The Mead School District’s commitment to expanding career-track and work-readiness opportunities for students has taken on some great momentum this year! Connected with the district’s mission of “Each Student Future Ready, Empowered to Dream, Believe and Achieve” and Priority Area 1 of the district's strategic plan, Career & Technical Education (CTE) Director Mark St. Clair and Superintendent Shawn Woodward convened more than 70 community partners, CTE teachers, and administrators on November 9 to envision what students should learn in the Mead School District’s new Future Ready Pathways.

“We want to reimagine what students should experience in grades PreK-12 to guarantee employment in a high demand/living-wage career path after leaving us,” explained Superintendent Shawn Woodward, “How can we best prepare them to be future ready?”

At the visioning meeting in November, local community and business leaders joined small groups of CTE teachers and administrators to compare realities and experiences that will help the school district build out pathways that prepare students with the needed skills and aptitudes for their field of interest. Teams provided input in small groups to help complete the Future Ready Framework that will guide the work to build the pathways.

“We want to partner with community leaders to create pathways that lead to career attainment,” noted Mark St Clair, CTE Director. “That Future Ready Pathway may lead to workforce entry, an apprenticeship, technical school, military service, or 2 and 4 year colleges and universities.”

VISIT WWW.MEAD354.ORG OR THE MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT
The Mead School District mission to "Ensure High Levels of Learning for ALL Students" continues to drive administrators and staff to create options that meet students where they are. As challenges through the past two-plus years pushed the limits of delivering a high-quality education to all students, MSD worked on expanding non-traditional programming. The district already had strong parent-partnership programs in place with Five Mile Prairie School and North Star School, but the need was evident for even more non-traditional learning models to develop individualized programs for students and families.

The result was the creation of Mead Learning Options (MLO) as the umbrella name for the district’s suite of non-traditional programs. Along with both Five Mile Prairie School and North Star School serving students in Grades K-12, the district also used experience gained during the pandemic to launch a virtual program. For students in Grades 6-12 who need a full online program, MVP Secondary provides a personal experience for each student. This flexible model allows for balanced learning opportunities at the student’s own pace.

Beyond the parent-partnership and virtual programs, MLO also offers the Mead Outdoor School program for students in Grades 1-8. In this partnership program, parents and certificated teachers share responsibility for a well-balanced education. Teachers provide rich outdoor experiences in science and social studies, as well as enrichment connections in other content areas two days a week at Camp Dart-Lo.

These programs have continued to grow, all while maintaining an efficient, fiscally-responsible model where staff collaborate and students have access to support from all MLO programs. Find more information, hear from program leaders and read more about a day in the life of each program at mead354.org/MLO.
The fall sports season in the Mead School District was an amazingly fruitful one! Congratulations to both Mt. Spokane and Mead High School for their incredible results and to all the athletes district-wide for representing our school district so well! The entire district plays a part in support of athletics through levy funding, so as a community member, THANK YOU!

Over the past year, the Mead School District has developed two sports partnerships that provide great opportunities for students of the district’s 10 elementary schools. The response from families has been overwhelmingly positive with participation numbers. In just this school year alone, a partnership with Spokane Youth Sports Association (SYSA) for K-5 resulted in 1,373 participants across four sessions that included access to flag football, soccer and track & field in Session 1, basketball and volleyball in Session 2, speed & agility training in Session 3, and futsal (indoor soccer), basketball and volleyball in the current session. The SYSA After-School Sports program is accessible by students at all 10 elementary schools with five of the schools serving as hosts for the weekly practices and students utilizing district transportation from each of the other five schools. Scholarships are available from SYSA as well!

In addition, the district also joined a county-wide basketball program through newly-formed Hooptown USA - part of Spokane Hoopfest. Hooptown Youth League provides basketball opportunities for Grades K-6. Students from 10 elementary schools and 6th graders at each middle school joined the inaugural season of the league to the tune of 49 teams with 402 players in just our district alone. Students were assigned to teams within their school and grade level and played weekly games against students from neighboring school districts.

More info on these programs can be found at mead354.org/k5sports.
Talented music students from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming have received top honors by being selected to participate in one of the 2023 NAfME All-Northwest performing groups in the gala event in Bellevue, Wash., on February 17-18.

MHS Students L to R:
William Strauch - All NW Jazz Band
Nicholas Kar - All NW Band
Hannah Robbins - All State Band
Isaac Ojennus - All State Band

MSHS Students L to R:
Sam Schaefer: All State Band
Jacob Campbell: All State Band
John Molenda: All State Band
Sawyer Peterson: All NW Jazz Band
Kelsey Swenland: All State Band
Claire Jordan: All NW Band

It is with many emotions that I reach out to share that I will be moving on from the Mead School District at the end of this school year. I feel immense gratitude for the way students, staff and families of this school district welcomed my wife and I nearly four years ago and all that we accomplished along the way. As I look back, I know that we faced unprecedented challenges that were some of the biggest of my career thus far in education, but together we overcame them.

We moved to the east side of the Cascades almost 11 years ago with our three children, and now that we are empty-nesters, my wife and I are at a time in our lives where we wish to be closer to our family. The bulk of our family lives in the greater Puget Sound area, including one of our daughters. For this reason, at the end of this school year, we will be moving to Monroe, WA, where I will begin serving as the Superintendent of the Monroe School District beginning July 1st.

Thank you for your continued support of the Mead School District. I’m confident that the systems and supports that have been established have the school district on a great trajectory. You are a special community that I am proud to have served as superintendent..

Sincerely,
Shawn Woodward

Interested in how public school districts are funded or have questions on how local, state and federal dollars are used? There are a couple new ways to stay on top of how the school district is funded. For an overall view, visit mead354.org/schoolfunding. And, look for this seal --> to show you exactly how your levy taxes are being spent on enriching our student experiences and opportunities!