



MEAD MATTERS

WINTER 2023

**EACH STUDENT
FUTURE READY**

**EMPOWERED TO
DREAM, BELIEVE,
ACHIEVE**

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FUTURE READY PATHWAYS

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



VISION FOCUS: CHOICE PROGRAMS

The MSD Vision of "Each Student Future Ready, Empowered to Dream, Believe and Achieve" comes alive in the 2021-25 Strategic Priorities and Target Objectives that were developed through community, staff and student input. Priority Area 1, Target Objective 4, guides MSD to "Develop innovative choice programs for students within our schools". Along with Mead Learning Options' non-traditional programs, MSD has created new choice programs in our elementaries:

Transitional Kindergarten

Our TK program originated at Shiloh Hills and is looking to expand to additional elementaries this fall! This early learning program is for four-year-olds who do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences prior to kindergarten. Visit mead354.org/tk for more info!

Dual Language Immersion

Our Spanish DLI program at Midway Elementary is an educational model where children learn to think, read, write and speak in two languages beginning in Kindergarten and running through 5th Grade. Find out more at mead354.org/dli!

Highly Capable/Gifted Education

Our full-time HiCap/Gifted program at Farwell allows Grades 2-5 students to receive accelerated and enhanced learning opportunities to advance academic achievement and growth through a menu of options. Services are designed to address the unique learning needs of each student. Find out more by visiting mead354.org/hicap! In addition to the two highly-capable classrooms at Farwell, teachers throughout the district apply accelerated and enhanced learning opportunities for all students.

MEAD LEARNING OPTIONS ARE FULL-GO



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.



FALL SPORTS SET THE BAR HIGH



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!

GSL Champions

MHS Girls XC
MSHS Boys XC
MSHS Volleyball
MSHS Football

District Champions

MHS Volleyball
MSHS Boys & Girls XC

MHS State Finishes

Football - Round of 16
Girls Soccer - Round of 16
Girls XC - 7th
Boys XC - 6th
Slow Pitch Softball - 2nd
Volleyball - 2nd

MSHS State Finishes

Football - Round of 16
Girls XC - 11th
Boys XC - 3rd
Slow Pitch Softball - 3rd
Volleyball - 4th

Academic State Champs

MSHS Slow Pitch Softball

All six MHS fall sports teams and five of six MSHS fall sports teams made State Tournament play. Only Lakeside (Nine Mile) and Enumclaw equaled that feat of sending at least five teams to State this fall.

NWMS ATTENDS UNLOCK FUTURE EVENT



A group of 75 Northwood Middle School students, led by teacher David Vail, took a field trip to the "Unlock Your Future" event at the HUB Sports Center in Liberty Lake this fall. They were able to connect with over 60 organizations that represented four industries - Trades, Manufacturing, Construction and Medical. In line with Mead School District's "Each Student Future Ready" mission, this event resonated deeply with many of Mr. Vail's students who attended. "We had an awesome field trip to the Hub Sports Center to participate in *Unlock Your Future*," he said. "There were so many businesses there to show the students jobs that are available with tons of fun activities. The students really connected with them and several are now considering careers they would not have otherwise."

ELEMENTARY SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

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!

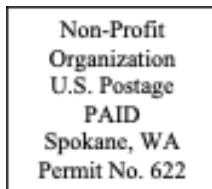
In addition, the district also joined a county-wide basketball program through newly-formed Hoopstown USA - part of Spokane Hoopfest. Hoopstown Youth League provides basketball opportunities for Grades K-6. Students from 10 elementary schools and 6th graders at each middle school joined the inaugural 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.



Find the 2022-23 District Calendar and plan ahead with the Board-approved 2023-24 calendar at www.mead354.org/calendar

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



Questions or Concerns? Call (509) 465-6000

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.

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MUSIC TALENT



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



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

PUBLIC INPUT - SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

As you read above in the Superintendent's letter, Shawn Woodward is moving on from the Mead School District, and we'll be looking for our next leader to build upon the great things Shawn has done for our district. Here's where you come in: the Board of Directors would like all community members to participate in a survey at the web address below to provide input on the qualities, skills and qualifications you'd like to see in our next superintendent. The Board will compile the results and build a profile that will help guide them in the hiring process.

TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY, GO TO WWW.MEAD354.ORG/SUPTSURVEY

SCHOOL FUNDING AND TAXPAYER IMPACT

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!

