



**EACH STUDENT  
FUTURE READY**

**EMPOWERED TO  
DREAM, BELIEVE,  
ACHIEVE**

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# MEAD MATTERS

OCTOBER 2021



## SCHOOL KICKS OFF FOR 2021-22

Students and staff headed back into our schools for their first day of 2021-22 on Sept. 7. There were shark costumes on site at Midway Elementary, welcome cheers at Mead High School, a brand new school opening at Skyline Elementary and fun chalk drawings on the sidewalks at Evergreen Elementary. And there were even huge "Welcome Back" signs in the grass at a number of schools, giving students the chance to take that first-day-of-school photo with parents and siblings.

After a 2020-21 school year that had a number of challenges, the Mead School District can enter this year knowing that it can persevere through anything. There are many similar health and safety measures required of the school district this year, but many items will continually be reviewed so that the desired sense of normalcy can return to our schools.

There will undoubtedly be challenges throughout this school year, but a focus on learning and teaching through the pandemic will allow our students to be ready for the next step, next grade or next class. While keeping health and safety at the forefront, our teachers and staff are continuing to be creative in delivering instruction to students, supporting them socially as well as academically and providing great examples of how to maintain learning growth in the face of a pandemic.

Our teaching staff has renewed its weekly Professional Learning Community meetings to collaborate on items that benefit students, other staff is focusing on the strategic priorities that were gleaned from community feedback in recent years, and our leadership is continually pushing our district so that we can maintain our standing as a district that provides a high-quality education and future-ready students.

**VISIT [WWW.MEAD354.ORG](http://WWW.MEAD354.ORG) OR THE MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT**



## MEAD SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chad Burchard, President,  
Director District #1



Denny Denholm, Vice-President,  
Director District #2



Bob Olson, Director District #3

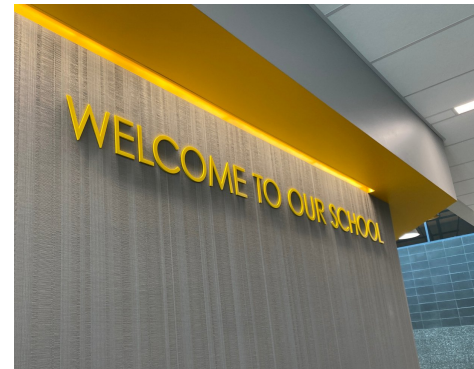


Michael Cannon, Director District #4



Carmen Green, Director District #5

## SKYLINE ELEMENTARY OPENS ITS DOORS



Skyline Elementary, the Mead School District's 10th elementary school, opened its doors on Sept. 7 with the start of the 2021-22 academic year. The building, completed on-time and on-budget, is the product of state-match dollars that the district received with the building of nearby Highland Middle School. Mead's facilities and maintenance staff used knowledge gleaned from previous new builds and modernizations to create an efficient, well-planned space.

Located in the Five Mile Prairie neighborhood, the need for a school was paramount in the area. Prairie View Elementary was well over capacity, leading to students being shuttled daily to other area schools like Evergreen and Farwell Elementary. Skyline's capacity allowed Five Mile residents to keep their students in the neighborhood.



# SHILOH HILLS GARDEN SPRINGS TO LIFE



Led by principal Lisa Horn and teacher Heidi Rae, Shiloh Hills was awarded a community grant called Project Learning Garden from the Dole Corporation, Albertsons and Safeway. Rae penned the grant paper, which resulted in \$3,000 worth of materials, including plant supplies, five raised beds, seeds, tools and soil.

The curriculum ideas for the multi-disciplinary lessons ranged from nutrition, science and social studies to math and language arts. Students learned how food is grown and where it comes from with the hands-on building, planting and tending to the beds.



## MHS BAND SELECTED

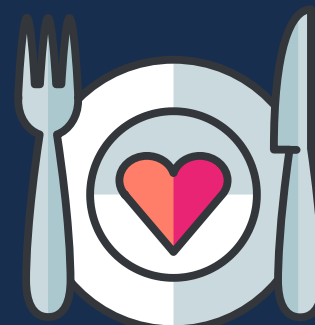
The Mead High School Jazz Band was recently invited to be a featured performer at the Washington Music Educators Association state conference in February. MHS will be one of just 10 performances at the WMEA conference, which is attended by about 1,200 educators from around the state. Scott Ketron, the WMEA Executive Director and a former resident of Spokane said this about the MHS band: "Mead has been outstanding for decades, and it is great to see them get recognition for that consistency this year."

## THOUSANDS OF NO-COST MEALS

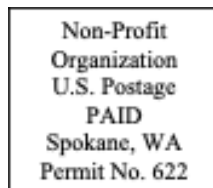
The Mead School District Nutrition Services department served more than 125,000 meals in the 18 school days in September alone! All of these meals were served at no-cost and will continue to be served at no-cost for the rest of the 2021-22 school year.

The planning and preparation by our nutrition team has allowed them to continue to provide a reliable, healthy source of food for our students even while battling supply chain issues due to the pandemic.

Join us in giving a hearty 'Kudos' to Nutrition Services!



MEAD MATTERS  
Mead School District #354  
2323 E. Farwell Rd.  
Mead, WA 99021



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](mailto:josh.westermann@mead354.org).

ECR WSS  
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## MIDWAY EDUCATOR NAMED SEPTEMBER TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to one of our Midway Elementary fifth-grade team members, Anne Pritchard, who was selected by the Spokane Kids Newspaper and STCU as September's Teacher of the Month!



## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It seems as if most of the last 19 months have been spent reacting, responding and adjusting to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our staff, students, and families. We are fortunate to have a robust strategic plan that has allowed us to focus not only on the current challenges, but also on educational priorities that will ensure that the future is bright for the community we proudly serve.

Our strategic plan and target objectives for the next 5 years can be found on our website. In the short term our plan includes the following:

- Increasing number of industry certification programs available for our secondary students, including adding a Certified Nursing Assistant program and other programs tied to current demands and labor shortages.
- Creating and implementing both Dual Language and Language Immersion programs at the elementary level.
- Bolstering the education we provide for our gifted/highly capable student population, including a self-contained program at the elementary level.
- Increasing public awareness and understanding of the linkage between school district finances, our strategic plan, and educational priorities.



Thank you for your continued support of the Mead School District. While it has been a challenging last year and a half, we have charted a clear path over the next several years that will ensure each of our students is future ready.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Woodward

### WE'RE HIRING!

Looking for a full or part-time job? The Mead School District is hiring for a variety of positions throughout the District. More information can be found at [www.Mead354.org/jobs](http://www.Mead354.org/jobs) for jobs in teaching, transportation, nutrition services, maintenance, administration and classroom support, as well as numerous substitute positions.



COOKS



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PARAEDUCATORS

**& MORE**

AT [MEAD354.ORG/JOBS](http://MEAD354.ORG/JOBS)

## REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Ballots were mailed Oct. 13-15 to all registered voters for the Nov. 2 General Election. The deadline to register in person for this election is 8:00 PM on Nov. 2. The Mead School District Board of Directors #5 position is included on the ballot for registered voters who live in the district.

