WELCOME TO THE MARION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Our District is a cohesive, progressive school district committed to excellence.*

Situated in the Cedar Rapids/Marion, Iowa metropolitan area, the Marion Independent School District (MISD) provides strong community schools for our students while maintaining challenging curricular and co-curricular programming.

Our district serves 3,128 students and combines the many advantages of a smaller school district while adding all the quality opportunities associated with a suburban setting.

The Marion Independent School District is proud to serve our students and community.

**OUR MISSION:**

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

**OUR VISION:**

All MISD learners believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their future.

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2017-2018 Board of Education

Brent VanWey, Jill Hansen, Bill Huntoon, Diana Zrudsky, Shari Funck, Dennis Trout, and David Law (left to right)
LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY

Longfellow is a wonderful Preschool through 2nd grade elementary that opened in August 2017. Longfellow offers a full or half day preschool program as well as before and after school child care programs. With an average enrollment of nearly 300 students, classroom sizes remain small to better facilitate student learning and participation. Children at Longfellow are provided academic, physical and social opportunities to explore and discover their talents, interests and abilities. Additionally, students are encouraged to develop positive character traits through the “Catch them doing something right” philosophy which supports the best behavior of students. We are proud to be the Longfellow “Leopards”.

STARRY ELEMENTARY

Starry is a delightful Kindergarten through 2nd grade elementary that sits across the street from Marion High School. Starry offers a before and after school child care program and is a neighborhood school with small-sized classrooms and an enrollment of nearly 300 students. The staff at Starry provide exciting and dynamic academic curriculum with daily reading and math instruction to engage all students. The students of Starry are empowered to grow academically, physically, socially and emotionally. We are proud to be Starry “Stars”.

MISD SUCCESS

116
AP & CTE COURSES OFFERED AT MHS OR KIRKWOOD

96%
AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE

1st
MHS WAS THE 1ST HIGH SCHOOL IN THE WORLD TO BE NAMED A BLUE ZONE HIGH SCHOOL

88%
OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

54
Francis Marion Intermediate (FMI) is a cheerful 3rd and 4th grade attendance center. Our school has a before and after school child care program. FMI’s average enrollment is 320 and we are very proud of what we offer our students. We enjoy meeting the interests of our students in the areas of technology/STEM, Chorus, Drum Club, Book Club, Mile Club, and Girls on the Run to name a few. The FMI Staff works collaboratively to meet the instructional individual needs of our students.

Vernon Middle School proudly serves students in grades 5-8 and is committed to providing a safe and supportive school environment where we firmly believe all students can achieve academic excellence. As a staff we know the middle school years are critical in the development of social, emotional and 21st century learning skills. It is our belief that students, parents, staff, and community are true partners in the education of all students. We are united in a shared vision in which “All learners believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their own future”.

Did You Know?

- Marion ISD is the 4th oldest School District in Iowa
- Marion ISD is the 2nd smallest in terms of area
- Marion ISD serves over 3,120 students
- We employ 347 wonderfully talented people
- We manage a 30 million dollar school budget
- Marion Home School Assistance Program is the largest in Iowa serving 1,050 students
- Marion High School students have earned the highest college credit per student: METRO Area
- Marion High School is the first HS in the World to be identified as a BLUE ZONE HS
- MISD athletes have qualified for state in 10 different sports
- The MISD Band has earned Division 1 rankings for 8 consecutive years
- MHS Vocal and Instrumental music programs consistently earn Division I ratings for all ensembles at competitions
- Marion ISD provides Regional and State recognition for teachers and students
- 94% of Marion High School Graduates attend college or career post-secondary educational work
- 76% of MISD students, who have taken the ACT over the past eight years, have averaged 20 or better, an indicator for college readiness and success
- 96% average student attendance
- 88% of students participated in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities at the high school level, more than 50 different activities are offered
The Marion Independent School District is proud of its strong athletic tradition and facilities. Marion High School boasts two gymnasiums (Red Gym and Gold Gym), wrestling room, and strength training room. The Hipple Complex located next to Marion High School includes our high school baseball, softball, and soccer competition fields along with practice fields for soccer, football, baseball and softball. A brand new premier five-court tennis facility was completed in the summer of 2017. The historic Marion Football/Track Complex located next to Thomas Park, hosts our middle and high school football and track events. The Marion Independent School District has many other excellent facilities at our other schools highlighted by a brand new gymnasium at Longfellow Elementary and one of the best middle school gymnasiums you will find at VMS. The Marion Physical Education Department also boasts high-level facilities including our highly popular fitness centers.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Marion Independent School District Performing Arts programs is very strong as a result of the number of participants and high level of success. There are 376 students involved in band and choir at Vernon while 250 students are involved at Marion High School with students involved in over 100 performances each year. Marion has four show choirs, two at Vernon and two at Marion High School which are some of the best in Iowa. The choir programs provide many opportunities for students to participate in honor choirs across the state. The band programs consistently earn Division 1 ratings at state festivals in concert band, marching band, and jazz band. The Marion High School jazz band was invited to the 2017 Iowa Jazz Championships. The speech program offers 25 different district and state performance events. Every large group speech team qualified for state in 2018. Finally, Marion High School offers students the opportunity to participate in the fall musical and spring play.

MARION HOME SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Marion Home School Assistance Program (MHSAP) exists to serve families who have chosen an education model different from the traditional school model. This parent-directed model provides support that enables parents to choose a variety of options that include home-centered education, enrichment offerings, superb extra and co-curricular programs, and dual-enrollment through the pubic school. MHSAP attracts children from across east central Iowa and is the largest program in the state. Students enrolled in this program have the option of obtaining a home school high school diploma.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR &
CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Concert Choirs (all levels)
Show Choirs (MS, HS)
HS Marching Band
Concert Bands (MS, HS)
Jazz Bands (MS, HS)
HS Drumline
HS Individual & Large Group Speech
Fall Musicals & Spring Play (MS, HS)
National Honor Society
Student Councils (MS, HS)
FCA (HS)
Journalism
- The Vox, HS Newspaper
- The Quill, HS Yearbook
- The Arrow, MS Yearbook
Creative Ink, student publication (HS)
GSA (HS, MS)
Dungeons & Dragons Club (HS)
Robotics (VMS, HS)
Mock Trial (MHSAP)
Boys/Girls Cross Country

Football
Volleyball
Boys/Girls Basketball
Boys/Girls Bowling
Wrestling
Boys/Girls Golf
Boys/Girls Soccer
Boys/Girls Tennis
Boys/Girls Track
Baseball
Softball
Archery
Mile Club (FMI)
SODA (FMI)
Girls On The Run (FMI)
Chorus (FMI)
Cheerleading
Dance/Poms
Drum Club (FMI)
Book Clubs (FMI, MS, HS)
Science Club (MS)

MARION SCHOOL FOUNDATION
& ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Marion School Foundation supports students, teachers and families in the Marion Independent School District and aims to bridge the gap in school funding to support the development of all K-12 students. Past projects include funding for summer programs, technology enhancements, capital improvements, and classroom grants that focus on innovative curriculum. The Foundation also provides college scholarships every year for graduating seniors through endowments and contributes to district programs such as College for Kids and Start School Right.

Donate: Make a renewable or one-time donation as a family or through your company. We also invite you to participate in fundraising events held throughout the year.

Volunteer: Volunteer in our office, at events, or on a committee. You can also show support by creating a fundraiser of your own!

Educate: Follow us on social media and on our website. Join our mailing list and receive a twice annual newsletter publication.

“The Marion School Foundation is proud to serve students through our giving programs and be there to support the faculty and community. We have great schools and great kids. Our goal is to provide tools and resources that support their growth.”

Greg Hapgood, Foundation President

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