



This is personal..... It has to be. I can't come to any sense of a realization that this community and school district will ever be anything less than special. Monarch Country has always been a special place for me and for so many others. When I walk down Main Street in downtown Marysville, I am vividly reminded of the way our stores were decorated in the early 90's while we made deep football runs into the playoffs. Coach Weiskircher made "48 minutes of tough, hard nosed, aggressive football" sound like poetry as he spoke in front of his team in the center of our city. I think about the privilege those young men felt to stand on that wagon, in front of hundreds of proud community members. How can we have Monarch Country, without the Monarchs?

When I look back at my own experience as a student-athlete here in Marysville schools, gratitude fills my heart. I think of how some amazing educators implanted a passion for learning into a 16 year old kid who barely made C's, and changed the entire landscape of my life. I could never forget the way that Coach Kaufman impacted me as my basketball coach, because on some level..... I am Coach Kaufman. We were fortunate enough to win championships, but his teachings about life and the "bigger picture" formed my teammates and I into who we are today. That is education.

We have top notch band, choir, show choir, and FFA programs (among countless other excellent programs) in this school district that have experienced success at the state and even national levels. I am so glad that the 572 kids who represent these programs have had the opportunity for years to be the "front porch" of our community and school district. Without these opportunities, many people would never get a glimpse at the great things our community and school district have to offer.

I could never forget the financial burden that this community bore for my family when my older brother passed away in 1994. Can you imagine the relief that a family, who was struggling financially, felt when we were told the funeral that they couldn't afford, was paid for in full? I am not sure that I know of a word that would give this community the credit they deserve. This community takes care of their own, in time of need.

I hope that the rally movement that has already begun will touch a special place in your heart. We are special; always have been, always will be. Our community is our school district, and our school district is our community. They are indivisible, inseparable, and if one crumbles, the other will not be too far behind. Without the passage of our school levies on November 4th, we would have a conservative estimate of 1200 young people in the district, and over 900 at Marysville High School alone who will lose the life altering, and character forming opportunities that extracurricular activities provide. The approximately \$4 a week tax increase (<http://www2.co.union.oh.us/parcelSearch/parcelSearch.aspx>) for the average home in Marysville (valued at \$159,000), reminds me of some of the simpler, yet defining, principles I was brought up to believe. We didn't have much, but Dad always said that there are some things worth tightening our belts for. He also said that "The best investment you can ever make, is in the lives of your kids." This is our community. This is our school district. These are our kids.

Proud To Be a Monarch

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