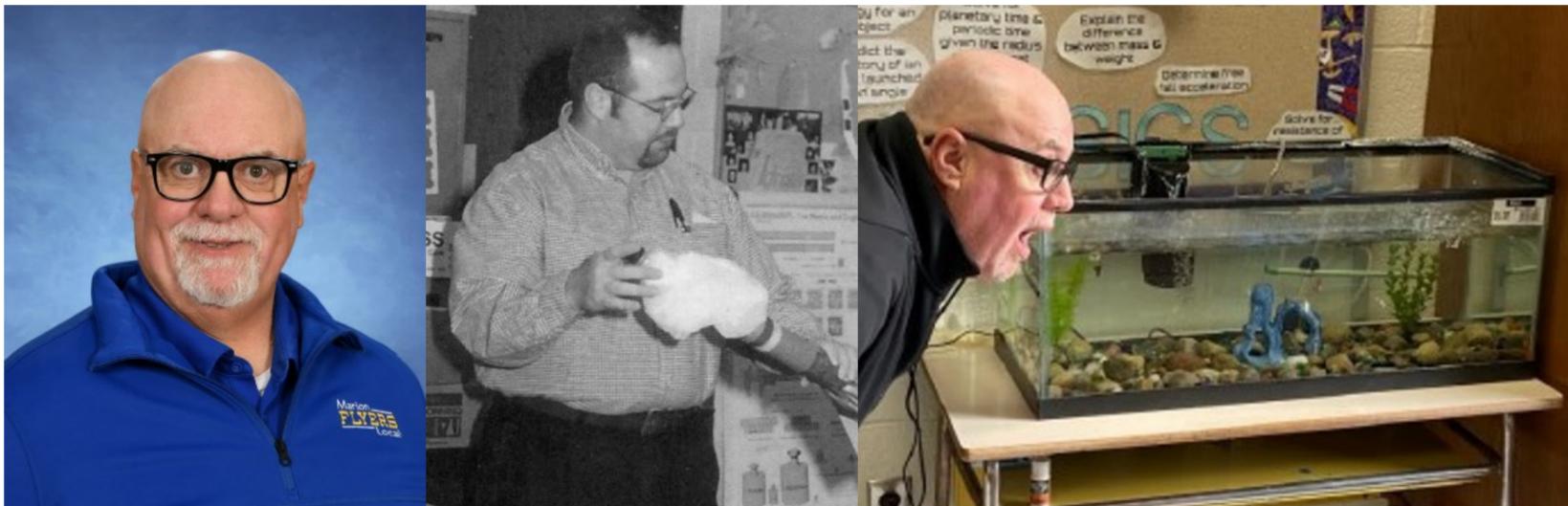


## Saying goodbye to the 'Todd-Father'



By: The Gold Standard staff

COLDWATER - In the early morning of Wednesday, Sept. 27, beloved teacher and staff member, Mr. Todd Ashbaugh, sadly and unexpectedly passed away.

Mr. Ashbaugh was a very involved individual at Marion Local. Mr. Ashbaugh served as the very intelligent high school chemistry, physics, and astronomy teacher. He also served as a faculty manager for both the boys and girls. He was an advisor to many organizations, including Varsity M, Student Council, and Junior Scholars. Mr. Ashbaugh was a football and track coach, along with being a softball and baseball umpire, and a basketball and volleyball official.

Mr. Ashbaugh graduated from St. Marys and enlisted in the navy during his senior year of high school. He served for four years, from 1987 until 1991, on the USS Badger and stationed in Hawaii.

After the navy, he attended college at Wright State University and began teaching at Marion Local for the 2000-2001 school year. He taught at the high school ever since.

Mr. Ashbaugh was a favorite of many. He always knew all the students and never failed to make his students laugh and feel included. He always popped into classes to see what everyone was up to and tried to see if he could figure out what everyone was learning.

Mr. Ashbaugh—also known as the Todd-Father—always had something inspirational to say. He was a very intelligent and funny guy. Listed below are a few monumental quotes Mr. Ashbaugh said throughout the years:

"I do not know if I was always weird, or if studying physics is what made me weird."

"I take four different routes to work throughout the week. One reason is that it keeps me more aware and decreases my chances of getting into an accident. Also, it reduces my chances of being attacked by terrorists."

"People would be rolling down hills just to lose weight."

"My wife and kids say I ramble about physics and chemistry when I get home. So then they just say, 'Shut up, Dad!' and we watch Hallmark."

"I stuck my hand in the toaster when I was four years old. That is how I learned not to stick my hand in the toaster."

"Professionalism never takes a day off!"

"I never understood those baby gate things. I think we should just let them fall down the stairs. That is how they learn."

"How many what? Chickens? Billy goats? Buckets?"

"What happened to all the good chemistry jokes? They all Argon."

"Silver and Oxygen saw Gold at the nightclub. What did they say? 'AU!'"

"I have a high negative 'g' value. You know what that means? I am spontaneous."

"I think that's slicker than snot on a doorknob."

"Let's do it; let's figure it out."

"And then what happened?"

"Rank 'em!"



# HoCo 2023: lights, camera, action!



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Senior girls on the 2023 Homecoming Court at halftime of the Varsity football game on Oct. 6. Queen Nora Eckstein was escorted by Adam Schwieterman.

By: Camryn Swain  
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - Nora Eckstein took the Homecoming Queen crown at halftime of the Varsity Flyers game against Anna on Oct. 6. Eckstein was escorted by Adam Schwieterman.

The rest of the Homecoming Court consisted of Audrey Winner and Toby Kremer, Brooke Wilker and Bray-

dan Homan, Alyssa Zizelman and David Kremer, and Hailey Wolters and John Kramer.

Max Speelman was crowned Homecoming King at the Varsity Flyers volleyball game against Coldwater on Oct. 5.

The boys' Homecoming Court and their escorts were Speelman and Emily McClurg, Joey Kunk and Alys-

sa Zizelman, Ted DeMange and Allison Dirksen, Lucas Broering and Morgan Spieth, and Owen Siefring and Audrey Winner.

This year's Homecoming dance had 249 people attending. The Hollywood-themed dance was held in the Hangar on Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. The student council blew everyone away with how well they decorated the gym.

Student council members worked long and hard all day Friday to get the gym in tip-top shape for this year's Homecoming dance. Senior Class Secretary Kyle Otte was impressed by everyone's hard work in decorating for the dance: "Through all the blood, sweat, and tears, we were able to accomplish what was needed to bring Hollywood to Maria Stein!"

Math teacher Ms. Sutton is the new high school student council advisor this year. She did a phenomenal job organizing her first major school dance ever.



PHOTO BY: GRACE BRUNSWICK

The senior boys' Homecoming Court. King Max Speelman was escorted by Emily McClurg.

We asked Ms. Sutton about her new role, and she said, "Overwhelming would be the word to describe the experience I have had organizing my first big dance as the new student council advisor! There is a lot that goes into planning a dance like Homecoming. However, I have the best and most helpful students who are a part of the student council! The seniors have stepped up and taken charge of getting things done. Mrs. Dippold, the past student council advisor, has also been a huge help!"

## Traveling Teens take on Europe



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MRS. SUE BRUNS

The Traveling Teens explored Park Gü

By: Morgan Spieth  
Opinion Editor

EUROPE - Imagine it's summer, and you step foot on the grounds of a European country where every brick is meticulously placed. You look up and see the beautiful colored buildings with clothes hanging in between them. You walk between these buildings and see the beautiful crystal-clear Mediterranean Sea in front of you. You breathe the non-manure-smelling air into your lungs, for this is the first time you have left the country without your parents.

This summer—June 7 through June 17—23 total students and adults embarked on a European adventure as part of the Traveling Teens program. For 10 days, these 13 graduates (Class of 2023), seven current seniors, and three adults explored four different countries.

Of the 20 student travelers, the graduates included Allison Bruns, Amanda Homan, Maddie Goodwin, Lydia Kelch, Ava Evers, Haley Kuess, Eve Mescher, Cole Steinbrunner, Sutton Rose,

Cole Brunswick, Noah Budde, Troy Stucke, and Garrett Moeller. The current seniors were Morgan Spieth, Luke Budde, Audrey Winner, Adam Schwieterman, Nora Eckstein, Ally Mescher, and Emma Pleiman, while the chaperones included Mrs. Sue Bruns, Mr. Matt Elsass, and Mr. Tim Goodwin. The final two people who traveled with the group were their bus driver Masimo and their tour guide Frank.

Their first stop in their experience across the ocean was Lucerne, Switzerland. This was Senior Audrey Winner's favorite destination. Winner says, "I enjoyed the beautiful views from the hotel deck."

Stop number two was France, where they explored Nimes and all it had to offer. Mr. Elsass loved the history: "Seeing the old world castles and structures in France was a highlight of the trip. I sent postcards on the trip, and the ones I sent from France arrived shortly after we returned. My postcards from Italy just arrived! Three months later! So France also has the best postal service, for anyone who cares."

The third area traveled to was Cinque Terre, Italy. Current senior Luke Budde said that Italy was his favorite place to visit because "they knew how much Americans like to eat." With the huge meals Budde was given, he ate well in Italy.

The last destination was Barcelona, Spain. Another current senior, Morgan Spieth, said that this was the perfect end of the journey: "It was near the end of the trip, so everyone was getting a little irritable. However, for me, I could have stayed there for weeks! When I got home I was sick, so I googled my symptoms. But it just said that I needed to go back to Barcelona."

## Middle school construction on ballot next month

By: Kailee Beyke  
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN - Local voters, including high school seniors (who are 18 and registered to vote), will vote on Nov. 7 on whether to approve new construction at Marion Local Schools. The new building proposal is due to the growing enrollment of students.



PHOTO BY: GARMANN MILLER  
New middle school building plans.

Superintendent Mike Pohlman listed off what this new proposal includes: "The new proposal will house seventh and eighth-grade students and includes nine academic and special education classrooms, an agricultural education complex suite (including two additional classrooms) and greenhouse, a two-court high school competition gymnasium (approx. 2,000 seats), a K-8 cafeteria and commons, four locker rooms (two of which would be large enough to serve the football programs as well), and an administrative office suite."

Pohlman also stated, "We encourage everyone in the community to gather facts about this proposed levy. There are a lot of assumptions about this project in regard to how it is funded, what it includes, and how it will affect their taxes. Everyone is encouraged to educate themselves to be an informed voter."

Election day will be held on Nov. 7 with polls opening at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m.

## Marion Local academics #2 in Ohio

By: Kyle Otte  
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - Once again, we are flying high in the Ohio academic rankings! Out of 607 school districts, the Flyers of Marion Local are #2. The top 10 school districts in Ohio last school year included five local schools: Versailles placed fifth, Minster was sixth, Ft. Loramie placed eighth, and Russia ranked ninth. It always feels good to beat MAC rivals in not just sports but also academics.

Superintendent Mike Pohlman complimented the students, staff, and parents of our district when the news of our exceptionally high academic ranking was released in September: "On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration, we want to congratulate you on a job well done . . . Marion Local ranks #2 in the state. Thank you so very much for your hard work and passion for educating the students in our district. I absolutely love your competitiveness and drive to succeed.

"Marion Local is a special place, and it is because of the relationships you all build and the determination you show each day. Go Flyers!"

## New faces in the high school

By: Veyda Gerlach  
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN - This year, we welcome two new staff members to the high school. We have Mr. T.J. Schmidt as our new trainer and Mr. Greg Bruns replacing Ms. Hoelscher in shop, drafting, and Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR). Some of you may recognize Mr. Bruns as the gym teacher from the elementary, but now with his new position, he has been moved to the high school. To get some inside information on the new staff members, we asked them the following questions.



PHOTO BY: VEYDA GERLACH

Mr. Bruns in his new high school classroom.

### MR. BRUNS

Q: What got you into your new position?

A: I got into this position by seeing Ms. Hoelscher departing for her new career at a neighboring school, so I decided to pursue the opening by talking to Mr. Elsass and Mr. Goodwin. Then I had to apply and interview for my current position.

Q: What is your favorite part of the day?

A: My favorite part of the day probably has to be experiments with AFNR students where there is so much to cover. In drafting, [it's] having the students create various drawings and figures using the various drafting tools, as well as seeing the students down in the shop.

Q: Are you enjoying being in the high school?

A: I am enjoying being over in the high school and seeing all the older students throughout my day, whether it is in the classroom, shop, or hallways.

Q: What has been the most memorable moment so far?

A: In shop, the students are applying their knowledge to their plans in an attempt to create and build their final project/product.

### MR. T.J. SCHMIDT

Q: What got you into your new position?

A: We moved back to the area, after most recently living in Texas and Colorado before that, to be closer to family. My wife is from Coldwater, and we have two boys that we wanted to be near family as they got older. After moving up here, I heard that Bob Hibner at Community Sports and Therapy Center was in need of an athletic trainer to cover Marion. Although initially, I was planning on a career



PHOTO BY: VEYDA GERLACH

Mr. Schmidt shows junior Ellie Heitkamp helpful exercises to recuperate.

change when we moved, I figured to give the high school level a try.

Q: What is your favorite part of the day?

A: I enjoy the rehab aspect of the job as well as the gameday atmosphere.

Q: Are you enjoying being in the high school?

A: I am; the vast majority of my experience has been at the college level, so high school is a change in many ways, but it's been enjoyable. Everyone has been welcoming and good to work with; it's been a good change of pace from my previous position.

Q: What has been the most memorable moment so far?

A: I would have to say the ending of the Wapak game has been the most memorable moment up to this point.

## College Credit Plus finds its way to Marion Local



PHOTO BY: KYLE OTTE

Mrs. Howell shows junior Carly Niekamp how to navigate Wright State's website as a CCP student.

By: Kyle Otte  
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - This year, we have more College Credit Plus opportunities at Marion Local and some familiar faces learning new roles. Mrs. Howell is the new CCP advisor, Mr. Grabowski is teaching Western Civilization, and Ms. Sutton is teaching Probabilities and Statistics. All of these are the teachers' new roles, and they have to learn almost as

much as the students do because this is new for them. Mrs. Howell's new role is by far the hardest upgrade of them all because she is completely new to CCP. For Mr. Grabowski, he teaches World and American History, so he is no stranger to the subject. Ms. Sutton teaches a lot of the challenging math classes here, including AP Calculus, so she is no stranger either when it comes to her new role.



PHOTO BY: KYLE OTTE

Mr. Grabowski teaches Western Civilization to sophomore Brody Otte.

Mrs. Howell is the new CCP advisor. Taking on this role is a lot of work just because of dealing with all the students coming and asking about their college classes and signing up for them. She knows that it can be challenging for students to figure things out at the college level by themselves. Mrs. Howell's new position takes some stress off of Mrs. Dippold because she already had enough on her plate as the Guidance Counselor.

Mr. Grabowski has taken on a new role teaching Western Civilization. This is more than Mr. Grabowski has ever done; he has previously taught American History to sophomores and World History to freshmen. Western Civilization is a big step for him because not only is it another class he has to teach, it's a college-level class. Western Civilization is a CCP class that has an online option taught through Wright State, but having it

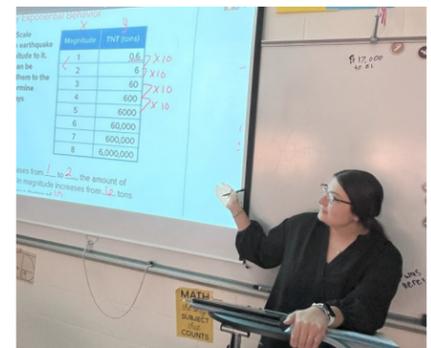


PHOTO BY: KYLE OTTE

Ms. Sutton teaches students how to solve a difficult math question in Statistical Concepts.

face-to-face makes it better for students to learn and ask questions.

Ms. Sutton now teaches Statistical Concepts, which is another one of the new CCP classes that Marion Local has to offer. This is a one-semester class, counting as two credits for being CCP, so students will need to find a different class to take during the spring semester.

# Flyers end regular season undefeated yet again

By: Kyle Otte  
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - Playoffs have begun, and football still rolls on. As the Flyers end the regular season undefeated at 10-0, they aim to have a deep push into the playoffs. On Friday, Oct. 27, the Flyers will host Week One of the playoffs, when they will play Tri-County North. This will be a test for the Flyers, considering they have never played them before, so they know nothing about them.

The 2023 football season went underway Friday, Aug. 18 when the Flyers traveled to Wapakoneta. Wapak brought a lot back from last year, especially some solid pieces all around the field, like their quarterback Caleb Moyer, who was a freshman last year and was pretty good. Their running back Jace Knous and linebacker Joey Truesdale were a good test for our fresh roster of rookie starters on this year's team. The Wapak game probably was one of the most memorable games in Marion Local history. The Flyers won 29-26, but this score doesn't show how the game really went.

The Flyers were down twelve points with three minutes left in the game. At 26-14, the Flyers had the ball, and moving, they took a shot downfield to junior Victor Hoelscher who made a huge play. A few plays later, junior Drew Lause punched it in to cut the lead to five with two minutes and 30 seconds left. At 26-21, the Flyers had to try for an onside kick, and junior Carson Bills' kick was executed perfectly: the Flyers recovered it, and had the ball with two and a half minutes and a chance to win the game.

With the game on the line, the Flyers had a chance to put it away with the ball in the hands of junior Justin



PHOTO BY: KELSEY BRUGGEMAN

Junior Parker Hess #45 celebrates with teammate Oliver Huelsman #86 after scoring a touchdown against Franklin Senior on Aug. 25.

Knouff. He dropped back, and under pressure, he stepped up in the pocket and heaved it deep. Hoelscher tracked down the ball and made an unbelievable catch down at the 26-yard line. At fourth and ten, with the game on the line, "What are we going to do?" the players all asked themselves. Why not give someone a chance to make a play? That someone was junior Andrew Pohlman when he caught the game-winning touchdown.

Week Six against Versailles was probably the best game so far after Wapak. Versailles was very solid all around. Their returning starters gave the Flyers fits last year, and they did the same this year, mostly due to the Tigers quarterback Michael Osborn and running back Joel Gehret. Versailles always has a solid defense: this is why our offense struggled against them all night long.

Our offense went scoreless in the first quarter as we trailed Versailles 7-0 after one. The second quarter came along, and the Flyers started to wear on the Tigers, thus helping us score our first points of the game with a Knouff touchdown. The game was stuck at 7-7 going into halftime, and Coach Goodwin told the boys in the pregame speech to "come back at halftime with a chance to win." The

Flyers, tied with the Tigers, were thinking at the half what they could have done better to be up a score or two. This didn't matter because, as Coach said, they came in at half with a chance to win, and there was another half to be played in which the score was 0-0.

As the second half emerged, both teams made their way and warmed up. They got themselves ready to play another hard-hitting half. The Flyers got the ball to start the second half, and they wasted no time by driving down the field and capitalizing on an Ethan Heitkamp touchdown to start off quarter three with a 14-7 lead over Versailles. The third quarter felt like it took forever because after we had scored there were no more points scored the rest of the quarter. As the clock hit zero to end the quarter, you could tell that both teams were pretty banged up already. This didn't stop two tough MAC teams from fighting for the top spot in the conference.

The start of the fourth quarter was just like the last five minutes of the third, nothing happened. Versailles had the ball for the majority of the fourth because the Flyers got stopped on fourth down twice, which didn't let the Flyers stall and run out the clock. Instead, Versailles had other

plans, which were driving the ball down the field and scoring with two minutes left in the game. Everybody had thoughts on what was going to happen next: was Versailles going to go for two on the road or play it safe and force overtime?

The student section might have had a role in what happened next, or was it just a fluke? Something that hadn't occurred for Gehret all season happened Friday, Sept. 22. The Flyers were able to run out the clock and win the game due to Gehret's missed field goal.

The past few weeks have been games in which the players who don't get the same amount of playing as the starters got to show what they are made of. Week Four against Delphos St. Johns was one of those games. After the beautiful weather in the first half, Mother Nature had other plans: as the Flyers were stomping on the Blue Jays, the stands thinned as the rain came in unexpectedly. The Flyers went on to victory with a final score of 56-0.

The Flyers made their way over to Minster for the Week Three matchup, and the Wildcats gave a little scare four minutes into the first quarter. That went away easily after the Flyers' offense started with Knouff back at quarterback when he lofted a pass down the field 51 yards to Pohlman, our star wide receiver. The running game punched it in for six, and after the scoreboard read Flyers 42, the Wildcats were left stunned with seven points from their opening drive.

Students, fans, faculty, and everybody around the school are hoping for the Flyers to have a strong push deep into the playoffs. The Flyers may even get back to the place they are all so familiar with.

# Bruns, boys' team run to Regionals

By: Veyda Gerlach  
Staff Writer

COLDWATER - Junior Josie Bruns and the whole boys' cross country team have advanced to Regionals after successful runs at Districts this past weekend. The boys will run on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 9:00 a.m. in Tiffin. Bruns will run at 10:00 a.m.

Bruns says the key to cross country is "mind over matter."

This year's 2023 cross country team has grown to a team of seven seniors, two juniors, nine sophomores, and five freshmen. The 23-member team is led by

Coaches Danielle Sutter and Jackie Kemper.

The boys' cross country team looks to get back to state like they achieved last year. They are pretty strong again this year. The boys have high hopes for the future ahead of them, and hopefully they can keep running on after Regionals.

The girls' cross country team had a successful season this year. Multiple team members had PRs, including freshmen Evelyn Bills, Molly Bruns, and Gina Bruns. The girls are looking forward to supporting Josie Bruns as she represents them at Regionals!



PHOTO BY: ANGIE OTTE

The boys' Regional team is ready to run. L-R: Lucas Broering, Brody Otte, Wesley Schoen, Preston Kemper, Trey Goettmoeller, Christian Kremer, and Ryan Stucke (Not pictured: Isaac Bruns, Wade Kremer, and Dalton Pohlmann)



PHOTO BY: ML BOYS BB  
Junior Josie Bruns will represent Marion Local at Regionals on Oct. 28.



## Rethman ranks #16 in state



PHOTO BY: HOPE RETHMAN

Senior Marcus Rethman ended his high school golf career at the State Tournament.

By: Morgan Spieth  
Opinion Editor

MARIA STEIN - Senior Marcus Rethman earned a spot at the high school golf State Tournament for only the second time in Marion Local history, placing 16th in the entire State.

Congratulations go out to Rethman for qualifying as an individual for the State Tournament, which was held Oct. 13 and 14 at the Ohio State University Golf Club. Out of 72 individual golfers, Rethman placed 16 overall. On the first day of competition he had 78 strokes, and on the second day he got an 80.

When Rethman was asked how he felt about his senior year coming to an end, he said, "I

would say it's tough because I feel like a father figure to the young pups on the team like Trent [Homan] and Grant [Kremer]. I will be sad leaving my sons."

The boys' golf season flew by with a final record of 5-4 on the season and 2-2 at MAC. On Sept. 28, the boys went to Sectionals as a team and placed fourth of 13, one stroke away from qualifying for Districts.

Another one of the star golfers on the team is senior Jack Knapke, and he says that he loves being the tallest on the team. Not only that, but being a 6 foot 9 inches man, he has a striking disadvantage. He is so tall that he has a higher likelihood of getting hit by the ball. That being said, Knapke has never been hit by the ball, but it is one of his major fears about the sport.

The girls started the season off with a win against one of their arch-rivals, St. Henry, 235 - 229. Their last match was Sept. 26 at Sectionals where they were fifth of 13. This season, girls' golf went 4-7, going 3-5 against the MAC.

Coach Adam Smith commented, "The girls worked hard, made improvements throughout the year, and had fun doing it. What else could I ask for?"

One of the newest additions to the team this year was Brynn Arling, who is a senior and is a new big fan of the sport. Asking her why she joined golf in her final year of high school, she joked, "Volleyball is overrated! #joingolf."

Arling later said that she loved the attitude of the team and is glad that she joined her last year of high school. She loved Coach Smith as well and said that he is a great coach.

## Scoreboard spotlights 23 championships



PHOTO BY: KYLE OTTE

Junior boys admiring the new scoreboard.

By: Kyle Otte  
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - Over the past years, our athletic program has brought more and more state championships to our school, and we started to run out of room on the back of the scoreboard, where all the state championships are posted. Since our athletic programs have really stepped up and brought some new championships, we were in dire need of an upgrade.

The new championship board consists of 13 football state championships, five volleyball state championships, four basketball state

championships, and one track state championship.

With a total of 23 state championships for the Marion Local athletic programs, it shows a lot of work and determination.

This past summer, the track team solidified the decision to upgrade the scoreboard by winning its first-ever boys Division III state championship. There was no track column on the old scoreboard, so that was a definite reason to upgrade; we also won another state title in football, so we ran out of room for the football state championships.

## Flyers defeat Minster, move on to District final

By: Camryn Swain  
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - The Lady Flyers volleyball team played in the District semifinal vs. Minster on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Wapakoneta High School. The Wildcats beat the Flyers earlier in the season, but the Flyers fought hard and avenged this loss 3-2 in a five-set nail-biter. They now advance to the District final on Thursday, Oct. 26th versus New Bremen, who are currently ranked #2 in the state.

In the semifinal, Minster took the first set 28-26, then Marion rallied to win the second and third sets 25-15 and 26-24. After Minster took the fourth set 27-25, Marion came out on top 15-13 in the fifth set, which was punctuated by a kill from sophomore Grace Moeller. After beating Minster, the Flyers sit at 18-7 on the season.

Nora Eckstein has been a great leader this year, as she is the only senior. Eckstein—the new Marion



PHOTO BY: KELSEY BRUGGEMAN

Lady Flyers varsity starting lineup before their first matchup against Minster.

Local record holder for the most high school Career Aces—states, "The season has been going great! We are a young team with me being the only senior and starting two freshmen. It has been fun to practice and watch the team improve throughout the season.

"Everyone on the team gets along great. We are always having fun together. The best is watching Grace Moeller and her amazing pregame dance moves. Love you, Grace!"

Natalie Evers on Tuesday, Sept. 20, as a junior, got 1,000 assists. This is

a huge accomplishment for a junior in high school.

Head Coach Anthony Chappel is incredibly proud of his team: "I have the pleasure of coaching a great group of young ladies. They have a solid chemistry on and off the court. For a team that graduated seven seniors and has one returning senior, this team carries itself with great confidence and character. They do so because they know the work they put in during practice, the weight room, film, and furthering their team building.

"They showed great mental toughness in beating Jackson Center and Celina in five sets. Losing to New Bremen and St. Henry is always tough, but somehow the girls were able to learn from it and not let it define them. I am genuinely proud of the 2023 team, along with the great coaching staff and everyone that chips in to make this program run."

## Flyers face phone pocket phenomenon



PHOTO BY: MORGAN SPIETH

Multiple students and staff have differing opinions on phone pockets.

By: Morgan Spieth  
Opinion Editor

MARIA STEIN - There are a few new rules this 2023-2024 school year at Marion Local High School. One of the main ones is phone pockets. A majority of the classes in the north side of the school have implemented the new phone pockets. At the beginning of class, all students must put their phone in their assigned pocket. Teachers are using these to try and reduce phone usage during and after class. Many students and staff have differing opinions about this subject.

Ag. teacher Mr. Elsass says, "It's just another thing to manage, and I feel that I couldn't keep up with it every class." Elsass later said he

doesn't want to sour the relationship between him and his students and feels he doesn't want to be responsible for something as expensive as a phone. Teachers are not the only ones that feel like this: students—who may have much stronger opinions—have similar views on the issue. An anonymous senior stated, "I don't see the point in the phone pockets. I think we should do what Mrs. Howell does with the phone jail because that makes sense. I think the pockets themselves ARE STUPID! THEY ARE RUINING MY SENIOR YEAR!"

On the other hand, math teacher Ms. Sutton is absolutely a huge fan of this new addition. She says, "I feel like it helps with reducing the amount of distractions during class time and makes students not rely on looking at their cell phones when they are bored in class." She later went on to say that kids seem more focused on their work and that she feels it helps the students with their "academic performance" in her classroom. Surprisingly, some of the students—like sophomore Alea Pohlman—think that the pockets are a useful tool.

There are many different opinions on this issue, but the fact remains that phone pockets seem to be sticking around for the long haul.

## 47% of juniors join Tri Star

By: Veyda Gerlach  
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN - In this 2023-2024 school year, numerous juniors have applied to Tri Star programs for their first year. This year there is a massive total of 34 out of 73 juniors in Tri Star. These juniors arrive at the Tri Star building at 7:30 a.m. and class ends at 10:30 a.m., yet students are not permitted to be back at Marion Local until 12:30 p.m.

Programs taken by our juniors this year are Ag. Mechanics, Animal Health, Automotive Technology, Construction, Early Childhood, Engineering, Graphics, IT/Cybersecurity, Med. Prep., Precision Machining, REC Tech., Welding, and Career Based Intervention/Personalized Professional Pathway (CBI/P3). The most popular program among the Marion Local juniors is Ag. Mechanics, with six students being enrolled. The second most popular is tied between Med. Prep. and Welding, having four of our 2025 undergrads in each.

When asked how the career compact has been so far, junior Tommy Mescher says, "Classes are fun, and people are good."

The Tri Star building is located on State Route 703 in Celina and is 14.8 miles away from Marion Local. The trip to and back from Tri Star isn't easy on gas, so students have found ways to conserve. A majority of the



PHOTO BY: MACKENZIE BOHMAN

Junior Ellie Heitkamp working on her Tri Star Med. Prep. homework.

juniors decided to take the bus for the 20-minute trip. Junior Emma Smith explains, "I take the bus to save on gas and be more efficient with my transportation. Taking the bus not only saves you money on gas, but it also reduces traffic." To take the bus, juniors are required to be at the school before 6:45 a.m. in order to travel with their fellow students.

Tri Star is a great way for high schoolers to explore their interests and gain valuable skills in various career fields. The career compact provides hands-on learning experiences to high school juniors and seniors. Not only does Tri Star teach students valuable life skills, but it also is a great opportunity to meet new people and connect with peers. The vocational school encourages students to collaborate with one another and organizes events that allow students to expand their social circles.

## Razor scooters, American Girls remain in students' hearts



PHOTO BY: KAILEE BEYKE

Anna Hemmelgarn playing with her American Girl dolls in the school lawn.

By: Kailee Beyke  
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN - The year is 2014: you wake up to the smell of bacon on your Zoo Pals plate. You quickly make your bed and fold up your Pillow Pet. You fill your wrists with the latest Sillybandz and smear your candy-flavored ChapStick all over your lips. Shortly after, you

brush through your hair feathers (probably blue or pink) and lace up your Twinkle Toes. You pack your Pokemon cards and Nintendo DS to keep yourself occupied on the bus. If one of these items above doesn't remind you of your childhood, what will?

Students were asked to step back into their childhoods to vote on their favorite toys and games. The American Girl doll took first place with 49.1% of the votes. By a landslide, Razor scooters took first place as the favorite outside toy. Sweeping the vote with a whopping 69.4%, students voted most for Just Dance as their favorite game. In a close race between Backyardigans and Bubble Guppies—with a narrow win with only two votes—the best TV show was awarded to Backyardigans. With another close vote between Rainbow Loom bands and Sillybandz, Rainbow Loom won for the favorite accessory with 32% of votes.

Students also recalled their favorite memories with a few of these childhood toys:

"One time, me and Hailey Wolters got

our Littlest Pet Shop thrown into the sewer at recess by Ricky [Van Meter]. We cried and tattled on him. Jady Mescher had to stick his arm down the hole and grab it for us." - Camryn Swain

"One time in the first grade, I wore Twinkle Toes to school, and on that day we went to go see the fifth and sixth grade play. I would make my shoes light up on purpose when the lights went out, and a teacher yelled at me." - Ava Ranly

"I remember getting the flavored ChapSticks, and my little sister would always steal them and eat them." - Vanessa Overman

"Me and my brother Brady would hit each other with a Razor scooter till one cried, and I always won." - Chloe Ronnebaum

"At the babysitter's, I used to be scared of the Halloween Bubble Guppies episode, and whenever it came on I couldn't watch it." - Alayna Birt

"I hit my ankle with my Razor scooter." - Derek Grieshop



PHOTO BY: KAILEE BEYKE

Senior Morgan Spieth riding her bumpy, well-used Razor scooter.



## Ol' patriots roll out of bed!



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN  
Senior boys wear pajamas.



PHOTO BY: MISS BRUNSWICK  
Seniors act like senior citizens on Wednesday for Senior Citizen day.



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN  
The following day, Wednesday, everyone dressed as senior citizens.



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER  
Students show their support at the Homecoming game.

By: Anna Hemmelgarn  
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - Spirit Week took place from Oct. 3 through 6 as all the high schoolers showed off their spirit in preparation for the Homecoming game and dance.

Spirit Week started off on a good note with the theme of pajamas. What a perfect theme for a drowsy

Tuesday after an extra-long week-end! Considering everyone could just roll straight out of bed, all high schoolers should have been participating. Emerson Bruns really looked like she straight up rolled out of bed a solid five minutes before leaving for school. Nothing wrong with that! Her robe and slippers really pulled the look together!

The following day, Wednesday, everyone dressed as senior citizens. Luke Wuebker pulled off this look quite well with his plaid hat, a vest over top of a button down shirt, glasses, and last but not least, a cane of course.

When Thursday rolled around the corner, everyone showed up to school showing off their patriotism.

The most patriotic award definitely and without a doubt went to sophomore Addison Eyink. Eyink was dressed in red, white, and blue from head to toe.

Friday's theme was, of course, Powderpuff for the school day and the Homecoming game against the Anna Rockets. The final score for the Homecoming game was 42-8.

## Rub-a-dub takes the 'dub'



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN  
The winning senior team "Rub-a-dub."

By: Anna Hemmelgarn  
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - Powderpuff kicked off on Friday, Oct. 6, after fifth period, as all the high school girls ran onto the football field, fighting for a victory. Students and staff filled the stands ready to watch intense football.

Everyone knew that a team of seniors would win because, well, they are just superior! With that being said, the team "Rub-a-dub," consisting of seven girls, Nora Eckstein, Brynn Arling, Audrey Winner, Allison Dirksen, Lauren Kuck, Emma Pleiman, and, last but not least, MVP of the team Brooke Wilker, took the win.

Most valuable player Wilker said, "I just played my game and did me, didn't overthink or overpass anything."

The announcers for this year's Powderpuff consisted of Kyle Otte, Luke Budde, and Simon Partington. They were quite good announcers considering their loud mouths.

Carter Jones, Devin Francis, Jack Knapke, Luke Wuebker, Ben Ranly, Wesley

Schoen, and Brayden Pavelka did a fantastic job reffing for the games and were not biased in one bit, to say the least.

The freshman shirt color was, of course, a nice and lovely color: mustard yellow. Sophomores got stuck with a simple red color, and the juniors, a bright white. The seniors' color was purple.

Also this year, instead of just cornhole, Mr. Elsass decided to switch things up with an additional intense and competitive game for the boys to play. A tourney of spike ball was set up for the guys to participate in as girls' football was occurring on the field. The spikeball tournament consisted of four divisions, which were based off self-evaluation of spikeball skill level. The winning duo of the hardest division was sophomores Nolan Eckstein and Brayden Mescher.

The cornhole winners for this year were Isaac Muhlenkamp and Adam Winner, who battled off in a close game against Karson Collins and Hayden Steinbrunner. The top-placing teachers for cornhole were Mr. Salazar and Mr. Spettel.



PHOTO BY: KELSEY BRUGGEMAN  
Freshman Mya Eckstein runs the ball past opponent, freshman Georgia Clune.

## Foolish freshmen



PHOTO BY: KAILEE BEYKE  
Four freshmen considerably take up the WHOLE hallway.

By: Kailee Beyke  
Features Editor

Listen up, freshmen! We're a few weeks into school now, and you still haven't gotten some things straight.

For one, you should split the way of traffic in the hallway and walk only on your right side. If you're still lost, don't take up the whole hallway. It truly is not the end of the world that you can not walk side-by-side with all of your friends. You should be getting close to being in driver's ed., so you should know how a road works. With that being said, the hallway works like a road, so stay with the speed of traffic, don't pass unless it is clear, don't go left of center, and watch where you're going.

Secondly, it's not funny to be purposely annoying and to try and crack some jokes. I promise they are not as funny as you think they are, and, to be quite honest, no one really cares.

Thirdly, respect the teachers. Don't mess with their things: it's annoying, and again NOT COOL. Listen when they tell you to do something.

Hopefully, by the next edition, you'll have things straightened out and won't have to be publicly targeted.

## Top 10 dogs of Class of 2024

By: Camryn Swain  
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - Don't you just love looking at cute pictures of dogs? Well, if not, we have an article that will for sure make you want to do that more often (it's a great boost of serotonin!).

These are the top 10 dogs of the senior Class of 2024!



Coming in first place is Jacob (Morty) Smith's duck! Her name is Wanda. We know it's not a dog, but it was too cute to pass up!



Second place is Kyle Otte's dog, Nala. Nala enjoys stealing socks from the family.



Third place is Camryn Swain's dog, Izzy. Izzy will hide under beds and in closets whenever we are going anywhere, so we can't shut doors before we leave.

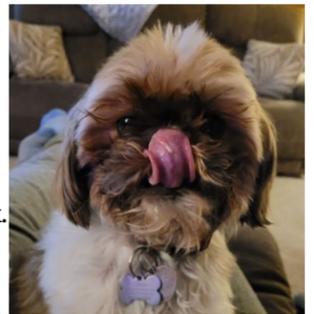
Fourth place is Hailey Wolters' dog, Monty. Monty gets spooked by bugs and sometimes the floor, causing the husky blood he has in him to make him yell and scream.



Fifth place is Simon Partington's dog, Gatsby. Gatsby sits under trees and barks, patiently waiting for squirrels to come down at any given moment.



Sixth place is Morgan Spieth's dog, Cooper. Cooper knows what time Morgan's mom gets home from work. He knows five to ten minutes before she walks in.



Seventh place is Kailee Beyke's dog, Jose. If you are sitting on the couch next to someone, and you say "Ow," Jose will bite the person sitting by you.



Eighth place is Ben Ranly's dog, Scarlet. Scarlet enjoys sleeping in front of the door so the Ranly family can't go anywhere.



Ninth place is Anna Hemmelgarn's dog, Buddy. Buddy gets very sad when his mom Denise leaves. He sits and waits at the door for her to come home.



Tenth place is Brynn Arling's dog, Bentley. Whenever Bentley gets excited, he shoves his nose in your face!

ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY DOG/DUCK OWNERS

## Dear Freddy

By: Anna Hemmelgarn  
Entertainment Editor

Dear Freddy,

I have the fattest crush on this senior girl, and I need immediate help. I can't stop drooling over her beautiful face, and it's starting to become a major, major problem. I get so extremely nervous around her, sweat starts to roll down my forehead. Don't tell anyone though, especially her. Every time I pass her in the hallway at school, I have the sudden urge to smell her. I leave love notes and my favorite snack (beef jerky) in her locker, but never get a response back . . . I think it's a sign of love!

Dear unimportant freshman,

Seniors don't really look in their lockers, so my advice to you is maybe try going to her house and climbing through the bedroom window! Definitely dress in all black and make sure it is when she's fast asleep; she'll love to wake up to a good ole surprise! The best place to hide is in her closet because that's the first place she'll look in the morning after her deep and beautiful slumber. When she goes to open the door, jump out and kiss her. Girls love it when random guys show up at their houses and surprise kiss them. They also love it when you wear their favorite clothes, so throw on her sweatshirt while you're at it! P.S. Tell me how things go the next time you write to me!



PHOTO: ANNA HEMMELGARN  
Secret locker love letter!

## Vehicles of the Month

By: Anna Hemmelgarn  
Entertainment Editor

This year's very first award for best Vehicle of the Month goes to, drum roll. . . junior Natalie Evers! Evers drives a silver 2008 Dodge van. Her sweet ride has 210,180 miles on it. The family bought the van in August 2008. Evers started driving the van in 2022 when she got her license in August.

When asked about her favorite thing about her means of transportation, Evers exclaims her love towards the broken air conditioner. Evers states, "The back windows don't open either, so it gets really hot back there and people complain, but I don't care." It seems that as long as Evers' van gets her from destination to destination, she's quite content and satisfied. It appears that Evers does care a little about her passengers, considering all the plastic water bottles that are shoved in the farthest back windows in order to let in an ample amount of airflow.

Evers exclaims, "Me and my van like to go on many adventures, such as in fields and circles in the middle of the road!" Evers says her favorite experience with her vehicle is definitely driving in the field.

To nobody's surprise, the worst vehicle for October obviously goes to junior Benton Seitz. It must really stink to have to drive around in a white 2018 Jeep Wrangler with a lift and brand-new wheels every day to get to school.

The family got this white Jeep Wrangler at



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN

Ben Seitz and Natalie Evers with their vehicles.

Christmas 2021. Now, two years later, the Jeep has become Seitz's, and mostly only Seitz's, car to drive around. He says he drives it basically everywhere and anywhere he needs to go.

Seitz mentions, "My favorite memory with the Jeep is in the summer when we'd take off the roof and doors and drive around all day." Gosh, I can't believe how awful that sounds . . . like imagine taking a nice cruise during the middle of the hot summer to get ice cream with all your friends when the wind's blowing through your hair. I'm not sure about you, but that sounds quite hateful, in my personal opinion.

The Jeep is Seitz's favorite vehicle to listen to music in, whether it be blasting music or listening to it normally. Seitz also exclaims that he's lucky enough to drive seemingly every girl's dream car, which I can vouch for . . .