



Marion County School District Educational Foundation

Empowering children today for a better tomorrow.



November 18, 2022

Dear Marion County School District Parents,

On behalf of the children, staff, and the entire county, we extend a huge and humble “Thank You” to MacKenzie Scott for her overwhelming generosity. Her commitment to fostering positive change will lift the financial burdens off many families while providing students the necessary means to become productive citizens. We also thank the Lost Horse Foundation, National Philanthropic Trust, and all the team members from Bridgespan and Giving Team who have worked tirelessly to positively support thousands of organizations all across the world, even here in our very own Marion County School District. The MCSD, after several months of interviews and endless prayers, has been granted a non-restricted gift in the amount of **\$3,500,000.00** via the Lost Horse Foundation and National Philanthropic Trust by MacKenzie Scott. Her unparalleled generosity has helped millions across the globe, and now will impact the students of Marion County for generations to come.

We are grateful for our partners, the Pinebelt Foundation and Pearl River Community College who are joining us on this venture of “*empowering children today for a better tomorrow.*” The Pinebelt Foundation has agreed to manage the MCSD Educational Foundation Fund and facilitate the distribution of scholarships. Also, we are appreciative for our Board of Trustees whose selfless dedication towards serving others allowed this dream to become a reality. Their leadership and steadfastness in being the change in our community is essential to so many. Likewise, we owe thanks to Dr. Adam Breerwood and the Pearl River Community College for partnering with us to create as many opportunities as possible for our students. Under his leadership PRCC has seen unprecedented growth and improvement. Due to this partnership, hundreds of programs under career and academic pathways will be more accessible to our students.

Moving forward, the MCSD Educational Foundation Fund will be managed through our partner the Pinebelt Foundation which will in turn work with Pearl River Community College to put the generosity of MacKenzie Scott to work, not just this year, but for the foreseeable years to come. At least 50 students from East and West Marion will be able to attend PRCC at **NO COST**. This would include room and board, textbooks, and full tuition for any programs offered at PRCC.

We are establishing a scholarship process based on needs that will be administered by a committee for West Marion and East Marion. The scholarship process will include an application, interview, and award process in which each committee will select awardees and present them for approval. We will have a website soon with more details, including a questions and answer section. The application will go LIVE the beginning of December.

Leading by Serving,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl Michael Day".

Carl Michael Day, Superintendent of Education

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email. I am here to serve our children and you.

601-736-7193

cmday@marionk12.org