

Community News

Achieving Excellence in Education

McMinnville staff to students: “Grit” is the key to success in school and life



Greetings from McMinnville School District and welcome back to another great school year.

I am very proud to be part of the McMinnville education team and excited for you to learn about some of the terrific things happening in our schools. Of course it would not be half the place it is were it not for our highly skilled teachers and support staff. I am grateful for their eagerness, dedication and commitment to bring their best

game every day to help students achieve. I want to thank our community, too, for its ongoing support of children. Kids come first in all our planning, not just because it's the right thing to do, but it is also the necessary thing to do in order for children to grow into successful adults and to ensure a robust and vibrant community.

So, have you heard about “GRIT,” the word used to describe perseverance, hard work, determination, stick-to-it-ness mindsets? Many researchers are studying this concept in the context of what makes some people more successful than others. Angela Duckworth, Penn State researcher and others suggest it is not talent or IQ that matter as much as hard work and persistence on the same thing for a really long time. We know our students leave us prepared for furthering their education beyond 12th grade, but fewer pursue a post-secondary education (right now 59%) than are prepared to. Is it because it's hard, because it may be difficult to pay for, or because, other than Linfield, proximity to a four-year post-secondary institution is a problem?

We know McMinnville has GRIT! Our students are consistently outperforming other students across the state while in the K-12 setting. How do we make sure 100% of our students have GRIT, even when it gets tough, and pursue post-secondary educational programs after high school graduation? Students with an education beyond 12th grade will earn significantly more income over the course of their lifetime than those with a high school diploma. Help us ensure future employment success; help kids think about GRIT – persistence and hard work – well beyond high school.

Thanks for supporting your schools!
 Maryalice Russell, Ed.D.
 Superintendent

grit noun \ 'grit \

- firmness of mind or spirit : unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger

www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/grit

- Perseverance and passion for long-term goals

Angela Duckworth, Ph.D.
 Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania

www.sas.upenn.edu/~duckworth/images/Grit%20JPSP.pdf

Dr. Angela Duckworth’s theory on how students learn is that “grit,” determination and persistence, is a better predictor of success than IQ.

Learn more about her research in her TED Talk: The key to success? Grit

www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_the_key_to_success_grit.html

McMinnville School District Improvement Plan, 2013-14

GOAL 1: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Direct and support continued improvement of student learning to achieve academic excellence by providing challenging learning opportunities that engage every student.

Objectives:

- Exceed the state average of the percentage of students meeting state benchmarks in reading and math.
- Improve student performance in writing.
- Reduce the dropout rate.
- Reduce the number of student behavior incidents related to student safety.
- Involve parents, students, staff and community to improve attendance and four-year graduation rates.
- Increase career pathway endorsement recipients.
- Provide staff development aligned with learning objectives and priorities.
- Meet or exceed achievement compact targets.
- Continue developing MHS off-site programs.

GOAL II: RESOURCES

Direct and assure a high quality operation of the District to support the achievement of excellence.

Objectives:

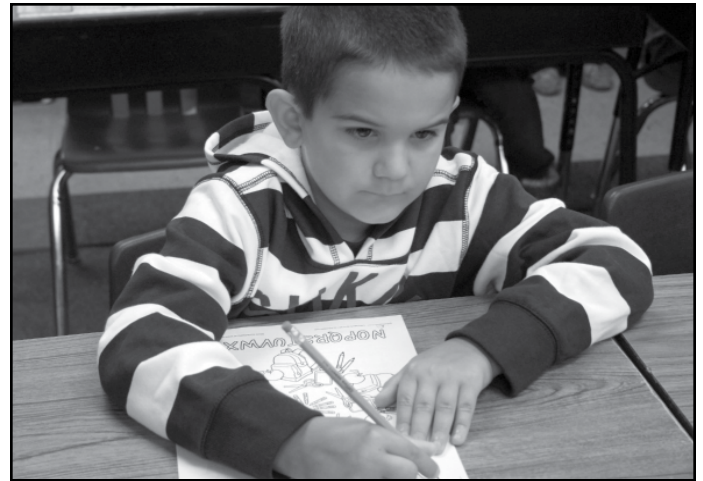
- Continue maximizing efforts to secure grants and acquire and effectively use state, federal and private resources.
- Maintain and nurture partnerships including scholarship fund development for graduates. Maintain a broad communication system to inform graduating seniors of available scholarships.
- Continue to develop a facility plan to protect the investment in facilities and identify short- and long-term facility needs for future planning purposes.
- Maintain current standards for financial reporting.

GOAL III: RELATIONSHIPS

Engage in staff and community relations that enhance understanding and active participation of the entire community in support of the District's schools and programs.

Objectives:

- Nurture a positive community recognition of McMinnville Schools as a system of high standards and excellence. Communicate with patrons that great schools are fundamental to a great community. Continuing the District's communication with the public about district progress and projects.
- Successfully complete contract negotiations with employee groups.



District Highlights

More than 9,000 dual college/high school credits were earned by MHS students in 2012-13.

The district was awarded a \$150,000 mentor grant to support new teachers beginning 2013-14 school year

For four years in a row, the district's fiscal director, Susan Escure, received the Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Office of Business Officials.

A facilities assessment was completed last spring. Maintaining buildings as old as 100 years is a costly challenge. A second task force will be formed this school year to fine tune facility priorities.

Enrollment:

For the first time since the recession began in 2008, student enrollment is growing. The district is above its projection by more than 150 students. To accommodate enrollment gains, additional staff were hired in September and added to Memorial, Grandhaven, Wascher and McMinnville high schools.

October 1 enrollment at a glance:

Buel: 504	Wascher: 387
Columbus: 508	Duniway: 754
Grandhaven: 557	Patton: 831
Memorial: 520	MHS: 2,029
Newby: 517	

Students exceed state average on math assessments in all grades

Student achievement in math is above state average in all grades that were tested: grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11.

This high-level achievement was noted on the state report cards for schools that were released earlier this month.

McMinnville is still the only district in the state with three model schools. Model schools are rated in the top five percent of high poverty, Title 1, schools. Last year, Sue Buel, Grandhaven and Memorial elementary schools were named model schools. This year, Sue Buel, Memorial and Newby are model schools.

Duniway Middle School also received the highest rating in the state. It was named a Level 5 school based on academic growth and performance.

Level 5 schools are the top 10 percent of schools.

Last month, staff at those four schools were honored for their work at a dinner at Evergreen Aviation Museum.

Superintendent Russell presented each school with a certificate recognizing staff for their achievement.

Pictured at right are principals from each school with staff representatives.

State report cards for each school and the district for the 2012-13 school year are on the district website: <https://msd.orvsd.org//StateReportCards>.



Buel Elementary School



Memorial Elementary School



Newby Elementary School



Duniway Middle School

Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Rob Saxton visited McMinnville Schools in September

Saxton toured STEM programs (science, technology, engineering and Mathematics), reading and math literacy programs. He visited with McMinnville Instructional coaches and was interviewed by the MHS SOAR program.

To see Rob Saxton interviewed by SOAR productions anchor Bethany Mohler, a junior at MHS, go to <http://bit.ly/1aebTUj>

New MHS drumline earns Band of the Week honors on KPTV

This year, McMinnville School District has a new drumline. Marching drummers and the MHS Dance team have performed at a variety of school events this year.

The drumline band was selected as the KPTV Fox Channel 12 Band of the Week program which aired on Friday, Oct. 18. <http://bit.ly/16ksVTy>

Lead by Director Joe Demianew, a new layer of student instrumental programming was added for students.

Photo by Band Director Joe Demianew.



Sign up to receive inclement weather updates

When winter weather requires school closures or delays, there are several ways to get the latest information:

1. Notices will be posted on the District website and at www.pdxinfo.net. Sign up for FlashAlert email and text messages at www.FlashAlert.net.
2. Listen to the radio: Announcements will be made over radio station KLYC (1260 AM) and KWIP (880 AM Spanish language).
3. Announcements will be made on most Portland radio and TV stations.
4. Call the McMinnville School District emergency information phone number: 503-565-4070.

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



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 26
McMinnville, OR

POSTAL PATRON