enjoyed the high-energy music and dancing. The dancers are very interactive with the students and get the crowd involved.

“This year, we watched a more traditional style of music and dance that is performed around Mexico and Spain. I was excited to go and watch what they did with ‘La Llorona.’ My Spanish 3 class has a lot of cultural aspects that we study, including reading a novel about La Llorona, so that was recognized by my students. We learned a lot about the historical culture of Mexico and Spain through the dances we watched.

“My favorite part is that they get the students all involved. There is a lucky student from every group who gets to go on stage and demonstrate the dances. Last year was very high energy and motivating. I like that our students can be invigorated by Spanish culture outside of the classroom.”

St. Baldrick’s inspires Flyers to fight cancer

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

CHICKASAW – Your presence matters! The St. Baldrick’s Foundation was created to research childhood cancer. There are many fundraisers put on all over the country through St. Baldrick’s. The Chickasaw Fire Department puts on one of these fundraisers every year. This year, the St. Baldrick’s fundraiser was held at the fire station on Friday, March 14.

Many people from our community and school shave their heads in support. Junior Derek Grieshop shaves his head at this fundraiser every year. When asked why he does so, he said, “I used to think it was weird, but now it is one of the things that I’m passionate about. A lot or a little can go a long way, hair or money. To me, it shows that you understand what people are going through and that you are there for them.”



PHOTO BY: TARA GRIESHOP
Community members shaved their heads at Chickasaw Fire Department for St. Baldrick’s on Friday, March 14.

There were a dozen or more members from our community and school who shaved their heads for the annual fundraiser this year.

This fundraiser supports multiple children in our community, one being Norah Koesters. Koesters is in eighth grade at Marion Local, and she is currently involved in the high school play *All Shook Up*. Koesters had retinoblastoma as a child, and she is now cancer-free.

Grieshop is so right: what better way to show your support than shaving your head or just simply showing up to the fundraiser and donating?

Do not worry, St. Baldrick’s is held at the Chickasaw Fire Department every year. If you could not make it this year, you definitely can come next year.

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation aims to find cures for children with cancer. Our community’s support helps so much.



Flyer basketball storms back to State after 7 years

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

DAYTON – After seven years, the Flyers boys’ basketball team returned to State and faced off against the Monroe Central Seminoles at the University of Dayton Arena on March 22 for the Flyers’ fifth State appearance in school history. Monroe pulled away to start the game, but the Flyers held on through halftime. Near the end of the fourth quarter, both teams had BONUS, and free throws were ultimately the finishing blow, putting the Seminoles at 43 with the Flyers at 35 to end the game. The Flyers became the 2025 Division VI Boys’ Basketball State Runner-Up.

On March 14, the Flyers played Colonel Crawford in the State Semi-Finals at the Stroh Center in Bowling Green. The Flyers started and ended the game hot with Brayden Mescher having a double-double with points and rebounds. Austin Niekamp was the Flyers’ leading scorer with 18 points on the night. The Flyers won the matchup 52-38.

Due to a game-winning shot with seven seconds on the clock against Tri-Village, the Flyers played the Anna Rockets on March 8 at the Nutter Center of Wright State University for the Regional Finals. The Flyers led through the first three quarters, but Anna was always within 10 points. In the fourth quarter, the Flyers began to pull away, and Anna gave the Flyers double BONUS to conclude the game. The Flyers won the matchup 58-43.

The Regional Semi-Final was played on March 4, when the Flyers faced off against Miami Valley Christian at Vandalia. The Flyers controlled rebounding for the entire game, giving them abundant oppor-



PHOTO BY: ELLA SCOTT

Senior Austin Niekamp making a three against Monroe Central during the Division VI State Final on March 22.



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Boys’ basketball at Wright State University winning their Regional Title on March 8.

tunities to score and being a key factor as to why the final score, 64-29, was as one-sided as it was for a Regional matchup.

Back on Feb. 28, the Flyers played arguably their toughest postseason opponent in their last MAC matchup of the tournament, the Coldwater Cavaliers, for the District final. Heading into halftime, the Flyers had decent breathing room, being up six points (21-15). By the end of the game, Coldwater had outscored Marion in both the third and fourth quarters, but the Flyers were able to hang on due to crucial shots by Grant Kremer and Daniel Everman battling for rebounds during the second half. The final score of the matchup was 45-42 to give the Flyers their 14th District finals win.

On another note, two Flyers in particular have set major career milestones this past season. Junior Grant Kremer has officially broken both the season three-point record and the career three-point record. Jacyd Mescher previously held both of these records. Mescher attained the career three-point record from 2019-2023 with a cumulative 112 made three-point shots. Mescher attained his season three-point record during his senior season (2022-2023), making 65 three-point shots that season. Kremer has beaten the season three-point record by five made shots with a total of 70 this season and has beaten the career three-point record as well.

The other Flyer to hit a major career milestone this season is senior Austin Niekamp, who officially exceeded 1,000 career points against Allen East on Feb. 21.

As for this season, Niekamp remained the team’s leading rebounder, both offensively and defensively, with 50 offensive rebounds and 155 defensive rebounds. From three, Niekamp shot 35.3 percent, making 55 of his 156 attempts and putting him second on the team for made threes behind Kremer. As for two-pointers, Niekamp shot 63 percent, making 133 of his 211 attempts and leading the team in scoring, but also leading the team in attempts, as well as having put up 367 shots and

made 188 of them.

Kremer led the team in three-pointers made, as well as three-point percentage this season, making 70 threes on 179 attempts, granting him a 39.1 shooting percentage from three to end the season. Overall, Kremer shot 43.8 percent, making 110 shots on his 251 total attempts. Kremer also developed throughout the season by creating space through agile moves, which gave him opportunities to make a significant impact on the court against some of the tightest defenses in the state.

Another junior who is showing out both offensively and defensively is Brayden Mescher. Defensively, Mescher is second on the team in rebounding with 158 total rebounds, with 49 coming offensively and 109 coming defensively. Mescher offensively leads the Flyers in assists, with 146 assists this season, which was only 10 away from Tate Hess’s school record of 156 assists in a season, set back in 2023. Mescher is primarily a two-point shooter, having made 100 of his 176 two-point attempts so far this season. Mescher ended the season 102 for 191 with a total percentage of 53.4. Mescher also improved his playstyle, incorporating no-look passing, which is why he led the Flyers in assists this season.

Senior Ryan Homan continued to consistently put up numbers on both offense and defense this season. While Homan is a more balanced, all-around player, he still flashes on the court by sinking an occasional three in tight situations for the Flyers. These skills and the occasional three have granted Homan a 50.9 shooting percent, making 58 of his 114 shots. From three, Homan shot 42.4 percent, making 14 of his 33 threes.

A sophomore who consistently had a crucial role in the postseason for the Flyers defensively was Kale Ahrens. While Ahrens is primarily a defensive player, he can still rack up significant points, becoming a primary target in the paint when defenses focus more on Niekamp, often leaving Ahrens with an open opportunity to score. Ahrens finished his sophomore season shooting 62 of 102 for two, giving him a 60.8 two-point percentage. As a primarily two-point shooter, Ahrens’ three-point percentage is on the lower end: he ended the season 20 percent from three.

Last but not least, senior Daniel Everman was a decisive presence on the court due to his rebounding during the playoffs. As Everman stands at just 5’ 10”, he has averaged eight rebounds a game since the District Semi-Finals. Despite being one of the shortest players on the roster, Everman has advanced quickness, agility, and ball-handling skills that set him apart, making him a crucial piece in the Flyers’ offensive scheme. Everman ended the season with 27 rebounds, and of those 27, 80 percent came during the playoffs. Everman also shot 58.3 percent for two, making seven of his 12 shots, and shot 18.8 percent from three, making three of 16 shots.

The Flyers finished their 2025 postseason run spectacularly by becoming Division VI State Runner-Up, breaking multiple records, and enjoying even more accolades along the way.



PHOTO BY: ELLA SCOTT

Senior Daniel Everman dribbling around defenders during the Regional Semi-Final against Miami Valley Christian Academy on Feb. 28.



ML baseball ready for regular season

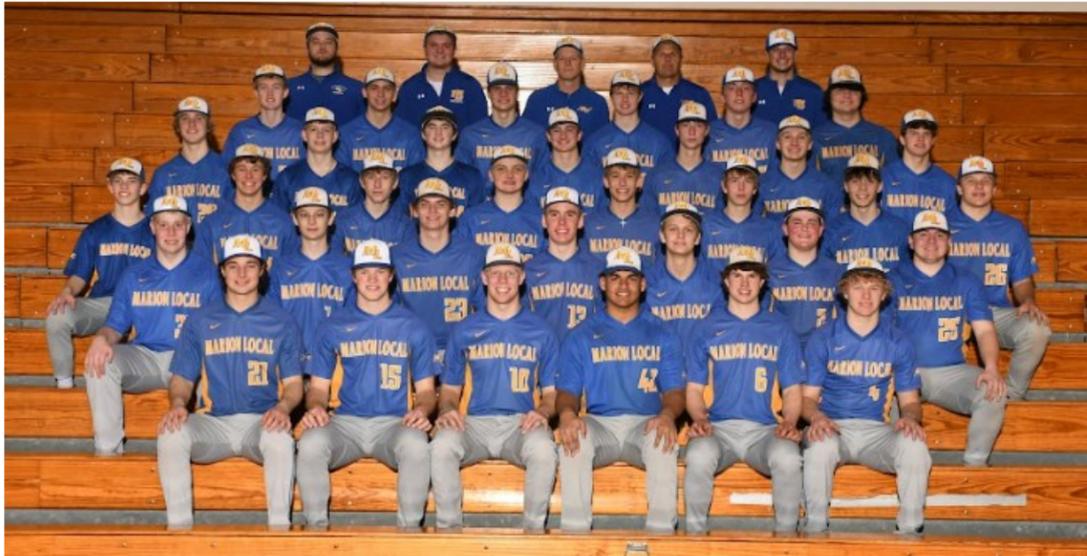


PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The 2025 boys' baseball team and coaches prepare for a spectacular season.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – Marion Local baseball has officially started their regular season, as they have completed one game so far against Spencerville. The Flyers won 7-3, giving them an undefeated, perfect 1-0 record at the start of the season. Their scheduled second game against Allen East on March 31 was cancelled. The Flyers have their next game later today, April 1, at 5 p.m. against Celina at home.

During the preseason scrimmages, the Flyers beat Tri-Village on March 20 19-1, LCC 11-6 on

March 25, and Lima Perry 7-0 on March 27, making them a perfect 3-0 after concluding their pre-season.

As for the starting positions, the Flyers will be fielding a purely senior line-up. In the infield, the starting catcher will be senior Ethan Heitkamp, starting first base will be senior Ian Rindler, starting second base will be senior Damon Cramer, starting shortstop will be senior Griffin Bruns, and starting third base will be senior Parker Hess. As for the outfield, in left field will be senior Bryant Meier, in center field will be senior Drew Lause, and in right field will be senior Hay-

den Poeppelman. Possibly rotating in defensively when Hess or Rindler are pitching are sophomores Landyne Minton or Isaac Moeller at third when Hess pitches, and junior Derek Knapke at first when Rindler pitches.

For the pitching rotation this season, the primary starters will be Hess, Rindler, and Meier. The relievers will be Bruns, junior Trey Brookhart, and junior Ethan Osterholt. Due to boys' basketball, some of the Flyers' pitchers will not be immediately playing. The potential starters from this group are senior pitcher Austin Niekamp, sophomore pitcher Luke Everman, sophomore infielder Isaac Moeller, and backup catcher Camden Griesdorn.

The Flyers also have two new coaches this season. Jonathon Schmitz, who teaches in the elementary school as an intervention specialist, coaches part-time, and Max Link coaches full-time. Link serves primarily as a pitching coach. Both Schmitz and Link played their high school baseball for Marion Local, with Link graduating in 2019 and Schmitz in 2018. Link also played in college for Bluffton University, primarily as a pitcher.

The last two seasons for the Flyers ended with losses in the District finals to Ft. Recovery (2024) and St. Henry (2023). With a fully returning roster for the 2025 season, the Flyers expect to go farther this coming postseason.

We wish the Flyers good luck in their third regular season game against the Celina Bulldogs later today.

Track athletes aim for 'limitless' season



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The 2025 boys' track team and coaches hope for a third State title this season.

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – The Marion Local track and field motto this year is "limitless." This is because they aim for their team never to let a problem stop them and for them never to be limited as athletes.

Their first meet is later tonight at home, starting at 4:30 p.m. The Fort Recovery Indians, Coldwater Cavaliers, and New Knoxville Rangers will be at this meet.

The Flyers' next meet following this will be on Friday, April 4: the Greenville Invitational, at Greenville at 4:30 p.m.

There are a lot of talented seniors this year at Marion Local. This year's seniors include Georgia Fleck and Kyle Ungruhn as throwers; Josie Bruns and Ellie Heitkamp as distance runners; Kaylee Wilker

into a category because he can pretty much do it all.

Co-Head Coach Grabowski is very impressed with the track team so far. When asked about how the team has been performing at practice, he said, "The nice weather has had a lot of positive impact on how we look so far. There is a solid core of females to build off of, and I've seen underclassmen males compete well with our 'big dawgs' so far."

The track team is starting off on a good foot. Junior Wade Kremer agrees with this too. Kremer thinks that "the nice weather is making practice go beautifully. They can really hit it hard [work hard] from the start."

Good luck to the track athletes this season!



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The 2025 girls' track team and coaches prepare for another strong season.

Softball starts season strong



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The 2025 girls' softball team and coaches.

By: Megan Homan
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN – The Marion Local softball team have started their season. They currently hold a 1-2 record with no conference matchups until April 10, when they will play the Ft. Recovery Indians at 5 p.m., away at Ft. Recovery.

In the regular season so far, the Flyers have faced the Covington Buccaneers, losing 6-5; the Anna Rockets, losing 5-4; and the Spencerville Bearcats, winning 9-5. Their scheduled matchup with the Allen East Mustangs was cancelled.

Later this week, Flyer softball will head into their fourth matchup of the regular season, when they will play Wapakoneta on April 3 at 5 p.m., away at Wapakoneta.

This year, there are two returning seniors: Emerson Bruns and Brooke Evers. The softball team is rounded out with two juniors, eight sophomores, and three freshmen.

ML Prom takes upperclassmen to Greece

By: Chloe Bergman
Entertainment Editor



MARIA STEIN – With spring in full swing, there is one event that all the juniors and seniors are looking forward to: Prom. Marion Local Prom is to take place on April 26. A night full of dressing up, dancing, and having fun with friends is what Marion Local Prom is all about. This year’s theme is Greece, and the culture of the country will be beautifully brought to life at Marion Local.

An opportunity to dress up and dance is proving to be exciting for ML upperclassmen, so much so that the underclassmen are a little jealous. Should ML sophomores get a ticket into the fun? Senior Colten Ahrens thinks, “Yes, the more the merrier!”

But would it be merrier? Junior Christian Kremer argues, “No, because it would be too crowded.” Overcrowding is a real concern; I mean, we can’t increase the chances of the ladies’ dresses being stepped on. Those clumsy underclassmen are likely to cause havoc.

According to junior Michaela Osterholt, Prom is “a time for the juniors and seniors. They’ll [underclassmen] have their time when it comes.” Osterholt is right: every high schooler will eventually get their chance to dance. Maybe it’s wise to give the underclassmen a little bit more time to develop their dance moves before they make their debut. They’ll have to wait until they are upperclassmen to groove at Prom, but the wait is well worth it.

How long of a wait is acceptable, though? Should people ages 21 and older be allowed to attend? The Flyers have very strong opinions on this. Sophomore Jozlyn Schlarman says, “NO, THAT’S WEIRD!” Sophomore Megan Homan agrees, as she thinks, “No, probably not, because it seems kind of weird for a 21-year-old to go to a high school Prom, especially if they graduated like four years ago.”

An overwhelming majority of the Flyers agreed that Prom is not suitable for those 21 and older. These guys should have enjoyed their own Prom while they could.

There’s one more group of people the Flyers debated the Prom attendance policy with: out-of-town underclassmen. Junior Trey Brookhart brings up a valid point, saying, “Yes, because the majority of the time, it is a girlfriend or boyfriend.”

Sophomore Seth Heitkamp argues, “It takes the shine away from the juniors and seniors of Marion Local.” Can these attendees really steal our shine? Let’s be honest, we can’t be outshone. If you’ve ever been to a ML Promenade, you would know. Marion Local has some pretty awesome looks that shine all night.

Many Flyers are anticipating this year’s Promenade, as ML juniors and seniors are expected to do nothing less than shine in the Greek setting that will be created in the gym. Come see for yourself on April 26!

It sounds like there’s a sweet spot to have the best time at Prom: not too old, yet not too young. When the time comes, Prom is a huge deal that a



PHOTO COURTESY OF: ASHLEY HICKS

Then-junior Colten Unrast escorted his then-sophomore girlfriend Ashley Hicks from Coldwater to the Marion Local Prom last year.

lot of people put a lot of effort into. With the theme being Greece, some super fun details are being worked on by the junior class officers and junior class advisor.

Attendees should feel special when they get an invite to the Marion Local Prom, as this will undoubtedly be a night to remember.

Does ACT dictate future decisions?



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN

Juniors Sophie Salazar, Kasey Moeller, and Addison Eyink stress out during study hall the day before the ACT.

By: Chloe Bergman
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN – ‘Tis the season for one of the largest tests highschoolers must take. The ACT at Marion Local took place on March 11 in the high school gym. For some Flyers, this test is an integral part of their future. For others, the ACT is just another test that has no impact on their plans. Regardless, the multi-hour, high-stakes test is currently taken by all juniors and seniors in Ohio, many of whom have strong opinions about it.

The question is: Is the ACT necessary? Junior Dalton Pohlmann can’t decide. He states, “Yes and no: it allows schools to understand what level students are at; however, some extremely intelligent students are slow test takers and have other forms of intelligence which the test does not measure.” This is definitely something to consider, as one of the biggest challenges of the ACT is the time constraint.

Taking the ACT is almost like a marathon for the brain. One test section after the other, brains must

think fast yet continue to think hard for a really long time. Take science, for example: answering 40 science questions divided into six passages in 35 minutes is quite the feat.

It’s probable that if students were given more time, answering with accuracy would be a much simpler task. But, since there are time constraints, ACT-test-takers must master thinking fast AND accurately to get a high score.

Before March 11, many juniors had not taken their shot at the ACT just yet. When asked about how they were feeling before their first one, the ML juniors had mixed opinions.

Junior Alea Pohlman said, “I’m feeling okay about it. But, I’m scared that I’ll open the test and be completely dumbfounded.” This is a valid fear, as the ACT can be quite unpredictable. However, Pohlman shouldn’t worry too much, as she took ACT prep last semester. Complete “dumbfounded” is nearly impossible with all the prep Pohlman did in ACT prep. Don’t stress, Alea; you’ll be fine!

Junior Derek Grieshop also shared his thoughts: “I’m going to try my best to study for it, but, at the same time, I’m not going to stress over it.” This seems like a solid mindset: giving best efforts, yet not letting stress take over.

Junior year is stressful in itself, not to mention the added stresses of the ACT. If you can make it through junior year, you can make it through anything!

The ACT can be a test of strategy for these juniors and seniors if they so choose. When asked about strategies they were using, some respondents mentioned they didn’t plan to study at all. However, some students have some pretty specific strategies in mind.

Junior Wade Kremer said his plans are to “watch a 10-minute video about how to do well on it.” This kind of cramming may be the best option for some juniors, considering their crazy busy schedules.

Junior Kamden Eifert said his strategy includes “taking the ACT prep class at Marion and also taking online tests to get ready.” Eifert’s plan seems more intensive, yet he probably enjoyed it, as he got to take ACT prep with his girlfriend, Pohlman.

Whether it’s spending lots of time studying or just “winging it,” strategies for this test may very well determine the outcomes.

It is ultimately up to the students to decide if the outcomes of their ACT tests will dictate their future decisions.



Blue Devils, Tigers march through March Madness



PHOTO BY: HAYDEN POEPELMAN

Senior Drew Lause and junior Grant Kremer fight for Duke to win March Madness, while juniors Mason Jones and Derek Knapke fight for Auburn.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

SAN ANTONIO - With the Final Four starting this Saturday, the

Marion Local student body is spot on with who they are expecting to win March Madness this year. The top three teams expected to win

this year, according to students, are Duke in first with over 25 percent of votes, Auburn in second with 15 percent of votes, and in third is Houston with 7 percent of votes.

The Final Four teams this year are the Florida Gators, Duke Blue Devils, the Houston Cougars, and the Auburn Tigers, all number one seeds in their conferences.

Close behind the top three in our student poll was a three-way tie for fourth including the Marion Local Flyers, who, surprisingly, didn't make it past Selection Sunday. The Ohio State University, despite strong local support, also did not make it past Selection Sunday.

The last part of the three-way tie was St. John's University who, despite having Rick Pitino, the greatest coach of all time, were eliminated in the second round by the number 10 seed, the Arkansas Razorbacks, with a final score of 75-66.

While many of the students answered in simplistic single-sentence answers as to why they thought

that Duke would win March Madness, sophomore Luke Everman gave a convincing statement: "They have some insanely talented freshmen that play very well together. Some of these include Cooper Flagg, Khaman Maluach, and Kon Knueppel."

Everman continued to explain why Duke are so talented this year: "They also have a veteran presence with Tyrese Proctor, who is a good floor general to help out these talented freshmen. Overall, Duke has the most talented team in the country that will help them win the National Championship."

As for Marion Local's numerous Auburn supporters, half of them believe Auburn has the talent and experience to play at a caliber that is high enough to win March Madness by a good margin this year.

The other half of Marion Local's Auburn supporters said they typed into Google, "Who will win March Madness this year?" A very dedicated fan base, to say the absolute least.

Money buys happiness for ML



By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN - A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow may be ideal on St. Patrick's Day. Still, several Marion Local High School students think otherwise.

Many students are going to follow the rainbow and hope to find money, while some girls are still heartbroken from Valentine's Day and hope to find a boyfriend. Some wishes are a little far-fetched for what to find, such as celebrities or no homework (haha, like that will happen!).

A very popular answer from most students about what they would like to find at the end of the rainbow is money. Amounts of up to a million dollars were stated. Some students here are greedy, using it for their pleasure, while others said they would use it for college or even donate it to charity.

Freshman Tanner Hartings expressed that he wants "money" because, "Why not have more money?" A little greedy, Hartings. Sharing is caring, especially if you find it at the end of the rainbow, you know?

Junior Grace Brunswick aims to use her money more reasonably. She hopes to find "a lot of money so I can donate and pay for college" because "donating helps people in need, and college isn't cheap!" You are right about that, Brunswick. Hartings, if you truly do find that money at the end of the rainbow, try to be like Brunswick and give back.

Cupid must not have come and saved the Flyers in February, as quite a few girls wanted "a boyfriend." A boyfriend may not be ideal for everyone, but for some it sure is.

Junior Clara Homan is feeling slightly down in the dumps since she does not currently have a boyfriend, so she hopes to find one at the end of the rainbow. Homan said she wants to find a boyfriend "because I'm tired of being single."



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN

Freshman Tanner Hartings flaunts his "hard-earned" money that he found at the end of the rainbow.

Boys, do you all hear that? If you know Homan and think she's the perfect match for you, you better be waiting under a rainbow on St. Patrick's Day.

A stress-free school year is also another popular answer, mainly from the juniors. No homework, summer, and the strength to finish the school year were some pretty eye-catching answers. Junior Mia Wolters is one of those stressed-out high school students, as she said she would hope to find "no homework" because "I

have too much homework to do at home and during study hall. I struggle to get my homework done sometimes without spending too much time on it." That sounds very stressful, Wolters. That is a valid wish.

Chloe Bergman is another junior who is a little too stressed out, as she said she would hope to find "free time" because she could "use some time to do something FUN for once." Good point, Bergman. Between the dance competitions, school, and other extracurricular activities she does, there would likely be very little free time in her life.

Many students have people they hope to find at the end of the rainbow, such as LeBron James. Sophomore Seth Heitkamp and freshman Logan Ronnebaum both hope to find LeBron James at the end of the rainbow. Heitkamp said this because, "I mean, who doesn't want to meet him? He's him. BABABABABOOM." Great point, Heitkamp. Ronnebaum said he would want to find him because "Boom boom boom!" Yep, got it. Assuming their reasoning is the same, it is a great reason.

Senior Daniel Everman hopes to find the rich life at the end of the rainbow, as he said he would hope to find "a brand new Nautique Paragon with a house on the lake." If you were not aware, the most expensive of these boats retails at around \$474,324, with an average price of \$239,995. This, along with a lake house, would be pretty darn expensive. Everman said he would hope to find these because "it would be a free boat to have for the summer and a very nice lake house to store it at." Great point, Everman. A boat on a lake sounds amazing right now in these cold months.

Everyone, once summer comes around and Everman finds that boat and house, he is inviting us all (no refusing, Everman), and we are all going to enjoy a nice weekend on his luxurious boat at his fancy lake house.



Drama Club gets *All Shook Up*



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN



PHOTO BY: ALEA POHLMAN



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN

Junior Dalton Pohlmann, playing Chad, strums his guitar.

Cast members work to perfect their rockin' roles. Senior Zoey Goettemoeller, playing Natalie, acts as a male.

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – "C'mon, Everybody!" The Marion Local Drama Club is putting on a musical on April 10, 11, 12, and 13 at the high school. Everyone in the community looks forward to seeing the musical in the spring. This year, the Marion Local Drama Club's musical is *All Shook Up*. There are so many of your talented peers who work and continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the musical is performed to the best of their ability.

This musical is based on Shakespeare's classic comedy *Twelfth Night*. Everyone in the high school knows this play except the freshmen, who have not taken English II yet. Chad, a guitar-playing rebel, comes into a town where no one is allowed to sing or dance. He believes it is absurd and teaches everyone how to sing and dance, going against Mayor Matilda's wishes. This leads to two hours of musical mayhem, so come to see this musical to find out what happens!

The talented cast is led by the principal actors, all of whom are enjoying their rockin' roles:

Natalie, played by senior Zoey Goettemoeller. Goettemoeller is very talented when it comes to theater and played the title role of *Mary Poppins* in last year's musical. Goettemoeller has very strong sing-

ing abilities and outstanding dancing skills. With this in mind, she certainly fulfills her role as Natalie.

Chad, played by junior Dalton Pohlmann. Pohlmann is very dedicated to theater and starred as Bert the chimney sweep in *Mary Poppins*. He has spent endless hours perfecting his role as Chad, the guitar-playing rebel. Whether that means taking dancing lessons from junior Chloe Bergman or singing lessons with the music director Erica Colopy, he is skilled in every aspect. These skills are essential for his Elvis Presley-inspired role.

Jim, played by junior Christian Kremer. Kremer is also a key member of the Drama Club. Kremer has spent many hours practicing and learning how to play the best version of Jim, which is turning out to be very successful. Jim is a widowed father who is worried about his daughter Natalie and concerned for his own love life.

Sylvia, played by junior Lydia Steinbrunner. Steinbrunner is fully invested in her role. Steinbrunner plays Sylvia, who is a no-nonsense kind of person, a business owner, and the mother of Lorraine. Those of you who know Steinbrunner know that she loves organization. This quality has helped her show the put-together side of Sylvia. Steinbrunner is also a very skilled singer, which she demonstrates throughout the show.

Dennis, played by junior Trey Goettemoeller. Goettemoeller has a talent for playing comedic characters in the drama club. Every year without fail, Goettemoeller has successfully made the audience laugh until their stomachs hurt. This year, Goettemoeller plays Dennis, the awkward and uncoordinated boy. Goettemoeller brings the awkwardness and incoordination to life in the best way possible.

Sandra, played by junior Grace Brunswick. After many years in the Drama Club, Brunswick has always been very passionate about theater. She is able to use this passion when she acts. Sandra is the caretaker of the museum but is very eye-catching and ambitious. Brunswick is very dedicated to her role and is very talented at it.

Mayor Matilda, played by junior Alea Pohlman. Pohlman is very enthusiastic when it comes to acting. She plays the role of Mayor Matilda, who is the town's conservative mayor. Matilda requires Pohlman to be very expressive. This is because Matilda expects her town to abide by her crazy rules or else she will go berserk. Pohlman has been able to act as Matilda well.

Lorraine, played by freshman Larissa Arling. Arling is a very talented singer, dancer, and actress. Arling plays Lorraine, who is Sylvia's 16-year-old daughter. Arling is able to execute Lorraine's hopeless roman-

tic personality outstandingly. Arling has put a lot of effort into being Lorraine. Although she is an underclassman and has never taken on such a large role before, she is doing extremely well.

Dean, played by seventh-grader Noah Brunswick. Brunswick is very dedicated to his role. Even though he is a seventh-grader, he has worked so hard to perfect his role. Brunswick plays Dean, who is Matilda's 16-year-old son. Dean is a hopeless romantic who never disobeys his mother, and Brunswick has worked diligently to ensure that he plays this role to the best of his ability.

Everyone who is in Drama Club does such a good job at their roles. Besides the principals, though, the ensemble is so essential to having a successful show. Without them, our songs, dances, and scenes would be nothing. They all work so well together and are so skilled in every aspect.

Director Connie Brunswick agrees that everyone is essential for a successful show. When asked about why she thinks so, she said, "We could not have a show without our entire Drama Club. Everyone has so much talent and is able to make our show that much better." She could not be more right.

Good luck to the Drama Club later this month with their show!

April Vehicle of the Month

By: Seth Heitkamp
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN – This April, sophomore Caden Tuenté won the title of Vehicle of the Month with his 2011 Chevy Malibu.

He purchased this bad boy right before his fourth birthday (because he was born on leap year day), but he didn't install the best feature, the horns on the front grill, until later.

Tuenté said that his inspiration behind installing the horns came from friends of his parents, who told him, "You know what would look sweet on your car? A pair of horns."

Just by merely looking at his sweet ride, you can

tell there's something special about it. Tuenté spends a lot of time driving around with his friends and making videos of him with his car on TikTok. The whole world deserves to see this car, not just Mercer County.

When he's not driving his friends around, his car is helping him to pick up the chicks and show them around his farm.

When needed, he could even use his car's unique horns as a defense against oncoming deer or other wild animals that may be on the road. Tuenté can now relax, as he's bound to win any battle he may have with the wildlife.

Overall, I think it's easy to say that Tuenté truly earned the title of Vehicle of the Month.



PHOTO BY: SETH HEITKAMP

Girls cuckoo for Prom, boys stay chill

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN – Guys, watch out! The girls at Marion Local High School are going bonkers for Prom, tanning several months in advance. We have to wonder, are we all slacking, or are some girls just going a bit overboard? Here are some top tips for guys and girls on how to prepare for Prom, shared by some of your classmates.

GIRLS' TIPS:

1. Always tan several months before the event, so your skin is the color of an orange. I mean, ask junior Sophie Salazar. She has been getting her tan on already, and so have some other juniors and seniors.
2. Make sure to buy at least ten dresses. You never know which one you are going to like the best. You know, girls are always indecisive, so having several options is the best option. No need to check the return policy; they are most likely returnable.
3. Get your date as soon as possible. Do not wait! Preferably get him when it is still in the calendar year before Prom. I mean, you can not wait too long to get a date, or else someone is going to try and steal him from you. Junior Clara Homan was right on top of it, getting junior Ethan Osterholt as her Prom date before 2024 even ended.
4. Dye your hair at least five times leading up to Prom, maybe more if you want to for sure confirm the right color. You do not want the color to wash out, or else that might look pretty bad.
5. Book your nails (with junior Selena Arling, of



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

Juniors Kayla McClurg and Aaron Albers display their to-do lists for Prom.

course) at least five months in advance. Those times fill up super fast. I mean, even ask Arling. She had people booking for Prom since early December of last year.

6. Practice your makeup daily for two months leading up to Prom. You need to make sure it's perfect, even if it means spending a lot of money. Ask junior Susi Pablo; she's been practicing all

this time: "Yeah, I've been changing something about my makeup every day, maybe you just haven't noticed."

GUYS' TIPS:

1. Please, please, please PUT ON DEODORANT! We know you will sweat so much and smell bad due to your nerves. And no, Axe does not count. Junior Brayden Mescher was known for the excessive amount of Axe back in the day.
2. Run your fingers through your hair a few times to somewhat brush through it. It does not matter if it is knotted, who will care anyway? Ask junior Thomas Winner, he keeps his hair messy all day long.
3. If you do not end up doing any of these other steps, oh well (besides the first one, absolutely do the first one), but you have to brush your teeth. This is one very important detail, as you do not want your date to smell your nasty breath. Even if you do not think your breath smells bad, just brush your teeth anyway.
4. Practice square dancing as it is definitely the most important part of Prom. Girls are not into guys who can not dance. Ask senior Caleb Huelsman about his skills sometime. He will say they are top-tier.
5. Ask your date the day before Prom happens. I am pretty sure, well almost 100 percent sure, she will not care. If she does not want to go with you, her loss.
6. The top tip is to honestly not even fret about Prom. Just put your suit on when the time comes. That is the important part anyway.

Dear Freddy . . .

By: Ava Ranly
Staff Writer

Dear Freddy,

I asked the almighty rizzler himself, sophomore Maverick Meier, for some good fortune, because, as you said, that is a genius move. He came up with a master plan, one so powerful that I almost shed a tear at how brilliant it is.

His idea? I make the ladies fall for me by showing off my mesmerizing dancing skills at Prom. Maverick is an ultimate genius for suggesting this idea. He said this will make me a MEGA alpha to the ladies: the type of man who radiates pure alpha, rizzergy status. I have been a master on the dance floor since day one. I was hitting the cha-cha slide in my high chair. I was moonwalking before I even knew how to walk. I even show off my moves on the basketball bench.

But there is one problem, one massive problem that breaks my heart. Sophomores are not allowed to attend Marion's prom. Whomp whomp, right? My dreams of dazzling the ladies slipped right through my fingers.

I am stuck on what to do! I need to impress these girls, and ASAP. Prom is approaching quickly, and I can't

just sit back and let this raw dance talent go to waste. So how do I prove to the girls that the real prize isn't just some guy with a tux and a corsage, it's me: a dashing sophomore with the moves of a Greek god.

I haven't been practicing Maverick's pick-up lines for nothing. I need a plan, and I need it fast.

Sincerely,

Unimportant Sophomore



Dear Unimportant Sophomore,

First off, let me say that I admire your commitment to your craft. A true man of culture understands that dancing isn't just a skill, it's a lifestyle. And practicing pick-up lines? I just know the Mav Man Rizzler would be very proud.

You're in a very tricky situation here. Marion Local has been robbed of a legendary Prom performance from you. But fear not, for I have the ultimate solution: Anna's Prom. You



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN

Unimportant Sophomore shows up in style at Anna High School's Prom, ready to show off his showstopping dance moves.

may not be able to attend Marion's Prom, but Anna's, my friend . . . and they would LOVE to have you. Anna kids are very fond of the Marion Local breed, so take my advice.

Showing up at Anna's Prom would not only grant you a fresh stage to display your elite dance skills, but it would also send a very clear message to your crush: "Look at me! I'm in high demand; schools are fighting over me. I'm a limited-edition Prom guest." I can picture it now, your crush stuck at Marion's Prom with some average-looking dude who probably is tripping over his own two feet trying to dance. And you

will be absolutely shredding it on the dance floor in Rocket Land, making you a legend in two school districts. Jealousy will ignite in your crush as she starts to question everything about you. She will soon realize that she is missing out on your utter greatness.

So what are you waiting for?! Go secure that invite to Anna's Prom, lace up your dancing shoes, and prepare to make history.

Sincerely,

Freddy

