



*“All Students Learning Well, Without the Loss of Enthusiasm for Learning”*

## Week At a Glance

November 5, 2018

### Mission

**Students, Staff, and Community Dedicated to Excellence**

### Vision

*The Marcola School District promotes academic excellence, ethical and responsible citizenship for all its students in a safe, supportive, and enriched learning environment.*

I am now sharing our Week At a Glance with the general public as a method to communicate more frequently. Every week, I will share some thoughts about innovation in education and what schools could and should be doing to prepare our youth for 21st century careers. It's always easy to make the statement, "We are preparing our students to be College and Career Ready." The question I ask is how? I have visited many schools who claim they have programs to prepare students for the future? After my visit, I'm scratching my head wondering what they are doing that is different from the century old traditional programs we have always had in place to prepare students for careers that no longer exist. Below is a list of statements about our obsolete education system that stymies the innovation crucial to success in today's economy: (These statements are from authors Tony Wagner and Ted Dintersmith - educators, researchers and authors).

- Rapid advances in innovation are eliminating structured routine jobs from our economy, leaving millions of Americans at risk.
- The critical skills young adults need in the twenty first century for careers in the world of innovation, and for responsible citizenship are the very skills the school years eviscerate.
- The education policies our country is pursuing to "fix" schools only serve to harm students and disillusion teachers.
- While education credentials were historically aligned with competencies that mattered, they have become prohibitively expensive, emotionally damaging, and disconnected from anything essential.
- Unless we completely reimagine school, the growing divide between the haves and have-nots will threaten to rip civil society apart; and,
- .We have an urgent obligation to speak out, since we know what our education system needs to do to give every student a fighting chance in life - to be career ready!

The Marcola School District has made numerous changes in our approach to delivering an instructional program that will prepare students to be critical thinkers, team players, and problem solvers. However, when a school moves away from a traditional (thats the way we've always done it) program, it's difficult for people to accept. All of us have gone to school and we all remember the traditional programs of



educating our youth. If you were very compliant, followed all school rules, learned how to take tests, did your homework (even if it wasn't meaningful) you would most likely succeed. If you asked too many questions, disagreed with the teacher, or attempted to suggest other alternatives for learning you were a disruptive student and most likely would spend time in the Principal's office. In today's world our students have all the information they need at their fingertips - just go online and research. We all use "YouTube" for instructions and/or information to learn something new. It works!! To help our students be engaged in school, we must understand that the sage on the stage model of education (where teachers spew out information and require students to take notes) is a model that is no longer effective. Instead, we need to be the facilitators of learning. Our students need to be presented with an essential question or problem and required to work together (collaboratively) to answer the question and/or solve the problem. Teachers of the 21st century are facilitators and coaches supporting students to use the tools available to problem solve, create, collaborate and communicate.

Last week, I walked into our robotics class, where I watched Mr. DeGeorge and Ms. Klein perform as facilitators of instruction. Students were working in groups to design, build and use robots to perform particular functions in preparation for robotics competition in the near future. I observed students collaborating, problem solving and writing notes in their "journals" to record both their failures and successes. Our students were spread out in two very open spaces, to allow them to collaborate, design, build and program. I observed 21st century education at it's finest.

I send this message this week as one of many in weeks to come to help our community understand, the traditional educational model (Teach, Memorize, and Test) is a very poor system at best. Marcola School District will continue to implement more authentic and engaging instructional practices to prepare our students for CAREERS beyond high school.

### Upcoming Events:

Date	Event	Description	Time
11/05/18 Monday	<a href="#">Activities Schedule</a> Admin Meeting	Report Cards and Bus/Vans, Observations, Goals	10 am
11/06/18 Tuesday	<a href="#">Activities Schedule</a> Staff Meeting	Elementary	7:15 am
11/07/2018 Wednesday	<a href="#">Activities Schedule</a> Staff Meeting Bill and Travis out at noon Last day for report cards	Mohawk OSBA conference All grades must be entered	7:15 am Noon



M A R C O L A

# MUSTANGS

11/08/2018 Thursday	<a href="#">Activities Schedule</a> Parent/Teacher conferences Early Release Bill and Travis out	Mohawk Mohawk OSBA conference	2:00 pm 1:00 pm All day
11/09/2018 Friday	<a href="#">Activities Schedule</a>		
11/10/2018 Saturday			