

Community News

Achieving Excellence in Education

Making progress on graduation and science



Dear Neighbor,

It was another great year for our schools. We had an outstanding graduating class, and we are continuing to build valuable

programs for students starting in elementary school through high school.

This year we were recognized by the Oregon Department of Education as having three model schools.

Our Vision 2020 process resulted in goals that help us further student success.

You can read more about this work and our school-year achievements in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Maryalice Russell, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

MHS Assistant Principal Sean Burke: 2012 Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year

MHS Assistant Principal Sean Burke was named Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year and was one of three finalists for the 2012 National Association of School Secondary Principals Assistant Principal of the Year.



are making gains in closing the achievement gap and raising student achievement. The areas in which we improved are directly related to good teaching and strong support from the rest of the staff.”

In the selection letter, Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti said: “You are

The process brought him to final interviews in Florida and called attention to the good work and commitment to students in the McMinnville School District.

“I believe the award symbolizes the work that our teachers and support staff do every day throughout the district,” said Burke. “We

truly an outstanding educational leader. NASSP, OASSA, and the McMinnville School District are extremely proud to have you represent the class of 2012 State Assistant Principals of the Year as well as being a finalist for the 2012 National award.”

State 40-40-20 plan sets goal for 100 percent graduation rate in 2025

District achievement compacts identify a trajectory to achieve this goal.

The Oregon Legislature’s 40-40-20 plan set education goals for all adult Oregonians by 2025: 40 percent have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher; 40 percent have earned an associate’s degree or credential; and 20 percent have earned at least a high school diploma or the equivalent.

See <http://1.usa.gov/Oo2JjM>.

Even before that, the McMinnville School District set high student

goals, including dual college/high school credit enrollment expectations for all high school students, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) advanced curricula in all schools.

The state graduation goals require districts to outline annual targets for student college-readiness in achievement compacts. The McMinnville School District achievement compacts set high standards for meeting these goals.

See p. p. 2 for information about Oregon Model Schools and p. 4 for information about Vision 2020.



2012-13 Budget Status

Oregon's struggling economy has had a very negative impact on the State School Fund, which has consequently provided insufficient funds for education around the state. Since the onset of this recession in 2008 the McMinnville School District has reduced more than 60 positions, resulting in larger class sizes and program reductions.

For the current 2012-13 school year, budget reductions were guided by the following criteria:

- Make all decisions with the District's mission and Board goals in mind, minimizing negative impact on students and maximizing student achievement.
- Maintain a sufficient reserve balance to meet Board Policy during 2012-13 and protect the District's bond rating status.
- Maintain enriched curriculum opportunities such as physical education, music, library services, counseling, athletics, high school career pathways and dual high school/college credit programs.
- Minimize layoffs to the extent possible.
- Minimize increases to class size.
- Propose a service level for the coming school year that is sustainable for at least two years.

See the adopted budget on the District website: <http://msd.orvsd.org/sites/www.msd.k12.or.us/files/2012-13AdoptedBudget.pdf>.

Apply to serve on the Budget Committee

The District is accepting applications for an open vacancy on the budget committee. Interested budget committee applicants should email gcraven@msd.k12.or.us for an application. School Board members plan to interview candidates at their Sept. 10 business meeting.

Three "model" McMinnville schools earn state recognition for high achievement

In August, **Grandhaven, Memorial and Sue Buel elementary schools** were named model schools — a new state designation that recognizes Title 1 schools with records of high achievement. Title 1 schools are high poverty schools.

Statewide, 27 schools from 20 districts received this title. McMinnville was the only district on the list to have three model schools.

See more information about state model schools and the list of model schools on the ODE website: www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3742.

MHS Class of 2012



Current scholarship awards

\$5,184,138

Valedictorians

11 students (perfect 4.0 grade point averages)

Salutatorians

12 students (weighted 4.0 grade point averages)

National Merit Scholars

Five students. National Merit Scholars are among the top 50,000 highest-scoring high school seniors on the PSAT exams.

Honors diploma recipients

46 students

Career Pathway Endorsements

202 students

Students earning 24 or more college credits through dual-credit program

64

Science experiences bring elementary students into field for hands-on research and experiments

STEM instruction — science, technology, engineering and math — is a priority in McMinnville schools. Starting in the last four years, students have had many more opportunities to learn STEM subjects thanks to grants and a focus on courses that will expose students to STEM fields.

The recent STEM focus grew out of the need to prepare students to enter STEM career fields. The District's Engineering and Aerospace Academy (EASA) in high school provides culminating STEM experiences while elementary and middle school STEM programs provide foundational knowledge and skills.

STEM in Schools

As part of the STEM program, elementary students take a specialized field trip each year. The field experiences give them a chance to have hands-on science experiences off-site that connect to state standards. Each trip builds on the lessons from the previous year's experience.

- **Grade 1:** Evergreen Aviation Museum (photo: top)
- **Grade 2:** Miller Woods experience
- **Grade 3:** McMinnville Water and Light Water (photo: middle) Treatment Facility
- **Grade 4:** Miller Woods (photo: bottom)
- **Grade 5:** Elementary school EASA exposure

At the middle schools level, students can access STEM centers to learn concepts such as aeronautical engineering, math and robotics.

This year, the District will pilot a kindergarten STEM program at Newby Elementary School.

STEM Camp for Girls

To increase enrollment of girls in STEM courses, typically underrepresented in STEM fields, the District developed a summer STEM camp. Now in its third year, the camp provides STEM training at Evergreen to 140 girls each summer.

Robotics program

This year, EASA formed a robotics team. Robotics tasks incorporate all STEM subjects. The "Nerd Herd" won a rookie all-star award at competition. See p. 4.

Curriculum Director Tony Vicknair oversees the District's secondary STEM education programs for students in grades 6-12. He said McMinnville students have more STEM opportunities than in most districts. "To be able to integrate STEM into classrooms for every student seems pretty special," he said. "Developing these programs and partnerships on our own sites is something we're proud of. It's been a great thing for kids."



First graders tried out the airplane seats at Evergreen Aviation Museum during a field trip in May. Students also participated in a team building activity and built and tested paper airplanes.



Second graders tested water samples at the McMinnville Water and Light Water Treatment Plant in October. They toured the facility and engineered water flow systems.



Fourth graders traveled to Miller Woods in October and May for several life science experiences. Students tested soil, identified insects, trees and birds. Science teacher Jared Larson is pictured with a student during a May trip.

Vision 2020: A Plan for Student Success

Vision 2020 is part of the McMinnville School District's strategic planning process to define educational goals for our students.

In an in-depth community process in 2009, the District asked

- What are the most critical skills students will need in 2020? What challenging learning opportunities should the district provide? How can it engage all students and improve student achievement?

The goals of Vision 2020 are to identify the knowledge and skills they will need to become successful post-secondary students, employees and citizens beyond 2020. And to respond to students' changing needs as they move through our schools.



EASA Nerd Herd robotics team has great first year of competition



EASA's new robotics team, the Nerd Herd had an impressive first year. Twenty-five students signed up for the new team, which had grants and support from NASA, Evergreen, JC Penney, Boeing and Stitch-N-Embroidery, Inc.

The team was led by EASA teacher Juanita Clarno. They took their robot to compete at the state-level First Robotics Competition in Portland and advanced to regional competition in Las Vegas, where they won the Rookie All-Star Award. This designation qualified them to compete in the national competition in St. Louis, MO.

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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School starts on Sept. 4!