

Happy holidays! The 2017 year is nearing its end and students will soon enjoy break. Christmas break begins on December 25 and school resumes on January 8. This time of year prompts reflection about the passing year. Below is a compilation of some of the great things that occurred at Marcellus Community Schools during calendar year 2017.

- Marcellus Elementary was named a Reading Now Network “outperforming” school for the second consecutive year.
- The Marcellus Early College Program was approved and began in the fall.
- Marcellus High School achieved a 100% graduation rate.
- Marcellus Band earned a #1 rating at Festival.
- The Wildcat Marching Band traveled to Florida to march in the Walt Disney parade.
- Marcellus joined the new Southwest 10 conference.
- Student athletes honored 65 veterans in the inaugural Patriot Games.
- Five athletes were honored at the SAC Scholar Athlete Luncheon.
- Coach Kim Moe was named Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association’s (MITCA) Region 31 Coach of the Year and was named the WSJM Coach of the Year for Cass and Van Buren Counties.
- Over \$600,000 in scholarship and grant money was offered to the Marcellus High School Class of 2017
- New science textbooks and resources were purchased for grades 5-8.
- Additional bleachers and batting cages were installed in the new gymnasium.
- The fiscal health and credit rating of the district improved.
- The Marcellus Board of Education approved running track improvements.
- Marcellus Elementary 3rd graders participated in the YMCA swim program.
- Marcellus Elementary implemented free summer school.
- The food service department rolled out an online portal for parents.
- Cross Country athletes Emma Pachay and Nolan Surach qualified for individual state competition.
- Emma Pachay earned Cross Country Academic All- State Honors for the second consecutive year. 2017.
- Derek Flory earned State Championship titles in both the long jump and 300m hurdles.
- The girls’ track team won the MHSAA Division 4 Regionals. The team also earned an invitation to the MITCA State Championship Meet and ranked 9th in the MITCA State Power Rankings.
- The boys’ track team won the SAC Division Co-championship.
- The Varsity Volleyball team earned team Academic All-State Honors for the second consecutive year. Seniors Ellie Holmes and Grace Mihills both earned MIVCA individual academic all state honors for Class C.
- The Marcellus Varsity Girls’ Basketball Team earned the Basketball Coaches of Michigan (BCAM) Academic All-State Honorable Mention Award.
- The Varsity Girls’ Basketball team won the SAC Central Division Championship.
- Eli Robinson was named to the Michigan High School Football Coaches’ Association Individual Academic All-State Team.
- The Marcellus Varsity Boys’ Basketball Team won the SAC District Championship.
- Wildcat wrestler Ash Stokes recorded his 137 win and set a new school record.
- Forty-eight athletes earned Iron Wildcat honors.
- Over 70% of high school students participated in athletics or band.
- Marcellus High School senior Jade Sibley was named an MHSAA Scholar Athlete finalist. Sibley was one of only eight girls in Michigan Class D schools to earn the title.
- Marcellus student’s academic growth percentiles ranked higher than the state average in seven tested subject areas.

- 100% of Volinia students showed above average growth on the math M-Step compared to the state's average of 29%.
- Marcellus Elementary School's at-risk student proficiency scores were 28% higher than the state average and Marcellus Middle/High School was 35% higher than the state average.
- Marcellus Community Schools met over 90% of the indicator benchmarks related to special education.
- Tanner Bohan earned top honors in the DAR Good Citizen Essay contest. Bohan's essay was selected as the top entry submitted from the seven schools in the DAR Chapter.
- Five girls and six boys qualified for the prestigious MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award.
- Staff members Amy Monroe, Tracy Cropsey, Heather Mihills, Tanya Lillie, Katie Markovich, Mindy Bohan and Amy Anderson secured mini-grants to fund various instructional projects.
- Marcellus High School developed and implemented a digital multimedia course.
- Ten high school students earned Outstanding Career Technical Education (CTE) awards.
- Marcellus was selected to participate in Cohort 1 of the 12 million dollar Western Michigan University HIL grant project.
- Six Marcellus teachers were chosen to participate in Cohort 2 of the Academic Literacy Project and learning walks.
- The district secured Science Olympiad, Additional Instructional Time, Financial Analytics, and Digital Assessment Reimbursement grants.

This list is just a sampling of the good things that took place in 2017. It was a great year for our school community and I look forward to many more great things in 2018! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.