



MEAD MATTERS

JANUARY 2021



**EACH STUDENT
FUTURE READY**

**EMPOWERED TO
DREAM, BELIEVE,
ACHIEVE**

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COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

Staff members throughout the district have adapted, changed, collaborated and innovated when it came to delivering instruction, activities and even lunch. This collaboration was especially evident when it came time for the annual Christmas programs that so many members of our community have come to know and love.

Our schools have delivered outstanding performances over the years, wowing onlookers, families and classmates with their talent. But, this year, things looked much different from a delivery standpoint. With large gatherings restricted, music and drama staffers showed off their collective creative sides to continue to bring out the talent of our wonderful students.

At Mt. Spokane High School, the Wildcat Band performed a virtual Winter Concert with many of the classics including featured ensembles Jazz I, Jazz II, Concert and Symphonic Bands, Percussion, and Wind. MSHS Drama's talented cast performed in a production of "It's a Wonderful Life", which was available via the Broadway OnDemand streaming service from Dec. 26-Jan. 9. Links to all MSHS performances can be found at mtspokanehs.mead354.org.

At Mead High, the Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble and Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Instrumental Carolers put together a fantastic delivery in their own virtual holiday concert with links available on facebook.com/meadhs.

In the district's middle schools, both Northwood's band and choir performed in a virtual concerts available at northwoodms.mead354.org, while Mountainside's band posted their great virtual band performances on their facebook page at facebook.com/mountainsidems.

**LEARN ABOUT THE MEAD SCHOOL
DISTRICT'S UPCOMING RENEWAL LEVY
AT WWW.MEAD354.ORG/LEVY**

**MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 RENEWAL LEVY
FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

MSHS' ALEX CONG NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

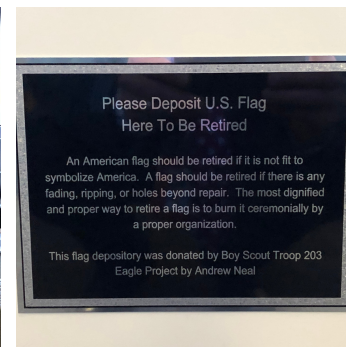
Mt. Spokane High School senior Alex Cong was named a National Merit Semifinalist in Fall 2020, one of just 16,000 students nationally to earn the prestigious award in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP).

The NMSP included 1.6 million original entrants from more than 50,000 high schools nationwide. In addition to Cong's honor, six others from the two Mead School District high schools were named Commended Scholars. Among the NMSP's 34,000 commended scholars, Mt. Spokane High School's Derek Borst and Mead High School's Joshua Demant, Madison Ediger, Bryan Evans, Jillian Holbrook and Nathan Nguyen were each recognized for their outstanding academic achievements.

According to the NMSP, semifinalists now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring.



AMERICAN FLAG DEPOSITORY



Courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 203, Meadow Ridge Elementary is now the proud owner of an American Flag Depository, which provides a place where community members can bring an American flag that is faded, ripped, or beyond repair to be retired respectfully. The flags placed in the depository that is located in the lobby of Meadow Ridge will be collected and retired ceremonially by Boy Scout Troop 203. To prepare the flag for depositing, it should be folded into a triangle following the diagram posted on Meadow Ridge Elementary's website at meadowridge.mead354.org.

According to Boy Scout Troop 203, flag retirement is the term used to define the proper, dignified way of destroying United States flags that are no longer fit to serve the nation. The preferred and most dignified method to destroy old, worn, frayed and/or faded American flags is by burning them during a ceremony. Burning has been related to flag retirement to offer the most respectful method of final tribute. A flag should be retired in a private location, and the ceremony should be a dignified event.

WIAA SPORTS SPRING UPDATE



The Washington Interscholastic Association updated its spring plans for athletic activities in November, announcing the proposed start of sports on Feb. 1 with Season 2 - basketball, bowling, gymnastics (starting 1/25), swim & dive (boys) and wrestling - running through March 21. Season 3 would run from March 15 to May 9, and Season 4 would take place from April 26 to June 13. The full list of activities and dates as it stands at the printing of this publication can be found here: bit.ly/WIAANovUpdate.

Individual schools/leagues/districts/regions have the option to request to move any sport or season as they deem appropriate for their local area. Proposals will be reviewed and approved by the WIAA Executive Director.

Note: WIAA information in this story is accurate as of printing (12/29).

TWO NAMED TO SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HOF



The Great American Rivalry Series® (GARS), which has included the annual football game between Mead and Mt. Spokane, teamed up with the Pro Football Hall of Fame to recognize 25 outstanding student-athletes on the 2020 GARS Scholar Athlete Hall of Fame Team. From a group of 144 nominees selected in the annual GARS Scholar Athlete Award program, Mead HS senior Caleb Shawen and Mt. Spokane HS senior Cooper Miethe were among 25 recipients to be named to the team.

In the national online ballot, Shawen and Miethe were the top two vote-getters, while Shawen earned the most overall. Visit mead354.org to hear from the pair in a video interview.

2020 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



A summary of work completed and ongoing projects for 2020 includes:

- Highland Middle School Completed in August 2020: \$49 million project with the capacity to house 900 students
- Creekside Elementary School Completed in August 2020: \$25 million project with the capacity to house 600 students.
- New Transportation and Maintenance Department Buildings Completed in January 2020: \$16 million project
- Union Stadium Completed in October 2020: \$24 million project
- Remodeled Gymnastics Center Completed in October 2020
- Playground Safety Mats Completed in Summer 2020
- Mead High School & Mt. Spokane High School Flooring – Completed late summer 2020. Project was started during spring after COVID-19 moved students from in-person to remote instruction
- Skyline Elementary – Currently in the construction phase and on-time to open for 2021-22 school year

BURCHARD NAMED BOARD PRESIDENT

At the December 7 meeting of the School Board of Directors, Director Chad Burchard was nominated and unanimously voted in as Board President beginning in January 2021. Burchard replaces Director Carmen Green after Green served as Board President each of the past two years.

The Mead School District would like to thank Director Green for her leadership and service as Board President during a unique and challenging two years. Green will remain on the school board.

As part of the annual reorganization, Director Denny Denholm was nominated and unanimously voted in as Vice President.

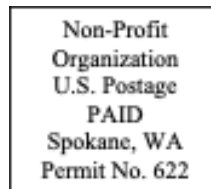


2021-22 DISTRICT CALENDAR APPROVED

The 2021-22 district calendar has been approved by the Board of Directors and can be found under the calendar navigation menu at:

WWW.MEAD354.ORG

MEAD MATTERS
Mead School District #354
2323 E. Farwell Rd.
Mead, WA 99021



Questions or Concerns? Call (509) 465-6004

The Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Grievances or concerns should be directed to: Josh Westermann, Director of Student and Family Services – 509-465-6008, 2323 E Farwell Rd, Mead, WA 99021 or josh.westermann@mead354.org.

ECR WSS
Postal Customer

2020 HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

For Halloween this year, students from Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School created a fantastic experience for the District's elementary kids by putting on a Trunk-or-Treat event. Local kids could come by the parking lot and get a safe, socially-distant trick-or-treat outing from costumed groups of high schoolers.



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It has been truly incredible for us to see the partnership between families and our schools during such a challenging year. We are so proud of the way we are leading the state in providing both in-person and remote options to our families. The fact that we have continued to be able to offer learning options is a testament to all of our students, parents, teachers and staff, who I know have managed extra stress and added challenges.

The work we have all done together has made a difference not only in the lives of our students, but in the lives of students around the state. We've been able to show the governor's office and the Department of Health that in-person instruction can be delivered safely when we all work together. I'm equally impressed with the way our remote learning modality is going. Our students and staff who work together remotely have created virtual classrooms that are allowing our students who have chosen that option to stay on pace.

I hope you were all able to find some peace and joy during the holiday season. It is such an important time to recharge and return in early January ready to hit the ground running. Over the last two weeks, I've seen just that, and I know it energizes all of us as we head into the spring.



Sincerely,
Shawn Woodward, Mead School District Superintendent

2021 RENEWAL LEVY TOWN HALL WEBINARS

Hosted via Zoom by Mead School District Superintendent Shawn Woodward. The live Town Halls will give attendees two opportunities to learn more and ask questions about the renewal levy that will be on the local ballot for the February 9 Special Election. Recording will also be available after each Town Hall at www.mead354.org/levy.

Webinar Schedule - visit www.mead354.org/levy for Zoom info and links to webinars:

January 6, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. (recording now available)

January 13, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. (recording available post-event)

REGISTER TO VOTE AT VOTewa.GOV

The Mead School District will be running a levy renewal measure in February 2021 to replace the current levy that is set to expire this year. Look for more information on this ballot measure at www.mead354.org/levy. Please remember to vote!

**MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 RENEWAL LEVY
FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021 RENEWAL LEVY

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Mead School District is asking its community to consider a three-year renewal levy for educational programs and operations on the Special Election ballot on February 9, 2021. This renewal levy is not a new tax, it replaces a three-year levy that will expire in 2021.

The renewal levy supports the Mead School District's commitment to learning and teaching, focuses on equity and access for all students and ensures ongoing funding for essential services that meet needs of students and teachers.

WHAT DOES THIS RENEWAL LEVY FUND?

ACADEMICS

- Elective Course Offerings
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Elementary Specialists
- Staff for Small Class Sizes

EXTRA-CURRICULARS

- Band, Choir, Orchestra, Art
- Athletics in MS and HS
- Speech and Drama
- Student Clubs

FUTURE READINESS

- Work-Based Learning
- Career-Track Opportunities
- STEM Courses
- Technology

STUDENT SUPPORT

- Nurses & Para Ed Support
- Counselors & Social Workers
- English Language Learning
- Student Intervention Support

**VISIT [MEAD354.ORG/LEVY](https://mead354.org/levy)
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



IS THIS A NEW TAX?

No. It is a proposed three-year renewal of the current levy that expires in 2021.

WHAT ARE LEVIES FOR?

Levies provide local funding that bridges the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the actual costs of operating our schools. Levies make up about 11.7% of the district's total operating revenue.

School levies also activate equalization dollars from the state called Local Effort Assistance (LEA). When a levy is passed, the state provides matching dollars to enhance student access to educational enrichments.

The Mead School District has been supported by a levy for the past 40 years.

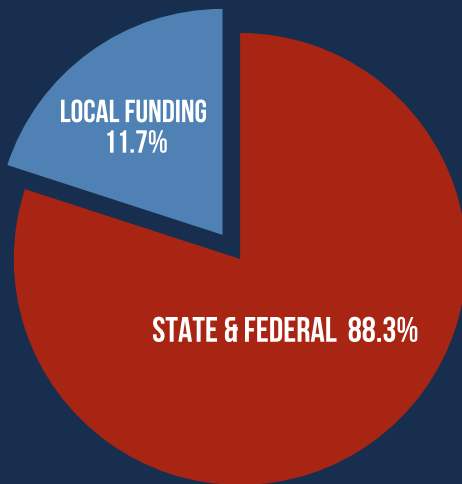


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LEVY BREAKDOWN

11.7 percent of the Mead School District's budget comes from local funding, while the other 88.3 percent comes from a combination of federal and state funding.

With state revenues down, state funding cuts are anticipated. Locally-approved funding would help fill the gap between what the state funds and what our students and teachers need to maintain success.



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Jan. 22 - Ballots mailed out

Feb. 1 - Online or mail registrations must be received 8 days before elections

Feb. 9 - Deadline for in-person voter registration or updates

Feb. 9 - Election day: ballots must be postmarked by today or returned to a ballot drop box by 8 p.m.



Throughout the past year, the Mead School District conducted a combination of surveys, focus groups and community engagement meetings with staff and community members. The feedback gained has directly informed the District's strategic plan and top priorities for continuing to develop a well-rounded education. Levy resources can help fund our community-driven strategic priorities such as:

- Support for our at-risk students
- Access to mental health support for our students
- Increased emphasis on building a talent pool for local industry and beyond through partnerships
- Choice programs at the elementary level

WHAT WOULD THIS RENEWAL LEVY COST TAXPAYERS?

If approved by voters on Feb. 9, the estimated levy tax rate for Mead School District would be \$2.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which is lower than 2018 and prior years.

For a \$300,000 home, that equals \$600/year or \$50/month.

RECENT SCHOOL TAX RATE HISTORY

YEAR	LEVY RATE	BOND RATE	TOTAL TAX RATE
2017	\$4.01	\$1.27	\$5.28
2018	\$3.68	\$1.19	\$4.87*
2019	\$1.50	1.93	\$3.43
2020	\$1.47	\$1.86	\$3.33
2021	\$1.47	\$1.86	\$3.33
2022-24	\$2.00	\$1.86	\$3.86**

*Before the Washington State "McCleary Decision" that capped school levies

** Includes this proposed Renewal Levy's estimated future tax rate

**VISIT [MEAD354.ORG/LEVY](https://mead354.org/levy)
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