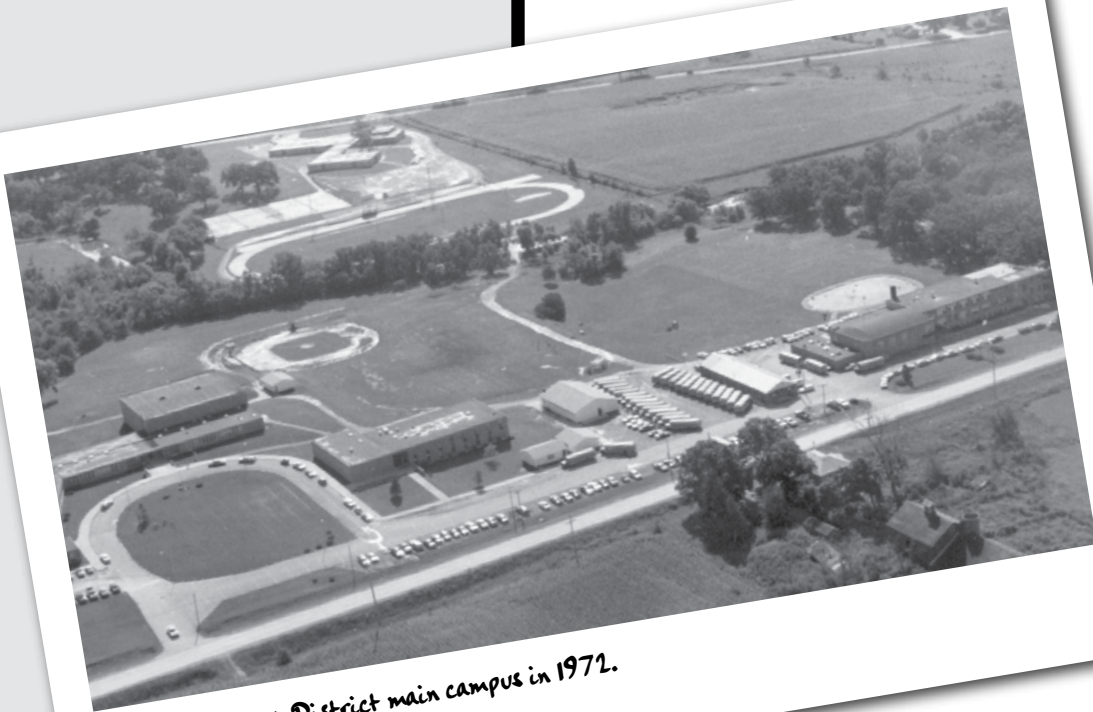


# Special Edition

Linn-Mar Pride • September 2009

## Celebrating 60 Years of Educational Excellence

### Linn-Mar Community School District 1949 – 2009



Linn-Mar School District main campus in 1971.

In 1949, Harry S. Truman was president. China became a communist country and Russia had the nuclear bomb which increased the tension between East and West (The Cold War). North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established and the Federal Republic of Germany officially founded. RCA perfected a system for broadcasting color television and the first 45 RPM vinyl record was released. Automatic street lights had just been invented.

Locally, 17 rural schools were joining to form the Marion Rural Independent School District.

At that time, 287 students were enrolled K-8. Tenth Street was lined with farm fields as were most of the other current Linn-Mar school

building sites. Despite a district name change in 1959 and three merger votes with Marion Independent, all of which failed, Linn-Mar has had continual growth and retained a sense of community for over five decades.

Today, seven elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school are located throughout the District. Almost 1,000 staff serve the educational needs of 6,500 students kindergarten through twelfth grade. Whether busing, cooking or teaching, Linn-Mar staff are dedicated to the quality of the educational experience for all students.

In the future, Linn-Mar is planning for additional schools. The School Board recently approved a purchase of nearly 90 acres at the corner of C Avenue Extension and Echo Hill Road. This parcel of land has many possibilities including space for an additional secondary building. This fall construction will begin on a multipurpose stadium that will be home to Lion football, track, soccer and marching band. Buildings and Grounds, Transportation and the Educational Services Center will be moving to accommodate parking and grounds space for the facility. Staff from the Educational Services Center will move to the Learning Resource Center (LRC), formerly Novak Elementary, once the Novak Elementary at 401 29th Avenue is complete.

Ever growing, ever changing, Linn-Mar is celebrating 60 Years of Educational Excellence.

#### History of Linn-Mar School Enrollment

1949.....384	1979.....3301
1950.....401	1980.....3314
1951.....443	1981.....3258
1952.....458	1982.....3191
1953.....461	1983.....3111
1954.....519	1984.....3006
1955.....554	1985.....2970
1956.....567	1986.....2978
1957.....570	1987.....3004
1958.....650 estimate	1988.....3077
1959.....730	1989.....3134
1960.....858	1990.....3267
1961.....953	1991.....3373
1962.....1095	1992.....3514.2
1963.....1254	1993.....3660.7
1964.....1493	1994.....3863.2
1965.....1726	1995.....4097.1
1966.....1987	1996.....4376.9
1967.....2267	1997.....4495.6
1968.....2552	1998.....4667.6
1969.....2720	1999.....4883.1
1970.....2892	2000.....4998.7
1971.....3016	2001.....5149.9
1972.....3061	2002.....5263.1
1973.....3147	2003.....5414.8
1974.....3184	2004.....5628.2
1975.....3232	2005.....5780.5
1976.....3290	2006.....6196.2
1977.....3368	2007.....6371.6
1978.....3342	2008.....6490.9

#### That was THEN, this is NOW

	1949	2009
Taxable Valuation	\$3,122,867	\$1,405,068,214
Annual Budget	\$40,000	\$85,227,850
Annual Teachers Salary	\$1,350	\$46,985
Eligible Voters	600	24,446
Construction Costs	\$0.50 – 0.60 cents per square foot	\$110.00 per square foot
Number of Graduates	26 ( K-8)	372

# Celebrating 60 Years of Educational Excellence

## One Room Schools

Rural Schools: Marion Township,  
Linn County, Iowa (early 1940s)

- #2 Squaw Creek
- #4 Martin's Creek
- #5 Pleasant Grove  
(formerly Lucore)
- #6 Hazel Ridge
- #7 Picayune
- #8 Millwood
- #9 Big Head
- #10 Concord
- #11 Pleasant Grove (two room)
- #13 Prairie Union
- #14 North Star
- #15 Wildcat
- #16 Excelsior
- #17 Hillsdale
- #18 Prairie Ridge
- #19 Sunnyside
- #20 Lakeside



Junior high classroom in 1950s.



Junior high science class in 1950s.



Novak Elementary classroom in 1956.



Cooking staff at Marion Rural Independent circa 1950.



A one room school house called Hazel Ridge or 'the White House' housed many departments of the district including Building, Grounds Transportation and The Educational Services Center (ESC) until 1975



High school cafeteria in 1960s.



High school Science class 1960s.



High school music class in 1960s.



High school science in 1960s.



High school Home Economics class 1960s.



High school Gym class 1960s, current Media Center.

\* Dates on photos are approximate. If you have additional historical information please contact Information Services at (319) 447-3005.

## Linn-Mar School District Timeline

1948

Main Elementary School completed K-8. Named Marion Rural Independent School.



1959

Linn-Mar Senior High built.

1963

Junior High School built.

Marion Rural Independent Schools named Linn-Mar Community School by Iowa Legislature.

1966

Gymnasium, classrooms and offices added to Senior High.

Wilkins Elementary built.



1968

Bowman Woods Elementary built.

1970

One pod and six classrooms added to Bowman Woods.

1940



1950

1949

Novak Elementary built.

1953

Classroom addition to Main Elementary.

1956

Addition to Main Elementary.

1960

1961

East wing classrooms added to the Senior High to provide space for grades 7 and 8.

Indian Creek Elementary built.

1965

Lunch kitchen added to Main Elementary.

1967

West foyer added to Senior High.

Library, music and art rooms added to Wilkins Elementary.

1970

1969

Multi-purpose room, two pods and two kindergarten rooms added to Bowman Woods Elementary.

1974

Fourteen classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, lunch room, library and additional music rooms added to Junior High Building. The junior and senior high were combined at this time.



# Celebrating 60 Years of Educational Excellence



## Marion Rural High Becomes Linn-Mar

Marion Rural Community High School was officially named Linn-Mar by the Board of Education of this district. Linn-Mar was selected from many names submitted by the people in the community.

Linn stands for Linn County and Mar for Marion Township.

For this name Sharon Oftedahl received the \$25 Savings Bond awarded by the Iowa Electric Light & Power Company and presented to her by Mr. Dale Miner, commercial manager of that company. Observing the presentation are Principal Parkin and Superintendent Wilkins.



Signage by the high school in 1963.



Wilkins Lion's cage in 1986.



Computer class in 1993.



Typing class in 1987.



Indian Creek playground construction in 1995.



Temporary classrooms East of Novak Elementary in 1970s.



Science class in 1970s.



Studying at the library in 1970s.



Choosing a film strip in 1970s.



High school typing class in 1970s.



Elementary classroom 1970s.



Viewing film strips in 1970s.



**1975**  
Educational Services Center and Buildings and Grounds built.

**1980**  
Additions were made to the Junior and Senior high



**1997**  
\$25 million bond issue passed

**1999**  
District changed from a K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 configuration to a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 configuration.

Westfield Elementary was built.

New gymnasiums and classrooms were added at Wilkins Elementary and Indian Creek Elementary.

A two story addition to the Intermediate School to change to Linn-Mar Middle School was made.

New gymnasium was added to the High School.

**2001**  
\$12 million bond issue passed.

**2009**  
Approximately 86 acres were purchased at the intersection of C Avenue and Echo Hill Road for a new secondary school campus.

Nearly 15 acres were purchased on 62nd Street for Transportation and Operations & Maintenance.

The back drive off the 29th Avenue entrance and a new parking lot behind the northeast corner of the High School was built.

Transportation and Operations & Maintenance move to their new building on 62nd Street.

1980

1990

2000

2009



**1995**  
New media centers and remodeling was done at Indian Creek Elementary and Bowman Woods Elementary.

Fourteen room addition to senior high was made.  
Linn-Mar Intermediate School was built.

**1998**  
Cleary buildings built between ESC and B&G

**2000**  
New auditorium was added to the High School.



**2003**  
Oak Ridge School (K-8) was built.  
Linn-Mar Middle School became Excelsior Middle School.



**2006**  
\$27.5 million bond issue passed to build two new elementary schools (Echo Hill & Linn Grove), renovate and update the High School, renovate and update Novak Elementary and convert Oak Ridge to a middle school.

