



Marion Local Schools

Wisdom * Integrity * Service

JANUARY 2019

marionlocal.org

Superintendent's Message . . .

Michael L. Pohlman

The first half of the school year is complete and our community has had a lot to celebrate. I would like to congratulate the football team for another state final appearance and likewise with our band. It is very enjoyable to see our students have success after putting in many hours of work. I would like to congratulate our newly inducted National Honor Society students. The following students were inducted this fall: Emily Brunswick, Grace Knapke, Nick Tangeman, Abby Bergman, Ashley Bergman, Kyle Bruns, Katelyn Hartings, Maria Heckman, Reece Hess, Brooke Homan, Spencer Homan, Derrek Kemper, Alex Klosterman, Jacob Knapke, Kelsey Koenig, Natalie Kramer, Cody Kunkler, Emily Nietfeld, Hope Ranly, Hannah Schmitz, Lauren Wolters, and Leanne Wolters. Congratulations to these students for this accomplishment.

The senior citizens Christmas luncheon was a huge success with approximately 150 guests, and I would like to thank Barb Kahlig for organizing this event, Renee Hartings, Cindy Moeder and the kitchen staff for preparing a wonderful meal, and the Marion Local band and choir that provided entertainment for our guests. It is great to celebrate Christmas with the senior citizens in our community.

We recently obtained a grant from the state for school safety. We are using these grant dollars to offset the cost of installing security cameras at the elementary school. We have had security cameras at the high school for approx. 14 years. We will continue to work on upgrading our facilities this spring and summer as we have plans to reseal and stripe our parking lots, and possibly replace some entry doors.

It is good to finally begin the winter athletic season, and join me as we cheer on our Flyers!

Mike Pohlman, Superintendent

Parent/Staff Alert System

If you have eliminated your landline phone or cell phone or changed your cell phone number, please advise Lynn Will at 419-925-4294 or will@marionlocal.org. This will help to keep our system updated for alerts of cancellations, delays and messages. Thanks for your help.

Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary and middle school was a very busy place during the months of November and December. I would first like to thank all of the parents that came to school for parent-teacher conferences. All of our classrooms were filled with parents and teachers having productive conversations about the academic achievements of their students. Please continue to keep in touch with your child's teachers throughout the rest of the school year.

In December, we held several events that celebrated the artistic talents of our students. Our Kindergarten through 4th grade students put on their Christmas musical for over 1500 family and community members under the direction of Mrs. Layer and Mr. Spettel. We also had our 5th-12th grade band and choir concert. It was a great experience for the younger band students to hear the older students perform. We hope to continue growing strong vocal and instrumental music programs here at Marion Local. This can only happen through your support and encouragement!

Our 5th grade students had the honor of graduating from the DARE program sponsored by the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Thank you to Deputy Bird, Deputy Miller, and our 5th grade teachers who all helped to lead our DARE graduation. Thanks to the Mercer County Sheriff's Dept., the DARE program is being expanded to the 7th grade starting the week of January 7th.

We have already been working on kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year. Information has been sent home through Chapel Hill Preschool, the Mercer County Preschool (at Marion Local), and Daycare Discoveries. If your child does not attend one of these preschools and is age eligible to attend kindergarten (age 5 by August 1, 2019), please contact the school office for more information.

Finally, in this newsletter you will again find several articles submitted by teachers in our school building highlighting some of the many activities taking place each day. We hope that you enjoy reading about all of the things our students are learning each day.

Please feel free to contact me at the elementary office for any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Nick Wilker
K-8 Principal

Free money for our school!!!

Please turn into the school any Boxtops for Education or Wagners receipts to the elementary office, or use the Shoparoo app to help contribute funds to our school activity fund. Without these sources of revenue we would not be able to schedule assemblies or incentives for our students.



New This Year!



Our elementary building has taken on a new program this year called *Be Kind First*. The program exposes our students to positive character traits and helps our students see examples of how to model acts of kindness in their daily lives. As a school this year, we have picked out 4 words to focus on in coordination with our citizens of the month program. A group of teachers meet at the start of each new character trait to discuss how we can expose our students to these traits in meaningful and impactful ways building wide to create lifelong lessons. Our students are learning about the impact of these traits in collaboration times and from their teachers in the classroom.

During the months of November and December our students collected items for The Call Food Pantry. We collected over 1,500 items including hats, gloves, scarves, socks, money, and food items. On December 21st, a representative from The Call Food Pantry came to speak to our students at a K-8 assembly about their organization and to thank our students for their contributions. We would like to thank all of the families who helped our students donate. It was impactful for our students to see how their small acts of kindness and generosity created a big donation and difference.

Our Citizen Of the Month Program focuses this year on picking students who show the character traits from the *Be Kind First Program*. At the end of the year *The Be*

Kind First Program will give a grant to one student from our school to donate \$500.00 to a charity of their choice in their name. Students who are picked as citizens of the month this year or that receive character cards will be put into a raffle as an option to be selected for our end of the year assembly.

We would like to congratulate our citizens of the month who are pictured and listed below.

September and October - Be Kind

Grady Muhlenkamp, Aleya Stueve, Summer Bruns, Stella Albers, Brooklyn Moeller, Lucas Homan, Cayden Jones, Lucas Otte, Amber Stucke, Deanna Dirksen, Avery Bruns, Emma Homan, Madison Steinbrunner, Caden Tuente, Katelyn Ashman, Mia Wolters, Dylan Dirksen, John Mescher, Ethan Heitkamp, Hayden Poepelman, Emily Schlater, Brandt Homan, Wesley Schoen, John Kramer, Cory Kuess, Lauren Meiering, and Lilly Dahms.

November and December- Be Generous

Jack Dirksen, Wyatt Bruns, Derek Cramer, Alex Will, Jack Winner, Amelia Homan, Norah Koesters, Olivia Pavelka, Quinn Moeller, Larissa Arling, Elle Muhlenkamp, Isaac Schulze, Baylie Evers, Gina Bruns, Molly Bruns, Kamden Eifert, Alea Pohlman, Wyatt Fleck, Vincent Winner, Lydia Hess, Zoey Goettemoeller, Adam Schwieterman, Ally Mescher, Allison Dirksen, Ali Bruns, Cole Brunswick, and Lydia Kelch.

Amanda DeMange

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

By Carol Bornhorst

This year, instead of focusing on a specific character trait each month, our students are really focusing on learning about four words throughout the school year as part of the Be Kind program. This fall, we focused on “Be Kind” and “Be Generous”. As a school, we are trying to do more hands-on projects to help our students understand ways to incorporate these important character traits into their lives. During Guidance, we try to build on these important traits they are learning about in the classroom. For example, some classes got to drop different size and weight objects into a bucket of water and watch for the ripple effect. The group then discussed how these objects were like acts of kindness, and even small objects, like sprinkles, still caused ripples. So too, even small, simple acts of kindness can cause a positive ripple effect in others. We never know how far a simple act of kindness can reach. The students seem to really enjoy these enrichment activities while taking to heart some important messages! We also put a “kindness tree” up by our elementary office this fall. Students could write kind

acts that others had done for them on little hearts and decorated the tree with the hearts. These hearts were a fun way to recognize all the little kind acts happening right here at school and served as a reminder to be kind to others. This winter, as part of studying “Be Generous” we changed the tree decorations to socks, scarves, mittens, etc. to represent all the generous donations that were being collected by the students to donate to The Call Food Pantry in Celina to help local families in need. In January, we will begin studying “Be Inclusive” and students will learn about including others.

This Spring, our students in grades 3-8 will be participating in state testing online. The dates for testing for grades 3-8 will be **April 15th, April 16th, April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st**. Please try to have your child in school on those days and avoid scheduling doctor appointments or vacations during that time if possible. Encourage your child to try their best on the test (just like we hope they do every day at school!). Please make sure that your child is well rested and has a good breakfast so they can perform their best!



December was a magical month for Kindergarteners at Marion Local Elementary. Near the beginning of the month, they attended a pep rally to send off the football team! In the days following, they wrote letters to Santa, received a visit from St. Nick, and discovered the Elementary building was under surveillance by Freddy, the elf! Since then they have shared stories of their own elves, prepared for and performed at the Christmas Concert, and made gifts for their families. During the week before Christmas break, the students participated in many activities for Right to Read week including a partner read with some of the high school students, creating their own biggest Christmas tree ever and a Polar Express Themed Day! On this day, students dressed in their pajamas, they made reindeer food of glitter and oatmeal, exchanged books, and enjoyed hot chocolate and candy canes while watching the movie. Each child received a bell at the end of the day, which everyone could hear that day. There’s nothing more magical than the spirit of those who BELIEVE!



Reading is an important focus at all grade levels, especially in third grade where the focus changes from learning to read to reading to learn. Third graders continue using reading strategies to become more fluent, advanced readers. We are happy that so many love to read!

Several students have earned medals for learning basic multiplication and division math facts. They are proud of this accomplishment, and several have worn the medals to school. We are excited and hope that other students will achieve this goal soon.

To culminate our study of rocks and minerals in December, we welcomed visitors Glenn Hux and Sandy Braun from the Celina Library to share part of the Langsdon Mineral Collection. Students used the time to observe, learn, and to review for their test.

Pen Pals are a new event this year. Each student is paired with a third grader from Coldwater, and we are writing back and forth to get to know each other. Students are energized when they receive a letter, and one student even shares the same name with his pen pal.

All lower case and capital letters are learned. The next challenge is to write some assignments in cursive. All students will write their names on papers in cursive for the rest of the year.

Each third grader is writing a book, based on a picture book. Students chose a book jacket and have written stories to go with the jacket's picture. Illustrations are being created in art class. When they are completed, each student will read the author's book and compare it with their own version. We plan to have the completed books on display at the spring arts festival.

5th Grade DARE Graduation

On December 9, 2018, the Marion Local fifth graders were honored at their DARE graduation. Our parents, grandparents, principal, teachers, and special guests were proud to witness the fifth graders, in the gymnasium, pledge responsible decision-making while wearing new bright blue t-shirts!

DARE teaches students the Decision-Making Model of D = Define the Problem, A = Assess your Choices, R = Respond with a Responsible Action, and E = Evaluate the Effectiveness of Your Choice. Officer Sue Miller and Deputy Bird also spent weeks teaching the students resistance strategies such as avoiding uncomfortable situations, strength in numbers, walking away from problems, and changing the subject when confronted by peer pressure. They also allowed students to role-play resistance methods such as "broken record" which could be noted with certain repetitive answers. For example,

"Do you want a cigarette?"

"NO."

"Do you want alcohol?"

"NO."

"Let's have a party at your house since your parents are not home!"

"NO."

Students wrote a speech detailing what they had learned in DARE class and were allowed to read their speech to fellow classmates. Students then voted on the top two speeches from each classroom. The lucky winners were Oliver Seifring, Kelsey Bruggeman, Ava Mescher, Michaela Osterholt, Hannah Rindler, and Chloe Bergman!

Honor students were also chosen by Sheriff Jeff Grey's deputies for going over and beyond the required workbook completion. Hayden Steinbrunner, Katelyn McClurg, Kayla, McClurg, Ava Mescher, Chloe Bergman and Selena Arling were awarded a medal for their hard work!

Finally, a word of gratitude to the DARE Boosters and CAPT, for supplying Marion Local with our new blue t-shirts! With diplomas in hand, our fifth grade graduates proudly filed out of the gym, knowledgeable and confident that they will know how to be healthy, successful, and drug-free for the future!





In 7th grade language arts, students began the year by reading historical fiction books that included the time periods of the Civil War and the Great Depression. These books were read in groups where students practiced discussion skills. Various other projects and writings were done in conjunction with these books including a life-sized character map, a group characterization essay, and a comparison research essay of the events in the books compared to the actual events of these time periods. Second nine weeks included reading many articles about various argumentative topics including the use of Smartphones in schools, single-sex schools, rescuing people who take unnecessary risks, school grading without the traditional letter grades, and students participating in extreme sports. Students were asked to take a position on a topic and to support that position with the articles while using proper quoting, citing, and paraphrasing. The second semester will focus on narrative writing and reading.

8TH GRADE

The students started the year by reading the novel *Night* by Ellie Wiesel. This novel was about a young boy who lived through the holocaust and lived to tell his story. He did this by creating an autobiography about all the hardships he endured in the concentration camps. During this novel, the students were asked to form their own opinion on the holocaust by doing some research. The students also learned literary terms throughout the novel and were to apply these terms to their own pieces of work. The students looked closely at themes from the novel to help them better relate to Elie. At the end of the novel, we read the allegory "Terrible Things" by Eve Bunting to show theme relation. The common theme was silence, but the novels were appropriate for two different audiences. The students did a fantastic job with allegory analysis and application.

Next, the students transitioned into informative writing. The students analyzed several pieces of informative writing and wrote many of their own informative pieces. The students chose their best informative piece of writing, and this is the topic that they created an informative essay from. This required some research and following guidelines, but the students did a great job of buckling down and working through all of the challenges that arose during this writing process.

The second quarter quickly crept up, and the eighth graders took on new challenges. They read a class book called *Tears of A Tiger*. The students worked hard at determining theme, mood, tone, and other literary techniques.

The 8th graders have been very busy in language arts. The students are learning to become independent learners by using many of the resources they have available. I am so thrilled at the progress of this 8th grade class, and I look forward to a great rest of the year!

Halloween Happenings and Thanksgiving Turkeys By: Angie Leugers, Title I

Too much candy---whoever heard of such a thing? The first graders did when they learned and memorized a Halloween poem about eating too much candy and performed it for their classmates!



Here is a bunch of little turkeys! No, not the kids--the rhyming turkeys my kindergarteners are holding. Each student created a turkey with four pairs of rhyming words they had to read and write on the feathers.



What can you create with a box of clay?

By: Kim Bruns

One art supply that all grade levels enjoy using is clay! Here are some of the clay projects that students will build this year. Be on the lookout for these coming home in the next couple of months (if they have not already been brought home).

Kindergarten students are learning about clay and using it to build sculptures for the first time this year. This first experience with clay is a very exciting time for them! Before Christmas break, students made star Christmas ornaments out of clay slabs. After break, they will continue learning about clay as they build a basic pinch pot, and then turn this pinch pot into a bird's nest.

One of the favorite projects so far in 1st Grade were the clay pumpkins. Students made these earlier in the fall out of clay pinch pots turned upside down. During this project, students got to experiment with glaze as their surface decoration for the first time ever. Students loved feeling the glassy surface of these finished pumpkins. Coming up later this winter students will also make valentine handprint plates.

2nd Grade students also made Christmas ornaments to take home before break. Students used basic shapes (like circles and triangles) to create a face and earmuffs for their snowman ornament. All of them turned out really cute and helped put us in the holiday spirit!

I am switching things around in 3rd Grade. This year, the 3rd Graders will make 3D snowmen and penguin sculptures. This is a project that was previously done in 4th Grade, but I think this would be a good task for the 3rd graders this year. During this project, students will learn how to make upright, vertical sculptures that can stand on their own by using basic clay building techniques.

A new project that we will be doing in 4th Grade is making animal pinch pots. Students will make a regular pinch pot and then be challenged to turn the pinch pot into an animal somehow. All students will be able to pick any animal that they want. The pinch pots can be laid on their side, flipped upside down, or manipulated in any way necessary to create that animal. If time allows - I also hope to have students make a snowflake stencil plate before the winter is over.

For the first time, 5th Grade students are making clay mugs. Students will wrap slabs of clay around a pop can to get the basic mug shape. From there, students will be able to add a handle and any kind of decorations that they want. We will celebrate our success at the end of the this

project by having a hot cocoa party in which we will test out the functionality of our clay mugs by sipping cups of hot cocoa.

The 6th Grade students finished their clay tile in December. Students primarily used slabs and coils to construct a square tile and a stand to hold it up. They personalized their tile by adding a decorative border with their initial in the center. Students used underglaze and glaze to add color to their clay tiles.

Since the 7th Grade students have a wide range of experiences and knowledge about clay from previous years, they get the freedom to pick the type of clay project that they make in 7th Grade. This opportunity to pick their own project is very exciting and challenging as the students take complete ownership and control over the idea and execution of the project.



Kdn. Star Ornament



1st grade Pumpkins



2nd Grade Snowmen Ornaments

High School Principal Report

Even though the winter has started very mildly, at some point we will probably get some ice and snow. Every year the high school sees a new batch of drivers and I would like to remind parents to have a conversation about being prepared for winter driving. This would include leaving home earlier than normal to allow for extra time for the commute to school in the morning. It would also include properly cleaning off windows to allow for ample visibility. Many times the schools parking lots are snow covered and slippery which means we all need to be cautious when driving and parking. Thanks for your help in this matter.

As is typically the case, the school year is rapidly moving on and now we are officially at the half-way point in the

school calendar. The first semester concluded on January 4th and grades will be sent home the following week. Please review your student's grades and possibly work together to set some goals for the new semester. As always, please communicate with your student's teachers if you start to see a problem. The staff at MLHS knows how fortunate we are to have the support of our families as we work together to educate our young men and women.

This spring will mark the fifth year of Ohio's State Tests. Students will be tested in various subjects, depending on the student's course schedule. The tests will be given on April 8-11, 24, 25, 29 and 30th. Please do everything possible to have your student present on those days. The tested subjects are: Algebra, Geometry, English 1, English 2, Biology, American History and American Government. Also, on February 20th, all juniors will be taking the ACT during the morning hours.

In early November, the Marion Local community suffered a great loss with the passing of teacher and coach, Dan Thobe. Dan was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic, but the trait that most of us will remember him for will be his caring attitude. We will miss Dan very much and send our love to his family during this tough time. We very much appreciate Mrs. Marti Phelan for stepping forward and agreeing to finish out the school year in the math classroom.

As usual, our students excelled in the fall and we wish our students the best in the winter.

GO FLYERS!

Tim Goodwin

High School Guidance News Mrs. Jenny Dippold

IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan. 22 *TriStar applications* are due to Mrs. Dippold.

Jan. 28 *Freshman Orientation Meeting:* This is an orientation for 8th grade students and parents. It will be in the high school gym at 7:30 p.m. All of the recommended classes will be discussed as well as the process for selecting courses and planning for the next four years of high school.

Jan. 29 *College Credit Plus Meeting @ 7:30pm* in the high school gym. If you want to take college classes next school year for high school and college credit, students and parents must attend this mandatory meeting. Please mark your calendars and make arrangements if you need to get off work.

Feb 20 *ACT Test* for juniors (in the morning)

May 9 *Senior Awards Night* at 8:00pm at the Spiritual Center

SCHEDULING CLASSES

Scheduling with high school students will begin in February. All students will receive a list of the classes that are available. They will have a week or two to think about what they want to take. If your child is unsure of what to take & needs assistance, encourage him/her to stop and see me. I'm more than happy to assist with scheduling & making sure they have an adequate number of credits.

*****REGISTRATION REMINDER*****

When it is time to register for classes, students will fill out a paper that REQUIRES A PARENT SIGNATURE PRIOR TO TURNING IN!! (Math and English class selections are reviewed by the teaching staff to make sure students are making choices they can handle and that will be appropriately challenging, so these course selections may change from what your child has written on their paper.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors.....many local scholarships are available, with more coming out each week. Be sure to check the district website (under the guidance tab) to see what scholarships you may be eligible for. **PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!** Applications can also be picked up in the guidance office. In addition, I send emails as scholarships are available. If you are not signed up to receive emails from me, go to the district website and follow the prompts to get on the email list.



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We appreciate everything Dan did for our district. He was an inspiration to all.

BOXHOLDER
MARIA STEIN, OH 45860