

# Marion County Schools' website is invaluable tool

## Get to know your school district website

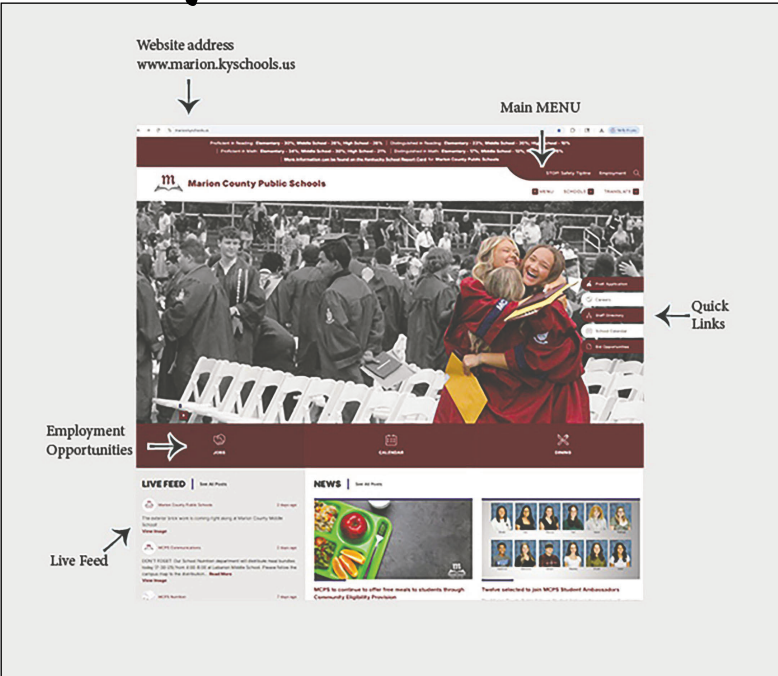
If you follow your child's school on social media, it's likely that you routinely see photos of student success, school-wide celebrations, or general announcements. While MCPS encourages families who use social media to follow school and district accounts, it's probably a good idea to also familiarize yourself with the district's website: [www.marion.kyschools.us](http://www.marion.kyschools.us).

While social media is great for seeing the latest highlights, it's not always the best place to go when you're looking for particular information. The district website, on the other hand, is where information lives and the district is always trying to improve the site to make it more user-friendly. The site also includes a translation option to view the content in languages other than English.

Here's a list of some of the resources on the website and how to find them:

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

As we all know (especially after the 2020-21 school year), the school calendar and consequently the last day of school is likely to change due to school cancellations. To see the most up-to-date version of the school calendar, you have several options. There's a link to the school calendar among the five quick links on the right-hand side of the main landing page, a more prominent link just below



the rotating image gallery, or you can select MENU and then click on the school calendar link from the top options.

This year, the calendar committee approved school calendars for the next two school years. So, if you want an early look at the 2026-27 school calendar you find that, too, by selecting MENU and looking under the "General Information" section.

Both the 2025-26 and 2026-27 calendars will appear as PDF documents which are easily viewed on a computer or mobile device or can be printed. For those who prefer to keep a hard copy, it's important to keep in mind that when there's a school cancellation, the calendar will

be affected.

The district website also has a separate EVENTS section that includes more specific information regarding things happening in the district and at each school. You can find this section by scrolling beneath the NEWS section. Throughout the year, when schools schedule events (for example, a Parent-Teacher conference), these events are added to the events section. If you click on "See All Events," you'll redirect to an events calendar where you can filter events by school.

### BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENU

If you're curious what the cafeteria

is serving for breakfast and lunch, you can find that information (plus a host of nutritional data) by first selecting MENU and then clicking on Dining, which is the first link among the icons at the top. You can also select the link just below the image gallery.

That link will take you to the district's MySchoolMenus site where you can search by school to see breakfast and lunch menus. Curious as to how many calories are in that Salisbury steak being served on the first day? Just click on the food items listed and a pop-up window will show you nutritional information. This option is especially useful for students who may have dietary restrictions.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Job seekers have several options to see what type of gainful employment is available in MCPS. We've got all the synonyms covered: At the top of the main page there's an "Employment" link, among the quick links on the right-hand side there's a "Careers" button, or just below the image gallery there's a "JOBS" icon. Clicking on any of those will take you to the website that lists all of our current job vacancies. Once there, you can easily find a job description as well as a link to begin the application process.

If you're curious about your potential salary, from the main MCPS page, click on MENU and scroll down to the EMPLOYMENT heading. Beneath that is another link to our employment opportunities and a separate link that will open up the

district's (recently updated) salary schedule.

### OTHER INFORMATION

There's plenty of other information available on the district website as well, such as:

- Information on the district's most recent academic performance at the top of the landing page along with a link to Kentucky School Report Card site
- A news section with articles about MCPS
- A Live Feed section with short announcements
- Current bid opportunities for vendors
- Student Code of Conduct
- Link to the Athletics website
- Information on the Work Ethic Seal program
- Board of Education meeting schedule
- Employee Directory

Also, each school in the district maintains its own website. You can find those by selecting SCHOOLS at the top-right of the page and then selecting a school from the drop-down menu.

Finally, MCPS also has a mobile app (available for download on the App Store or Google Play) that includes much of the same content that's found on the district website, and also gives you the option of receiving push notifications. You can find the MCPS mobile app by searching for "Marion County KY Schools" and looking for the district's logo.

# Superintendent Back-to-School Letter

Class might not have been in session, but there were plenty of things happening throughout your school district this summer, especially related to our school buildings and facilities. We've completed several small projects, and I'm hopeful we'll see some much larger ones start to take shape soon.

On our main campus we recently installed new permanent bleachers at the soccer field, resurfaced the outdoor basketball court at Glasscock Elementary, and are in the process of putting up a new band tower. The fitness center received a makeover (including the public restrooms!) and there's a new HVAC system in the football field's press box along with a renovation of this building as well. At Marion County Middle School, we're completing a significant brick project on the building's exterior, and at Lebanon Middle School and West Marion Elementary, we've replaced the locks throughout the buildings. Very soon, you'll see new



CHRIS BRADY

marquees outside of several of our schools. In the grand scheme of school facilities, these might not seem like huge improvements, but they make your school district safer, more attractive, and more modern.

And beyond these, I'm very optimistic about a few large-scale projects.

First, many of you likely remember hearing about the \$10 million grant the school district received last year to renovate and add-on to our Area Technology Center. We're still early in this process, but it's likely we'll explore adding an Advanced Manufacturing wing in addition to renovating the existing areas. You can expect to see this project start in 2026.

And then there's Lebanon Elementary. As I've discussed often, it is our intent to build a new LES. Just like the new Calvary Elementary we opened last year, a new Lebanon Elementary would be incredibly valuable for the families that school serves. Currently, we don't quite have the funding required to start that project; we'll need

additional help from the state government to make that happen. However, I have strong relationships with both Senator Jimmy Higdon and Representative Sarge Pollock, and I have incredible confidence in them and the work they're doing to make a new LES a reality.

After we address LES, and all of our school buildings are in good shape, we can start imagining other projects that I know our families want. Specifically, I've had several conversations regarding a multi-purpose athletic facility. Athletics are important to our community, our families, and our student-athletes – we need to make sure we're supporting this important part of a public school experience.

However, let's not forget that the reason we want up-to-date facilities isn't simply because they look impressive – instead, it's because of what's happening inside them. As proud as I am of all the improvements we're making with buildings, I'm even more excited about the progress we're making academically.

Last year we saw significant jumps when looking at our schools' academic per-

formance based on the state's accountability model. But to be honest, sometimes we're guilty of focusing too much on graphs based on standardized testing. Instead, I want our families to be aware of the steps our teachers are taking to improve learning in MCPS. For example, at Marion County High School, two math teachers – Erin Benton and Sterling Newton – recently took it upon themselves to complete graduate courses so that

they would have the credentials to teach dual-credit courses. As a former high school math teacher, I not only recognize how impressive that is, I know how important it is to the students at MCHS. LMS teacher Kara Clark and Instructional Coach Kacey Huffaker both spent a week in Boston this summer as part of the Wilderness Education Project where they visited historical sites, attended lectures, and participated in sessions

focused on teaching strategies and activities. Other teachers have taken part in professional learning to build their content knowledge, become familiar with new curriculum, and overall prepare themselves to better educate your children.

Things continue to change and improve in MCPS, but what remains the same is our focus on making this the best possible district for students in Marion County.

# Upcoming open house and orientation dates

Aug. 6 Calvary Elementary Open House 3rd-5th grade - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Aug. 6 Marion County Middle Open House - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Aug. 6 Marion County High School Welcome to High School - 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Open to incoming freshmen or high school students new to the district,

this is an opportunity to explore the high school and become more familiar with the building.

Aug. 7 Glasscock Elementary Open House - 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Aug. 7 Lebanon Middle 6th Grade Welcome to Middle School - 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Aug. 11 Lebanon Ele-

mentary Open House - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Aug. 11 Lebanon Middle 7th/8th grade Open House - 5:00-6:30 p.m. (parent meeting at 5:15 and 6:00)

Aug. 11 Marion County High Open House - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Aug. 12 Preschool Orientation at each elementary school - 5:00 p.m.

## SHOULD

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action restricting minors online access to pornography.

According to a 2023 survey from Common Sense Media, more than half of teens report having first seen online pornography before age 13. Twelve is the average age when children first consume the content. But what is it doing to their young brains where the synapses are still connecting? What is it telling them about healthy sexuality? And what is it telling young

boys in particular about how women should be treated?

We should all agree that children aren't capable of processing adult experiences and that requiring age verification to access adult content is a small price to pay in order to protect our children.

The digital prophet and professor of mass media Neil Postman advocated that children are a special part of society in need of care and consideration, particularly from the emerging media regime. He said, "It is not conceivable that our culture will forget that it needs

children. But it is halfway toward forgetting that children need childhood. Those who insist on remembering shall perform a noble service."

Alison Boden displaced a fundamental need of children (child protection) with a perceived need of adults (unfettered access to sexual content) and called pornography "the canary in the coal mine of free expression." Perhaps when it comes to porn, our children are the canaries in the digital space and too many exhibit the fallout from exposure to its toxicity.

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