



We have opened the school year and are already enjoying tremendous individual and team successes. Our learning programs are underway. We are settling into the second quarter, having watched our students and teachers begin anew with enthusiasm and delight. The summer facility work continues as the vision to update the Hipple Complex exhibits significant improvements to the softball, baseball and soccer facilities. This vision nears completion. The "Pride" that Marion displays in our Hipple Athletic Complex, in each of our school's new playgrounds, and in our Arts Programs' auditorium is evidenced by setting high standards to complement our excellent academic programs.

The work that our teachers and building leaders have undertaken since August was ambitious and the results outstanding. This work began with a two day Blended Learning Technology Instructional Practice Professional Development session for teacher and teacher associates. The infusion of critical thinking and problem solving learner habits is well underway. The integration of our critically focused standards based curriculum and expectations for increased student achievement is on-going. Our increased student enrollment for school year 2018-2019 attests to the brightness of the learning at Marion.

The Professional Learning Community Culture is proceeding with teacher led teams making a daily impact on learning for ALL. "We are at a point in time where teams are recognized as a critical component of every enterprise – the predominant unit for decision making and getting things done...Working in teams is the norm in a learning organization." (Senge, et. al. *The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook*) The daily tempo of Marion learning accelerated with one-to-one Chromebooks issued to each student in all classrooms from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Our ever expanding Wi-Fi capacity, and the use of audio visual learning systems, expand learning resources and stimulate student engagement and focus.

The new outdoor messaging board to announce MISD community events is on 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The expanded use of the internet and Facebook tells our stories. Regular outreach with social media displays (SEESAW) are on-going classroom celebrations for our students and the community. We do want to pause and reflect our congratulations to all our student musicians for a 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year achieving a Division 1 Marching Band Distinction! Marion hosts superbly competitive teams in all Fall Sport programs. Also it is appropriate to acknowledge our Boys Cross Country WaMac Championship.

Our student successes and district wide facility investments in the first quarter of SY 2018-2019 inspires Marion's continuing positive spirit and pride. We continue to plan for the major internal improvements to Starry and FMI for this summer and major reroofing of our Marion High School. These future projects provide the future potential to bring air conditioning next year to all our elementary schools and protective covering for our high school. Shortly, we will convene a Vernon Study Group to plan the outdoor facilities design south of Vernon Middle School. We continue to invest in our classroom learning processes, in our staff's professional development, and in our facilities to ensure the quality of Marion's learning for ALL student remains high.

Please visit with us over the upcoming holidays to see the new Emerson Learning Center and Longfellow facilities. Join us for our students' winter Arts and sports programs starting in November. We invite you to watch our talented children enjoy the holistic learning environment that allows Marion's children to grow in a uniquely special environment. See you on Campus!!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph C. Dyer". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Chris Dyer