



M A R C O L A

MUSTANGS

PO Box 820, Marcola, OR 97454 Phone: 541-933-2512 Fax: 541-933-2338

July 22, 2019

First Day of School: Wednesday, September 4th

Dear Community, Staff and Students,

It is truly Amazing that already I am sending out a newsletter as we continue prepping for the 2019-20 school year. A lot has happened as we prepare for another very successful school year.

1. Hired new staff - Please welcome
 - a. Terry Augustadt, Elementary Principal
 - b. Stacey Whaley, Assistant Principal
 - c. Lisa Sequeira, TNW and MSD Counselor, Behavioral Support Specialist
 - d. Jaclyn McGuire, First Grade Teacher
2. Reorganization of our School Board. With the very unexpected loss of Laurie Smart and the resignation of Lon Laughlin (Board Chair and Vice Chair), Amy Johnson and Shad Turner were selected to fill the vacancies. Jim Smith was voted in as the Board Chair and Bob Leeper as the vice chair.
3. Maintenance crew has dedicated this summer to a thorough cleaning of all rooms, moving some rooms, painting rooms, assembling new furniture, moving furniture and maintaining the farm.
4. Reviewing and revising the professional development calendar to align with our continued efforts for implementing social emotional learning in all classrooms at all grade levels.
5. Preparing for a year-long review and self-study of existing programs and systems on our journey for completing another audit/accreditation of our school district system.
6. Adopting and training staff to use a new formative and summative system of assessment - Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) - with a focus on continuous improvement.
7. Adopting and training staff to use "PowerTeacher" - the Powerschool gradebook.
8. Collecting RFP's and interviewing potential architects for the design of a small Career Tech building on the farm.
9. Making Plans with TNW to prepare for the constant growth of our virtual charter school.
10. Ordering and receiving new materials, supplies and equipment (all summer long).



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I'm quite confident every teacher is spending days and days to reorganize their units of study for the year, especially since most teachers are either teaching new classes or different grade levels. It's a myth when people say teachers get 2 months off in the summer.

Professional Development Week: August 26 - 29

Our Administrative team will have an organizational retreat (at LCC) for two days in August, prior to the teachers returning on August 26th. The week of August 26th will include a variety of professional development opportunities for all staff. The Highlight of the professional development week is Dr. Lee Jenkins. Dr. Jenkins has been a wonderful mentor for me and numerous colleagues nationwide. He is a retired Superintendent and the author of several books with a focus on Continuous Improvement in Schools. His most recent publication, "How to Create a Perfect School" will be available in August and all teachers/staff will have copies of the book. Dr. Jenkins travels internationally as a consultant for small and large districts who are focused on reviewing and revising policies and systems that do not support the continuous improvement model. You can find more information about Dr. Jenkins and his most recent book release on his website: <https://ltojconsulting.com>.

Proficiency/Competency Based Instruction

Recently, I read this interesting quote on LinkedIn, "No pupil in the history of education is like today's modern learner. This is a complex, energetic, and tech-savvy individual." As I reflect on this quote and on education over the past 100 years, it's very obvious that our children have changed remarkably, but in many cases our classrooms have not. Most brick and mortar classrooms still use very traditional methods for teaching and assessing. For example, many of our classrooms (nationwide) continue to focus on the Carnegie unit and archaic grading policies to determine a student's academic growth and progress. MSD does not focus on the Carnegie Unit to drive instruction and assessment. We know that good Instruction and Assessment, puts learning as the constant and time as the variable - much different than the Carnegie unit that puts time as the constant and learning as the variable. Students should be allowed multiple opportunities (regardless of time) to demonstrate proficiency and/or continuous improvement on a wide variety of learning targets.

Our students want to be connected 24-7, to information, communication and opportunities for learning, but many classrooms nationwide disconnect them by using very traditional practices of teaching and assessing. Marcola School District embraces the policies and procedures for a proficiency based system. We also embrace the policies and procedures that allow students and teachers to use multi-digital applications for communication and presentations. We look at a variety of student performances to measure a student's progress toward proficiency. An assessment could be a traditional test and it could be a student presenting (via many applications) their knowledge of the expectations for learning. Recently, I was very pleased to



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see a student send a youtube video of a math learning target they were expected to know and be able to do. He demonstrated his knowledge by solving a complex problem using youtube and zoom as his presentation tools. We were all very impressed, jaws dropped!! He didn't need an end of chapter/unit test, he just needed permission to search for additional knowledge and supports using technology. He needed permission to share his knowledge with his teachers using a performance based assessment.

Can you imagine a student graduating from high school with limited technical skills for communication, problem solving, creativity, and collaboration? This student would not be competitive in the work force regardless of their traditional grades on their transcripts. We must have teachers who understand and can deliver instruction using the presentation and communication skills necessary for the workforce of the 21st century.

In closing, please know the Marcola School District and TEACH Northwest (TNW) embrace technology as a primary tool for instruction and learning. We support ongoing innovations for students and teachers to present and share their knowledge to a networked global community.

Increased Enrollment at MSD and TNW

MSD is expecting to start the year with 300 students on campus and 350 students enrolled in the TEACH Northwest Virtual Charter School. Our goal is to keep all primary classes under 30 students. If we get bulges at any one grade level we will most likely have to hire another teacher and create a combined class (We won't know until the first week of school). In the past we have responded to large classroom size by providing more Educational Assistant Supports in the classroom(s).

We have also increased the enrollment at the MS/HS, much of it due to our CTE/FFA programs. MSD now has 5 CTE (Career Technology Education) Programs of Study: Agriculture, Computer Science, Engineering, Health Occupations, and Construction. Connected to our CTE programs is our outstanding Robotics program that competes in national and world competitions and our gaming program that competes and wins in local competitions with other districts and of course our huge FFA program working through the summer to accomplish their FFA goals.

TEACH NorthWest (TNW) Expanding!

TNW continues to grow exponentially, attracting students who want a virtual education and the opportunity to learn 24/7 from anywhere at anytime. Most of our families are very familiar with homeschooling and virtual instruction and appreciate TNW's application of the 3W principle - Wherever, Whenever, Whatever. With support from the family and other partners TNW builds a program based on the individual needs of the student(s) they serve. All students are required to



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have an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) complete with instructional goals. Currently, TNW has an enrollment of 350 students with a large waiting list of families who want to sign on.

I am in the process of finalizing our August Professional Development Agenda for the week of August 26th - 29th, but will not send out the final copy until the admin team has had one last chance to review for any adjustments. In the meantime, please continue to enjoy what is left of the summer ;)

Upcoming Events:

August: Fall Activities Registration MS and HS go to <https://www.marcola.k12.or.us/parent-resources/>

August 12th School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm in the High School STEM room

August 13th - 14th: MSD Admin Team Meeting, 9:00 - 3:00 at LCC

August 21st: MSD Registration, 7:00 am - 6:00 pm (Multi Media Center)

August 26th - 29th: Teacher Inservice

September 2nd - Labor Day

September 3rd - Teacher Work Day

September 4th - First day of school for students

September 27th - Teacher In-service

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