MARION HIGH SWAMP FOXES

"Educate, Motivate, Inspire"

#BeLEGENDARY

Student Handbook 2026-2027

Marion High School 1205
South Main Street Marion, SC
29571

843-423-2571 (main office) 843-423-8330 (fax) 843-423-8357 (guidance)

Dr. Sam Tuten, Principal
Ms. Erica Williams, Assistant Principal
Mr. Scott Strainge, Assistant Principal

Notice of Non-Discrimination:

Marion County School District is committed to providing equal access to educational and employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy, age, sex (including gender identity), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or any other protected trait or characteristic, as may be required by law. As required by Title IX and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, Marion County School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities. Questions or concerns may be directed to the appropriate district coordinator at 843-423-1811: Title IX Coordinator: Stacy Wilbanks, Director of Human Resources; Title II Coordinator: JaMese Black, Chief Academic Officer; or Section 504 Coordinator: Tamara DiPaolo, MTSS Coordinator.

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Marion High School

1205 South Main Street • Marion, South Carolina 29571
Telephone: 843.423.2571 • Fax: 843.423.8330 www.marion.k12.sc.us

Dr. Sam Tuten, Principal

July 31, 2026

Principal's Message

The staff at Marion High School is excited about this school as our entire staff looks forward to working with you. Our goal is to create a safe, welcoming, positive, and engaging environment that **motivates**, **prepares**, and **inspires**. Marion High School welcomes your input and encourages your involvement in the high school experience. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns.

All the best,

Dr. Sam Tuten, Principal

#BeLEGENDARY_NextLevel

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Administrators
Dr. Sam Tuten, Principal
Ms. Erica Williams, Assistant Principal
Mr. Scott Strainge, Assistant Principal
Ms. McKenna Hopkins, Receptionist
Ms. Sierra Foxworth, PowerSchool/Attendance

Guidance
Mrs. Jayne Suchy, Consulting Counselor
Ms. Tanisha Tennie, Counselor
Ms. Kenosha Hyman, Career Development Facilitator
Ms. Donnie Watts, Guidance Assistant

Athletic Director
Mr. Darryl Kelly

Media Center
Mrs. Sherrie Bullard, Media Specialist

School Nurse
Mrs. Courtney Butler

Cafeteria Supervisor
Mrs. Tosha Crawford

School Resource Officer
Deputy Jason Warner

Staff	Room #
Principal-Sam Tuten	
AP-Scott Strainge	
AP-Erica Williams **SRO-Jason Warner**	
English	
Capahe, Myra	313
Mar Campbell	314
Gagum, Ja'Vontaye	304
Perkins, Audress	312
Woodberry, Tyrea	305
Math	
Elevate - McBride	202

Moreno, Helen	205
Agyei Boateng, Wiseborn	601
Avant, Breshonda - Geometry	201
Noronha, Sonia	603
Science	
Cooper, Sherry	214
Potluri, Guru Pyari	215
Lambert, Hal	105
Harris, Erikka	207
Bethea, Markesta (Elevate)	
Social Studies	
Cronell, Preston	302
Hyatt, Ann	303
Ngoma, Charlene	307
Ray, John	306
SPED	
Jipolan, Shelomie	145
Razique, Abdul	210
Briston, Alicia	604
Foreign Language	
Spanish- Baccous	
Business/CATE	
James, Travante	103
McClellan, Michele	100
Kelly, Daryll	312
Reavis, Jane	102
PE/JROTC	
Graves, Denton	GYM
State, Randall	GYM
Gasque, Jr.,SGM Jesse	500
Simmons, Tracy	500
Fine Arts	
Collins, Scott	605
Green, Johnathan	606
Electives	
Bennett, Shareen	102
Midgette, Sam	208
JAG	
Coss, Aykelle	204
Gee, Justice	301
ISS	

Bell, Milton	400
Interventionist/Academic Support	
Dozier, Melanie	
O'connor, Will	
District Athletic Director	
Kelly, Daryll	
Nurse (Front Office)	
Butler, Courtney	
Guidance (Front Office)	
Suchy, Jayne	
Tennie, Tanisha	
Watts, Donnie	
CDF	
Kenosha Hyman	
Media/Library	
Bullard, Sherrie	
Bookkeeper	
Harris, Javanique	
Receptionist	
Rush, McKenna	
PowerSchool	
Foxworth, Sierra	
C**ustodian**	
Jones, Pamela	
Tart, Alexander	
Perez, Marilyn	

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Marion High School is to educate all students to live and work effectively, responsibly, and productively within society.

Vision

The vision of Marion High School is to educate, prepare, and inspire.

Motto

#BeLEGENDARY

Note:
All students should know the lyrics and tune of the Alma Mater so that it can be sung in unison and with pride! Students are expected to demonstrate respect by standing during the singing of the Alma Mater and during the Pledge of Allegiance.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

We cannot see or touch school spirit. We hardly know how to define it, yet it is one of our most powerful forces in a school. This force can be positive or negative. Let's keep ours positive.

- It is doing our best in our academic responsibilities.
- It is school organization, where we give our very best.
- It is the Thrill of victories and the ACCEPTANCE of honorable defeat.
- It is the DETERMINATION to put honest effort into high school years.
- It is the COURTESY and consideration we show to our classmates, our teachers, and our visitors.
- It is YOU, our students, in the halls, on the campus, and around the city as you proudly back every worthy cause of the school and protect its good name.
- It is the most precious HERITAGE of the school.

WE ARE.....FOXES!

Marion High School Student- Parent-School Compact

Teacher /Principal Agreement. It is important that students achieve; therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- Believe that each student can learn;
- Come to school prepared to provide positive learning experiences;
- Use special activities in the classroom to make learning enjoyable;
- Provide appropriate/relevant homework assignments for students;
- Provide necessary assistance to parents so that they can help with assignments
- Encourage students and parents by providing information about student progress
- Provide a safe environment that allows for positive communication among teacher, parent, and student;
- Enforce school and classroom rules fairly and consistently;
- Maintain an open-door policy to be accessible to parents;
- Model Marion County School District's common core of values.

Parent/Guardian Agreement. I want my child to achieve to the best of his/her ability; therefore, I encourage him/her by doing the following:

- See that my child is punctual and attends school regularly;
- Support the school in its efforts to maintain proper discipline;
- Establish a time for homework and review it regularly;
- Provide a quiet, well-lighted place for study;
- Encourage my child's efforts and be available for questions;
- Remain aware of what my child is learning by staying in contact with the school;
- Provide a library card for my child;
- Let my child see me read and take an interest in what my child is reading;
- Communicate positive values and high expectations;
- Model the traits of honesty, trust, respect, responsibility, loyalty, and justice.

Student Agreement: It is important that I work to the best of my ability; therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- Attend school regularly;
- Come to school each day with pens, pencils, paper, and other necessary tools for learning;
- Complete and return homework assignments on time;
- Observe regular study hours;
- Conform to rules of the student discipline and code of conduct;
- Demonstrate the common core of human values of Marion School District One (honesty, trust, respect,
- responsibility, loyalty, and justice);
- Set high goals to myself and accept responsibility for my learning.

PROFILE OF THE

South Carolina Graduate

WORLD-CLASS KNOWLEDGE

Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness

Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences



WORLD-CLASS SKILLS

Creativity and innovation

Critical thinking and problem solving

Collaboration and teamwork

Communication, information, media and technology

Knowing how to learn

LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

Integrity • Self-direction • Global perspective • Perseverance • Work ethic • Interpersonal skills

© SCASA Superintendents' Roundtable

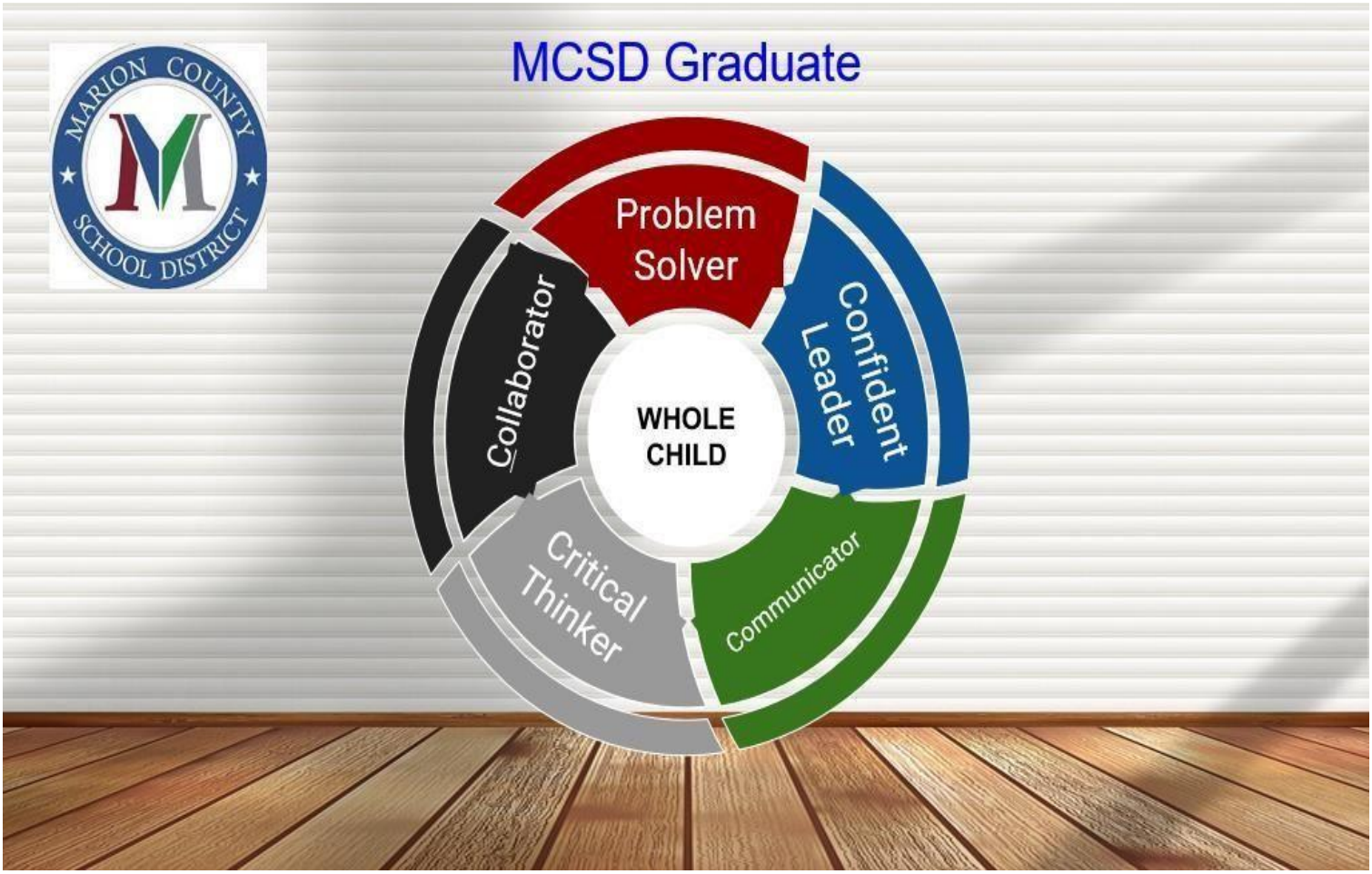
Adopted by: SC State Board of Education, SC Department of Education, SC Education Oversight Committee, SC Arts Alliance, SC Arts in Basic Curriculum Steering Committee, SCASCD, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Council on Competitiveness, SC School Boards Association, TransformSC Schools and Districts.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

Which door will open your future……..

Technical College, Four Year College, Military, or the Work Place?

The goal of Marion High School and Marion County School District is for EVERY student to graduate with the necessary skills to be competitive and successful in a global and ever-changing world.



We are…… Cultivating Excellence!

<u>Note</u>: Every individual entering the building or grounds of Marion High School is under constant video surveillance.

The District expects students to conduct themselves appropriately including, but not limited to, behaving with honesty, integrity, fairness, truthfulness, trustworthiness, and respect for the rights of others. They must know, understand, and follow District and school policies and rules. Ignorance of the provisions of policies and rules will not be acceptable as a defense in the event of an infraction by a student. The District recognizes that rules of student conduct and consequences for violations are necessary for the orderly operation of its schools. No disciplinary action shall be taken without all procedural rights being afforded to students and their parents as provided by Federal law, State law, S.C. Board of Education regulations, and the policies of the District.

Marion County School District rules, regulations, and procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities. The rules apply to any student:

1. Who is on school or District property
2. Who is in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity, whether on or off school grounds
3. Who is in route to and from school or a school-sponsored activity on a school bus or other District vehicle; or
4. Whose conduct at any time or in any place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in District schools

SCHOOL HOURS

The instructional day at Marion High School is **8:10 a.m. until 3:10 p.m.** Non-bus riders may begin arriving as early as 7:40 a.m. Breakfast is free to all students and will be served daily from 7:40 a.m.—8:00 a.m. Students may have breakfast **in the Commons Area and wait in the Gym.** They are **NOT permitted** to go back and forth between the two areas**!** At the conclusion of the day students will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m. Students are to arrive at school before the 8:10 bell. At 8:10 students are considered tardy. Consequences for arriving late will be enforced.

TARDY POLICY

The tardy policy at Marion High School has been established to minimize interruptions in the educational process in each classroom. When students are not on time, they miss valuable instruction. Teachers will address excessive tardiness using interventions and strategies outlined by district policy. Bus students that arrive after 8:05 must obtain a Late Bus Pass immediately after exiting the bus in order to be admitted to class.

Students who are tardy to school in the morning are to report to the office to receive a pass to class. Tardiness due to traffic, running out of gas, oversleeping, flat tires, etc., are NOT excused. During the school day, when the tardy bell rings, all students should be in their designated classroom for that period. Unexcused tardies are cumulative and will be recorded by the classroom teacher.

LUNCH AND AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION

Lunch and after-school detention may be assigned to students for violating classroom rules or other violations of the Code of Conduct as a consequence in lieu of an office referral. Students will be given a minimum of one day's notice of after-school detention so that parents can be informed. Students must be on time, have their materials, and stay the entire time assigned to receive credit. Students who receive lunch detention will be given the opportunity to eat during that time.

CHARACTER COACHING (CC)

Character Coaching is a consequence used to avoid Out of School Suspension (OSS). Students who are assigned to Character Coaching are to follow the rules and procedures as indicated by the Character Coaching coordinator. They are to complete assignments submitted by teachers and/or those assigned by the coordinator and are expected to bring laptops and chargers. Lunch will be consumed in the Character Coaching room. Students who refuse to comply with the rules of Character Coaching will be required to be picked up by a parent and will receive Out of School Suspension.

CODE OF CONDUCT

An electronic version of the can be found on Marion County School Districts web page. Parents may request a hardy copy from the school.

Dress Code:

Dress Code (Grades 6 – 12):

- Bedroom shoes, shower shoes & flip-flops (defined as any flat-bottomed shoe without a heel strap) are not allowed.
- Pants must be worn at the waist. If necessary, a belt should be worn to keep the waist at an appropriate level. Long pants should be worn with both pant legs rolled down.
- Straps on overalls must be fastened and worn on the shoulder.
- No one should wear anything (t-shirt, logo, jewelry, etc.) that has slogans which offend gender, ethnicity, sexuality or religion, or promote drugs, alcohol or violence.
- Caps, hats or other headgear, including coat hoods, do-rags, sweatbands & bandanas, will not be worn in the building.
- Only prescribed sunglasses may be worn in the building.

- No brief or revealing clothing such as tank tops, halter-tops, muscle shirts, garments with spaghetti straps or straps less than 2 inches in width, strapless garments, see-through or low-cut garments may be worn. Undergarments must not be visible.
- Athletic attire, including cheerleading, swimming, basketball and other sports uniforms that do not comply with this policy, may only be worn by participants during scheduled practices and events.
- Tops should not expose the midriff when arms are raised.
- Shorts, dresses, skirts and shorts must be worn 2 inches above the knee or longer.
- See-through tops, fishnet tops and muscle shirts must be worn over another shirt.
- Leggings/jeggings may only be worn if covered by a top that meets the length requirements for dresses, skirts and shorts.
- No pajamas may be worn or any other bedroom or lounging attire, including blankets.

Extreme clothing or accessories that interfere with the learning process, cause a disruption of the educational environment, or are considered to be a health or safety hazard are prohibited. Interpretation of dress code can be determined at the discretion of the school-building administrator.

OTHER CONSEQUENCES FOR CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENSES

Students may be subject to additional consequences not stated in the Code of Conduct. Many clubs and organizations do not accept students with discipline records. Students with a discipline record may be excluded from participating in school activities such as pep rallies, field trips, etc.

Student Attendance:

Students are expected to participate fully in their chosen educational model. Attendance will be taken each day of instruction no matter the mode of instruction (in-person or virtual). All state truancy guidelines will be followed to include: parent letter, truancy meetings (virtual or in person), and truancy hearings. Further guidelines will be provided to parents once received from the State Department of Education.

Student Conduct:

Classroom teaching methods and expectations for behavior in other shared spaces such as restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and buses will be altered during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff. Students will be given reasonable opportunities to correct minor infractions, but behavior that puts others at risk or creates ongoing disrupting of other students' opportunity to learn is not acceptable.

Digital Citizenship:

Proper behavior, as it relates to the use of technology, is no different than proper behavior in all other aspects of district activities. All users are expected to use the district technology resources in a legal, responsible, ethical, and polite manner. The digital citizenship guidelines are intended to clarify those expectations as they apply to computer and network usage and are consistent with MCSD Board Policy: JICJ - Electronic and Wireless Device.

A student who knowingly violates any portion of the digital citizenship expectations will be subject to suspension of access and/or revocation of privileges on the district's system and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with MCSD Code of Conduct. Students will practice responsible use of digital information regarding intellectual property, including complying with software licenses, copyright laws, and all other state and federal laws governing intellectual property.

Students will practice safe and appropriate online behavior including using professional etiquette while communicating online.

- Improper use of district technology resources is prohibited including, but not limited to:
- using racist, profane, pornographic, sexually oriented, or obscene language or materials
- attempting to send or sending anonymous messages of any kind
- using the network to access inappropriate and/or harmful materials
- bypassing the district's security measures to access sites that are filtered on the district network
- encrypting communications so as to avoid security review or monitoring by the system administrator
- using the network to provide addresses or other personal information that others may use inappropriately
- purposely engaging in activity that may harass, threaten, defame, slander, libel, malign, or abuse another (individual or group)
- forgery or attempted forgery of electronic messages; attempts to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other system users or deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail
- using the network for illegal purposes, in support of illegal activities, or for any other activity prohibited by district policy or guidelines

- Students will use the technology resources in a positive and responsible manner that promotes creativity, innovation, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving. Improper use of the district's technology resources is prohibited including, but not limited to:
  ➢ using the network for political activity, financial gain, or commercial activity
- attempting to harm or harming equipment, materials, or data
- changing any computer configurations and/or settings
- installing software, including freeware and file sharing services, without permission from the director of technology or his/her designee
- streaming media, such as radio, games, video, etc., for non-educational purposes
- proxy sites - bypassing or attempting to bypass the filtering device by using sites such as, but not limited to, proxy sites on the district's electronic communications system
- running security programs or utilities that reveal or exploit weaknesses in the security of a system such as password cracking programs, packet sniffers, or port scanners or any other nonapproved programs on district technology resources
- otherwise engaging in acts against the aims and purposes of the district as specified in its governing documents or in rules, regulations, and procedures adopted from time to time

Students will understand the negative impact of inappropriate technology use including online bullying and harassment, hacking, intentional virus setting, invasion of privacy, and piracy of materials such as software, music, video, and other media.

Students will log in to the district network and learning management systems using their own login credentials. Account information and passwords, or similar information used for identification and authorization purposes, must be kept private. Passwords should not be written down and left in a

location others may find it. The individual in whose name a system account is issued will be responsible at all times for its proper use. Students will use technology resources cautiously to prevent damage.

Academic Integrity Code:

All students enrolled in MCSD schools are held to a high standard. Any dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, and/or providing false information is grounds for disciplinary action by the teacher or school administrator.

The following acts are considered dishonest and a violation of the Academic Integrity Code:

- Plagiarism – using other people's work, ideas, or information without giving credit to the source.
- Work submission through another student's password – any assignments or projects posed while using another student's username and password is considered cheating.
- Cheating – using unauthorized material including outside materials or study aides for work completion. Copying another person's work and using it as your own is considered cheating.
- Performing work or taking a test for another student. False information or made up data – submission is considered misleading and dishonest.

Marion County School District does not discriminate on the basis of color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, marital status, or veteran status. We reaffirm:

Our Purpose: To educate, prepare and inspire students to be productive citizens in a changing global society.

Our Direction: Preparing all students to live and work effectively, responsibly and productively within our society.

Our Beliefs:

- All students can become productive members of society.
- Education is a partnership among students, families, schools and community.
- Our children are at the center of all decision-making.
- Education should prepare students to succeed academically and socially so they can compete for quality jobs and become productive members of society.
- Each person has intrinsic value and worth and is a unique individual with different needs and abilities.

CELL PHONES, PAGING DEVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Personal electronic devices are defined as any portable electronic and/or telecommunications device (including cellular telephones, MP3 players, Smartphones, Smartwatches, iPods, iPads, tablets, etc…) that emits an audible or visual signal of any kind for any reason such as playing music, showing videos or alerting the user to a call, e-mail or text message; vibrates; displays any message; or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor, accesses the Internet or WiFi signal or engages the user in social networking.

A student may not display a personal electronic device for use in school. The device must be out of sight and turned off so that no signal can be emitted from it, whether visible, auditory or vibratory during school hours.

Cell phones or electronic devices may NOT be **used during the school day.** See cell phone policy.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES

1) The purpose is to provide a system to channel student complaints concerning the following:

   A) Complaints against faculty and staff

   B) Discrimination

   C) Sexual harassment

   D) Academic matters

2) Although the board will not deny a member of the community the opportunity to petition the board for redress of a grievance, the board will refer all complaints back through the proper administrative channels for solution before investigation or action by the board. The board will make exceptions to this rule when the complaints concern board actions or board operations only.

   The board advises the public that the proper channeling of complaints is as follows:

   1) Teacher

   2) Principal

   3) Superintendent

   4) School Board

Note:
The administration will investigate any complaint prior to consideration and action by the board.

GRIEVANCES PROCESS

1) A written notice of the complaint is to be submitted to the administration
2) An investigation will be conducted by administration
3) Administration renders a decision on the grievance complaint.

OFF LIMITS AREAS

A. Students are not allowed to enter the parking lot during the school day without permission from an administrator. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action. This policy is issued to insure the safety of students and to discourage vandalism and/or theft.
B. Students are not allowed in the gymnasium, hallways, or locker rooms at any time except during assigned class time and extra-curricular practice time. This includes lunchtime, before and after school.
C. During lunch, students are only permitted in the cafeteria/commons area and Media Center.

****The faculty workroom, faculty restrooms, and teachers' lounge are always off-limits to students.***

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Glass bottles, tumblers, cigarette lighters, vapes, tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, laser pointers, skateboards, water guns, yoyos, external speakers, bandanas (regardless of color), and weapons of any kind are prohibited at Marion High School. If detected, items will be confiscated. Violators are subject to disciplinary action from the school administration as well as law enforcement if warranted**. ** NO OUTSIDE DELIVERIES. ****

Cafeteria Food

Cafeteria food is to be consumed in the Commons area, not outside, in the hallways or classrooms.

Note: Students may have purchased bottles of water in the classroom. They are NOT allowed any other drinks or to bring mugs, coffee cups, or tumblers.

ASSEMBLIES

1. Student will be directed as to where they are to sit in the gymnasium: class assignments are marked.
2. Students are to remain quiet and attentive during all programs.
3. A courteous reception should be extended to everyone, regardless of the type of program.
4. Students are to remain in their places until they have been dismissed by the person in charge of the assembly, the principal, or her designee.
5. Whistling, booing, talking, or other acts of discourtesy show lack of maturity, respect, and consideration. They also reflect upon the good name of the school and reputation of the entire student body. Violators will be disciplined.
6. Class yells are prohibited except during special pep rally assemblies.
7. At pep rallies, all students are urged to enter into and help with school spirit by participation in school yells, etc. Again, however, whistling, booing, or any other acts of ill manners have no place in the program.
8. Students will be held accountable for inappropriate behavior at assemblies.

IMMUNIZATION

South Carolina law requires that students be immunized against diphtheria, Hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). It is required that each student have on file a certificate of immunization showing that he/she has been adequately immunized against these diseases. From DHEC 1125E (Revised 92) completed by a private physician or Health Department will meet the requirements of an adequate certificate of immunization. Students will not be permitted to attend school without proper immunization.

ILLNESS AND INJURY

In the event of illness or injury, Marion High School will follow procedures for the proper handling of such emergencies. The school nurse or another trained person will be responsible for administering first aid. The school will notify the student's parent/legal guardian of the student's illness or injury. The school will request that the parent/legal guardian make appropriate arrangements for the student's care. If the school cannot contact the parent/legal guardian immediately when a very serious accident occurs or when a child becomes alarmingly ill, the school will summon medical services or an ambulance to take the child to the appropriate medical facility. Marion High School will notify the parent/legal guardian as soon as possible. Marion High School will administer first aid/emergency care and the routine delivery of health services to students according to the procedures specified in the Health Services Procedures Manual.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Students who need medication at school must have the necessary information as required by district policy and the school nurse. **All medications are to be kept in the nurse's office, not with the student (exceptions may apply with approval).** Please contact the school nurse for more information. The school district retains the discretion to reject requests for administration of medicine.

MEDICAL HOMEBOUND

Medical homebound instruction is provided for students with and without disabilities who cannot attend school for a medical reason – a mental or physical condition that exists due to an accident, an illness, or pregnancy – even when transportation is furnished. The goal of homebound instruction is to provide continuity of instruction and to facilitate the student's return to a regular school setting as quickly as possible.

To be eligible for homebound services, a student must currently be enrolled in Marion County Schools, be at least five (5) years of age and less than 21 years of age by September 1 of the current school year. A licensed physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school for a medical reason even when transportation is furnished, but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital. Upon receipt of the completed Medical Homebound Form, the Superintendent of Marion County Schools will review the form for approval. This is done through a designee, the Director of Federal Programs.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency drills and procedures are held at irregular intervals throughout the school year**!**
Note: Cell phones are not to be used during emergency procedures as they may interfere with devices and/or signals**.**

BASIC RULES FOR FIRE:

1. Check the instructions posted in each classroom showing how to leave the building.
2. Walk without talking. Move quickly and quietly to designated area.

3. Take any personal valuables with you. Books should be left in the room.
4. Do not wait for others to join you. Do not re-enter the building until you have been instructed to do so. Keep 500 feet from the building. Do not block roadways.
5. Stay with your group or class.

BASIC RULES FOR TORNADO:

1. Get instructions from your teacher on where to go in case of a tornado.
2. Move quickly and quietly to designated area
3. Assume the correct position when in the hallways or classrooms.
4. Stay with your group or class.

BASIC RULES FOR EVACUATION:

1. Check instructions posted in each classroom showing how to leave the building.
2. Walk without talking. Move quickly and quietly to designated area.
3. Take all belongings with you including books and bags.
4. Do not wait for others to join you. Do no re-enter the building until you have been instructed to do so. Keep 500 feet from the building. Do not block roadways.
5. Stay with your group or class.

BASIC RULES FOR INTRUDER:

1. Teachers are to lock doors.
2. Get instructions from your teacher on where to go in case of an intruder.
3. No one is to answer the door for any reason.
4. Stay with your class or group.

Note: STUDNETS ARE REMINDED TO TAKE **ALL** EMERGENCY NOTICES SERIOUSLY

VISITORS

Students are not allowed to bring or have visitors at school. Parents are welcome but are encouraged to make an appointment. Visitors on campus who do not check in at the main office will be considered as trespassing. The administration is empowered to take appropriate action against nonstudents who invade the building, grounds, or other school property. Such action includes the right to call the police authorities and swear out warrants.

STUDENT SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

STATE STATUTES

1. 59-63-1110 Consent to search person or his effects.

Any person entering the premises of any school in this State shall be deemed to have consented to a reasonable search of his person and effects.

2. 59 – 63 – 1120 Searches by school administrators or officials with or without probable cause. School administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses, book bags, wallets, and satchels with or without probable cause.

3. 59 – 63 – 1130 Searches by principals or their designees.
School principals or their designees may conduct reasonable searches of the person and property of visitors on school premises.

Students and their belongings are subject to reasonable searches and seizures when administrators have a belief considered to be reasonable under these circumstances:

- A student committed a crime or a violation of a school rule.
- Such a search will reveal contraband or evidence of a violation of a school rule or a criminal law.

Any search conducted must be reasonable in scope given the age and sex of the student and the nature of the alleged infraction. Only the principal or his/her designee may conduct such searches within the constitutional parameters outlined above unless exigent circumstances exist which require another staff member to take immediate action for safety reasons.

Teachers and principals may question students about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or enforcement of its rules. The staff member will conduct the questioning discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the person being questioned. Any student who answers falsely or evasively or who refuses to answer a proper question may be disciplined.

Note:
Weapons detectors and detector wands will be utilized throughout the school year as students enter the school building and possibly throughout the school day.

CONTACT INFORMATION

It is imperative that each student's address, telephone number listed in PowerSchool, and emergency contact information is correct. When it is necessary to communicate with parents, guardians, and/or students either in writing or by phone, the school needs to be able to make contact.

EARLY SIGN OUT FOR STUDENTS

Parents are asked to make every effort possible to schedule medical appointments outside of school hours. The principal will authorize early or otherwise irregular dismissal only when it is requested in person or in writing by the student's parent/legal guardian. The parent/legal guardian must request all nonemergency early dismissals, in writing, prior to the time of the requested dismissal.

Students and parents are asked to follow these procedures for checking out of school. They are to:

1) Bring a note to Mrs. Rush with a contact number before school starts. The note must be approved by the principal and given to the teacher.

2) Go by the office and sign-out on the sign-out sheet at the time of departure. Students that leave school without signing out will be considered cutting school/leaving without permission. Furthermore, any student that leaves with a vehicle may lose their parking tag.

Note: Students that sign-out will not be allowed to come back to school without a doctor's excuse. The school nurse can contact parents, but the student must sign-out through the main office to leave early.

Students (regardless of age) may not sign out unless a parent has been contacted by office personnel or administration.

If you must be out of town for an extended period of time, please contact the school before you leave town and notify us of the person(s) who will be responsible for the student and send a written note so stating. Otherwise, request(s) may be denied during this time.

MAKE-UP WORK

Teachers will permit students to make-up work missed during an absence. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher. The student should complete the work within 5 days after his/her return to school.

CONTENT and SEAT TIME RECOVERY

In an effort to help students be successful in their course work, Content Recovery, Credit Recovery, and Seat Time Recovery will be available. Dates, times and criteria will be provided to students.

FAILURE FOR ATTENDANCE

Students will not receive credit for classes regardless of the grade if they exceed the allowable number of absences. Students will receive an FA or Failure for Attendance

State of SC requires

- No more than 3 absences—quarter class
- No more than 5 absences—semester class

ATTENDANCE

An absent student is one who misses 80 minutes of a 90 minutes block. Each block is independent of the other. Marion County School District expects children to attend school every day and on time. Regular attendance is necessary if students are to make the desired and expected academic and social progress.

Any student who misses school beyond the allotted number of days must present a written excuse, signed by a licensed health care practitioner. Excuses must be presented within three days of the students return to school. Any written excuses submitted after three days will be marked as received, but the absence will not be recorded as excused. The reason and the date of the absence should be stated. The school administration will keep all excuses confidential. If a student fails to bring a valid excuse to school, he/she will automatically receive an unexcused absence.

The semester consists of 90 school days. In order to receive credit for a high school course, a student must attend at least 85 days (for a 90-day semester course) or 42 days (for a 45-day quarter course). To be counted present for any period, a student must be present for 80 minutes of the 90 minute instructional period.

The Board grants approval of additional/excessive absences in accordance with Board policy as follows:

- Students in grades 1-12, who are not present the required number of days set forth above must have a written excuse from a licensed certified health practitioner for those days in excess of the standards set forth above. However, the number of additional absences with written medical excuses must not exceed six days for a full-unit course and three days for a half-unit course.

- Students who exceed the allowable absence limit will not be promoted unless the student has been enrolled in the district's medical homebound instruction program.

PARKING LOT RULES

Students are provided a parking space with the purchase of a decal. Each vehicle in the parking lot must display a valid parking tag. Students are required to present a valid drivers' license before they can receive a parking pass for Marion High School. Entertainment systems should be turned off upon entering campus.

NOTE: Students who drive to school are expected to be on campus and parked by 8:00 a.m. The gate will be locked after the tardy bell. After the 3rd documented tardy, students may lose their driving privileges for 10 days; after the 4th tardy 20 days; after the 5th tardy driving privileges will be lost for the remainder of the semester.

General rules for the parking lot are as follows:

1) A speed limit of 5 m.p.h. is in effect
2) Students are to leave parked vehicles when they arrive at school.
3) Students may not return to vehicles during the school day without proper authorization from an administrator.
4) Students should not congregate around parked vehicles. Areas are provided for student congregation.
5) Violation of regulations concerning the parking lot will result in the loss of parking privileges.
6) Students are not to park in faculty or visitor parking spaces.
7) Automobiles illegally parked will be towed at the owner's expense.
8) Use of parking space by anyone other than the person who purchased the parking space must be approved. Failure to do so may result in loss of parking privileges. Students who drive to ACT are required to have a permission form *signed by the parent at Marion High School*. Copies are forwarded to ACT. Drivers must possess and have with them daily a Marion High School ID card and parking permit. Marion High School and ACT parking guidelines apply and violations will result in loss of privileges. **Only One Student** is permitted to ride with a driver to MCTEC provided he/she has written permission from their parents/guardian. Written permission is also needed from the student driver's parents/guardian.

CAR RIDER LOADING/UNLOADING

Students who are car riders are to be dropped off and picked up at the canopy. They will enter and exit through the side door. For student safety there will be one lane of traffic. Car riders are **not** to be dropped off or picked up in the faculty, bus, or student parking lots. These areas are off limits for safety reasons; if cars load/unload in these areas and an accident occurs, the driver of the car will assume total responsibility and may be reported to the Marion Police Department. Students waiting to be picked up after school should wait in the car riders' pick-up area, not at the front entrance, which is off-limits before, during and after school.

BUS CONDUCT

Bus Expectations for All Students

At the Bus Stop:

- Arrive at the assigned stop before the scheduled bus pick-up
- Be respectful and aware of traffic
- Wait in a quiet and orderly manner, in a safe place, clear of traffic & away from where the bus stops
- Stay off of private property

When the Bus Arrives:

- Allow the bus to come to a complete stop
- When boarding, wait until the bus has stopped with warning lights flashing & all traffic has come to a stop

- When crossing the street is necessary, cross in front of the bus only
- Board the bus in single file, quietly and in an orderly manner

On the Bus:

- Follow the instructions of the bus personnel
- Be respectful of all people, including all bus personnel
- Talk quietly and politely; using language appropriate for the school setting
- Keep the bus neat and clean
- Do not eat or drink
- Sit in assigned seat if applicable and remain in seat while the bus is moving

Exiting the Bus:

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Exit at your assigned bus stop in an orderly manner
- Cross in front of the bus only

Note: Students who receive a bus suspension may not ride in a District School or Activity Bus. This includes transportation to and from the Academy for Careers and Technology.

Serious disruptive behavior may result in bus suspension for the remainder of the year

FIELD TRIPS and ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

All school rules and regulations apply to students on school-related trips. Additionally, students with failing grades will not be allowed to participate. Students will be required to complete a grade verification form to the teacher sponsoring the trip, event, or activity prior to the scheduled trip. Students must have their school ID to participate in field trips.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Board of Trustees recognizes the role of a well-rounded program of student activities in the achievement of the district's objectives for the intellectual, personal, social and physical development of each student. The purpose of the student activities program at Marion High School is to provide students the following opportunities:

- to enhance leadership and citizenship qualities
- to get involved with their school
- to make a difference in their school and life in general
- to pursue personal interests
- to work with others
- to make new friends
- to develop hope, trust, and sharing skills
- to have fun

Student activity programs such as athletics, student government, student service/academic clubs, academic team, cheerleading, drill team, band, and chorus all contribute to the development of the district's students and are sanctioned by the Board. Such activities shall at all times be properly

supervised by a designated member of the professional staff under the direction of the school principal in accordance with school and district policies and regulations.

Student participation in any program of student activities shall not be restricted on the basis of race, sex national origin or handicapping condition. Students or staff may make suggestions to the Board for any new organization or activity they wish to have included in the student activity program through their principal and the district superintendent. The Board will carefully consider all such requests; however, the Board reserves the right to accept, reject, or modify any such suggestions. Students shall not be permitted to participate in fund-raising projects without the express permission of the school principal.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

It is the policy of Marion High School, when considering students to represent the school at special events, programs, and the awarding of honors, to consider the students' total contributions to the school. Consideration will be given to academic achievement, cooperation with the administration and staff, support of the school's program, and service to the school.
Students elected to positions in the student council and other positions which represent the students or school that violate or disregard this policy will be given the choice of resigning or being relieved from office after a conference with the administration concerning such events.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Board of Trustees desires to encourage student participation in an appropriate range of student activities in order to provide leadership experience and an opportunity for training in the democratic process. Student government organizations are an appropriate vehicle to achieve this goal and are authorized at Marion High School. The opportunity to participate in student government organizations shall not be restricted on the basis of race, sex, national origin, or handicapping condition. Such government shall not have the authority to set policy or make regulation for the district or school. Nor shall such organization have any disciplinary authority with the sole exception of recommending the removal from the government of one of their members for cause. Representatives of student government may make recommendations to the school principal on any topic of student concern. Student government representatives may communicate concerns to the Board by first making a request to the principal of their school. The principal shall forward the request with his/her recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent will confer with the Chairman of the Board as to whether the matter should be placed on the board agenda.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The Student Government Association Student Body Council will consist of the following officers from the senior class:
1) President 2) Vice-President 3) Secretary

Each class will elect the following to provide leadership for the business of the class:
1) President 2) Vice-President 3) Secretary 4) Five representatives elected from each grade

These candidates will run on the regular elections' ballots.

QUALIFICATIONS

In an effort to promote character and leadership in student government, a student must have the following qualifications in order to be a candidate for election:

1) The student must have at least an overall C average in his/her academic work.
2) The student may not have incurred any of the following discipline offenses in the year before candidacy which resulted in more than one full school day of ISS or OSS:

a. All Level I offenses with the exception of 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6
b. All Level II and Level III offenses

STUDENT ELECTION PROCEDURES

Students must apply for candidacy within the designated timeline.

Students may only run for one Student Government Association office. They are not allowed to run for different Student Government Association offices at the same time during the election process. Campaign posters may be used by students prior to an election. Candidates are responsible for putting up posters and their removal within 48 hours of the election. Candidates may not remove another candidate's poster(s). Candidates must make a two-minute speech stating their qualifications and their reasons for seeking the office, if the facility and administration allows for the speeches. This speech must be in writing and approved by the school principal prior to its presentation.

Election ballots will be provided by the Student Government Association advisor, and voting will take place by paper or electronic ballot in a designated area.

A student may cast only one vote in each election. The candidate receiving the majority will be declared the winner. In the event that a candidate does not receive a majority vote, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes. *Additional information may be found in the SGA By-Laws

HOMECOMING QUEEN GUIDELINES

The Marion High School Student Government Association is authorized to conduct homecoming activities to include sponsorship of an annual parade and the selection of a homecoming queen. The selection of a homecoming queen will be conducted as provided below:

1) Each eligible senior participant in the football program (player, manager, and statistician) may sponsor a Marion High senior student to participate in the homecoming program.

2) In order to qualify for nomination as a homecoming queen candidate, a student must have an overall passing average, have no OSS (Out of School Suspensions) within the current school year and display character which reflects the common core of human values.

3) The Homecoming Queen and Class queens, once elected, will become members of the Student Government Association and have the same qualification requirements and must adhere to the meeting attendance policy.

The candidates' names will be placed on a ballot in alphabetical order; voting will be done in a designated area. A student may cast only one vote in this election. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast will be declared the homecoming queen. The results of the election will be announced at the end of the half-time ceremonies at the homecoming game. In the event that the elected homecoming queen is no longer enrolled at Marion High School or cannot carry out her reign, the first runner-up will assume the duties of homecoming queen.

GUIDANCE COUNSELING SERVICES

Marion County Schools offer comprehensive K-12 developmental guidance services. These services promote intellectual, personal, social, physical, and civic development. Counselors provide confidential services; however, if a student makes a statement that indicates harm to self, to others, or a violation of law, it must be reported. Students wishing to visit a counselor should report to the guidance office between the hours of 7:40 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday to arrange an appointment. Students may come before school, after school, during lunch, or at any time in case of an emergency. Students must have a pass from a teacher or an administrator to see a counselor during class.

School Counselor Caseloads

Dr. Jayne Suchy (9th & 12th)

Ms. Tanisha Tennie (10th & 11th)

GRADE ASSIGNMENTS

12th Grade – Students in a 12th grade must have a minimum of 16 units and be enrolled in all units required for graduation.

11th Grade – Students in 11th grade must have a minimum of 12 units including English I and II and two Math units.

10th Grade – Students in 10th grade must have a minimum of 6 units including English I and one Math unit.

9th Grade – Students in 9th grade will be students with less than 6 units or 6 units without one required English and one required Math

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

It shall be the policy of Marion County School District to recognize exemplary academic achievement of students. The school district administration is authorized to develop an appropriate program of academic recognition to include such features as Student Honor Rolls, Junior Class Marshals, Graduating Class Salutatorian and Valedictorian, National Beta Club, Diploma of Excellence, and other distinctions as deemed appropriate by the administration and staff of the district. All honors and awards shall be selected based upon clear, written criteria approved by the building principal and available to students, staff and parents upon request. Consideration for any academic recognition shall be made without regard to race, sex, national origin, or handicapping condition.

NATIONAL BETA CLUB

The classes from which members will be drawn will be grades 10, 11, and 12. Scholastic requirements for membership shall be a cumulative high school average of 90 or better, and rank in the top 15% of the class. A course average below 60 during the current school year will not be accepted. There may be no documentation of cheating; a member must earn 20 service hours per semester or 40 service hours per year to remain in the club.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

To participate in athletics, students in grades 9-12 must meet the guidelines set forth by the South Carolina High School League.

GRADING SCALE

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70– 79
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

District Exam Exemption Policy

Semester course
Students must have a 90 average **AND** no more than 4 absences **PRIOR** to the day of the exam.

Quarter course
Students must have a 90 average **AND** no more than 2 absences **PRIOR** to the day of the exam.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

Interim report pick-up and parent conferences will be held quarterly. Report cards are sent home with students as scheduled. If a conference is necessary or requested, please contact the school at 423-2571. Appointments can be scheduled before school, after school, or during the teacher's planning period.

CHEATING

Students are not to represent as theirs any work which they have not done alone. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, misuse of online information, copying homework, allowing another student to copy work, and cheating on tests. Verified cheating will result in a grade of zero and the possibility of an office referral. Students are to tell the truth when dealing with faculty, administrators, or staff. Violations will result in disciplinary action.

DUAL CREDIT

Dual credit courses are defined as those courses for which the student may simultaneously receive a Carnegie Unit as well as college credit. Courses are offered through Florence Darlington Technical College and Francis Marion University. To enroll in these classes, students must meet minimum requirements determined by the college or university. See your counselor for a list of approved dual credit courses and procedures.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Marion High School will recognize exemplary academic performance by students through the use of Honor Rolls. Extremely high academic performers are appropriately recognized by inclusion in honors or accelerated classes and with honors at awards day ceremonies. The use of the honor roll is designed to encourage all students to achieve to their fullest academic potential. There are to be two categories of honor rolls based upon student grades at the end of each grading period. They are **A** Honor Roll (all A's) and **AB** Honor Roll (all A's and B's). There shall be no averaging of subject grades to determine honor rolls. Any subject that is graded A through F on the report card will be considered in the determination of the honor roll. Students who receive all A's for an entire school year will receive special recognition at Awards Day.

PBIS REWARD AND INCENTIVES

- NO Discipline Referrals
- 9 Weeks and/or Semester Honor Roll
- Passing EOC Exams

ACADEMIC HONORS AWARD

- For a student to receive an Academic Achievement Honors Award, the student must (1) complete twenty-four units of credit as prescribed; (2) meet the standard on all subtests of the HSAP Examination; (3) receive a minimum grade of "B" for each semester in grades 9-12 through the seventh semester; and (4) achieve either a score of 710 on the SAT verbal or a score of 690 on the SAT math, or an ACT score of 30 on English or 33 on mathematics—OR (1) Each student shall have completed twenty-four units of high school credit; (2) be eligible for graduation with a state high school diploma; (3) have a combined score of 1400 on the SAT verbal and math sections, or an ACT composite score of 31. Of the 24 units earned, 18 units must be college preparatory coursework, four units in additional electives, and 2 units in one or more of the following: English, science, social studies, or math.

- Marion High School Diploma of Excellence – The Marion High School Diploma of Excellence is designed to encourage students to strive for more than the minimum requirements to complete high school. The requirements are: minimum 29 units, a minimum of 4 science units, and overall GPA of B with no individual course average of less than C. EXCEPTION: Any behavior that results in expulsion during the four-year period in high school prohibits a student from being considered for the Diploma of Excellence.

- College preparatory coursework includes: English (English 1 or above, four units); Mathematics (Algebra 1 or above, four units); laboratory science (three units); social studies (United States/South Carolina studies, Economics/Government, and one unit of global studies/world history global studies/world geography, or western civilization, three units); computer science (one unit); physical education (one unit); and foreign language (two units).

- Junior Marshals—(Grade 11)—Junior Marshals will be selected on the basis of weighted class rank using the grades from all courses taken since entering the ninth grade (five semesters). The top 10 percent of juniors will be selected to participate in graduation activities. The junior student with the highest weighted class rank will be designated as head marshal. A student must have been enrolled in the same Marion County High School during the last two semesters to be eligible for selection as a Junior Marshal.

- Salutatorian—(Grade 12)—The graduating senior with the second highest weighted class rank at the end of their senior year will be designated as the Class Salutatorian. A student must have been enrolled in the same Marion County High School during the last **two** semesters to be eligible for selection as Class Salutatorian. When two or more students have identical weighted grade averages, multiple awards will be made.

- Valedictorian—(Grade 12)—The graduating senior with the highest weighted class rank at the end of their senior year will be designated as the Class Valedictorian. A student must have been enrolled in the same Marion County High School during the last **two** semesters to be eligible for selection as Class Valedictorian. If a tie exists, co-valedictorians will be named and the other position will be left vacant.

- Honors Reception—The Honors Committee sponsors a reception each spring to recognize student achievement. In order to qualify as an honoree, the student must meet the following qualifications: top 10% of his/her class, no first nine weeks, second nine weeks, or first semester grade lower than a B, and level 2 offense of the code of conduct.

PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT IS THE PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP?

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is a merit-based program established in 1988 and is administered by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. The annual award amount for the freshman year is up to $6,700. The award amount for the sophomore, junior and senior years is up to $7,500 per year. Half of the Scholarship is awarded in the fall term and half in the spring

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1) In order to be eligible to apply for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, a high school senior must also meet all of the following general eligibility requirements: 1) Be enrolled in an approved SC public or private high school, an approved SC home school program of study or a preparatory high school located outside the State while a dependent of a legal resident of South Carolina;
2) Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation ***and*** be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;
3) Be seriously considering attending, have applied, or have been accepted for admission to an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina;
4) Certify that he/she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit to the college financial aid office; and
5) Cannot be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance in the same academic year.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

FOR EARLY AWARDS the guidance counselor/school representative must submit the application and required documentation to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by early **December.** If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday (students cannot use the Early Awards criteria to be eligible for the Late Awards). Students are eligible to apply if they meet one of the following sets of academic requirements:

1. Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT)1 by the November national test administration, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (SC UGP) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year. There is also a second deadline in June for students that rank in the top 6 percent at the end of their10th, 11th or 12th grade year. Students have until the June administration of the SAT and ACT to earn the necessary score needed for the late deadline for Palmetto Fellow.

OR

2. Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) 1 by the November national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA2 on the SC UGP at the end of the junior year.

FOR LATE AWARDS, the guidance counselor/school representative must submit the application and required documentation to the CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by early **June**. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday. High school seniors are eligible apply if they meet one of the following sets of academic requirements:

1. Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT) by the June national test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA2 on the SC UGP at the end of the senior year; and, rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the sophomore, junior or senior year;
   OR
2. Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) 1 by the June national test administration of the senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA2 on the SC UGP at the end of the senior year.

LIFE SCHOLARSHIP

In order to qualify for the LIFE scholarship, first-time entering freshman attending an eligible four-year institution must meet **two** of three following criteria:

1. Earn a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale upon high school graduation.

   - The grade point average must be reported to 2 decimal places (minimum) and cannot be rounded. The GPR must be calculated after official completion of courses required for graduation.

2. Score an 1100 on the SAT or an equivalent 24 on the ACT.

   - SAT/ACT scores will be accepted through the June national test administration of the high school graduation year.

- It is permissible to select the highest SAT critical Reading score (formerly known as the SAT verbal) combined with the highest SAT math score from different test administrations. Students cannot use the SAT writing subsection score to meet the minimum 1100 SAT requirement.

- The ACT composite score must be at one test sitting.

3. Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class.

    - The ranking percentages must be reported to 2 decimal places (minimum) and cannot be rounded. The class rank must be based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale.

    - The rank must be based on all students who received their diploma during the traditional graduation ceremony typically in May/June. The graduating class cannot include students who graduated during the summer.

SC HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

1. The student must earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Scale upon high school graduation.

2. The student must be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment.

3. The student must not be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, or Lottery Tuition Assistance.

Awarding Process

1. Full-time students attending an eligible four-year institution may receive up to $2,650 (including a $150 book allowance) toward the cost-of-attendance during the **first year only**. Half will be awarded in the fall semester and half in the spring semester.
2. Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for up to two terms based on initial college enrollment.
3. Students who receive the SC HOPE Scholarship and earn a 3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of the first year may receive the LIFE Scholarship for the second year of college.

WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS

When a student transfers out of the Marion County School District, his or her records will be sent to the new district. The following procedures should be followed when it becomes necessary for a student to transfer or withdraw from school:

1. Secure authorization for withdrawal or transfer note from your parent or guardian.
2. Obtain appropriate form from the Guidance Office.
3. Have the withdrawal form filled out by the teachers.
4. Return all books and property, and make sure all fees are paid.
5. Take the completed form to the Guidance Office for final clearance.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Every effort will be made to place students in courses that are appropriate for their abilities and future educational or career interests. Maximum student and parent input will be allowed. Once these selections are made, they will be honored to the extent possible. Students and parents need to choose courses carefully. When students withdraw from a class, a letter grade of F is assigned.

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Students are encouraged to seek help and information from the guidance department in planning their course of study. Ultimately, however, each student must assume the responsibility for meeting all requisites for a state high school diploma. Students who have completed all requirements for graduation may participate in graduation exercises and will receive a state high school diploma. Students identified as having exceptional educational needs who met their own requirements may participate in graduation exercises and will receive a district certificate. The purchase of class rings, invitations, caps and gowns, etc. is permitted based upon a student's grade level classification or number of units earned at the time the order is placed during a school year. The purchase of such items does not obligate the school or guarantee that the student will graduate. Eligible participants will have an allotted number of tickets to distributed for the graduation ceremony and no children under the age of six (s) will be admitted to graduation.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

One of the alternatives to out-of-school suspension, preventing minor problems from becoming major ones, recognizing other points of view, and brainstorming for possible solutions is conflict resolution. This strategy will be employed at MHS during the school year. Conflict is featured daily in the news. Conflict is also a daily part of student life. Although educators often associate student conflict with extreme hostility or violence, most student conflicts are far more mundane.

Classroom teachers spend a large percentage of their time and energy trying to manage classroom conflicts. These conflicts contribute to a body of tension that can become an enormous obstacle to the classroom goals of learning, teaching, cooperating, and having fun. Since similar dynamics exist in almost every school.

Conflict resolution can help us to learn new and better ways to respond to problems, build better and more lasting relationships, and learn more about ourselves and others. Once we have experienced the benefits of constructive conflict resolution, we will be more likely to reach positive resolutions to future conflicts.

The benefits of constructive conflict resolution are easily observed in a school setting. A class that has learned as a group to express its conflict positively will display greater cohesiveness, cooperation, and willingness to work together. Students will learn to take greater responsibility for themselves, for their behavior, and for the environment in which they are working and learning.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT TESTS

The ACT or SAT will be administered to all juniors during the school day at NO COST. Dates will be announced.

Students are encouraged to visit www.act.org and www.collegeboard.org for information and to register for tests individually. You may also visit the guidance department for assistance or additional information including fee waivers.

MEDIA CENTER

The purpose of the school media center is to provide information to enrich the curriculum, to satisfy quests for knowledge, and to give added dimensions to the learning process. School media centers provide opportunities for students to grow in their ability to find, generate, evaluate, and apply information that will help them to function in society.

The key to successfully utilizing the resources of a school's media center is open access. The media center will be open before school begins in the mornings from 7:40 am until 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The media center has books magazines, pamphlets for assigned study and is open for use during the entire school day. Books are checked out for two (2) weeks and may be renewed for another two (2) weeks. Students are required to have their school ID card to check out books. Students must pay for lost or damaged books. There is a fine of 5 cents per day for overdue regular books and 25 cents per day for overnight books. A student may have library privileges suspended.

INTERNET RULES

Marion County School District provides access to the internet as a tool for educational activities. Students' home directories may be treated like school lockers; network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a school classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature; there is no guarantee of privacy when using any school technology. Tracking software will be used to monitor Internet searches. General school rules for behavior and communications apply to network use. All activities which do not support the mission of Marion County School District are prohibited. Violations will result in the loss of access, disciplinary action, and law enforcement involvement if necessary.

The following activities are prohibited:

- Students must not access offensive messages or pictures.
- Use obscene or defamatory language.
- Harass, insult, defame, or attack others.
- Damage computers or alter computer systems or computer networks.
- Violate copyright laws.
- Use another's password
- Give out his/her name, address, or phone number.
- Trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
- Intentionally waste limited resources.
- Employ the network for commercial purposes.
- Engage in any conducted related to instruction that teachers or administrators deem inappropriate.

**** Students are to adhere to the acceptable use policy at all times. ****

ID CARDS

Students will be issued an identification card (ID) and are responsible for having the ID at all times. The ID card must be presented when requested by any faculty or staff member. Clips or lanyards are provided. ID cards are not to be defaced; improper wearing and/or defacement is addressed in the code of conduct (Level 1.q). Students are not to use or have in their possession someone else's ID.

The first ID card is provided at no cost. Replacement ID cards cost $5.00 and replacement clips or lanyards cost $1.00. Payment for replacement ID cards and/or lanyards are to be made to the media specialist, who shall provide a receipt showing payment to be presented when requesting replacement ID cards and/or clips or lanyards. Students may receive a replacement ID card on credit and pay later. IDs are required for field trips, to receive textbooks, and to check out library books. They may be requested at lunch.

HALL PASSES

Students are not permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a gold hall pass from an authorized staff member complete with date, time, and destination. Students should be sure to get a gold pass from the teacher before entering the hall. Students in the hallways or in an area without a pass will be subject to discipline by the administration.

Students are expected to adhere to the following when in the hallways:

1. Walk to the right and keep traffic flowing by not stopping to talk or congregate.
2. Cell phones or earbuds/headphones are not to be used or visible.
3. Be respectful and courteous to others in the halls.
4. Keep voice levels low and pass-through corridors quietly.
5. Keep the halls clean by not littering and by picking up trash off the floor.

CAFETERIA/COMMONS AREA BEHAVIOR

Students are encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast and lunch at school each day. We are proud of our café' style Cafeteria/Commons Area. The atmosphere of the cafeteria/commons area should be inviting to all. Some simple rules and reminders:

1. Students should not loiter or stand around the cafeteria/commons.
2. Students should not take trays or food out of the cafeteria.
3. Students are to remove all trays and trash from the tables and place it in one of several available trash cans.
4. Students are to place chairs under the tables when leaving
5. Students are NOT to climb over the booths
6. Noise level should be minimal

LOCKERS

LOCKERS WILL NOT BE UTILIZED.

TELEPHONES

The telephones in the office are maintained for business purposes and are not to be used by students except in emergencies or for school use. Additionally, students are not allowed to utilize classroom telephones.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

When a teacher is absent, the best available substitute will be employed. Students are requested to be patient and courteous. The substitute teacher has the same authority as the regular teacher.

SOLICITING

No item of any kind may be offered for sale on school grounds unless it is approved in writing by the principal. All activities of this kind are reserved for school organizations. Advertisements and flyers must also be approved by the principal.

VALUABLES

Marion County School District and Marion High School are not responsible for valuables (i.e. hats, watches, pocketbooks, instruments, money, phones, watches, electronic devices, etc.) left in classrooms, lockers, locker rooms, etc.

METAL DETECTOR CHECKS

School officials will conduct metal detector/wand checks of students when they enter the school building and randomly. A student's failure to permit a metal detector/wand check as provided in the board policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action including possible suspension.

WEAPON/VIOLENCE REPORTS

Students are to report any weapon or potential act of violence at school immediately to an adult, teacher, school resource officer, or administrator. Reporters will be kept confidential.

SCHOOL CLOSING

During any emergency that might cause some questions as to whether or not school will operate, you are asked to check the District and School Web Page Facebook social media platform, and tune to the local radio or TV stations for special announcements. Also, the county wide "Alert Now" system will call each household to inform students or parents of any closings or delays for Marion County Schools. It is imperative that students provide an accurate telephone number to officials at Marion High School.

Radio stations include WWPD—FM 94.3, WCIG—FM 107.1, and WJAY—AM 1280. TV stations include WBTW (Channel 13) and WPDE (Channel 15). The announcements will be made by 6:30 A.M.

FAMILY RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The revised Family Rights and Privacy Act became a federal law in December 1974. The law intends to protect the accuracy and privacy of student educational records. In that regard, please note the following: The definition of educational records includes all records, files documents, and other materials containing information directly related to your child. Without your prior consent, only you and authorized individuals will have access to your child's educational records. However, unless you make a request in writing to the contrary, we may release without consent directory information contained in your child's educational record: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height, athletic team membership, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended, Your written request should be received by the school within ten days of your child's enrollment in this school. You may make an appointment with the school to inspect and review your child's records. You may receive a copy of the Marion County School District Board of Education Policy JR: Student Records from the school office or the District Office at 719 North Main Street, Marion, S.C. 29571. The entire policy manual is also available for reference at the district office. You have the right to challenge any information contained in your child's educational records if you think it is inaccurate, misleading, or inappropriate information. Challenges may be addressed to the Hearing Officer, 719 North Main Street, Marion, S.C. 29571. The principal has ultimate responsibility for all educational records and will periodically review student educational records for the purpose of correcting and deleting any inaccurate, misleading, or inappropriate information. The

rights described herein are transferred to your child upon the attainment of his/her eighteenth birthday or admission to an institution of post-secondary education. Persons seeking information must be listed in the student's record. Identification must be provided. Court documentation is needed to supersede this requirement.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (SIC)

Members of the School Improvement Council will meet the 4th Monday of each month at 5:00 unless otherwise noted. The committee is comprised of administrators, teachers, parents, students, and other stakeholders.

*Marion County School District is committed to providing equal access to educational and employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy, age, sex (including gender identity), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or any other protected trait or characteristic, as may be required by law. As required by Title IX and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, Marion County School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities. Questions or concerns may be directed to the appropriate district coordinator at 843-423-1811: **Title IX Coordinator**: Stacy Wilbanks, Director of Human Resources; **Title II Coordinator**: JaMese Black, Chief Academic Officer; or **Section 504 Coordinator**: Tamara DiPaolo, MTSS Coordinator.*

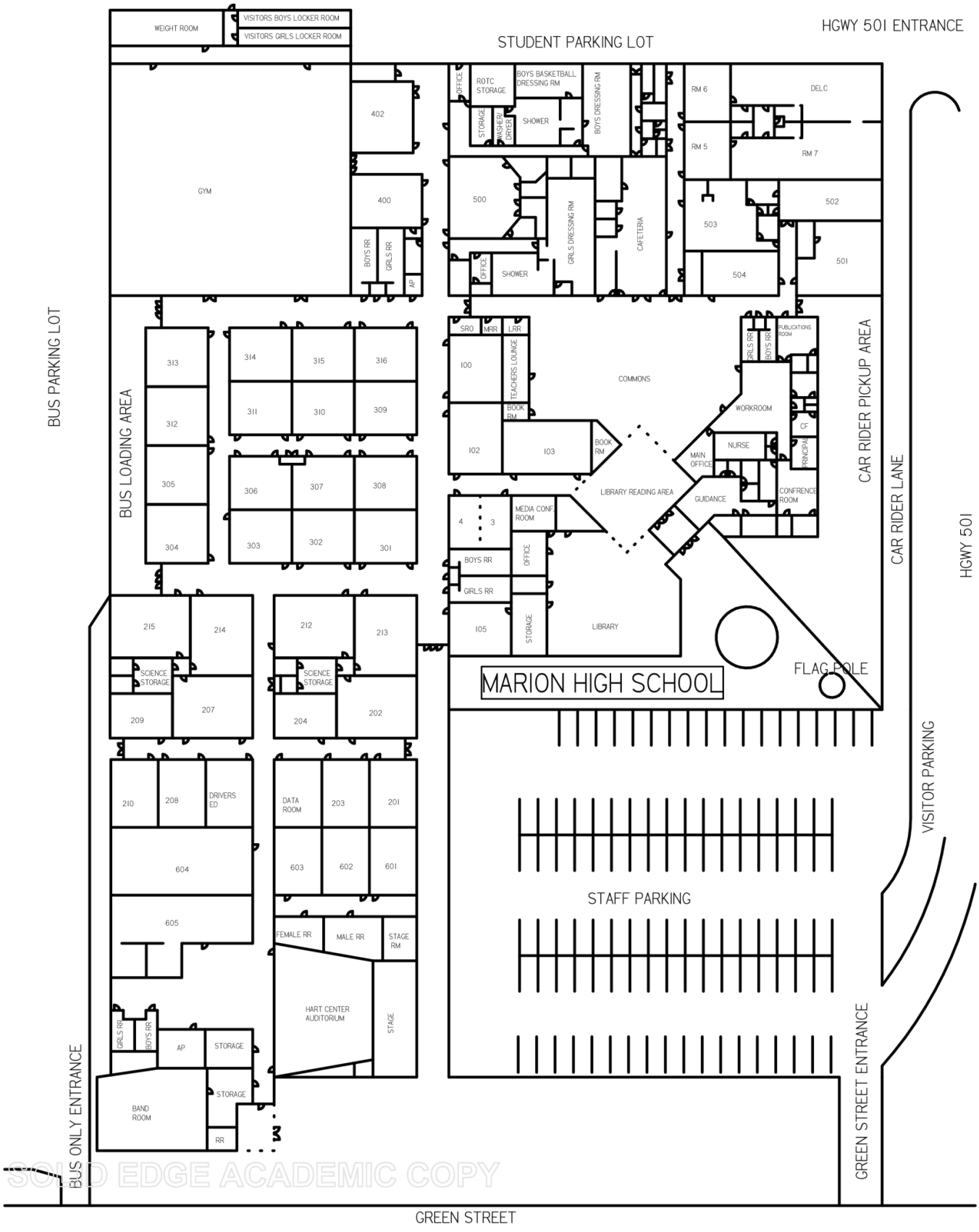
2026/2027 School Year
Bell Schedule

A Lunch						B Lunch		
	Min						Min	
7:40 A – 8:05 A	25	Arrival to Commons/Gym				7:40 A – 8:05 A	25	Arrival to Commons/Gym
8:10 A – 8:17 P	7	1st Block Announcements				8:10 A – 8:17 P	7	1st Block Announcements
8:17 A – 9:47 A	90	1ST BLOCK				8:17 A – 9:47 A	90	1ST BLOCK
9:48 A – 9:52 A	5	Transition				9:48 A – 9:52 A	5	Transition
9:52 A – 11:22 A	90	2ND BLOCK				9:52 A – 11:22 A	90	2ND BLOCK
11:22 A – 11:52	30	A LUNCH				11:22 A – 11:27 A	5	Transition
11:52 A – 11:57 A	5	Transition				11:27 – 12:57	90	3rd Block Instruction
11:57 A – 1:27 P	90	3rd Block Instruction				12:57 P – 1:27 P	30	B LUNCH
1:27 P – 1:32 P	5	Transition				1:27 P – 1:32 P	5	Transition
1:32 P – 3:02 P	90	4th Block				1:32 P – 3:02 P	90	4th Block
3:02 P – 3:10 P	8	Afternoon Announcements				3:02 P – 3:10 P	8	Afternoon Announcements
3:10 P		DISMISSAL				3:10 P		DISMISSAL
3:30		TEACHER DISMISSAL				3:30		TEACHER DISMISSAL

2 Hour Delay					
A LUNCH			B LUNCH		
	Minutes			Minutes	
9:40 – 10:05	25	Arrival Commons/Gym	9:40 – 10:05	25	Arrival Commons/Gym
10:05 – 10:10	5	Transition	10:05 – 10:10	5	Transition
10:10 – 10:17	7	Announcements	10:10-10:17	7	Announcements
10:17 – 11:17	60	1st BLOCK	10:17 – 11:17	60	1st BLOCK
11:17 – 11:22	5	Transition	11:17 - 11:22	5	Transition
11:22 – 12:22	60	2nd BLOCK	11:22 – 12:22	60	2nd BLOCK
12:22-12:27	5	Transition	12:22 – 12:27	5	Transition
12:27 – 12:52	25	A LUNCH	12:27 – 1:32	65	3rd Block
12:52-12:57	5	Transition	1:32 – 1:37	5	Transition
12:57 – 2:02	65	3rd Block	1:37 – 2:02	25	Lunch
2:02 – 2:07	5	Transition	2:02 – 2:07	5	Transition
2:07 – 3:07	60	4th BLOCK	2:07 – 3:07	60	4th BLOCK
3:07 – 3:10	3	Announcements	3:07 – 3:10	3	Announcements
3:10		STUDENT DISMISSAL	3:10		STUDENT DISMISSAL
3:30		TEACHER DISMISSAL	3:30		TEACHER DISMISSAL

2026/27 School Year		
Early Dismissal Bell Schedule		
	Min	
7:30 – 8:10	**40**	**Arrival**
8:10 – 9:10	**60**	**1St Block**
9:10-9:15	**5**	**Transition**
9:15 – 10:15	**60**	**2ND Block**
10:15 – 10:20	**5**	**Transition to A Lunch and B Class**
10:20 – 10:50	**30**	**A LUNCH**
10:55 – 11:55	**60**	**3rd A CLASS**
10:20 – 11:20	**60**	**3RD B CLASS**
11:20-11:25	**5**	**Transition to B Lunch**
11:25 – 11:55	**30**	**B LUNCH**
11:55 – 12:00	**5**	**Transition**
12:00 – 1:00	**60**	**4th Block**
1:00		**Dismissal**

ACT Students – AM Schedule - 8:20 – 10:00 AM
ACT Students - PM Schedule – 10:30 – 12:10 PM



SOLID EDGE ACADEMIC COPY

MARION HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

Hail to thee our Alma Mater

Spirit of our youth

Leaving fills our hearts with sorrow friends now and always.

Marion High School Alma Mater we will stand by you.

So then let us carry onward hail the Mighty Fox!

We, we are, the Mighty, Mighty Foxes!


MARION HIGH SCHOOL
SWAMP FOXES
PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE