

Community News

Achieving Excellence in Education

Duniway's Cathy Carnahan named middle school principal of the year, national finalist

Duniway Middle School Principal Cathy Carnahan, Oregon Middle School Principal of the Year, is a finalist for the 2011 National School Principal of the Year.

Carnahan was selected for her significant contributions to student achievement, a strong focus on collaboration and commitment to professional development.

The award is sponsored by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Carnahan will travel to Washington, DC, in September

where the winner will be named at the Principals' Institute for State and National Principals of the Year.

Carnahan is the first national finalist from Oregon since 2003.

"Cathy teaches how to stay focused on learning and demonstrates consistently caring about each interaction we have with every student we encounter," said Superintendent Maryalice Russell,

For more information or to see a video about Cathy Carnahan, visit the District's Web site: www.msd.k12.or.us.



Budget reserves, staff concessions preserve programs for 2010-11



Dear Neighbor,

Summer vacation is a good time to slow down a little. For us, it means a brief break and a

chance to review the things we know are working and the things we would like to improve.

Many of our high school programs are working well for students. More than 400 seniors graduated from our two high schools in June, and both schools provide many diverse options to meet all students' needs.

See p. 2-3 for more high school information.

Our goal is to provide the best possible education to students. Our challenge is to stretch our budget as far as possible to meet the individual needs of 6,500 children in our schools.

In June, the School Board adopted a budget for the 2010-11 school year.

In a time of national recession our budget committee and board were faced with difficult decisions to balance the budget. Following the Governor's nine percent cut to state agencies, the District made a plan to use some reserves, reduce some programs and capture savings from employee groups.

Next year, administration, classified and confidential staff will take five furlough days resulting in a savings

to the District of \$307,000.

We will continue to offer electives, PE and music through 2010-2011.

The state budget picture continues to change, which could change our budget picture, too.

All our staff are tremendously dedicated to student success. We are grateful for their hard work on behalf of students.

In the meantime, we'll be ready for the start-of-school excitement in September.

Sincerely,

Maryalice Russell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MHS and MACA celebrate graduation milestones

This June, both McMinnville high schools marked historical graduation milestones. McMinnville High School graduated its 100th class and the Media Arts and Communications Academy (MACA) graduated its first class.

A total of 411 students received high school diplomas: 384 from MHS and 27 from MACA.

School Highlights:

McMinnville High School

McMinnville High School students earned an impressive amount of scholarships and awards and demonstrated high-level student achievement:

- 102 students were awarded more than \$5 million in educational scholarships, grants and awards.
- 45 students received honors diplomas.
- 72 students earned pathways endorsements in career areas.
- 80 students had grade point averages of 3.5 or higher.
- 37 students were Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) scholar athletes.
- 17 students were OSAA activity scholars.

MACA

MACA principal Laurie Cooper called the first graduating class “pioneers.” Most of the 27 graduating seniors enrolled in MACA as sophomores when the school opened in 2007.

MACA school principles are known as ECHO: Explore, Create, Honor and Own. Students who exemplified the values of ECHO received the following awards:

Nathan Pellham (Explore)

Zach Quinn (create)

Alma Garza (Own)

McKenzie Paasch (Honor)

Overall ECHO Award: Mariah Currey

For more information about McMinnville High school programs, see the District Web site: www.msd.k12.or.us.



MACA graduate Drea Harper receives her diploma from School Board member Larry Vollmer at the MACA commencement ceremony on June 10.

Both high schools use small learning community model

Both McMinnville High School and MACA have small learning communities models in place. The smaller learning community model has shown improvements in student attendance and achievement. McMinnville schools have identified the following benefits that support smaller learning communities for students:

- Reduce feelings of anonymity.
- Intervene quickly with struggling and at-risk students.
- Conference with students as a team.
- Improve communication with parents/guardians.
- Provide attendance mentors for at-risk students.
- Collaborate to focus on fail rates and identify effective strategies to use with individual students.
- Share common instructional practices, expectations, and policies.

Students must earn more credits with phased-in graduation requirements

Current seniors are required to earn a minimum 24 credits in grades 9-12.

Starting with the class of 2011, students are required to earn 27 credits for the District's Standard Diploma.

The state adopted new graduation requirements last spring that steps up the credit needs for high school students. This phase in adds more rigor for each graduating class through the class of 2014.

That class – today's eighth graders – will need to pass three high school math classes at an Algebra 1 level and higher and the state math test.

The higher standards started with recent graduates who needed one more math credit – now three instead of two.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2012, students must demonstrate proficiency in certain essential skills deemed critical for future success that can be applied in a variety of courses, subjects, experiences, and settings.

The District also offers an Honors diploma with additional requirements and a basic diploma available to a limited number of students on an individual basis. I

For details about these two diplomas see www.msd.k12.or.us/district/graduation-requirements.

Graduation Requirements: Standard Diploma

Academic Area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Units of Credit					
English/Language Arts	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3	3	3
Science	2	2	3	3	3
Social Science	3	3	3	3	3
Physical Education	1	1	1	1	1
Health Education	1	1	1	1	1
Arts, Second Language, Professional Tech. Ed.	1	1	3	3	3
Electives	9	9	6	6	6
Pathway Experience	NA	3	3	3	3
Total Credits	24	27	27	27	27
Personalized Learning					
Education Plan and Profile	Req.	Req.	Req.	Req.	Req.
Career-Related Learning Standards					
Career-Related Learning Experiences					
Extended Application					
Essential Skills					
Read and Interpret a variety of texts.	NA	NA	Req.	Req.	Req.
Write for a variety of purposes.	NA	NA	NA	Req.	Req.
Apply math in a variety of settings.	NA	NA	NA	NA	Req.
Speak and present publicly.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Think critically and analytically.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Use technology.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Demonstrate civic and community engagement.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Demonstrate global literacy.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Demonstrate career-related learning standards.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Girls' camp focuses on math and science

Seventy-five middle school girls attended a girls' science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) camp this summer in the classroom wing at Evergreen Aviation Museum. The camp was funded by a grant from the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

The camp provided higher level thinking and hands-on experience in math and science, and exposed female students to career areas generally underrepresented by women.



Schools stay busy with summer school and meal program

All summer, students were able to eat a nutritious school meal at three school sites.

The **summer food service program** provided free breakfast and lunch to any child under 18 at Newby and Wascher elementary schools and McMinnville High School. Meals were available for purchase by adults.

A total of 3,626 breakfast meals and 10,179 lunch meals were served from June 21, through Aug. 13. The program was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

For more information about the District's nutrition program, visit www.msd.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition-services.



Through July 9, summer school was in session for about 200 elementary students and for high school students needing credit recovery.

Elementary students met at Newby, where the focus was literacy in the primary grades and math and literacy in fourth and fifth grades.

Newby also had programs for migrant preschool and kindergarten students.

The goal of the program was to help students retain what they had learned and get a boost for the coming year. Eligible students were referred by their classroom teachers and space was limited due to budget reductions.



For More Information

For more information about the McMinnville School District, please contact us:
Phone: 503.565.4000 • E-mail: info@msd.k12.or.us • Web: www.msd.k12.or.us



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