



“All Students Learning Well, Without the Loss of Enthusiasm for Learning”

Week At a Glance

November 19, 2018

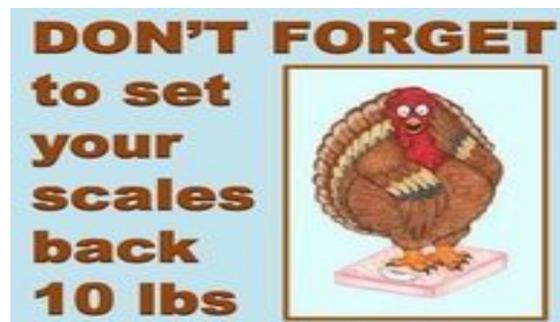
Mission

Students, Staff, and Community Dedicated to Excellence

Vision

The Marcola School District promotes academic excellence, ethical and responsible citizenship for all its students in a safe, supportive, and enriched learning environment.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



Sorry, I'm delayed with the Week at a Glance by a day. The cold virus that has been hanging on with my wife and other roommates finally found me Saturday night and has managed to put me down. I had to work from home today and will most likely do the same tomorrow. Tomorrow is an early release day, and I have my Superintendents meeting later in the morning. So . . . Happy Thanksgiving to all our students, staff and families. I love Thanksgiving because it's a holiday that is centered around food, family, friends and of course my dogs, four things that are of utmost importance to me ;)

Every week at a glance, I will provide information for our staff, community and beyond to showcase our staff and students. Marcola School District is very innovative in many ways, we believe that all students matter and all students succeed. This week I will be very short as I introduce some very good books to read for those who are interested in innovative education models and the important skills for 21st century skills. Let me start, by making the statement, “Standardized Tests and Standardized Test Scores” are not the most important measurement of a student’s ability to achieve success in a 21st century workforce. The most important characteristics our students need to be successful during and beyond a K-12 education are:

- The desire and perseverance to innovate, take risks, and think outside of the box



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- Willingness and desire to find problems that need solutions, and persevere when your solution fails.
- Ability to collect and diagnose all types of data (qualitative as well as quantitative), use the data to identify problems and seek solutions (Importance of learning statistics every year - K-12 and beyond)
- Understanding and applying continuous improvement models in every aspect of learning and growth.
- Allowing time to be creative and work collaboratively with others on ideas and solutions for continuous improvement.
- Understand that Learning doesn't have to take place in a box, Learning takes place anytime, anywhere, all the time.

It is the characteristics above that will determine the success of our current and future generations. It's not a test score or a GPA (although these can be good indicators of work ethic and perseverance). Certainly, it's not always the most compliant student who understands how to play the outdated traditional brick and mortar school game, the same game many of us played 40-50 years ago.

The way we do school is changing and it's changing rapidly. Our audience and experiences have increased exponentially through virtual types of communication available at our fingertips. Textbooks? Do we still use outdated textbooks when we can access very rich and engaging instructional resources live on the internet? How about all of the outstanding teacher facilitators (world wide) our students can connect to - for free! The modern teacher is no longer a sage on the stage. The modern teacher is a facilitator, someone who connects students to their personal interests using a wide variety of resources. Students can use the internet to travel to different countries, communicate, collaborate and problem solve with students globally. We no longer need separate math, science, social studies, and english classes when we can combine the skills from all of these courses into one, two or three integrated projects that also connect to the arts, career and technical education, and physical education/health.

I have three grandsons, two of whom are in school (1st and 2nd grade) and one who just turned a year old. All three are extremely curious and absolutely love the resources technology can provide. My oldest grandsons are also talented athletes and love the outdoors. They are not excited about worksheets for homework (they complete them and complain it's taking time away from building or programming their robot). When I asked them how we could build a project around hockey (their favorite sport) where they could learn math, english, social studies, science, the arts, etc. they provided numerous answers! Math? Looking at statistics of hockey players and teams, (multiplication, addition, subtraction, division, percentages, fractions, angles, etc.). Science - they brought up a lot of concepts directly related to the physics of hitting a puck, the size of a stick, the quality and size of a puck, the texture and temperature of the ice, the structure and design of an ice-rink. Reading, writing, listening and speaking - they love to read stories about hockey, they love to write about hockey and draw hockey players and of course they have learned how to listen to their coach and teammates when they have to



learn new skills and work together as a team. Social Studies - a bit more difficult for them until we started discussing the history of hockey and the positive global impacts of a sport.

We now have numerous innovative approaches to delivering a quality personalized education to our students. I am proud to say, Marcola School District is not opposed to change and innovation - we are always looking for creative ideas that will allow our students to be innovative thinkers and problem solvers.

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event	Description	Time
11/19/18 Monday	Activities Schedule		
11/20/18 Tuesday	Activities Schedule Grandparents Day Minimum Day	Turkey Dinner @ Elementary Elementary and Secondary	10:30 a.m 12:00 & 1:00
11/21/2018 Wednesday	NO SCHOOL		
11/08/2018 Thursday	Activities Schedule THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL		
11/09/2018 Friday	Activities Schedule		
11/10/2018 Saturday			