



# THE MARLINGTON POST

\*\*\*ECRWSS-EDDM\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

*Every Minute, Every Moment, Every Memory*



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**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
WHERE TO FIND US!



[marlingtonlocal.org](http://marlingtonlocal.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Marlington School Community,  
Welcome back, Dukes! I trust that each of you had a rejuvenating break and are ready to dive into the second half of the school year with enthusiasm and determination.

I am thrilled to witness the return of both teachers and students to our school buildings. The upcoming weeks hold great promise, and I am confident that our incredible students, guided by our dedicated and skilled staff, will achieve remarkable accomplishments.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Marlington Community for its unwavering support of our district. Your dedication is pivotal to our continued progress, and we would not be able to move Marlington forward without your support. As we march into 2024 and beyond, our motto, "Every Minute, Every Moment, Every Memory," remains at the forefront of our mission.

I am committed to maintaining transparency, and to that end, I will

be hosting community meetings to address any questions you may have. The upcoming meetings are scheduled at Alliance Friends Church on January 9th at 6:00 p.m. and Aldersgate United Methodist Church on January 16th at 6:00 p.m. I will also be attending township meetings and additional meetings in January to ensure open communication with the community.

Our administration team, along with the board of education, has diligently reviewed staffing and purchase services to uphold our budget. I am proposing a 2.9 mill 5-year permanent improvement levy for our school district this spring. This levy, distinct from operational and salary funding, aims to secure additional resources for maintaining our buildings and sustaining the excellence of Marlington Local Schools.

As you dive into this edition of the Marlington Post, I encourage you to relish the accomplishments showcased within its pages. From talented athletes to student fundraising and holiday activities, these snapshots

January  
**2024**

offer a glimpse into the character-building events that define our district.

Not only are our students achieving great things, but our administration and staff are also dedicated to creating a safe and healthy learning environment. We have successfully completed over 2 million dollars worth of projects, including roofing, paving, sealing, and other essential upgrades across our school campuses. Our commitment to securing grants and pursuing opportunities to enhance our district, staff, and students will persist.

I implore each member of our community to actively participate in the Marlington Local School System. Attend board meetings, reach out with your questions, and consider volunteering in various capacities. Your involvement not only contributes to the well-being of our students but

*Continued on page 2*



## Stay Connected

### Board Members

**Karen Humphries** .... k\_humphries  
@marlingtonlocal.org  
**Jonathan Swift**..... j\_swift  
@marlingtonlocal.org  
**Cathy Krupko**..... c\_krupko  
@marlingtonlocal.org  
**Josh Hagan** .....j\_hagan  
@marlingtonlocal.org  
**Mark Ryan**..... m\_ryan  
@marlingtonlocal.org

### Central Administration Office

10320 Moulin Avenue  
Alliance, OH 44601

330-823-7458

**Dan Swisher** ..... Superintendent  
**Robert Foss** ..... Treasurer  
**Renee Kaley** . Curriculum and Staff  
Development Director  
**Nick Evanich**..... Pupil Services  
Director  
**Nicole DeAngelis**.... Administrative  
Assistant to the Superintendent

### Marlington High School

330-823-1000

**Michael Farrell** .....Principal  
**Greg Travis** ..... Assistant Principal  
**Diane Mitchell** ..... Secretary

### Marlington Middle School

330-823-7566

**Michael Risaliti**.....Principal  
**Alice Satow** ..... Secretary

### Lexington Elementary

330-823-7570

**Ashley Weber** .....Principal  
**Colleen Mathes** ..... Secretary

### Marlboro Elementary

330-935-2469

**Kitty Mort** .....Principal  
**Krista Mount** ..... Secretary

### Washington Elementary

330-823-7586

**John "Yianni" Spondyl**...Principal  
**Robin Caruso**..... Secretary

### Message from the Superintendent continued on page 1

also creates lasting memories for you.

Thank you for entrusting Marlington Local Schools with the education and development of your children. Together, let's continue to build a foundation for successful community members and individuals.

Every Minute – Every Moment –  
Every Memory.

Sincerely,

Dan Swisher,  
Superintendent  
Marlington Local Schools



Character Counts Crew with Santa



Duchess Voices



High-Five with Santa

## FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Hello Marlington Community!

We are about half way through the school year, so I thought I would take this opportunity to provide a few highlights regarding our finances.

The fall 2023 five-year forecast was approved by the board of education in November. The forecast indicates that we will spend about \$183,285 less than received this fiscal year, with an ending balance of approximately \$7.5 million. However, costs are estimated to increase faster than revenue resulting in our cash balance decreasing each year, but remaining positive through 2027. The five-year forecast is available on the [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce website](#). If you have any questions about the forecast, please contact me.

Significant repairs were made to buildings and parking lots this summer. Between June 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023, \$2,374,109.90 was spent from our Capital Projects and Permanent Improvement funds. These funds are

used for facility-related expenditures including repairs, improvement, and vehicle purchases.

Some of the larger items that were paid from these funds since the start of summer include:

\$978,736	Replacement of several sections of the roof at the High School and the Horticulture Building
\$618,141	Paving, pot-hole repairs, catch basins.
\$25,900	Concrete repairs
\$110,543	Bus (purchased last fiscal year; delivered and paid for this fiscal year)
\$61,380	Replacement of two HVAC units and HVAC repairs.
\$45,995	Repair wall and stairs at Marlboro.

During the December 14, 2023 board meeting, the board voted to place a 2.9 mill permanent improvement levy on the March 19, 2024 ballot to help pay

for items like those mentioned above. Up to this point, the board has directed the treasurer to transfer money from our general fund to pay for these items. In fiscal year 2023, \$1,563,562.43 was transferred from the general fund for permanent improvement-related expenditures. However, the transfer also reduces the amount in our general fund, which is used to pay for operational expenses of the district.

The 2.9 mill permanent improvement levy is estimated to provide \$1,551,000 annually for five years, and will cost \$102 per \$100,000 of the County Auditor's appraised value. Community members may look up the County Auditor's appraised value of their home on the Stark County Auditor website and apply an estimated cost of \$102 per \$100,000 of the appraised value as a means of estimating the cost of the levy.

Bob Foss,  
Treasurer  
Marlington Local School District





# FOOD SERVICES



This year the Cafeteria Ladies decorated for a friendly competition! A lot of hard work and crafting went into transforming the cafeteria and kitchens into Winter Wonderlands that both the students and staff enjoyed! All of the ladies outdid themselves with decorating but the winners of the decorating contest were the Middle School and Lexington Elementary.



## Marlington Local Schools 2023-2024 CALENDAR

**August**  
28 Convocation  
29 Staff PD  
30 Staff PD  
31 Staff PD

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

**February**  
1 Parent Teacher Conferences  
19 No School Presidents Day

**September**  
1 No School  
4 No School - Labor Day  
5 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**March**  
22 End of Nine Weeks  
25-29 Spring Break

**October**  
9 No School

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**April**  
1 No School  
8 No School - Staff PD

**November**  
3 End of 9 Weeks  
9 Parent Teacher Conferences  
13 No School - Staff PD  
14 Parent Teacher Conferences  
22-27 Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**May**  
27 No School - Memorial Day

**December**  
22-29 Christmas Break

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**June**  
6 Last Student Day  
6 End of Nine Weeks/Semester  
7 Last Teacher Day

**January**  
1 No School  
15 No School MLK Day  
19 End of Nine Weeks/Semester  
29 No School - Staff PD

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Student Days - 174  
Teacher Days - 184

- Teacher Day No School For Students
- First and Last Student Day
- No School
- Teacher Exchange Day No School



# LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY

A Message from the Principal

## Happy New Year, Lexington!

My sincere hope is that you've had a restful break filled with family fun and are looking forward to 2024! Lexington Elementary staff are eager to welcome back students and stay committed to the growth of every student through the remainder of the school year. In January, all K-5 students will take the winter reading and math MAP assessments. Please encourage your students to set their goals high and work to show their projected growth. In addition to meeting a year's growth for all kids in reading and math, we will stay focused on good attendance practices at Lexington. Students need to be on time, ready to learn each day for school. Stay tuned for more attendance updates in our weekly ParentSquare message. If you are not receiving the Lexington Family Update on ParentSquare each week, please call the office.

A great way to start back to school after winter break is to remind your child to show their **Duke Pride positive behavior expectations** every day at school and work towards earning Duke Pride tickets. We continue to acknowledge positive behaviors for all students and appreciate the support and encouragement of our Lexington families and community.

Thank you for your partnership. We value our Lexington families and all the support they give our school!

Mrs. Weber, Principal



## Under the Sea Math and Reading Night

We had over 200 people in attendance for our annual Math and Reading Night. A total of 15 classrooms were set up with activities. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this fun and educational evening. A special thank you to **Mrs. Wittensoldner** and the elementary Title staff for a great night!



## Love the Children Ministries/Christmas at Marlinton

On Tuesday, November 28, members of the Student Council went shopping for Christmas at Marlinton with the support of the Love the Children Ministries organization. The items purchased were then set up at Grace Community Church and parents in need were able to shop for their children.



## Frosty's Boutique

A big shout out to the community for supporting Lexington Elementary PTO at our annual Frosty's Craft Show. We had a great turn out for vendors and a wonderful day was had by all. A very special thank you to **Carrie Lane** for organizing this event for us for the last 11 years. This would not be possible without all of her hard work!

## Attendance Rewards

Lexington has been working really hard on our student attendance. Our goal is to have at least 95% of students at school every day. As a reward for meeting our goal, students could choose to make an ornament, play board games, or play a game in the gym.





# MARLBORO ELEMENTARY

A Message from the Principal

“Every Minute, Every Moment, Every Memory  
#MovingMarlingtonForward”

Our Marlboro Family wishes everyone a very happy and healthy New Year! We are proud of our students' achievements and character. We will continue to build on these accomplishments and set new goals. Each of our students has taken ownership of our Duke Pride Behavior Expectations by modeling, accountability, building relationships and learning to lead. We encourage you to stay connected to our teachers via our Parent Square Messages.

We value your support and love teaching your children.

Mrs. Mort, Principal



## Marlboro Student Council

Marlboro Elementary Student Council continues to impress us with their hard work to help our school and community. Mrs. Beadles and Mrs. Mort are our advisors for our 2023-24 Student Council Members: fourth grade - **Katelyn Bargerstock, Brooklyn Conley, Brielle McGrady, and Nikki Wilson**; fifth grade - **Grace Krabill, Michael Lepsesty, Maddie McMillen, and Wyatt Smith**.

Throughout the year, our student council has many responsibilities, including organizing and maintaining our Holiday Food Drive, helping at student assemblies, field trips for service opportunities, creating posters for the building, classroom and grade level talks, and many other tasks. The students are embracing their responsibilities. What a great group of young DUKES!



## Holiday Food Drive

Our student council led the charge in organizing, promoting and collecting many items for our Holiday Food Drive. All of these items help support numerous local families through the Marlboro Christian Church food pantry. It is a true pleasure to foster this relationship with Marlboro Christian Church and help others.

## First Nine Weeks Duke Pride Assembly Winners

We recognize our students for displaying good character traits during the first grading period. Students received awards for the following categories: Friend Helper, Teacher Helper, Outstanding Student, perfect attendance and Duke Pride. We also recognized the fourth and fifth grade merit and honor roll recipients, Students of the Month, and Dynamite Dukes! Congratulations to all!



## STEAM Club

Our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is active and meets regularly after school. Mr. Greco leads this spirited group of third, fourth and fifth-graders in after school, hands-on activities that promote problem-solving, planning, creating and collaboration.





## Marlboro Christmas Program

Mrs. Hale, our dedicated music teacher, led our talented third, fourth and fifth-graders during their Winter Music Program. It was a fabulous performance and our first time entertaining our families in the Marlinton High School auditorium. We are enjoying music at school and being able to showcase our hard work. Thank you to Mrs. Hale!

# WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

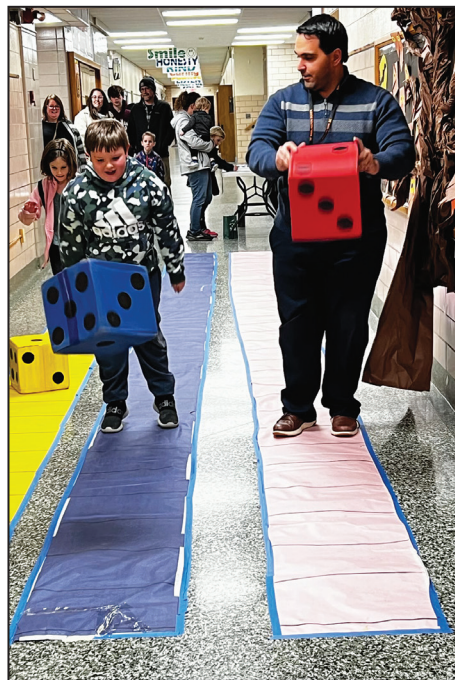
A Message from the Principal

## Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable Winter Break! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your cooperation and continued support of the students and staff. On behalf of the entire staff at Washington Elementary we want to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year!

The end of the nine weeks is January 19. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions. The students are making remarkable progress and it has been great watching them grow as the year continues. I hope everyone has a wonderful 2024!

Mr. Spondyl, Principal



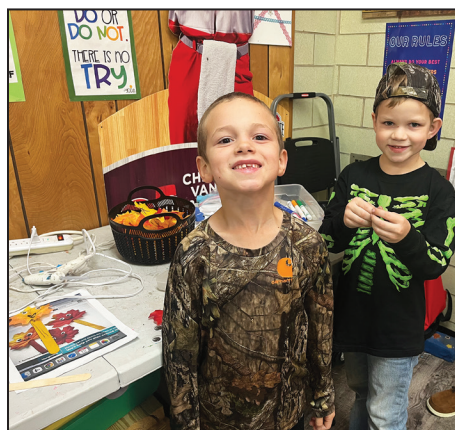
Jaxson Bradley and Mr. Spondyl



Ellie Buck



Scarlett Harris



Luke and Paul

## Literacy Night

Literacy Night was held on November 2. This is an annual event that is put on by our Title teacher's Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Miller. The students in attendance were each given a book. There were many stations of fun games for the students to do as well.





Third-Graders



Fourth-Graders



Fifth-Graders

# Holiday Concert

Our Holiday Concert was held on December 6, at Marlington High School. The third, fourth and fifth-graders performed for their families and friends. They performed Christmas songs they have been working on and practicing since the beginning of school.



## STEAM

STEAM club member Owen Reinsel handmade Christmas trees with donated wood and sold them to raise funds for supplies for the kids to use at steam club.



(l to r): Aleeya Boyce, Riley Castellucci, Cora Dennis, Madison Frank, Sylvie Sylvester and Jace Swisher.



Student council loading up the Toys for Tots gifts.

## Toys for Tots

Student Council decided to collect toys for the Marines Toys for Tots fundraiser this year instead of doing a food drive. The students collected over 300 toys that will be donated to children in Stark County.

## Christmas in Marlington

Christmas in Marlington was founded in 2016 as a collaboration between the Marlington Local Schools CARE Teams and Love the Children Ministries (LTCM). LTCM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 2004 by Marlington teacher Heather Craig during her freshman year of college. This unique event provides families an opportunity to submit a wish list of Christmas items for their children which are then purchased by LTCM along with the help of expert shoppers - The Marlington Elementary Student Council members. Parents are then invited to a special Christmas shopping experience where they are only charged 30% of the purchase amount. Volunteers from Marlington High School also offer free gift-wrapping during Christmas in Marlington as well.



Henry Selzer  
October



Natalie Dipold  
November



Lily Perkins  
December

## Kiwanis Students of the Month

Kiwanis is a non-profit organization that supports students at each building monthly. They present them with a certificate, a yard sign and a gift certificate for Victorio's for a pizza.



# MARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Message from the Principal

## Proud of Our Students, Staff and Families

Marlington Middle School is proud of the hard work and care that students, staff, and families have put into the school year thus far. In addition to the classroom, you can see MMS students and staff in groups like Gamer's Club, Academic Challenge, Power of the Pen, our athletic teams, RoX, All-Stars, Breakfast Club, Math Team, and Environmental Club. We are thankful for the year so far and looking forward to 2024 at the middle school!

Mr. Risaliti, Principal



## Band

On December 19, the Instrumental Music Department held their Holiday Concert. The sixth through twelfth-grade band students and students from the guitar class performed at the event. The Combined Middle School Band performed a medley entitled *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *Sad Santas*. The Sixth-Grade Band performed *Angels On Parade* and *Bad Elf!*. Izzy Hartzell and Bella Davis joined the High School Band on the last song entitled *A Christmas Carol* and utilized a movie synced with the performance.



Spirit  
Day!



## Christmas Chain Contest

Congratulations to our MMS cafeteria ladies and our students for placing 1st in the District Christmas Cafeteria Decorating contest. Each AA at MMS also competed in making the longest chain for the ceiling and Mrs. Street's AA class won! Decorations were all movie scenes from the "Elf" and included a surprise visit. Countless hours and heartfelt creativity went into this competition. One more reason we're all proud to be a part of MMS year after year.



## ROX

(Ruling Our eXperiences)

Girls learn to build skills on how to handle conflicts and real-life scenarios. The programs empower girls to be advocates of themselves and others, while developing confidence and leadership skills.







## Choir

The Marlinton Middle School choirs, under the direction of Mrs. Eversdyke, put on the winter choral concert “Sounds of the Season.” The choirs include sixth-grade choir, Chamber Ensemble, Show Choir, and seventh and eighth-grade choir. All choirs came together at the end of the performance to sing *A Merry Merry Christmas to You*. It was a wonderful night of singing and the students did a fantastic job.



## Family Night

On December 11, the middle school students and their families joined us for an evening of Christmas cheer. Our student choir put us all in the mood with joyful Christmas carols, families gathered around the crafts tables to create a lasting memory, and everyone was sure to decorate a cookie for the eating. Hot chocolate and cookies were served to put the finishing Christmas touch on our evening.

## Environmental Club

The MMS Environmental Club has been hard at work installing different resources for teachers and students. In addition to maintaining the trail, the Environmental Club has been installing hammock posts and building tables to create outdoor learning areas. They also installed a weather station at the Middle School - you can access real-time weather data using this link: [www.tinyurl.com/mlsdweather](http://www.tinyurl.com/mlsdweather). Thank you to the staff, parents, and community members for the continued donations for the Environmental Club’s projects!



# MARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

A Message from the Principal

## Duke Time!

Our staff at Marlinton continues to work hard to provide an excellent education to our students. We have implemented a new intervention program this year called Duke Time to identify and meet the various needs of our students. We continue to emphasize making connections between our staff and students, to ensure that all students feel safe and valued. We surveyed our students to get their input on how we are preparing them for life after high school. We have analyzed the results of this survey and have responded with a variety of activities and experiences to meet the needs of our students. We are looking forward to the new year, and continuing to provide an excellent education for our students. We wish all of our staff, students, and community a happy new year!

Our High School students continue to make a Difference!

Mr. Farrell, Principal

# Character Counts Club



Volley for a Cure



Food Drive



Gifts for Christmas



Blood Drive



## YWCA "Real World, Real Money"

On December 8, our financial literacy students participated in the YWCA Real World, Real Money simulation. After five weeks (one day a week) of curriculum, presented in cooperation with The Ohio State University extension at RG Drage and the YWCA, students were transported to the age of 27 with a spouse and children. They were tasked with having to make real world decisions relative to housing, insurance, transportation, and so many other things related to personal finance. Specialists in these fields and various other fields were utilized to help guide students through various stations and simulations with the ultimate goal of being able to make the right financial decisions for themselves and their families.

The student members of Character Counts Club, led by Mrs. Cathryne Kean and Mrs. Diane Mitchell, have been very busy this semester helping those in need in our community. In October, they hosted **Volley for a Cure** where they raised over \$1,000 for two Marlinton moms battling breast cancer. In November, they held a **food drive** where they collected food and monetary donations for the Vine Street United Methodist Church Community Pantry to help local families. They placed **giving trees** throughout the high school and collected and wrapped gifts for Marlinton families for Christmas at Marlinton. Most recently, on December 7, they held a **blood drive** where students and staff donated a record 31 pints of blood!





# MARLINGTON ATHLETICS



## Boys Soccer

The boys soccer team continued their league dominance by winning their eighth straight league title! They moved on in tournament play and collided with highly ranked Canfield although they lost in the closing seconds the game was a thriller and proved our place among the best.



## Girls Volleyball

A historic season also came from our Lady Dukes. The Dukes won their seventh straight EBC Championship, and won the District title for the second straight year, but this time they climbed another step becoming the first Marlington volleyball team to win the Regional Title! This qualified them to State where they became a final four team in Ohio.

# 3-PEAT



The fall season was historic for the Marlington Dukes. Our boys cross country team won the EBC and District titles. However, they did not win the regional meet, which meant they headed to Columbus as an underdog. The boys ran their best race of the year and won the State Championship for the third year in a row. This made history for OHSAA as our Dukes became only the third team in OHSAA history to have a three-peat.



## Boys Cross Country





## Champion Day

Lastly, our seniors provided local special needs students a great experience. These special athletes came to Marlinton for Champion Day. Each senior held a station to allow them to participate in their sport. The band was present for introductions. The kids had a blast and our Marlinton athletes did a tremendous job!

