Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year

Sixteen Schools  Welcome 10,000 Students

On Tuesday, September 8, we welcomed nearly 10,000 students to our sixteen schools. 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.

All Day Kindergarten Expanded

This year we are excited to announce Evergreen Elementary has joined Shiloh Hills in offering all-day kindergarten.

Student Learning and Technology

We are implementing a new universal screener, FAST, to assess student reading at our elementary schools. This screener will provide teachers with critical information to help improve fluency, comprehension and overall reading ability. Additionally, for all grade levels (K-12), a new data dashboard, Illuminare, is now available. The mission of Illuminare is to provide teachers with easy access to student data. We are excited to see the positive impact this new technology resource will have on student achievement.

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Last spring Mead School District students, for the first time, took the new Smarter Balanced tests in English Language Arts and Math. Our students, grades 3-8, performed very well on these assessments, surpassing the state average by several percentage points at all grade levels. (State results available @ k12.wa.us.)

We very much appreciate the ongoing support of Mead patrons. You help position our students for success now and in the future. Thank you!

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**Battle of the Bell**

Mead vs Mt. Spokane Football Game
Friday, October 9 – 7:30 p.m. - Albi

Beginning Sept. 21st tickets may be purchased in advance at any of our schools - $5 students, $7 adults.

**Catmania Volleyball**

Mead @ Mt. Spokane High School
Thursday, October 8 – 7 p.m.

See two of the state’s consistently top teams battle in this annual district classic.
New Maintenance & Transportation Directors

Welcome to Travis Bown (L), our new Maintenance Director, and Brian Liberg (R) our new Director of Transportation.

Mr. Bown comes to us from Spokane Schools where he was a maintenance supervisor. Mr. Liberg was the transportation director for the West Valley School District before joining the Mead School District.

District Welcome Back Day 2015

School Board Members
Carmen Green & Bob Olson

Each year prior to the start of school the Mead School District holds a Welcome Back Day for all staff. This year’s event took place at Mt. Spokane High School on September 3rd. The morning included a large group gathering that featured a very entertaining performance by the Mt. Spokane Marching Band. Teachers also had the opportunity to gather for grade level and content specific training.

Equestrian Team

Mead students are invited to join the Mt. Spokane Equestrian Team affiliated with the Washington High School Equestrian Program. The Mt. Spokane team was started in 2009. To learn more contact Billie Malcolm - 220-2775.

Fall Craft Fairs

Mt. Spokane Band Craft Fair
October 10, 9 am – 5 pm
October 11, 11 am – 4 pm

Mead HS Band Craft Fair
November 14, 9 am – 5 pm
November 15, 10 am – 4 pm

Mead Welcomes New Administrators

Top left to right: Nick Edwards, Jeff Naslund & Josh Westermann
Bottom left to right: Kathy Williams, Irene Gonzales & Teresa Laher
Not Pictured: Coretta Hoffman & Juli Kistler

The Mead School District is pleased to welcome the following outstanding educators to its administrative team:

- **Teresa Laher** – Principal, Mead High School
  Ms. Laher comes to the Mead School District from Lind-Ritzville where she was the high school principal.

- **Dr. Irene Gonzales** – Principal, Prairie View Elementary
  For the past twelve years Dr. Gonzales has been with Spokane Schools working as a principal and teaching/learning executive director.

- **Josh Westermann** – Principal, Midway Elementary
  Mr. Westermann also comes to Mead from Spokane Schools. Last year he was an elementary principal assistant at Indian Trail and Westview.

- **Jeff Naslund** – Assistant Principal, Mead High School
  A graduate of Mead High School and Whitworth University, Jeff comes to Mead High School from Mt. Spokane High School where he taught social studies and math for nine years.

- **Nick Edwards** – Principal Assistant, Shiloh Hills Elementary
  Mr. Edwards, also a Mead High School and Whitworth graduate, comes from Spokane Schools where he was an elementary principal assistant at Regal Elementary.

- **Kathy Williams** – Principal Assistant, Farwell & Prairie View
  Ms. Williams is a veteran administrator. Before separating from service in 2012, she was an elementary principal with Spokane for many years.

- **Coretta Hoffman** – Principal Assistant, Mead High School
  A Mead High School math and German teacher, Ms. Hoffman completed her administration credentials this past school year.

- **Juli Kistler** – Principal Assistant, Mt. Spokane High School
  Ms. Kistler has taught CTE classes (Photography and Integrated Communications) at Mt. Spokane for the past eleven years.
More Bond Projects News

In addition to recarpeting four elementary schools, resurfacing two high school tracks and completing three roofing projects, we moved forward on a number of other bond projects approved by Mead voters last February:

**Architect Selected for Midway and Shiloh Hills Modernization**
Following the same four-step selection process used in the selection of ALSC Architects of Spokane for the rebuilding of Northwood, the Midway/Shiloh Hills Architect Selection Committee recommended, and the school board approved, MMEC Architecture to complete the design work for the modernization of both Midway and Shiloh Hills.

**Security – Access Controls, Surveillance & Intrusion Detection**
The installation of new building access controls, surveillance equipment and intrusion detection technology is underway at all district buildings and schools with a target completion date of January 2016. This work will take place in the evenings to mitigate the impact on student learning. These security enhancements piggyback on the work completed last year via the $314,447 Emergency Response Grant the Mead School District received from OSPI.

**Performing Arts Upgrades**
The February 2015 voter approved bond included monies to purchase/replace musical instruments. The school board has approved the purchase of twelve new pianos plus a variety of elementary music instruments. Still to come are upgrades to the theatre sound systems at both high schools and the purchase of secondary music instruments.

**iCan Shine Bike Camp**
In mid-August Mt. Spokane High School was the host site for the 3rd annual iCan Shine Bike Camp for kids with disabilities. Over 70 volunteers – many of them Mead High and Mt. Spokane students – worked diligently throughout the week to teach 35 kids and young adults with various disabilities how to ride a two-wheel bike. Initial training included the use of a unique roller bike to teach balance.

**Brentwood Elementary**
Along with new carpet, a new roof and the removal of cafeteria carpet that revealed a beautiful hardwood floor, Brentwood’s exterior also received a facelift thanks to new paint and the removal of old shrubs.
Welcome to the New Year!
A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller

On behalf of the Mead School District Board of Directors, our teachers, administrators and staff, I extend a warm welcome to students, parents and the larger Mead community. For more than 100 years, the Mead School District has provided the best possible education for all its students. We expect this tradition of excellence to continue for the 2015-2016 school year.

An area of intentional focus this year will be our expanding student population. Following several years of minimal growth, the past two years have resulted in higher than anticipated enrollment increases. We added 200 students last year and are up again this year by nearly 100 students. To address this increasing enrollment and the space needed to implement all-day kindergarten at all elementary schools the School Board has authorized the formation of a Boundary Review Planning Committee to study current elementary school boundaries and future school needs. The committee will be holding community meetings later this year and will present recommendations to the School Board in the spring. Look for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

I invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities available to become involved with our schools. Consider being a classroom volunteer, go to a volleyball match, watch a football game, attend a music concert, or enjoy a play. I am confident you will find connecting with our students and staff a fulfilling and fun experience. Mead is a great school district in large measure because of strong community support. Thank you.

Again, welcome to the new school year!

GSL Sports Passes are available for purchase on-line at Ticketswest.com. Adult Pass: $70

District Mechanics Exceed Standards

Congratulations to our hardworking transportation mechanics John Huffman, Wally Reil, Ron Boutilin, Josh Oglesbee. Dude Ovans and their supervisor Transportation Assistant Director, Tony Davis. In just one year they lowered the number of Mead School District “out of service” buses from twenty to five, which is below the state standard. This substantial decrease was praised in a letter of congratulations from Captain Michael Dahl of the Washington State Patrol. He said, “A lot of hard work and attention to detail made your goal of reducing your ‘out of service’ rate a reality. . . we applaud you and everyone involved for such an outstanding outcome.”

The Mead School District has a fleet of 110 buses that travel 1.8 million miles each school year.