



MCMINNVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS | SPRING 2023



Mac High internship team for McMinnville Water & Light (from left) Nathanael Porter, Mason Smark, August Wegner, Logan Haisch and Jacob Levanger (not pictured, Caden Huber and Wyatt Kuchta). See story inside.

Register for Kindergarten and Pre-K!

Spring means it's time to reach out into the community and invite families within our school boundaries to join our pre-K and kindergarten programs.

Children who will be four (pre-K) or five (kindergarten) by September 1 may enroll.

All district schools have full-day kindergarten, which runs on the elementary school schedule, and five MSD elementary schools run pre-K programs, in both morning and afternoon sessions.

Our pre-K programs are full of hands-on, engaging activities that can help children learn pre-reading and number skills. The children also learn about school routines, mixed in with a lot of time for play, both indoors and out, and interaction with other children.

Kindergarten continues early literacy and math development and adds PE, music, field trips, outdoor Science Experiences and more.

Kindergarten students attend their neighborhood school, but pre-K students may attend any of the schools that offer the program.

In August, incoming kindergarten students are invited to a Kindergarten Camp to visit classrooms, meet staff and classmates, and get a jump start on learning new school routines.



Kindergarten Camp runs mornings beginning Monday, August 14 through Thursday, August 17.

Scan the QR code, visit our website or call 503.565.4000 to get started.



Exploring the Workforce

Seven McMinnville High School students have been hired by McMinnville Water & Light (MW&L) to custom design a prototype trailer intended to distribute clean drinking water in an emergency. The prototype will be used to outfit three trailers with water purification systems that, together, will be able to produce more than 200,000 gallons of drinking water daily.

The interns, chosen from MHS's engineering and fabrication Career Pathways, work during lunch or after school or have a class period assigned to the internship.

"It's all about the future workforce," said MW&L general manager John Dietz. "Our goal is to provide some real-world training for them, help them to understand what we do here, and maybe want to come work for us."

The trailers will provide not only safe storage and transport for the purification systems, but will also serve as operational platforms. The trailers will be able to quickly deploy and navigate rugged terrain and will also include functional workspaces and tools.

The engineering interns, part of Mac High's Engineering and Aerospace Sciences Academy (EASA), used a computer-aided design (CAD) program, which allowed the team to have a 3-D look at how they could load the trailers with needed equipment.

"There are tools and supplies that need to be secured while the trailer is being moved, possibly off-road," said sophomore Logan Haisch. "We designed small cabinets to store the tools and added mounts for hoses and electrical cords that are part of the water system."



Engineering student Logan Haisch explains the storage plan created with AutoDesk Inventor.

"The CAD model helped us model the storage containers we will need. We were able to cut away the top of the trailer so we could see in from above to see how we could stack or store the equipment and also make sure the door can open all the way."

As the design was being modeled, other students were working on a parts list for the items the team planned to build. "We're going to build and install any of the shelves and cabinets needed," said senior Caden Huber. "And we're talking about building a bed liner with a grippy floor."

"We're also working on the idea of building a metal frame for the trailer," said senior Nathanael Porter. "And one of the main projects will be putting together, or building, collapsible refill stations."

The students meet weekly with the MW&L staff to go over progress and plan the next phase of work. The internship team includes two seniors, so the goal is to finish the project by June 9, Mac High's graduation date.



Fabrication students Caden Huber (left) and Nathanael Porter will assemble, weld and install the trailer adaptations.

MSD Family Resource Center

In the winter of 2022, McMinnville School District opened the Family Resource Center, located at 1500 NE Baker Street. The center serves district families in a number of ways, including housing various support services such as counseling services provided through Lutheran Community Services and health care provided through Sunrise Family Clinic.

Center staff work with families and students on attendance issues and help refer families to resources that provide drug and alcohol counseling, homeless services, and more.

A food pantry was launched in November 2022 with the assistance of KPTV's "Surprise Squad," which traveled down from Portland with a truckload of non-perishable food. Since then, the pantry has been restocked with food drives by various schools and local Cub Scout troop 454's "Scouting for Food" event, among others.



Buel Elementary students organized a holiday food drive to replenish the pantry.

The center has also added a clothing closet with new or "like new" items that can help struggling families with clothes, toiletries and other necessities.

If you would like to donate or organize a donation drive, please contact the center at 503.565.4225 during business hours or follow the MSD Family Resource Center on Facebook to track need requests and happenings at the center.



Superintendent's Corner

We are grateful to see our schools humming along in normal operations, our staff and students thriving, and our deepening partnerships with this vibrant community. Our students are showing tremendous growth and resilience, both academically and emotionally, and they continue to exceed state averages in all academic areas.

This school year, we are developing a three-year strategic plan for continued success. We started building this plan by listening to students, families and staff and are now working to ensure that our priorities align to the needs of our entire school community. We had over 40 community partners come together to help identify specific college and workforce needs and are folding that input into strategies that will enable our students to graduate from

McMinnville High School ready for college and/or a career. The internship program with McMinnville Water & Light (profiled on opposite page) is a great example of how we are working with community partners to prepare our students for life after high school.

McMinnville School District has a new mission to honor, empower and prepare each individual to thrive and contribute, and we believe this mission will only be accomplished by working collaboratively with our families and the community.

Debbie Brockett






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MSD School Board member Abbie Warmbier (center) checks out a Chromebook at Patton for Family Code Night, a fun, grant-funded evening for all MSD K-8 students. Held at both middle schools, the event helped students (and families) learn more about a critical 21st century job skill: computer coding. (Photo: Marcus Larson)

Connect with Us!

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Seeking Volunteers

Are you looking for a way to be involved with our schools? You can volunteer to be a reading buddy as part of the SMART program or chaperone outdoor Science Experiences or help with classroom prep and activities or assist with the food pantry or clothing closet or help out at the McMinnville Education Foundation's annual fun run (October) or first-ever Pickleball tournament (August) or more.

Contact Melanie Jobb, 503.565.4017 or mjobb@msd.k12.or.us or visit our website for more details and ways to help and to get started on your background check!