

Change is in the air! The first quarter of the school year was marked with celebrations and change at Marshfield High School located at 1401 E Becker Road. The Class of 1969 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion during homecoming weekend, along with the Class of '59, '79, '99. The Class of 1969 was the first graduating class from our current building. I had the opportunity to take them, along with Class of '79, on a tour through the halls of MHS, discussing what has changed and the many things that have not changed since they roamed these halls as students. I was able to listen to the stories about teachers, coaches, advisors, and administrators that helped shape the lives of our alumni, many of whom have had successful careers and have reached retirement. One question I was also asked repeatedly is about the experience of current students and if we still had the dedication and support from our parents and community as they did. There is a great deal of pride that comes with working, learning, and growing at MHS; it is a very easy answer to say YES!

At the end of each tour, we stopped to look at Kenneth & Ardyce Heiting Community Stadium. Where the night before, September 27, 2019, we dedicated this facility to the Heiting's for their support and generosity, not only to this campaign but to our community and children. Our community stadium is proof of our communities continued tradition of support and the vision our community has for our students and residents. Early on in the discussions of a new facility, there were mixed feelings about leaving Beell Stadium, which ironically was dedicated, one day short of 78 years ago, on September 26, 1941, but our new facility is an awesome addition to our high school campus and our community, which will be an asset for years to come. Thank you to our community, supporters, students, families, and staff for making our "Dream become a Reality."

As we have continued through our construction process, mother nature and the abundance of rain continues to slow us down and changed timelines for completion. We continue to work with Rettler Corporation and Boson Company to complete all projects for Baseball, Softball, and Middle School in a timely and complete manner. Boson Company currently has a site camera on Baseball/Softball where you can see daily progress. These delays can be frustrating for all; I remind and thank everyone for their flexibility and understanding of where we will be with the final products.

Changing venues for Soccer and Football, along with Physical Education classes, has been an excellent experience for our students, players, coaches, teachers, and fans. We continue to look forward to progressing on other sites and the impact it will have within our schools and community upon completion.

A few pieces of information about the upcoming months:

- Tiger Card Sales were approximately \$35,000 at the high school. Backpacks are on order for those student-athletes who sold 7 or more.
  - Top Sellers Trevor Cassidy (40), Cole Halvorsen (40), Brayden Richardson (22), Alani Carter (20), Hunter Kelnhofer (20), Brett Mannigel (20), and Ethan Meissner (20)
  - 132 Students will receive a backpack for their efforts
- November 11<sup>th</sup> is the start date for Boys Hockey, Girls Hockey, Gymnastics, and Girls Basketball
- November 18<sup>th</sup> is the start date for Boys Basketball, Wrestling, and Boys Swimming
- There are no winter head coaching changes
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Booster Bash is April 24, 2020

At times it is difficult to express our gratitude for the support we have received from all stakeholders at events, in the classroom, and most recently during our capital campaign. This tradition of support continues to make Marshfield High School a great place to learn, compete, and explore the opportunities the real world will soon bring to our students. I want to remind parents and fans:

"Education based athletics allows our student-athletes to gain life lessons that they cannot always experience in the classroom. These experiences allow for diversity and acceptance of others. The experiences should allow our athletes to expect respect and to treat each other with respect. The same

expectations are for the spectators in attendance in the stands as well. They have been provided the privilege to watch kids play....” WIAA, October 2019

Marshfield continues to be a welcoming community and a place where our athletic participation bucks the trend of other communities within our own conference. We are supportive of our teams, coaches, opponents, and officials. We recognize we are all stakeholders in education-based athletics which is in the middle of fragile balancing act, when daily I am reminded of the shortage of officials, bus drivers, and coaches which trickles down to lower participation and reduced community support. When you step into the athletic arena, you do so, knowing you are unfortunately on display for public criticism. However, remember these are not professional athletes, coaches, and/or officials, these are individuals who enjoy and love the game with their teams and partners. I encourage us to all focus on the support of our teams and players, show appreciation for good plays by all participants, and understand coaches and officials are trying their very best. If we do this, we will continue to be the envy of other communities and continue the positive “Tiger Trend.”