MEC PREP

Mapleton Early Career Preparation

One Student at a Time

Mapleton Early Career Prep (MEC Prep) is a part of the Big Picture Learning Network. Students of all levels experience an environment that balances traditional classes, independent projects, real-world learning through professional internships, and access to college courses. Students are provided with challenging instruction as well as the practices and character required to succeed in any post-secondary endeavor: work ethic, study habits, use of resources and personal qualities such as time management, honesty, and responsibility. MEC Prep students learn to become problem-solvers, lifelong learners and cooperative members of the community, preparing them for college and careers.

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Advisory

In the words of our students: “We’re like a family.” This is perhaps most true in Advisory. Advisory is like homeroom, but it’s also so much more than that. Students stay with the same Advisor for two years (moving to a new Advisory at the start of junior year). This group becomes a student’s academic support, where Advisors know each student as individuals, and the students grow to know and encourage each other in ways that surprise even them. Advisory peers challenge and help one another to reach each student’s greatest potential.

Advisors

MEC Prep teachers are called Advisors. In addition to teaching in their subject areas, Advisors help develop and support each student’s Learning Plan and act as direct links to families and internship mentors. Advisors conduct advisory meetings and connection circles, work individually with students, help set up and oversee student internships, facilitate Learning Plan Meetings, and provide guidance through student exhibitions. They are the advocate for each student’s learning and growth. Advisors are parents/guardians’ primary contact for questions, concerns, comments, ideas and anything else regarding their student’s overall success. Families can expect to hear from their student’s advisor by phone or email at least once per month.

Individual Learning Plans
Working with parents and professional mentors, advisors guide students in the creation of Individualized Learning Plans. At MEC Prep, student learning is never 'done.' Knowing each student well, we are able to hold every student to the highest standards to achieve his or her greatest potential through continuously striving toward personal and academic excellence. MEC Prep students meet the same graduation requirements as their peers at other Mapleton high schools.

Learning Plan Meetings
Instead of traditional parent-teacher conferences, MEC Prep students meet individually with their advisor and family twice per year to discuss the student's progression on their Individual Learning Plan. These meetings are student-led, demonstrating each student's responsibility, time management, and growth.

Independent Projects
All students complete at least one Independent Project per year. Each project is designed around individual student's interests and passions and structured to assure rigorous achievement of all high school standards.

Exhibitions
MEC Prep students present their Independent Projects to a panel of their peers, family members, and guests from the community twice per year.

One-on-Ones
Every student has a monthly one-on-one meeting with his or her advisor to assess progress on their Individual Learning Plan as well as personal and academic goals.

Pick Me Up
Every Monday morning, the entire school gathers for a student-led community meeting called a Pick Me Up (PMU). Almost entirely student-led, PMU is a time for the student body to come together, share announcements, and build unity. Students, mentors, and visitors may give short presentations that help students explore and present their interests. Sometimes we do whole-school activities, other times we have friendly competitions. We focus on celebrating student and community achievements. Regardless of the format, PMU helps build a sense of community, connection, and shared excitement for learning in our school.

MEC Prep Learning Through Interests (LTI)
Learning Through Interests (LTIs) is one of the core aspects of the MEC Prep curriculum. On LTI days, students spend their time at internships, performing job shadows, conducting interviews with professionals, and/or learning about post-secondary opportunities. After spending the first few weeks in seminars designed to refresh their understanding of professional/business skills, MEC Prep students will seek "Leaving to Learn" experiences that align with their interests. They may ask the internship coordinator for suggestions or use other resources to seek options.

Sample Internship Sites

2nd Time Sports Equipment
5280 Auto Repairs
Adam's County 911 Communication
A New Generation Childcare Center
Adams County Commissioners Office
Adam's County Museum
Alpine Glenn Veterinary Clinic
Buildstrong Construction Academy
Bundles of Babies Day Care Center
Butterfly Pavilion
Clinton Home Care Inc.
Coding School
Colorado History Museum
Concorde Career College
Denver Health General Hospital
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Dynia Architect Firm
Gforce Powersports
Glamour Hair Salon
Gmotors Used Cars LLC
Horse Place at Hudson
Invalesco Real Estate
Junior Achievement
Le Patisserie Bakery
Marine Recruiter Station
Metropolitan Dental Care
Platte Valley Pharmacy
Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center
Reading Partners
Riverdale Animal Shelter
Select Physical Therapy
Splash Auto Detailing
Tattered Cover Book Store
The Bindery Restaurant
Universal Music Co.
Vasu Skin Solutions
Z Cycle Shop

Informational Interviews and Job Shadows

Before setting up an internship, students are encouraged to pursue informational interviews and/or job shadow days with professionals in their career field of interest. This process is particularly effective for students to make connections with potential mentors, but the key to this work is providing students with the opportunity to learn more about new career fields.

Internships

Internships place students in real-world settings with mentors who have expertise in that field. This is an opportunity for students to learn on-the-job from a professional mentor in an authentic setting related to a personal interest. The mentor will connect student's learning to the real world and act as a role model, resource, and guide. Advisors work closely with internship mentors to ensure that internship experiences are rich and meaningful by managing a set-up meeting and monthly in-person check-ins at each site. Background checks are run on all mentors. We use a program called ImBlaze to find and manage internship experiences, track student attendance, and allow students to keep track of their own pursuits.

Leaving to Learn

"Leaving to Learn" is equivalent to taking field trips. Our school actively provides career and college visits based on student interest. Our Internship Coordinator and staff invite guest speakers to our school with high-interest careers in the fields our students want to learn about. Many opportunities are student-organized and managed.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO)
Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes support out LTI program. Our staff and students work hard to make and maintain community networks; our programming thrives on constantly growing our connections to new industry partners and innovative internship sites. Through our CTE partners, MEC Prep students have numerous opportunities to learn about various careers and technical programs. Our student-led Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) helps guide the school by focusing on personal development, community service, business and industry connections, financial leadership, social events, and public relations.

Print Lab
Our CTSO manages our in-house screen printing business. This school-based enterprise maintains a waitlist of projects for everything from athletic team needs to specially-designed shirts for professional conferences. Proceeds from the Print Lab fund Learning Through Interest experiences and materials for Independent Projects. Our Student Project Review Panel students volunteer to review other students' requests for funding.

Unconventional Schedules
A day in the life of MEC Prep student can look very different from a traditional school.

- Ninth and tenth grade students spend Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in core classes. On Tuesdays, these students focus onLTI preparation.
- Eleventh and twelfth grade students spend Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in core classes. Tuesdays and Thursdays are fully dedicated to LTI work.

9th Grade (Example)		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	8:35-9:35	Advisory	LTI	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
	9:40-10:45	English I		English I	English I	English I
	10:50-11:55	Algebra		Algebra	Algebra	Algebra
	Lunch					
	12:35-1:40	World History	LTI	World History	World History	World History
	1:45-2:50	Biology		Biology	Biology	Biology
	2:55-3:50	Elective		Elective	Elective	Elective

11th Grade (Example)		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	8:35-9:35	Advisory	LTI	Advisory	LTI	Advisory
	9:40-10:45	English III		English III		English III
	10:50-11:55	Algebra II		Algebra II		Algebra II
	Lunch					
	12:35-1:40	US History	LTI	US History	LTI	US History
	1:45-2:50	Physics		Physics		Physics
	2:55-3:50	Elective		Elective		Elective

Restorative Practice

Restorative Practice creates a strong school community in which every student and adult is respected and given the opportunity to fulfill his or her greatest potential. At MEC Prep, you will see RP at work at every level, from the way adults interact with students to the way discipline issues are handled. But perhaps the strongest evidence is the respectful, empathetic way students interact with each other. Students use restorative practices to prevent and fix conflict, mending relationships and building connections in our community.

Conventional/ Retributive Justice	Restorative Practice
1. What is the law that was broken?	1. What are the effects of the harm that was done?
2. Who broke that law?	2. Who is responsible and how?
3. How should they be punished?	3. How might we repair the harm?

Restorative Practice provides participants of conflict with a safe, respectful forum for 'making things right.' Student involvement is the key to Restorative Practice.

Extracurricular Opportunities

MEC Prep Clubs

Pick-Me-Up Club	Peer Mentors	Moot Court
Restorative Practice Club	Volleyball Club	Arts & Crafts Club
Yearbook Club	Second-Language Lunch Club	National Honor Society
National Honor Society	Arts and Crafts Club	Travis Manion Foundation
Student Leadership Club	Career & Tech Student Organization	Cultures Club

Students may also choose to start their own club.

District Sports**:**

Fall Sports	Fall & Winter Sports	Spring Sports
• Cross Country	• Cheerleading	• Baseball
• Football	• Men's Basketball	• Women's Soccer
• Men's Soccer	• Women's Basketball	• Women's Tennis
• Softball	• Wrestling (coed)	• Track & Field
• Women's Volleyball		

Many students enjoy participating as team managers. There are often pre/post season workouts and camp opportunities for district athletics.

District Performing Arts:

Band
Mariachi
Color Guard
Orchestra
Choir

District Clubs:

Student Ambassadors
Debate Club
R.O.T.C.