

# Community News



*Achieving Excellence in Education*

## Community Matters



Schools are one of the pillars of a community. That's why community members, even those who no longer have children in school, agree to serve on time consuming, complex

projects like the McMinnville School District Long Range Facilities Task Force.

I commend the Long Range Facilities Task Force for their service and their tireless efforts to find solutions that best address the long-term needs of our students and community. Long range planning involves many factors, including population growth, new educational programs, and evolving technology. Projecting physical plant needs into the future is a significant undertaking.

I'm grateful for the many hours Task Force volunteers dedicated to this project. There's no better reminder that the education of our children and youth is a community effort. Investing in our schools and in the future of our students is essential to sustaining our vibrant and strong community.

## Long Range Facilities Task Force Proposes a Facility Improvement Plan

Long Range Facilities Task Force members, Steve Patterson and Dr. Paul Haddeland, presented the group's recommendations to the board last June. Both members have served on the Task Force since its inception in February 2013.

"This Task Force was intended to be a six-month commitment," said Superintendent, Maryalice Russell. The mission was to examine the results of an assessment of district facilities and to recommend a long-term plan to efficiently equip and maintain those facilities into the future. "The fact that this process took longer than anyone expected is testament to the complexity of the task and the care and attention of the committee."

The Task Force recommended the district focus on constructing a vocational/technical center at the high school and complete planned facility improvements. The Task Force recommendation for MHS and all other district schools is aligned with the district's long-rang facilities plan. The plan, first developed in 2005, was revised by architects, construction consultants, and the Long Range Facilities Task Force in 2012 to address the immediate and long-term needs of the district.

The Task Force reviewed costs, conducted two community surveys, examined enrollment projections, explored program needs, toured facilities, hosted a community town hall to seek public input, and weighed funding options to recommend future action.

"Our top criteria was to ensure the safety and security of students," said Dr. Haddeland. "We also want to keep pace with technology advances and keep up with maintenance of buildings."

A driving factor was to keep the tax rate at its current level, which is reflected in the Task Force recommendation to keep the current \$2.83 rate per \$1,000 assessed value intact.

## Dr. Kris Olsen, 2015 Oregon High School Principal of the Year



McMinnville High School Principal, Kris Olsen, was recognized as the 2015 Oregon High School Principal of the year last June.

“This is really a collective honor,” said Olsen. “The hard work of the teachers and staff at MHS plays

the primary role in the success of our high school. This award is testament to their commitment to our students and our learning community.”

During the 12 years Olsen has served as principal, MHS has risen to become one of the top performing high schools in the state, as measured by a variety of indicators:

- Dual high school/college credit earnings
- State assessment results
- Career Pathway Diploma endorsements
- Graduation rate

Last year, MHS students earned over 9,700 college credits, representing a tuition savings of over \$880,000 to students and families. Many of those credits were earned in Career Pathway and Career/Technical education courses.

This past June, MHS graduated 482 students, the largest graduating class in the school’s long history. Among 2015 graduates:

- 93% earned one or more college credits
- 154 earned more than 24 college credits
- 45 earned two years of free tuition at Chemeketa Community College
- MHS graduates earned nearly \$6.2 million in scholarships, awards, and grants.

This year, Dr. Olsen is serving as the Director of Special Projects for the district. Long-time Assistant Principal, and the 2012 Oregon Assistant Principal of the year and a finalist for the national award, Sean Burke, will serve as acting Principal of MHS.

## EASA Engineering Team’s Lost Project Makes National News

A team from the MHS Engineering and Aerospace Sciences Academy made national news when their student experiment exploded along with the SpaceX rocket headed to the International Space Station last June. The team traveled to Cape Canaveral to witness the liftoff of their nanolab project, intended to collect data about how metals oxidize in space. Two minutes and nineteen seconds after lift-off, the unmanned rocket blew apart in a fiery blast.

“You learn more from a disaster or failure than you do when things go well,” said EASA teacher, Marybeth Kramer. The team will re-create the nanolab and are waiting to hear when they will be able to re-launch on another flight.

## Pam Canady - 2015 Oregon Teacher of the Year Finalist

McMinnville High School mathematics teacher, Pam Canady, was selected as one of three finalist for Oregon Teacher of the Year. Canady impressed the selection committee with her commitment to doing whatever it takes to ensure students master the standards, develop persistence, and feel they are a valued member of the MHS learning community. Canady is highly regarded by all her peers. In addition to teaching, she has served as an instructional coach and a new teacher mentor.

Canady was selected for the honor based on her demonstrated effectiveness in the classroom, her passion for teaching and learning, the strong relationships she builds with students and peers, and her dedication and contribution to the profession. Congratulations, Pam. You make us proud!



# Career Pathway Learning Lands Students Summer Jobs

New MHS graduate, Raychel Johnson, who earned a Pathway Diploma Endorsement in Culinary Arts, had an advantage in getting hired at one of McMinnville's newest dining establishments, the 1882 Grille, part of the Kaos project. She was one of four MHS Culinary Arts students hired.



"I feel incredibly lucky to have access to a group of people with this level of experience coming out of high school and with such a big base level of skills to function in a kitchen," said Colin Stafford, Executive Chef.

Tanner Morton, a former MHS grad, took all of the available coursework in the Fire and Emergency Services Pathway at MHS before



graduating. In July, he was hired by Amity Fire District as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

"I'm working on my pre-requisites to become a paramedic," he said. Morton enrolled in the Pathway with a good idea of the direction he was headed. "My grandpa was a fire captain in Mac and my dad was a volunteer EMT."

MHS recent graduate, Samantha Hensley, earned a summer job, along with a Pathway Diploma Endorsement in Education. Hensley and three other students were hired to work at Patton Middle School's summer program, helping middle school students get a strong start to the new school year.



Hensley (third from left) plans to continue her education at Western

Oregon University, where she is enrolled as an Education major. She eventually plans to become a teacher.

Jamie Graham leveraged the technical expertise they gained in the MHS Computer Sciences Pathway to land paid internships at Autodesk.

"AutoDesk makes the Computer Aided Design software that we use at EASA," said



Johnson, who plans to attend the Oregon Institute of Technology. The computer programming skills they gained at MHS provided the experience necessary to work on a simulator that does 3-D modeling in a virtual environment.

## Are You a Registered Voter?

Ensure our community and democracy thrive by registering to vote and making your voice heard! You can pick up a voter registration card at the District Office or at any school office. Or, even easier, you can register to vote online (you'll need your Driver's License number or Oregon I.D. number) at:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do?lang=eng&source=SOS>

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### **Thank you, Long Range Facilities Task Force Members**

Carson Benner, Cellar Ridge Construction  
Scott Chambers, Headwater Investment  
Dr. Paul Haddeland, Physician's Medical Center  
John McKeegan, Linfield College  
Doug Montgomery, City of McMinnville  
Holly Nelson, Chemeketa Community College  
Steve Macy, Macy and Sons  
Jon Ostling, Cascade Steel  
Steve Patterson, Oregon Mutual  
Janis Braich, Stan Primozich, and Tim Roberts, McMinnville School District Board