



MEAD MATTERS

FALL 2023

EACH STUDENT
FUTURE READY

FOSTER BELONGING
INSTILL PURPOSE
CULTIVATE CURIOSITY

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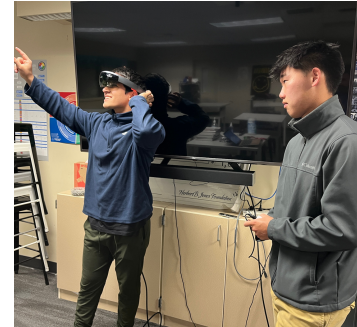
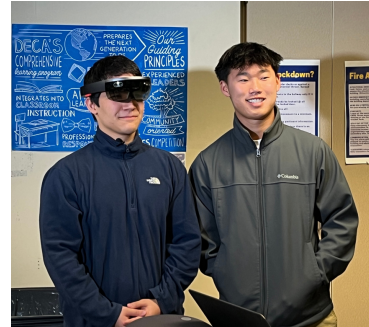
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LOOKING THROUGH A HOLOLENS AT A BRIGHT FUTURE

For Mead High School seniors Sidiq Moltafet and Hudson Byrd, a friendship, a unique combination of talents and a desire to help people learn has them on a path to developing world-class software through the use of augmented reality. The duo's exuberance for their start-up business, Ovicore (visit Ovicore.tech to see more), is palpable as they talk about the real-world applications for learning environments. Imagine you're a student in a science class learning how to dissect a heart, but you don't need to have a real heart on the table. You don a headset like Microsoft's hololens (pictured above) and dissect that heart in 3D augmented reality for the whole class to see. Or imagine you are a patient in a hospital and the doctor is able to show you exactly how he'll perform a heart procedure to ease your mind. These are just a couple of the lofty, yet realistic goals for the duo as they continue to add to their library of 20 biology and chemistry software modules available.

The story for Sidiq and Hudson started during their sophomore year in DECA with advisor and MHS teacher Brandon Butler. The pair was brainstorming ideas around the central thought of how they could help students at MHS learn in new ways. They had just taken a biology class, so they coupled that with their own interests in technology to come up with the idea that eventually turned into Ovicore. From there, Mr. Butler encouraged them to prepare for business competitions and helped them take their idea beyond the Spokane area, where they started to see that they really had something brewing. They took home second place at the Washington State University Business Plan Competition, earning a \$3,000 prize, then placed 11th overall and 3rd in Best Technology at the the San Francisco Business Plan Competition, earning total of \$6,000.

Through those earnings, they've been able to build out their products, launch a website and start to market the software to universities and hospitals. With the help of Sidiq's older brother Ahmad, a recent Gonzaga University graduate, they were able to talk with professors at GU, while also connecting with MHS alumni and other business leaders in the area for advice on creating a sustainable business. They've even connected directly with the Chief Surgeon at Evergreen Health in Kirkland, who sees an opportunity to not only provide resident doctors the ability to practice and learn, but also to break through a language barrier with patients by utilizing the software to walk through procedures in real-time.

The future is bright for Sidiq and Hudson, who give a lot credit to not only their DECA advisor Mr. Butler, but also to MHS staff members who see a place in their classrooms for utilizing the technology.

VISIT WWW.MEAD354.ORG OR THE MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

BRENTWOOD

12/5 6 pm - Kindergarten (at BW)
12/7 6 pm - 1st Grade (at BW)
12/12 5:30 pm - 2nd/3rd (at NWMS)
12/12 7 pm - 4th/5th (at NWMS)

COLBERT

12/15 10 am - K/1st Grade
12/15 11 am - DLC
12/15 12:45 pm - 2nd/3rd Grade
12/15 2:15 pm 4th/5th Grade

CREEKSIDE

12/14 5:30 pm - Family Sing-Along

FARWELL

12/13 6 pm - 3rd/4th Grade
12/14 6 pm - 5th Grade

MIDWAY

12/12 10 am - 1st Grade
12/12 1:15 pm - 2nd Grade
12/13 6:30 pm - 3rd/4th Grade
12/14 6:30 pm - 5th Grade

PRAIRIE VIEW

12/5 5:30 pm - K/1st Grade
12/5 6:45 pm - 4th/5th Grade
12/6 6 pm - 2nd/3rd Grade

SKYLINE

12/1 5:30 pm - TK/K/1st Grade
12/1 7 pm - 2nd/3rd Grade
12/4 5:30 pm - 4th/5th Grade

HIGHLAND MS

12/11 7 pm - Choir Concert
12/13 7 pm - Band Concert
12/18 6 pm - Orchestra Concert

MOUNTAINSIDE MS

11/29 7 pm - Beginning Band
12/11 7 pm - Choir Concert
12/13 7 pm - Orchestra Concert
12/14 7 pm - Band Concert

NORTHWOOD MS

12/14 7 pm - Orchestra Concert
12/18 7 pm - Band Concert
12/19 7 pm - Choir Concert

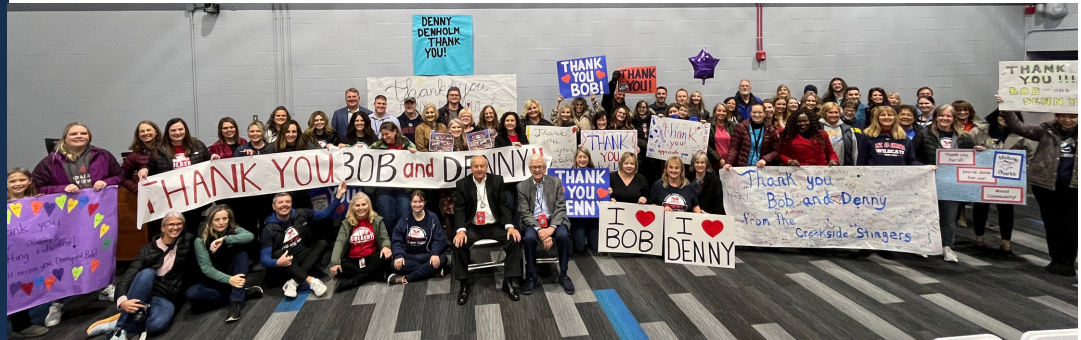
MEAD HS

12/8 7 pm - Choir Holiday Concert
12/12 6 pm - Orchestra Concert
12/14 7 pm - Band Concert

MT. SPOKANE HS

12/12 7 pm - Holiday Concert at the Fox Theater (1001 W Sprague Ave.)

COMBINED 63 YEARS OF BOARD SERVICE



With a combined 63 years of service on the Mead School Board of Directors, Bob Olson and Denny Denholm were bid farewell in the final meeting of their current terms. Bob Olson (below, right) served the School Board for the past 38 years, while Denny Denholm (below, left) spent 25 years in the volunteer role.

More than 100 attendees were at the Regular Meeting of the Board on November 13 to honor and thank Mr. Olson and Mr. Denholm for their leadership and commitment to the Mead School District over many decades. Superintendent Travis Hanson spoke about each of them, sharing how they positively impacted students, staff and families.



UNION STADIUM, MORE THAN FOOTBALL



The Battle of the Bell has been, for years, one of the marquee events in the Mead School District, a varsity football game between Mead and Mt. Spokane that routinely comes down to the wire. And this year was no exception with Mt. Spokane winning 27-20, making it six straight years of the game being decided by 10 points or less. As Mt. Spokane rang the bell this year, Union Stadium was nearly full, with more than 4,300 fans who came together with more than just a rivalry on their minds. The two schools also held a collaborative food drive that benefitted the Mead Food Bank, and the booster clubs hosted tailgate events and manned the concessions stands with sales directly benefitting extra-curricular activities.

While the Battle of the Bell might get a lot of attention, there were more than 40 events that took place in Union Stadium just this fall, including the very-popular Pacific Northwest Marching Band competition. All-told, more than 20,000 people have walked through the gates since September, and the booster clubs have netted nearly \$40,000 in concessions that will be poured back into the school activities.

YEARBOOK NATIONAL AWARDS



The Mead High School and Mt. Spokane High School Yearbook teams each earned a number of awards for writing and photography at the National Scholastic Press Association and Journalism Education Association Fall Convention in Boston, Mass., in early November. The Yearbook staff from each high school traveled to the East Coast to accept awards for both writing and photography, including a 2nd Place for Best in Show for the MHS Yearbook.

Mt. Spokane High School

JEA Individual Awards, Honorable Mentions: Brayden Lewis, Sports Action Photography; Natalie Chambers, Yearbook Copy/Captions - Student Life; Elizabeth McGowan, Yearbook Copy/Captions - Academics; Luke Blue: News Writing
Excellent Rating: Savannah Hinckley, Portrait Photography

Mead HS

NSPA Individual Awards, Hon. Mention: Haylie Egan, Sports Feature Photography
JEA Individual Awards, Superior Ratings: Elayna Cheney, Yearbook Copy/Captions - Student Life; Mackenzie Ediger, First-Year Photo;
Excellent Rating: Anna Benton, General/Spot News Photography;
Honorable Mentions: Charlie Ring, Photo Story; Rachel Benton, Sports Feature Photography

CROWNED! MSHS SOFTBALL, MHS VOLLEYBALL

The Mt. Spokane High School softball team and Mead High School volleyball team each claimed state championships this fall! MSHS softball head coach Carl Adams' team outlasted No. 1-ranked University HS (Central Valley SD) 18-17 in the 3A/2A title game to end U-Hi's two-year reign as the state champion. The title brings the trophy back to MSHS, where it resided when the Wildcats were triumphant in 2019.

The MHS volleyball team also reclaimed the 3A state championship, sweeping Lake Washington, 25-18, 25-23, 25-18, for head coach Shawn Wilson's second state title in the last three seasons. The Panthers have won nine state championships all-time in volleyball, including a run of five in a row and six of seven between 2003-09 in Class 4A.



100K CTE GRANT

Led by CTE Director Moleena Harris, the Mead School District received a \$100,000 grant through the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The "Expanding Health Science Programs in High School" grant is specific to the BioMedical and Sports Medicine programs at each of our high schools. The grant is set to help promote enrollment in these programs through visits to our elementary and middle schools, strengthen dual-credit options for students, expand opportunities for clinical experiences, and outfit our BioMed and Sports Med labs with updated industry-grade materials and equipment.

STUDENT RESOURCE HUB

In partnership with the Teen & Kid Closet, our Student Resource Hub has been busy this school year, helping more than 250 students in need with free clothing and school supplies! On a referral basis, the MSD Student Resource Hub serves children of all ages from all over North Spokane and the surrounding area in the north part of Spokane County, including Deer Park, Riverside and Nine Mile Falls.

District staff have seen the need continue to grow for families in the local area for both clothing and school supplies. As the school year moves along, the stock of school supplies has shrunk, leaving a need for financial donations to re-stock the shelves. To learn more about how to access the resource hub through referral or to find links on how to donate clothing or financial contributions, please visit www.mead354.org/resourcehub.



MEAD MATTERS
Mead School District #354
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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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VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Check out a just a few of the many great celebrations at Veterans Day assemblies around the district!
(Top: Mountainside, Middle: Highland, Bottom: Farwell)



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

What a pleasure it is to serve this district and community. I feel privileged to work with such dedicated professionals who care deeply about providing students with fantastic educational experiences.

When I addressed district staff back in August at our kick-off event, I talked about the importance of three hallmarks of successful schools. **Foster Belonging:** Creating spaces where students feel a sense of *connection*. When students feel they belong in their school community, they are more motivated to participate and learn. **Instill Purpose:** Students see that learning adds value to their lives. By discovering a sense of purpose and understanding how their studies connect to their interests and goals, students are engaged and find relevance in schoolwork. **Cultivate Curiosity:** When students feel safe asking questions and are challenged to experiment and solve complex problems, education becomes a joy rather than an obligation. Curious minds are engaged and hungry, and the very best of our work with kids captures their innate curiosity and inquisitiveness.

As I visit our schools and classrooms, I see so many examples of students collaborating, problem-solving, creating, and exploring their passions - these are the cornerstones of a well-rounded education equipping them to be future-ready.

Beyond the classroom, it's clear our staff cares about nurturing the whole child. From counseling to extracurriculars, we support students' social-emotional growth and help them uncover their talents. What a joy it is to see students discover new abilities and interests through the many program options offered in Mead.

Ultimately, our district comes together around a common purpose - doing what's best for kids. My interactions with parents, caregivers, and staff throughout this system confirm that shared commitment. We know it takes all of us working together to help our students thrive.



Sincerely,
Travis Hanson

COMMUNITY MEMBER E-NEWS SIGNUP

Are you a community member with no children currently attending Mead Schools, but you want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and updates from the Mead School District? Scan the QR Code or go to mead354.org/email to sign up to receive news about latest happenings around the schools, board meetings, levy information and more! If you have a current student or are a current staff member and already receive emails from the District or your child's school, there is no need to sign up!



REMEMBER TO VOTE!

The Feb. 13, 2024 Special Election is coming soon, so register to vote. The deadline to register online or via mail is Feb. 6, and the deadline to register in person is Feb. 13. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters beginning on Jan. 25 and will include the district's replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy for voters who live in the boundaries of the Mead School District.

