

WE ARE MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT



IN THIS
ISSUE

MEET OUR NEW
SUPERINTENDENT

ANNUAL
REPORT

TRANSITION TO
KINDER PROGRAM

GET READY
FOR 2024-25

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



MONROE
SCHOOL DISTRICT



INTRODUCING



DISTRICT 1

Jeremiah Campbell

Board Vice President

Term Expires: 2027



DISTRICT 2

Chuck Whitfield

*Instructional Materials
Committee Rep*

Term Expires: 2027



DISTRICT 3

Molly Barnes

*President Pro-Tem and
Legislative Rep*

Term Expires: 2025



DISTRICT 4

James Etzkorn

*WA Interscholastic
Activities Association Rep*

Term Expires: 2025



DISTRICT 5

Jennifer Bumpus

Board President

Term Expires: 2027

Dear Monroe School District Community,

I am deeply honored to serve as the new Superintendent of the Monroe School District. In my 30-year journey in education, I have been dedicated to creating inclusive and supportive learning environments where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.

My career started as a teacher in the South Kitsap School District, leading me to become a principal in the Burlington-Edison School District and later an assistant superintendent in the North Kitsap School District. Prior to joining Monroe, I served as the superintendent of the Mead School District in Spokane, WA, and the Pend Oreille School District in Sandpoint, ID. These experiences broadened my perspective and strengthened my commitment to ensuring high levels of learning for all students.

After spending years in eastern Washington and Idaho, my family and I made a deliberate choice to return to the west side of the state to be closer to our family. Monroe's smaller size and strong community drew us in, and in my short time here, I've seen how much support the community gives our schools.

Outside of work, I enjoy the outdoors with my wife, Michelle, and our three grown kids - two daughters and a son. We love exploring the Pacific Northwest through skiing, hiking, and running. Monroe's scenic backdrop and access to abundant outdoor activities were another big reason we chose to live here.

I sincerely value the opportunity to serve as your superintendent and thank you for the warm welcome. I'm eager to collaborate with you to create a bright future for our students. Monroe has become my home, and I take pride in being a part of this community.

Sincerely,

Shawn Woodward

Superintendent

woodwards@monroe.wednet.edu



Learn about the duties of the school board, read directors' bios, and view the meeting calendar by visiting our website: www.monroe.wednet.edu/about/school-board

SUPERINTENDENT WOODWARD

REFLECTIONS OF MY FIRST 100 DAYS

In my first 100 days as Superintendent of the Monroe School District, I've been honored to kickstart our collaborative journey toward shaping the district's future. During this time, I've had the pleasure of engaging with a diverse array of individuals and groups, including students, staff, families, community members, administrators, city officials, and civic & non-profit leaders. The input gathered through focus groups, meetings, emails, and surveys has been invaluable.

What We Heard



The feedback we received highlighted several key themes, including positive feedback about our schools, teachers, and dedicated staff, recognition of diverse alternative learning opportunities, and the strength of our high school athletics and extracurricular programs. There was also a strong desire to enhance safety and security measures, expand early learning opportunities, foster a greater sense of belonging for all, and reduce incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

Furthermore, the community expressed a need for increased access to our outdoor recreational facilities, the development of a strategic plan for our district, improved facilities, transparency, and regulation of student cell phone usage. There was also a desire to create more opportunities for community input.

What We've Done



Based on your input, we've taken immediate steps to address some of the concerns and suggestions. We've installed new security cameras, enhanced security measures at school entrances, and installed air quality indication monitors throughout the district. We will also be piloting vape detection devices at the high school level, with the intent to implement this at our secondary schools district-wide if we have positive results.

We've also opened up community access to Park Place Middle School track and fields, and added an additional Transition to Kindergarten program classroom (more info on these changes can be found on page 4-5). Furthermore, we've developed and are working on a district-wide goal to increase student belonging, and we've developed new resources on our website related to Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying to reinforce how people can report incidents and how we respond to incidents district-wide.

Next Steps/ Strategic Planning



The insights we've gathered are guiding the development of our strategic plan. By mid-February, we plan to share a draft of our newly developed strategic plan and will be asking for your feedback before finalizing it and presenting it to the School Board for approval.

I look forward to further interactions with you as we continue charting a path for the future of the Monroe School District. Please reach out if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss any issues, interests, or concerns related to our school district!

WHAT ARE

5,734
STUDENTS
ENROLLED



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special Education Program – **20.3%**

Multilingual Learner Program – **14.2%**

Free or Reduced Price Meals – **38.2%**

Highly Capable Program – **5.6%**

ABOUT OUR TEACHERS

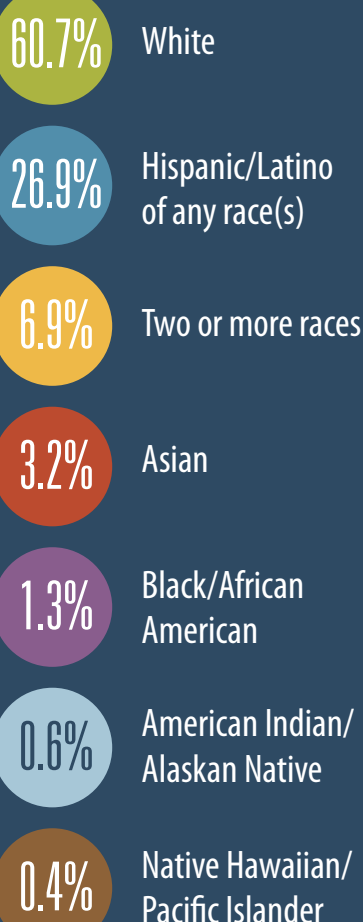
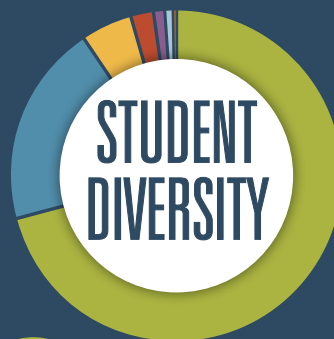
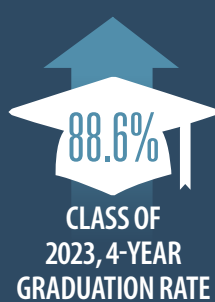
Classroom Teachers – **337**

Average Years of Teaching – **13.3**

Teachers with at least a Master's Degree – **67.7%**

National Board Certified – **8.9%**

Average Class Size – **18.6**



**All information is based on the latest OSPI report at the time of this publication*

2022-23 DISTRICT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

State Dollars	\$ 74,762,161	73.36%
Local	\$17,568,402	17.24%
Federal	\$8,941,297	8.77%
Other Sources	\$644,521	0.63%

TOTAL: \$101,916,381

**Revenue reported is general fund only. Does not include revenue from transportation vehicle fund, capital projects fund, debt service fund or ASB.*

EXPENDITURES

Teaching & Learning Support	\$71,379,562	71.8%
Maintenance & Operations	\$5,447,232	5.5%
School Administration	\$5,899,401	5.9%
District Support	\$4,723,316	4.7%
Transportation	\$4,674,221	4.7%
Utilities	\$1,907,266	1.9%
Food & Nutrition Services	\$1,780,829	1.8%
Other Support	\$3,637,144	3.7%

TOTAL: \$99,448,970

Annual average FTE (full-time equivalent) enrollment used in calculations

\$17,910 TOTAL EXPENDITURES PER FTE STUDENT

UNLOCKING RECREATION: COMMUNITY ACCESS TO OUTDOOR FACILITIES



During Superintendent Woodward's initial 100 days, community feedback highlighted a desire for access to district outdoor recreational facilities such as tracks, fields, and tennis courts.

In response to these requests, the track and all-weather fields at Park Place Middle School are now open for community use during non-school, daylight hours. The tennis courts at Monroe High School will also remain unlocked during these times.

We invite community members to enjoy our outdoor recreational facilities during non-school, daylight hours and when they are not

reserved for group activities. We kindly ask everyone to use these spaces responsibly, ensuring that we can maintain their availability for everyone. Please be mindful that any misuse or safety concerns may necessitate closure for the well-being of all users.

We opted to open Park Place Middle School's outdoor recreational facilities due to their clear visibility, providing a watchful environment to prevent misuse or safety issues. If the community's use of the facilities at Park Place Middle School is positive, we may explore the possibility of opening more facilities in the future.

For information about reserving use of our facilities, visit the Facility Use page on our website: <https://www.monroe.wednet.edu/departments/facilities-operations/facility-use>.

GEARING UP FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR!

FEBRUARY 27



Kindergarten Information Night

Families of students who will be 5-years-old by August 31, 2024 are invited to their neighborhood elementary school for information about kindergarten and the kindergarten registration process.



5:30-6:30 p.m.

MARCH 5



Montessori Program Information Night at Maltby Elementary

Families interested in learning more about our tuition-free K-5 Montessori-based program are invited to attend to learn about curriculum, classroom structure, and how to register for the program.



6:00-7:00 p.m.

MARCH 6



Future Bearcat Information Night at Monroe High School

Students and families who will be entering 9th grade in the 2024-25 school year and prospective students and families are invited to learn about the transition to high school, the class registration process, graduation requirements, and all that MHS has to offer.



6:00-8:00 p.m.

MARCH 21



Middle School Information Night at Park Place Middle and Hidden River Middle Schools

Students and families who will be entering 6th grade in the 2024-25 school year are invited to learn about the transition to middle school, the class registration process, how to get involved in activities/athletics, and tour the school.



**Park Place MS 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Hidden River MS 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

MARCH 26



Dual Language Program Information Night at Frank Wagner Elementary

Families interested in learning more about our tuition-free K-5 Dual Language program, where students spend their day learning in both English and Spanish, are invited to attend.



6:00-7:00 p.m.

MARCH 31



Deadline for Transfer Requests for the 2024-25 School Year

Families may request to transfer to a school other than the one in which their neighborhood is assigned. All transfers are approved on a yearly basis and must be renewed annually to remain in a school of choice - exceptions involve programs located only at specific schools where students enrolled in the program must attend in order to participate. See Transfer Request page on our website for more information.

EARLY LEARNING ACCESS EXPANDED WITH SECOND TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN CLASS

With the goal of increasing access to early learning opportunities for preschool-age students in our community, the Monroe School District is excited to announce a second Transition to Kindergarten (TK) classroom was added for the 2023-24 school year. This expansion is a direct response to identified community needs and a reflection of the district's commitment to providing a strong educational foundation through early learning.

Listening to Our Community

When Superintendent Shawn Woodward assumed leadership of the Monroe School District, he embarked on a journey to understand the district and its community better. Over the course of his first two months, Superintendent Woodward engaged in extensive dialogue with staff, students, families, and community members through focus groups and one-on-one meetings. One of the key issues that surfaced during these conversations: the lack of access to affordable, high quality learning opportunities for preschool-age children in Monroe.

This concern is not unique to Monroe; it mirrors a broader statewide issue. According to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), a staggering 80% of preschool-age children in Washington do not have access to high-quality preschool programs.

The Transition to Kindergarten (TK) Program

To address this crucial need, OSPI introduced the Transition to Kindergarten (TK) program in the 2021-22 school year. TK is a pre-kindergarten program designed for children who are 4 years old and have been identified through a school district's screening process as needing additional preparation for successful kindergarten entry the following school year. This program is a vital step toward enhancing early learning opportunities.

TK programs, provided at no cost to families, are staffed by certified educators and fully integrated within the school environment. This includes access to meals, transportation, and recess, creating a comprehensive and supportive learning experience for young students.

Monroe's Commitment to Early Learning

Spearheaded by Melanie Gray, Principal of Salem Woods Elementary, the Monroe School District established its first TK classroom at Frylands Elementary in 2021. The program has met resounding success and has been warmly embraced by families, with the class quickly reaching capacity each year since its inception. The waitlist for enrollment has consistently been long enough to warrant the addition of a second classroom.

Recognizing the demand for increased access to preschool opportunities, and understanding that kindergarten readiness is a significant predictor of students' success on third-grade statewide assessments in math and English language arts, Superintendent Woodward made the proactive decision to open a second TK classroom this year.

This second classroom is located at Frank Wagner Elementary and quickly filled to capacity with students who were previously on the waitlist. The overwhelming demand highlights the community's readiness for access to more early learning opportunities.

The addition of a second Transition to Kindergarten classroom is a testament to Monroe School District's dedication to the educational well-being of its community. This expansion ensures that more children in our district have the opportunity to start their educational journey on a strong footing, setting the stage for a bright and successful future.

Learn more about the TK program: <https://www.monroe.wednet.edu/academic-programs/transitional-kindergarten>



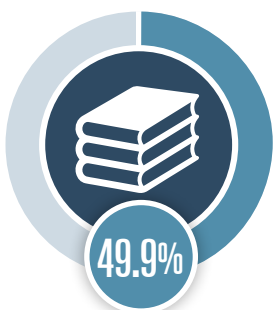
Each spring students in specific grades are assessed in Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science on state mandated tests. Student proficiency in each subject area is scored on a scale of 1-4, as follows: Level 1 = not at grade level standard, Level 2 = approaching grade level standard, Level 3 = meets grade level standard, Level 4 = exceeds grade level standard.

Percentage of Monroe School District students who met grade level standards by scoring a 3 or 4 in the spring of 2023*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

50.7%
WA STATE AVERAGE

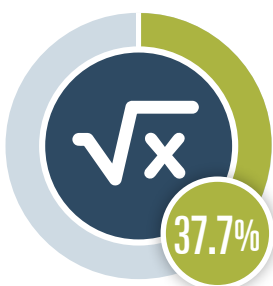
Students in grades 3-8, 10



MATH

39.1%
WA STATE AVERAGE

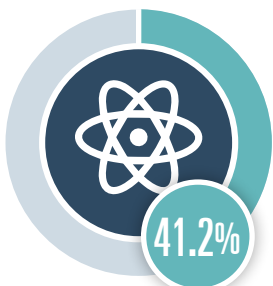
Students in grades 3-8, 10



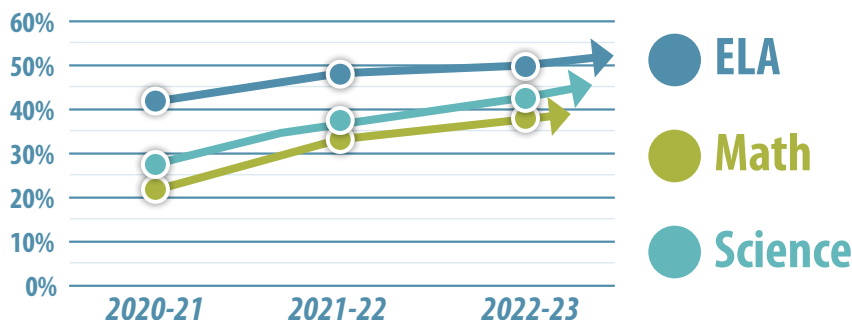
SCIENCE

42.9%
WA STATE AVERAGE

Students in grades 3-8, 10



THREE YEARS OF IMPROVEMENT



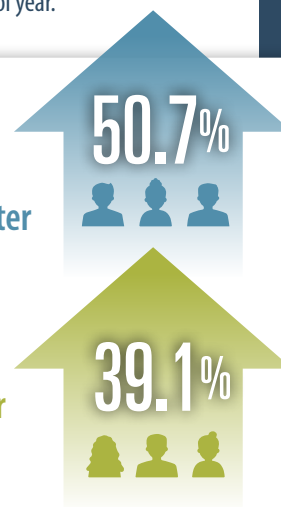
GOALS FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

It is important to remember that state mandated tests only provide one data point each year. Our schools consider this data along with various other assessment scores, including class unit assessments and diagnostic assessments to evaluate student learning and plan for instruction and support.

While we are pleased to see that our students' scores on the state mandated tests have gradually improved over the last three years, we recognize that we still have much work to do. In an effort to continue this growth trend, we have set the following goals for improvement related to state mandated tests for the 2023-24 school year.

50.7% of students in grades 3-8 and 10 will meet grade level standards in English Language Arts (ELA) as measured by the Smarter Balanced (SBA) test in the spring of 2024.

39.1% of students will meet grade level standards in math as measured by the Smarter Balanced (SBA) test in the spring of 2024.



GOALS

These growth goals were selected with the aim of being realistic and increasing our test scores to align with the average test scores for all school districts in Washington state.

Each of our schools have also set specific goals for improvement, which are outlined in their School Improvement Plans. To learn about each school's specific goals, click on 'School Improvement Plan' in the 'About' drop down menu of each school's website. School websites can be found here: <https://www.monroe.wednet.edu/schools>.

To view assessment results for each individual school, visit OSPI's website at <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>



*ALL students' scores in the grade levels assessed are included in the total percentage, including those with limited English language proficiency, students with learning disabilities, and students whose families opt them out of taking the test (score=0).



Monroe School District 103

14692 179th Avenue SE
Monroe, WA 98272

T 360.804.2500
www.monroe.wednet.edu

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INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY

Families and community members are welcome and encouraged to participate in a variety of school and district activities, whether it's attending athletic events, drama productions, or musical concerts, volunteering in classrooms, serving on committees, or attending school board meetings. Stay informed about upcoming events on our website, and if you're interested in volunteering, find more information at www.monroe.wednet.edu/community/volunteer. Your active involvement is key to creating a supportive learning environment, and we look forward to seeing you soon in our school buildings!

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



<https://www.monroe.wednet.edu/about/calendar>



Questioning why you are you receiving this publication?

An estimated 70 percent of the residents within the school district do not have school-age children in Monroe School District. The purpose of this publication, therefore, is to let those members of the community know about the programs and activities taking place in their Monroe School District. This publication is not mailed using an address list. Instead, to greatly reduce the cost of postage, we use a bulk mailing process that has it delivered to every residential customer on each carrier's route.

Notice of Non-Discrimination: The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Dan Johnston, 360-804-2539, johnstond@monroe.wednet.edu

Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

David Paratore, 360-804-2609, paratored@monroe.wednet.edu

For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact: Chris Cronas, 360-804-22558, cronasc@monroe.wednet.edu



Photo courtesy of Striped Hat Photography

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