

MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WeAreMSD



MONROE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER 2019 PUBLICATION

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close already and we are about to kick off another school year!

As I reflect on all that was accomplished in the 2018-19 school year and look ahead to the plans already in motion for the 2019-20 school year, I am so proud of the positive changes we are making, the quality of our staff, and the incredible accomplishments of our students. From curriculum updates to innovative new learning facilities and technologies to the achievements of our recent graduates... it's a great time to be in the Monroe School District!

Work to fulfill our commitment to our students is supported in part by funding from the 2014 Technology Levy. **We cannot thank our community enough** for their support in growing student learning opportunities and experiences with technology district-wide. You can read more about how we have used the funds from the Technology Levy to support student learning on page 3.

We kicked off the 2018-19 school year with three school grand openings and the joy on the faces of staff, students and our community at these events was something I carried with me throughout the entire year. The voter-approved 2015 Capital Projects Bond has allowed our district to make

"At the center of our work is our commitment of holding every student to high expectations, ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities and providing powerful instruction."

At the center of our work is our commitment of holding every student to **high expectations**, ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities and providing powerful instruction. This issue of #WeAreMSD highlights our commitment of holding our students to high expectations. While the educational pathway may look different for every student, we know that every single one of them is capable of achieving their personal best and we believe in challenging them to that standard.

some incredible, and much needed, updates and changes to our facilities. There is still work to be done and you can read about the progress we have made so far on the next page.

All of the work that goes in to providing our students with the **best educational experience possible** is no easy task. We are so very thankful for our community for supporting our district time and time again. It truly takes a village and I am grateful that our village is Monroe. I am looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back and kicking off another great year in just a few short weeks!

Sincerely,

Dr. Fredrika Smith
Superintendent



THE MONROE COMMITMENT

Monroe School District's commitment to EVERY student:

Equitable
Access

High
Expectations

Powerful
Instruction

Cover photo courtesy of Striped Hat Photography

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

AUG

MONDAY
26TH

6:00 p.m.
District Admin Office
200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272

SEPT

MONDAY
9TH

6:00 p.m.
District Admin Office
200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272

SEPT

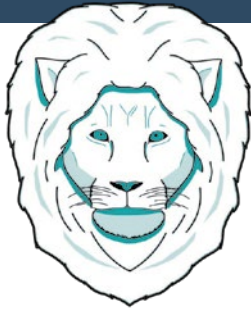
MONDAY
23RD

6:00 p.m.
District Admin Office
200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272

"All regular board meetings are open to the public and parent, student, staff, and community involvement is welcomed."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

Points
of Pride



LEADERS IN LEARNING HIGH SCHOOL

23  GRADUATES

\$10K+ AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2 attended Running Start
- 80 college credits were earned through Running Start
- 14 are continuing their education after high school
- 1 enlisted in the military
- 2 are seeking apprenticeship



MONROE HIGH SCHOOL

322  GRADUATES

JUST UNDER
\$7M AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

- 37 Academic Challenge Awards
- 42 earned High Honors (3.75 GPA or higher)
- 61 earned Honors (3.5 to 3.74 GPA)
- 84 attended Running Start
- 26 earned their Associate's Degree
- 34 earned Washington State Honors (top 10% in WA state)
- 252 are continuing their education after high school
- 14 enlisted in the military



SKY VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER

63  GRADUATES 60 SENIORS
+ 3 JUNIORS

\$408K+ AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

- 4 earned full 4-year college tuition scholarships
- 39 attended Running Start
- 21 earned their Associate's Degree
- 13 earned Washington State Honors (top 10% in WA state)
- 49 are continuing their education after high school



COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION IN MONROE »

Technology is used all around us, in nearly all facets of life and in virtually every career field.

In order to fully prepare our students to be successful in life post graduation, it has become imperative that the foundational knowledge and skills we equip our students with includes computer science, technology and digital citizenship components. Today's youth are born into a world rich with technology and we hold the expectation that our students are capable of learning and doing so much more with technology than we ever could have imagined. From creating computer programs that include sequences,



TECHNOLOGY LEVY TIMELINE

2014

Monroe voters approved a \$7.5 million Technology Levy in February to fund:

- Updating computer stations to current Windows operating system
- Upgrading network cabling across the entire district
- Refreshing central data center (district servers)
- Providing or upgrading projector, document camera and display equipment in all instructional spaces
- Updating student computer labs and staff computer stations
- Providing professional training to teaching staff in using new technologies in their instructional delivery
- Engineering fees, permits and contingency

2015

The collection of voter-approved technology levy dollars began in the spring of 2015. Over the six years of the life of the levy (2014 through spring of 2020), the district will receive two disbursements per year towards the collection of the total \$7.5 million

Upgrading and enhancement of the technology infrastructure across the district began to create a stable wireless and reliable network for students and staff to access in preparation to support new student devices, classroom presentation systems and business equipment

2015-
2016

Continued upgrades to district's technology infrastructure

The Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) adopted K-12 Computer Science Standards (implementation to begin in the 2019-20 school year)

2016-
2017

Upgraded electrical and physical capacity in classrooms in preparation for new classroom presentation systems

Continued server upgrades for schools

Professional training for teachers on effective ways to integrate the new tools into their daily teaching practices and enhance learning experiences

Digital Citizenship and Responsibility instruction is implemented as required by state law

Funding approved by voters on the technology levy can ONLY be used for purchases related to technology, such as equipment, infrastructure, and professional development for staff. In addition to providing all that was promised to our community through funding from the 2014 Technology Levy, we were also able to leverage vendor relationships and buying power in order to save levy dollars and additionally fund:



Interactive presentation panels that serve as a giant computer on the wall, enhancing visual learning, interaction, and collaboration instead of static classroom projectors and projection screens

events, loops and conditionals in our primary grades to implementing artificial intelligence algorithms to solve problems in high school, we have high expectations of what our students can learn and be able to do. We knew our high expectations for our students would require us to change our instructional delivery and the learning opportunities we were providing to our students, so we spent years planning to make the necessary changes a reality. What began with our voters approving a technology levy to fund necessary technology upgrades, equipment and professional training for our teachers is now leading to our students becoming more prepared than ever for post graduation opportunities in the 21st century.



2017-2018

Purchased and installed classroom presentation systems in 367 instructional spaces, including audio enhancement systems, digital document cameras, interactive display panels with webcams, and a class set of Chromebooks (laptops) in every classroom (nearly 7,000 devices)

Continued professional development for staff in using technology with students to enhance instructional experiences

2018-2019

Digital Learning/Informational Literacy classes and Digital Learning Teachers added to all elementary schools in preparation for implementation of state required Computer Science Standards

Middle school DigiTools course content realigned to meet Computer Science Standards. The DigiTools course now provides students experiences in computer programming, robotics, video production, editing and composition tools

In the spring, Maker Spaces are introduced to provide additional opportunities for students to create their own apps, build and program robots, and participate in other science, technology, engineering and math learning (STEM) learning activities

Computer Science concepts are introduced across all grade levels in preparation for the required, widespread implementation of the Computer Science Standards

2019-2020

MHS will be adding additional computer programming and career and technology education courses (CTE) that further integrate Computer Science Standards and the new state Educational Technology Standards

Maker Spaces will be fully implemented in each school

2020-2021

Pilot of Washington State Computer Science assessments to begin for K-12

Last disbursement of Technology Levy dollars (if our community is in support of providing additional educational technology experiences for our students and future software and equipment updates, a technology levy renewal will need to be approved by voters)



Classroom sets of networked student devices (laptops) so students now have daily access within every classroom instead of the weekly visits to shared computer labs or sharing two classroom computers with their entire class



Webcams allowing classrooms to video conference with industry experts to learn about real life careers and learning experiences, especially when field trips to remote locations are not possible



Classroom audio enhancement systems to distribute the teacher's voice and all other audio equally throughout the classroom, providing each student with an equitable auditory learning experience



More robust devices that provide greater instructional learning experiences for our students



Maker spaces in every school that provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build, and invent as they deeply engage in science, technology, engineering and math

BOND PROJECTS

PROGRESS REPORT

In 2015, Monroe voters approved a Capital Projects Bond totaling \$110,970,000. In addition, Monroe School District is receiving roughly \$20.5 million in State Construction Assistance Program funding and \$640,000 in Mitigation Impact Fees, which in all will fund roughly \$132 million in capital construction and improvements.

All of this money can **only** be used for construction and facility improvements and must fund the projects approved by voters in the 2015 Capital Projects Bond measure. These projects were determined to be the highest priority during meetings with the community prior to placing the measure on the ballot. The timeline for all of the projects intentionally focused on completing all of the major construction projects first and then shifting to completing the rest of the facility improvements and upgrades across the rest of the district by the end of 2021.

Chain Lake Elementary

- New entry to parking lot - TO OPEN THIS SEPTEMBER
- Roof replacement - IN PROGRESS
- ✓ Gym drainage - COMPLETED
- ✓ Sump pumps for utility vaults - COMPLETED
- Replace chalkboards with dry erase boards
- Update play equipment* - IN PROGRESS

Frank Wagner Elementary

- ✓ School Modernization Phase 1** - COMPLETED

Frylands Elementary

- ✓ Inlaid gym lines - COMPLETED
- Noise reduction in hallways
- Replace main entry window wall

Maltby Elementary

- ✓ Resurface playground asphalt - COMPLETED
- ✓ Gym floor lines - COMPLETED

Monroe High School

- ✓ All-weather softball and baseball fields - COMPLETED
- ✓ Access to stadium for athletic teams - COMPLETED
- Upgrade/additional lighting in Performing Arts Center

Park Place Middle School

- ✓ School Modernization - COMPLETED

Salem Woods Elementary

- ✓ School Modernization Phase 1** - COMPLETED

Sky Valley Education Center

- ✓ Update electrical - COMPLETED
- Replace worst flooring - PARTIALLY COMPLETED
- Climber/lift for ADA access to band room
- Upgrade/expand fire alarm system
- Plumbing repairs & upgrades
- Off-street parking
- ✓ Replace heat pump compressors and refrigerant - COMPLETED

Wagner Center

- New gutters & downspouts
- ✓ Replace heat pump compressors & refrigerant - COMPLETED

Various other maintenance and improvement projects district-wide

**Due to conservative fiscal management on the approved capital projects package, we have been able to save dollars to expend on additional small projects that go beyond the scope of the initial package*

***A future bond will need to be approved by voters in order to fund additional phases of construction*



Hidden River Middle School

- Addition of a new wing, which will contain a new commons/cafeteria, kitchen, two science classrooms, two general classrooms, a visual arts classroom, and a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) lab.
- New football/soccer field and a baseball field, both with synthetic turf. There will also be a practice/jogging track with lighting.



Monroe High School

- Replacement of Football/Soccer field synthetic turf (will add a new center field logo and Lacrosse field markings for community use)
- Resurfacing of rubber track (will add a Javelin runway lane and ball control netting so multiple groups/sports can practice simultaneously)

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING LAB COMING FALL 2019

We hold the high expectation that all of our students will graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in college or in a career of their choosing.

What this looks like differs from student to student and it is our job to provide the learning opportunities that will allow each student to choose their own pathway to reach their personal best.

One pathway option bridges the gap between graduation and the high need area of skill-specific job opportunities. Today's domestic workforce seeks employees with both technical and academic skills who can fill skill-specific jobs, but employers are struggling to find such qualified workers. With a goal of bridging this gap, we began to look at adding additional career and technical education (CTE) courses and adapting existing CTE courses to better support workforce development for our students.

One of these course adaptations was to our existing manufacturing technology course at Monroe High School. The course was modified to incorporate attributes of the Core Plus program, a manufacturing-based curriculum developed by Boeing. Core Plus was designed to be a two-year, industry driven standardized high school curriculum recognized by the manufacturing industry throughout Washington state to prepare high school students for an entry-level career in manufacturing upon graduation. It was designed to be taught in two consecutive years with the first year focusing on common manufacturing skills across multiple industries and the second year focusing on industry specific skills to meet local needs.

Without the essential manufacturing facilities and equipment to fully implement the Core Plus program, we began in 2016 by incorporating key attributes of the program into our existing manufacturing technology course with the future goal of investing in the facilities and equipment necessary to fully implement the program at a later date.

Three years later, that future goal is now becoming a reality. Through thoughtful planning, the collection of mitigation impact fees from the City of Monroe and Snohomish County, and the receipt of an aerospace grant, we are now able to construct an advanced manufacturing lab that will allow us to fully implement the Core Plus curriculum. What was once a storage facility on the MHS campus is now becoming the most advanced CAD lab in Washington state with an adjoining aerospace-focused manufacturing lab for practical application. Construction of the facility began in June and is set to be ready for use in the fall of 2019.

Although we currently intend to utilize the Boeing approved Core Plus curriculum, the new advanced manufacturing lab is not tied to any given curriculum and may be adapted to different curriculum in coming years. Our manufacturing program will focus on the aerospace industry, but the skills learned will be

transferable to other industries such as automotive and maritime manufacturing. Students who successfully complete two years in the program will earn a certificate with labor market value endorsed by Boeing and other local industry partners and will have employable job-specific skills right out of high school.

Even before the completion of the new lab, the program is already proving to yield results for our students. Among hundreds of students vying for engineering internship with Boeing this summer, Myah Wilson, a 2019 MHS graduate, was one of only thirty students selected to participate in the elusive internship program.

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"The manufacturing technology class at my school is a really cool class. Not just because we get to use our hands and tools to make things out of sheet metal, but because it gives students real-life technical skills that help them get good-paying jobs in manufacturing. I urge anyone who wants to go into engineering, manufacturing, or even anyone who doesn't know what they want to do yet, to take this class!" said Myah when asked about her experience in the manufacturing technology course.

We are very excited for the many career opportunities the full implementation of the Core Plus program and our new advanced manufacturing lab will provide for our students. We also look forward to forging additional partnerships with local industries as we continue to develop job-specific skills and training that will provide students with a variety of career opportunities.



Photo courtesy of Core Plus



Monroe School District

200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272

T 360.804.2500
www.monroe.wednet.edu

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IMPORTANT BACK TO SCHOOL INFO

- School supply lists can be found in the 'About' drop down menu of each school's webpage at www.monroe.wednet.edu
- Students' class placement/schedules and transportation information will be available online in Family Access beginning Wednesday, August 21st.
- Get a head start on filling out all of your annual forms (volunteer application, Free & Reduced Price Meal application, etc) before school starts! All forms can be found on our website at www.monroe.wednet.edu. You can also get in-person assistance at our annual 'Fill Your Forms Day' at Frank Wagner Elementary on Wednesday, August 28th from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- Orientation for 6th and 9th grade students will take place September 3rd. Buses will be on regular schedule for these students.
- The first day of school (for all students except kinders) is September 4th.
- Kindergarten Family Connections meetings will occur September 4-6. The first day of school for kindergarten students is September 9th.

WE'RE GOING PAPERLESS!



As a cost-saving measure, we will be transitioning our quarterly mailed #WeAreMSD publications to a digital newsletter that will be emailed to subscribers. If you would like to sign up to receive these digital newsletters, please visit our website at www.monroe.wednet.edu. The sign-up field can be found in the footer of the website. We will continue, however, to send out our Annual Report to all community members' mailboxes.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator
Joanne Dickinson

Section 504/ADA Coordinator
David Paratore

Compliance Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW
Joanne Dickinson
200 E Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272
360.804.2500

The Monroe School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities. For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact the Learning and Teaching Department at 360.804.2550



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