Message from the Superintendent Diane Mankins

Celebrating Another Great Year and the Strides We’ve Made in Personalizing Education

Dear Residents:

As we reflect on another exceptional year at Marysville Schools, we are particularly proud of the progress we’ve made in personalizing our students’ educational experiences.

As we celebrate successes from this past year, we honor our graduates who have achieved so much already in their own educational journey. Marysville High School boasts 27 valedictorians, 44 honors diploma students, 60 President’s education award winners, and one Commended National Merit Scholar. The class of 2019 has accepted more than $2.5 million in scholarship offers for their academic achievements, community service, and overall character.

The class of 2019 has earned more than 1,300 hours of college credit plus during their time at MHS, as well as more than 700 hours of college credits through qualifying scores on AP exams. These students will also be leaving with industry-recognized credentialing that builds their resumes, prepares them to be successful in the workplace or post-secondary setting, and ultimately sets them up for success.

The Early College High School (ECHS) strongly encourages students to become actively involved in an internship aligned with their chosen path. Half the class of 2019 participated in an internship, which helped build trust and confidence with our industry partners that will pave the way for opportunities in the future for other students. Our ECHS graduates leave with an average of 33 college credits, and nine students graduated from Columbus State Community College with an associate’s degree.

We are proud to send all of our graduates out into the world because they embody the positive characteristics and work ethic that we want in the next generation of leaders.

Sincerely,

Diane Mankins
Superintendent

With so many opportunities to access college coursework while still in high school, the class of 2019 has raised the bar — our ECHS graduates leave with an average of 33 college credits, and nine students graduated from Columbus State Community College with an associate’s degree.

Congratulations to the varsity softball team! They are the 2019 OCC champions! Well done!! #PTBM

Congratulations to the Class of 2019!
Raymond Elementary Receives Purple Star Designation for Service to Our Veterans

Raymond Elementary School recently received the Purple Star Designation from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), joining only 56 other schools across the state. The Purple Star Award is given to schools that demonstrate a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation’s military.

“When I learned about the Purple Star, I was definitely interested because we were already doing a lot of the things required to receive the award,” said Nathan Stackhouse, Raymond school counselor.

Aside from the school’s annual Veteran’s Day assembly, perhaps the most impressive gesture to the military is the money the school raised to benefit Honor Flight Columbus, the organization that sends veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to Washington D.C. at no cost to them. During the trip, veterans visit memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice.

Major Alan LaDriere originally approached Principal Carol Lentz about raising money. The hope was to raise the $500 it takes to send one veteran to Washington.

“He told us it’s one of the more touching things for a veteran to experience,” Lentz said. “Our original goal was to sponsor at least one veteran. Major LaDriere felt we could do it, but I was worried because we only have 250 students.”

Raymond Elementary kicked off the fundraiser at the Veteran’s Day assembly. Students put out a collection bucket and raised $80. Then, the Fourth Grade Kindness Group worked together to create a fundraiser. One winter day they sold hot chocolate and a cookie at lunchtime followed by a movie in the gym for $5. Between that day and the $80 already collected, Raymond’s community had raised $1,050 toward the cause.

“The students really took ownership and had fun with the inclusive lunchtime fundraiser, and then our families followed their lead and just went above and beyond,” Lentz said.

The Marysville Lion’s Club contributed $300, Union Bank Company added $500, and Sam Jackson’s Auto Body’s donation of $650 brought the total to $2,500.

“No, we won’t just sponsor one veteran, but we will be able to sponsor five for this trip of a lifetime,” Lentz said.

Sensory Paths Help Mill Valley Students Regain Focus for Optimal Learning

Research and experience show that something as simple as strategically placed tape on the floor can help make a difference in a child’s education. Sensory paths, made of tape and stickers, are on the floors of a few hallways at Mill Valley Elementary. The paths incorporate three different strategies for brain development and motor function.

“As students walk, skip and jump through the path, they work on balance, which stimulates the part of the brainstem that focuses attention,” said Pam Felix, district occupational therapist.

Following the path, students work on eye-foot coordination because that engages the front part of the brain that helps develop planning, organization, and impulse control.

Additionally, after following the path, students must push against a wall, which changes brain chemistry to put them in a more focused state of learning.

In the past, students who had trouble focusing were often permitted to take a walk, with a staff member, through the halls to get a break. Now, that break includes a trip through a sensory path.

“We’ve been able to reduce students’ laps through the hallways because of this proven approach, and it’s resulted in less time out of the classroom,” said Principal Amey McGlenn.

Students can now self-identify feelings and use the sensory path as an outlet, while also putting their minds into a place where they can learn more effectively.

“The more we understand brain development and what supports academic learning versus just having students memorize repetitive information, the more opportunities like sensory paths we are able to provide. As a result, we are seeing higher level problem solving and creative thinking from our students,” McGlenn said.
Focusing on the Whole Child, Marysville Schools Grows Mental Health Screening and Support Program

Marysville Schools has always done a lot to support students in academic areas. So, as mental health issues become increasingly present in every school district, the logical next step is to do the same when it comes to a student's wellbeing.

“We are so child-centered in our practices that it was a very natural progression from providing extra support in areas like mathematics to screening and supporting social/emotional needs, as well. What we’re doing here is unique to Marysville Schools,” said Mark Gallagher, district psychologist for K-12 Multi-tiered Systems.

The district is in its second full school year of screening every student for depression and/or behavioral problems before they occur. The systematic, universal screening program is used for all students and serves as a good indicator as to a student’s risk level for various mental health conditions.

“We already provide screenings for literacy and math to determine which students are good candidates for intervention. Now, we can do the same from a social, emotional, behavioral or mental health perspective. In both cases, the screening determines whether a student is low, moderate or high risk, so that we can deliver the appropriate supports,” Gallagher explained.

Employees across the district are trained under a set of core practices, with each age level being a little different. Professional development continues to be provided to staff members throughout the schools, while the district continues to improve its systems, specifically when it comes to measures for early risk detection.

Depending on the risk level, Marysville Schools can work with families to refer the student to professionals who can offer support. And, the efforts aren't limited to just tracking mental health. Gallagher and others in the district also can help provide support for families. If made aware of an issue where resources are needed – such as having utilities turned off – there are plans in place to meet those urgent needs. That help can come from the schools, Family Council, Maryhaven, the justice system, or Job and Family Services.

“We’re positioned to make the referrals and get those families in contact with the right professionals in the area. We have a community response team now in Union County. If there’s a hardship, in most cases, we can provide the necessary support within 48 hours. We want to get our students and their families back on their feet as quickly as possible. We’ve had good success with this model so far,” Gallagher said.

Who isn’t a fan of toys? The freshman engineering class at Marysville Early College High School hosted teachers’ children and family members to judge their toy projects. Fun was had by all! #PTBM

Fourth graders showcasing their Genius Hour Passion Projects!
Marysville Schools is currently hiring!

Being a substitute in our schools can be a great part- or full-time job for anyone wanting a flexible work schedule. Make a difference in your life and the lives of students in our community.

**Certified (Teaching) Substitutes**

Marysville Schools will be hosting an on-site orientation for 2019 - 2020 teaching substitutes on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at Marysville High School. Visit this link to get started with your online application and get next steps at https://escco.org/substitutes/-Select New or Prospective Applicant.

**Classified (Non-Teaching) Substitutes**

Visit this link to get started with your online application to substitute in a classified position for the 2019-2020 school year as a building/office aide, special education aide, bus driver, food service, custodian, SACC, etc.


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Marysville Schools Financial Outlook Remains Stable While Its Excellence in Financial Reporting Earns State Recognition

This spring, the board of education approved the latest five-year financial forecast.

Due to conservative financial planning and the generous support of our community last November, we are meeting cash balance guidelines through at least fiscal year 2023.

The district is always looking for ways to streamline expenses, and those efforts have resulted in less spending recently than originally projected. Wages and benefits are slightly under previous projections, and the district has realized additional savings on utility costs.

Any fluctuations in Marysville Schools’ finances could come later this summer from the state. The state of Ohio is currently debating its budget, and the district is watching the Statehouse deliberations carefully.

We anticipate very modest increases in revenue coming from the state, but it’s still too early to predict the final outcome. No matter what happens in Columbus, residents can be confident in knowing Marysville Schools will work to remain on a stable financial path and will continue to offer excellent schools at a tremendous value to our taxpayers.

Additionally, residents can take comfort in knowing they are “well-served by Marysville Schools’ effective and accountable financial practices,” as stated by Auditor of State Keith Faber in presenting the district with its Auditor of State Award for the Fiscal Year 2018 audit.

The Ohio Auditor of State Award is presented for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2018.

This honor is awarded to those entities who work hard to practice good government and can be attributed to staff in our financial department for the great job they do in ensuring accurate accounting of the taxpayers’ dollars.

Congratulations to Northwood Elementary and Mrs. Ruffing for receiving a Tanger Outlets Grant. This reward will be used to purchase books to use with students. #PTBM #MEVSD

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