

A large group photo of the Flyers football team and their coaches posing on a field. The team is wearing white jerseys with yellow accents and blue pants. A large scoreboard in the background displays "STATE CHAMPIONS" and "2024".

year. The Board of Education, consisting of Randy Bruns, Tim Pohlman, Shannon Everman, Phil Moeller, and Jesse Rose, was present for the groundbreaking celebration on Nov. 25.

New school construction commences at Marion Local



PHOTO COURTESY OF: GARMANN MILLER

Garmann Miller crew, Marion Local staff, and school board members at the groundbreaking event on Nov. 25.

By: Emma Wilker
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – Architects from Garmann Miller created the design, and Touchstone is the project's Construction Manager. In the near future, Touchstone will award contracts to other companies to complete portions of the work, such as electrical and plumbing. Bruns Construction performed the early site work excavation.

The junior high school building will bring many beneficial changes. One such change is the gymnasium, which will have more legroom in the bleachers, wider aisles, chairs for the team and bench, and a 94-foot-long court as opposed to our current 84-foot court. Similar to neighboring schools Minster and St. Henry, the gymnasium in the junior high building will be used for the high school, while the current high school gym will be used for junior high.

The new gymnasium will accommodate more spectators, with approximately 150-200 new seats. The current high school gym seats 1,700-1,750, and the new gym will seat 1,900. Superintendent Mike Pohlman comments, "I am really excited for our junior high athletes because our current high school gymnasium will provide them with a better facility to have quality practices and games while allowing spectators a better viewing experience." This difference will also benefit high school athletes with better facilities and times for their extracurricular activities.

Another benefit of the new building is higher quality locker rooms. Every player on the team will have a locker room in the same location. Also, the distance from the locker room to the football field will be slightly shorter for the players. The girls' locker room will be significantly improved, which will help these athletes practice more efficiently.

For parking, the bus parking lot will be moved to the south side of the new junior high building. Since the new building will be located in the open area between the elementary school and the baseball diamond, the new parking lots will have minor changes. The exact procedure for pick-up and drop-off has yet to be determined, but the drive approaching the building should make it safer for students.

A traffic flow change has already begun at Marion Local because of the construction equipment being brought onto campus. The south drive of the high school is now being used for entry and exit. During this time, every driver must be cooperative and cautious to keep all students and staff safe.

Mr. Pohlman is cheerful about the prospects of the project: "It has been a joy navigating through this process with our community. I enjoyed planning the layout and design with so many different people. I am excited that we have broken ground on the new project, and we can start seeing progress."

Flyers find future jobs during Career Day

By: Grace Moeller
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN – Before Thanksgiving break, Marion Local High School hosted a Career Day for all students on Nov. 27. Each year, Principal Goodwin and Guidance Counselor Mrs. Dippold bring in community members to help the students learn about different careers.

There were 19 different sessions that students could choose to attend. The professions ranged from a fishing bait entrepreneur, Brexlyn Reneer, to an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Jeff Otte, with the keynote speaker being Mercer County's Sheriff-Elect Doug Timmerman. Students could also learn about engineering, esthetics, real estate, life as college students, and even becoming a coroner.

The students all had great comments about this year's Career Day. Junior Alea Pohlman found excellent life advice within the Sheriff's Department: "I enjoyed Doug Timmerman, the Mercer County Sheriff. He did a great job explaining how you will have to start at the bottom in life and push to gain your way to the top." This is some great life advice!



PHOTO BY: HILLARY LANGE

The Marion Local sophomore class performed acts of service, including decorating for Christmas, at Do Good Restaurant and Ministry.

Freshmen Cristi Dahlinghaus and Aaliyah Heitkamp attended the OB nurse session with Danielle Dues. They enjoyed it, saying, "She did a great job; it was really interesting."

The rest of the school day was spent on community service. This was a new venture for Career Day organized by Mrs. Dippold and teacher leaders. The seniors, along with part of the junior class, enjoyed baking cookies for junior Avery Guggenbiller's Morning Mugs Cafe. The remainder of the juniors cleaned up St. Rose and Casella churches. Some went to homes and performed outdoor tasks the residents could not.

The sophomores split up as well. Half went to Do Good Restaurant and Ministry in Osgood to help with yard work and decorate for Christmas, and the other half cleaned up parks in our area. The freshman class went to Elmwood and Heritage Manor nursing homes. They spent this time socializing with the residents and playing games with them.

When everyone was finished with their community service, they received ice cream bars as a reward for their good deeds. The 2024 Career Day was very successful this year and benefited many students, staff, and the community.

Seniors serve seniors at 30th annual luncheon



PHOTO BY: EMMA WILKER

Jan Ranly and other senior community members enjoy the 30th Annual Senior Citizens' Luncheon.

By: Emma Wilker
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – The 30th Annual Senior Citizens' Luncheon, held in the high school gymnasium on Dec. 13 at 1 p.m., was free and open to Marion Local School District residents 62 years of age or older. This year, 158 senior citizens were welcomed to our school to celebrate the festive season.

Marion Local Schools and the student body provide lunch for this annual event. Senior and junior National Honor Society members set up the gym, directed cars for parking, greeted the guests, took coats, served lunch and drinks,

and handed out poinsettias. The Marion Local Band also provided entertainment. The Senior Citizens' Luncheon is Marion Local Schools' gift to the community during this holiday season, as the students enjoy bonding with the seniors.

Secretary Barb Kahlig helped organize the event. She says, "It's wonderful to see all the senior citizens come to enjoy lunch, entertainment, and a bit of social time with friends during the Christmas season." Jan Ranly was overjoyed with the luncheon. She commented, "It was so special that the students served the meal, and the food was great. They are very kind and well-mannered kids!"

Flyer football’s fabled finale



Senior Flyers celebrate their perfect fourth State Championship in their high school careers on Dec. 6 at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

CANTON – Securing their 15th State Championship, the Marion Local Flyers capped off a season that was nothing short of historic. The 64-0 Flyers obtained two State records and currently hold the longest active consecutive win streak in American high school football. The two State records obtained are the longest consecutive win streak (previously held by Delphos St. John’s at 57-0) and the longest unbeaten streak (previously held by Ironton at 57-0-1).

Another team accolade achieved by the 2024 Flyers was points scored in a season. This was originally held by the 2014 Flyers, at 656, who were, ironically, responsible for the Flyers’ first 4-peat in State Championship football. The 2024 Flyers surpassed this record by a staggering 128 points, cementing the new record at 784 points.

With many team accolades achieved, there was one individual school record broken by Flyers’ wide receiver senior Victor Hoelscher. Hoelscher broke the Marion Local receptions in a season record, previously held by Troy Homan with 66 receptions during his 2013 season. Hoelscher broke this record by a significant margin with his 71 receptions on the season.

With the season officially over, Flyers who received All-State honors were Drew Lause, Justin Knouff, Carson Bills, Kyle Ungruhn, Victor Hoelscher, and Adam Winner. Lause was also awarded Defensive Player of the Year. Honorable mentions for All-State went to Isaac Muhlenkamp, Parker Hess, Bryant Meier, Ryan Homan, and Colten Ahrens.

Ending their season 16-0 after defeating Jeromesville Hillsdale in the State finals 74-0, the Flyers ex-

tended their consecutive win streak that originally began at the start of the 2021 football season to 64 wins.

In the Regional final on Nov. 22 with a quarterback playing through a minor injury, senior Justin Knouff continued to play as if his deep bone bruising simply did not exist. The Flyers came out on top against the Minster Wildcats, who recently got senior James Niemeyer back from injury. The game ended in a grueling shootout of 21-7.

On Nov. 29, the Flyers traveled back to Lima for their State semifinal matchup against Columbus Grove. Due to the cold weather, it was a run-heavy game for both teams, and the final score was 41-6.

Knouff capped off his season with 2161 passing yards on 172 attempts with 123 completions for 27 touchdowns leaving him with a passing percentage of 71.5. As a duel threat, Knouff had used his legs to pick up 663 yards on 70 rushing attempts giving him an average of 9.5 yards per carry, and of those 57 rushes seven resulted in touchdowns.

Moving to an offensive and special teams weapon for the Flyers, senior receiver and returner Victor Hoelscher finished his senior season with a stellar stat line. Hoelscher had 71 receptions for 1308 receiving yards, granting him an average of 18.4 yards per reception with 20 touchdowns. Hoelscher’s 71 receptions made up 54 percent of all of the Flyers’ passing plays throughout this season.

As a kickoff returner, Hoelscher had 132 yards on seven returns, averaging 18.9 yards per return. As a punt returner, Hoelscher had 11 returns for 179 yards, averaging 16.3 yards per return. In the State final, he set a new punt return record, breaking his previous record from 2023, with a 66-yard return, the longest in Division VII history.

For the Flyers’ running back core, senior Parker Hess consistently put up significant numbers deep in the playoffs along with senior two-way player Ethan Heitkamp, who played both running back and linebacker. The last part of the Flyers’ running back core was senior Drew Lause, who also played two ways, outside backer and running back.

Heitkamp only recently started to play on both sides of the ball again and made a case for him to keep doing so. As a running back, Heitkamp had 393 yards on 58 carries with 6.8 yards per carry. Heitkamp also had 13 rushing touchdowns as he was mostly used as a bulldozer in fourth and short situations and goal line situations due to the sheer size of him. However, recently Heitkamp was utilized in all situations due to his ability to break tackles and consistently rush for significant yardage.

Hess, unlike Heitkamp, relied more on his speed and agility to get his yards, and it proved to be an effective strategy. Hess had 151 carries for 1129 yards averaging 7.5 yards per carry with 23 touchdowns to end his season. Hess had an injury early on in the season, but when he returned, he became a crucial part of the Flyers’ offense throughout the season.

Hess was also responsible for breaking the rushing touchdown record during the State final game in Canton with four rushing touchdowns in the first half. This was the most by any Division VII running in the State Final in the first half of play.

Drew Lause, a running back who has impressive speed but also the size to operate as a power back, was a key utility player for the Flyers. Lause had 14 rushing touchdowns this season with 387 yards on 62 carries, averaging 6.2 yards per carry. Lause also had four receptions

for 41 yards, averaging 10.3 yards per reception on passing plays. On top of all of this, Lause also received MAC Defensive Player of the Year earlier this season.

The Flyers’ offense was a juggernaut this season, putting up a total of 784 points on opponents and 6069 total offensive yards, 2328 passing yards, and 3741 rushing yards. The Flyers’ defense, on the other hand, played just as crucial a role in their success. The Flyers’ defense held opponents to just 49 points this season. Seven touchdowns, one two-point conversion, two extra points, and one field goal were all that were allowed by the Flyers’ defense this season.

Crucial players on the defensive front this season were senior linebackers Bryant Meier and Ethan Heitkamp. Along with them were defensive linemen Isaac Muhlenkamp and Adam Winner. These four defensive players accounted for one-half of all assisted tackles and one-third of all unassisted tackles for the Flyers this season. These four were also responsible for over 60 percent of sacks this season.

As for crucial defensive players off the ball, these roles were dominated this year by seniors Griffin Bruns (cornerback), Ryan Homan (safety), Daniel Everman (safety), and Drew Lause (outside linebacker). These four seniors were responsible for over 60 percent of the Flyers’ interceptions this year, as well as heavily contributing to the substantial lack of big yardage plays against the Flyers this season.

With a season nothing short of extraordinary, the Flyers accomplished many feats with State records and currently hold a national accolade at 64-0 heading into next year. To top it off, the Flyers brought home their OHSAA-record-breaking 15th State Title to conclude their 2024 football season.

Lady Flyers open season undefeated

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – Girls’ basketball is now in full swing, and due to football coming to a close, so is boys’ basketball. The Lady Flyers have a perfect record of 6-0, with all six games being decisive wins for the Flyers. They head into their seventh matchup against New Knoxville tonight at 7:00 p.m. away at New Knoxville.

The girls’ first matchup was against Lima Shawnee on Nov. 26, and the Lady Flyers came out on top winning 59-26 to open their season.

The Lady Flyers’ first conference matchup was against the Versailles Tigers on Thursday, Dec. 5. The final score was 31-20, giving them a conference record of 1-0, and an overall record of 2-0 at the time.

The Lady Flyers’ third matchup was against Bath at home, and the final score was 50-28. For their fourth game of the season, the Lady Flyers faced another conference competitor in the Ft.



PHOTO BY: LYDIA HESS

The Flyers prepare to defeat Ft. Recovery on Dec. 12.

Recovery Indians, and the final score was 41-26. This gave the Flyers a 2-0 conference record and an overall record of 4-0.

On Dec. 14, the Flyers faced Wapakoneta and won with a final score of 42-33. On Dec. 17, the Lady Flyers faced Spencerville, and the final score of their matchup was a crushing 53-29.

When asked how she thinks the basketball season is going, senior Chloe Ronnebaum answered, “It’s gonna be a fun season, and we gonna #heatthecheese.” #heatthecheese has a story behind it, but in a short summary, it means to put in the work even if it’s not your job or expected of you. Needless to say, Ronnebaum hopes to exceed expectations this season.

On the other hand, the boys’ basketball team’s first official game of the regular season will be on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:00 p.m., at home against the New Knoxville Rangers. With football officially concluding, the boys’ basketball team now has a full roster, notably with seniors Ryan Homan and Daniel Everman starting their senior basketball seasons.

With many returning players to participate this season, the Flyers did lose three starting seniors: Jack Knapke, Mitchell Ranly, and Kyle Otte. However, promising talent in the underclass could prove to fill the shoes left behind by last year’s graduated seniors.

Saintly Slashers dominate CYO



PHOTO COURTESY OF: PARKER HESS

Ian Rindler and Trent Homan swap jerseys after the Saintly Slashers’ second game and win of the regular season on Nov. 17 against Ft. Recovery.

By: Parker Hess and Drew Lause
Staff Writers

SAINT ROSE – With the cold weather upon us, everyone is excited for some basketball. After varsity games during the week and on the weekends for the boys’ and girls’ high school teams, the games don’t stop on Sundays, when the real players come out to play.

Known all across the land as the “best dressed” and “the flashiest,” the Saintly Slashers, led by Coach Hannah Meier, are primed for another great season in CYO. They won their first regular season game with the full team on Sunday, Dec. 8 against St. Peter’s at home.

When the “preseason” kicked

off for the Saintly Slashers, after three games without the fall sports fellas, the boys went 2-1, with their only loss being allegedly the referees’ fault. They won’t let the adversity get to them, and their season has taken off now their stars are back in action. With plans of playing “clean and fundamental” team basketball, their trip to State should be a breeze.

Due to the fact that the team is so talented, they are unable to designate starters. After losing key players Braydan Homan and Buffalo Bills superfan Luke Wuebker, the returning players will have to pick up a lot of lost talent. With this, we interviewed a returning player, “Big Country” Kyle Ungruhn, a former two-year basketball player for the Marion Local Flyers.

Coming off of his recent all-star selection, Ungruhn states, “When you got a team like ours, we have the ability to have fun with our buddies while also whooping the other teams. And when it comes to the playoffs, we leave the other bummy teams like Chickazumabastian and St. Johns in the dust.” Ungruhn is awfully confident in his team’s ability and will see how they do in the rest of the season.

We asked senior leader Colten Ahrens for his thoughts on the upcoming games, and he said, “If you want to see some real basketball, pull up to the Marion Local Elementary gym and watch us ball. And make sure to follow Saintly Slashers on Instagram.”

Bowling builds numbers to start season



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The 2024-2025 Marion Local boys’ bowling team and coaches.

By: Megan Homan
Staff Writer

NEW BREMEN – The 2024 bowling season is underway with 26 total high school bowlers. The varsity girls are currently 0-3 on the season, and the varsity boys are also 0-3.

The girls’ and boys’ teams had their first bowling match on Nov. 23, at home at Speedway Lanes in New Bremen. The JV played Versailles, while the varsity played Fort Loramie. Junior Christian Kremer led the boys’ varsity team by scoring a 242. On Dec. 3, the teams faced St. Marys, and on Dec. 14, they played Fort Recovery.

There are nine girls on the bowling team, which means that there is a JV team and a varsity bowling team. This is a great accomplishment because it has been multiple years since girls’ bowling has had a varsity and JV team.

The high school girls’ bowling team is young this year, consisting of six sophomores and three freshmen. The varsity team members are sophomores Kate

DeMange, Maggie Frey, Lila Kremer, Allie Moeller, and Mykenna Wilkins. The JV team consists of sophomore Megan Homan with freshmen Stephanie Barlage, Ella Frey, and Adelyn Homan.

High school boys’ bowling is also ready to compete this year. There are currently 20 boys on the team: six seniors, nine juniors, and five freshmen. Boys’ bowling also has a JV team and a varsity team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG
2024-2025 girls’ bowling team and coaches.

How Principal Goodwin stole Christmas!

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN – MLHS students and staff have strong opinions on who the biggest Santa Claus and Grinch are here in our school. The responses were not shocking: the most popular votes this Christmas were for math teacher Mr. Sherrick as Santa, and Principal Goodwin as the Grinch.

Mr. Sherrick was voted as the biggest Santa Claus in the school by many students due to his liking of cookies. Sophomore Alayna Birt once brought in cookies to math class: “He LOVED when I brought in cookies!!!!” Freshman Alivia Beasley voted for Mr. Sherrick for this reason as well, as she just simply wrote, “Cookies.”

A very strong point of view came from junior Derek Knapke, who voted senior Drew Lause as the biggest Santa because “Drew Lause is the biggest Santa Claus in the school because he qualifies for all of the qualifications. To be a Santa, you have to be smart, intelligent, heartwarming, nice, trustworthy, developed, coordinated, arranged, guided, inspired, advanced, and, last of all, sneaky. Mr. Lause, I mean, I should say Mr. Claus, is the most likely to be Santa because he fits all these qualifications. He is also the best in woodshop class with great projects and successes in the class. Mr. Claus is my number one pick.”



PHOTO BY: AVA RANLY
Santa Sherrick and Grinch Goodwin prepare for Christmas.

The biggest Grinch of the high school is our own principal, Mr. Goodwin, by a runaway vote. The most popular reason was he always gives out exams before Christmas break. Students deemed this as not very merry, and a little more to the Grinchy side. One anonymous student felt very strongly about voting for Mr. Goodwin, and she even included an upside-down face in her reasoning why, writing “exams :(”

By surprise, Mr. Goodwin also voted in this poll. He was very confident in voting himself for biggest Santa, as he stated he is a “nice guy.”

Freshman Justin Bergman voted for his own sister, senior Kelsey Bergman, as the biggest Grinch. In his reasoning, he listed almost all of the lyrics of the song “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch!” He even took the time to change the “he’s” to “she’s.” He stated, “She’s a crooked dirty jockey, and she drives a crooked horse, Mrs. Grinch. She’s a three-decker sauerkraut and toadstool sandwich. With arsenic sauce!”

Social studies teacher Mr. Grabowski was voted by sophomore Jayden Bruns as the biggest Grinch since Bruns can not tell if “his heart is two sizes too big or too small.” Mr. Grabowski also, surprisingly, voted for himself. He said he is the biggest Grinch because he “lives alone with his dog, is an incurable trickster, eats way too much food, rocks an ugly Christmas sweater better than everyone else, and has a beard.”

Cafeteria terminal supervisor Mrs. Seger was also suggested by a couple of students as the biggest Grinch. This was because she “is not a happy camper when you don’t have your lunch money in.” Surprisingly, Mrs. Seger agrees with the students, since in her Grinch vote, she said, “Me! Mrs. Seger!” because “I am always reminding people to bring in their lunch money (greedy!), but I have a heart of gold when you really get to know me!”

Festive Flyers count down to Christmas

By: Emma Wilker
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – With Christmas just around the corner, one important question remains: Can you put up your Christmas decorations too early?

71 students and staff believe that you can start decorating for Christmas too early. Senior Carly Niekamp says, “Decorating anytime before Thanksgiving should be a federal crime.” Sophomore Seth Heitkamp strongly believes Halloween and Thanksgiving cannot be overlooked: “Anything before or during that time is considered early because these holidays need to be respected and have the correct decor.” Freshman Deanna Dirksen agrees, saying, “If you celebrate Christmas for two or three months, it loses how special it really is.”

On the other hand, 35 students and staff think that you cannot decorate for Christmas too early, mostly because Christmas is the “best” holiday. Junior Clara Homan is very adamant about this topic, saying, “Absolutely not! Christmas should honestly be an all-year-round holiday.” Senior Kaylee Wilker thinks, “Christmas is a very cheerful holiday, and if putting your decorations up early makes you happy, it’s worth it.” Sophomore Kalyn Thobe firmly believes “turkey still tastes the same when the Christmas decorations are up.” Mr. Delawder is clearly a huge fan of Christmas, commenting, “The perfect time to hang up those lights and wreaths is while you’re taking down the 4th of July decorations.”



PHOTO BY: EMMA WILKER
Senior Ava Ranly and math teacher Mrs. Broering are full of Christmas spirit.

52.5 percent of Flyers believe that the weekend after Thanksgiving is the correct time to put up Christmas decorations. Being together with your family would be a perfect time to decorate, and sophomore Kendyl Hess agrees. She thinks, “You can watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade with your family and put the decorations up together.” Senior Ryan Homan feels this way also, saying, “Thanksgiving is a top three holiday and cannot be overlooked by Christmas decorations.”

In second place, 21 percent of students think that Christmas decorations should be put up after Halloween. Freshman Jalen Rose thinks, “People should get in the Christmas spirit early so they can be on the nice list.” Senior Jana Pohlman says this is “the perfect time” because “you have to have your Christmas decorations up for at least a month.”

Mrs. Howell thinks that people should do whatever makes them happy, but “putting up decorations is a lot of work. Putting them up early gets you in the festive mood and lets you enjoy them longer.”

In third place, only 9 percent believe early December is the correct time to put up decorations. Senior Deacon Kemper says, “It’s just the right choice.” Senior Lincoln Stachler feels very strongly about his choice, saying, “Stores take down Halloween decor and put up Christmas in the middle of October, which is unbelievable. My neighbors currently [in late November] have their lights up, and I would really enjoy going to their house, ripping the lights down, and punching their little blow mold Santa in the face.”

A few, 2.5 percent, think mid-December is the correct time for decorations. Mr. Bruns says, “It’s gotta be really cold, and then have them up after Christmas until the 12 Days of Christmas.” A further 2.5 percent believe that Christmas decorations can stay up all year. Sophomore Madison Steinbrunner agrees, saying, “I love the smells of Christmas, and if they stay up all year long, I can get the Christmas smell all the time.” Sophomore Jayden Bruns believes the best time to decorate is “whenever you feel the seasonal depression coming on.” She argues, “Winter gets us all down: it’s dark all the time, exams are coming up, and school is in full swing. You can’t feel sad when your house is covered in fake snow and glitter.”

So, is Thanksgiving slowly becoming forgotten? In a close race, 52

percent said no, and 48 percent said yes. Senior Natalie Kuess says, “People still get together and remember what they are grateful for, even if they have Christmas decorations up.” Sophomore Allie Moeller believes “this is a holiday most people look forward to other than Christmas because of the food.”

Other students, such as junior Lydia Steinbrunner, think Christmas overshadows Thanksgiving. She says, “Too many stores give out deals extremely early. This forces people to go shopping for Christmas gifts even before Thanksgiving.” Sophomore Kendyl Hess feels that “most people talk about decorating for Christmas on Thanksgiving and don’t actually focus on the holiday.”

Another hot issue is when you can start listening to Christmas music. The majority think after Thanksgiving, including senior Morgan Fleck, who says, “You can’t start listening to Christmas music early because you will get tired of it.” However, freshman Justin Bergman thinks you can listen only on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day because “Mariah Carey is annoying.”

Opinions on the right time to decorate and listen to music during the holiday season vary greatly. I feel people should decorate during the time that makes them the happiest. This time should be spent making memories with your family and enjoying the holiday season. Senior Ava Ranly has noticed a few festive Flyers, saying, “I saw Madison Sherrick kissing Santa Claus!” Like Mrs. Broering says, “You always have to have the Christmas spirit!”



Silver Bells



The Gold Standard

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12 days of Christmas break activities



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

FFA members with Christmas lights they put up outside of the high school (Day 2).

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN – Christmas break is a joy for all students big or small currently in school. It leaves time to do fun activities with friends and family. Christmas day is the best day of break, but some may wonder what to do the other days.

This year, there are exactly 12 days in Christmas break, so here is a list of activities you can do day by day to have the most enjoyable Christmas break:

Day 1: Make hot cocoa and binge-watch all six *Home Alone* movies.

Day 2: Drive around checking out all of Maria Stein's cool Christmas lights.

Day 3: Go shopping and buy burr baskets for your friends.

Day 4 (Christmas Eve): Bake festive Christmas cookies with your friends and family.

Day 5 (Christmas Day): Celebrate and open presents with your family.

Day 6: Hold a friends' board game marathon (with snacks, of course!).

Day 7: Go ice skating with friends and family.

Day 8: Watch the boys' basketball team take on Ft. Recovery at 7:30 p.m.

Day 9: Binge-read a book series you have never read before.

Day 10: Make blankets for Rustic Hope with the Marion Local FFA at 9:30 a.m.

Day 11 (New Year's Eve): Hang out with friends and watch the ball drop at midnight with some Welch's sparkling grape juice.



PHOTO BY: MR. ELSASS

Junior FFA member Aaron Albers helping make a butterfly blanket for Rustic Hope during Christmas Break last year (Day 10).

Day 12 (New Year's Day): Celebrate the new year of 2025 with your family, and don't forget to charge your Chromebook and set your alarm for the morning!

Dear Santa . . .



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN

Unimportant Sophomore ready for the Lakers vs. Cavs game.

By: Austin Niekamp
Staff Writer

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well preparing for Christmas, and, hopefully, Ms. Claus is doing well too. Thanks for the socks and underwear last year; they've worked, I guess. I would've been really happy with a new Xbox, but I guess there were supply chain issues.

I think I have been really good this year, so for Christmas, I have some gifts I think I deserve. I want a new iPhone 16. Mine has a huge crack in it that makes it hard to play Clash of Clans. I'll also take a new Xbox since OG Fortnite is coming back. My current Xbox is running on empty, and I need to get some Victory Royales.

My last gift isn't too big of an ask. I'll take a new LeBron James jersey and some tickets to the Cavs vs. Lakers game.

Since my glorious sunshine LeBron is undoubtedly the GOAT, I want to see him play in person before he calls it quits and retires.

Please thoughtfully consider all of my requests, and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Unimportant Sophomore

P.S. If you want to put a nice young lady under the tree for me, I'll take that too.

Dear Unimportant Sophomore,

Christmas prep is going well, and Mrs. Claus is doing great. Sorry about the underwear and socks, but last year you probably deserved coal.

This year, you have been pretty good, so I'll see what I can do. I have been having some problems with my elves playing that Fortnite game instead of working, so I am enforcing a strict ban on it until Christmas is over.

In regards to LeBron, I don't know if I can do that for you. Michael Jordan is definitely the GOAT. You just don't understand it because you didn't watch Michael in his prime.

Sincerely,
Santa Claus

Naughty or Nice?

By: Carson Bills and Ethan Heitkamp
Staff Writers



The NAUGHTY list

Colten Ahrens - is on the naughty list for having too much drip

Kyle Ungruhn - put himself on the naughty list for flirting with way too many freshmen

Avae Unrast - finds herself on the naughty list for having too many blonde moments

Austin Niekamp & Caleb Huelsman - are on the naughty list for getting into too many physical altercations due to "friendly" wagers

Damon Cramer - is on the naughty list due to being the last one to school even though he lives the closest

Mr. Delawder - ends up on the naughty list for blinding everyone with his shiny head

Brennen Hess - is on the naughty list for only showing up to football films when there is food involved

The NICE list

EJay Sawmiller - is on the nice list for keeping all the managers in order during football practice

Adam Winner - manages to be on the nice list because of his ability to deal with a curvy back

Derek Knapke - is on the nice list for being the best worker at THE Ohio Recycling

Ian Rindler - stays on the nice list because he spends all his free time studying to maintain his 4.0 GPA

Mrs. Kahlig - ends up on the nice list for letting us in the door every morning

Mason Jones - finds himself on the nice list for having the best haircut in the high school

Andrew Schmackers - is on the nice list for putting maximum effort into every-