Fifteen Schools Set to Welcome 10,750 Students

On Tuesday, September 3rd we will open our doors for the 2019-2020 school year and welcome an estimated 10,750 students. Last year our beginning enrollment was 10,576, which increased throughout the year to a final headcount in June of 10,606 students.

The Mead School District has a long-standing tradition of providing the highest quality learning experience for each and every student. This year will be no exception. A few highlights for the coming school year include:

Shiloh Hills Elementary Remodel

This renovation project, approved by voters as part of the 2015 Facilities Improvement Bond, is now 100% complete and ready for the start of school. We invite you to visit the newly remodeled facility on Tuesday, August 27th. In conjunction with Shiloh’s annual Ice Cream Social there will be an Open House from 6-8 pm with a formal Dedication Ceremony at 7 pm in the school’s new multi-purpose room.

6th Grade Center

To address increasing enrollment and provide space to lower class size in grades K-3, 6th graders from Brentwood, Evergreen, Farwell and Midway will join Prairie View 6th graders at the old Northwood building. This 6th Grade Center will operate for one year only (2019-2020). Next fall (September 2020), when both Highland Middle School and Creekside Elementary open, the district’s grade school configuration will be K-5 and our three middle schools (Northwood, Mountainside & Highland) will house 6-8 grade students. Barb Pybus, the 6th Grade Center principal, will transition to Highland next fall.

2018 Bond Flagship Projects

Construction is well underway on the five flagship projects approved by voters as part of the February 2018 Facilities Improvement Bond. These include the four Market Street Projects (new transportation and new maintenance facilities, new athletic/performing arts stadium and Creekside Elementary) plus Highland Middle School located on Five Mile Prairie. (Additional details on P3.)

Again, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. We thank the Mead community for its ongoing support.

First Day of School Grades 1-12: Tuesday, September 3
First Day of School Kindergarten: Friday, September 6
Old Mead Middle School
Farewell Open House

On June 20th the Mead School District hosted an Old Mead Middle School Farewell Open House that was attended by nearly 200 former students and staff, including Dale Preedy and his older brother Ernie (pictured), who graduated in 1954 and 1949 before the school was converted to a middle school in the fall of 1971. When asbestos abatement is completed (October 1st) the building will be removed to make room for the district’s new stadium.

Mead High School is the 2018-2019 WIAA 4A Scholastic Cup Champion - an honor they have earned seven times in school history, including twice in the past three years. The prestigious Scholastic Cup recognizes performance in the classroom, accomplishments on the playing surface and sportsmanship.

Behind the Scenes

Working Together to Equip Students, Inspire Problem Solvers & Create Leaders

Behind the scenes in the Mead School District you will find a number of folks whose work is essential to helping make our school district a great place for kids to learn and grow. One of those individuals is Nutrition Services Director Kim Elkins who, along with Assistant Director Mark Oswalt, oversees all aspects of a department that serves over 267,000 breakfasts and 764,500 lunches each year. We asked Kim a few questions about her life and work.

What is your family background?

I grew up in a small town in Wisconsin and went to college in Dallas, Texas. I moved to Washington to see the West and have lived in the Mead School District for over 25 years.

Tell us about your career path. How did that lead you to the Mead School District?

Following 20 years with Providence Sacred Heart, where I served in a variety of management positions, I was hired as the Nutrition Director for the Nine Mile Falls School District. I joined Mead in 2012. I am a certified Dietary Manager, certified Food Protection Professional and a credentialed School Nutrition Specialist.

What are a few of the biggest changes Nutrition Services has undergone in your seven-year tenure?

Federal meal regulations underwent huge changes my first year at Mead and continue to evolve resulting in updated menus that reflect increased whole grains, lower sodium and more fruits and vegetables. Each year we incorporate student taste tests for new menu items and our Farm to School program allows us to support and partner with local farmers while introducing students to new food items like rainbow carrots with tops.

What do you like about your job and what is most challenging?

The opportunity to work with a great team dedicated to Mead students and the community. All of our nutrition staff are certified nutrition professionals. I enjoy the challenge of essentially running a “restaurant” in 15 different locations where we serve 6,500 customers every day.

What about your “behind the scenes” job might surprise people?

Nutrition Services is a self-sustaining program and receives no monies from the district’s state basic education allocation. Therefore, we are very careful and examine every penny we spend to make sure it benefits Mead students.

Celebrating our Kitchen Staff

Midway Kitchen Manager Donna Anderson is featured in our most recent Who We Are video. She is a self-described “foodies” who, along with all of our Nutrition Services staff, is passionate about preparing healthy, colorful food kids want to eat. For Donna it is exciting to help students make healthy food choices that will impact them for the rest of their lives. To watch this video visit mead354.org.
Highland Middle School & Creekside Elementary

Aerial View Highland Middle School
3515 W. Hawthorne Rd., Spokane, WA 99208

Gym Box Creekside Elementary School
3525 E. Hastings, Mead, WA 99021

2015 & 2018 Bond Projects Update

Shiloh Hills Renovation (2015 Bond) – This modernization and addition project is complete! The Shiloh Hills remodel included a total renovation of the original building plus the addition of a multi-purpose room and five new classrooms (14,000 new square feet).

Market Street Projects (2018 Bond) – If the intersection of Market & Farwell in Mead is not part of your regular driving routine we encourage you to take a detour and check out the progress being made on the new Transportation Facility (just north of Zips on the east side of Market), new Maintenance Facility (SE corner of Market & Farwell), new performing arts/athletic stadium (SW corner of Market & Farwell) and Creekside Elementary. Transportation and maintenance will move into their new locations before the first of the year and the new stadium and Creekside will be ready for occupancy next fall (September 2020).

Highland Middle School (2018 Bond) – The walls of the gym box are complete, work has started on the classroom wings, sports fields are well underway and footings have been poured for the kitchen/commons area. Highland will open in the fall of 2020.

Elementary Playground Safety Mats (2018 Bond) – This summer pea gravel has been removed and safety mats have been installed at Colbert, Farwell, Meadow Ridge & Prairie View. Safety mats were part of the Midway and Shiloh Hills renovations. Installation of playground safety mats at Brentwood and Evergreen will take place next summer.

Safety & Security Task Force Report

In March of 2018 the Mead SD Board of Directors authorized the formation of a Safety Task Force. In June this 22 member committee, following several months of meetings and study/research, presented to the school board a four phase approach to enhance safety and security. A copy of their recommendations is posted on the district homepage (mead354.org). We extend our thanks and appreciation to the following individuals who volunteered their time to serve on this committee:

Ken Bayne    David Beaudine    Doug Bleecker    Sara Breen    Chad Burchard    Camie Chimienti
Chandra Fox  John Gill       Carmen Green    Jared Hoodley  Kevin Holden  Howard Johnson
Randy Johnson Travis Killman Martin Kolodrub Pam Luders Rick Luttrall  Jeff Rogers
Carla Scott  Peter Stuart    Debbie Wiechert  Chris Young
Welcome to the New School Year
A Message from Superintendent Shawn Woodward

I extend a sincere “welcome” to our returning and new students. The Mead School District Board of Directors, our teachers, administrators and staff are looking forward to another great year.

On a personal note, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as Mead’s new superintendent. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two months on the job meeting with staff and community members. So far, I have had more than 60 one-on-one meetings with various people and that number grows each day. It is obvious to me after meeting with staff that Mead has done a phenomenal job recruiting and retaining talented educators. I am impressed with their passion and commitment to ensuring the highest levels of learning for all students. I am also impressed with the support the community has historically shown, and continues to show, the district. Mead has a well-deserved reputation as a high quality public school system.

Over the course of this school year we will be intentionally engaging stakeholders in a robust process to establish strategic priorities for the Mead School District. Please be watching for opportunities to be involved as we solicit feedback in-person and via a comprehensive online survey. Your voice will matter as we set priorities and chart the future of the Mead School District.

I invite you to contact my office (465-6014) if you would like to schedule a meeting with me. I enjoy and look forward to meeting with individuals and/or groups of people to listen and learn about issues, interests and concerns.

Again, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. I am honored to serve as Mead’s superintendent and join such a fine community.

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**Fall Craft Fairs**

**Mt. Spokane Band Craft Fair**
Saturday, October 12, 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday, October 13, 11 am – 4 pm

**Mead High Band Craft Fair**
Saturday, November 16, 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday, November 17, 10 am – 4 pm

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**ADD**

**MAINTAIN**

**BRING BACK**

**EXPAND**

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**Safety, Security & Student Wellness Supplemental Enrichment Levy**

On November 5th Mead patrons will be asked to consider a Supplemental Enrichment Levy focused on safety, security and student wellness. If approved, this two-year (2020 & 2021) levy will increase the levy tax rate by $1/$1,000 of assessed value and cost the average homeowner $20/month ($240,000 assessed value).

Four key areas where portions of the supplemental levy funds will be spent are ADDING safety & security personnel as recommended by the Safety Task Force, MAINTAINING nurses to care for medically fragile students, BRINGING BACK building supervision para-educators lost in recent budget cuts and EXPANDING learning opportunities for non-traditional students. To learn more visit mead354.org.