MEAD MATTERS

SUMMER 2026

EACH STUDENT FUTURE READY

FOSTER **BELONGING**

INSTILL **PURPOSE**

CULTIVATE **CURIOSITY**

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer STEM Camp Recap

Bond Refunding

Help Plan Mead's Facilities Future

Student Resource Hub Serves

State Board of Ed Awards

New Principals In MSD

From The Board

Superintendent Update









KIDS LOVE SUMMER STEM CAMP!

Summer 2026 marked another unforgettable season for Mead's Summer STEM Academy that had more than 500 students take part in 32 camps over the course of three weeks. Now in its 10th year, this summer's STEM camp featured a theme of "Power of 10" to celebrate the past decade and dive deep into the micro and macro! Students had a blast exploring camps that included Botany, Design Academy, Energy, Entrepreneurship, Food Chemistry, Game Shows, Monsters, Machines and Math, Nature, The Operating Room, The Science of Sound, The Science of Sport, Space, Veterinary Technician, and Video Game Academy.

Hands-on activities and design challenges brought learning to life, and students hurried to share their creations with friends, staff and families at home. Some even completed "homework" that was never assigned or asked if they could come back on Fridays, even though the camps ran Monday through Thursday.

A highlight of the academy each year is our Legends Before Lunch speaker series, and this summer's lineup was exceptional. **Students heard from community leaders, district and school administrators and principals, University of Washington and Whitworth University professors, local CTE directors, medical professionals and engineers.** Their stories, guidance, and encouragement made a tremendous impact on our young learners. Organizers are deeply grateful for our community partners—Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Dutch Bros. Coffee, Rainbow Electric, Baker Construction, Associated Builders and Contractors, Yost Gallagher Construction—whose support helped make this year's camps successful.

The experience was made possible by an outstanding team of high school volunteers, college and high school staff, and dedicated Lead Teachers who designed and led each camp. And the group is already looking forward to next year's Summer STEM Academy!



BOND REFUNDING

Financial support in the form of voter-approved levies and bonds in the Mead School District has proven to be a major factor in continuing to provide the type of educational experience that our students and families have come to expect. The immense gratitude from students and staff cannot be overstated. So, when the opportunity presented itself to save each taxpayer even a small amount of money, district administrators were ready.

As the 2015 Bond, passed by voters 11 years ago, reached its Call Date, district administrators worked with DA Davidson to review interest rates to see if it made sense to refund the bond. A school bond refunding is a process that reduces debt payments by issuing new bonds with lower interest rates to pay off old bonds with higher interest rates, and does not create new money. The savings are then used to directly reduce taxes paid by local taxpayers.

The School Board set bond refunding parameters, including savings targets, interest rate parameters and timeframes to allow the district to monitor market conditions and schedule a bond sale date with DA Davidson serving as the underwriter for the sale.

The Mead School District's 2015 Bonds were successfully sold and refunded at lower interest rates, which resulted in a taxpayer savings of $4,649,386 over the remaining life of the 2015 Bonds (thru 12/1/2034).

COMMUNITY INVITE: HELP PLAN MEAD'S FACILITIES FUTURE!

Mead School District has long benefited from a community that shows up for its schools – literally. Two successful bond measures in the past 20 years have delivered new and modernized schools, transportation and maintenance facilities, and Union Stadium. Those successes happened because our community values public education and has chosen to invest in modern, well-maintained schools. As we continue to look at the long-term forecast for our facilities and capital projects, we want your help!

Now, nine years after the passage of the last bond measure, Mead is facing a genuinely complex set of circumstances all at once: kindergarten enrollment has come in below projections for three straight years, even with more than 1,000 new apartment units built inside our boundaries — a signal that the usual relationship between housing growth and student enrollment isn't holding the way it used to. Meanwhile, our Mead Learning Options (MLO) program has grown to nearly 1,000 students, making it one of the larger alternative learning programs in Eastern Washington, while the Pittsburg Learning Center (the old Northwood Middle School) that houses many of those students is aging and increasingly limited in its long-term use. And four of our elementary schools (Brentwood, Evergreen, Farwell, and Colbert) are now more than 50 years old and eligible for state-assisted modernization or replacement, at an estimated combined cost of over $220 million.

These aren't simple problems with obvious solutions. They deserve careful, honest, community-informed deliberation – which is why the district is forming a Facilities & Long-Range Planning Committee, an 18-month advisory body tasked with studying enrollment trends, evaluating facility conditions, understanding our financial capacity, and ultimately delivering recommendations to the Board of Directors ahead of a possible bond initiative in the 2030–2032 window.

This committee will not make final decisions – that authority stays with the elected Board – but it will shape the information, the options, and the community input the Board relies on. We're seeking a broad cross-section of our community: parents across all grade levels and neighborhoods, MLO families, business owners, senior and fixed-income residents, and community members without children currently in our schools. What matters most is a willingness to engage seriously, keep an open mind, and prioritize what's best for kids and families over any single interest.

We strongly encourage anyone considering this role to first read the Commissioning Document in full. It's the foundation for everything the committee will do: it includes enrollment data, facility conditions, financial context, and the full scope of questions the committee will be asked to consider. Understanding that scope up front will help you decide if this is the right commitment for you, and it will make you a stronger contributor should you be selected to serve on the committee.

Applications are open now through mid-September!

To read the Commissioning Document and apply for the Facilities and Long-Term Planning Committee, scan the QR code below or visit www.mead354.org/FLPC











STUDENT RESOURCE HUB CONTINUES TO SERVE

The Student Resource Hub is stocked with donated items, including clothing, shoes, jackets/coats and some basic school supplies to help ensure that local families and youngsters have access to items of need.

This partnership began when MSD approached Teen & Kid Closet about serving the youth in the North Spokane and rural areas. TKC currently has a brick-and-mortar location for shoppers near downtown Spokane, but often those who live well outside that immediate area aren't able to make the trip. Recognizing that need in our community, TKC was on board immediately in supporting the idea and helping establish the procedures and processes for the project to come to fruition prior in late summer 2022.

Serving students and families on a referral basis, the Hub has helped more than 600 families in its four years in operation. Visit www.mead354.org/resourcehub to learn more!











STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AWARDS

The Washington Board of Education annually recognizes schools for their work in three categories: closing gaps, growth and achievement. Only 16% of schools statewide earned the recognition and four are in the Mead School District! In total, 379 public schools in 150 school districts across Washington were recognized in 2026.

Mt Spokane HS - Growth
Asian student growth from the 2023-24 school year to the 2024-25 school year was in the top 10% of schools for: Dual Credit Completion, Attendance.
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander student growth from the 2023-24 school year to the 2024-25 school year was in the top 10% of schools for: Dual Credit Completion, Attendance.

Farwell Elementary - Growth
English language learner student growth from the 2023-24 school year to the 2024-25 school year was in the top 10% of schools for: ELA Proficiency Rate, Math Proficiency Rate, Attendance.

Skyline Elementary - Achievement
The All Students group at the school performed in the top 20 percent of schools on the ELA proficiency rate, math proficiency rate, and attendance rate in the 2025 Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF).

Prairie View Elementary - Achievement
The All Students group at the school performed in the top 20 percent of schools on the math proficiency rate and attendance rate in the 2025 WSIF.

NEW PRINCIPALS IN MSD

Join us in welcoming new principals and assistant principals to Mead!



Haley Maxfield
Principal
Colbert



Alecia McAdams
Asst. Principal
Mead HS



Ryan Bodecker
Asst. Principal
Northwood MS



Kelly Meyer
Asst. Principal
Elementary (K-5)

BALANCED CALENDAR

The Mead School District's Calendar Exploration Committee—made up of teachers, parents, community members, and administrators—began meeting in February 2025 to study how different school calendar models could best support students, families, and staff. The committee reviewed attendance data, regional calendars, research, and community feedback, including surveys completed by more than 1,600 parents and staff and 1,700 students. Results highlighted strong interest in improving student well-being and academic success while also identifying concerns about summer break, family time, student employment, and extracurricular activities. The committee presented its findings and recommendations to the School Board on Nov. 3, followed by a community advisory vote in late November and a staff vote in early December. Learn more at www.mead354.org.

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Mead School District #354
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MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Questions or Concerns? Call (509) 465-6000

The Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Grievances or concerns should be directed to: Josh Westermann, Director of Student and Family Services – 509-465-6008, 2323 E Farwell Rd, Mead, WA 99021 or josh.westermann@mead354.org.

FROM THE BOARD

The recent verdict in the hazing-related civil trial stemming from incidents at a 2023 football camp has brought renewed attention to events that caused harm to former students and their families. As the Mead School District Board of Directors, we begin by acknowledging that harm and reaffirming our commitment to learning from it, strengthening our schools, and doing everything possible to help ensure it never happens again.

Student safety, accountability, and respect remain at the center of our work. Since these events, the district has implemented meaningful improvements to policies, training, reporting systems, and student supports. While important progress has been made, we recognize there is still more work to do.

To provide transparency and keep our community informed, we have created the “Our Commitment” webpage, which highlights the actions taken, improvements underway, and our continued efforts to strengthen our schools. We encourage all members of our community to visit www.mead354.org/ourcommitment and return periodically for updates.

As a Board, we know trust is earned through accountability and action. We remain committed to fostering schools where every student is safe, respected, and supported, and we appreciate our community's partnership as we continue this important work together.

BrieAnne Gray, Board President

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

There's a special kind of energy that fills our schools each fall - the buzz of hallway reunions, the nervous excitement of a first day, the quiet pride of watching kids grow into who they're becoming. As we welcome students and staff back for another school year, I'm reminded that none of what happens in our classrooms exists in isolation. It takes a community.

Every year, I'm struck by how much our schools thrive because of the people who show up for them. School staff who go the extra mile to help a struggling student, parents who volunteer for field trips, coaches and advisers who see potential in a young person before they see it in themselves. That connection - between school and home, between staff and students, between district and community - is the foundation on which our public schools are built. Exceptional educational experiences aren't the work of a school district alone; they're the work of all of us, together.

This year, we're taking a meaningful step to strengthen those connections. We have rolled out ParentSquare, a new communication platform that consolidates school messaging into one simple, reliable place. Whether it's a note from a child's teacher, an update from the front office, a message from a coach, or a district-wide announcement, parents can now find the information they need in one spot; no more digging through multiple apps or inboxes. The goal is simple: make it easier for families to stay connected to what matters most, each child's experience at school.

We're also inviting community members to help shape our district's future by joining the new Facilities & Long-Range Planning Committee. This is a rare opportunity for a small(ish) group to roll up their sleeves and help guide decisions about our aging buildings, enrollment challenges, and how we best serve the next generation of Mead students. If you care about this community, our schools, and want a voice in the future, I encourage you to consider volunteering. Details are inside this newsletter.

As we look ahead to the year in front of us, I feel genuine hope and optimism. Hope in the relationships that will be built in our classrooms. Hope in the growth our students will experience - academically, socially, and personally. Hope in a community that continues to show up, again and again, for its kids. Yes, there may be some complex challenges in front of us, but my optimism isn’t a belief that things will automatically get better; it’s a conviction that we can make things better.

Lastly, none of this is possible without our incredible staff. The teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, custodians, food service workers, and support staff who perform their work with skill, patience, and heart. Thank you for everything you do with and for kids. Here's to a wonderful year ahead, together.



Sincerely,
Travis Hanson