



MEAD MATTERS

OCTOBER 2020



**EACH STUDENT
FUTURE READY**

**EMPOWERED TO
DREAM, BELIEVE,
ACHIEVE**

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SEAMLESS SIXTH GRADE TRANSITION

Over the course of the past two years, Learning and Teaching Assistant Superintendent Heather Havens, Director of Secondary Education Mark St. Clair and the principals at each of the district's three middle schools worked collaboratively in partnership with Mead Education Association President Toby Doolittle to seamlessly transition sixth grade from elementary schools to middle schools. The transition has been a major bright spot for students and teachers alike, and the result has been the creation of opportunities for Grades 6-8 in many areas including math, English and leadership, among others.

Starting in 2018, the 6-8 Transition Team worked with more than 100 teachers and staff to gather feedback and information through weekly meetings. They faced challenges of staffing, programming and boundary changes, but a team-first effort became a successful and smooth transition.

The integration of incoming sixth graders and their teachers coincided with the opening of the brand-new Highland Middle School. The building, which was approved by voters in early 2018, allows the district's now three middle schools to meet the demand created by the addition of sixth graders.

"The project has turned out to be a win-win for students, families, teachers and administrators, while also allowing us to be strategic in how we utilized the space in our buildings," Superintendent Shawn Woodward said. "It couldn't have come at a better time as we are meeting physical distancing protocols due to COVID-19. I want to thank our staff for their amazing work in leaving no detail unattended. Gregg Hare (Mountainside Principal) Troy Hughes (Northwood Principal), Barb Pybus (Highland Principal) and their staffs really led the way in making this transition so seamless."

6-8 GRADE TRANSITION HIGHLIGHTS



More opportunities for all students to access courses in Digital Literacy, Math and Leadership



Expanded menu of athletic options for 6-8 graders



More than 100 staff and teachers took part in process

The beautiful new Union Stadium, located at the corner of Market Street and Farwell Road in the town of Mead, is complete and ready for events as soon as it is safe to return. Completed on time and on budget, the 4,500-seat facility will host a football game in the Mead School District for the first time since 1971 -- almost 50 years.



SECOND HARVEST & GENERATION ALIVE TEAM UP WITH MEAD

Over the past six months, students from our elementary schools teamed up with Generation Alive to distribute more than 6,000 boxes of fresh and frozen food packaged by Second Harvest. The collaborative effort created an efficient delivery and volunteer model as the distribution of the boxes took place at Brentwood Elementary at the same time as meal distribution for our Mead Eats program.



HELLO, UNION STADIUM



FINALLY, THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

This year brought some of the most difficult and unique challenges that any of us have faced in our lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has pushed us as a District, but it brought us all back to the same goal: position our students for success now and in the future through delivering an outstanding education, building and maintaining safe schools and partnering with our community. As we headed into a delayed start to the school year on September 14, wildfire smoke pushed the first day back, day-by-day. That wasn't easy for our students, families, teachers or administrators, but as a District we persevered and were able to kick off the year for our students in-person and online on September 21. We are proud to be able to deliver learning options that gave our families choices.



MEALS FOR ALL

The Mead School District's Nutrition Services Department has continued to meet the demands of students and families during a time of unique challenge and uncertainty for many. As the USDA began its free summer meals program early in the spring, Nutrition Services ramped up production to meet the demand within the District. Through providing free grab-and-go meals in the spring and summer and then heading into the school year with students both in schools and learning from home, Nutrition Director Kim Elkins and her team are keeping children fed and ready for learning.

13,438

Meal Kits out to remote students in first 11 days

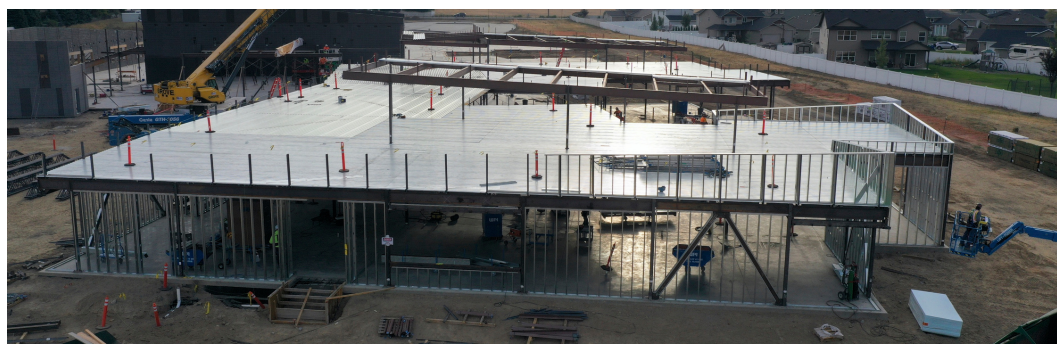
FREE

All meals are free through June 30, 2021

24,595

Breakfasts and lunches at schools in first 8 days

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #10 GOING UP



One of the major construction projects is the District's 10th elementary school, funded completely by state-match dollars. The project is currently on time and on budget, and will open in the Fall 2021 on Five Mile Prairie. The walls of the building are being erected and the gym box is nearly complete.



TRANSPORTATION RECOGNIZED BY OSPI

The Mead School District Transportation Department received a Letter of Achievement for the second consecutive year from Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal and Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. In the letter received by Superintendent Shawn Woodward and Transportation Director Brian Liberg, OSPI and WSP recognized the district for exceptional results during the annual Washington State Patrol inspection. Out of 102 buses and 13 support vehicles, 0% were found to be "out of service." Congratulations to our fantastic crew of mechanics for their continued support of student transportation safety!



District Mechanics from L to R: Brian Ranger, Daniel Ovens, Ron Boutain, Ron Rasmussen, Mike Oglesbee, Josh Oglesbee and Paul Weiss

BEHIND THE SCENES: CATHY FAYANT

Get to know Cathy Fayant, Director of Custodial Services. Cathy has worked in the District for nearly 33 years and been a Director for the last 13.

What is your family background?

I have always lived in Spokane and come from a fairly large family of 8 children. I have 5 children of my own with 6 grandchildren - 2 newborns in the last month!

When you look back what has been most rewarding about your career?

I have made many, many treasured friendships along the way. And of course the children that we interact with every day are truly amazing, funny, helpful and awesome to be around.

How has your team met the challenges related to cleaning during a pandemic?

Cleaning during the pandemic has challenged the department in ways that we've never seen. We are determined to keep our students and staff in clean, disinfected schools. The custodial staff at the District is awesome! They have undergone multiple changes to their workload in the last two years and always step up with a supportive, helpful attitude. I take pride in the fact that our custodians clean and disinfect for over 13,500 students and staff in 1.4 million square feet of space on a daily basis.

ADAPTING WITH TECH

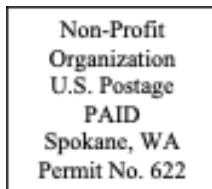
With the District's new online learning platforms at both the elementary and secondary levels, and with the delivery of instruction through a hybrid model, students and teachers have done an amazing job of learning and growing through the use of new technology. These tools are delivered with the student in mind and are tailored to fit the age and abilities of each child. Our teachers have continuously developed their skills to deliver instruction and keep our students on the path to being future-ready.

>70% More than 70% of district students chose in-person instruction



**FIND US ONLINE 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

TWO NEW SCHOOLS

The Mead School District opened two new schools this year. Both are a gem in their communities. Creekside Elementary, located at 3525 E Hastings in the town of Mead, and Highland Middle School, located at 3515 W Hawthorne on Five Mile Prairie began their inaugural academic year in September 2020.

Creekside Elementary



Highland Middle School



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The start of this school year has been unlike any other. I am so proud and so pleased with the efforts of our staff and families to do the work necessary to welcome back students for both face-to-face and remote instruction. The complexities of opening our schools, and keeping them open, during a global pandemic are immense and our staff has proven to be up to the challenge.

We are taking the responsibility of providing face-to-face instruction to students during this challenging time with the utmost caution. We continue to work closely with the Spokane Regional Health District for guidance and support. They assist us with contact tracing and determining quarantine needs when a staff member or student becomes infected with COVID-19. If you are interested in looking at our infection rates and quarantine numbers, we track this information on our website and update it daily.

So many things have changed this year, including ensuring proper social distancing of staff and students, health screenings upon arriving at school each day and requiring masks to be worn on our campuses. One thing remains the same though -- the deep level of care and attention our staff is giving to our students. We are thrilled to have them back and look forward to a great school year!



Sincerely,
Shawn Woodward, Mead School District Superintendent

2020-21 REVISED ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Sept. 21	First Day of School	Feb. 12	End of 1st Semester
Sept. 24	First Day of Kindergarten	Feb. 15	President's Day - No School
Oct. 28	Elem. Conf. - Early Release	Feb. 19	Elementary Early Release
Oct. 29-30	Elem. Conf. - Non-Student Day	Feb. 24	Elem. Conf. - Early Release
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day - No School	Feb. 25-26	Elem. Conf. - Non-Student Day
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Break - No School	Apr. 5-9	Spring Break - No School
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Winter Break - No School	May 31	Memorial Day - No School
Jan. 4	School Resumes	June 25	Last Day of School
Jan. 18	MLK Jr. Day - No School		

REGISTER TO VOTE AT [VOTEWA.GOV](https://votewa.gov)

It is an important time in all of our lives, and as we yearn for our voice to be heard, one important step is registering to vote. In addition to the general election this fall, the Mead School District will be running a levy renewal measure in February 2021. Look for more information on this ballot measure in the coming weeks. It is important to make sure your voice is heard!

