



# Polar Press



## Welcome Back Students & Staff!!

### Welcome Back Margaretta! By Samuel Smith

Hello to all students of Margaretta High School and welcome back to the 2020-21 school year! In an extremely insightful interview with MHS principal Mr. Smith, he discussed how he felt about the current state of things within school, and how he is optimistic despite the obstacles.

Mr. Smith's initial reaction to the shutdown of schools back in March was a feeling of deep sorrow. When the 2019-20 school year ended, he was worried at the possibility of another wave of shutdowns occurring. However, these fears were waived due to the fierce determination of the students and staff here at Margaretta. Wanting a sense of normality to be achieved here at Margaretta, he wants everyone to make the best of this situation by following guidelines put out by the local health department in hopes that we, as a school, can once more achieve a sense of normality. Moreover, he truly missed the feeling of having interaction between students and staff. The students getting to see their friends once more filled him with an overwhelming sense of joy. We as a school can maintain this current state of things, as long as we closely follow instruction by not only our school, but as well as our local health department.

On another note, when asked about what he is hoping to accomplish this year, Mr. Smith responded with a quite interesting answer. The biggest thing we all must realize, he said, is that we can never go back to how things were in the spring. Being suddenly flung into a new learning environment via remote learning, a lot of us failed to maintain good grades, and the staff realizes this. With more time to thoroughly survey, plan, etc., Mr. Smith is adamant on achieving the same exact learning environment we once had before this pandemic. What he is hoping to accomplish is a sense of a normal learning environment, so that us students can comprehend the information set before us and learn to our true potential and succeed. When asked to give out encouragement, Mr. Smith stated that we as a school will get through these tough times as one, as long as we truly try our best. He stated that he is confident that the students and staff will ultimately do the right thing, so that we can enter a realm of normality together.

While it may not seem like it at times, the people who teach and command us hold a great feeling of compassion for all of us. And while things may not be normal right now, it will not be like this forever.



Welcome back to Margaretta High School fellow students, staff, and administrators. On Friday September 4th, 2020, Mr. Kurt sent a message to the Margaretta community recapping and explaining the actions and outcomes of the first week of school. In addition to his message recapping our first week of school, it also provided ideas of the future including our new schedule to remain hybrid for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. "Regarding the board approving my recommendation to remain hybrid through the first 9 week grading period, I feel very strongly that this is the right learning model at this time. Erie County went from Red to Orange along with Sandusky County being Orange. The best learning occurs with interaction between good instruction and other opportunities for peer learning too," said Mr. Kurt in his reaction to the board of education voting 5-0 to remain hybrid.

Now, many parents and students may be asking what about the future school year, what if we return to a level 3 health emergency. Mr. Kurt said this in response, "Our district feels strongly about providing as many opportunities as possible for our students. At the same time in dealing with the COVID virus we must keep safety at the forefront. I am regularly communicating with our local health department, and other area school districts. Providing opportunities while keeping safety is a main emphasis."

Many viewers of our national and local news have seen that as cases fall they can also rise and the question of if Erie county returns to a level 3 looms closer. Mr. Kurt responds to the question with, "We will continue to monitor our county level and follow the guidelines that are posted on our website."

Finally, Superintendent Kurt has goals in these terrifying, but confusing times. "The goal for this year is to have a productive academic year during these unprecedented times, and provide as many opportunities for our students as we can safely conduct." In conclusion, Mr. Kurt is thankful and excited that we can continue our school year with at least some in person learning

-Elias Young



# New This Year

By: Alyssa McFarlin and Anna Gasser

## School Spirit Rock

Margaretta has had the tradition in the past years to decorate The Rock. The Rock symbolizes the pride in the Polar Bear nation, and students are able to express the love for their school through The Rock.

Recently, Wagner Quarry and Miller Construction donated the rock that is in the front of Margaretta High School. The 2020 class officers initiated the donation and reached out to each company to make it happen. There was a plan to have a new rock dedication to those who helped and donated, but unfortunately the virus postponed the dedication for those who were involved in the planning of the rock.

Students use the rock to express the school pride, celebrate events happening within the community, to cheer one another on, and class pride. Events where the students paint the rock are; graduation, sports, FFA, and the music program.

Mrs. Szymanski had the opportunity to decorate the rock herself when in high school. "It was so much fun trying to sneak and paint it so no other groups knew about it and to guard it so no other groups would paint over it!!" This tradition that Margaretta has taken on shows how much the students enjoy doing it, and is a great way to express Margaretta pride.



## The New "Normal"

This school year has taken an unexpected turn that no one saw coming. However, our principal, Mr. Rod Smith and the rest of the faculty members, are doing everything in their power to help keep the students and themselves safe at all costs by keeping a safe distance from one another, wearing our masks, and washing our hands thoroughly.

To keep students safe, it is important to be cautious and be mindful of others. Mr. Smith has to take every single one of his students and staff's safety into consideration above all else. With all the precautions taken in our school, Mr. Smith believes that we will slowly, but surely, get back into how things were before Covid. No matter if learning online or being at school, Mr. Smith is grateful to have a school year where he is able to interact with his students again, as he puts it, "We are grateful to have students and staff back who make up our Polar Bear Nation."

All in all, even though this school year may be different from any other year that any community has ever experienced, we are in this together and as doing so, we can help one another learn what we can do to help keep each other safe.

## New Teachers

Along with the new students, we would like to welcome two new teachers to our building this year. We would like to welcome Ms. Alison Butler to our FFA building. We look forward to an amazing year with you in our building. Also, we would like to welcome Mr. Brian Ferber as our new intervention specialist. Thank you for helping our students and we hope it is an amazing year under these circumstances.

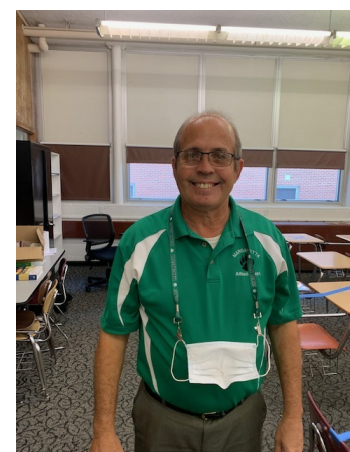
An amazing welcome back to Mr. Pope. We hope you are doing well and we look forward to learning with you and having you in the building again. We hope everyone gets along well this school year under these restrictions.



Ms. Butler



Mr. Ferber



Mr. Pope

# Volleyball

By: Mariah Fields

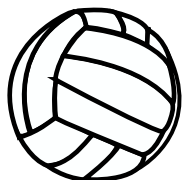
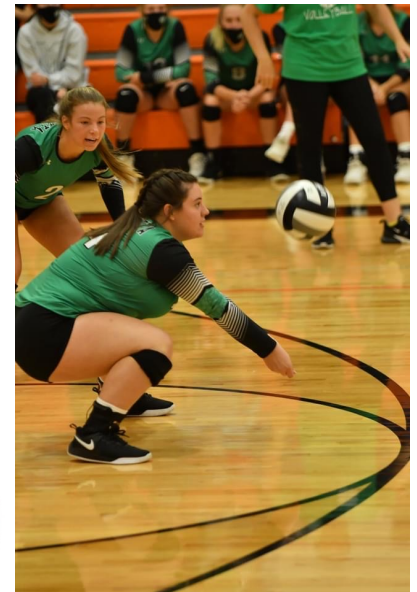
## Margaretta Volleyball

In the past decade, our schools volleyball program has gone through many changes and all of the athletes have had to adapt to these changes. One big change that many players had to face was the introduction of a new coaching staff. For a while, new coaches have been introduced every couple of years. Not just at the varsity level, but throughout all levels of the program.

Last year, the Margaretta volleyball program brought in a whole new coaching staff from 7th grade through 12th grade. So far, everything has been going very smoothly and they have improved a lot. After talking to the Varsity coach, Sarah Kuns, she stated that some of the most important techniques she uses and teaches her girls whilst coaching are fundamentals. She said, "Without fundamentals we wouldn't be able to play our game."

One motto that the program has gone by for years is "Cannot pass, cannot play because every play in volleyball starts with a pass." This year there is lots of competition in the Bay division and every team should be given the respect they deserve. Coach Sarah's words on the competition this year are, "No team can be taken lightly. We should hold our own against all the teams."

Despite all of the competition this year, the community, the coach, and the student athletes have very high expectations for the outcome of this season. So far, the varsity teams record is 7-2 as of September 16. The only teams that were able to take the win versus our very competitive team were Bellevue, and Huron. Both teams are very strong, well-bonded, and very skilled. There is about a month left of the regular season and the expectations are very high. The community, coaches, parents, and players all want to finish off this season on a high note.





# Girls & Boys Golf

By: Mariah Fields



## Boys Golf

The Margareta boys golf team has been very successful over the past couple of years. One main reason for their success is the very talented group of student athletes and the excellent coaching staff. Coach Spicer is the head coach and has lots of expectations for these very athletic and well-rounded young men. He wants the boys to play smart golf, and play within themselves.

The boys team is one of the best teams in the league this year. Last year, they were the SBC Champions and two years before that, they were Sectional Champions. This year, they are headed to Districts on October 8th in Bowling Green. Coach Spicer believes the boys have a chance of making it to state this year.

Some things the boys are taught that make them so good are how to play smart, how to be fundamentally sound, and how to be positive/confident at all times. To prepare for big matches, the team works very hard at their game during practice to become better athletes who will perform better under pressure.

Overall, the boys golf team has been very successful and shall continue to get better as the years go on.

## Girls Golf

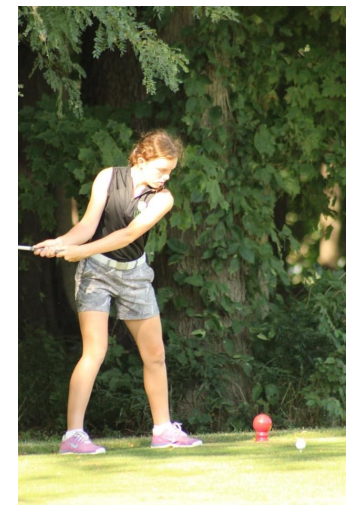
Along the the volleyball program, the girls golf program has improved so much in recent years and has also got a new coaching staff. This year, the girls golf team has a very strong and special group of seniors. According the Coach Christine Smith, "They have drive, determination, and a love for the sport."

The seniors are very strong this year, but the underclassmen are right there with them. Due to all of these incredible seniors, the Lady Bears are some of the best athletes in the area.

Coach Smith believes that the Lady Bears are going to surprise a lot of teams in their division and place higher than expected.

Some things the girls do to prepare for big matches are get their mental game ready. "Golf is such a mental game." All of the players have to mentally prepare for each match. They have to set realistic team and individual goals and focus on each hole at a time. Another thing that the players need to focus on is not counting up the scores in their head. They just need to focus on finishing the match and helping their teammates win rather than focusing on their overall outcome.

The girls season has been very successful so far this year and most likely will continue to be successful throughout the next couple of years because of the talented underclassmen.





# Cross Country & Football



## An Unprecedented Polar Bear Football Season-Hayden Wiley

In an interview, Margaretta Football Coach Todd Polk shared some thoughts about the 2020 football season, an unexpected one to say the least. The challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has made this season different from any in the past.

Coach Polk said it was challenging to prepare his players to play football with the season in jeopardy. He responded by saying, "It was a different experience getting ready for the season with all the uncertainty during the summer. It taught us how to do different things and come up with different ways to help better train our players. It took more planning and time than usual, but it was all worth it just to have the opportunity to keep playing."

When asked if during the summer he had ever thought that the season would be canceled, he said, "I was pretty optimistic all summer that we would play. I did start to get worried though once colleges started to pull out along with other states delaying their seasons, but fortunately, Ohio came through and they let us continue playing."

Many in the Margaretta community have been excited knowing the football season can be played. However, Coach Polk said he was not aware of any negativity around town. "Everyone has different beliefs about what should and should not be going on right now. All we're concerned about is getting better and making sure we are taking the correct steps to stay safe and continue to do our part in slowing the spread."

All head coaches enter their season with an optimistic attitude and have a goal in mind. Coach stated that "our main goal is to get better each day and to try to eliminate the small mistakes that play an impact in determining the final score."

## Cross Country- Levi Morris

The Margaretta Cross Country team has been faced with many challenges this season due to the pandemic. Coach Yantz stated that the athletes have been adapting well to these changes including social distancing at practice and wearing masks when not running. This new normal has thankfully been successful as there have been no cases of Covid-19 reported among the team. The team has also undergone a complete overhaul of their meet schedule.

As opposed to invitational meets, the team has transitioned fully into dual meets with the individual teams running separately to further prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Due to the pandemic, many other schools were lacking full teams. However, they were still willing to race against Margaretta.

Coach Yantz has stated that the Margaretta High School Boys team lost to Bellevue, but managed to secure the win against both Danbury and Sandusky. The boys team consists of the Freshman Sean Reardon; Sophomores Ben Burroughs, Chase Carter, Ryan Coffman, Zeke French, and Levi Morris; Junior Isaiah Hall.

The Margaretta High School Girls managed to defeat all three teams in the respective meets.

The girls team consists of Freshmen Aubree Camp, Gracee Camp, Grace Carter, Eden Palomo, Macyn Phillips, Olivia Saylor, and Riley Young; Sophomores Ariana Hewitt, Emma LaFollette, and Emily Pulano; Juniors Amelia Barcus, Phoebe Dreschel, and Madison Phillips; Seniors Paige Harmon and Shyanne Phillips.

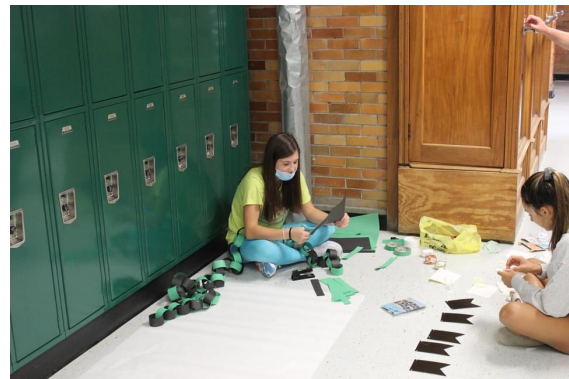
Coach Yantz's hope for the remainder of the season is that the athletes continue to improve even with the pandemic presenting new challenges for the team.



# Margaretta Homecoming 2020



## Spirit Week



# Homecoming Parade & Game



# Homecoming 2020

