



December 2017

Hello and Good Day:

The 2017-2018 school year has had an exciting start with students and teachers returning in August for academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. The first three months of school have passed quickly. The increased MISD student enrollment is reflected in the largest high school attendance in the history of the District. Accompanying our new Longfellow Elementary school are exciting new academic programs in computer and tech sciences, and revised science, social studies and technology curriculums. This year, as in the past, Marion Independent School District continues to exemplify our Community's expectations for excellence in our athletic excellence and positive student character on and off the playing field.

Marion has long been a community based school where children and adults excel. One might ask, "How does Marion continue to excel and match community expectations?" This remarkable tradition of community and citizen support for school life is exemplified by the Spirit and Philosophy of Education that is Marion. This philosophy is modeled daily and summarized in written policy that indicates who and what Marion believes, demonstrates, and values. We document these in our Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals each year. Our School Board reviews our policy as another opportunity to reflect on our continuous growth, expansion of excellence, and celebration of achievement.

This November, our MISD Board of Education (BOE) Directors Jill Hansen, Shari Funck, David Law, Dennis Trout, Bill Huntoon, Brent VanWey and Diana Zrudsky have undertaken another review and revision of our BOE Philosophy of Education. As November hosts the holiday where Americans give National thanks to Veterans and Family Values, the selfless expression of MISD gratitude for our Community's children and learners in school is emphasized. While some of the exact written policy words will be changed over the next 60 days during our Board's Educational Philosophy review and rewrite, your knowledge and input to this philosophy is invited via comment or letter. This information is shared to remind you of what Marion is and the structure upholding our District!

Educational Philosophy of the School District

The Marion Independent School District (MISD) is dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity for a high quality public education to ALL students. The MISD Board in collaboration with school district community members will apply resources available to meet all district goals and core values. The Board will seek annual community input to guide prioritization of effort. The Board is dedicated to providing ALL MISD learners the opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional and physical self-concept in a safe learning environment that provides guidance to and encourages critical thinking.

MISD Vision

ALL MISD Learners believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their future.

MISD Mission

The MISD in partnership with parents and the community will create a safe environment where each learner is nurtured to become successful.

Marion Independent School District GOALS

- Prepare all students to succeed as members of a global community and in a global economy.
- Eliminate the Achievement Gap.
- Recruit, retain, and develop a diverse cadre of the highest quality teaching personnel, staff, and administrators.
- Achieve recognition as an exemplary National educational system.
- Establish efficient systems for development, allocation, and alignment of resources to support the District's vision, mission, and goals.

MISD Core Values

Excellence

We believe in meaningful learning that stretches people to the frontiers and boundaries of their abilities.

Learners

We believe learners deserve the best we have to offer. Each individual child is capable and has the right to safety, mutual respect, and learning.

Community

We believe in our collective responsibility to establish a high quality collaborative learning community.

Respect

MISD Board of Education Beliefs:

We believe in treating all individuals with honor and dignity.

1. We believe ALL students need a safe and comfortable environment to learn, achieve and succeed.
2. We believe every member of the MISD Community has a responsibility to create an environment that fosters the development of positive, productive citizens, involved family members, and lifelong learners.
3. We believe parents, students, and the community share responsibility in the students' education.
4. We believe the individual learner's ability to acquire essential communication skills, to adapt to change, and to respond to problems with innovative solutions is essential.
5. We believe we are stronger and better able to serve our community when all voices join the conversation for our children's futures.
6. And in conclusion, "We" believe individuals must strive to build with others a collaborative learning environment where all learners build upon respect for the individual as a member and work as a team focused on MISD's mission, learning for ALL.

Thank you for reviewing a few words that guide our educational efforts in the Marion Independent School District. We act to serve you and our Community's children.

We sincerely hope your Thanksgiving was joyous and relaxing with family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph C. Dyer".

