

Plans for Future of Emerson Building

Now that Longfellow Elementary is completed and moved into, the district is left with an empty Emerson Elementary building. There have been various suggestions on what to do with the building, but keeping it around was always the underlying theme. Some months ago the school board voted to repurpose Emerson Elementary School into the Emerson Learning Center, accommodating the office and resource library functions of the Marion Home School Assistance Program (MHSAP) along with a variety of enrichment offerings for both students and parents. Most all of the meetings between supervising teachers and program families occur in the home, but there are a variety of other meetings that need to occur at the learning facility. These range from staff meetings to professional development to high school advising sessions for families and many more.

After reviewing a feasibility study of Emerson at their October 9 meeting, MISD Board members approved the preparation of construction drawings by Martin Gardner Architecture. Proposed design changes to the Emerson facility and site include: new onsite parking, remodeled office area, upgraded HVAC and electrical systems, windows, masonry repair and roofing. The design is in progress with bids expected to be received in late January.



The planned updates to Emerson will make it a usable facility for decades to come, without drawing from the district's resources. The cost of the initial remodeling will be accomplished through a redistribution of MHSAP reserve funds, made possible from changes in state law at last spring's legislative session.

Diane Messer serves as a resource librarian and supervising teacher at MHSAP. She states, "We welcome a steady flow of students and their families daily at MHSAP. With our consistent growth, the additional space at Emerson will enable us to continue offering a high level of support to those families. We are really excited about more classrooms, greater opportunity for housing library resources, a gym for large group activities and a bit of breathing space to circulate!"

The district is currently in discussion with the City of Marion and hopes to partner with the City Parks Department to provide a new playground area at the southwest corner of the site. The planned goal is to have the new Emerson Learning Center Facility ready for MHSAP to occupy in service to our community in July 2018.



Working together on a biology lesson is supervising teacher Edie Dukek leading (l to r) Judy Ellis, Abigail Tuecke, and Taylor Weigert through the dissection of a fetal shark.

Marion Fund Grants Make Big Impact

The Marion School Foundation awarded over \$30,000 in grants to teachers and staff within the district through generous donations from both businesses and individuals. Now that the school year has begun, we checked in with them to learn more about the impact these grants have made in the classroom.

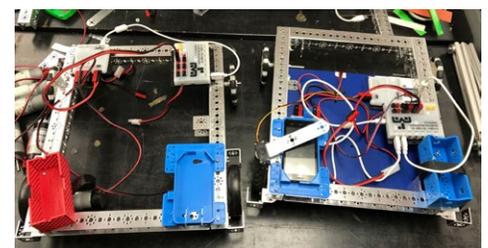
A Kiln for Longfellow

The kiln will soon be installed so students can get busy learning different techniques for working with clay. As students advance through grade levels they build up their



knowledge of clay sculpting and glazing techniques.

The kiln will save on having to transport items to other schools for firing.



Building Twin Robots

A grant to the engineering and robotics program was used to increase materials so teams can build "twin robots." This allows more students to be building, testing and troubleshooting on both hardware and software at the same time.

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& Alumni Association

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Published semi-annually by
**Marion Independent School
Foundation & Alumni Association**
777 South 15th Street
Marion, Iowa 52302

Check us out online to read more!
www.marion-foundation.org

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The Mission of the Foundation is to maintain, develop, increase, and extend the facilities of the Marion Independent School District, and to provide broader educational service opportunities to its students, staff, faculty, and the residents of the geographical area which it serves.

Changing Faces of the Board



The Foundation Board welcomed two new board members this fall. Charlie Potter is a lifelong resident of Marion and graduated from Linn-Mar in 1996. He and his wife Stefanie have two daughters, Sydney and

Hayley, who attend Vernon and FMI. Charlie has been a real estate broker with the family business, Potter Real Estate, for 16 years. His father, Boyd Potter, served the Foundation for many years but has since retired as a Trustee. When he is not working, Charlie enjoys spending time with his family, watching his daughters play sports, hunting and fishing.



Carolyn Munson spent her entire 41-year teaching career in Marion. In addition to teaching science and directing plays, Carolyn helped create one of the area's first ecology outdoor education

programs (fondly remembered by students as ECO-days). Carolyn says the Foundation will allow her to give back to students and staff through fundraising and increasing awareness of the great MISD educational programs and experiences that are available.



Retiring from the Foundation Board is longtime member and alum Gary Albaugh. Gary served on the Alumni Relations and Marion Fund Grant committees over the years. He has had

some strong insight in the Alumni Relations area after accomplishing the organization of his own 30-year class reunion. Most recently Gary helped with design and layout of the new MISD timeline posters that hang in the administrative wing at the high school. He plans to continue serving as a volunteer in the district.

2017 Class Reunions

There were a total of 12 class reunions held this past year going all the way back to a 60-year reunion for the Class of 1957.

For those who graduated in a class year ending in a 3 or an 8 (i.e. 2013, 2008, 2003, 1998, etc.) be on the lookout for information from your class representatives as you are due for a class reunion next year. Details will also be available at marion-foundation.org/reunions.

If you are the contact for your class reunion, Alumni Relations Director Jeff Kost can help. You can reach him at 319-377-4691 x1106 or jkost@marion-isd.org.



MHS Class of 1977 celebrates their 40th class reunion.



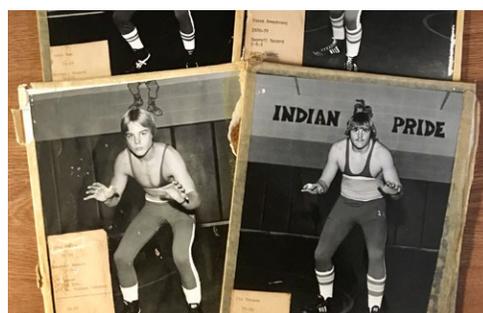
MHS Class of 1992 celebrates their 25th class reunion.



MHS Class of 1950 gathered together to reminisce about many past memories thanks to the organization efforts of Pat (Baughman) Schnell.

Wrestling Photos

There are more than 40 wrestling tiles with photos on them dating from 1960-1981 that were once hung in the high school. If you would like to look through the collection to find your high school wrestling photo, contact the Foundation office or stop by.





Spear-It of Influence



Your Gift Matters

Assessments of students who participated in last year's Summer Explorers Engineering & Literacy Camp showed 14.6% growth.



New rugs at Longfellow Elementary create classroom meeting space for students.



Reading corners filled with books, chairs and pillows were added to high school Spanish classrooms. Kaitlyn Askelson says, "Reading on my own helps me grasp the language better because it's presented naturally... and I like getting comfortable at the same time."



Join the Spear-It of Influence and make a lasting impact today. You can inspire and help students own their future.

Complete the form below or donate online at Marion-Foundation.org



AMOUNT

- \$25
- \$250
- \$50
- \$500
- \$100
- \$ _____

GIFT DESIGNATION (optional)

- Marion High School
- Vernon Middle School
- Francis Marion Intermediate
- Longfellow Elementary
- Starry Elementary
- MHSAP
- Alumni Association

DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check (payable to Marion School Foundation)

Credit Card: One Time \$ _____

Multiple \$ _____ for _____ months (first week of the month)

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration _____

Security Code _____

My company can match my gift. I work at _____

Gifts totaling \$100 or more will receive recognition in the next newsletter and on Marion-Foundation.org.

Those donating \$1000 or more have the opportunity to serve as a sponsor or co-sponsor of a project.

Your donation is 100% tax-deductible.

Please return to Marion School Foundation, 777 S. 15th Street, Marion, IA 52302.

Fundraising Furry

With community and business support, the Foundation hosted successful fundraisers over the past six months. Through these events, the Foundation is able to fund a variety of district projects, maintain an annual scholarship program for graduating seniors, assist alumni with class reunions, and support youth-focused programs like Start School Right and College for Kids.

Thank you to everyone who has made an impact by contributing or volunteering!

\$20,732

The **15th Annual Golf Classic** was held at Gardner Golf Course at the end of September to coincide with the city's annual Swamp Fox Festival and raised a record-breaking amount! The champion foursome (below) was Wayne Hora, Bret McNamara, Chad Norton, and Dillon Eggers.



Special thanks to all of the events contributors and volunteers, including:

Golf Sponsor:
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Meal Sponsor:
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MHS Class of 1959

Dine Out Schools FOR OUR

This new event was jointly sponsored by the Linn-Mar School Foundation and Marion School Foundation. Thousands of patrons flooded local restaurants on Thursday, September 21 to show their support. The restaurants then donated at least 10% of their bills to the Linn-Mar and Marion School Foundations. The event raised:

\$5,677

Watch for the next Dine Out event in spring 2018!



Marion Foundation Golf Classic

2017

\$2,424

Many thanks to The Freeze owners and employees for their second annual \$1 cone fundraising event benefitting Marion schools. Community members flocked to the restaurant for four days at the end of October in spite of the chilly weather. Pictured below are many of the Marion High School students who work at The Freeze and helped make the fundraiser possible.



Volunteer Spotlight

Jill Law



The Foundation office has been fortunate to have community and student volunteers to help on a variety of projects. For most of 2017 we have been privileged to get the help of Jill Law. Jill is the wife of retired MISD band teacher and current school board member David Law. She is also the proud mother of MHS alums Stephanie and William.

Jill has been monumental in helping with multiple projects including organizing our teacher appreciation and golf goodie bags, and arranging alumni display cases. She has also been a great resource in keeping our alumni contact database up to date with the changes that come in throughout the year.

Jill does like keeping busy since retiring from being a Circulation Services Supervisor at the Marion Public Library for more than 20 years. When she is not helping at the Foundation office, Jill volunteers with Horizon's Summer Meals, Meals on Wheels, Big Brothers Big Sisters, sitting on the board of the Churches of Marion Food Pantry, and multiple activities at the Marion Christian Church.

The Foundation is grateful for Jill's skills, expertise, and cheerful smile. We look forward to her continued work with us.

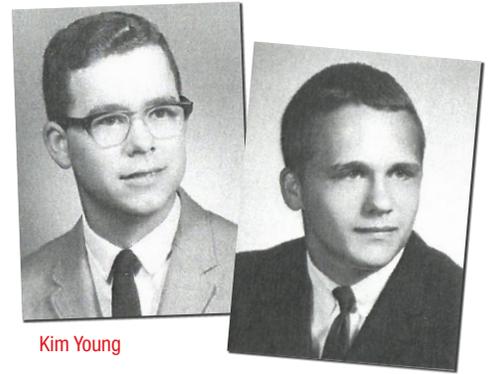


In October, 30 students from the Marion Home School Assistance Program shared their products and services with the public at an Entrepreneur Fair. Students had worked on marketing, production and sales skills prior to the event. Buyers were able to benefit from homemade baked goods, party services, tutoring opportunities, app development and

a variety of other products. Pictured here are two hard workers, Josiah Dean and Grace Dean, presenting their projects to the crowd.

Class of 1967 Honors Classmates

During their class reunion this past summer the Marion High School Class of 1967 took time to remember classmates that are no longer with them. The class collected donations and will honor Roy Meier and Kim Young with bricks on the Foundation's Wall of Support. Both served during the Vietnam War. Roy gave his life during the war and Kim passed away in a car accident after his return from Vietnam.



Kim Young

Roy Meier



Jeanna (Barber) Sager '67 and husband Larry select which bricks are to be engraved for the Class of 1967.

The class also purchased a brick celebrating their 50 years since graduation. It is dedicated to the memory of all the classmates they have lost over the years. The class "cares deeply for our classmates and hope that they will help carry on the tradition of giving back to the school that helped them find our way through the teenage years."

If you would like to purchase a brick on the Wall of Support for a classmate or loved one, please contact the Foundation Office.

2017 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Inducted into this year's Athletic Hall of Fame were (l to r): Shelby Cooper, Mike Cannoy, Valerie Pickett, Jim Meggers, Mel Meggers, Patrick Lala, Morgan Paige and Terry Skilling. To see a listing of their accomplishments and honors visit marion-foundation.org/mhs-athletic-halloffame.

The Marion Independent School District Athletic Hall of Fame honors former Marion High School athletes, coaches and community members for their achievements while participating in or in support of Marion's athletics programs. The Hall of

Fame began in 2001 and induction of new members takes place during half-time of the Marion Homecoming football game each fall. Nominations may be submitted to Marion activities director, Corby Laube or through the Marion Athletic Booster Club.



Construction Trades is Swinging Away

The Marion City Council donated two residential lots to the Marion Independent School District in October. The Marion High School home construction class (which also enrolls some Linn-Mar students) quickly began building a single unit home on one of those lots. The students are led by MHS industrial technology teacher Ryan Streets. "I enjoy watching the students from the two schools work together, and most certainly seeing the satisfaction and pride they find in their work on this project," commented MHS Principal Greg Semler. You can see the quality construction trades work the students are performing by visiting the site at the 2900 block of 5th Avenue.

Scholarship Applications Available

The Marion School Foundation oversees many endowed scholarships to benefit Marion High School graduates. We are proud to offer over \$35,000 in scholarships this year to graduating seniors. Details relating to scholarship requirements and applications are available online at www.Marion-Foundation.org. All applications will be completed online this year. Scholarships that are available include:

Marion School Foundation Hall of Fame Scholarship

Clayton Schnoebelen Memorial Female Student-Athlete Scholarship

Darrell & Dorothy (Merritt) Fisher Scholarship

James & Teresa Conklin Soccer Scholarship

Jason White Memorial Scholarship

Jeff Rehnstrom Memorial Scholarship

John Scarborough Miller Memorial Scholarship

John Schlotterback Memorial Business Scholarship

Justin Turner Memorial Scholarship

Kelly Grishaber Memorial Scholarship

Kiwanis Club of Marion Scholarship

Marion Firefighters Association Scholarship

Lowell Morgan Service & Character Scholarship

Michael McGrew Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Fluckiger Niles Memorial Scholarship

Ratliff-Ames Scholarship

Rebecca Paulson Memorial Scholarship

Todd Little Memorial Scholarship

Veda Pollock Moore Scholarship

New Face Joins School Board



The first item on the September 25 MISD Board of Education meeting agenda was to address results of the recent election. There were three open seats on the board, but only two names were on the ballot.

Incumbents Shari Funck and Bill Huntoon were re-elected and Diana Zrudsky received the majority of write-in votes. All will serve three-year terms.

While Zrudsky is new to the school board she is not at all new to Marion. She moved to Marion after graduating from UNI. She began her career as a teacher in Cedar Rapids, then joined the Linn-Mar District in 1976 as a 7th grade language arts teacher before becoming a director in charge of a variety of curricular areas and budgets.

Zrudsky and her family have strong ties to education and the Marion Independent School District. Her husband, Tom, is a Marion graduate and retired Marion teacher and coach; their son, Chad, is a Marion graduate and current Marion administrator; their daughter-in-law, Whitney, is a reading teacher at Linn-Mar, and their grandson is a 4th grader at FMI.

Zrudsky's main goal as a board member is to add her knowledge and experience to help students become the best that they can be. "No matter how excellent we are, there are always ways to improve," says Zrudsky. "Our instruction and course offerings should continually help open doors for students' futures. I see a community and school district personnel who also want this, and I'm excited to work with them to continue the work in improving education for all of our students."

In her free time Diana volunteers at Marion and Linn-Mar elementary schools, serves on the Friends of the Library board, works with a church youth group, and enjoys reading, biking and golfing.



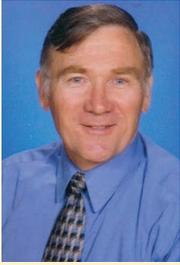
THANK YOU



AND ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

Philip's Diamond Shop, located in the Marion Uptown District, donated three prizes for a raffle drawing with 100% of the proceeds going to the Marion Independent School Foundation. Tickets were sold throughout the fall and winners were drawn in November.

Paul Brauer – \$1500 Gift Certificate for Custom Jewelry
Tracy Slaughter – Amethyst Pendant Set in 14K Gold
Tom Barnes – Men's Luminox Colormark Watch



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Chris Dyer

The 2017-18 school year has had an exciting start with students and teachers returning in August for academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. 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.

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. The MISD Board of Education (BOE) reviews our policy as another opportunity to reflect

on our continuous growth, expansion of excellence, and celebration of achievement.

This November, 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 MISD Educational Philosophy. While some of the exact written policy words will be changed over the next 60 days during the BOE's review, 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.

MISD Educational Philosophy

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

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

MISD Goals

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

MISD Board of Education Beliefs

- We believe in treating all individuals with honor and dignity.
- We believe all students need a safe and comfortable environment to learn, achieve and succeed.
- 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.
- We believe parents, students, and the community share responsibility in the students' education.
- 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.
- We believe we are stronger and better able to serve our community when all voices join the conversation for our children's futures.
- 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 sincerely hope your Thanksgiving was joyous and relaxing with family.

Start School Right Helps Families Get Back to School

Marion Independent School District hosted its **Start School Right** on August 9 at Vernon Middle School. The event was open to all district families and included free school supplies, Goodwill clothing vouchers, home supplies, clothing, haircuts, food, vision checks, shoe cards, blankets and dental hygiene supplies. More than 130 families participated!

Several community agencies were invited to provide information for families on food pantries/ programs, mental health services, library services, YMCA programs, insurance assistance, substance abuse and parenting programs.

District Social Worker Michelle Wilson shares, "The district is grateful for the support of many volunteers, local business donors, and the MISD Foundation for providing \$1,500 for the purchase of clothing and school supplies." The district looks to provide the event again next August.

College for Kids

Grant Wood AEA College for Kids is a summer program offering advanced level academic and fine arts courses in a college setting to eligible students who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade. Students have the opportunity to explore areas of interest which are not typically available in middle school general education.

The Marion School Foundation was proud to support 34 students from Vernon Middle School to attend

College for Kids by providing a \$50 scholarship to each. Students who attended the program this past summer were: Abby Boggs, Sydney Burlage, Allison Cross, Dylan Davis, Keenan Diers, Emily Dooley, Drew Dooley, Alexa Greene, Tasha Greene, Sara Griest, Elsie Hartwig, Grace Hinrichs, Mason Kiney, April Lawyer, Mathilda Lehman, Wes Logan, Paityn McDonald, Emily Moritz, Seth Olsen, Katie Paulson, Ray Redondo, Rebeckah Regennitter, Anna Reisner, David Reisner, Joy Ringwald, Aaron Rose, Molly Schlitter, Allison Steffen, Peyton Steffen, Samantha Steffen, Gracey Swanson-Folken, Mia Utsinger, Kylie Walker, and Elyse Ward.



Current Vernon Middle School 8th grade student Gracey Swanson zooms in to get a closer shot of the pedals on the flowers.

Additional Ways to Support Marion Schools

- Send me information about *Marion Builds Opportunity* – the capital campaign to renovate the athletics and performing arts facilities.
- I am interested in starting a conversation about leaving a legacy through planned giving.
- Contact me so I can learn more about serving on a committee, volunteering, or joining the Board of Trustees.
- I would like assistance in planning my next class reunion.
- Give me a call, my company may be able to help the schools in some capacity.
- Other _____

Name MHS Grad Year

Company/Organization

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Marion School Foundation, 777 S. 15th Street, Marion, IA 52302
(319) 377-4691, x1110 or marionfoundation@marion-isd.org

What's the Right Time for Giving?

The holidays are a time of cheer and giving for many. The Foundation is so appreciative of gifts received throughout the year, which provide the opportunity to fund so many wonderful projects in the Marion Independent School District. It is truly a privilege to support students, teachers and the Marion community. There are many ways to celebrate and honor those who have made a significant impact on our lives. Instead of giving flowers, you may want to consider a different sort of gift – a tribute is a special type of gift that expresses your admiration in a unique way.



The New Year also provides a good time to review and update wills, living trusts or other estate plans in light of any changes that may have occurred in the past year. Matt Spading, Trust Officer with Farmers State Bank, shares, “We find it very rewarding to assist our clients in the process of planned giving. We work with the client, their attorney and CPA, as well as the charities that are being gifted, to come up with a plan that not only benefits the charity, but also brings joy and, of course, tax benefits to our clients. Professional money management services add value to the gift, allowing it to continue touching lives for many years in the future.”

If you are considering making a gift, the Foundation would be pleased to provide more information to you and your advisors about ways you can create a memorial gift while preserving financial security for you and your loved ones.