

MARGARETTA

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



New Year, New Beginnings

by Mr. Ed Kurt, Superintendent

After an extremely busy and productive summer we are ready to begin the school year. School officially begins on September 2, 2008. School hours for Margarettta Elementary grades K-6 (the former Bogart Elementary building) start at 7:59 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m. Margarettta High School grades 7-12 will begin at 7:44 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.

Construction has been going on all summer at the Margarettta Elementary site. To accommodate the grade K-6 instructional program a six classroom modular unit has been leased and will house our 4th grade classrooms, along with resource rooms for intervention specialists, speech and hearing pathologist, and our gifted instructor. These modular units are ready for the start of the new school year. We are still wrapping up construction in the office area, second computer lab, additional restrooms, a

facilitation classroom and gymnasium. These should be ready to go by early October.

Because of the construction wrap-up we need the help and cooperation of everyone at the beginning of the school year for a safe and orderly pick-up and drop-off

of students not riding the school buses. For pick-up and drop-off traffic pattern and other critical information refer to the information in this newsletter, traffic patterns posted on the windows at Margarettta Elementary after Aug. 22nd and more information on our website.

Staffing was decreased overall for 2008-09 by four teachers, one office aide and one full-time administrator aligned to the changing needs brought on by a decrease in student enrollment. Mr. Tim Niemeyer, Vocational Agriculture, will retire in December; we will reduce Vocational Agriculture from 2 to 1 teacher at that time. We had a retirement in the Business department in the high school that was not filled. Fifth grade was reduced by one teacher. That teacher, Teal Balduff, took the full time Title One position of a retiring teacher. First grade was reduced by one teacher. One office aide position and hours of several classified staff were reduced because of enrollment declines. The current curriculum director, Fran Warner, will act as the assistant principal at the elementary and will share some of the high school curriculum duties with high school principal, Keith Bonningson. Again, we are cutting costs in direct relationship to the needs of the students and their instructional program as we strive to run as efficiently and effectively as possible. As a district we are to the point where any further cuts will significantly impact the scope and quality of the programs we are providing in our education of children.

The summer is nearly over; but we are ready to launch a new school year. We have many new and exciting things planned for the year ahead. Working together we can make this the best year yet for all our students. We encourage you to join us in the educational adventure of new beginnings.

(Left): The leased 6-classroom modulares at Margarettta Elementary will house 4th grade classrooms and resource rooms for intervention, speech and gifted services. These modular units are ready for the start of the new school year. Construction of the new elementary gymnasium will be completed in October.

www.margarettta.k12.ob.us

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Welcome New Teachers

Margaretta students will head back to school on Tuesday, September 2, as the school district opens the doors to the 2008-09 school year. Greeting our students are 12 new faculty members who have joined our teaching staff due to replacement of retiring staff or teachers leaving the district:

Karen Berg holds a Bachelor and Masters from Bowling Green State University. Mrs. Berg is assigned to Margaretta High School as an Intervention Specialist, replacing a teacher who transferred to the elementary.

Ryan Bohn received his bachelor and master's degree from Bowling Green State University. Mr. Bohn is assigned to teach Math at Margaretta High School, replacing a teacher who left the district.

Shannon Bramel holds a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace. Mrs. Bramel is assigned to Margaretta Elementary as half time Title I teacher, replacing the full time Title I teacher who retired.

Rocky Farlow received his bachelor's from Bluffton University and master's degree from Ashland University. Mr. Farlow is the Margaretta High School CBI teacher, replacing a teacher who left the district.

Kristine Gray holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo. Mrs. Gray is assigned to Margaretta Elementary as a 4th grade teacher, replacing a teacher who retired.

Lynn Hurd received her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and master's from Findlay University. Mrs. Hurd is the Principal of Margaretta Elementary, replacing a principal who retired.

Chris Miller holds a bachelor's degree from Kent State University. Mr. Miller is assigned to Margaretta High School as a Language Arts teacher, replacing a teacher who left the district.

Shawn Moses received his bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and master's degrees from Ohio State and Eastern Kentucky. Mr. Moses is will be teaching Science at Margaretta High School, replacing a teacher who retired.

Tranette Novak holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Ohio State University. Mrs. Novak is the District Speech/Hearing Pathologist, replacing a teacher who retired.

Amanda Reardon received her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University. Mrs. Reardon is assigned to Margaretta High School Vocal Music, replacing a teacher who left the district.

Janet Skaggs holds a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University. Mrs. Skaggs is the Margaretta Elementary Art teacher, replacing a teacher who left the district.

Keven Wise received his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University. Mr. Wise is assigned to Margaretta High School Language Arts, replacing a teacher who transferred to another position.

New District Website Unveiled

The Margaretta Local School District will be starting the new school year with a newly designed website to keep our students, parents, staff and the community better informed. The website, www.margaretta.k12.oh.us, will be unveiled by the end of August.

An existing feature the district is promoting is ProgressBook, which allows parents to view their child's grades and assignments.

A new feature is the e-Newsletter where parents and students can sign up to receive emails from the school district. Those who sign up on the district's webpage can choose to receive announcements from Margaretta High School, Margaretta Elementary School,

As the new school year begins, Margaretta Local Schools is welcoming 12 new teachers: (top L-R): Ryan Bohn, Chris Miller, Shawn Moses, Rock Farlow, Keven Wise, Karen Berg, Janet Skaggs, Amanda Reardon, (bottom L-R) Tranette Novak, Kristine Gray and Shannon Bramel.



(L-R) Mrs. Fran Warner is the Assistant Principal and Mrs. Lynn Hurd is the new Principal of Margaretta Elementary. The elementary office will continue to be supported by familiar faces including Ms. Pam Solze, Mrs. Bonnie Preston and Mrs. Ginny Simonis.

Guidance and Athletics. We are encouraging parents to sign up prior to the start of the year.

In addition, a new comprehensive district calendar will provide updated, detailed information on school events.

District, high school and elementary "News and Announcements" tabs on the home page will be updated daily.

District forms will be available to download and print. We are asking parents of all students in grades 1-12 to print out the "Annual Student Registration" packet prior to the start of the school year. This packet includes a registration update, the emergency medical authorization form and a general consent form.

Over the upcoming year, the website will steadily grow to provide easier access to more information. Keep checking back often to see progress updates.



Check out the Margareta Schools website at www.margareta.k12.oh.us for elementary homeroom lists, high school advisory units, registration packets and other district forms, handbooks, elementary supply lists, calendars and other news and announcements. The new website will be unveiled by the end of August.



Four Margareta band members, Stephanie Rankin, Jordan Haerr, Megan Miller and Brooke Sargent, participated in the All Ohio State Fair Band in Columbus. They began practicing on July 26th and learned close to 60 pieces of music. The band performed nearly 75 concerts before fair ended on August 9th. The band members also had an opportunity to perform at the Ohio State Capitol Building on July 29th.

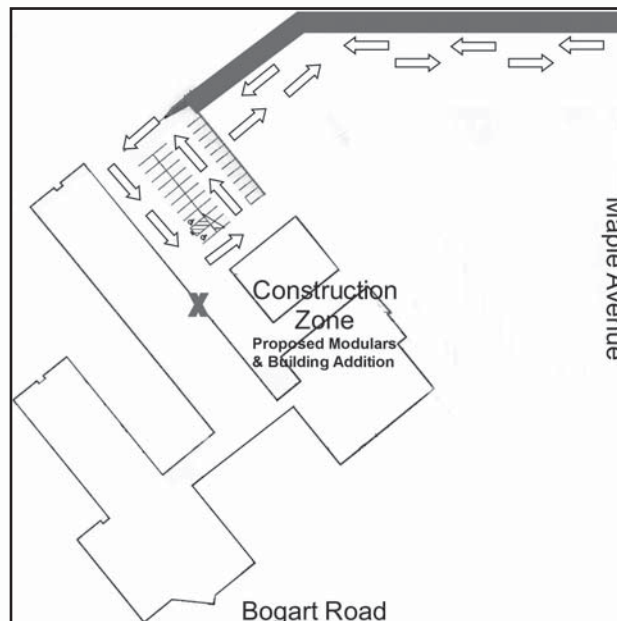
Margareta Elementary's Traffic Pattern

The temporary traffic pattern for dropping off and/or picking up elementary students will continue into this school year. Once construction is completed, we will communicate the new traffic pattern. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we make these changes for the safety of everyone during our construction phase.

During a.m. drop off, traffic will enter onto the gravel driveway located off Maple Avenue. You will enter and circle around the parking lot, allowing your student to get out and walk to the door, and then exit out the gravel driveway. The current paved driveway will be closed to all traffic except construction vehicles.

At p.m. pick up, traffic will also enter onto the gravel driveway. Approved adults picking up their child at 2:50 p.m. will need to park, then come to the side entrance. Please tell the staff member on duty your name and your child will be released. We will try to do this as smoothly as possible.

As a reminder, if a student is being picked up earlier than dismissal for medical or personal reasons, parents must call in or send notification to the office prior to 2:00 p.m. Likewise, if you have a change in plans and want your child picked up at 2:50 p.m., you must call the office before 2:00 p.m. or they will be required to ride the bus. Also, the bus loop, located off Bogart Road, is for bus traffic only from 7:30 - 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation!



High School VoAg teacher, Tim Niemeyer, served as the Grand Marshal during the Cold Creek Festival in July. Mr. Niemeyer will be retiring in December after 35 years of dedicated service to Margareta students and the school community.

Upcoming Events

August 22 - Bus Routes and homeroom/advisory lists posted on doors.

August 25 & 26 - HS Fee/Schedule night 6:00-8:00 p.m.

August 26 - 7th grade orientation 7:00 p.m.

September 10 - HS Open House

September 12 - HS Picture Day

September 19 - Grades K-3 Picture Day

September 22 - Grades 4-6 Picture Day

Check out our website for more information on upcoming events.

MARGARETTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Earned Income Tax on November Ballot

by Mr. Jude Hammond, Treasurer/Business Manager

During the August 18th Margaretta Board of Education meeting, the board decided to place an income tax levy on the November 4, 2008 ballot. The type of income tax that the voters will be deciding is an "earned" income tax. The tax would be levied on wages and business earnings only for those residing in the district. The earned income tax is not levied on retirement earnings or interest earnings of the taxpayer, nor is it levied on estates. The traditional income tax would be levied against all income with the exception being limited to Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Disability Retirement. Over 70% of those responding to the survey, from our last newsletter, preferred an earned income tax over a traditional income tax or property tax. The tax rate being proposed is 1%.

If approved, employers would be required to withhold the 1% of the gross earnings from taxpayer's paycheck beginning in January 2009. The withholding would then be sent to Columbus to be distributed to the school district on a quarterly basis. There would also be a withholding on those

individuals who make estimated state income tax payments on a quarterly basis. Once again the state would collect those tax receipts and distribute the school's share to the district on a quarterly basis.

Based upon the estimates from the State Tax Commissioner, the district can anticipate collecting approximately \$1.3 million annually once fully enacted. The income tax base for Margaretta Schools has grown on average just over 3% a year over the past five years. Unlike a voted property tax, the school income tax could grow as the amount of income subject to the tax grows. The tax revenue is also at risk of declining if the tax base declines, once again, unlike the voted property tax.

There are several school districts in the area that have already passed income tax initiatives including Fremont, Bellevue and Clyde-Green Springs. Is our community ready for this challenge? It is up to you as voters to determine the level of resources that will become available for the district to continue to provide a quality education system for our children.