

Annual School Performance Report

2008-2009

Mt. Spokane High School

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Mead School District #354

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About Our School

Mt. Spokane High School provides an outstanding environment for learning. The building is evidence of what happens when staff is involved in the design process. Our building was designed by teachers for students. In the center of the school is a grass courtyard highlighted by Harold Balazs' inspiring sculptures, together entitled "Circle of Friends". We are located in north Spokane, with beautiful views of wheat fields, Green Bluff, and Mt. Spokane.

In addition to being a wonderful physical structure, Mt. Spokane is proud of the learning opportunities we offer our 1470 students, with an average class size of 26 to 1. In order to address the needs and interest of all our students, we provide a wide range of curricular offerings. This curriculum is taught within a modified block schedule that provides flexibility for in-depth learning, staff collaboration, and student access to teachers. One indication of our students' success, particularly in relation to state learning goals, is their performance on the High School Proficiency Exam (HSP), previously known as the WASL which measures the proficiency of students in high school and serves as the state's exit exam. Students must pass this assessment or a state-approved alternative in reading and writing in order to be eligible to graduate. The dates for testing in spring 2010 are March 16-18 (reading is one day; writing is two) and April 13 (math) and April 15 (science). Our teachers have spent a significant amount of time defining learning targets in all subject areas across the 9-12 grade levels. We are committed to using data to drive our educational decisions and optimize learning opportunities for our students.

Our students have access to a wide variety of technology including rolling laptop labs, computers and LCD projectors in every classroom, and a state of the art Media Center. In addition, every room in our building has wireless internet access. Our staff continues to find ways to utilize technology as an effective tool for learning, including district-supported web resources such as EPSCO HOST, Proquest and SIRS Online.

Mt. Spokane also offers comprehensive extracurricular and co-curricular programs which involve close to 60% of our students. Our athletic teams continue to compete admirably in the Greater Spokane League. Athletic activities are augmented by strong drama, debate, DECA, leadership, vocal and instrumental music programs and a variety of clubs and activities sponsored by our Associated Student Body. Our ASB students play an active role in the vibrant life of our school and sponsor a successful two day on-campus event called **Breaking Down the Walls** for Mt. Spokane students. In addition to school related activities, Mt. Spokane students are involved in a number of community service projects that benefit a variety of groups and individuals in our area.

Of Special Interest

Mt. Spokane High School offers a variety of experiences and opportunities to assure success in high school and post high school education.

In the **Advanced Placement** program at Mt. Spokane High School, we offer 11 Advanced Placement courses and four Honors courses, totaling 38 sections throughout our school day.

Students are able to earn **college credit** in Spanish III and IV, German III, and French III through an articulation agreement with **Eastern Washington University**. The Engineering/Physics program at Mt. Spokane High School, through **Project Lead the Way**, will allow students to earn college credit through a partnership agreement with a growing list of colleges and universities. We are one of the only schools in Eastern Washington with such a program.

Mt Spokane is in our fifth year of the **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** program for students. AVID is a nationally recognized academic support program for traditionally under-represented students, focusing on success in rigorous high school courses, in preparation for college readiness and eligibility. Last June we celebrated the graduation of our inaugural AVID class.

Mt. Spokane offers a number of opportunities for students to receive extra help and individualized attention from teachers. Built into the schedule is **Access Time**, 45 minutes on Wednesday and Thursday mornings when students can meet with a teacher for extra help or make up tests, quizzes, homework and labs. **National Honor Society** students offer free one-on-one tutoring for students. Additionally, students are able to get extra help from certified teachers four days a week in the Academic Enrichment Program.

As a result of our commitment to prepare every student for the opportunity to pursue higher education, we provide two college visits. Sophomores at Mt. Spokane visit the Pullman campus of **Washington State University**. Not only are students given a campus tour, they also meet with admissions and financial aid representatives. All juniors attend a College Fair where representatives from Washington state colleges, universities, and private schools around the state meet with students to inform them of admissions criteria and financial needs specific to their institution. And our juniors write a college application letter in their English class.

Student Services at Mt. Spokane is the epicenter for students seeking college scholarship opportunities and assistance with the application process. Mt. Spokane students have received combined **scholarship awards** in excess of **\$8,000,000** over the last four years! Beyond our regional colleges and universities, our students attend the University of Chicago, Stanford University, the University of Miami, the University of Michigan, and the United States Naval Academy.

Link Crew at Mt. Spokane High School is a program designed to assist freshmen students acclimate to the routines, rigor and customs of the high school. Junior and senior level students act as mentors throughout the freshmen students' first year of high school, with regularly scheduled meetings to discuss such topics as goal setting, social interaction, academic success and school traditions and culture.

One of the primary goals of the **Cat Track Advisory** Program is to create a facet of Smaller Learning Communities by fostering significant relationships between each student and an adult advisor. Each spring grades 9-11 students host a student-led conference. At grade 12, students present a culminating project to a panel of community members. During the presentation, students celebrate their high school career accomplishments and growth areas and share their 13th year plan following graduation.

Parent Involvement at Mt. Spokane High School

Mt. Spokane High School values parent involvement and welcomes all parents to participate in a variety of ways. Keeping parents informed of the work, activities, and accomplishments of our school is one of our top priorities. *The Wildcat Report* newsletter provides information on a monthly basis. The district web site is www.mead.k12.wa.us (click on Mt. Spokane High School to gather up-to-date information). Parents and students can also check grades and student schedules through the PowerSchool link on our homepage.

Parent Connection, our parent advisory committee, meets monthly to gather information, discuss issues, and provide input into educational programs and practices at Mt. Spokane. Additionally, parents and community members serve alongside staff and students on Mt. Spokane's Council for Learning Improvement. Our Athletic Booster club and Band Standers continually support our sports and instrumental music programs. The C.A.T.S. organization (Curriculum, Academics and Team Support) assists a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular academic programs and clubs. The Senior All-Nighter group coordinates a graduation event each year for Mt. Spokane's seniors. Parents also assist with supervising the Welcome Desk, mailing newsletters, chaperoning dances and answering phones.

What is our School Improvement Plan?

Guided by the Mead School District Guiding Principles and the four state learning goals, we have created a Mt. Spokane Learning Improvement Plan that includes the following targets:

- Improve WASL scores in all areas
- Reduce the number of D's and F's our students receive
- Increase the number of students taking Advance Placement and College in the High School Courses, increase the number of students taking college entrance exams and increase their scores.
- Prepare all students to consider college as a realistic option.

During the Fall of 2009-10 school we will be finalizing our year-long data collection and analysis of student learning, our organizational programs, and school operations at Mt. Spokane High School. This rigorous, evidence-based school evaluation process has provided us with a deeper understanding of how we may better serve our students. Upon successful completion of the process, we will be granted continued accreditation by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.

Mission Statements and Beliefs

Mead School District Mission and Goals

The Mead School District's mission is to provide the best educational opportunities possible to all its students. In order to achieve this mission, we are committed to three organizing goals: focusing on students and their learning, creating democratic structures for participation, and increasing the connections between parents, businesses, community and our schools.

Mt. Spokane High School Mission Statement

The Mt. Spokane High School Community of students, educators, parents, business partners and citizens is committed to providing our students relevant curriculum in a safe, nurturing atmosphere where they are challenged to:

- Assume personal responsibility;
- Communicate effectively;
- Experience a variety of disciplines;
- Question, anticipate and solve problems;
- Cultivate a respect for diversity;

Mt. Spokane High School Covenant:

1. Learning is optimal when it is active and participatory and encourages problem solving
2. Learning should be a self-directed, life-long process that will increase an individual's ability to manage change, make good choices and accept responsibility.
3. Learning is connected across a variety of disciplines including academics, the arts, vocational, and co-curricular programs.
4. Learning should be goal-orientated and connected to the real world so that individuals gain skills to function as productive citizens in the community.
5. Learning happens in an environment that fosters integrity, requires commitment, and nurtures individuals to be socially responsible and academically accountable.
6. Learning is enhanced in an atmosphere of support and respect that values human dignity and diversity.

Facts and Figures for the 2008-2009 School Year

Information About Our School

Students (Grades 9-12) (%)	Number of Staff (FTE)	Curricular Programs (number of students)	Extra/Co-curricular Programs (Number of Students)				
Native American.....1.3 Asian/Pacific Islander.....2.8 Black.....1.3 Hispanic.....2.5 White90.6 Total Number 1378 Female47.8 Male.....52.2 Free/Reduced Lunch.....21.8	Classroom Teachers..... 79 Support Staff.....5 Avg. Yrs. Experience..... 16.2 Masters Degree +..... 70.9 Administrators3 Classified Staff30	Special Education 158 Running Start (11-12)53 Skills Center47 Transitional/Bilingual.....10	Co-curricular (Drama, Music, Debate, DECA, Leadership Journalism)..... 800 Interscholastic Athletics 893				
Other Statistics		ACT Scores				PSAT Numbers	
Average Daily Attendance 85% Annual Dropout Rate (2008-09) 1.2% On-Time Graduation Rate (2008-09).. 95.1% Average SATCritical Reading 515 Writing 511 / Math 537	National State MSHS	English 20.6 22.4 24.0	Math 21.0 22.9 24.6	Reading 21.4 23.5 25.7	Science 20.9 22.1 23.7	Total 21.1 22.8 24.7	Sophomores 140 Students Juniors 158 Students

Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Subjects	5	7	7	8	11	11	20	14	14
Tests Given	125	99	136	226	267	296	384	332	393
Actual Students	79	68	79	120	146	157	198	194	201
Pass Rate (3 or higher)	67.20%	71.70%	82.40%	70.40%	68.50%	66.60%	62%	58%	58%

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (% Meeting Standards)

WAS L/10	Math			Reading			Writing			Science		
	School	Dist.	State	School	Dist.	State	School	Dist.	State	School	Dist.	State
2007	57.1	58.8	50.4	84.5	86.3	80.8	91.4	92.4	83.9	41.4	44.4	36.4
2008	48.6	59.4	49.6	88.0	90.4	81.8	93.1	94.5	86.8	39.9	47.1	40.0
2009	51.3	54.3	45.2	89.6	90.0	80.9	90.4	92.9	86.3	48.0	54.0	38.6

Mead School District Information

Maximum Class Size 2008-2009	District General Fund budget 2008-2009 (Per Student Amounts)			
Kindergarten20	Revenue	\$8474.00	Expenditures	\$8464.00
1 st Grade24	<i>Source:</i>		<i>Area Served:</i>	
2 nd Grade24	State	77.0%	Instruction	69.0%
3 rd Grade.....26	Local Tax	18.0%	Maintenance/Operations	9.0%
4 th Grade.....26	Federal	5.0%	Transportation	4.0%
5 th Grade.....30	Other	0.0%	District Administration	6.0%
6 th Grade.....30			Building Administration	6.0%
7-12 th Grades.....31			Food Service	4.0%
Special Education.....15			Other	2.0%
Resource Room.....12				
Learning Assistance Program13				