

Margaretta Local Schools

Spring 2023 District Newsletter



Superintendent's Message

Margaretta Local Schools has been very busy throughout the 2022-2023 school year. We have a five-year strategic plan in place and have been carrying out a strong literacy initiative, working hard on creating more career opportunities including internships, mentorships, and shadowing experiences for our students. While doing all of this, we continue to attend to the day-to-day operations as we wait for the Nexus settlement to reach a resolution. Currently, the construction project is on a hard pause due to another appeal by the Lorain County Auditor to the Ohio Supreme Court. When the settlement is locked back into place, our hopes are to move forward with the PK-12 facility project.

Highlights of our year include of the 613 districts in the state, we were one of 25 districts receiving the Literacy & Learning Grant amounting to \$200,000 to our district. We are using this money, with the direction of our literacy committee, to drive home reading efficiencies and improve academic performance for all students in all subject areas. Additionally, Kevin Johnson, our director of instruction and curriculum, is overseeing various district committees in selecting new curriculum and materials to assist with our instruction in English Language Arts and Mathematics across our district. As we move forward with a focus on Project Based Learning and a strong emphasis on active learning environments, we will work to improve our engagement with students and

enhance the learning environment.

Our Strategic Plan is in place running from 2022-2027 and having the objectives of:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Climate
3. Career Development Opportunities for our students

Through our above mentioned initiative, we hope to address our academic achievement. Regarding climate, we are currently acting on this and hoping to do more collaboration with staff, students, and the community so our schools become even closer in our connection to the community. Finally, the Career Development opportunities in our buildings will be expanded and create new opportunities. We are also working with the Erie County Business Advisory Council to use a computer program (UScience) to match the students' aptitudes with their interests. From there, we want students to see those job opportunities that exist locally in their fields of interest. This will lead our students to seek work in an area that they have a passion to develop.

We are blessed to live and work in a caring community that supports its public schools! Our school system is a reflection of our community, and if there are questions, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Edward P. Kurt

Edward P. Kurt
Superintendent



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Transportation Department

Mr. Matthew Smith, Director of Operations

Margaretta Transportation proudly transports over 1,200 students including Margaretta students, Margaretta residents who attend our local vocational and parochial schools, and Townsend Community School students who have a route using one of our assigned midday pickup/drop-off locations. Using our 23 buses, we are able to run 13 morning routes, 7 midday routes (Townsend and Preschool) and 13 afternoon routes daily. We are still able to accommodate the many sports and activities when they need transportation during the school day or after hours to make sure students are safely transported. With this year winding down and us finishing another great year, we are looking forward to another fun and safe summer break.

The 2023-2024 school year will be here before we know it, and we are looking at getting a head start on planning routes for the next school year. In Final Forms, the Transportation Information Form was reset for the 2023-2024 school year. Starting May 1st, you were able to update your transportation needs for the next school year. This form will again be used for routing next school year, and has been updated to only include important transportation information needed for routes. If you have not filled this out yet and will need transportation next year, please contact the bus garage to ensure your child is routed on a bus. We can be reached via phone at the bus garage at (419)-684-7714 or via email at msmith@margarettaschooldistrict.com.

The transportation department is working on limited routes again next year due to lack of bus drivers and the switching to separate bus routes to help accommodate this shortage. Next year's school times are listed below:

Middle/High School	7:35 am - 2:38 pm (Student drop off after 7:15am)
Elementary School	8:40 am - 3:30 pm (Student drop off after 8:20am)
Preschool	AM 8:40 am - 11:20 am
	PM 12:50 pm - 3:30 pm

We will be picking up all 6-12th grades first and dropping them off around 7:15 before heading back out for our elementary route for Pre-K - 5th grades, which will be dropped off around 8:20.

If you are a babysitter in the district with a bus pickup, or would like to become a bus pickup, please call the bus garage at 419-684-7714 so we can get and confirm information. We would like to have the name, address, and phone numbers of babysitters for emergency situations and for route planning. When possible, a second phone call toward the end of summer when numbers are more accurate or finalized, would be appreciated confirming the number of students getting picked up at each babysitter. Please call the bus garage at any time to start this line of communication and continue communicating this way for those already doing so.

We are always looking for qualified sub and full-time bus drivers and are willing to train those interested in a career change or part-time job.

Please contact the Bus Garage at (419)-684-7714 if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.



Financial Update

Mrs. Diane Keegan, District Treasurer

Nexus Natural Gas Pipeline Tax Payment Status

Our current situation with the Nexus tax payments being short paid (known as a tender payment) has not changed since our last newsletter. The tax settlement is still in the appeal process and is now being appealed by Lorain County Auditor Snodgrass to the highest court at the Ohio Supreme Court. This again puts the district in a hold pattern awaiting the outcome of final tax settlements. We have now collected 3 ½ years of taxes and Nexus tender payment of their taxes continue at 40% to 58% of the billed amount. With the volatility in the tender payment percentages and the uncertainty of the final settlement of the bill, it has made it very difficult to project our future financial position and to move forward with the construction of our new Preschool to twelfth grade school campus.

We continue to watch this tax appeal unfold and are hoping for a quick decision at the Supreme Court level so we can move forward with our future plans for the district. The beginning of the incremental NEXUS Pipeline tax collections in calendar year 2020 could not have come at a better time for our district. In the 2018/2019 school year the district finished the year with 18 true day's cash on hand to pay bills, which was 42 days below the 60-day benchmark that is recommended. The district is trying to be very frugal with our operational spending, so as to reserve enough of the Nexus additional taxes to help finance our new PK-12 school building. We will continue to maximize the value out of these dollars to enhance the educational experience for our students.

Federal ESSER and CARES Act Funds

The district has received Federal funding through the CARES Act and ESSER funds that were to be used to offset the issues created by the pandemic. These Federal Funds were used to offset expenses and help with academic support for lost learning due to school closures as a result of the pandemic. We have utilized these funds to implement the Science of Reading (an evidence-based learning model) for our children to help with the learning slide that occurred during the pandemic. These funds will be completely spent by the end of this calendar year of 2023 and we will then need to find room in our operational budget to cover the costs that were previously paid for by these Federal Funds.

Economic Outlook

We want to thank the community for continuing to support the district as reflected in the passing of the last renewal levy on May 4, 2021. This levy will not collect additional tax (given it is a renewal); however, it allows us to continue to provide an excellent education for our students. The district has not requested any new taxes from our community since 2010, and we continue to manage the district's expenses with the tax levies that have been in place since the 2010 time frame.



We want to **thank the community** for continuing to support the district as reflected in the passing of the last renewal levy on May 4, 2021.





Third-graders learn fractions with help of yummy brownies.

MES Update

Mr. Keven Wise, Margaretta Elementary Principal

It is hard to believe the end of the school year is nearly here. Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. Our students and staff have accomplished a lot in the winter months leading up to spring and there is still much to do before summer. Our district-wide goal has been to continue to train all staff in the science of reading and to continue targeting student reading needs. We had several state and nationally known experts in our building to collaborate with our literacy team to continue offering high level professional development in the science of reading. We have also partnered with the University of Findlay to have conversations with their students about how the science of reading is taught in our classrooms. Through the great efforts of our teachers, we are closing the reading gap created during COVID and continuing our focus to have our students reading at or beyond grade level.

Here are some highlights from the past school year and some upcoming events to keep an eye out for:

- **Preschoolers** worked on a variety of fine motor activities including paper mache bunnies and chickens.
- **Kindergarten** Kindergartners prepared for their spring concert on April 18.
- **First Grade** has been piloting a program called *Wit & Wisdom*. During Module 2 of their *Wit & Wisdom* reading program, First graders have been learning about and researching animals. For our End of the Module task, they completed a research report, shared facts and pictures with their

peers, and displayed their projects by making animal trading cards.

- **Second Grade** had their *Veterans' Program* in November. This wonderful program pays tribute to our community members who have served our country.
- **Third Grade** has been hard at work learning fractions. Third grade students recently learned about comparing fractions with the same numerator. They were asked which brownie would give you the bigger piece, $\frac{1}{15}$ th or $\frac{1}{20}$ th. While 20 is the greater number, they learned it actually gives them the smaller piece. $\frac{1}{15}$ th is the greater brownie because there were less cuts in that pan, making the brownie size bigger. Third Grade also had their *Grinch Market* right before Winter Break. Students put into practice some of the things they had been learning in economics and had a great time!
- **Fourth Grade** has been working with the *REACH Program of Sandusky County*. This year they were paired with Whirlpool and will be going on a mini tour of the plant. They will also be going to the Hayes Memorial in Fremont.
- **Fifth graders** recently went to the *Challenger Learning Center in Oregon, Ohio*. Students were able to use a mission simulator modeled after mission control at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Students also participated in DARE Graduation in February and went to Stone Lab in the fall.

We have also been able to have Duane Abel, a nationally recognized cartoonist, speak with our students about working hard to achieve your dreams.

We had some great successes with our *fifth-grade academic challenge and robotics teams*. Our robotics team, coached by Brad Hoffman, placed in the top 10 at the Kalahari VEX meet. This competition featured teams from all over the United States. Our students were able to compete at a high level against teams in the country! Our robotics team also visited Motion Control Robotics in Fremont to see how their successes with the robotics team can turn into a career in the robotics field.

Our academic challenge team, coached by Dana Belak, took first place in the Firelands Challenge Meet at BGSU Firelands. Congratulations on a great season!

Our first *Elementary Art Show* took place on April 22nd in the Elementary school gym to showcase our students' talents!



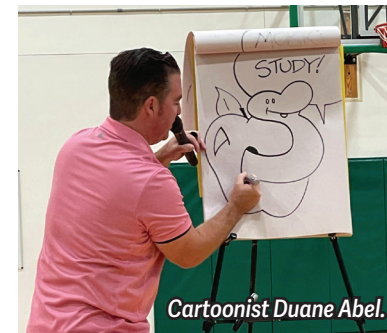
Third-graders Grinch Market.



Second grade Veterans' Program.



Academic Challenge first place.



Cartoonist Duane Abel.



Fifth-grade robotics team.



Fifth-graders visit Stone Lab.



First grade Wit & Wisdom.



DARE graduation.



Preschool paper mache projects.



Kindergartners prepare for their spring concert.



Literacy-Rich Classrooms

Dr. Jennifer Theis, Middle/High School Principal

Literacy-rich classroom environments across all grade levels and all content areas is essential for the academic success of all of our students. A literacy-rich environment emphasizes the importance of speaking, reading, and writing in the daily learning of all students. This involves the selection of instructional materials that will facilitate language and literacy opportunities, reflection and thought regarding classroom design, and intentional instruction and facilitation by teachers and staff (Snow, Burns, & Griffin, 1999).

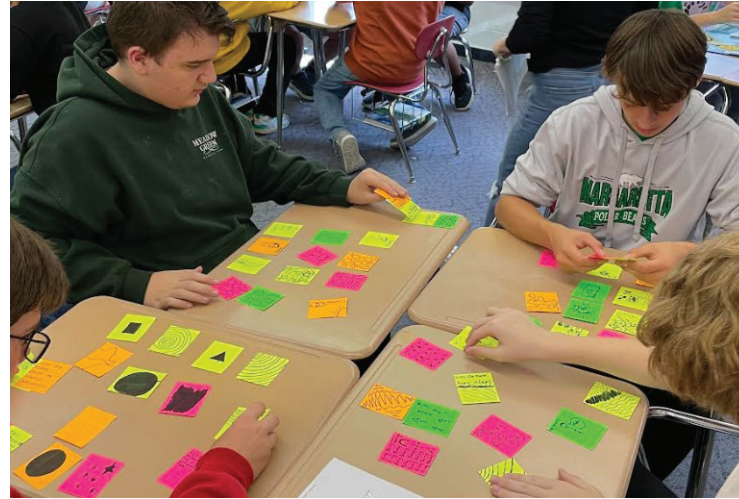
Over the course of the past two years, Margaretta has been highly focused on literacy instruction across all grade levels. As a result, Margaretta Middle

and High School have had the opportunity to collaborate with Adolescent Literacy Specialist, Rachel Daniels throughout the school year. Her work has included leading instructional coach cohorts, literacy-related district and building level support, and the creation and deployment of professional development.

Mrs. Daniels has been providing professional development to all middle and high school teachers through our teacher-based team meetings at various

times throughout the year. Teachers have learned about the Science of Reading which is an instructional practice proven by extensive research to effectively teach students to read. Mrs. Daniels has provided staff with endless strategies and resources for teachers to meaningfully integrate into their instructional practices to create literacy-rich environments for students. Other topics have included the importance of explicitly teaching content area vocabulary and the value of high student engagement and its impact on student learning. When students struggle at a middle and high school level, it impacts their performance in all academic areas. Not only are these strategies essential for those who might struggle, they are also imperative for all learners. In order for our students to be successful and excel in their future careers, they must have a strong command of these literacy skills to effectively communicate in all modes within a workplace environment.

We are very fortunate at Margaretta Middle and High School to have had the opportunity to learn from such an expert on adolescent literacy. We are looking forward to continuing our work with Rachel Daniels throughout the 2023-2024 school year as well. It is our responsibility as educators to ensure that we are using best evidence-based instructional practices in the classroom. Our number one goal at Margaretta is to have 100% of our students show academic success!



New Faces and Overcoming Challenges in Food Service

Mrs. Carrie Keller, Margaretta Schools Food Service Director

The 2022-2023 school year began with a few new faces to the food service department. My name is Carrie Keller and I am the Margaretta Schools Food Service Director. Along with my move into the department, some longtime employees celebrated their retirement in December. We then gained some amazing new staff to keep us moving forward. Our department specializes in food preparation and serving quality and compliant meals to our staff and students, but we excel in the amount of pride and love that is put into each and every meal.

Margaretta Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program; therefore, state requirements must be met in order to receive reimbursement funding. In March of 2020 the free lunch program began and ended as of July 2022. As many of us have faced the unprecedented food cost increases and pandemic benefit decreases, we as a school district have had to become creative in being able to meet the nutritional needs of our students while also battling the product availability and reliability struggles and cost hikes that challenge us on a daily basis. Schools are not able to pass along these higher costs to those they serve, unlike restaurants and grocery stores, as many families already face the burden of having to put food on the table, let alone pay for school meals. We offer a free or reduced priced meal application to all families and encourage every family to complete this form. This form is found on our school website under the Parents and Students tab under Forms and then Food Services. For more information, please see the application or contact me.

Through the many adventures of this year's food service journey, we have definitely had a great year. We are extremely grateful to have an outstanding staff who love what they do and it shows each and every day. This year our district has implemented a Polar Bear Share Table that is available in each cafeteria. This table is for unopened/packaged food items that could have been one student's waste turned into another student's need. We received a donation from Townsend Ruritan to be able to provide the small refrigeration units for each table to keep the donated items at controlled temperatures, fresh, and available to all students. Our 3rd grade gifted class coordinated a hot chocolate fundraiser this winter and was able to raise over \$400 in donations for Back to the Wild. The elementary cafeteria provides a staff salad bar every Wednesday and it has been not only a huge success, but a solid favorite every week. Our middle/high school cafeteria has a coffee bar available every Friday for staff and students. They also provide an alternate lunch item, house-made salads, and peanut butter and jelly lunches to choose from daily.

Change and challenges have pushed us to grow, learn, and explore new opportunities while continuing to excel every day. We thank you, Margaretta families and our community, for your support as we continue to strive for the very best for our Polar Bears!





Curriculum and Instruction 2022-2023

Mr. Kevin Johnson, Curriculum Director



Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, “The only constant in life is change.” American forefather, Benjamin Franklin, mused, “When you are finished changing, you are finished”. Both statements continue to hold true. But it was Wayne Woodrow Hayes who said “Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be”, allowing one to see what is important. In life, we make choices every day that impact how we see ourselves and others in the world in which we live. Yes, change is inevitable. How we respond to change will determine our success.

For Margaretta Schools, our mission is **to empower and support our students by nurturing their unique abilities and passions**. Since the beginning of our current school year, we have witnessed tremendous professional and personal growth from our students, faculty and staff. Several important projects have been initiated while others are coming to their natural conclusion. Our elementary and secondary schools continue to improve from our focus on formative instructional practices so that every Margaretta student achieves success in school.

In June of 2022, Superintendent **Ed Kurt** and **Kevin Johnson**, Director for Curriculum and Instruction, made a presentation to the **Ohio Teacher Leadership Summit at The Ohio State University with Drs. Mary Heather Mungar and Julie McIntosh of the University of Findlay**. We spoke about Margaretta School’s collaboration with UF to leverage leadership for the purpose of improving literacy outcomes. Each semester, Margaretta teachers have engaged in virtual meetings with UF pre-service students who are learning about the Science of Reading and reading instruction. Our teachers provide UF education major students with an upfront and close view of what evidence-based reading instruction looks like at the classroom level. Our teaming with UF has given our Margaretta teachers a unique platform to share their professional experiences with the next generation of teachers.

Our August Professional Development Days provided faculty and staff with an opportunity to work directly with leading educational professionals from across the state of Ohio. **Michelle Eli, Ohio Literacy Lead for the Ohio Department of Education**, spoke to our staff about the importance of systematic change to embed evidence-based instruction that ensures all students are taught to be strong readers and writers. Eli is the author of the Ohio Dyslexia Learning Modules soon to be released to every school in our state. Also from the **Ohio Department of Education**, **Rachel Daniels** facilitated a session on adolescent literacy and the implications for student learning and classroom instruction. She emphasized the importance of using discourse, vocabulary acquisition and morphology, and the need for writing across all content areas... every day in every classroom. Each quarter of the school year, Daniels provided rich dialogue and professional development in small groups throughout the school day with our teachers focused on high-quality instruction and assessment. We are happy to announce that Rachel will return to Margaretta for the 2023-2024 school year. Consultant, Speech Pathologist, and the **Academy of Orton- Gillingham Fellow, Cyndi Schultz**, worked with our elementary teachers to implement structured literacy into their daily classroom practices. Schultz also provided an additional 15 hours of AOG training for our K-3 teachers and Intervention Specialists during the fall of 2022. **Brandi Goodwin, Gifted Education Consultant and SOLE Ambassador for our local Northpoint ESC**, presented practical strategies to reach our gifted students in the general classroom and gave secondary teachers an introduction to using SOLE

(Self Organized Learning Environment) as an instructional tool to engage students into academic inquiry and depth of knowledge where students take the lead in their learning. Goodwin continued in her Margaretta role as Lead for Gifted Ed two to three day per month.

In November of 2022, Margaretta Schools received a grant from the Ohio Department of Education to reach all students through language and literacy. School Superintendent, **Ed Kurt**, was notified by **Ohio Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Siddens**, that our school district was selected as one of twenty-five Ohio school districts to receive \$200,000.00. Dr. Siddens stated, “The Department is looking forward to the important work Margaretta Schools will be undertaking to accelerate literacy achievement. This two-year initiative to support Ohio’s students is a key part of *Future Forward Ohio*, the state’s strategic priorities to help students recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those responsible for completing the Reaching All Students through Language and Literacy grant application were: **Tranette Novak, Teal Balduff, Sara Weller, Heather Campana, Kathy Hall, Keven Wise, Jennifer Theis, Ed Kurt and Kevin Johnson**.

Our year-long curriculum process to study English Language Arts and Math programs came to a conclusion this year culminating with Board of Education approval. More than twenty teachers and administrators representing K-12 participated in the study. Principals **Keven Wise** and **Keith Taylor** with assistance from Literacy Leaders **Teal Balduff** and **Tranette Novak** led the study efforts from the elementary level while ELA Chair, **Sara Weller**, and Math Chair, **Katie Berg**, co-facilitated the secondary study with Principal **Dr. Jennifer Theis**, and Literacy Coach **Heather Campana**. Study Teams utilized the Materials Matter selection process supported by ODE and InfoOhio to provide expert curriculum reviews through EdReports, which consisted of K-12 ELA and Math instructional materials. EdReports assisted with determining whether instructional materials were aligned to Ohio’s Learning Standards.

Margaretta Schools collaborated with **Dr. David Brobeck** and the **University of Cincinnati Systems Development and Improvement Center** (Columbus Branch), to participate in the Systematic Improvement Practices Review (SIPR). More than forty teachers and administrators participated in this concurrent validity study. Results of the survey provided information about our school district’s promotion of system-wide learning, prioritizing the improvement of teaching and learning, building capacity through support and accountability, and maintaining a collaborative culture. Margaretta received a \$5000 honorarium which was used to fund teacher requests for books and instructional supplies. It is our intention to use data to help us make improvements in district-wide formal and informal leadership. We are committed to continuously improve leadership capacity and professional growth.

On day one of our August 2023 professional development, **Margaretta Local Schools** will work with **Professional Learning Partnerships** to use *Authentic Career Awareness Strategies for Lasting Impact* training to help our students gain clarity around their own gifts, interests and aptitudes and apply this clarity to make more informed decisions for their future. To meet this end, we will facilitate a district-wide visioning experience to bring clarity to Margaretta’s hopes and dreams for the student experience. Staff will explore the conditions that make a “best day” of teaching and learning and begin discussions regarding the ways the number of “best days” can intentionally be increased. This day-long learning experience will be provided by **Fanning Howey**, architectural firm for the new Margaretta School facility.



Margaretta Athletics

Mr. Drew Grahl, Athletic Director

It has been another fun and exciting school year for the athletic programs at Margaretta High School. 2022-2023 will be remembered for many things including a State Playoff game in football, a State Final 4 run for Lady Bear Basketball, the highest finishing State Diver in school history, State Tournament appearances in Swimming and Wrestling, and school record-breaking performances in Track and Field in the spring, just to name a few things.

It all started in the Fall with Football getting off to a hot start under the direction of Hall of Fame Head Football Coach Gary Quisno, guiding the Polar Bears in his first year at Margaretta. The Bears played great football, winning four straight to start the year and finishing with an impressive 8-2 regular season record. Margaretta would qualify for the State Playoffs for the first time in 20 years! Sixteen different players received all-SBC recognition in football this year with JT Patrick, Jake Boggs, and Dylan Gibson adding all-State honors to their resume. It was quite a turnaround for Margaretta Football. Players and coaches are back in the weight room preparing to keep the momentum rolling well into the future.

Margaretta Golf and Cross Country also had solid seasons in the fall. Senior Jamie Opfer led the Girls Golf team earning 1st Team All-SBC honors for her 2nd consecutive year. The Adrian College commit broke her third school record of her career when she fired an 18 hole round of 83 at Mohawk Country Club in Tiffin. Freshman Ellyse Schaefer and Sophomore Grace Paseka also were recognized with All-SBC honors in girls golf as well. Margaretta Boys Golf had three All-SBC honorees this year. Senior Owen Kromer as 1st Team All-SBC, Junior Ben Millis

was 2nd Team, and Junior Spencer Adkins earned Honorable Mention. Boys Golf returns a good core group of players for the Fall of 2023. Boys and Girls Cross Country represented the school well with the girls team making a run all the way to the Regional meet this year. Seniors Emma LaFollette and Ariana Hewitt, along with Junior Olivia Saylor, all earned All-SBC 2nd team honors for Margaretta in a very tough conference championship meet. Senior Ben Burroughs led the Polar Bear Boys Cross Country team making his 2nd consecutive Regional meet and also earning 1st Team All-SBC honors. Caiden Fultz earned 2nd Team All-SBC for Margaretta as well.

Margaretta Volleyball plays in one of the toughest volleyball leagues in the state and this year was very competitive. A strong group of seniors: Mia Kane, Kylie Leibacher, Maria Marsh, and Jaelle Keller led the Lady Bears with Leibacher being named 1st Team All-SBC and 1st Team All-District. Keller was also recognized with District honors. Junior Olivia Saylor had another big season for Margaretta. She earned 2nd team All-SBC and 3rd team All-District honors in volleyball.

Next up was our winter season and what a season it was! There were some incredible accomplishments for Margaretta this winter. How do you start anywhere else other than the Margaretta Girls Basketball team? The Lady Bears again played an extremely difficult regular season schedule and it paid off huge during the tournament trail at the end of the season.

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The girls finished 16-6 overall in the regular season on their way to winning the 20th league championship in school history. From there, the Lady Bears made an amazing tournament run, winning the school's 16th District Championship by defeating Upper Sandusky at Shelby High School. Next it was off to Elida High School for the Regionals, where Margaretta defeated Harvest Prep in the semifinals and then Ottawa-Glandorf in the finals! The Lady Bears would play in the State Final 4 for the 5th time in school history!! The team traveled to Dayton for the Division III State Semifinals but lost to a tough Doylestown Chippewa team. What a ride though! Memories were made that will last a lifetime and much of the thanks goes to the many local businesses and community members who graciously donated money and goods to the Athletic Department to make the trip to Dayton possible. Thank you so much to all of those who helped us during this very exciting time. After the season, there were plenty of accolades for our Lady Bears. Eden Palomo broke a school record with her 60 made 3 point goals during the season and then earned 1st team recognition by the SBC and the District. Jaelle Keller earned 1st team All-SBC and 2nd team All-District while Lilly Edwards and Raegan Heck were both named 2nd team All-SBC and Honorable Mention All-District. After missing 15 regular season games to injury, Kylie Leibacher was named Special Mention All-SBC and finished her career with 1,197 points.

Margaretta Swim and Dive also had an incredible winter. The boys and girls teams both had amazing seasons. Eleven Polar Bears earned 1st team All-SBC honors for their performance at the SBC Championship in Oak Harbor with another 10 student-athletes taking home 2nd team All-SBC awards. From there, 19 Margaretta swimmers and divers qualified for Districts! After Districts, the Polar Bears would have two representatives at State, sophomore Alayna Biehl swam her way to Canton in the 50 Freestyle and senior Anna Gasser made her 3rd appearance at State in diving. Great weekends for both ladies. In the end, Anna Gasser finished her career with a 3rd place finish overall, the highest finishing Margaretta diver at State in history! Two school records fell during the 2022-2023 winter swim and dive season. First, senior Ben Burroughs set a new mark in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:04.02 and Anna Gasser set a new 6 dive high score with 287.10. Congratulations to all of our Margaretta Swimmers and Divers on a phenomenal season.



This winter, senior Seth Stanley led Margaretta Wrestling. Seth won his second career SBC championship, joining a very short list of Margaretta students who have won multiple league titles in wrestling. He wasn't done there, however, as he would then go on to make a very exciting tournament run all the way to the State Tournament in Columbus. Seth also added his name to the wrestling school record board this year by getting the most pins in a season with 31 and most pins in a career with 97. Sophomore Da'Veon Middlebrooks also reached the podium at the SBC Tournament for Margaretta taking 8th place in his division.

The Boys Basketball season at Margaretta was a lot of fun as well this year. The team had a nice mix of veteran and new players on the team. The Bears finished 14-10 overall and had some really fun home victories over Huron and Perkins. The gym could not have been louder on these nights. Junior Gage Bodey earned Honorable Mention All-SBC and Honorable Mention All-District while freshmen Julian Washington and Judah Keller both received 2nd team All-SBC and 2nd team All-District. The future looks bright for Margaretta Boys Basketball.

After three years as a club team, Margaretta High School had their first official Varsity Bowling team this past winter. The team was small in numbers but big in results. Senior Mariah Fields won the SBC Championship on the girls side. She also qualified for Districts. Junior Grant Brake earned 1st team All-SBC honors and also qualified for Districts while senior Bryan Rooker also was recognized as 1st team All-SBC. We commend all of those who were on the bowling team this year. It is not very often, anymore, that you can say you were a member of a school's first team. Well done, bowlers!

At the time that this article was due, the Spring season was well underway. Track and Field is having a great season with multiple school records already being rewritten. Senior JT Patrick continues to increase his record distances in shot put while sister Jennifer Patrick looks to do the same in shot put and discus. The pair

looks to lead a talented group to the State meet in June. The boys and girls 100 and 200 relay teams have looked very good so far this spring. The boys 200 relay team of Cooper Tigges, Tait Bailey, Kaine Smetzer, and Gage Bodey have already broken the school record and just missed setting a new mark in the 100 relay. The girls 200 relay team of Alayna Biehl, Macyn Phillips, Julia Berg, and Olivia Saylor are close to setting a new school record mark in this event ... impressive considering Margaretta has won the Division III State Girls 200 Relay the past two seasons.

Baseball and Softball are also faring well early in the 2023 campaign led by standout senior pitchers. The baseball team finds themselves in a tie for first place in the SBC Bay Division with Edison midway through the season. Senior catcher/pitcher Reese Keegan has been excellent on the pitcher's mound for the Bears while classmates Colson Biehl, Austin Dillery, Evan Miller, and Hayden Wiley have provided great veteran leadership. The injury bug has hurt the Lady Bear Softball team as two starters have missed a large part of the season thus far, but senior Mariah Fields continues to keep Margaretta competitive from the pitcher's circle. Lady Bear seniors Mia Kane, Hailey Williams, Jamie Opfer, and Natalie Zorn have done very well, positioning the team for a great second half of the season. With a big win against Willard on May 10, the Lady Bears clinched a share of the SBC Conference Title.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to thank the Margaretta Cheerleaders for all they do to support our sports teams at MHS. The school spirit, organization, time, and effort that these young ladies show throughout the school year is truly awesome and very much appreciated.

As always, we sincerely appreciate the support that our community gives to the student-athletes at Margaretta. The green wave in the bleachers, the Margaretta Marching/Pep Band, and the people that make it all happen makes Margaretta a special place. Let's go Polar Bears!!

Polar Bear Athletics

2022-2023

