



Marching Band – It’s a Family

A Place Where Lifetime Friendships and Memories are Made

It happens like clockwork. Every year, two weeks before the start of school, the sound of snare drums pervades the grounds of Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School telling you Marching Band season is underway. In the Mead School District we are very proud to have not one but two premier Marching Band programs.

Be appraised, however, this activity is not about marching down the street in a straight line (which they do), nor is it just about a football half-time show (which they also do). According to Marching Band directors Brandon Campbell and Sy Hovik it’s a musical, athletic activity bringing more than 100 musicians and Color Guard members together with the ultimate goal of becoming “one big, synchronized, moving machine.”

The season starts in mid-August with Band Camp where students learn teamwork and cohesiveness right out of the gate. It’s a layering process that starts with the fundamentals - learning to move your feet in the right way and march with appropriate technique. It takes 3-4 days of separate marching and music rehearsals before students begin the process of stacking responsibilities. After that it requires countless hours of practice to perfect a Marching Band show.

Unlike athletic teams, in Marching Band everyone is a starter. There is no spare tuba player waiting on the sidelines for his or her opportunity to enter the game. Seniors mentor freshmen and this strong student leadership plays a critical role in the success of both the Mt. Spokane and Mead High programs.

“Marching Band is not a team. It transcends team and is a family,” says Mead High drummer Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens. At Mt. Spokane director Sy

Hovik stresses the importance of enjoying the experience and building solid relationships and memories. “How we get better and grow as an ensemble isn’t talent,” says Mr. Hovik. “It’s making sure each individual feels and understands they belong.”

Expressing his appreciation for the district’s support of band and the arts, Mead High director Brandon Campbell says, “I love that Marching Band is one of the many ways we provide students with the opportunity to be really successful at something they are passionate about.” And Mr. Hovik adds, “I love the way the district approaches not just Marching Band but music in general - it’s smart. We wouldn’t have Marching Band without strong community support.”

The Mead High and Mt. Spokane Marching Band programs are the subject of the most recent addition to our *Who We Are* video series, posted on the Mead SD homepage (mead354.org).

2019 Spokane Scholar Nominees

Congratulations to the seniors from Mt. Spokane and Mead High (below) who will represent the Mead School District at the 27th Annual Spokane Scholars Awards Banquet, which takes place at the Spokane Convention Center on April 15, 2019. At the banquet cash scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$4,000 will be presented in each of six award categories.



Mt. Spokane High School Nominated Scholars (left to right): Kristopher Wright (Math), Emily Busch (English), Caleb Marll (Fine Arts), Jeremy Nicks (Science), Chloe White (Social Studies) & Jacob Zacharias (World Languages)



Mead High School Nominated Scholars (left to right): Dylan Schuler (Social Studies), Skye Gordon (English), Jooeun (Tracy) Baek (Fine Arts), Ciara Taylor (World Languages), Rebecca Strauch (Science) & Lauren Champlin (Math)

ENROLL NOW

2019-2020
Kindergarten
Registration
Opens
March 1, 2019

Mead School District *Director District #4* Five Mile Prairie

Thank You Director Ron Farley



Ron Farley, who has served on the Mead School District Board of Directors for the past 19.5 years representing Director District #4, resigned his position effective December 11, 2018. Director Farley and his wife Alison, long-time residents of Five Mile Prairie, are in the process of selling their home. Per board policy a board member must reside in the Director District he or she represents.

During his tenure on the Board Director Farley was a very strong advocate for Mead students and served the community with the highest level of integrity. We extend sincere thanks and appreciation to Director Farley for his strong leadership and many years of commitment and dedication.

Welcome Director Dorcas Wylder

Dorcas Wylder is the unanimous selection of the Mead School District Board of Directors to represent Director District #4, replacing Ron Farley. Ms. Wylder, who took the Oath of Office on January 28, 2019, is a retired Mead School District administrator.



During her 14-year tenure with Mead, Director Wylder served as Community Learning Center Director, Farwell Principal, Learning Services Elementary Director, Executive Director of Learning Services and most recently as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction. Ms. Wylder will serve as an appointee to the school board until the next regularly scheduled school board election in November 2019.

Eight residents of Director District #4 submitted *Letters of Interest* and were interviewed for the open school board position at a Special Board Meeting held on January 26, 2019.



March 15th – No School
Teacher Learning Improvement Day
June 14th – Snow Make-Up Day
for February 12th Snow Day

2018 Bond Projects – Site Work Begins March 2019

Just over one year ago the Mead community approved a Capital Facilities Bond to build a new elementary school, new middle school, new transportation co-op facility, new maintenance facility and new 4,500 seat outdoor stadium that will serve as the location for Mt. Spokane and Mead High home football games and soccer matches. Additionally, the stadium will provide our award winning Marching Band programs with performance and practice facilities.

During the past twelve months our Facilities & Planning Department has been very busy working with ALSC Architects to design each flagship project. We are pleased to report all of this hard work has paid off and, weather permitting, site work on all projects will start this month. Target completion date for all facilities is on or before the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.



Boundary Review Community Information Meetings

The Boundary Review Committee has met multiple times since September preparing a recommendation for changes to current elementary, middle and high school boundaries. Implementation of new boundaries will occur when our new elementary school and new middle school open in the Fall of 2020. The committee has carefully considered how best to adjust boundaries while minimizing the number of students relocated.

A part of the process includes the opportunity for community input on the proposed boundary changes. Community Information Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, March 13 – Mead High School Theatre 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 20 – Mt. Spokane Theatre 6:30 pm

Proposed boundary change information is available on the district's homepage (mead354.org).

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

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Questions or concerns?
 509-465-6014
www.mead354.org

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: Jared Hoadley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Activities - 509-465-6008 or jared.hoadley@mead354.org.

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Summer Camps 2019

Northwood Middle School
 8 am – 1 pm



STEM Academy
 Current 4 – 6 Graders

July 8-11

- Space Camp
- Tinkering Camp
- Force Camp
- Coding & Gaming

July 15-18

- River Camp
- Space Camp
- The Operating Room
- Coding & Gaming
- CSI Forensics

July 22-25

- River Camp
- CSI Forensics
- Space Camp
- Coding & Gaming
- Force Camp

DESIGN Academy
 Current 7 & 8 Graders

Three Sessions . . .

- July 8-11
- July 15-18
- July 22-25

The A in STEM
 Current 7 & 8 Graders

- July 8-11

MISSION TO MARS
 Current 2 & 3 Graders

Three Sessions . . .

- July 8-11
- July 15-18
- July 22-25

To Learn More & Register Visit
www.mead354.org

Retirement Announcement

A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



It was with sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire Mead School District community that I submitted my *Letter of Resignation* to the Board of Directors on December 17, 2018, effective at the end of this school year.

It has been an honor and truly the highlight of my 41-year career in education to serve as Mead's superintendent for the past 13 years. During my tenure as superintendent I have been blessed to work with what I consider to be the finest educators and administrative team in our region and state . . . and along side a truly dedicated and supportive school board.

From 2006, when I started as superintendent, to today, the district has experienced significant student growth. Thanks to strong community support we passed bond measures in 2015 and 2018 that replaced Northwood Middle School, remodeled Midway & Shiloh Hills and will see the opening of a new elementary school, new middle school, new athletic/performing arts venue, new transportation co-op and new maintenance facility in the next 18 months.

The school board has retained NW Leadership Associates to assist in the search for an individual to serve as the new superintendent. The position is posted with a closing date of March 15, 2019. Finalist interviews will be April 9, 10 & 11 (one full day for each individual). On April 9, 10 & 11 the community is invited to Northwood Middle School, 6 pm in the library, to meet the candidate interviewing on that day. The board anticipates a new superintendent will be hired by mid-April with a start date of July 1, 2019.

This summer, when I walk away and retire from my dream job, I do so with confidence the Mead School District is well positioned to continue its tradition of providing the very best learning opportunities for all students. Again, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving the Mead community for the past 13 years.



**SUPERINTENDENT
 SEARCH**

Preliminary Interview Panel Seeking Volunteers

Preliminary interviews are the next step in the new superintendent hiring process. The Mead School District Board of Directors will select approximately 12 community members, representing a cross-section of the Mead community, to join 12 staff members on the *Superintendent Search Interview Panel*. The panel will observe the preliminary interviews of six to eight selected candidates and, individually, provide input on each candidate. Preliminary interviews are Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27, 1-6 pm each day.

If you are interested in serving visit the Mead SD homepage (mead354.org) to complete an online application. Application deadline is March 10, 2019.