

***Please consider a gift to the Marcy Open Parent Council this year...***

Dear Marcy families,

Now entering my 5th year of teaching Physical Education at Marcy Open School, I have the privilege of working with most, if not all of your students.

The Parent Council asked me to talk about how their funding\* (raised by many parents and community members like you) has impacted my teaching here.

- **Field Trips** I am one of those crazy teachers that really loves to take students on field trips. I enjoy seeing students experience new things and interacting with them in other environments. I love seeing them learn and grow outside of school. My very first year, I was approached by a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders to see if I would organize a ski trip. I knew that this would be difficult for some students to afford, so I approached the Parent Council to help with scholarship funds – which they did. Those students who were then able to go had a great experience and the trip has continued all of my years here since.
- **The Marcy PC funded climbing wall in the gymnasium.** This has been a great addition; it is an activity at which all students can be successful and we use it often. It is always great to have students develop the skills and strength to get across the wall for the first time *and* to see them develop harder routes and challenges for themselves and their peers. Just a few weeks ago a first grader who was to afraid to try the wall last year navigated it for the first time. The look of pride and accomplishment on her face was priceless!
- **Wolf Ridge.** Marcy PC helped fund this trip which is open to all 5th graders. It was probably one of the highlights of my 16 years of teaching. This could not have been done without the funds from the Parent Council. We took 80 students and 12 staff and volunteers on this trip and it was truly one of those times that you know as a teacher that you are changing lives. Watching those awesome 5<sup>th</sup> graders work with their group members and do things like build fires, ice fish, snowshoe, and navigate the ropes courses was a sight to see! For many of the students, it was their first time away from home and many had never done these kinds of outdoor activities before. The funding of the Parent Council made this amazing trip possible. My hope is that this becomes a right of passage for all of our 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they move into middle school.

And the list goes on, thanks to the Parent Council, we have been able to do sustaining “PE” field trips with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (bowling), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Base Camp), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (Wolf Ridge) and 7/8 (Afton Ski trip) . I have been blessed to teach at Marcy and because of the generosity of the Parent Council I have been lucky enough to see so many students build relationships with staff and peers, develop skills that will help them as they get older, and enjoy new experiences.

*We can't do it without you!* Please help me continue to provide these amazing experiences\* for all of our students by **supporting the Marcy Open Parent Council this year. To give your support, please return the donation form on the reverse side of this letter with a check in the included envelope.** I look forward to many more years of bowling, Base Camp, skiing, and Wolf Ridge and with the support of our generous community, I know that I will.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Tammy Cowan  
Marcy PE/Health Teacher

P.S. We will also be running a **Give to the Max** campaign again this year on November 17th, so feel free to share this page with family and friends via email and social media <https://givemn.org/organization/Marcy-Parent-Council!>

**\*Marcy Parent Council raises funds that impact all aspects of Marcy Open School, ranging from arts programming, to teacher support, to the Peace Labyrinth and more- your gift of any size will have a great impact!**

**\*\*Does your employer match gifts to a 501(c)3 like Marcy Open Parent Council? - Not sure? To find out or ask your company's human resources department.**

**Here is my special gift to the Marcy Open School Annual Fund that will go to support programming that enriches and strengthens our community:**

\$25.00       \$50.00       \$100.00       \$500.00       other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

***Our thanks for whatever you can give!***