

Community News

Achieving Excellence in Education

“Grit” and other traits for success in school



Paul Tough, in his book, “How Children Succeed,” identified perseverance, curiosity, optimism and self-control as

critical attributes associated with success. He says that character is created by encountering and overcoming failure. He refers to studies and anecdotal stories about individuals who have the ability to delay gratification for a distant prize like working really hard for four years, to earn a diploma or college degree in hopes of getting a well-paying job and meaningful career. Sustained focus and hard work over time on a goal makes a difference. Just like great Olympians, everyone can succeed. Hard work and perseverance make us stronger.

Tough suggests that young people need a combination of challenges and support in combination with autonomy and encouragement to rebound from their mistakes and try again. Persistence and grit make a difference.

Maryalice Russell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

From Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) to Smarter Balanced

School year 2013-14 is the last year students will be assessed in reading and math on the OAKS assessment. During school year 2014-15, students will be assessed on a standardized test called “Smarter Balanced,” which will measure student success on more challenging standards and through an assessment process requiring an increased skillset to maneuver the assessment tool itself.

Currently, students respond to exam questions on the OAKS using laptop computers to primarily answer multiple choice test items. They may use notepaper and handheld calculators to assist them in figuring out an answer, but the technology skills needed to

complete the test are minimal.

When the shift is made to Smarter Balanced, students will need to rely on their laptop to access a calculator, to draft notes on a pop-up screen and hover over information. The test answers will include constructed responses and rationale for answers, calling on higher order thinking skills to identify the answers.

The transition year from OAKS to Smarter Balanced will result in lower scores in reading and math statewide for the reasons of new standards, more difficult test items, a new test to measure standards and individual user skill sets related to technology.

See sample fifth-grade math questions, page 2.

More honors for McMinnville schools: Oregon Elementary Principal and Outstanding Nutrition Director of the Year



*Stephanie Legard
Principal, Sue Buel Elementary School*

Sue Buel Elementary School Principal Stephanie Legard is the Oregon Elementary School Principal of the Year for 2014. The award, by the Oregon Elementary School Principals Association and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, honors outstanding school leadership.

Stephanie will be honored at a statewide conference in June.

See awards, page 4

1. **Sample 5th Grade OAKS Math Item
(Practice Test)**

Twenty-seven people are to be seated in a room and only four people can be seated at each table. How many tables would be needed to seat everyone?

- A. 6.5
- B. $6 \frac{1}{4}$
- C. 7
- D. 8

OAKS

2. **Sample 5th Grade Smarter Balanced Math Item (Practice Test)**

8

At Maria's school, 6 classes are going on a field trip. Each class has 26 students and 1 teacher. Each bus holds a maximum of 48 people. The school requests 3 buses for the field trip.

1 Delete

2

3 Carefully read Maria's argument:

4 A. Maria says that 3 buses are not enough.

5 B. She argues that 3 buses will hold a maximum of 144 people.

6 C. The classes need space for 156 people.

7 D. The school needs to order 1 more bus.

8 Click to select the statement in Maria's argument that has incorrect

9 reasoning or inaccurate calculations.

0 Drag the numbers from the palette* into boxes to create the number

that will correct the statement you choose.

* The palette is the sidebar where students choose numbers for the math equations. This format also tests students' technology skills. Instead of typing in the answer they have to pick from an embedded number and drag it to the box for the "right" answer. Previous tests had students simply select letter a, b or c.



For fun, answer the questions above and turn to page 3 for correct answers.

Kindergarten Readiness

All Oregon School Districts gave the Oregon Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to kindergarten students during their first term in school. Students were scored on approaches to learning, which include self-regulation and interpersonal skills; numbers and operations; letter names, including lower and upper case; and letter sounds.

How can students be better prepared for kindergarten?

In general, families help students recognize symbols in print like numbers and letters. Students often learn the alphabet song but can't necessarily identify the letter "A" on a page or in a book. Sometimes students are taught to count repeating after an adult, 1-2-3-4 for example, but do not recognize the numbers in printed form. Letter sounds are just as important as letter names. Helping students say the sound of a letter is important, too.

Many of these activities can take place by reading books together, reading signs at grocery stores when shopping or even making a game of it at home, finding letters in things throughout the house, identifying, saying and making the sounds. Let's work together to help students learn letters, sounds and numbers in preparing for kindergarten!

Oregon Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

McMinnville students came to kindergarten with fewer skills than students statewide in three of the four areas measured.

	Approaches to Learning (Self Regulation/ Interpersonal Skills) (1-5)	Numbers and Operations (0-16)	Letter Names (0-100)	Letter Sounds (0-110)
MSD	3.4	7.1	13.8	3.9
State	3.4	8.0	18.5	6.7

MHS graduation rate continues to beat the state average

The latest data for high school dropout, graduation, and completion continues to show a positive trend in the McMinnville School District

The data reveals:

- The dropout rate for 2013 is below the state average by its greatest margin in 16 years (-1.17%).
- The four-year graduation rate for 2013 continues to exceed the state average, and has surpassed it by double digits (+11.17%).
- The five-year graduation rate for 2013 has exceeded 80%, nearly a 5% gain from the previous year, and +7.32% above state average.
- The five-year completion rate for 2013 approaches 85%, and is +2.73% above state average.

Answers to sample math practice questions, page 2:

1. Work:

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \text{ r } 3 \\ 4 \overline{) 27} \\ \underline{24} \\ 3 \end{array}$$

Round up: 7 tables

Answer: Letter C is the correct multiple choice answer.

2. Work

$$\begin{array}{r} 26 \text{ students} \\ 1 \text{ teacher} \\ \hline 27 \text{ people} \\ \times 6 \text{ classes} \\ \hline 162 \text{ people} \\ \text{Round up: 4 buses} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 3 \text{ r } 18 \\ 48 \overline{) 162} \\ \underline{144} \\ 18 \end{array}$$

Answer: Letter C is the correct answer. Maria's calculations show that it is the only inaccurate statement. After working the problem, she can enter the correct answer in the boxes:

1	6	2
---	---	---

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

Awards (cont. from page 1)

She will also attend a special recognition ceremony in Washington, D.C., in October. She will join the ranks of National Distinguished Principals and be recognized by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Director of Nutrition Services Cindi Hiatt-Henry has been selected as the School Nutrition Association's Oregon Outstanding Director of the Year and as the

Northwest Region's Outstanding Director of the Year.

The Outstanding Director of the Year Award recognizes outstanding contributions of school nutrition directors who manage effective programs that provide healthful, appetizing and nutritious meals to students. This award is intended to recognize school nutrition directors at the district, state and national level.

Hiatt-Henry manages student breakfast and lunch programs at all district schools.

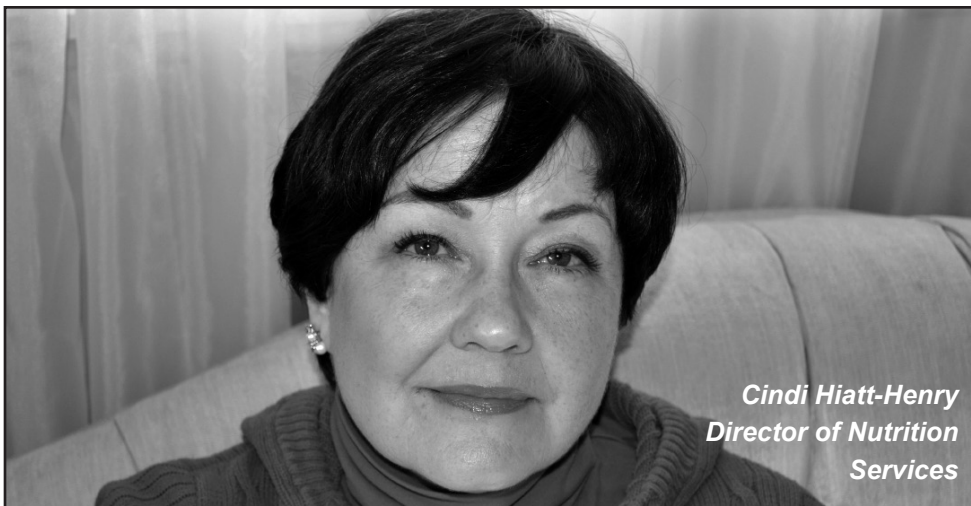


Summer meals available to all McMinnville children

Breakfast and lunch will be served this summer to any child who is under 18. The meals are sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture as part of the free and reduced meal program.

All elementary schools and Duniway Middle School will operate a summer meal program.

The program will start on June 16 and run through Aug. 14. Schedules may differ at some sites. Check the District website: www.msd.k12.or.us for specific days and times.



Cindi Hiatt-Henry
Director of Nutrition
Services