Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association

Fall 2026



Start School Right Holds 12th Annual Event

The Start School Right program held their 12th annual event on Thursday, August 6th.

This year, the program supported 228 families and 471 students as they prepared for the school year. Families received school supplies, backpacks, shoes, hygiene products, and more - helping take some of the pressure off families while making sure students have the essentials they need.

Start School Right is about move than giving away supplies. Families also had access to free vision and dental screenings, enjoyed dinner together, and connected with local organizations and services at a community resource fair featuring dozens of local community partners.

The event was a true community effort, bringing together volunteers, donors, businesses, nonprofits, and organizations who all share a commitment to supporting Marion families and students. The generosity and helping hands throughout the event were a wonderful reminder of what we can accomplish when a community comes together.

The Marion Foundation is grateful to everyone who donated, volunteered, provided services, or helped make the event possible. Because of your support, 471 Marion students are heading into the school year with a little more confidence, a few more essentials, and the knowledge that their community is behind them!

Start SCHOOL Right

Marion Foundation

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

Board of Trustees

Bonnie Raasch, President
Rachel Hauck, President Elect
Doreen Zumwalt, Past President
Adam Determann
Colton Storla
Peg Fraser
Justin Haas
Jessica Joyce
Cale Lowen
Dave Messerli
Carolyn Munson
Cynthia Martin
Jeane Eagle
Meredith Godar
Ryan Norton
Charlie Potter
Danielle Rauser
Kevin Techau
Amy Triggs
Greg Van Gorp
Dr. Janelle Brouwer, Superintendent
Shari Funck, School Board

Emeritus Trustees

Victor Klopfenstein
Patty Webster

Foundation Staff

Laura Farmer, Executive Director
(319) 377-4691 x 1110
lfarmer@marion-isd.org
Natalie Steggall, Administrative
(319) 377-4691 x 1181
nsteggall@marion-isd.org

Get more online!
www.marion-foundation.org

@MarionSchoolFoundation

O	H	L	S	N	W	R	N	N	L	O	S	O	W
W	R	C	T	E	O	R	N	F	E	O	L	S	F
L	O	G	U	L	L	L	N	W	G	D	L	O	G
A	R	L	D	P	L	P	A	R	K	V	I	E	W
H	L	D	E	T	E	I	E	K	E	O	A	K	L
V	R	S	N	M	F	L	N	P	E	I	N	D	O
O	P	N	T	A	G	O	N	S	E	O	N	L	W
M	L	U	S	R	N	A	C	V	N	G	F	W	L
R	E	G	S	I	O	W	H	R	D	L	G	O	D
E	A	F	W	O	L	W	E	D	O	E	O	O	O
A	L	O	L	N	E	V	S	G	L	H	N	N	K
O	U	E	A	S	G	C	S	O	C	G	N	W	E
V	R	N	G	P	L	O	L	S	R	L	O	W	O
W	O	L	V	E	S	O	S	I	O	N	D	E	R

In the mood for a game?
Try to find these Marion words!

Red

School

Longfellow

Gold

Vernon

Students

Marion

Wolves

Parkview

Golf

Mother Nature Takes A Mulligan: Rain Cancels 24th Annual Golf Classic

This year's Golf Classic didn't quite go as planned, thanks to Mother Nature! Originally scheduled for September 24th, the event was canceled that morning due to rain. We rescheduled for October 9th with many hopes and lots of crossed fingers for better weather, but unfortunately, we found ourselves in the same situation all over again.

After two attempts, and with the colder weather inching closer and closer, we decided it was time to call it for the year rather than attempting to reschedule for a third date. While we were disappointed that we wouldn't be hitting the golf course, we weren't about to let the weather spoil the entire day!

We still gathered to enjoy breakfast, lunch, raffles, and some much-needed time together. There was plenty of good food and conversation, and it was great to see everyone come out despite the change in plans. There was still plenty of opportunity to catch up, share some laughs, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes this event so special.

A lot of work goes into planning the Golf Classic, and we want to thank everyone who helped organize the event, contributed raffle prizes, and supported us along the way. We also appreciate all of our amazing teams and sponsors who made the event a success! Your support means a lot, and it's a great reminder that getting together is just as important as the game itself.

While two rainouts certainly weren't what we had in mind, we're choosing to look at the bright side: we were still able to raise over $21,000 in support of education in Marion!

We're manifesting sunshine, dry fairways, and much better luck with weather at next year's 25th Annual Golf Classic. Save the date - Friday, September 24th, 2027. We'll see you on the course!



Above: Greg & Laura prepare for registration.



Above: A beautiful day at Garner Golf Course.



Left: Raffle prizes waiting for bids!

We'd Like To Thank Our 2026 Golf Classic Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor

COMMUNITY SAVINGS BANK

Meal Sponsor

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
3350 7th Ave Ste. 120 • Marion

Beverage Sponsors

Ohnward Bank & Trust
An Ohnward Bancshares Bank

Rathje Construction Co.
Since 1961

Prize Sponsor

ClearView Financial Planning

Putting Green Sponsor

FSB
myfsbonline.com | Member FDIC

Hole Sponsors

Bankers Trust
Bosch Financial
ESCO Group
Heartland Bank and Trust
MTG Fasteners
ServiceMaster by Rice
Banklowa
Cedar Rapids Tire
Hames - The Homes People
Hills Bank
Murdoch Funeral Home
Shive-Hattery
Best Plumbing Best Bath
Crumbl
Hawkland Exteriors
Linn Co-Op Oil Company
OPN Architects

In-Kind Donors

Airport National Golf Course
Austad's
Big Grove
Bop's Pizza
Brugger's Bagels
Carlos O'Kelly's
Cedar Rapids Country Club
Cedar Rapids Kernels
Cedar Rapids RoughRiders
Country Financial
Culvers Greenhouse
Culligans of Marion
DKW Gallery
Dunkin'
Dupaco Credit Union
East Post Pumpkins
Frydae
Giving Tree Theater
Great Harvest Bread Company
Jersey Mike's
LA Trend's Addict
Leonardo's
Mississippi River Museum
Northway Well & Pump
Riverside Casino and Golf
Shari Funck
Scooter's Coffee
Starbucks Coffee
Sweet Cheesecake
Tomaso's
UNI Athletics
Uptown Coffee
Uptown Ink
Uptown Snug
X Golf
West End Diner
Yardarm Bar and Grill

Thank you!

A Marion Alumna Making a Difference Close to Home
Amanda Grieder's Journey in Public Service

For Amanda Grieder '07, public service has always been more than a career choice. It is an opportunity to make a difference in the community she calls home. Today, as Assistant City Manager of the City of Cedar Rapids, she helps guide city operations, support important initiatives, and ensure local government continues to serve its residents well.

A proud Marion High School alumna, Grieder credits the opportunities, relationships, and lessons she gained during her school years as important influences on the person and professional she has become.



Making the Most of Marion

When Grieder reflects on her time at Marion, one thing stands out: there was always an opportunity to get involved and be apart of a community.

Alongside her older sister, Holly, she participated in marching band, cheerleading and soccer, building friendships and discovering the value of being part of different teams and groups.

"There is a lot you can do at Marion and so many ways to be involved and supported," she recalled, "We did so much."

Balancing multiple activities taught her how to manage responsibilities, work with different people, and contribute in a variety of ways. Those experiences became an asset later when she applied to become a police officer, demonstrating her ability to juggle commitments and take on different roles.

Grieder also remembers the teachers and coaches who helped shape her along the way. Coach Dunne, her cheer coach, instilled values such as punctuality and respect that she continues to practice today. Mrs. Braun, her AP English teacher, strengthened her written communication skills, which have proved especially valuable throughout her professional life. These lessons are reminders that the impact of a great teacher or coach often extends far beyond the classroom or playing field.

Grieder went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Loras College and an MBA in Business Administration and General Management from St. Ambrose University. While she envisioned a career in law enforcement from a young age, her interest in public service eventually opened the door to a broader role in local government.

Serving the Community

Grieder joined the Cedar Rapids Police Department in 2010 before moving into the city's SAFE-CR program, where she worked with multiple departments and gained a broader understanding of municipal operations. Over time, her work expanded to include program management, innovation, customer service, and citywide initiatives.

She became Assistant City Manager in 2025, a role that allows her to support daily operations and strategic priorities across the organization. Her responsibilities include areas such as facilities, fleet, safety, and animal care and control.

One thing that has surprised her most about working in city government is just how much it affects people's everyday lives. "The roads you drive on, the water we drink, the solid waste pick up, flood protection..." Grieder listed, "are all examples of everyday services we provide as a City team to our Community."

Although these initiatives vary, each contributes to the quality of life of people who live and work in Cedar Rapids. For Grieder, that is a big part of what makes public service so meaningful: finding ways to make a positive, practical difference in the community.

A Connection Close To Home

One of the things Grieder appreciates most about her work is the opportunity to serve a community so close to the one where she went to school.

"I feel lucky to get to work right next door to where I grew up," she shared.

With Cedar Rapids and Marion so closely connected, collaboration between the communities is a natural part of the work. Grieder recognizes that each community has something valuable to offer the other and believes those relationships are important to the success of the entire region. The connection is personal, too, as her daughter now attends Linn-Mar.

Being a Marion alumna continues to hold a special meaning for Grieder. She is proud of the education she received and enjoys working alongside other Marion graduates. That shared background creates a sense of familiarity and connection, even years after leaving school.

"It's nice because you have that community that, although it is small, is close," she said. "It is comforting. There is always someone there for you when you need something."

Proud of Marion's Future

When asked what she would like current students, fellow alumni and the Marion School Community to know, Grieder returned a simple but meaningful message: be proud of Marion.

"From new facilities, the amount of growth...we just should be really, really proud of everything the Marion Independent School District is accomplishing," she said.

Her pride speaks to more than buildings or growth. It reflects an appreciation for the opportunities a school community can provide and the role those experiences play in shaping future leaders.

Amanda Grieder's story is a reminder that the Marion Way doesn't end at graduation. Those values learned, relationships built, and opportunities embraced can continue to make a difference for years to come. It can even help alumni make a lasting impact right here at home.

Student Spotlight



Meet Mya! Mya is a 2nd grade student at Parkview Elementary. Let's learn a little about Mya!

What is something you have done so far this year that has made you feel really proud of yourself?
I am proud of my hard work in class and encouraging my peers to do their best. Even if you make mistakes, you can still learn from them.

What is your favorite subject in school and why?
My favorite subject in school is math and science. I like science because I am learning new things like silt is smaller than sand. Math is cool because of how big numbers get.

What does it mean to be a good friend at school?
A good friend is showing kindness, sharing with others, and encouraging others to do their best.

What do you want to be when you grow up, and how is school helping you get ready for that?
I want to be a teacher. I like how Mrs. Waskow makes me feel safe at recess and in class. She also helps me when I don't know how to spell or figuring out a math problem. She is really patient and encouraging.

If you could say thank you to the people who help or support you most at school, what would you tell them?
I would say thank you to all the teachers I have had at Parkview. Thank you for your kindness, smiles, support and for always encouraging me to do my best.

Foundation creates "Student Assistance Fund"

Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed in the classroom. Sometimes, financial challenges can create barriers that make that success more difficult. The Student Assistance Fund was established by John Winistorfer, class of 1972, and Judy Winistorfer to help students in need overcome those financial barriers.

The Student Assistance Fund may be used to cover classroom fees, field trips, books, lab materials, studio/project/supply fees, or other expenses. MISD will inform the Marion Foundation when there is a need, and funds will be directed back to the MISD to cover those expenses.

Every contribution makes a difference. Supporting the Student Assistance Fund is an investment in our students and their futures. Contributions of any size can help provide meaningful assistance to a student who may be facing an unexpected financial challenge. Together, we can help remove barriers, create opportunities, and ensure that financial circumstances do not stand in the way of a student's ability to learn and succeed with their peers. If you are interested in donating to this fund, please see the donation slip below.

Does your employer have a Matching Gift Program?

Employee match programs are a benefit that many companies offer to encourage and reward giving among their staff. Think of this as free money that you are able to direct to your favorite non-profit organization.

We hope you will consider making a donation to the Marion Independent School Foundation, and if you do, please check with your Human Resources department to find out if your company will match your gift. It's the easiest way to double your investment in Marion Schools!

YES! I want to support Marion Schools!

Please make checks payable to the Marion Independent School Foundation.

Gift Amount: o $25 o $50 o $100 o $200 o $250 o $500 Other $_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Notes _____

Mail to: Marion Independent School Foundation | 777 S 15th St, Marion, IA 52302 | (319) 377-4681 x 1110