



## MISD Leader Award Recipients

MISD Leader Awards are given annually by the Marion Foundation to recognize MISD staff who go above and beyond for their students, colleagues, and the community. Staff are nominated and voted for by their peers to receive this award. This year's recipients are Brenda Clark, Instructional Coach at FMI and Ann Wicke, ELL District Coordinator.

"All staff in this school district work incredibly hard, and more than that, they care," says Foundation Director Erin Steffen. "This is one small way



*"Brenda Clark has shown exemplary leadership skills, first as a classroom teacher and then as an Instructional Coach. She is willing to step up and help any staff member or student... and is a tremendous asset."*

*"Ann Wicke goes above and beyond to meet her student's needs... She has made a difference in each student she has touched through her teaching... Nothing stops Ann from being her best with her positive attitude and energy."*



we can recognize the best of the best and show them our appreciation. Even though school was not in session during Teacher Appreciation Week, it was important this tradition of recognition continue."

Award announcements for Ann Wicke and Brenda Clark included yard signs placed in front of each school and presentations created from photos and videos submitted by staff and students.

Both teachers make a huge impact in the lives of Marion students. Many thanks to all of our outstanding teachers and staff!

## Marion Foundation Grants Expand the Classroom

The Foundation is proud to continue the Marion Grant program, providing important funding to MISD teachers and staff to support student learning. The grants have been a cornerstone of the Foundation since 2000 and are made possible by generous donations received throughout the year from both individuals and businesses. The projects listed were brought to a committee for consideration and funding.

### Grants Awarded in Spring 2020

#### Loco Drone Curriculum

**Heath Mueller – Vernon Middle School**

With the new Loco Drone curriculum, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to combine their learned middle school technology skills of hardware and coding, working with a partner to build and fly their own drone.

#### Xylophone Stand

**Lauren Cutler - Longfellow Elementary**

A height-adjustable stand on wheels will be added to the Longfellow music room xylophone, meeting the needs of students with disabilities and those of varying heights.



MHS Robotic Team 5913 "Drop It Like Its Bot" poses with their robot. The team advanced to the state level of competition in the 2019-20 season.

#### Robotics Upgrades

**Chris Martin - Marion High School**

Updated electronics systems will help robotics team members continue their learning in the areas of technical skills, creativity and teamwork.

#### FitnessGram

**Health & Wellness Team - MISD**

Grant funding will support the initial subscription fee and two pilot years of the FitnessGram

software for all schools, helping wellness programs further support student fitness and promote healthy habits that will last well into the future.

#### Social Skills Library

**Dixie Recker - Starry Elementary**

The library and counseling office at Starry received funding to purchase an assortment of books that relate to social-emotional learning topics.

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**Get more online!**

[www.marion-foundation.org](http://www.marion-foundation.org)

 @MarionSchoolFoundation

**Supporting education  
 for the benefit of Marion  
 Independent School District  
 students, schools and the  
 greater community.**

# Welcome Elisabeth



Elisabeth Kissling joined the Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association in March of 2020 as Alumni Relations Director. She has over 18 years of nonprofit

experience including crisis counseling, marketing and development. Elisabeth has a B.A. in Music and Psychology and a Minor in Philosophy from Coe College and an M.A. in Education (Counseling) from the University of Iowa. She is a 2013 CBJ Forty under 40 honoree, graduate of the Leadership for Five Seasons class of 2017, and serves on the Marion Arts Festival board. Her son is a student at Vernon Middle School and together they partnered with Vernon students, staff and parents to start a Kindness Club at Vernon.

Elisabeth is passionate about supporting students, staff and alumni at Marion Independent School District. Her primary roles with the Foundation will include assisting alumni in connecting with classmates and planning for reunions, collaborating with community partners on historical archives, grant writing, volunteer management, marketing efforts including website, social media and print communication, and planned giving. You can contact Elisabeth by calling the Foundation office at (319) 377-4691 x1106 or by emailing her at ekissling@marion-isd.org.

# Thank You, Jeff



We appreciate Jeff Kost and his three years of service as Alumni Relations Director with the Marion Foundation. Jeff has taken a new role as Administrative Assistant-Student Support Services for MISD. Jeff shared, "I am very grateful for my time at the Foundation, the relationships I was able to build, and the deeper understanding and appreciation for the District it serves." Jeff's wife Samantha is a MISD alum and they are excited to start their daughter Charlotte in preschool at Longfellow this fall.



MHS Class of 1989 noted their 30<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2019.



A few from the MHS Class of 1969 who were on hand to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion in 2019.

# Class Reunions

Due to the current uncertainty of planning events during COVID-19, several classes have opted to cancel or postpone their reunions this year. For the most up-to-date reunion information, please visit our website at [marion-foundation.org/class-reunions](http://marion-foundation.org/class-reunions) or connect with a class contact.

**Class of 2010**

Maggie Murphy Johnston  
 mamurphy15@gmail.com

**Class of 1995**

Sarah Robertson (515) 202-2252  
 ou8ajeeep@hotmail.com

**Class of 1990**

Eric Kroeger (319) 491-6721  
 Erickkroeger@aol.com

Wynn Ngyuen (319) 560-5682  
 Wynn@pinnaclerealtyia.com

**Class of 1985**

Chris Foster (319) 361-1840  
 candeshouse@gmail.com

**Class of 1980**

Lisa Welsh  
 Welsh.lisa@imonmail.com

**Class of 1975**

Jackie O'Brien Wilkinson  
 jacks4luvs@gmail.com

**Class of 1970**

Karen Oakley (319) 721-9722  
 kloak2000@yahoo.com

**Class of 1965**

Julie Sperl (319) 377-3708

**Class of 1960**

Roger Konzen (319) 350-1455  
 rkonzan@live.com

# Lt. Col. William Norman Reed



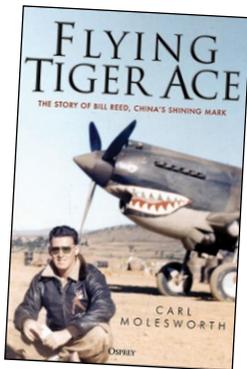
William Norman Reed, or "Bill," was Iowa's top flying ace in WWII, credited with 9 confirmed aerial victories and 9 confirmed enemy planes destroyed on the ground. His many achievements were recognized by awards including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal, the British Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Fifth and Sixth Order of the Chinese Cloud Banner.

Active in sports and serving as class president his junior and senior years, treasurer of Delta Sigma Delta and cofounder of the Mathematics Honor Society, Bill was well-liked and successful in both sports and academics. He acted in "As the Clock Strikes," a school play, his junior year. Bill also took an interest in a plane flown by local man Dan Hunter, founder of Cedar Rapids Airways Inc. His "Prophecy" in the Quill yearbook from Marion High School predicted "Aviator." Bill graduated from Marion High School in 1935 and graduated cum laude from Loras College in 1939.

Bill joined the Army Air Corps in February of 1940. He was invited to join a small select group of fighter pilots working for the Chinese government in its efforts against invading Japanese forces during WWII. The American Volunteer Group was nicknamed the Flying Tigers, due to the "shark face" painted on each plane.

After his service in China, Reed returned to Marion and joined several celebrities on a War Bond tour of the Midwest, ending in Hollywood. Bill returned to China in 1943 and was assigned to teach Chinese pilots to fly combat. In late summer of 1944, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and served as Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group until his death in December 1944 when he tried to bail out of his aircraft during an air raid warning.

Although Bill died in combat before he was able to start a family of his own, his nephew Ed Reed (MHS Class of 1956) and Ed's wife Susan Reed (MHS Class of 1960) continue communication with the Flying Tiger Association, as well as maintaining a strong relationship with the Marion Foundation. The Reed family has donated the vast majority of Bill's Flying Tiger memorabilia to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, located at Camp Dodge.



Inspired by Bill's heroism, aviation author Carl Molesworth has written a biography titled *Flying Tiger Ace: The Story of Bill Reed, China's Flying Mark*. It draws heavily on Reed's own words, along with the author's deep knowledge of the China air war and years of research into Reed's life to tell his story. The book is available for purchase and can be checked out at the Marion Public Library. A book signing by the author to be held in Marion is in planning stages due to COVID-19. Additional information will be available on our website at marion-foundation.org as it becomes available.

*Note: The last member of the American Volunteer Group/Original Flying Tigers died on February 5, 2020. His name was Frank Losonsky, ground personnel in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, known as the Hells Angels.*



## Marion Foundation Golf Classic

Friday, September 25

Gardner Golf Course  
10 a.m. Shotgun

**Registration Includes:**

- Early access to the driving range
- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Golfer gift bags
- Breakfast, lunch and drink tickets
- Multiple raffles
- Prizes for experienced & amateur golfers

- Hole Sponsor & Foursome (\$650)**
- Team Registration (\$400)**
- Hole Sponsor (\$300)**
- Individual Golfer (\$100)**
- 10 Mulligans Per Foursome (\$30)**

Check our website for a list of our valued sponsors!

**Sign Up Today!**

Online at:  
[marion-foundation.org/golf-classic](http://marion-foundation.org/golf-classic)

By phone:  
(319) 377-4691 x1110

Return form to:  
Marion School Foundation  
777 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marion, Iowa 52302



TEAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Player #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add this team to the **Senior Flight** for ages 55+

Check enclosed, payable to Marion School Foundation  Credit card payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Send an invoice Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Unable to attend this year, but sending my donation to support Marion students! Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

# 2019 Spear-It of Influence Honor Roll

Annually the Foundation recognizes donors through the *Spear-It of Influence Honor Roll* based on gifts received during the year. With these donations received in 2019, the Foundation can fund projects that support students, teachers, alumni and the greater MISD community. **We thank you for your continued support and for making a difference!**

## **\$20,000 and Above**

Jack Henderson in honor of Ruth Henderson

## **\$10,000-\$19,000**

Beth Combs in memory of Mike Combs  
GreenState Credit Union

## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Farmers State Bank  
Hills Bank  
Mary E. Vernon in memory of John Vernon

## **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Hupp Electric Motors  
Pearson  
Wells Fargo Bank

## **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Aegon Transamerica Foundation  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
Anonymous  
Jim & Teresa Conklin  
Dupaco RW Hoefer Foundation  
Dennis Fleege  
Doris French  
Chip '68 & Cathy (McCue) '69 Kensing  
Mark '75 & Sheryl (Campbell) '75 Morgan  
Roger Ockenfels in memory of Duane Ockenfels  
Peterson's Senior Health Insurance  
Rathje Construction  
Rockwell International Corp. Trust  
Jim '77 & Debby (Gagliardi) '78 Roth  
Norma (Hammond) Schmatt '61  
The Freeze  
Theisen's Home, Farm & Auto  
Greg '77 & Pamela Van Gorp  
Verizon Foundation  
Walmart - Marion  
Tom '67 & Diana Zrudsky

## **\$500-\$999**

Dan & Celeste Barkley  
Michelle Bell  
Café by Country Kitchen  
Cedar Memorial Funeral Home  
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust  
Culver's Butterburgers - Marion  
Shelli & Dale Fehr  
Jerry & Charlotte Grishaber  
Hanna Plumbing & Heating  
Greg & Nancy (Horning) '59 Hapgood  
Hardwood Design, Tyler Fisher '11  
Iowa Arts Council  
Jesse '00 & Brooke (Ryther) '99 Kensing  
Kohl's Cares  
David & Jill Law  
Marion Music Booster Club  
MEDCO  
Carolyn & Larry Munson  
Murdoch Funeral Homes

Bonnie & James Raasch  
Dr. Diane Schnoebelen-Kramer & Mark Kramer  
Shive-Hattery  
Duane & Sara Tack  
Carol Thurness in memory of Bob Thurness  
Jane Vernon  
Charles '75 & Mary Sue Vernon

## **\$250-\$499**

Darin '94 & Megan Andresen  
Baker Paper & Supply  
Bob '56 & Jeri Bunting  
Climate Engineers  
Community Savings Bank  
Country Financial, Peg Fraser  
Sean & Megan Eaton  
The ESCO Group  
Fosters Heating & Air  
Freund-Vector Corporation  
Stephani Harms  
Heritage Bank  
ImOn Communications  
James Kropa  
Linn Animal Hospital  
Linn Cooperative Oil Co.  
Todd & Diana Meyer  
MidAmerican Energy  
Miller Family EyeCare  
MTG Fasteners  
Mike & Peggy Murphy  
Network Computer Solutions  
Noodles & Company  
Langdon & Nichole Olson  
Ron '56 & Monica Prescott  
Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance  
Colton Storla '12  
Toyota4Good  
Larry & Joleen Twachtmann  
Brent '93 & Christie (Bulman) '93 VanWey  
Zio Johnno's - Marion  
Chad '97 & Whitney Zrudsky

## **\$100-\$249**

Nancy & Jeff Alderdyce  
Diane Allen '49  
Marilyn Andersen  
Scott & Deanna Arebaugh  
Mike & Karen Barnotes  
John & Cindy Bender  
Bistro 3 Nineteen  
Dan '82 & Dawn Bliss  
Paul '57 & Sue Brauer  
Dr. Janelle & Kyle Brouwer  
Carol Brown  
Scot & Julie Brown  
Cindy Brown  
Dennis '66 & Michelle (Orness) '66 Burgess  
James & Teresa Byers  
Carlos O'Kelly's  
Chick-Fil-a

Mike '58 & Laura Cira  
Class of 1966  
Class of 1979  
Bernie '60 & Barbar (Berryhill) '62 Cooper  
Dan & Connie Cranny  
Dairy Queen - Uptown Marion  
Julie & Tom Day  
Day Mechanical Systems  
Gene Dooley  
Cecil '58 & Nancy Ellison  
Shari & Joseph Funck  
Godfather's Pizza  
Granite City Brewery  
Greg '70 & Nancy Grant  
Tim & Sheri Hagarty  
Jean Hammill  
Nicole & Adam Harmer  
Robert Hawkins  
Greg Hebert '79  
Bob & Karen Hoyt  
Hubbell's Auto Repair  
Harold & Linda Hulleman  
David & Barbara Kalkwarf  
Caroline Keith '59  
Rodger '57 & Elizabeth (Rundall) '59 Keleher  
Vic & Pat Klopfenstein  
Jeff & Samantha (Houseman) '08 Kost  
Augie '58 & Barbara Kray  
Corinne & Stephen Krzywicki  
Joe Latta  
Lindsay Brown, DDS  
Joe & Jessica Link  
Linn Area Credit Union  
Kurt '66 & Rev. Linda (Rinas) '67 Livingston  
Lombard Junior Women's Club  
Longfellow Elementary School Staff  
Sean Lyness  
David Lyons '48  
Marion Police Department  
Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C.  
Dr. Katherine & Edward Mathews  
Laura (Martin) Mattison '69  
Ivan & Lyn McBride  
Mike '57 & Patricia McKenna  
April Mead  
David & Jill Messerli  
Karen Meyer  
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
Darrell & Marcia Miller  
MISD School Board  
Amy Moenk  
Moe's Southwest Grill  
Phil & Darlene Morris  
Doug & Marva Neighbor  
Kent & Kay Neighbor  
David Nieland  
John '58 & Louise (Kleis) '68 Nieland  
David '78 & Clarissa Norris  
Martha Norton  
Dan '57 & Virginia Ockenfels  
Brian '81 & Robin (Ridenour) '82 Odean  
Langdon & Nichole (Jellison) '02 Olson  
James Owens  
Brad Parsons  
Donald '60 & Janet (LeClere) '60 Patschke  
Carol Paul  
Joey & Adria Pierce  
Charlie & Stefanie Potter  
Casey Prince

Quinn Equipment  
Ramsey's Wine Bistro  
Danielle (Andresen) '94 & Dan Rauser  
Ed '56 & Susan (Peterson) '60 Reed  
Karen (Regal) '82 & Gary Johnson  
David '73 & Lorna Reinecke  
Keith & Ruth Remy  
Rinderknecht  
Alex Rinehart '12  
Bertha Rodriguez  
Salow Mechanical Insulation  
Jim & Irene Sauer  
Dennis '70 & Ellen (Livingston) '73 Schmuecker  
Carl '70 & Dawn (Lowry) '71 Schuettpelz  
Scooter's Coffee  
Kenver & Diane Scott  
Jeri Smith '55  
Dick & Iris Snyder  
Richard & Janet Solar  
Starry Elementary School Staff  
Raymond & Joyce Stow  
Susan Streit  
Timothy & Dawn Stultz  
Warren & Beverly Stultz  
Lee & Lisa Tilkes  
Mary Jo & Robert Tranter  
Larry Trout '68  
Jessica (McCue) Trout '66 in memory of Dennis Trout  
United Fire Group  
John '84 & Pamela Van Gorp  
David & Eileen Van Gorp  
Vernon Middle School Parent Group  
Villa's Patio  
Jon '74 & Denise (Bennett) '74 Ward  
Fred '57 & Judy Weber  
Steve Wells '70  
Nancy (Hatch) '92 & Scott Wittstruck  
John & Harriet Yeisley  
Janice (Kincheloe) '79 & Gary Zoet  
Zoey's Pizzeria  
Doreen (French) '82 & Jack Zumwalt

## **In-Kind Over \$250**

Hills Bank  
Hy-Vee  
McGrath Family of Dealerships  
Raining Rose  
Roots in Bloom Florist & Wellness



*In spite of our best efforts, errors and omissions may occur. Please contact the Foundation office regarding any inaccuracies.*

# Foundation Scholarship Recipients

A variety of scholarships are awarded each year to graduating seniors from Marion High School and Marion Home School Assistance Program. In May, through a video collaboration with MISD staff, the Foundation was proud to announce 26 scholarships to Class of 2020 graduates in support of their educational goals.

Additional contributions to these scholarship funds are encouraged in any amount and may be made at any time. If you are interested in establishing your own scholarship fund, please contact our office to learn more.

## Veda Pollock Moore Scholarship

Lauren Kuethe (University of Northern Iowa)  
Kay Mundy (Iowa State University)  
Laura Olson (Indiana Wesleyan)

## Darrell & Dorothy (Merritt) Fisher Scholarship

Riley Bruns (Kirkwood Community College)  
Bethany Foster (Kirkwood Community College)  
Avery Nicholls (Kirkwood Community College)

## Rebecca Paulson Memorial Scholarship

Kennedy Neff (University of Wisconsin - Platteville)

## Duane Ockenfels Memorial Scholarship

Breckin Bartels (Iowa State University)

## Dr. Robert L. Thurness Memorial Scholarship

Ben Gibson (Mount Mercy University)

## Kelly Grishaber Memorial Scholarship

Brianna Fentress (Kirkwood Community College)

## Marion Foundation Hall of Fame Scholarship

Madalyn Lovejoy (University of Iowa)

## Michael McGrew Memorial Scholarship

Niyo Gady (Kirkwood Community College)

## Lowell Morgan Service & Character Scholarship

Tristen Christiansen (Kirkwood Community College)

## Michelle Fluckiger Niles Memorial Scholarship

Alicia Howard (St. Ambrose University)

## Jeff Rehnstrom Memorial Scholarship

Samuel Finley (Kirkwood Community College)

## John Schlotterback Memorial Business Scholarship

Jacob Deiters (Central College, Pella)

## Justin Turner Memorial Scholarship

Haley Gorgen (University of Northern Iowa)

## Jason White Memorial Scholarship

Josephine Hancox (University of Iowa)

## James & Teresa Conklin Soccer Scholarship

Aaron Grimes (Loras College)

## Morris F. Neighbor Scholarship

Karlee Walker (Kirkwood Community College)

## Todd Little Memorial Scholarship

Brady Johnson (University of Northern Iowa)

## Ratliff-Ames Memorial Scholarship

Taylor Arcand (University of Wisconsin - Platteville)  
Brayden Bettenga (Kirkwood Community College)  
Kaleb Martens (Iowa State University)  
Anna Overmann (Iowa State University)  
Avery Nicholls (Kirkwood Community College)

Certain scholarships allow for renewal if recipients meet criteria during the academic year. The following students will be renewing their scholarships.

## Veda Pollock Moore Scholarship

Darian Brandt (University of Iowa)  
MacKenzie Redmond (Mt. Mercy University)  
Patrick Bleadorn (University of Iowa)  
Nolan Freymark (Central College, Pella)

## Darrell & Dorothy (Merritt) Fisher Scholarship

Carter Lantermans (Kirkwood Community College)  
Alexis Woode (Kirkwood Community College)

# New Scholarships Create Opportunities for Students



This scholarship fund was established by Roger Ockenfels in memory of his son, **Duane Ockenfels**, a 1995 MHS graduate. Its purpose is to help a high achieving student with

good character skills who wants to pursue further education in IT or a related field. Duane was passionate about computers and programming and graduated first in his class. Classmates remembered him as being humble and always willing to help others. That spirit of supporting others has been passed along to Breckin Bartels, the first recipient of the Duane S. Ockenfels Memorial Scholarship.

*"Congratulations Breckin on all your endeavors and may you too become the 'go to' person in your field of choice; that Duane was in the programming field." – Roger Ockenfels*



**Morris Neighbor** had a strong sense of community that can easily be traced to the belief that it's important to give back to the areas in which we live and work. This is evidenced

through his numerous volunteer activities over the years. As long-time President of Farmers State Bank, annual gifts were, and continue to be given, to many area schools including the Marion Independent School Foundation. To support the future of Marion, he left scholarship funds to Marion, Linn-Mar and Alburnett schools. His Marion High School scholarship was awarded for the first time this spring to Karlee Walker.



**Ruth Henderson** taught business and computer classes at Marion High School for 20 years. She engaged with her students as teacher and mentor, and made lifelong friendships

with fellow staff. Ruth's husband Jack, along with their children, created the Ruth S. Henderson Memorial Scholarship for Marion High School students in her memory. The first scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2021 to a student with an above average GPA showing service to their community and involved in school activities.



**Hearts of Gold:** Foundation supporters came together during last year's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, including this group of retired Vernon Middle School staff.

# CARES Act Supports Charitable Giving for 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act moved quickly through Congress and was signed into law by the President. A significant part of the CARES Act provides economic stimulus for businesses, but the Act also provides taxpayers with additional incentive for charitable giving.

**For 2020, the Act allows individuals to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 (\$600 for couples) – even if the taxpayer does not itemize. For those who do itemize, the CARES Act lifts the cap on cash donations from 60% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to 100% of AGI, thus allowing donors to deduct more of their charitable cash contributions this year.**

While the Act waives Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for 2020, IRA owners who have attained age 70½ may continue to make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from their IRAs. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from one's IRA, payable to a qualified charity. A QCD excludes the amount donated from the IRA owner's taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. The maximum annual amount which can be given is \$100,000 per taxpayer (spouses are permitted to each give a maximum of \$100,000 provided that the participating spouse is at least 70½ and the QCDs are made from their respective IRAs). A QCD must be transferred directly from the IRA custodian to the charity by December 31. The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization.

*This information was provided by Hills Bank's Trust and Wealth Management Department and is intended to be informational only. Individuals should seek guidance from their tax and legal advisors.*

*The Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization whose tax ID is 42-1343360.*

*(Grants... continued from page 1)*

## Awarded in Fall 2019

### **I-Hub Science Curriculum** **Garrette Williams & Mitch Hewitt -** **Marion High School**

Marion High School science teachers piloted a new science curriculum for the State of Iowa this past school year but needed to build up their lab supplies to do so effectively. A variety of lab items were purchased for Botany, Zoology, Biology, Environmental Science, and Field Science courses.

### **Sight Word Proficiency** **First Grade Teachers - Longfellow &** **Starry Elementary**

These magnetic "Read It, Build It, Write It" white boards come with letters and are a fun way for students to practice their sight words. Twenty-four were purchased for each first grade classroom.

### **Piano Upgrade** **Kari Scherbring - Vernon Middle School**

A new Yamaha acoustic piano was purchased to replace the old digital piano used by the Vernon Middle School Choir.

### **Literacy in World Language** **Abby Wennkamp & Liz Henkel -** **Marion High School**

High school Spanish teachers expanded the collection of free reading books for all levels of Spanish to assist with the natural adoption of the language and help more students achieve the Seal of Biliteracy before graduation.



Students work on reading and writing skills using Sight Word Boards provided by a Foundation grant.

### **Providing Tools for Our** **Future Workforce** **Greg Semler - Marion High School** **Emily Russ - Marion Economic** **Development Corporation (MEDCO)**

Grant funding was used to purchase modern welding equipment including a new welder, safety gloves and helmets. This supports students pursuing welding certification in partnership with Kirkwood Community College and Hupp Electric.

### **Band Instrument Tuners** **David Anderson & Jennifer Adams -** **Vernon Middle School**

**Logan Vander Wiel - Marion High School**  
One hundred tuners that can be attached to instruments allow middle and high school band members to complete their own tuning, saving class instructional time while training student ears.

### **Flexible Seating for Kindergartners** **Allison Beckner, Jen O'Brien, & Eric** **Hauschildt - Longfellow Elementary**

Kindergarten students have access to a variety of flexible seating options to meet their sensory and learning needs, also making the classroom more adaptive for individual and group activities.

### **Real Care Babies** **Sandee Wolfe-Kerker - Vernon Middle** **School**

Five new Real Care babies allow 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to experience what caring for a baby is like as part of the Teen Living curriculum.

### **Creative Space for Journalism** **Gretchen Mundorf - Marion High School**

The journalism team received funding to upgrade their broadcasting room and writers workshop space to a more professional environment that includes seating for interviews.

### **Students Seeking Science** **Demonstrations** **Becky Knudson - Vernon Middle School**

A new storage cabinet was purchased for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade science classroom so students have individualized trays that group their lab materials to make classroom lab time more efficient.

### **MHS Band Bass Clarinet** **Logan Vander Wiel - Marion High School**

A new Yamaha bass clarinet to replace the high school band's worn instrument.



## Superintendent's Report

It is a pleasure to continue serving in the role of Superintendent for the Marion Independent School District. The past year has brought a number of celebrations and challenges, which are faced as opportunities for learning and progress.

The school year began with a focused effort in reviewing and updating the Strategic Plan. This process involved input from groups of students, staff, parents, community, and the Board of Education. We analyzed what makes MISD special and focused on which traits and characteristics are essential for our students as they prepare for life beyond their PK-12 grade education. This process led to updating our Mission, Vision, Goals, and Core Values, which guide short- and long-range District planning. The Vision "Own Your Future" involves *each child*, not just our seniors preparing for their future beyond graduation. It means that each student leaving kindergarten will be Future Ready, with the prerequisite academic and social-emotional-behavioral skills to be successful as a first grader. Our Mission to "Foster a community of learners in developing the knowledge and skills to be Future Ready" guides our focus in supporting each learner to develop and use their skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

At MISD, we take tremendous pride in community. We work to foster community in our classrooms, schools, district, and through critical partnerships within the greater Marion area. The end of the 2019-2020 school year has heightened our pride in and focus on community! MISD, like schools across the nation, faced many unique challenges in light of COVID-19. We left for spring break anticipating to return a week later. Unfortunately this was not possible. Our students and staff missed out on many milestones a typical school year would hold. With creativity and commitment by many, we reworked how these milestones could continue to be celebrated. MHS held the first-ever virtual induction ceremony for National Honor Society. Both MHSAP and MHS developed video productions to celebrate 2020 graduates. A drive-through parade for MHS Seniors provided an opportunity to show off their cap and gown and pose for photos. Although not traditional ceremonies, there were many smiles and memories made.

Despite our brick and mortar buildings closing in March, MISD staff continued to support students and families. Approximately 350 each of school breakfasts and lunches (700 total meals per day) were served. Teachers developed lessons for students to engage in from home, while also checking in

by phone or virtually with students and families. It has been a difficult time for so many, but we celebrate the dedication of our staff and community in meeting the needs of our students.

Quality learning has taken place at home and online over the past few months, but our mission to foster a community of learners involves face-to-face interactions. Right now, our buildings are empty, but by fall we hope these spaces will again be filled with relationships, routines, and traditions.

In late March, the Board of Directors of MISD decided to continue consideration of the facility assessment recently completed by Estes Construction. Architecture firms who specialize in K-12 assessment, planning, referendum support, and design were researched. The District solicited proposals, interviewed three firms, and ultimately selected OPN Architects to partner with on our Facilities Master Plan.

We are now in the process of analyzing how our spaces may (or may not) support learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, while also maintaining health and safety in light of COVID-19 for those involved. The result will be a roadmap of prioritized needs and funding options to guide District decisions in facility improvements and expansion now and into the future.

Those who work and learn in the District every day are aware of some needs and challenges, particularly at Marion High School, Francis Marion Intermediate, Starry Elementary and Thomas Park Field. One of the first steps in the process included an all-staff survey followed by virtual listening sessions.

An important next step will be to convene the Facilities Advisory Committee in July. This group of parents, staff, community members, students, and school board members will be tasked with setting priorities and shaping a long-range plan and timeline that balances needs and wants with available funding.

We want this process to be transparent and include as many voices as possible. In addition to the Facilities Committee, there will be opportunities later this summer and fall for the entire community to tour our schools, ask questions, and share your thoughts. These are your schools. Your input is vital. I hope you will join us in developing a plan that will shape the success of our students for years to come.

If you have any questions regarding this process or input you would like to share, please reach out at (319) 377-4691 x1103 or email at [jbrouwer@marion-isd.org](mailto:jbrouwer@marion-isd.org). We are excited to develop a vision for the future of our MISD community!

Yours in Education,  
**Janelle Brouwer**

## Start School Right



For the safety of participants, this year's **Start School Right** will look different. Instead of attending an event, participants must sign up and items will be delivered to homes in mid-August. Although the deadline has passed, if your family is in need of back-to-school assistance in the form of **school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, tennis shoes or more**, we encourage you to contact the Marion Foundation office or your school counselor no later than **July 15**.

# Imagination Library Comes to Marion

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library puts books into the hands of children across the world. They partner with local communities to provide age-appropriate, high-quality books each month to registered children from birth to age 5.



This year, the Marion Public Library and Marion Independent School Foundation collaborated to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Marion.

**How does the program work?** One book is mailed to the child's residence each month for the duration of the program at no cost to the family. Register for this program by going to [imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability](http://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability).

**How is the program funded?** Dolly Parton's Imagination Library covers the cost of the book and Friends of the Marion Public Library covers the cost of shipping, which averages out to about \$26 per year per child. To learn more about program funding or to make a donation visit [marionpubliclibrary.org/friends-marion-library](http://marionpubliclibrary.org/friends-marion-library).



Marion Independent School  
Foundation & Alumni Association

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## Thanks for Your Support!

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### Enclosed is my donation to the Marion Foundation:

- General Donation
- Marion Grants
- Scholarships
- Start School Right
- In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (list school, program, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total contribution \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Thank You!**

- My employer \_\_\_\_\_ offers a matching gift program
- Please contact me about planned giving

Marion School Foundation, 777 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion, IA 52302  
(319) 377-4691 x1110 or [marionfoundation@marion-isd.org](mailto:marionfoundation@marion-isd.org)

## Donors Support Student Literacy

With school out of session and libraries closed, the pandemic certainly revealed a need for books in the home. MISD parents Cody and Jeni Crawford raised \$750 selling handmade face masks, which was used to purchase 170 new books that were distributed to Marion students during lunch pick-up on April 30 at Vernon Middle



School. Librarian Liz Pearson selected a number of popular books at varying reading levels, and with help from FMI Media Associate Becca Kramer, handed them out to students to encourage reading.

To continue the momentum of these efforts, Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association and the Marion Public Library collaborated on May 5 for **Giving Tuesday Now**, an international day of giving promoted locally in response to the pandemic. Each book purchased from an Amazon wish list was given to a K-12 Marion student at Vernon Middle School on May 28. Thank you to everyone who participated in order to support literacy in our community!