



Marion City Schools

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Harding High School Recognizes Jay Johnston as Distinguished Alumni

(Marion, OH) Harding High School is pleased to announce that Jay Johnston has been selected for the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. The award is given each year during the Academic Awards Program to an alumnus who has distinguished themselves through exemplary accomplishment in one or more areas of qualification including: national or international distinction, professional impact, service to the community and philanthropic involvement.

Johnston is a 1972 graduate of Harding High School and is currently working as an artist for Carousel & Carvings in Marion. He attended The Columbus College of Art and Design after high school, completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1977. Throughout his career, Johnston has been continuously recognized for his artistry. From numerous first place awards at art shows/contests, national acclaim for his paintings depicting the West, Native Americans and Ohio State University football to his illustrations in *The Woodland Elves* children's book series, which is available in 108 countries and all 7 continents.



"Mr. Johnston has continued to demonstrate the attributes of a Harding alumni throughout his illustrious art career," said Jen Wellman, Harding High School Principal. "He has been recognized on both the national and international stage for his artwork and we are so proud to recognize him with this Hall of Fame induction for his accomplishments in the arts and in our community."

Johnston lives in Marion with his wife, Carmen and spends his free time in his studio working on new paintings and illustrations. He will be honored on May 10th at Harding High School.

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About Marion City Schools

At Marion City Schools, we want to inspire a community of achievement. We offer innovative experiences, educational options and learning programs not available in surrounding school districts. We search for ways to prepare students for not only academic success but success in college and careers as well. Our Four Pillars follow four distinct themes including Leadership, Learning, Literacy and Legacy. We want our students to leave high school with not only their diploma, but also acceptance into a two or four-year college, an adult training program, the military, or a high-paying, in-demand job.