



May 18, 2020

Dear Marion County School District Family,

Anna Quindlen said, “Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination and the journey. They are home.” Each year, I look at the school year as a book with four chapters with each nine weeks being a chapter.

Although it is hard, sometimes we have to accept that some chapters in our lives have to close without real closure, and the 4<sup>th</sup> 9wks is one of those chapters. It is hard for me to believe that Friday, May 22, 2020, we close not only the 4<sup>th</sup> 9wks chapter but the entire book of the 2020 school year. What a book it has been!

Each year, I keep a journal of daily events to ensure I capture the journey. As I peered back into my journal, it quickly brought to the forefront of my mind of just how beautiful the first three chapters of my book titled “School Year 2020” really were. Yes, my chapters titled 1<sup>st</sup> 9wks, 2<sup>nd</sup> 9wks, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 9wks were filled with so many exciting memories that will be forever etched in my heart and mind. Seven months of blessings created by 2,032 incredible students, their parents, and our MCSD employees all better known as the Marion County School District family.

Speaking of family, our theme song this year has been **We Are Family**. The lyrics are as follows:

**High hopes we have for the future**  
**And our goal's in sight**  
**No, we don't get depressed**  
**Here's what we call our golden rule**  
**Have faith in you and the things you do**  
**You won't go wrong, oh no**  
**This is our family jewel**

I certainly have high hopes for our future, and you do as well. You have proven that by having faith in yourselves and the things you have done to make it through these unprecedented times. You are MCSD family jewels. You won’t go wrong, oh no!

Thank you, administrators and teachers, for your unwavering faith in your students and parents. You have loved them and have continued to care for them even though it was from a distance. “Distance is just a test to see how far love can travel.” You definitely passed the

test. Your love has traveled the entire distance of Marion County. Love is patient! Love is kind! Love is you!

Thank you, parents, for your unwavering faith in your administrators, teachers, and support staff. We appreciate your faithfulness in trusting us to make decisions in the best interest of our most prized possession, your children. We thank you for being “en teacher locus”! You served as our honorary teachers for our MCSD teachers. You are to be highly commended for continuing your journey on the many methods of travel mentioned in Quindlen’s quote plus adding a new method of travel, the school bus of learning. Zig Ziglar once said, “The more you are grateful for what you have, the more you will have to be grateful for.” I will be forever grateful for you, MCSD parents!

Our MCSD family has traveled various methods to create chapters for a best-selling book titled “School Year 2020”. We have felt as though we have soared on planes, traveled down tracks at locomotive speed, and eased to and from on the big yellow buses. The journey is winding down this week. We are dropping the landing gear, applying the railway air brake, and extending the stop arm on the school bus. Thank you for a safe journey of travel!

Each administrator has specific plans for end-of-year closeout procedures for his/her school and staff. Grading procedures to close out this school year can be found on our MCSD webpage by clicking on the COVID-19 link. You will see a link title 2020 End-of-Year Grading. If you have any questions concerning grades, please email or call your child’s principal. Report cards will be mailed on May 28, 2020. Graduation will be June 26, 2020 or July 24, 2020.

Let me use our 19-20 motto to close out this year!

**WD>WS - WELL DONE is greater than WELL SAID.**

WELL DONE, friends! We will keep our “WE BEFORE ME” hard hats on along with our construction vests and continue to work together in these upcoming weeks to ensure great decisions are made in the best interest of our students as we are planning for the start of a new school year in August of 2020.

**WE ARE FAMILY!**

**WE ARE MARION COUNTY!**

**WE INSPIRE EXCELLENCE!**

Sincerely,



Wendy Bracey  
Superintendent