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# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND BE A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Help Marlington Local Schools by participating in a community-wide survey. As a community member, student or parent/guardian of a Marlington student, your anonymous feedback will provide valuable information to the district as we continue to move Marlington forward.



Scan the QR code to take the survey.

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# MOVING MARLINGTON FORWARD

Every Minute • Every Moment • Every Memory

# M THE MARLINGTON POST

Sept./Oct.  
2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Marlington Families,

As we move Marlington forward into the 2022-2023 school year, we recognize the importance of who our students are today. Whether they're a first grader experiencing school for the first time, a middle schooler learning more complex subjects, or a senior planning for a future after high school, the moments each of our students experience while in Marlington schools will help define whom they can become long after. This includes the interests they pursue, the habits they create and the friendships they forge.

At Marlington Local Schools, we work to ensure our students are in the safest, most nurturing environment we can create so they have the freedom

and support they need to become the best versions of themselves. Only when every student can look back on their day, school year or academic career and say they took every opportunity available to them, and those opportunities made them better, can we say we have accomplished our goals as educators.

But our responsibility to our students goes hand in hand with our duties to our district and community. And we take those responsibilities seriously, for if we were not fiscally prudent with our taxpayers' money, we wouldn't be able to provide the care for our students they deserve.

For example, we were able to audit our staffing and hiring capacities, leading to changes in certain areas of our district employment structure. We have also adjusted our curriculum, providing a more efficient and effective course load for our students. These changes have helped our district save over \$1.3 million this school year.

We are enhancing our community and staff engagement. Transparency is key

to a successful school district, and we are always looking for ways to better communicate with our families, district and community. I invite you to take the survey included in this newsletter to provide your feedback. As always, our doors and phone lines are also open should you have any questions or concerns. The involvement of our district families is integral to the success of our students.

This school year allows us to continue adapting and implementing necessary security and health-safety measures. We've worked with local law enforcement and health officials to create a learning environment that best suits our needs and prepares us for any modifications that may be necessary.

With so much that has gone on over the last two to three years, it's essential that we remind our students how important it is for them to cherish every moment of their time at Marlington Local Schools. As a district, we will continue to do our part to ensure they are in a safe and healthy environment that not only supports

them but encourages them to blaze their own trails, an environment that drives them to be their best.

Every Minute. Every Moment. Every Memory.

Let's cherish them all. Together.

#MovingMarlingtonForward

Daniel Swisher  
Superintendent



**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
WHERE TO FIND US!



**marlingtonlocal.org**

# GRANT FUNDING INFORMATION

Marlington Local Schools' commitment to fiscal responsibility extends to seeking opportunities for grants that will supplement the district's financial needs. We have a team dedicated to applying for grants to secure our facilities and provide a learning environment that will best aid our students' success.

A safety grant application has been completed and submitted. With early submission, we can receive necessary feedback before the Oct. 3 submission deadline. Award announcements and notices will come out after Oct. 3, according to the Safety Grant Program guidelines.

We have completed the Security and Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) for each

building. We've also been able to install the Raptor System to screen visitors, update our Emergency Notification System, install electronically-controlled access doors and implement an anonymous report system.

These improvements are just a few of the steps we are taking to better secure our facilities and better provide a safe learning environment for our students.

Grants are also helpful in providing access to programming our district can use to help our students perform better in the classroom. We completed and submitted the grant for the "Reaching All Students Through Language and Literacy" project. This state-funded grant will engage up to 20 buildings and districts in working to

expenses including stipends, travel and substitute teachers.

The application window for this project opened on Aug. 31 and closed on Sept. 15, 2022. The grant team was able to analyze the data and complete the narrative responses in just under one week.

With the work of our dedicated grant team, Marlington Local Schools will continue to find grants and opportunities to help our district fulfill our promise of providing the highest standard of education possible.

**“With the work of our dedicated grant team, Marlington Local Schools will continue to find grants and opportunities to help our district fulfill our promise of providing the highest standard of education possible.”**

building in conjunction with the Stark County Sheriff's Department and calculated our Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). These assessments guide our plan to improve the safety and security of our schools. The district has also completed the narratives outlining what we wish to purchase and how implementing these purchases will increase our SVA rating and, in turn, assist us in achieving at least Tier 1 in the Partnership Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS).

In addition to applying for the safety grant, Marlington Local Schools has many additional safety measures already in place. We have increased the number of SROs and security cameras in each school

improve literacy instruction for students hardest hit by pandemic-related school shutdowns.

The project will focus on improving literacy instruction by drawing on structured literacy approaches, along with strategies to improve instruction, including understanding language and dialect in the classroom, family and community engagement and drawing on and building students' background knowledge and vocabulary to improve reading outcomes.

If awarded the grant, Marlington will receive up to \$200,000 to cover costs associated with the project described above and

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Superintendent Dan Swisher for informational meetings throughout the fall to hear about the state of the schools and offer feedback. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Oct. 13**

**Science Hill Community Church**  
6 p.m.  
12316 Beeson St  
Alliance, OH 44601

**Oct. 18**

**Marlboro Christian Church**  
6:30 p.m.  
9383 Edison St NE  
Alliance, OH 44601

**Oct. 26**

**First Christian Church**  
6 p.m.  
1141 W Beech St  
Alliance, OH 44601

## DISTRICT UPDATE

Marlington Local Schools are committed to being responsible stewards of taxpayer money and have been able to operate without new money for nearly two decades. The district made cuts to the 2022-2023 budget, including staffing changes, updates to the curriculum and the reduction of services to help create a more efficient courseload for students. These changes saved the district \$1.3 million for the 2022-2023 school year. A renewal levy for Marlington Local Schools to support current operations will be on the ballot on November 8, 2022.

Marlington has also had to adapt to the recent news that the NEXUS Gas Transmission pipeline will not pay as much to the district as initially expected due to ongoing litigation about the state pipeline's valuation. The NEXUS settled amount has been appealed by an outside auditor leaving the settlement in litigation until further notice. Marlington Local Schools will receive a portion of the valuation until the litigation is complete, which may take two to five years.

With these financial realities, Marlington Local Schools has managed to maintain the safety, security and health of our students while also prolonging the life of our facilities. Projects the district has in the works to better improve our buildings include installing a new roof for the high school, fixing wicking issues throughout our facilities and keeping our water treatment system functional to the standards of our district.

Marlington Local Schools is working to continue providing the level of education our students and families deserve while also providing an environment the community can be proud of.