



# Marinette School District

inspire • engage • impact... *Marines*

May 13, 2020

State Representative John Nygren  
State Capitol Room 409 South  
Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Nygren,

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your colleagues well. I am writing today to provide you an inside view of the Marinette School District (MSD) as we address the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are carrying on to achieve our district's vision: *Tomorrow's innovators propelled by unlimited potential: a world transformed.*

Rest assured, school is in session - in a world that has certainly been transformed!

The work of preparing and delivering quality teaching and learning for the students must go on. Just like other sectors of our economy, we adjusted quickly. In the past seven weeks, our teachers have continually **connected with our students** via various technology applications, including personal phone calls.

The district's commitment to **personalized learning has provided us with infrastructure** that has been essential to our educational efforts during the COVID-19 closure. Two years ago, our high school began using a learning management tool called Canvas. This software program facilitates sharing of resources and communication among teachers and students. The middle and elementary schools are using the Google suite of resources as their primary learning management system. However, **there is much more to education than providing materials.** Our teachers, technology team, educational associates, principals, and all student services support staff "report to work" every day to ensure all programs are operational and being effectively implemented. Teaching staff, administrators and office staff are available via email Monday-Friday, and respond to student or parent inquiries within 24 hours. In the event a teacher is unavailable as a result of unexpected circumstances or a planned leave, affected students, families, and co-workers receive a support plan. We are regularly "Meeting" on Google: My calendar looks as full as every other day, as do the calendars of other staff and colleagues. Although the activities we undertake may be configured differently, we are at work.

The list below provides examples of transformed educational services we have undertaken to ensure we achieve the district's overall commitment: *ALL students will graduate career or college ready:*

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**Marinette School District**

2139 Pierce Avenue  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-1400  
f (715) 732-7930

**Marinette High School**

2135 Pierce Avenue  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-1300  
f (715) 732-7929

**Marinette Middle School**

1011 Water Street  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-1500  
f (715) 732-7939

**Garfield Elementary School**

1615 Carney Boulevard  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-2400  
f (715) 732-3431

**Merryman Elementary School**

611 Elizabeth Avenue  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-2500  
f (715) 732-3433

**Park Elementary School**

1225 Hockridge Street  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-2600  
f (715) 732-3434

**Menekaunee Sunrise Early Learning Center**

115 Hancock Street  
Marinette, WI 54143  
p (715) 735-2700  
f (715) 732-3432

- All students are provided with learning materials that include specific outcomes and requirements. Teachers plan online, in groups, via email and via Google Meet. We provide students with paper packets when needed. Additionally, because some students don't have
- reliable internet service where they live, we prepared and shared a list of the areas in our community that have the best signal coverage for drive up access.
- Children with identified special needs receive emails or phone calls (or both) from their child's special education teachers with accommodations and modifications.
- Our library media specialist created a partnership with the local public library for distribution of 10 access points for our students.
- Every student in grades 5 through 12 has already been provided with a chromebook. Gathering our elementary chromebooks, we have distributed chromebooks to all 3rd and 4th graders. Unfortunately, we have been unable to provide devices for students in grades Early Learning through 2nd grade.
- Parents and students can submit an online request for technology support from our technology team using a "Google Form."
- The Student Services team provides mental health support via social meetings and through appointments. They have also reached out to our at-risk youth for a check-in and have offered ongoing support.
- Coaches engage virtually with students on their teams not only to promote team unity but also to encourage their athletes to continue practicing skills.
- We continue to provide food to all students. **Marinette School District has a poverty rate near 50% and students depend on the meals that we are providing them daily.** Three Westlund Buses make stops at 12 different locations throughout the District, Monday-Friday, providing free lunch and breakfast.
- Because we embrace a continuous improvement mindset, ongoing professional development has proceeded in a virtual format for all staff members. All staff continue to receive feedback virtually through the District's formal evaluation process.
- Our Board of Education meets virtually or face to face with administrators to make decisions on the best and most effective ways to use our resources, make personnel decisions, and plan for the year ahead.


Living our mission to inspire, engage and impact carries on despite the circumstances we encounter. We are educating in this new environment because it is our responsibility and commitment to do so. Our students' education cannot wait or be compromised because we all know that children don't repeat being a 5 year-old, a 9 year-old, or a 13 year-old. We simply cannot stop educating because students have not stopped growing and their desire to learn is as strong as ever.

All children need relevant learning experiences now so they can move to the next level. That is why we need your continued support to advance students and ensure that they continue to learn, despite this pandemic. In fact, we need your support during this crisis more than ever.

Certainly, much work remains as we finish the school year, begin the summer learning session (now titled Fall Kick Off), and prepare for the start of the new school year. And as we move forward, it is our intention to continue inspiring our students by offering them engaging, innovative learning experiences.

We thank you for your continued support of the Marinette School District and encourage you to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Wendy Dzurick  
Superintendent