

Marion School District Newsletter

Home of the Marion Patriots

October 2019 News



Quote of the Month

Change is the end result of all true learning. – Leo Buscaglia

Keeper of The Dream Award Recognizes HCGC Student



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (National Civil Rights Museum Release) – The National Civil Rights Museum, in partnership with International Paper, recognizes youth who are making a difference and changing lives by awarding the Keeper of the Dream Award. The Keeper of the Dream Award is a public recognition of selected youth in grades 6 – 12. These students serve to help overcome issues including diversity, inclusion, education and food insecurity to provide support, leadership and empowerment to their peers and the community. This award celebrates and recognizes the heroism of many young people who will have the amazing responsibility of safeguarding our freedom while ensuring equal rights and opportunities for others. Area students in grades 6 – 12 who have demonstrated acts of compassion, leadership, commitment and service are self-nominated or nominated by educators and community leaders. This year Herbert Carter Global Community's very own 6th grader, Mia Adkins has been chosen to be the this year's recipient of the 2019 Keeper of the Dream Award. She and the other winners were chosen by their actions of addressing key issues including resource and agency gaps, safe water access, political activism, and education equity and inclusion to provide support, leadership and empowerment to their peers and the community.

Mia Elizabeth Adkins, a sixth

grader at our Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School is taking real and meaningful action to fight for equitable access to clean water in Central America. At school, Mia learned

"I so admire these young people who see a problem and don't ask the question 'why' but ask the question 'what do I need to do to make this better?' .." -National Civil Rights Museum President, Terri Lee Freeman

about United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #6, Clean Water and Sanitation, and she realized that girls under the age of 15 are twice as likely as boys to spend their days fetching water instead of going to school. Mia refused to ignore this injustice and wanted to take action. She was persistent in discussing her idea with school administrators, drawing up a detailed plan of action, setting a goal, and finally getting approval to launch her Change for Change fundraising project. She set up spare change jars around campus and generated enthusiasm among her 620 classmates to raise over \$2,000 – double the \$1000 goal she set. Because of her leadership, persistence and desire to make a difference, her school provided twenty water wells to Central American families.

This is the second consecutive year that a Marion School District student has won this prestigious award. Cameron

Marion isn't a stranger to winning this award. In 2018, Cameron Jones, a senior last year at Marion High School, learned at an early age the importance of self-sufficiency and going after what you believe in.

"The Keeper of the Dream is an opportunity for young people to be recognized for their outstanding work to make their communities better," said National Civil Rights Museum President, Terri Lee Freeman. "I so admire these young people who

see a problem and don't ask the question 'why' but ask the question 'what do I need to do to make this better?'" These young people are not our future, but they are our today, and we are happy to recognize them and tell their stories."

"The Keeper of the Dream award recognizes students who are making a positive and meaningful impact in the community," said Bathsbeba Sams, International Paper vice president, human resources, Industrial Packaging and National Civil Rights Museum board member. "This award celebrates their enthusiasm and reinforces that we can make a difference at any age."

The recipients will be presented the Keeper of the Dream Award at the Freedom Award Student Forum on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church at 10 a.m. Each winner will receive \$500, a trophy and a one-year family membership to the National

Civil Rights Museum, and two round-trip Southwest Airlines tickets, one for themselves and one for an adult, to fly the airline's destinations in the continental U.S.

The Student Forum is the opening event for the National Civil Rights Museum's Freedom Award celebration which honors individuals worldwide for their work in the advancement of civil and human rights. This program allows students and educators the opportunity to hear from trailblazers fighting for civil and human rights.



Mia Elizabeth Adkins
The Keeper of The Dream Awardee
The National Civil Rights Museum



200 Manor St, Marion, AR 72364
Phone: 870-739-5100



COMMENDED STUDENTS IN THE 2020 NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The principal, Paul Johnston of Marion High School announced today that Reid Bunn has been named a Commended Student in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5

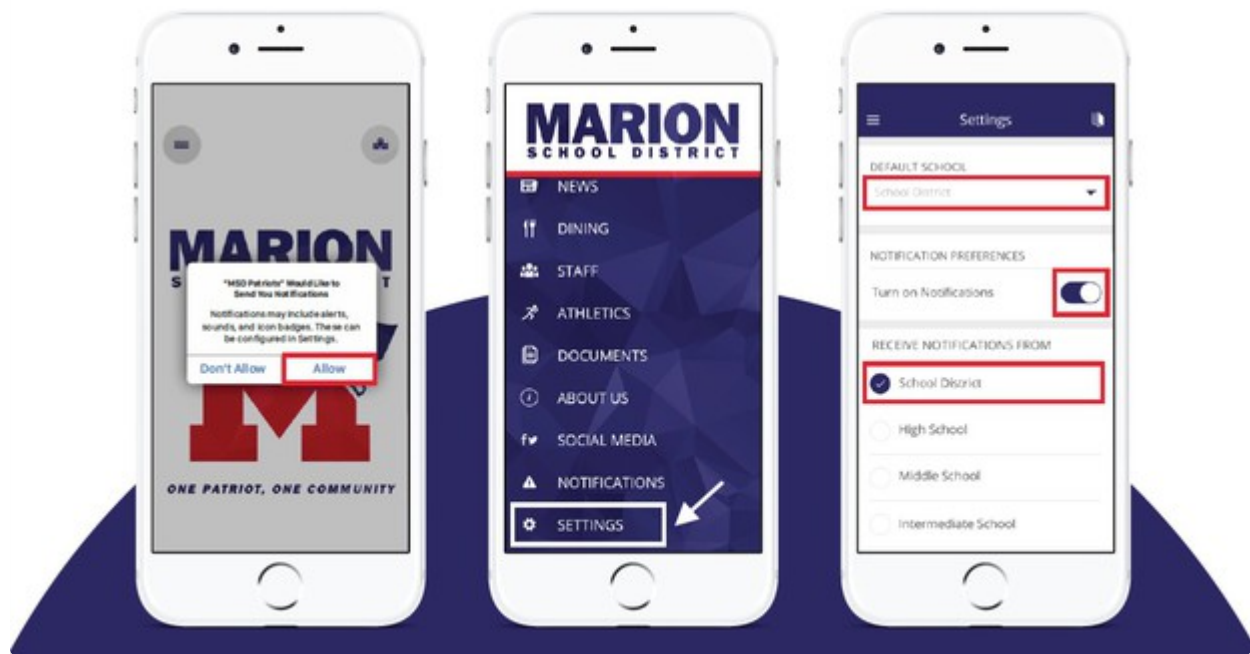
million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

Don't miss any updates from Marion Schools!

Follow these steps when downloading the mobile app:

1. Search 'Marion School District, AR' in your phone's app store and download the app
2. Select 'ALLOW' when prompted on initial download to ensure you receive notifications
3. Open the MSD Patriots app, and navigate to the left-side menu for 'SETTINGS'
4. Ensure your settings are turned on and your school is selected





Choir Concert at MPAC: Singing in Sync

Story by Nicholas Mayeux, Photos by Arianna Mason

The seventh, eighth and ninth-grade choirs, along with the High School Ensemble and the High School Singers performed in their first concert on October 3 at the Marion Performing Arts Center. The pieces tested the singer's abilities, but was enough of a challenge for them to have fun.

The program was designed to push the singers' limits with difficult songs like "Kyrie Eleison," a song written in Latin, and unorthodox songs like "The Disney Princess Medley." The challenging song selection let the students display their vocal range and talent.

This concert would not have been possible without the choir directors Doug Conwill and Christopher Orr. The pair worked tirelessly to teach each individual how to sing correctly, then how to sing as a choir.

"I teach voice before choir, trying to improve each individual singer," Conwill said, "other than that, I try to teach integrity and a strong work ethic."

Every singer performed well, but a select few also gave impressive solos. Soloists for the night included Jordan Smith, Makhia Trotter, Abby Ferguson, Sophia Rodriguez, Tatum Brown, Aniyah Smith, Laylah Gasca and Tyla Smith. Some solos were so inspiring that they received standing ovations.

"The biggest challenge I had to overcome was learning to trust myself and my voice," soloist Sophia Rodriguez said, "to believe that I can do a good job and have a good outcome, learning to believe in myself."

For those wanting more live entertainment, the trio Gentri will be performing at the MPAC on October 24. Tickets cost 15 dollars and are available at the central office or by calling Conwill at 739-5130.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

The Marion School District has launched StudentProtect, a new and totally free app and reporting system for students, teachers, staff and parents, to report bullying, threats, and suspicious activity.

StudentProtect empowers users of the app to report information that can help identify problems and threats before they become more serious.

The Marion School District can also use the app to send geo-targeted bulletins to users.

EASY TO USE

- See something suspicious?
- Snap a photo or video
- Enter the description
- Select an issue from the list
- Submit it
- Follow up, if requested

ACCESS ANYWHERE

- Simple Reporting Form
- Receive Geo-Targeted information about a nearby event or issue
- It's information at your fingertips!

SUBMIT WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE



The Marion School District is excited to provide students, teachers, staff and parents with this advanced technology for student and school safety.

Go to the Apple App or Google Play store and search for Marion School StudentProtect
Download it for free, today!



MHS Homecoming Queen gives moving speech to MSD crowd

Somewhere over the rainbow, Marion students, family and alumni are all ready for homecoming tonight. Hear what the 2019 Homecoming Queen, Payton Holmes, had to say to her peers in the video below.

There's no place like home.

Marion Homecoming 2019



MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZED AS FIVE TO THRIVE DISTRICT

LITTLE ROCK, AR (October 3, 2019) – The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and the Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign are pleased to announce Marion School District as one of eleven Arkansas school districts to have completed the requirements to qualify as a Five to Thrive district. Five to Thrive, a campaign supported by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign and Arkansas Children’s Hospital’s Natural Wonders Innovation Fund, was developed to encourage school districts across the state to offer a variety of nutritional and physical activity programming to improve student health and academic outcomes.

MJHS & MHS Awarded Literacy Grant

The Dollar General Youth Literacy Foundation awarded MJHS & MHS with \$4,000 to provide assistance in implementing and expanding the Critical Reading Program. They can use the funds to purchase new technology or equipment, books, materials or software to support the literacy initiatives Mrs. Sandra Halley and her team of facilitators are leading this year.

MJHS Robotics Awarded Grant for Competitions

CONGRATS!! to the MJHS Robotics Team! Southland Casino Racing has awarded the team with a \$1500.00 grant. All money will be used for registration fees for upcoming competitions, supplies, and travel expenses for the team. Go Patriots!



What's Happening at MHS

FASFA Night

MHS counselors and faculty assist students and parents in filling out financial aid information in preparation for college next year. This can be confusing and difficult but the counselors help relieve that stress by walking them through this very important process.



MHS Mock Homecoming

MHS Faculty and Students had a lot of fun getting in the homecoming spirit during homecoming week. One exceptionally great time was the mock homecoming where students made memories through the guys were the homecoming court and cheer squad. Go PATS!



What's Happening at MJHS

eMission with NASA

Math meets science in this teamwork heavy activity. 9th grade AP Physical Science students worked collaboratively to save the Island Nation of Montserrat from imminent danger. A dormant volcano is about to erupt and a hurricane is rapidly approaching. The students received, and analyzed, satellite data from a representative of the NASA Challenger institute over video conference. They then made a determination about when and where to evacuate the people of Montserrat based on their calculations. Jobs include Hurricane Meteorologists, Volcanologists, Evacuation Specialists, and Communication Leaders. Each mission has been successful with the help from these students. Mr. Johengen and Mrs. Adkins have been working hard each day to prepare the students before and during this mission. This mission has made a lasting impression on these students and teachers.



GREAT THINGS THAT HAPPENED THIS MONTH AT HCGC

HCGC Faculty Pitch Leadership Action Teams

At HCGC's faculty meeting, staff pitched their leadership action teams to their peers. Keep your eyes on these amazing educators to see what MORE amazing things they will do at HCGC!

Interact Club at HCGC

All HCGC 5th and 6th grade students that are interested in this community service club may get an application from any HCGC 5th or 6th grade teacher! This club's main goal is to provide opportunities for student to help those in their community and the world.



GREAT THINGS THAT HAPPENED THIS MONTH AT MST

MST Measuring Madness!

Mrs. Ezekiel and Mrs. Wall's fourth grade students have been busy learning about measuring in Mrs. Ezekiel's Science Class. They have been using a triple beam balance to determine the mass of objects. According to Mrs. Ezekiel, "Students did an excellent job at tackling something new. On average, the class either hit it on the dot or came within 5 g of the actual mass!"

Students have also recently learned about properties of matter. They used a ruler to find the volume of objects with straight edges. They used a graduated cylinder to find the volume of objects without straight edges. Way to go, students!

MST Egg Drop STEM Challenge

MST students participated in the 2nd annual Egg Drop-STEM Challenge this week! Following the kinders' study of the Humpty Dumpty story, 6th-grade buddies assisted kinders in sketching, planning and building an egg contraption to keep Humpty-Dumpty together during a



GREAT THINGS THAT HAPPENED THIS MONTH AT VPA

Ms. Gill's Class had a visit with an alligator at VPA

Ms. Meredith Gill's kindergarten class at VPA had a special visitor today. Diane Sharpe brought a baby alligator and alligator snapping turtles with the approval of Arkansas Game and Fish to educate students about these reptiles. They talked about alligators being native to Arkansas, where they live, what they eat and how they survive in the wild. Ms. Gill's class was able to feel the texture of the alligator and see actual photos of alligators in the wild. Diane Sharpe and her husband Bucky became interested in the wildlife of Southwest Arkansas twenty-four years ago. They started visiting schools with the reptiles when their grandson was in kindergarten in the Marion School District. During those years they have taken alligator snapping turtles and alligators to many towns all over the state. We were so happy that Diane was able to share this experience with our children.

fall. This two-day "eggstravaganza" involved a close collaboration among students in ten classrooms and demonstrated applications of synergy and critical thinking in the areas of science and reading! Way to go MST Engineers!

VPA creates Peaceful

Metaphoric Art

VPA TEAM GT students honor "Peace Week 2019" by creating "Peaceful Metaphoric Art"! They created metaphors that represented their perspective of peace and then depicted their metaphor in a beautiful art piece! Click [HERE](#) for the video.



MHS Art Students Paint Murals

MHS ART students painted a mural for the Crawfordsville Hometown Festival coming October 12th. Students have been working hard to create a welcoming fall scene for the festivities.

Marion Patriots Sports

WEEK 5 MOST WATCHED BROADCAST

MARION HIGH SCHOOL

MARION, AR



#YOURMASCOTMEDIA

MOST WATCHED BROADCAST: MHS by Tyler Bennett

Despite every single setback thrown our way, Patriot Nation and Arkansas still tuned in!! Thank you to everyone who watched The Fred Leonard State Farm Hometown Showdown on MPAN! Go Team Patriots!

The Patriots Showcased a thriller rivalry battle against West Memphis Friday, and as a result became Mascot Media's Most Watched Broadcast school of Week 5! Congratulations to

[Marion Patriots Athletics Network!](http://marionpatriots.com/)

Watch them LIVE at

<http://marionpatriots.com/> OR <http://appstore.com/marionpatriots>



Marion Players and Administrators Tour St. Jude by Tyler Bennett

The Marion vs West Memphis rivalry is more than just a game. Through the work of a group of people that believe in the community, the event that Crittenden County residents love to hate has become a beacon of hope that fans on both sides can take pride in.

The Fred Leonard State Farm Hometown Showdown began as a fun tailgate for fans on both sides to commune before returning to their side of the bleachers. However, through the work of men like Grandon Gray and Fred Leonard, the game has become a chance for the two sides to lay down their weapons and come together to support one of the most renowned hospitals in the world.

Players and administrators from both sides toured St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Tuesday morning, where they saw first-hand where the funds raised between the two towns will be heading. The fundraising efforts are split between a Team Patriot, Team Blue Devil, Team ASU-Mid South and Team Fred Leonard State Farm. Each team was tasked with a goal of 2,500 dollars for a total of 10 thousand dollars, but both Team Patriot and Blue Devil have each passed the four thousand dollar mark.

McKenzie West, a West Memphis student who is a current patient at St. Jude, shared her story with the two teams after the tour and thanked them for the help and awareness they have raised. Marion coach Keith Houston described her speech as breath-taking and a reminder of what true adversity looks like.

Both sides have had their own unique ways to raise funds for their teams. For example, Team Patriot has created a number of different ways for people to help their cause.

Some of their efforts have included shout-outs during live streams and home games, cheerleaders running the bleachers with donation buckets after football team scores, a duck call raffle and passes for teachers to wear jeans at work after donations.

The Marion Patriots Athletics Network has helped by having guests involved with the event on their weekly coaches show, The Patcast. Guests have included James Stafford and Justin Boddie from St. Jude, local business representatives who are sponsoring the tailgate and Fred Leonard, the event's title sponsor.

During their visit to MHS cyber studios, Stafford talked about how unique the Hometown Showdown truly is compared to other fundraising events the hospital has seen.

"To me, it shows compassion for the mission," Stafford said. "For us across the bridge to bring awareness to these two schools and have the two communities put aside their differences at the game, to me, that's inspirational."

The chance to rally behind a cause like St. Jude has been an experience that both sides can be proud of. Friday night, the opening kickoff will turn the gridiron into a battlefield, but hopefully the work of the Hometown Showdown offers enough goodwill to carry on after the clock hits zero.



PATS FALL AT HOME TO SEARCY by Tyler Bennett

The Marion Patriots (2-4 overall)(1-2 6A East) had their chances against the undefeated Searcy Lions (6-0)(3-0), but the Pats made too many mistakes to come away with a homecoming win. Dropped passes, turnovers and penalties have been a constant problem for a Patriots team that should be a lot better than their record indicates. "The team that makes the least amount of mistakes wins," Marion coach Keith Houston said. "We had some silly penalties tonight. For all of the mistakes we made tonight, we only lost by seven points to a good Searcy team. Just imagine what we could do if we limit all the mental errors." Searcy came into the game with one of the most potent offenses in the 6A, averaging 46 points per game and scoring 54 points against West Memphis the week before. Marion's defense held the Lions to their lowest point total of the season in the 28-21 loss. The first points of the game came from the Patriot defense on a heads-up play by junior defensive end Jaqualyn Daniel. Daniel batted a Lion pass attempt at the line of scrimmage to himself and took it to the endzone for a 54-yard pick-six. However, Searcy's offense did not seem deterred by the setback. The Lions went on a 28-0 run, giving them a three-touchdown lead early in the third quarter. Marion senior running back Anthony Price found the endzone from six yards out before the end of the third quarter. Despite a rough three quarters, the Pats only trailed by two scores heading into the fourth quarter. The Pats had a couple of good drives while their defense kept the Lions at bay, but each drive stalled because of dropped and incomplete passes. Marion quarterback Daedrick Cail finally connected with senior wide receiver Mari Cage for a nine-yard score with around a minute left in the game. Searcy recovered the following onside kick and got a first down to seal their sixth win of the season. Cail completed 16 of his 30 passing attempts for 211 yards and a touchdown, but also threw two interceptions. Searcy quarterback Bryce Dixon completed 18 of his 27 passes for 261 yards and a touchdown. Price carried the ball 20 times for 115 yards for an average of almost six yards per carry. The Lions rushed for three touchdowns and a combined 163 yards on the ground. Up next for the Pats is a trip to Baxter County as they will attempt to spoil homecoming night for the Mountain Home Bombers (0-6)(0-3). Marion has won the last ten games against the Bombers. Kickoff from Mountain Home on Friday, October 18

is scheduled for 7:00 pm. A live stream of the game will be available at marionpatriots.com or the Marion Patriots Athletics app. KWYN 92.5FM will also cover the game.



PATS OUTLAST SYLVAN HILLS by Tyler Bennett

The Marion Patriots (2-3 overall)(1-1 6A East) outlasted the Sylvan Hills Bears (1-4)(0-2) on Friday for their first conference win. The Pats and Bears traded scoring runs to bookend the game, but a last second stand gave Marion the win. Marion eclipsed 300 yards of total offense, 265 of which came through the air after only 69 passing yards a week ago. Junior quarterback Daedrick Cail completed 16 of his 28 passing attempts with two touchdowns, but he did throw three interceptions. Despite the limited running game, senior Anthony Price still had a productive night. The veteran back carried the ball eleven times for 52 yards and a touchdown against an aggressive Sylvan Hills defensive line. "We needed our offensive line to be consistent tonight and I thought they were for the most part," Marion coach Keith Houston said. "We need consistency all around the field, but those guys are the backbone of the offense. When we gave AP (Price) holes, he was able to make some plays." Marion started the first scoring run of the night with a 32-yard field goal from sophomore Dylan Pieri. Mari Cage made the Bears pay after they failed to convert on fourth-and-one from their own 29-yard line. Cail found Cage from 24-yards out to give Marion a 10-0 lead. The Bears found their stride in the second quarter, answering with a field goal and two touchdowns before the end of the half. Sylvan Hills players and fans enjoyed a 17-10 halftime lead to go along with the homecoming ceremonies. Sylvan Hills kicker Matthew Riley would extend the Bears' lead after the break on their first drive to push their lead to ten points. The Pats would answer with a 5-yard touchdown pass before the end of the quarter to Thomas Dorin and trailed the Bears 20-17 at the start of the fourth. Marion's defense held the Bears off the board for the remainder of the game, in textbook bend-don't-break fashion. Sylvan Hills drove deep into Marion territory twice in the fourth quarter, but the Patriot defense managed to come up with stops on fourth-and-short situations. After Price gave the Pats the lead with his touchdown run in the fourth, the second fourth quarter turnover-on-downs won the game for the Pats. Sylvan Hills had the ball at the Marion five-yard line with four seconds left, trailing 24-20. The Bears ran the

majority of their plays out of the I-formation, using a shotgun formation occasionally to run jet sweeps to their quick receivers. Sylvan Hills faked a sweep on the final play, but handed it off to their running back. The Patriot defense sniffed the fake out, tackling the back for a short gain and giving Marion their first conference win. "Once our defense figures out what their supposed to do, they can make all the big plays," Houston said. "We had to make some adjustments at the half to counter what they were doing. They started making tackles and big plays for us." Homecoming week is up next for the Patriots as they host the talented Searcy Lions (5-0)(2-0). The Lions won last year's meeting 37-23 and have conference wins this season over Jacksonville and West Memphis. Next week's game is the first for Marion at Patriot Stadium since they hosted Wynne on September 6. Kickoff from Patriot Stadium on Friday, October 11 is scheduled for 7:00 pm. Fans are encouraged to arrive around 6:30 pm to enjoy all of the Homecoming festivities.

The Official Sports Network of
Marion Patriot Athletics



Check us out ONLINE!
marionpatriots.com



Download for FREE!
Search: Marion Patriot Athletics



Share The Good Stuff

If there are good things happening in your classroom or building, we want to hear about it. Here are a few examples:

- Exciting field trips
- Guest speakers
- Interactive lesson plans
- Students or staff with remarkable personal stories
- Favorable academic data
- College signings, academic scholarships
- Planned professional development

Send your good stuff with pictures and/or video to Jonnett Gammill at jgammill@msd3.org or Tyler Bennett at tybennett@msd3.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Marion School District Newsletter will be disseminated monthly. If you would like your news included in the next edition, please shoot an email to jgammill@msd3.org with "newsletter" in the subject line. When submitting news, keep in mind the 5 W's: who, what, why, when, and where. Attach photos and video with your copy.

The deadline to submit information is the 21st of each month.





About MSD


 Facebook

 @MSD_Patriots

 200 Manor Street, Marion, AR, ...

 jgammill@msd3.org

 870-739-5100

 msd3.org

Marion Patriot Athletics

Check us out on the web or download our new app.