

MANSON MONTHLY

CONTINUOUS STUDENT LEARNING

JANUARY 2024



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

As we enter 2024, I'm optimistic about our school district's opportunities and growth. The New Year brings a renewed commitment to excellence in education, and fostering a dynamic learning environment that empowers our students to thrive. Our focus is on holistic student development, preparing them for future challenges and successes. I am excited to work with our families and community to continue to build a foundation of knowledge, compassion, and resilience among our students, ensuring that 2024 becomes a year of "Continuous Student Learning".

-Tabatha Mires

BUDGET UPDATE

We wanted to provide an update on the steps taken to address the financial challenges previously discussed. To close the financial gap while safeguarding our commitment to quality education, we initiated a spending freeze, meticulously reviewing and prioritizing every expenditure to ensure fiscal responsibility.

See "Budget" on page 2

MANSON HS INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS PAIR STUDENTS WITH THEIR INTERESTS

Manson High School staff are hard at work finding internship placements for seniors, allowing them a 30-hour experience with businesses and organizations focusing on their career interests. Senior Jesus Estrada has already completed 30 hours with the Lake Chelan Reclamation District.

"It has been a great experience learning about how we get our water in our community and I have enjoyed spending time with the field staff," Estrada said.



SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR, DIST.3

Make a difference in your community by serving on the Manson School Board!

We have an opening for a District 3 Director, which includes the areas of Joe Creek, Wapato Way, Washington Street, and Lakeshore Drive, among others.

Visit manson.org/Page/1412 for a complete map and boundary description.

Residents are encouraged to submit a resume and letter of interest to the Manson School District Board of Directors by January 19. Candidates will be interviewed by the board at their January 29 meeting.

Resumes and cover letters should be mailed to Manson School District, PO Box A, Manson, WA 98831. We look forward to hearing from you!

\$2,500 DONATION TO BENEFIT MULTIPLE MANSON PROGRAMS

The Lake Chelan Wine and Jazz Festival Foundation is pleased to announce \$2,500 donations to the Manson and Chelan school districts respectively, based on net proceeds from the 2023 Festival.

The donation is expected to be directed toward music and viticulture programs for students.

“We will continue to direct our philanthropic efforts to Chelan and Manson schools in 2024 and hope next year’s donation can exceed this year’s,” said Holly Brown, director of marketing for the festival.

COMMUNITY CHILI & POZOLE FEED TO THANK COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT



We want to thank the Manson community for their support of Manson schools with a free meal, courtesy of PTAC. Afterward, join us for the girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball games vs the Okanogan Bulldogs!

Dinner will be served in the MS/HS cafeteria, January 25, beginning at 6:00 pm. For more information contact Addie Grageda at (509) 670-9409 or agrageda@manson.org.

FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS NEEDED

Superintendent Tabatha Mires is seeking community members to serve on focus groups as we begin the strategic planning process for Manson SD. We will work to provide input for our Board of Directors as they review our mission and vision, set goals, and determine measures for our progress over the coming years. The voice of families, business leaders, and all community stakeholders is critical to build the best possible plan for our students. To take part in our strategic planning committee or provide input through a focus group, please email Kari Desser at kdesser@manson.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 12 - Coffee with the ‘Supe, 10 - 11 am, Local Grounds
JAN 15 - No School, MLK Jr. Day
JAN 17 - Visitors Lunch
JAN 25 & 26 - Pre-School Conferences, ELC
JAN 29 - School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, ES Library

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“Budget,” continued from page 1

Our team has been proactively seeking new grant opportunities, aiming to secure additional funding that will enable us to enhance programs and initiatives. Alongside these efforts, we made strategic decisions to eliminate some contracted services, including the school resource officer, and unfortunately had to reduce classified staff positions. These decisions were not made lightly, and we acknowledge the impact they have on our valued team members. However, they are part of a comprehensive strategy to streamline operations and redirect resources toward sustaining the core of our educational mission.

Your understanding and support during these challenging times are deeply appreciated. Together, we remain committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students and ensuring a resilient future for our community.

-Morgan Thornton, Business Manager



CELEBRATIONS

Welcome to our new board members Ruth Escalera (second from left) and Kourtney Alanis (third from right). Ruth will serve as the director for District #1, and Kourtney will represent District #2. Welcome aboard!

ADVOCATING FOR MANSON SCHOOLS AS THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS



Premium costs over the past 5 years:

Year	Premium Cost	Increase %
2024	213,492	32.9%
2023	143,290	11.1%
2022	127,405	9.9%
2021	114,843	3.8%
2020	110,444	10.5%

“One key focus for me will be supporting the need for local control for school districts, allowing Manson to make decisions and implement programs that represent the needs and wants of our own community.”

-Manson Superintendent
Tabatha Mires

Washington State Legislators, including our District 12 Legislators Representative Keith Goehner, Representative Mike Steele, and Senator Brad Hawkins, who have been strong advocates for Manson students, will take part in a 60-day ‘short session,’ beginning January 8. During short sessions lawmakers don’t have to write a full two-year budget but often make adjustments to the budget passed last year, addressing areas of concern.

Superintendent Mires and Manson SD Legislative Representative Susie Fox will work to stay informed, communicate with our legislators about the needs of Manson SD, and advocate for legislative supports that benefit our school, community, and students. Superintendent Tabatha Mires will also continue to advocate for needed adjustments in funding and to reduce the number of ‘unfunded mandates’ passed at the state level.

Manson schools saw a 32.9% increase in our insurance premium during the 2023-2024 school year bringing the total payment for this required coverage from \$143,290 to \$213,492, Mires said. This increase was not matched by an increase in state funding and over time districts have seen an increasing amount of these operating

costs that must be covered by levy funds rather than through state apportionment (state funding). See the table above for reference.

Over the past few years, many legislative decisions have also demanded increased resources from schools across the state. While many of these decisions are well intended, the resources to implement these mandates include increasing levels of staffing, requiring facility upgrades or curriculum and supply purchases, and increasing required reporting, administrative oversight, and monitoring. These mandates have been expensive and often take away from the other pressing needs and focus in our schools, namely our commitment to meeting our mission ‘Continuous Student Learning’ and our goal to ensure we prepare every Manson student for college and career. Superintendent Mires will continue to address this increasing challenge in her work with local legislators and at the state level.

Follow along with the legislative session at www.leg.wa.gov and you are encouraged and invited to reach out to our legislators and weigh in on bills they are considering during this session.