

MARGARETTA LOCAL SCHOOLS

Spring 2021 District Newsletter



Message from the Superintendent

Mr. Ed Kurt

The Margarettta School District along with the entire state and country have been working our way through an unprecedented year to serve our students during the Covid 19 Pandemic. We are extremely proud of our entire staff for stepping up during really tough times to go above and beyond in providing the best learning opportunities for our students. We are all certain that full in-person learning is the best educational delivery model, but in dealing with this health crisis our delivery model was forced to change.

Whether delivering a hybrid learning model of two days in-person and three days remote a week, to a (full in) five days a week, we are moving through the year with great success. We were able with the assistance of CARES ACT funding to go one to one with our technology at the start of the year. We also worked on supporting families with technology access and hot spots along with a strong food distribution program. Beyond that we also teamed with OHGO to provide a monthly food bank for the community. Developing strong communication through our website, facebook page, one call notifications, final form communication, and a google classroom that communicates from teacher to students and parents.

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Through this and with great support from our parents we have managed the educational process to the best of our abilities. We are currently looking hard at our offerings at the High School and the ability to expand our College Credit Plus opportunities within our building. This would afford our students the opportunity to get these credits and remain on campus in doing so. We are also looking to improve our literacy program based on the science of reading. While looking to improve we also realize that this year is full of added stress for all of us, and want to make sure we are supporting each other and our social & emotional needs. Getting through this year safely and as productive as possible would make this year a great success. 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.



Transportation Department

Mr. Matthew Smith, Director of Transportation



A big Polar Bear welcome to the new Transportation Department Director, Mr. Matthew Smith! Matt was born in Sandusky, grew up in Mansfield, and graduated from Ontario High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Mathematics from Robert Morris University while on a basketball scholarship and later achieved his Masters in Education/Administration from Ashland University. Matt previously was employed by Perkins Local School District for 17 years. He lives in Castalia with his wife Dawn (Meyer) Smith, Margareta alumnus, and they have two children, Mya and Lincoln. He enjoys spending time with his family, coaching, and watching his kids participate in activities. He is very excited to be working for Margareta Local Schools. Matt is a towering 6' 10" tall and cannot be missed. Be sure to say hello and welcome Matt to Polar Bear Country.



[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OHGOREACH/](https://www.facebook.com/ohgoreach/)

OHgo, Margareta Schools, & local Churches are teaming up to feed our community. Over 1000 people fed in the past 4 months of our partnerships. To learn more or to donate see the FaceBook link above or visit ohgoreach.org



Financial Review

Mrs. Diane Keegan, District Treasurer

Nexus

There have been many questions and uncertainty surrounding the incremental tax revenue for the new Nexus natural gas pipeline and the impact for Margaretta schools. As background, back in 2015/2016 timeframe Nexus had published a document on the community impact of the installation of the new pipeline. Nexus communicated significant job creation, wages, wage related taxes paid, and the incremental property tax revenue it would generate, etc. The Nexus publication reflected that Margaretta was estimated to collect a total of \$29 million from Nexus over the first five years taxes, which included year one taxes of \$6.3 million. Margaretta was encouraged by these Nexus projections and had planned to utilize most of the incremental taxes for the building of a new school for Preschool (PK) through 12th grade. Then fast forward to the first year tax collections paid in 2020. The 2020 tax bill that Nexus owed was valued at \$8.3million for Margaretta by the taxing authorities. However, Nexus has appealed this valuation and would like to only pay 38% or \$3.1 million instead of the \$8.3 million. Currently the tax appeal is waiting to be heard at the Board of Tax Appeal, however has been postponed from the original May, 2021 hearing date due to COVID related delays. It is possible that we may not know the outcome and official amount we will receive for one to two years. Nexus can appeal each year's taxes and has once again also appealed the 2021 calendar year \$8.7 million tax bill for Margaretta. Nexus' current 2021 appeal is wanting to only pay 40% of the bill or \$3.4 million. Nexus has the right to tender pay their taxes (short pay down to the appealed amount) and as such only paid approximately \$4 million to Margaretta for the two payments in 2020. The lower tax payments from Nexus also have a negative impact on the amount the state will be paying Margaretta to educate our students (the State share of school funding). The state will be using the higher billed Nexus tax amounts of \$8.3 million and \$9.3 million for the respective years of 2020 and 2021 when determining Margaretta's local share of taxes. As these higher Nexus values are incorporated into Margaretta's local share calculation, the state share of funds paid to Margaretta will be reducing due to the new higher local share dollars, even though Nexus is only paying at a \$3 to \$4 million level. We are watching the developments with Nexus very closely and its impact on Margaretta's ongoing financial stability.

New Facility (PK through twelve grade)

As stated above, it is Margaretta's intent to use the majority of the Nexus incremental tax revenues to build a new school building for Preschool through twelve grade. Margaretta will also receive and has been approved for state funded dollars at a 38% of the buildings cost. Currently the state would be paying approximately \$15 million towards the new building.

Stewards of the Districts Money

Margaretta is trying to stay vigilant and make decisions for the wellbeing of the student while also being financially responsible with the taxpayers' dollars that are received. Margaretta has done several years of cost cutting to try and 'right-size' our costs to our current population of Margaretta students.

Renewal Tax Levy on the May, 2021 Ballot

To continue to supply the same level of student support, we will be seeking a 7.75 mil renewal tax levy and is on the ballot in May of 2021. The renewal tax levy is no new taxes to the local taxpayers and homeowners. This renewal operating levy is necessary for the expenses of operating the district. However, it is important to maintain our current taxing mileage, with the passing of this renewal, or it will have a reduction effect for the Nexus Pipeline Company's taxes to the Margaretta Local School District. Continuing to pass the existing renewal levies is how taxes get assessed to Nexus. If the District votes against this tax renewal, then Nexus will have a significantly lower tax bills as well, which will in turn place a heavier burden on the local tax payers in the future.

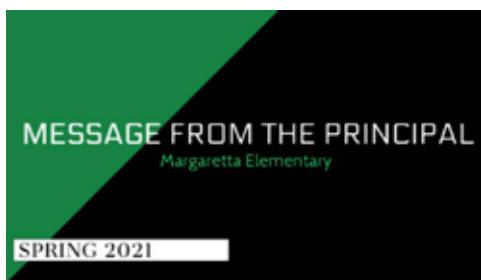


Margaretta General Fund History
For the 12-Month Periods Ending June 30th

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
General Fund Revenue				
Local Sources:				
Real Estate Taxes	5,119,059	4,967,158	4,990,335	4,212,470
Personal Property Taxes	675,387	723,910	2,762,247	4,767,551 [†]
Other - Local	2,940,489	2,023,991	2,574,026	2,789,608
Subtotal Local Sources	8,734,935	7,714,999	10,326,608	11,769,629
State Sources:				
State Foundation	4,391,851	4,318,301	4,050,334	4,120,378
Rollback/Homestead Exemptions	759,339	761,225	724,028	681,010
Tangible Personal Property Phaseout	781,713	646,565	553,439	436,272
Other - State	329,242	316,214	305,790	140,789
Open Enrollment 'In to the District'	1,177,523	1,258,856	1,114,636	1,083,989
Subtotal State Sources	7,439,626	7,322,161	6,744,207	6,462,618
Total Revenues	15,974,561	15,037,160	17,070,815	18,232,247
General Fund Expenditures				
Employee Wages and Benefits	11,520,452	11,345,107	11,159,695	11,655,693
Purchased Services	2,497,553	2,158,506	1,973,448	2,067,352
Open Enrollment 'Out of the District'	904,583	953,171	911,711	1,000,861
Supplies & Materials	745,008	393,870	355,799	481,565
Capital Outlay/Other	315,008	200,290	235,475	222,687
Transfers (primarily New Facility Reserve & Food Services)	44,658	88,231	1,400,579	1,643,632
Debt Service Payment	566,405	564,846	568,626	565,785
Total Expenditures	16,593,667	15,709,011	16,605,334	17,617,535
Favorable/(Unfavorable) Revenue to Expenditures	(1,019,106)	(666,851)	465,481	614,692

†Increase from 2019-20
(due to the first payment of
half 2020 Nexus Taxes)

9.2% year effect of incremental
rollback taxes paid (about paid at
47% of the 2019-20)



YouTube message from Mr. Wise
<https://bit.ly/3bZEEIT>



MES Update

Mr. Kevin Wise, Margaretta Elementary Principal

I would like to thank our elementary families for all of their support during this unusual school year. Students have been doing an excellent job adapting to the new challenges the 2020-2021 school year have placed in front of them. While navigating through the twists and turns of the school year we have been able to implement a couple new things for our students. Our librarian, Mrs. Pooch, has implemented an electronic holds system for our students in grades 3-5. This system allows students to browse our catalog of books online and place holds on books they would like to check out. Books that are placed on hold are pulled and delivered to classrooms. This system also makes our library books available to our virtual and quarantined students. Books can be placed on hold from home and be ready in the main office for pickup by a parent. Books that are returned are placed in "quarantine" for at least two days before going back on the shelves for students to check out.

We have also expanded our robotics program. With the help of a generous donation from NASA, we have been able to bring in VEX robotics for students and also start Margaretta Elementary's first competitive robotics team. We hope to be ready for competitions for the 2021-2022 school year. We have made coding and robotics a major part of our students' technology class.

MES Upcoming Events

March 15-19 Scholastic Book Fair

March 24 & 25 for ELA testing (Grades 3-5)

April 1- 6 - Spring Break - No School

April 13 & 14 for math (Grades 3-5)

April 20 & 21 for science (grade 5)

April 28-29 - Kindergarten Registration & Screening

May 31 - Memorial Day - No School

June 3 - Last Day for Students





Curriculum and Instruction

by Mr. Kevin Johnson,
Curriculum Director



Identifying what our students should know and be able to do are two guiding principles in our Margaretta classrooms. The Ohio Learning Standards explain the knowledge and skills our students in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve need to have.

Skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, qualities necessary in any vocation, are emphasized in each standard. By teaching our students to apply these skills to what they are learning in school, we can make sure that students remain on track to graduate from high school and are prepared for any endeavor they may choose. It is our best hope to challenge and inspire each student. The administrative team supports the K-12 academic programming through rigorous curriculum and child centered instructional practices. Our focus is on development, planning, implementing and assessing curriculum and educational technology initiatives as well as providing professional development for staff. Our Curriculum and Instruction goals support the district mission to deliver an education that supports academic achievement, in a safe environment and that provides the knowledge and skills needed to be college and career ready. In doing so, we are guided by the Ohio Department of Education and inspired by our rich and long tradition of excellence. Both affect our decisions in three overarching areas: curriculum development, student assessment, and professional development. A great deal of what goes on in our classrooms is directed by the learning standards adopted by our Board taken from the Ohio Department of Education. It is important that we provide our teachers with the resources and professional development they need to align their practice with state standards and to extend beyond them.

The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the nation's mental health and equity concerns, has accelerated the shift in the accountability landscape. As we move beyond test scores to a more holistic picture of students and school communities, education leaders are rethinking school performance to incorporate social-emotional learning, climate, and culture. Our recent professional development day on February 15 saw teachers and administrators working in small groups to learn virtually from Dr. Kelly Glick and Ms. Darlene Mack.

The focus for our professional development was Mental Health for Educators and Trauma Sensitive Schools which will help us to build upon our current understanding and to become more purposeful in our actions to address these critical issues. **2020-2021 Ongoing Curriculum and Instruction Initiatives: Differentiated Instruction; Formative Instructional Practices; Social-Emotional Learning; Creation of a district Academic Team; Technology in the Classroom (Hybrid, Remote, and In-Person Instruction); ODE Standards Review and Audit; Student Achievement and Performance Data Analysis (iReady and ODE Readiness Assessments); Middle and High School Master Schedule Review; Creation of Literacy Teams; Summer Reading Training Based Upon the Science of Reading.**

MMS & MHS Upcoming Events

March 24-29 ELA Testing

April 1- 6 - Spring Break - No School

April 13-16 - Math/Algebra/Geometry Testing

April 20 & 21 - Science/Biology Testing

April 22 & 23 - American History/Government Testing

May 15 - Prom

May 31 - Memorial Day

June 3 - Students Last Day

June 5 - Graduation





We Drive On!

Mr. Rod Smith, Margareta High School Principal

While the current pandemic has been a great disruptor in our educational process, it has not prevented our staff and students from driving toward their passions and goals. Our students have been very resilient through these unprecedented times. Through the many cancelled or adjusted events that mean so much to our students as well as changes between remote learning to hybrid and back to full-time, these passions and goals remain strong. Our staff continues to best prepare our students for a career through the various paths that include college, military, or directly into the workforce. The attached link to the video features a few of our current students who represent these paths. As you will see, the efforts and work these students have done through the pandemic is paying off and we could not be more proud.

Staff has been there along the way learning new technology and lesson delivery methods this past summer and throughout the school year so they can keep the teaching and learning going albeit at a slower pace.

After being through remote learning to hybrid and back to full-time learning, it is clear that the most valuable resource is having students in front of teachers. It is also obvious that being full-time, students benefit greatly by being with their friends. This helps with the social emotional needs of students. Services have been available all year through Family Health Services to provide the tools to cope through these difficult times. We care too much not to recognize these important needs of all of our students that is the foundation toward success.



Sophomore Aiden Cotner's welding project



Senior Colton Hacker's wood cabinet project



7th Grade project



Middle School Computer Classroom



Chemistry Classroom



YouTube Message from Mr. Smith
<https://bit.ly/38IOlzO>



High School Holiday Spirit Week



Winter Sports Season Packed with Success Stories

Mr. Drew Grahl, Athletic Director

The Margaretta Winter student-athletes have had a tremendous amount of things to overcome. COVID-19 has impacted how these young people prepare for their sport, who can attend sporting events, and even how their contests are played. The resiliency that each and every Margaretta Polar Bear has shown, however, has been truly amazing. In the middle of a pandemic, Margaretta students have accomplished some truly incredible things.

RECORD BREAKERS: This winter we have witnessed several records having been broken. The first was set on January 22nd when Junior Jake Leibacher scored 45 points in a home boys basketball game against Edison. Jake broke the single-game scoring record for the school previously owned by Dan Felske (43 pts) from 1978. He did so with over 5 minutes remaining in the game! It was a special night at The Iceberg and those fortunate enough to be there to see it will remember Jake's accomplishment forever.

Just seven days later, Margaretta Senior Guard Elliana Schaefer added her name to the girl's basketball record books in two categories! Just 18 seconds into the 4th quarter at Port Clinton, Elliana made a corner three-point shot that gave her a school-record of 42 points for the night and another school record of 9 three-point goals made. Elliana broke the single-game scoring record of 40 points set by Danielle Meyer in 1997 and the most three-point goals in a game record previously set by Michenzi Hoffman in 2012. It was another night to remember for Margaretta basketball fans.

We have also seen some amazing performances in the pool this winter. On February 13, 2021, the Margaretta Swim teams competed in the Sectional Meet at Oak Harbor High School. It was Senior Josephine Stark's turn to rewrite the school record books. Josie set a new school record in the backstroke when she finished with a time of 1:04.67! This accomplishment broke the girl's backstroke record previously set by Mary Griffith in 2008. Josie and 13 of her swimming teammates qualified for the District Swim Meet held on February 19th. The Margaretta Diving team sent 4 Lady Bears to Districts on February 17th where Kenna Stimmel qualified for her second consecutive trip to the State Diving Competition!

CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Polar Bears were able to earn several team and individual championships during the winter season. First, our middle school swim team had a lot of success on December 11, 2020, when Carson Miller won SBC Championships in the 100 Freestyle and the 50 Butterfly events. Not to be outdone, Alayna Biehl won an SBC Title in the 100 Freestyle and 50 Backstroke events. Savannah Suto brought home an SBC Championship in the 25 Freestyle event while Suto, Kayla Aceto, Lexi Murray, and Biehl teamed up to win the conference in the 200 Free Relay event.

Next, it was the high school's chance to shine at the SBC Swim and Dive Meet. Kenna Stimmel started things off with an SBC Championship in the Girls Diving competition. On January 16th, Lily Green earned an SBC Bay Division Championship in the 50 Freestyle event and Josephine Stark added a conference title in the 100 Breaststroke. As a team, the Margaretta girls finished as runner-up at SBC while the Polar Bear boys were 3rd overall.

Sophomore Seth Stanley wrestled his way to an SBC Bay/River Division Heavyweight Championship at Port Clinton High School on February 10, 2021. The wrestlers will travel to Oak Harbor High School for Sectionals on February 26 and 27.

On February 11th, the Margaretta Lady Bears basketball team defeated Willard at home to become SBC Bay Division Co-Champions for the season after completing the season with a 17-5 record. This is the third consecutive SBC Championship for the Margaretta Girls Basketball team and 18th in program history.

The future looks bright for Margaretta Basketball as three middle school teams earned SBC Bay Division Tournament Championships on Saturday, February 13th at Port Clinton High School. The 7th-grade girl's team started things off with a 39-27 win over Willard to hoist the trophy. Next, the 7th-grade boy's team got a 53-47 overtime victory over Willard to win SBC. Finally, the 8th-grade girl's team capped off the day with a 34-21 win over Edison.

At press time, the Margaretta Varsity Boys Basketball team had positioned themselves for an attempt at just the third Sandusky Bay Conference Championship in school history. The boys will host Willard on Friday, February 19th. A win will give them a share of the league title.

It has been a challenging but very successful winter season for Margaretta student-athletes. We wish all of our Polar Bears great success in the winter tournaments and into the Spring season.



LEARN TO SWIM

Beginner - Advanced Cost \$75 per session

Session 1 April 13 - May 20

All classes are Tuesday & Thursday 40 mins each

5:00pm-5:40pm & 5:50pm-6:30pm

Sign Ups March 23, 25, & April 8 5:00 - 6:30pm

Questions? Contact Coach Szymanski at

mhallettszymanski@margarettaschooldistrict.com