This is the second edition of Middleton School District's patron newsletter. This is important for everyone - from parents to grandparents and those who don't have a direct connection to our schools.

More than a year ago we began the process of examining our strategic plan - from instructional and curricular planning and academic goals, facilities, and potential bonds and levies. We conducted surveys and sought extensive feedback to build the new plan that we have posted on the web at https://www.msd134.org/Page/5816.

These key issues have the potential to significantly impact not only our youth, but our community at large. Thank you for participating in that process. It was important.

Long-term planning update

I have reached out to about 50 district patrons who had indicated they wanted to be a part of the long-term facilities planning. Not all of them will be able to participate. If you're interested let me know.

The primary goal is to answer this question: **How does the Middleton School District address rapid community growth, student and staff safety while being mindful of costs and how they impact patrons.**

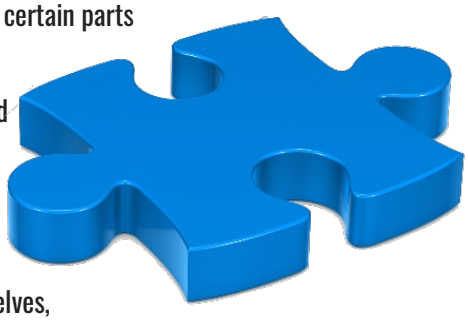
There's no easy answer. It will take time. I'll keep you updated. Meanwhile, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Superintendent Marc Gee welcomes questions and comments at mgee@msd134.org or call the School District Office at 208.585.3027.

Eight-year ISAT test data shows Middleton schools, teachers' effort improves results

The topic of student test scores is complex. Liken it to building a puzzle: One element of data doesn't show the whole picture, all together 500 puzzle pieces can tell a much better story.



We can't just share certain parts of the puzzle. In the same way we should not judge the story of a puzzle by a few pieces, we should also not judge ourselves, our school, or our district, by this information alone. But one big part of the puzzle is the trend line. Where have we been and where are we today?

Since we started tracking ISAT data in 2015 in Math and English Language, there have been some significant improvements as a whole and certainly represents a lot of work put in by a lot of teachers over the past eight years.

This progress is significant, but it doesn't mean we are done. We still have ample opportunities for growth. It takes a lot of collaborative effort.

Math update

As part of Middleton School District's curriculum adoption cycle, this year the district will be reviewing the resources for K-12 math. The committee, composed of parents and teachers, held an initial meeting in November and will continue the review process to make a recommendation to the school board in the spring. More information about the process can be found here: https://www.msd134.org/Page/2084

State adopted Spring 2022

District	Science
WestAda	52.4
Middleton	44.6
Boise	44.1
Vallivue	42.1
State	40.8
Kuna	36.5
Emmett	34.5
MtnHome	33.9
Nampa	28.0
Caldwell	22.9

Math

Spring 2015

District	Math
WestAda	50.7
Boise	45.8
Emmett	40.0
State	39.3
Vallivue	37.9
Middleton	32.1
MtnHome	35.0
Kuna	34.5
Nampa	28.6
Caldwell	21.9

Spring 2022

District	Math
WestAda	55.1
Boise	46.4
Middleton	46.2
State	41.9
Vallivue	37.5
Kuna	34.0
Emmett	33.0
MtnHome	29.3
Nampa	24.8
Caldwell	19.7

English Language

Spring 2015

District	ELA
WestAda	60.6
Boise	57.1
Vallivue	52.9
State	51.1
Middleton	47.3
Kuna	46.9
MtnHome	41.9
Emmett	45.7
Nampa	42.5
Caldwell	31.4

Spring 2022

District	ELA
WestAda	68.4
Middletor	58.7
Boise	57.5
Vallivue	57.3
State	54.8
Kuna	44.7
MtnHome	43.7
Emmett	43.6
Nampa	39.6
Caldwell	34.4

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Important Dates

December 21: Finals (9 – 12th) 1 pm Dismissal all students

December 22: Finals (9 – 12th) 1 pm Dismissal all students

December 23: Winter Break begins

January 9: Professional Development/Teacher Workday

January 10: Board of Trustees meeting, 6 pm

January 10: Classes resume

January 16: No School - Martin Luther King Day

February 13: Board of Trustees meeting, 6 pm

February 20: No School - Presidents Day

March 2: Elementary Parent Teacher Conference 10 am – 4 pm. No school K-5

March 13: Board of Trustees meeting, 6 pm

March 20-23: Spring Break

www.msd134.org/Page/5284

For More Information

Middleton Schools webpage: www.msd134.org/

Watch for mobile app in 2023

We will launch a Mobile Communications App in 2023. This on-the-go App is connected to the District's website and Facebook page. This will be effective for parents and community members to gain easy and immediate access to critical information, including school closings, weather notices, and much more. It will be easy to pay for student lunches, access your Skyward account and manage fees.



This app has been designed specifically for the Middleton School District. We'll let you know once it's available for downloading.

Follow Middleton Schools



Middleton kicks off first apprenticeship program; will pursue more

Congratulations to students JT Nunez, left, and Trevor Alvey for being the first Middleton High School students to sign on as paid apprentices. They will work as Machine Operation Technicians in food production at Fresca Mexican Foods in Caldwell. This is the first time Fresca has partnered with a high school to create an apprenticeship. MHS will continue to pursue other apprenticeships. See the full press release. https://bit.ly/MHSFresca

School board approves ESSER fund projects

1. Up to $1.2 million for more portable units for 2023-24

One positive side effect of the COVID pandemic was the distribution of ESSER funds (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund). The Middleton School Board of Trustees has approved the following expenditures under allowed ESSER uses.

Two new portable units for four classrooms at Mill Creek will be ready for students when they return after the Christmas break. ESSER funds paid for them.

Moving forward, those temporary units won't alleviate the need for classroom space because growth projections don't show any sign of slowing down. That's why the Board approved the purchase of four more portable units (not to exceed $1.2 million) for a total of eight more classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year. Those portables will be distributed to Purple Sage, Heights and the Middle School as needed. As a reminder, we have 3 portable units (6 classrooms) at Heights with room for more.

By the way, just a reminder: Portable units don't have running water. They are also set away from the existing school infrastructure and require students to trek back and forth (even in bad weather) for restrooms, lunch, library and PE.

2. Up to $300,000 for PA systems in 3 schools

The PA systems at three schools - Heights, Mill Creek and the Academy – are either too old or don't work. School officials currently use two-way radios. While effective for person-to-person communication, especially in cases where student privacy is paramount, they don't address critical safety concerns.

