



Marion City Schools

Inspiring a Community of Achievement



The Marion City School District Newsletter

Summer 2021

Superintendent's Message

A Bright Future For Graduating Seniors, and For Marion City Schools

The Class of 2021 has endured an unprecedented high school experience and I am immensely proud of each and every one of our seniors. These students are leaving us with a resilience and set of skills unlike any other graduating class of Marion Schools.

The possibilities for this group of young people are endless. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our 2021 seniors. Every momentous occasion has come with a sense of gratitude, and we will not ever take these moments for granted.

I am filled with Prexy Pride for what we have accomplished and for what I am confident we will accomplish in the years ahead.



Looking ahead, the future is bright for Marion City Schools. As one of the most difficult learning years in the history of our district comes to a close, I am filled with both gratitude for the experiences we have been afforded and both hopeful and excited for

the learning opportunities and life experiences that lie in wait for our students in the upcoming school year.

We continue to focus on our four pillars – leadership, learning, literacy, and legacy – as we strive to provide our students with a rigorous and innovative instructional model. We have clearly stated goals we plan to meet by the year 2024 to exhibit the improvement we know is possible for our district.

To our students, staff, families, and community: Thank you for the incredible support. I am filled with Prexy Pride for what we have accomplished and for what I am confident we will accomplish in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ron Larussi, Superintendent

Treasurer's Message

Renewal Levy Important For Continued Financial Stability

The Marion City Schools Board of Education approved a five-year forecast at the May 17, 2021, Board meeting, which shows a positive ending balance at the end of five years if the current emergency levy is renewed.

As required by state law, all school districts must update their financial forecast each November and again in May.

The passage of an upcoming renewal levy will maintain current daily operations and will provide financial stability for our school district at no additional cost to taxpayers.

This year had many surprises along the way, including receiving federal funds through the ESSER (Covid Relief acts) funds, state rebates of BWC payments, and a reinstatement of a portion of revenues lost during the pandemic from the state.

Receiving federal funds enabled the district to provide continued remote education along with additional technology. Going forward, the district will use these funds for maintaining the general fund

See **Treasurer**, back page



Receiving federal funds enabled the district to provide continued remote education along with additional technology.



Four Pillars Update:

Growth and Empowerment, Personal Ownership, and Collaboration



Marion City Schools developed its four pillars to support its vision of inspiring a community of achievement. The overarching goal of the four pillars is to provide every opportunity for every student to be successful in not only academics, but life skills as well. It is our hope that each child in each school is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. In addition, we've incorporated the beliefs of empowerment and growth, personal ownership and collaboration, which are inherent to the success of each pillar.

Learning

For Learning, the goal is to meet the state standard on the local report card by working with the Ohio Improvement Process as well as reducing the number of discipline days in the district through a multi-tiered system of support for students. This summer, MCS is offering 17 different Enrichment camps to all students K-12. Whether you want to learn a new sport, become an artist, make some music, or challenge your brain, the 3-day camps offer students a variety of fun activities and learning experiences to choose from. Offering a combination of academics, enrichment, wellness, arts and more, there's something for all students.

Literacy

With Literacy, the district reading level has to meet the state standard. To accomplish this, MCS will align tier instruction with the "five big ideas of reading" as well as providing resources to the community to acquire necessary information, knowledge, and skills to support child literacy. Updates for this pillar include purchasing a new reading curriculum for middle school (StudySync by McGraw Hill), choosing two reading curriculums to pilot in the elementary schools for next year (Wonders by McGraw Hill and CKLA by Amplify), we have 28 staff members going through LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) Units 5-8 training this summer and 35 going through Units 1-4. MCS is offering a free Preschool Summer Literacy Camp at Garfield elementary for children ages 3-6. Children will enjoy playing while learning and developing skills in a literacy and language-rich environment with songs, fingerplays, stories, crafts, toys, and gross motor time. The activities will be play-oriented and linked to the language and literacy Early Learning and Development Standards for the state of Ohio.

Leadership

Under the Leadership pillar, the goal is to reduce staff turnover and improve the open enrollment ratio by 10%. To accomplish this, the district is cultivating a culture of authenticity and inclusiveness and will be reading *Above the Line* by Urban Meyer this summer. Text was chosen to examine how leaders can sustain a culture of excellence for students, staff, and community members. MCS will also be completing the Focus 3 training this summer. Focus 3 training will allow our Leadership Pillar the opportunity to create a culture playbook to sustain our focus on creating a culture of excellence at Marion City Schools.

Legacy

With the Legacy pillar, the task at hand is to meet the state standard for the "Prepared for Success" component by improving structures, instruction, and opportunities. By doing so, this will prepare students to make the important decision of enrollment, enlistment, or employment. In the 2021 graduating class, 76 students had earned 2226 college credit hours with fourteen of those graduates already earning Associate Degrees from Marion Technical College. There were also 75 students that had earned more than 842 credentials with certificates from welding, auto, retail, CPR, and nursing. For next school year there are a host of new programs and activities as well that are sure to bolster the Legacy pillar's foundation. A New Industrial Maintenance Program has 80 students enrolled for next year and Harding is also bringing back the Career-Based Intervention program to be taught by new head basketball coach, Jamie Pearson. Three of our teachers will be receiving training for AP Biology, AP Computer Science A, and AP Computer Science Principles this summer and Harding High School will be a site for two ACT national test dates: June 12, 2021 & July 17.



Honors Ceremony

Congratulations are in order for our Grant Middle School students who were recognized during our Honors Ceremony on Monday, May 24. These students excelled in academics throughout the year, and their accomplishments are well-deserving of their award.



Now Enrolling for the 2021-2022 School Year

Preschool - Kindergarten - Open Enrollment:

Marion City Schools offers something for every student and family!

Preschool

- 5-star rating with Step Up to Quality.
- Locations throughout the district for convenience.
- Learn in an environment that is ordered and structured yet gives appropriate amounts of freedom and choice.
- Work in a classroom built around activity-based learning centers.
- Contact Wendy VanSickle at 740-223-4416 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to start the registration process.
- Child must be 4 years old before August 1.

Kindergarten

- Families can call their home elementary school building to start the registration process.
- Child must be 5 years of age on or before August 1.
- Kindergarten Camps are also available at each elementary school this summer July 26 - Aug. 6. Contact Lisa at lralph@mcspresidents.org for more information.

Open Enrollment

- Marion City Schools is open enrollment to students from outside MCS boundaries.
- From Preschool to earning college credit, MCS provides a flexible, challenging and robust curriculum and a range of activities for each and every student.
- Contact Sue Knotts at 740-223-4422 or Susan Rockwell at 740-223-3770 to enroll.



Signing Day At the annual Signing Day for the Class of 2021, we celebrated 127 Harding High School seniors committing to either enrollment, enlistment, or employment after graduation. We are so proud of our Prexies!



NEW this year! Blended Learning

Free
Program

Marion City Schools is introducing a new blended learning platform for the 2021-2022 school year for students K-12! This free program combines a self-paced, accredited online curriculum, tutoring and face-to-face learning with a local highly qualified teacher. Blended learning students can still participate in all extracurricular activities, including athletics, clubs, band, and choir.



Camping Inside Mrs. Brown's kindergarten students at Hayes Elementary brought the great outdoors INSIDE! Their classroom was transformed into the perfect campsite, complete with: tents, campfires, and even a forest. What a fun day of camping!



Marion City Schools
 District Service Center
 100 Executive Drive
 Marion, OH 43302

Bulk Rate
 Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Marion, OH 43302
 Permit No. 58

Join, Like & Follow Us on Social Media!

-  @MCSPresidents
-  @mcspresidents
-  @MCSPresidents
-  Marion City Schools



Field Day "You've got a minute to win it!"
 During their last week of school, Mrs. Snyder's second-grade class at George Washington Elementary enjoyed a field day full of minute-to-win-it games. It looks like they ended this year with a win!

Treasurer continued from front page

balances, providing additional instructional support for students, improving infrastructure both with technology and building improvements, and provide new and exciting opportunities for the students at Marion City Schools.

The financial support of the community is greatly appreciated and helps the district continue to provide the best opportunities for all students.

Respectfully,

Veronica Reinhart

Veronica Reinhart, Treasurer

Board Votes to Place Zero Tax Increase Renewal Levy on November Ballot

The Marion City Schools Board of Education approved a Resolution of Necessity to place a 5-year emergency levy on the November 2, 2021, ballot. Once the County Auditor's Office certifies that the request and millage amount is correct, the board plans to vote on a Resolution to Proceed during a June board of education meeting.

The levy, which was first passed in 1989, generates \$2 million in operating funds for the district. Since it is a renewal, it will not increase taxes. Operating levies fund the day-to-day operations of the district including teachers and staff, technology, supplies, maintenance, and utilities.