

# Community News

*Achieving Excellence in Education*

## Go boldly where no one has gone before



Some of us remember the early version of Star Trek, popular in the 1960s, when the crew of the USS Enterprise explored new worlds and civilizations.

“Go boldly where no one has gone before” resonates when we think about technology and

the tools we have today because of someone’s imagination.

Remember Star Trek’s communicator device? How about today’s cell phones? Remember the tools we used in school to take a test: a No. 2 lead pencil and scantron? How about today’s K-12 test takers, totally device-dependent (laptop, computer, tablet)? What about long hours memorizing facts versus today’s expectation to know and apply facts to solve complex problems?

I want to congratulate the Sue Buel Elementary School community for going where no District school has gone before: three consecutive years as an Oregon Model School. Congratulations to Memorial’s fourth-grade and Wascher’s third-grade teams for closing the achievement gap between Limited English proficient and all students, and to the high school math department for powerful academic gains. Congratulations to our community for helping McMinnville students achieve in math and reading above state average at all grades assessed.

As a community, let’s support each student as he or she travels where they have never gone before – new grade-level content, higher standards, critical thinking and creativity. Encourage them to explore their ideas, believe in possibilities and go boldly where they have never gone before to exceed their own expectations in learning and life successes.

Maryalice Russell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## Pilot program allows District to provide free meals to all students



McMinnville School District is piloting a free breakfast and lunch program as part of the federal Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. The program seeks to provide healthy meals to ensure that kids can focus on learning.

All students, regardless of income, are eligible for one free breakfast and lunch daily. Second meals, milk or juice and a la carte items must be purchased. No meal applications are required.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1pIXEF1>.

## Student achievement and staff honors bring positive attention to McMinnville schools



McMinnville staff and teachers have earned recognition for their dedication to students.

**Stephanie Legard, Principal**  
**Sue Buel Elementary School**  
2014 National Distinguished Principal  
Oregon Elementary School Principal of the Year

Watch a video: <http://bit.ly/1p4mOsg>

See awards, page 3

Lea este boletín informativo en español en el sitio web del distrito, [www.msdk12.or.us/es/news/community-newsletter](http://www.msdk12.or.us/es/news/community-newsletter).

# MHS College Credit Now program prepares students for college, offers low-cost credits

Watch a video of students who have earned college credit at MHS: <https://vimeo.com/104821020>

McMinnville High School's College Credit Now (CCN) program allows students to earn college credits from their high school courses in partnership with Chemeketa Community College. CCN provides a substantial cost savings to students. MHS students paid approximately \$25 per year for dual college credit courses in 2013-14. The estimated cost savings to students that year was \$678,705 in comparable tuition costs at an Oregon public university. The CCN program has grown by 537% since it started in 2000. This year, 58 courses are available.

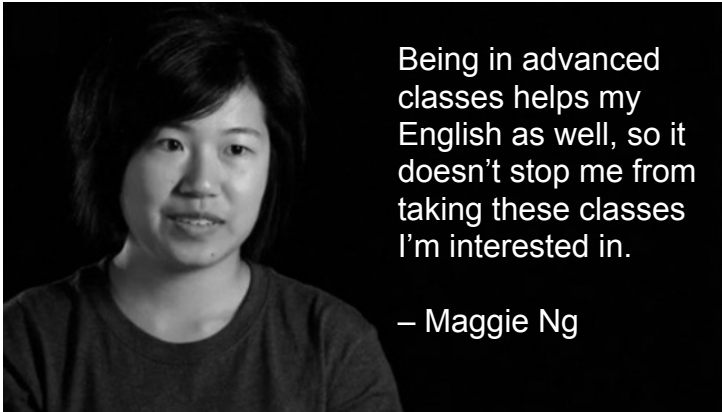
It's exciting, and I really enjoyed the process of getting to know what these credits will do for me wherever I attend.

– Hazel Findley



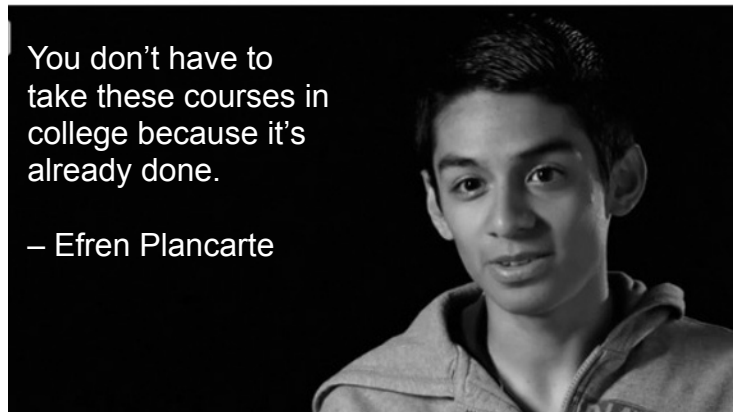
Being in advanced classes helps my English as well, so it doesn't stop me from taking these classes I'm interested in.

– Maggie Ng



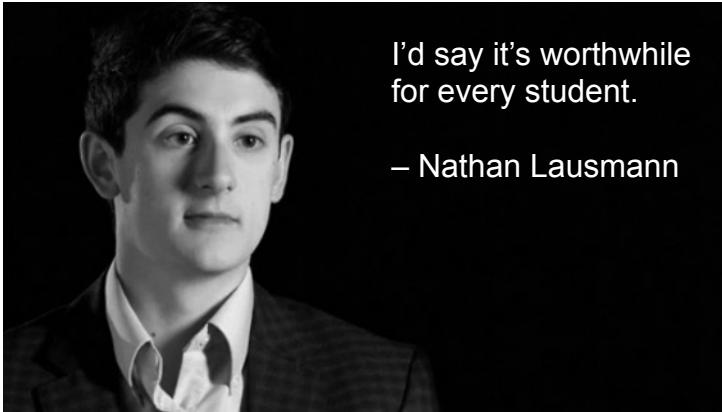
You don't have to take these courses in college because it's already done.

– Efren Plancarte



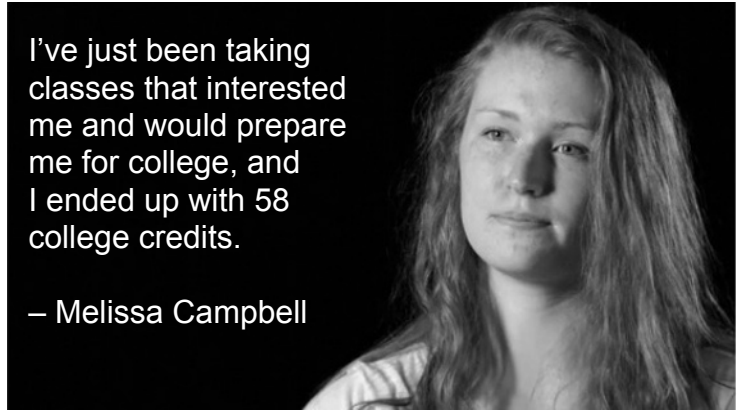
I'd say it's worthwhile for every student.

– Nathan Lausmann



I've just been taking classes that interested me and would prepare me for college, and I ended up with 58 college credits.

– Melissa Campbell



## Students learned new music skills at summer music camps

McMinnville students enjoyed new opportunities to learn music skills over the summer. The first annual summer music camp program took place in August. Students worked on choir, instrumental and marching band skills. K-12 choir students performed for all staff at the back-to-school inservice in late August.

## District programs are models of science, technology, engineering instruction

McMinnville was one of three public school programs in the nation to be recognized as a 2014 National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Showcase. The district was commended by the U.S. Dept. of Education for its comprehensive K-12 STEM program that features vibrant community-based teaching and learning experiences, after-school robotics teams, and the Engineering and Aerospace Sciences Academy.



## Facilities planning committee studies school building needs

A citizen-based facilities committee is reviewing district buildings to make recommendations for possible improvements. Some facilities, such as Cook and Adams, are older and have maintenance needs that must be addressed.

In 2012, architects assessed each facility and made a detailed list of the immediate and long-term needs of each, including issues related to pipes and roofs.

The District's 2006 bond replaced portions of the old Newby and Memorial buildings with new construction and added a classroom wing at the high school to deal with district-wide capacity challenges.

Today, McMinnville High School has an enrollment of 2,036 students and remains among the larger high schools in the state. While the new portion of MHS meets many high school program needs, the older portion of the facility needs to be addressed in addition to upgrades at older facilities.

Consultants are helping to prioritize repairs for each building, and the committee is reviewing costs, funding possibilities, enrollment projections and program needs, especially at MHS.

Older District Schools	Year Built	Age of School in Years
Newby Elementary School	1960	54
McMinnville High School	1955	59
Memorial Elementary School	1948	66
Cook	1929	85
Adams Campus	1914	100

### Awards (cont. from page 1)

Stephanie was recognized for her leadership qualities and the high student achievement at Buel. She and her staff focus on:

1. Academic achievement
2. Clear curriculum choices
3. Frequent assessment of student progress and multiple opportunities for improvement
4. Nonfiction writing
5. Collaborative scoring of student work

Under her leadership, Buel's student achievement scores have significantly exceeded state averages. Sue Buel Elementary School has been recognized as a model school for a third consecutive year.

#### **Buel Elementary School Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Achievement Data, 2013-14:**

- **83.1% met/exceeded in math**  
State: 61%
- **73.5% met/exceeded in reading**  
State: 68.6%

#### **Other state or regional winners include:**

**Cindi Hiatt-Henry, Director of Nutrition**  
Oregon Nutrition Services Director of the Year  
Regional Nutrition Services Director of the Year

**Mark Hinthorn, Athletic Director, McMinnville High School**  
Oregon Special Olympics Athletic Director of the Year 2013-2014

**Pattie Waltz, Human Resources Director**  
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators  
Bev Gladder Mentorship Award Recipient - 2014

## 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](mailto:info@msd.k12.or.us) • Web: [www.msd.k12.or.us](http://www.msd.k12.or.us)



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## About our district...

### Total Enrollment: 6,635 (Oct 2014)

Elementary (K-5): 3,026; Middle (6-8): 1,543; High (9-12): 2,066

### Schools: 9

Elementary schools: 6; Middle schools: 2; High schools: 1

*MHS is a comprehensive high school that serves students in grades 9-12.*

*MHS includes three satellite campuses: Cook Alternative School, the Engineering and Aerospace Sciences Academy (EASA) and the SOAR program.*

### Students (2013-14 data)

Special Education students: 12.6%

English Language Learners: 14.2%

### Student Demographics

African American: 1%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 1%

Asian/Pacific Islander: 1.9%

Hispanic/Latino: 33.1%

White: 62.6%

*Totals do not equal 100%. Demographic information collected during student registration is based on categories selected by parents. Parents may identify with more than one demographic category.*

### Staff

Total Employees: 709

Teachers: 377.6 FTE; Classified: 259 FTE; Confidential: 14 FTE;

Principals/Admin.: 23.75 FTE

*FTE stands for Full-Time Equivalent or full-time positions.*

### About our teachers:

Average years experience: 13.5 years; Master's degree or higher: 80%

## Sign up for 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](http://www.pdxinfo.net). Sign up for FlashAlert email messages at [www.flashalert.net/id/mcmsd](http://www.flashalert.net/id/mcmsd).
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.
5. Sign up for the Superintendent's Twitter feed: [twitter.com/SuptRussell\\_MSD](https://twitter.com/SuptRussell_MSD).