

Community News

Achieving Excellence in Education

What a Year! State and federal programs take notice of McMinnville School District

District keeps earning recognition for programs and student achievement



Dear Neighbor,
McMinnville Schools continue to receive good news that District programs are

working. Student achievement measures show steady progress toward school improvement goals.

The state and national recognition received by our schools has been a nice way to affirm to staff, parents and our community that our programs are on the right track. More importantly, it shows that we are reaching our students and helping them succeed.

I am proud of the work we are doing for students and the dedication this community demonstrates in support of our students.

Sincerely,

Maryalice Russell, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

See p. 2 for more detail about the District Improvement Plan and information about McMinnville School District's successful programs.



Superintendent Maryalice Russell is 2013 Oregon Supt. of the Year and a 2013 National Finalist

Superintendent Maryalice Russell was named the 2013 Oregon Superintendent of the Year by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and the Oregon Association of School Executives.

The award is presented annually to recognize chief administrators who exemplify excellence and achievement in educational leadership.

Superintendent Russell is one of four finalists for the American Association of School Administrators National 2013 Superintendent of the Year, which will be presented in February.

This is the fourth statewide leadership award for McMinnville administrators. Most recently, Sean Burke was named 2012 Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year.



More Oregon "Model" Schools than any other district

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.

Model schools demonstrate successful programs that other districts could adopt.

A Model School visitation for interested districts is scheduled for Jan. 16. District staff will share their strategies to increase student achievement:

- Focus on standards and successful transition to Common Core
- Assessments and Data Teams to accelerate student growth
- Intentional interventions to narrow achievement gaps
- Creating a collaborative culture
- Networking and classroom observations

Board sets goals in yearly District Improvement Plan

GOAL 1 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

Objectives include:

- Increasing the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state benchmarks.
- Supporting the transition to Common Core State Standards and aligning curriculum and instruction.
- Improving student performance in writing.
- Reducing the dropout rate.
- Involving parents, students, staff and community in reducing the number of student behavior incidents related to student safety.
- Involving parents, students, staff, and community to improve attendance and four-year graduation rates.
- Increasing career pathway endorsement recipients.
- Meeting or exceeding District achievement compact targets.
- Continue to develop MHS off-site programs.

GOAL II RESOURCES

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

Objectives include:

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

GOAL III RELATIONSHIPS

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

Objectives include:

- Nurturing a positive community recognition of McMinnville Schools. Communicating with district patrons that great schools are fundamental to a great community.
- Continuing the District's communication with the public about district progress and projects.
- Successfully completing contract negotiations with the licensed employee group.



Students exceed state average on math and reading assessments

McMinnville students have made steady gains on state tests. This table shows the rate of students in all subgroups who met or exceeded state benchmarks in math and reading in the 2011-12 school year. The state average proficiency rate declined while the District's proficiency rate among all subgroups continued to increase.

Statewide Assessment: Math	2011/12 Oregon	2011/12 MSD	Oregon Net Change	MSD Net Change
All Students	63.1%	77.1%	-7.7%	+3.9%
Econ. Disadvantage	51.4%	70.0%	-8.4%	+7.1%
Lim. English Proficient	30.3%	52.4%	-12.5%	+7.5%
Students w/ Disabilities	27.2%	42.4%	-11.1%	+2.1%
Hispanic	48.1%	67.0%	-5.7%	+9.1%
Statewide Assessment: Reading	Oregon	MSD	Oregon Net Change	MSD Net Change
All Students	71.8%	76.7%	-2.4%	+0.9%
Econ. Disadvantage	60.6%	68.4%	-2.2%	+3.0%
Ltd. English Proficient	26.6%	39.4%	-11.7%	+0.4%
Students w/ Disabilities	32.7%	37.5%	-6.2%	+0.1%
Hispanic	53.8%	62.8%	-0.6%	+5.8%

MHS leads the state in post-secondary preparation

Dual College Credit Opportunities

McMinnville School District won a 2011 excellence in curriculum leadership award for college credit opportunities at McMinnville High School.

Last year, MHS students earned 6,878 college credits, which represents a college tuition savings of more than \$380,000. Two-thirds of the students who took dual credit courses earned nine or more college credits. Of the students with nine credits or more, 95 percent enrolled in college following graduation. Sixty-four students earned 24 college credits or more by graduation.

Career Pathways provide early career training

Students enroll in courses in 21 different career areas through the MHS Career Pathway program. This early, concentrated exposure helps students navigate coursework and understand requirements for job-specific certificate and degree requirements.

See the list of Career Pathways and requirements at www.schools.msd.k12.or.us/mhs/Curriculum/CareerPathway.html.



Career Pathway Endorsement:

Students must earn 3 credits in any pathway program or 2.5 credits in the same pathway program. Last year, 202 students earned Career Pathway Endorsements.

Hospitality and Culinary Arts Pathway

Students participate in ProStart, a program partner. They can earn college credits, paid work experience, scholarships and work with a professional career mentor.

Career options: Baker, Chef and Dinner Cook, Dietician, Hotel and Motel Manager, Hotel Desk Clerk, Meeting and Convention Planner, Restaurant Manager, Travel Agent, Tour Guide.

Instructor: Carolyn Nyquist

Requirements: www.schools.msd.k12.or.us/mhs/CollegeCareerCenter/HospitalityCulinary.html.



One of the largest Pathway programs at MHS is **Hospitality and Culinary Arts** led by Carolyn Nyquist. Last year, 90 of her students earned college credits through her program.

About half of her students have a serious career interest in the industry. Other students see her culinary classes as a life skill. "They like food, they like cooking, and they like to eat," she said.

Students can focus on learning professional kitchen skills and earn college credit, or they can take a homestyle cooking course.

In addition to cooking skills, her students learn kitchen safety and the business of hospitality. They learn safe food handling procedures and become qualified for their official food handler's certificate, which is required for any job serving food to the public.

During this intensive early training program, students have several job-training options: paid internships with community partners, catering experience through the school-based Grizzly Catering business, culinary competitions and mentorship opportunities with professionals in the field.

Nyquist said her program provides a unique opportunity for students to continue training after graduation or qualify to go directly into a career.

Upcoming performances feature award-winning MHS choir and band



Music provides academic benefits

Research shows that music education provides many academic benefits, such as language development for early learners, improved test scores, spatial skill development, problem solving, math and computer skills.

McMinnville schools have excellent music programs in middle and high school that have won awards in regional competitions. The MHS Instrumental Jazz Ensemble recently won third place at the Pacific Conference Jazz Festival in Hillsboro.

The public is welcome to enjoy MHS music performances. Events are posted on the District website: www.msd.k12.or.us.

The next upcoming performance is the Swingin on a Star Jazz Night Dinner and Auction on Jan. 19 at the McMinnville Community Center.

Most performances are free to the public. Swingin on a Star is a fundraiser for MHS music programs.

Email machighmusicboosters@yahoo.com for more information.

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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