



M A R C O L A

MUSTANGS

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Welcome Back in less than 3 weeks!!

[MSD Website](#)

1st Day of School for Students - Wednesday, September 4th

1st Day Back for Staff - Monday, August 26th

Registration - Wednesday, August 21st

August 9, 2019

Dear Parents/Community,

I hope all of our families have had a great summer, and you're now looking forward to a great school year ;) On a personal note, in between working on school related projects, I spent most of the summer working on home projects and going for long runs in the south hills and along the Willamette river.

We are all looking forward to the 19-20 school year!! We have made some very good hires this past Spring and Summer, and have a team that is anxious to help us continue our efforts to innovate and grow. Tami White (past elementary principal) has moved to a new position as the Director of Student Services where she will provide service for MSD and TEACH Northwest (TNW) students. Terry Augustadt is the new elementary principal. Terry comes to us as a very accomplished administrator and teacher. Stacey Whaley, is the new assistant Principal for MSD and will spend most of her time with the middle and high school staff and students. Stacey lives very close to Marcola and comes to us after 16 years of successful experience as a teacher and lead teacher in the Springfield School District. Lisa Sequeira will replace our behavior specialist (Kim Condon) who now has her own business but will continue to help Lisa transition into her current position as Counselor/Behavior Specialist. Lisa will be half-time at MSD and half-time at TNW. Last Spring we had the pleasure of hiring a new 1st grade teacher, Ms. Jaclyn McGuire who come to us with great experience and success teaching/coaching primary students. We have two new School Board Members!! Please welcome Shad Turner and Amy Johnson, both are excellent choices and have already jumped in with both feet to begin assisting with

important decisions regarding policies, procedures and budget.

Once again, enrollment has increased for both MSD and TNW. Marcola School District enrollment numbers will stay between 300 and 310. TEACH Northwest is already at 325 with many students on a waiting list to enroll. We are planning to hire additional staff to build the infrastructure necessary to support more students at TNW.

If you've visited the campus at all this summer, you probably noticed our maintenance crew has been extremely busy getting the rooms and campus in great shape for the 2019-20 school year. You may have also noticed the elementary cafetorium is getting a new sound system and A/V equipment which will allow us to show movies, give large presentations to large groups, host small concerts, etc.

How about a shout out to Ms. Kelli Fisher and our FFA students who have been busy all summer with FFA projects. I hear many positive comments from people who learn about Marcola School District through our FFA students. We are proud to send these students anywhere in the state - they are kind, compassionate, respectful and hardworking young ladies and men.

Last year at this time, I mentioned that our staff would be working together in professional learning community (PLC) focused on "Growth/Innovator Mindset" and Social/Emotional Learning. Our discussions and training focused on what we can do as educators/coaches to respond to students' natural curiosity that will help further their own exploration and shape the way they learn today and in the future. All kids come to us in Kindergarten with a wonderful curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. It is our responsibility to help students keep that curiosity and enthusiasm at every grade level. When teachers meet to discuss learning plans (especially individual learning plans) it's important we take time to look at the Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Social (PIES) needs of each and every student. Consider PIES as the 4 legs of a chair, if one or more of the legs is weak, the chair becomes very unstable. We must educate the whole child.

On August 28 and 29, [Dr. Lee Jenkins](#), teacher, administrator, superintendent and now author of several books and consultant, will be at MSD for two full days to provide our staff more training on implementing the continuous improvement model in all aspects of becoming a Great School.

We have been updating our [website](#) through the summer as much as possible and will put additional updates in full gear as soon as our staff returns. All upcoming events and activities are posted. Please use our website to find information. If you can't find it, let us know and we will make sure the information is added. As you know the registration forms - including activity registration forms are online. Official registration is scheduled for August 21st.

In closing, please know I am working, and have been working during the summer but I'm not always in my office. I also have an office in the TNW rooms at LCC and I will be spending time in both places this next year. If you need me or need to set up a meeting with me, please call my cell phone at 907 942 3171. We are excited for the upcoming school year and can't wait to see your children - always fun to see the growth that has taken place in just a few months.

Sincerely,

Bill Watkins
Superintendent
Marcola School District
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