

Marion Cross School
Principal's Report to the School Board
October, 2020

Current Enrollment: 264 students

| Grade | PK | K | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th |
|-------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| # of Students in person | 8 | 25 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 44 | 39 | 36 |
| # of Remote Learners | | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2MCS +3 RMS |
| # of Home Schoolers | | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | |
| Sections | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |



Recent or pending celebrations, achievements and accomplishments for staff and students-

- **Raising Monarchs in First Grade** - First graders started the year observing the scientific wonder of metamorphosis. Teachers and community members carefully collected caterpillars from local milkweed and brought them into the classroom for students to watch and study. The students then made and recorded observations in their science journals. As the caterpillars made their way to the top of their tanks the students eagerly waited for them to pupate and become a chrysalis. They watched videos of the cycle to fill the gaps in the cycle that happen quickly. Finally our first butterfly appeared hanging and drying its



Releasing these beauties back into the world is exciting for students and adults alike. This year, with physical distancing constraints in mind, we received a grant from the Milton Fry Fund buy individual tanks so each student could care for their own monarch. Some students brought their monarch home for the weekend to share their excitement with family members. This experience provides an anchor for our lessons about life cycles and animal adaptations.



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➤ **American Music** - The fifth graders completed a unit on American music. They explored how our history and geography shaped the music we hear today, from the American Revolution through spirituals, gospel music, blues, and rock. We had a wonderful time learning, playing and singing outside!



➤ **Curriculum Nights** - This school year we have had to be creative in many ways. MCS teachers rose to the occasion and held zoom curriculum nights. We spread the evenings over a two week time period to avoid overlapping. I have had the privilege of attending most all of these events and across the board they are of high quality.

➤ **Bike to School Day** - This year bike to school day took a new route, but was equally as amazing as in past years. A huge shout out to Rebecca Reed for organizing the event, which allowed bikers to tour downtown Norwich. Each grade level had a designated gathering and starting point and all participants biked single file. Of course, Chief Frank led us in her cruiser!

➤ **Co-Teaching** - Last school year and over the summer, MCS began a co-teaching pilot. Co-teaching is a model of giving support to students by having a regular education classroom teacher, a special educator, and support staff team together in a way that modifies curriculum to fit the needs of all learners. Our original plan was to pilot co-teaching in grades 1, 2, and 4. This plan was altered because of needs related to COVID and resulted in a smaller pilot in first and fourth grades. This week our consultant, Jennifer Patenaude, will be working with our two teams during inservice and then all of the special educators to debrief how the model is working to date and make any adjustments. Mrs. Patenaude will work with special educators with a focus on the development of individual education plan goals that are measurable and fit our model.

➤ **NPD/PTO** - I would like to end with sending appreciation out to two organizations. First, the Norwich Police Department for their endless support of MCS. How fortunate are we to have a police chief who is willing to join in with morning temperature checks, lead Bike to School Day, and be on call for any consultation and support needed. In addition, the PTO is endlessly supportive of our students as is evidenced by the organization and time that went into the latest event, Bike to School Day. **Thank you NPD and PTO for all that you do in support of MCS students and families.**

➤ **Friends of Norwich/Hanover Grants** - We have three grants that will be considered on Thursday evening. One grant to purchase Leveled Literacy Intervention reading kits, a second to purchase technology tools, and a third to purchase reading books for remote learners. Patrick Gordan wrote the literacy grant to purchase intervention materials that would be utilized in grades K-3 to help offset some of the deficiencies that students have coming back from an extended vacation. Niki Oney wrote a grant to fund document cameras and specific devices to support quality instruction. Leslie Dustin wrote a grant to fund trade books to be used for instruction of our remote primary students.

Photos of interest-



*Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Gonyaw*