



MCMINNVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS | FALL 2022



School Board attends annual staff Welcome Back event

From the Superintendent

I came to this district just over a year ago.



Although I worked in a very large school district, I grew up in a one-high-school town, and I always missed the sense of community in a smaller town.

I've spent a good part of my time here observing and learning how this school district works. I've come

away so impressed with the leadership of my predecessor, Dr. Maryalice Russell, and the work done by the McMinnville School Board.

This community is fortunate to have such a strong, committed school board. Besides the many hours spent at meetings, board members also attend events like Back to School Night, visit classrooms and join children for lunch, and even volunteer on field trips!

The arrival of a new leader coupled with the upheaval of the pandemic presented a perfect opportunity to begin a new chapter in our district. I've spent a lot of time connecting with people both inside our schools and out in the community. Visiting the schools and classrooms, meeting with community groups, and hosting roundtables with students, families and staff have provided me with insight to help chart our path forward.

As we develop this new chapter, I envision building on the district's achievements and becoming even stronger in the years ahead. Strong schools are a key part of healthy communities. I invite you to share your ideas on how we can make our schools even better by participating in a survey (see inside).

I hope to meet many more of you in the months and years ahead. Thank you for welcoming me into your community!

Sincerely,

Debbie Brockett

Training the Future Workforce



Students trained on a simulator then spent a week running equipment on a job site.

McMinnville School District has one of the most robust vocational/technical offerings in the state. With 16 Career Pathway programs, we encourage every high school student to participate in a pathway because we believe it benefits both the student and the community.

As part of their class schedules, students can explore a field of interest or find new interests.

MSD offers internships, mentor partnerships and other supports to launch graduates into life after high school, whether the students are headed to college, trade school, vocational training or straight into the workforce. The district also actively seeks opportunities for training.

Last spring, the district was offered a chance to train recent Mac High graduates to become certified heavy equipment operators, which are in high demand in Oregon. Funded by a grant from the Willamette Workforce Partnership, the classes included two weeks of training in a simulator that let students learn equipment while watching the machinery respond on a screen. The third week of training was spent running bulldozers and clearing debris from a former hazelnut orchard adjacent to Grandhaven Elementary.

More certification classes are planned. If you know of anyone interested from Mac High's Class of 2023, please have them contact Brian Crain, MSD director of Operations, at 503.565.4022.

Looking for Substitutes

Do you like working around children? We have a number of substitute positions available for people who want a flexible, part-time schedule.

Retired teachers with active teaching licenses may register through [Edustaff.org](https://www.edustaff.org) to substitute. Individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and have not completed a teacher preparation program may qualify for a restricted substitute teaching license under MSD's sponsorship. Edustaff-registered subs (including current ones) can earn a bonus!

There are non-teaching positions available as well, including educational assistants, custodians, secretaries and bus drivers.



Find out more on our website at bit.ly/subMSD or call Cathy Willoughby, MSD Human Resources at 503.565.4018. *Note: Bus drivers are hired through First Student; call Tammy Thompson at 971.312.8951.*

Academic Progress

MSD is working to minimize the impact of unfinished learning due to the pandemic.

Before the school closures, MSD planned to create reading and math acceleration groups for all elementary students using Student Success Act funding, later bolstered by the emergency pandemic funds provided to schools. These small-learning groups allow more focused attention for students. The district also added staff to double the time that middle school students spend in math class, which gives all students an additional boost.

This year, we also launched school-based Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This allows staff to work together and share teaching strategies that have the most impact on student learning. PLCs meet every Wednesday. Elementary students are released an hour early, at 1:30 p.m., and middle and high school students start an hour later, at about 9:30 a.m.

While student test scores are down across the country, and MSD scores are still above state average, our goal is always to improve!



Small-group instruction allows more individualized attention.

Share your Voice!

MSD is preparing a strategic plan to guide our collective efforts in the months and years ahead. As we plan for improvement, we would like to hear the voices of our community. We invite you to take a few minutes to provide us with your thoughts and opinions about what you believe is important for our schools and community as we dream about the future together.

The survey is online and can be accessed by scanning the QR code with your smart phone. You can also find it by typing bit.ly/SurveyMSD in your internet browser. Still can't access it? Call us at 503.565.4000 for help filling it out over the phone.



The survey will help us prioritize our efforts to best use our precious funding dollars. Our funding comes from the State School Fund with additional funding from the Student Success Act, which was passed by the Oregon legislature in 2019. A portion of the Student Success Act is intended to focus on student mental and behavioral health, address academic disparities, and improve teaching and learning conditions.



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MHS Culinary Arts students helped serve nearly 2,000 barbecue dinners at GrizzFest, the high school version of Back to School Night!

Connect with Us!

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