



# McMinnville School District

Achieving Excellence Through High Standards of Teaching and Learning



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



In my final message as the McMinnville School District (MSD) Superintendent, now that I am retiring, I want to express my great appreciation for having been able to lead this district for nineteen years.

In my long career in education, leading this district has been my greatest accomplishment. I am thankful for the wonderful students we serve and for all the families who support our daily work of teaching and learning. I am especially grateful for the amazing staff we have. They are singularly dedicated to, and focused on, the well-being and healthy development of every student we serve.

Our entire staff—administrators, teachers, instructional assistants, district office staff, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers—are wholly committed to maximizing the potential of every student.

Over the last nineteen years of my tenure in the district, we have significantly built up the amount and quality of professional development district staff receive on a regular basis, focusing intently on teaching and learning, student engagement, and respecting diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a result, student achievement and student outcomes have grown substantially, as noted on the following pages. Our students perform above state average on every measure—be it state assessments, the graduation rate, dual high school/college credit earnings, the college-going rate, and the daily attendance rate. Our students also outperform on these same measures, as compared to similarly sized districts, and they well outperform other districts with student and community demographics similar to our own.

Our turnaround in student achievement and outcomes, over the last nineteen years, is due to a focused and increasingly well-trained staff, who hold high expectations for each and every student, and who possess both research-based effective teaching strategies and dedication to achieving improved students outcomes. Our success is also due, in large part, to the strong support and engagement of our families and community partners.

On a personal note, I feel fortunate to have been recognized as Oregon Superintendent of the Year and one of four finalist for National Superintendent of the Year. I'm especially proud to work in a district in which so many of my management team have been similarly recognized by statewide organizations too. More important than such accolades, however, I have enjoyed being part of this community and serving on community-based boards and committees. I intend to stay in McMinnville. There's no better place to retire.

I am confident the district will be in very capable hands with the incoming superintendent, Debbie Brockett. She has great breadth and depth of experience in education, is focused on teaching and learning, student engagement, and equity for all. Ms. Brockett has a clear vision for the district moving forward.

It is always bittersweet to leave a job one has loved so much, but I will remain engaged in the broader community and will provide support to the district and the incoming superintendent, whenever needed. Thank you for all that you do for our schools and our students. It is a truism that it 'takes a village to raise a child,' and this community plays an essential role in all our children's success. The community remains our steadfast partner in all the work that we do!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Russell".

Superintendent of MSD, retired

# McMinnville School District

*Achieving Excellence in Education*

## McMINNVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

McMinnville School District won first place in the 2021 Magna Awards, one of only five districts in the nation to receive such an honor. The National School Board Association award recognizes innovation and creativity in helping increase student achievement, by removing barriers for vulnerable and underserved students, and exhibiting success over time. The district won first place in the category of districts with enrollment between 5,000 and 20,000 students.



**2020 Graduates parade past the elementary school staff at the school they attended**

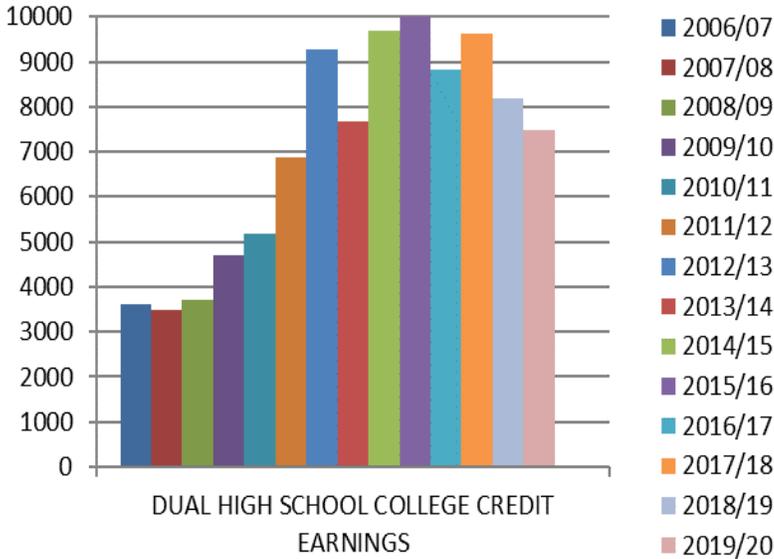
English/Language Arts (Composite of all Tested Grades)	
Student Focal Group	% MSD Students Performed ABOVE State Average
All Students	+4.3%
White	+5.9%
Latino	+8.5%
English Learners	+0.9%
Students w/Disabilities	+0.9%
Mathematics (Composite of all Tested Grades)	
Student Focal Group	% MSD Students Performed ABOVE State Average
All Students	+10.6%
White	+11.7%
Latino	+15.5%
English Learners	+5.8%
Students w/Disabilities	+5.2%

- District Demographics**
- 6,745 Enrollment
  - 59% White
  - 37% Latino
  - 5% Other Ethnicities/multi-racial
  - 10% English Learners
  - 3.4% Migrant
  - 12% Students with disabilities
  - 64.6% Economically disadvantaged
  - 81% First-generation college goers (parents do not have a college degree)

2020 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Comparison			
Student Focal Group	MHS	State of Oregon	% MHS is ABOVE State Average
All Students	92%	83%	+9%
White	93%	84%	+9%
Latino	90%	80%	+10%
English Learners during high school	85%	65%	+20%
Former English Learners	93%	86%	+7%
Students w/Disabilities	75%	68%	+7%
Migrant students	>95%	80%	+15%
Career/Technical Education Participants	>95%	91%	+4%
Career/Technical Education Completers	>95%	95%	+1%
On-time Graduation Rate	91%	80%	+11%

## DUAL HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE CREDIT

DURING THE 2019/20 SCHOOL YEAR, MCMINNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM SAVED STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ABOUT \$1.75 MILLION IN COLLEGE TUITION



Newby students parade past their teachers and school staff to help maintain relationships during COVID-19 Lock down.

### DISTRICT CORNERSTONES

- A strong focus on equity, through intensive and sustained professional development for district staff, systemic innovations, and School Board policy
- Pre-Kindergarten bilingual (Spanish/English) programs for underserved four-year-olds
- Ready for Kindergarten program, serving children aged birth to five, that provides child development instruction, coaching, and high-quality toys and books to participating families at no cost
- K-12<sup>th</sup> grade field- and industry-based STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) program recognized as among the best in Oregon
- One of the highest four-year cohort graduation rates in the state, especially among English Learners, Migrants, and Latino students
- Afterschool and summer school programs that provide targeted academic interventions and enrichment
- Robust dual high school/college credit program, among the top dual credit programs in the state
- Fully articulated Career Pathway program featuring internships and work experiences



Grandhaven students participate in Limited In Person Instruction during COVID-19. Student desks have Plexiglas screens around them. Students and staff wear masks. All surfaces are cleaned then sterilized using UV light wands. Student supplies are not shared.

# McMINNVILLE WELCOMES A NEW SUPERINTENDENT



The McMinnville School Board has selected Debbie I. Brockett to serve as the next superintendent of the district, beginning July 1, as Dr. Maryalice Russell retires at the end of June.

Ms. Brockett comes from Clark County School District in Las Vegas. She is currently a Region Superintendent overseeing 108 PreK-12 schools, two Career Technical academies, a virtual learning academy and several magnet programs.

She started her career as a special education teacher before moving into administration. She has served as dean of students, assistant principal, and principal at both the junior high and high school levels. While serving at Las Vegas High School, she redesigned the Career Pathway program, increased the number of accelerated courses, and moved the graduation rate from 62 to 93 percent.

She also developed and led the only vertically aligned middle and high school program in the district, and she decreased behavior issues by 84 percent in the lower grades through positive behavior interventions.

“We interviewed some very strong candidates,” said Larry Vollmer, school board chair. “Ms. Brockett’s forward-thinking vision and her clear leadership qualities were evident. We believe she will be able to build upon our current successes and continue the growth and improvement of our district.”

“What intrigued me about McMinnville is that I could see their success has been about continually improving daily instructional practices,” said Brockett. “That resonates with me because I understand the most impactful part of education is having strong teachers and continually working to improve on the structures that are showing improvement in student outcomes. I plan to stand alongside the district leaders and work to expand the positive impact they are having in schools.”

The selection comes after a national search led by Human Capital Enterprises (HCE). The process included a leadership assessment conducted by HCE derived from a wide range of individual interviews, focus groups, and an online survey open to staff, parents, and the community. A stakeholder panel of eight met with finalists and provided the board with feedback with their opinions on each candidate’s strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, the board offered the position to Brockett and voted to ratify her contract at a special meeting of the board held March 29.

# READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

## McMinnville School District won first place honor in the 2021 Magna Awards



The McMinnville School District (MSD) has been named a first-place winner in the 2021 Magna Awards, a National School Boards Association (NSBA) program. MSD was recognized for our Ready for Kindergarten program in this year's Magna Awards focused on educational equity. The district is one of 15 school districts, nationwide, to be recognized by the NSBA program. The district's Ready for Kindergarten program is highlighted in the April issue of the American School Board Journal.

MSD's three-part Ready for Kindergarten workshop series has been operating for 10 years in district elementary schools. Targeted to parents with children ages birth to five years old, the free workshops are designed to support parent participants in preparing their children with the early learning skills needed to start and stay at grade level throughout their school career.

Using a research-based curriculum, the workshops teach age-appropriate activities that show parents how to talk, sing, read, and play with their child in simple ways that foster essential pre-literacy, pre-math, and social-emotional skills. Each workshop begins with a healthy communal meal provided by the district's nutrition services. Childcare is provided onsite with the support of many community-based volunteers.

Each participating family leaves the workshop with a child development manual and a bag of new, high-quality, developmentally appropriate toys and books. All Ready for Kindergarten services and resources are provided at no cost to families.

The program has proven effective, with new assessment data that shows children whose parents participated in the Ready for Kindergarten program significantly outperform nonparticipant children in Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties, as well as performing significantly (18%) above statewide average on the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment.

Sponsored by NSBA's flagship magazine, American School Board Journal, the Magna Awards honor districts across the country for their programs that advance equity and break down barriers for underserved students. MSD was selected as a 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the 5,000-20,000 enrollment category by an independent panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators. The article is copied on the next page.

**Ready for Kindergarten** is a program for children from birth to age 5. Parents attend three workshops per year (fall, winter, spring) that are focused specifically on the age of their child (birth to one, one to two, etc.). The workshops start with a communal meal and the opportunity for families to connect with one another and with community-based resources (housing, food support, utility assistance, etc.). Parents then attend the workshop focused on their child's age and development. Workshops are offered in Spanish and English. The workshops feature child development instruction and coaching. Each family leaves each workshop with a bag of new, high-quality, age-appropriate toys and books. Childcare is available on-site. All Ready for Kindergarten services are free of charge to families.

District Latino students, English learners, and economically disadvantaged students outperform state averages, by double digits, in reading, writing, and math on statewide assessments. These testing results are due, in part, to the investment in Ready for Kindergarten and the pre-K program for 4-year-olds who are English learners, children with disabilities, and children in poverty. The program costs approximately \$20,000 per year, funded through grants. The cost of the program is solely for materials and supplies and food. Teachers and childcare workers are volunteers.



Ready for Kindergarten has been operating for 10 years. English learners, students of color, students with disabilities, and students in poverty whose parents participated in the Ready for Kindergarten program well outperformed the state averages on English/language arts, math, and science on statewide assessments, by double digits.

## McMINNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL HONOR



McMinnville High School was one of eighteen high schools, nationwide, to earn the school of excellence award from the ACT Center for Equity in Learning.

The American College Application Campaign (ACAC), a national effort to increase the number of first-generation college students and students from low-income families pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential, announced its 2020 ACAC School of Excellence award winners, a group of exemplary schools across the nation that are helping students pursue postsecondary success.

ACAC, which is part of ACT's Center for Equity in Learning, selected the School of Excellence award recipients based on their demonstrated commitment to student success for serving as an exemplary model for their state's application campaign and timely submission of student application data. This is the second year that ACAC School of Excellence awards have recognized outstanding schools.