



I can't believe it's been three years since joining the Marietta Board of Education. Thank you for taking the time to read my third annual newsletter. Attached you will find the latest highlights of Marietta City Schools 2007-2008 CRCT test data. Newsworthy items, initiatives and areas of focus are listed below- Please visit our website for more information - www.marietta-city.org.

- Marietta City Schools Now A Georgia Charter System** - On June 12, 2008 the Marietta City School District became one of the first systems throughout the state to be approved as a Georgia Charter System. The Georgia School Boards Association provided initial training for our new *School Governance Teams* (SGT). This training is the first step in helping the SGT's develop an understanding of the benefits that evolve as we take on more flexibility from state rules, as we innovate with the ultimate focus on school improvement and academic achievement, and as we take on increased accountability as a result of Charter System status.
- Renovation/Expansion To Hickory Hills Elementary Is Underway** - Funded through SPLOST II, the renovation is near completion with a complete makeover throughout the entire school. To house the new CHOICE Arts Academy, additional state of the art rooms for dance, music, theater and art are currently under construction and scheduled for completion January 2009.
- Voters Approve SPLOST III** - On September 16, 2008, voters approved the SPLOST renewal in a special election with a 60.8 percent approval rating. The third SPLOST term runs from January 1st, 2009 through December 31st, 2013. Accountability measures are in place to assure proper spending of SPLOST III funds. One priority is a complete renovation to Marietta Sixth Grade Academy (MSGA). Should the entire \$59 million be received, all debt will be nearly retired. A breakdown of how the funds will be used listed below-

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---|----------------------|
| • Debt Retirement | \$ 33,416,376 | | |
| • Technology | \$ 9,499,389 | | |
| • Construction and Renovations | \$ 10,450,000 | | |
| • School Security | \$ 2,295,813 | Total Proposed SPLOST III Expenditures | \$ 59,025,395 |
| • Student Transportation | \$ 1,106,500 | | |
| • Driver Education Cars | \$ 584,817 | | |
| • Copy Machines | \$ 792,500 | | |
| • Legal and Administrative | \$ 250,000 | | |
- All Elementary Schools Achieved AYP** - All seven elementary schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for six consecutive years. Demographic subgroup performance in Math at the Marietta Sixth Grade Academy (MSGA) and in English/Language Arts at Marietta Middle School (MMS) prevented these schools from achieving AYP. The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup at MHS did not meet standards in Math and Eng/Lang. Arts on the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT)
- Elementary Choice Academies** - Next year enrollment will be year three of having CHOICE in Marietta City Schools.
- Middle School Academic Choices** - The *International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP)* is now offered in grades 6 through 9, rolling up to 10th grade next year. The rigor embedded in the MYP coursework will better prepare students for the rigorous IB Diploma Program and Advanced Placement (AP) classes at Marietta High School, starting in 11th grade. Students may also choose the *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)* magnet program in grades 6 through 8, folding well into STEM courses already offered at MHS.
- Continued Proactive Focus On Discipline** - Reinforcement of our discipline management is a high priority. Students with multiple infractions are not tolerated and may be recommended to an environment that better meets their needs.
- Gains In Student Performance** - All seven elementary schools, MMS and MHS made gains in meeting and exceeding standards compared to 2007 scores. **Sawyer Road, Lockheed and Hickory Hills Elementary** posted the highest gains on the CRCT.
- Marietta High School Achievement** - MHS exceeded State and Metro scores on 2008 Ga. High School Writing Test. MHS maintained a lead over the State in ACT scores and students showing readiness for College Algebra was 8% higher than the State.

May 2008 IB Exam Results — MHS Compared To World

**** % of students scoring 4 or higher**

| | <u>World</u> | <u>North America</u> | <u>USA</u> | <u>MHS</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| English | 96% | 95% | 94% | 96% |
| Language B* | 92% | 87% | 86% | 95% |
| Individual & Society | 85% | 81% | 79% | 95% |
| Experimental Science | 67% | 60% | 54% | 65% |
| Math | 76% | 77% | 76% | 77% |
| Arts | 81% | 77% | 76% | 100% |

* excludes Latin since Latin was not reported in all Language B statistics

** IB is scored on a 1-7 range. Students scoring 4 or higher will earn the IB as long as other core requirements are met.