



MEAD MATTERS

FALL 2024

**EACH STUDENT
FUTURE READY**

**FOSTER BELONGING
INSTILL PURPOSE
CULTIVATE CURIOSITY**

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TRANSFORMING LEARNING TO INSPIRE SUCCESS

Our schools are always looking for new and efficient ways to support student success, and with the help of carpet supplier Shaw Contract, Director of Maintenance Travis Bown and Prairie View Elementary Special Education Teacher Kelly Riener brought a new idea to life. Mrs. Riener, who serves as the primary (Grades 1-3) teacher in PV's Developmental Learning Center (DLC), is continually working to maintain an environment where students can remain engaged, focused and ready to learn. With the carpet in PV's DLC room ready to be replaced last Spring, Bown approached both Mrs. Riener and Shaw Contract's design team, StudioOne, with an idea to use carpet tiles to help meet student sensory needs.

Designing a sensory room is no small task, but the team from Shaw was all-in right from the beginning. And like any new carpet, the results have been transformational. "The ability to add movement on the way to group time has really increased attention to task," Mrs. Riener explained. "We've turned the checkerboard pattern on the floor into a fun game of leapfrog, and I can easily switch up activities with less prep time. It's made the room more flexible for me and more fun for the students!"

The key to the success of this new sensory space lies in its ability to engage students in ways that help them self-regulate and focus. Through movement-based activities, students can burn off energy, improve their concentration, and enter learning sessions more prepared. But it's not just the playfulness of the space that helps—it's also the calming nature of the materials. Mead School District quickly learned that carpet isn't just for walking on; it can be an essential tool for students who need a quiet moment to self-soothe. Simply laying on or touching the carpet has proven to be a highly effective way for students to calm themselves during moments of sensory overload.

By creating an environment that helps meet student sensory needs, we're breaking down barriers that might otherwise make learning more challenging. Whether it's helping students manage their emotions, providing a fun way to focus, or simply creating a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere, the sensory flooring in PV's DLC is making a meaningful difference. In the end, it's not just about the flooring or the games—it's about creating a space where every student can shine.

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



NEW PRINCIPALS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Among our group of principals, there's a combination of new faces and familiar faces in new places! Check out the new principals and assistant principals for the 2024-25 school year and welcome them to their new roles!



Matt Walter
Principal
Prairie View



Darren Cromeenes
Asst. Principal
Brentwood



Rick Pelkie
Principal
Northwood



Renee Bailey
Asst. Principal
Northwood



Jeff Roberts
Asst. Principal
Mountainside



Bryce Jordan
Asst. Principal
Mead HS

MHS SENIOR LIV KOH NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMCS) announced Sept. 11 the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists and 34,000 commended students. Among the semifinalists is Mead High School Senior Liv Koh, one of just 300 in Washington state who were among the highest PSAT scorers in the nation.

These talented students will have the opportunity to compete for 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million in the spring. Most of the semifinalists will go on to become finalists, but only about half of National Merit finalists will win scholarships and earn the title of Merit Scholars — a designation that has been awarded to only 382,000 students in 70 years.

A Semifinalist must fulfill several additional requirements and advance to the Finalist level of the competition before being considered for a National Merit Scholarship. About 95% (over 15,000) of the Semifinalists are expected to become Finalists and receive a Certificate of Merit attesting to their distinguished performance in the competition.

More than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the 50,000 highest scorers will be designated Commended Students. Mead's Aaron Hamblet and Sophia Ji are among the students who landed in this elite group that began with about 1.3 million high school students nationally who sat for the PSAT. They will be named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index qualifying score that may vary from year to year. In recognition of their outstanding ability and potential for academic success in college, NMSC will honor these students by sending Letters of Commendation to them through their high schools.

Although Commended Students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some may be candidates for Special Scholarships offered by corporate sponsors. NMSC will notify those candidates in November 2025.



MSHS SOFTBALL STATE 3A CHAMPS; MHS SECOND IN 4A SOFTBALL

The Mt. Spokane High School slowpitch softball team won its second straight 3A state championship in convincing fashion, beating University High, 18-3. The Wildcats belted six home runs in the title, including two by Emme Bond and one each by Riley Kincaid, Kaydin Bradeen, Quincy Schuerman and Avery Fox.

In the 4A title game, Mead High School made a valiant comeback that fell just short, cutting a five-run deficit to just one before falling 5-4 to end a great season.



MORE THAN 600 VISIT TRADES NIGHT

Earlier this fall, Mt. Spokane High School collaborated with NEWESD 101 to host a Career Crossover Trades Night and the community showed up to the tune of more than 600 attendees. Students and their families from 37 local area schools were able to network with more than 40 vendors about employment, internships, skills or certifications needed, and much more.

The group of vendors included a number of different industries from criminal investigation, automotive and healthcare to business, law enforcement, construction and culinary. Vendors set up interactive booths and brought in equipment for attendees to try their hand at the trade, sit in the seat of the machinery and explore their interests.



Photos courtesy of Richard Chan, riverrockimages.com

COLLEGE IN THE HS

As the Mead School District continues to adapt and meet the needs of students, new opportunities are available through an expanded College in the High School program. Students at Mt. Spokane and Mead High School are taking advantage of the dual enrollment with 1,500 students accessing nearly 12,000 college credits through partner institutions like Eastern Washington, Central Washington and Community Colleges of Spokane.

College in the High School offers an exceptional opportunity for students to earn both high school and college credit from a range of advanced courses. Through the partnerships with local community colleges and universities, students can enroll in specialized classes in Career and Technical Education (CTE), English, Math, Science, Social Science, Physical Education, and World Languages, all free of charge. These dual-credit courses, taught by our teachers, allow students to explore college-level material and potentially receive transferable college credits.

Course offerings include diverse subjects, from Advanced Sports Medicine and Biomedical Innovation to AP courses in Environmental Science, Statistics, and U.S. History. Or students interested in the arts, leadership, or culinary skills can earn credits in Graphic Design, Debate, and Culinary Arts.

While these courses provide invaluable college preparation and potential savings, students should note that credit transfer policies vary across post-secondary institutions. However, students looking to at other prospective colleges can inquire about specific transfer policies and requirements outside of EWU, CWU or CCS.

The comprehensive selection of over 30 classes that prepare students for both academic and career pathways allows students to confidently get a head start on higher education and future careers while completing their high school requirements.

MEAD MATTERS
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ECR WSS
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WHAT IS A “LEARNING IMPROVEMENT DAY”?

Three times each academic year, teachers from around the district take the day to become the students themselves, collaborating across grade level or content areas to learn from presenters, share processes and refine practices. These non-student days, called “Learning Improvement Days”, take place once each in August prior to school starting, October and March. Here’s just a flavor of what was going on inside our buildings on October 11th while students were at home!

Across the district, one standout theme was collaboration. Teachers were empowered to share knowledge with each other, exemplifying our commitment to a shared mission of learning and growth. Mountainside facilitated breakout sessions with a wide range of professional learning options, and co-teaching sessions were organized at MSHS. All schools covered state requirements for social-emotional learning with activities that included Northwood’s “teachers teaching teachers” model and Mead’s teacher-led PD on SEL practices that sparked enthusiasm. These activities showcased the power of learning from colleagues. Shiloh Hills staff aligned math interventions with grade-level standards and spent extended time calibrating their Kickboard approach to support goals around well-being.

These types of activities and much more were taking place in every school throughout the District. The second and final LID for the 2024-25 school year is scheduled for March 21.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The work your public schools do with and for kids is immensely important - in fact, the work is consequential. Equipping young people for their future is rewarding, but perhaps more than ever before, the work is also immensely complex.

If our job as educators is distilled down to its very essence, we are asked to do one thing: Create exceptional learning experiences for all kids. But again, as simple as that statement may be, it’s really complex work. There is so much more to creating exceptional learning experiences for kids than meets the eye. And doing that work for ALL kids means being open to doing the things it takes to meet the myriad needs of our young people.

It probably goes without saying that the preparation, expertise, and wisdom of the professionals within the system play a critical role in navigating the challenges in front of us and responding to an ever-changing world. But **listening** is one of the most important things we can do as we seek to grow and improve. Creating opportunities and spaces to hear from **you** (parents and patrons), and including your feedback, input, and insight into our decision-making processes is a vital part of creating the best experience possible for our kids.

We currently have three opportunities for you to engage. Perhaps you have specific expertise to offer. Maybe you have a particular passion for a topic. Whatever the case may be, we’re inviting you to work alongside us as we refine and improve with the goal of continuing a tradition of educational excellence.



Sincerely,
Travis Hanson

To apply for a committee, please scan the QR code below or visit www.mead354.org/committee

Safety & Security Task Force

A Safety and Security Task Force will revisit the work of a similar group that last met back in 2019. This committee will explore investments and changes implemented over the past 5 years, as well as new developments, new products, and possible needs for updates in the world of Safety and Security in the district.



Calendar Exploration Committee

There’s been significant discussion (and movement!) in our region and around the state about moving toward a more “balanced” academic calendar. The Calendar Exploration Committee will look at ways other districts have altered their school calendars to provide a better model for kids and families.



Technology Advisory Committee

We have an active Technology Advisory Committee that has been meeting for the past year. This committee is looking forward to welcoming a few additional members.

