

MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WeAreMSD



MONROE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER 2018 PUBLICATION

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

With three major school construction projects wrapping up, professional learning for staff taking place, hiring and training many talented new team members, and completing school maintenance and improvement projects, it has been a very busy summer in the Monroe School District! And now with just a few weeks left of summer, we are in full swing preparing to welcome the thousands of students who will walk through our doors in September.

As we plan for the 2018-19 school year, we are continuing to focus on our commitment to every student of providing them with equitable access to learning opportunities, powerful teaching strategies that engage and excite them and holding them to high expectations. Continuing to build upon the framework of powerful instruction, balanced literacy has become a key area of focus in our elementary schools and as you will read in this newsletter, we are actively working to transform the way students are provided reading instruction in our schools.

Powerful Instruction

Also building upon the framework of powerful instruction, our Technology Department continues to partner with school staff this year to ensure that the tools purchased through the Technology Levy (Thank you Monroe voters!) are leveraged as powerful instructional tools to meet the needs of our diverse 21st Century learners. Our students have a variety of interests, goals and dreams, and we strive to support that diversity. We want our students to be prepared to take on whatever challenges they choose, both while they are in school and beyond.

From approving the recent school construction bond, technology and school program & operations levies to partnering with us to define our shared vision to volunteering in our schools, we are so thankful to be a part of a community that values and supports our schools. We look forward to your continued involvement in our schools this year!

Now that we are wrapping up the major school construction projects at Park Place Middle School, Frank Wagner Elementary and Salem Woods Elementary, we are looking forward this year to breaking ground on the expansion of Hidden River Middle School, creating a new parking lot entry at Chain Lake Elementary to ease congestion on Chain Lake Road, and tackling the rest of the small capital and major maintenance projects across the district. A huge thank you to our community for supporting all of these projects!

With sincere appreciation for your support of the Monroe School District,

Dr. Fredrika Smith
Superintendent



THE MONROE COMMITMENT

Monroe School District's commitment to EVERY student:

Equitable
Access

Powerful
Instruction

High
Expectations

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



AUG
MONDAY
27TH

6:00 p.m.
Administration Building
200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272



SEPT
MONDAY
10TH

6:00 p.m.
Administration Building
200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272



SEPT
MONDAY
24TH

6:00 p.m.
Administration Building
200 E. Fremont St.
Monroe, WA 98272

POWERFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Thanks to the community-approved Technology Levy in 2014, new classroom enhancement technology packages support Monroe School District's commitment to provide powerful learning experiences to all students.

Our world is ever-changing and twenty-first century education must prepare students for a future that cannot yet be imagined. Widespread global innovation is creating exciting opportunities for new industry and technologies. Our goal, as determined in partnership with our community, is to empower Monroe School District students to become lifelong learners through powerful instructional strategies that allow them to creatively approach and solve problems, and to embrace collaboration far beyond the four walls of a classroom.

After spending two years upgrading and enhancing the technology infrastructure across the district, last summer every classroom was outfitted with a new interactive panel display, classroom audio enhancement system, webcam, document camera, and sets of student Chromebooks. Before the start of school, teachers were trained on effective ways to integrate these new technologies into classroom instruction to provide powerful and meaningful learning opportunities for students. In addition, Digital Learning Leaders were trained at each school to provide support for teachers throughout the school year.

Throughout the 2017-18 school year, the new technology resources quickly became a seamless part of the learning process and both staff and students integrated these tools into their daily routines and practices. Students throughout the district could be seen interacting with peers across the globe, talking with experts (authors, scientists, engineers, etc) via webcams, creating videos for classroom presentations, and digitally collaborating on writing projects.

Technology tools and devices are not the focus but they are an important means to provide richer and more diverse learning experiences within and beyond the classroom. These tools give students ways to collaborate with other students, teachers, and experts around the world. They can get immediate feedback on their work and share their thinking as they learn to become effective producers and not just consumers of information. These tools support the ability to provide students with opportunities for learning that is relevant, assessment that is authentic, and skills for safely navigating the digital world.

Thank you again to our generous community who continue to partner in providing our children with powerful learning opportunities.

DeAnn Hermes

Coordinator of Digital Learning



Students in Mrs. Ray's band class at Monroe High School used Chromebooks to capture videos of themselves practicing scales on their instruments in order to self-evaluate.

Many classrooms have connected with authors to talk about books and writing, while others have used the webcam to connect with classrooms across the country and discuss common topics of learning.



In Mrs. Schroeder's English Language Arts classes at Park Place Middle School, students used Chromebooks to access online tools and peer tutors to get immediate feedback on their writing.



At Chain Lake Elementary, Mrs. Barnes' Kindergarten class used the classroom webcam to connect with employees at Microsoft to allow students to ask questions about careers in technology.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2018!

Points
of
Pride



LEADERS IN LEARNING HIGH SCHOOL

23  GRADUATES

6 **EARNED
SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 1 attended Running Start
- 12 are continuing their education after high school
- 2 enlisted in the military
- 1 is seeking apprenticeship



MONROE HIGH SCHOOL

408  GRADUATES

JUST UNDER
\$7M **AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 63 Academic Challenge Awards
- 66 earned High Honors (3.75 GPA or higher)
- 49 earned Honors (3.5 to 3.74 GPA)
- 53 attended Running Start
- 13 earned their Associate's Degree
- 40 earned Washington State Honors (top 10% in WA state)
- 275 are continuing their education after high school
- 17 enlisted in the military



SKY VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER

62  GRADUATES

\$111K+ **AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 5 earned full 4-year college tuition scholarships
- 47 attended Running Start
- 14 earned their Associate's Degree
- 10 earned Washington State Honors (top 10% in WA state)
- 37 are continuing their education after high school
- 1 enlisted in the military



BOND PROJECTS

PROGRESS REPORT

Chain Lake Elementary

- New entry to parking lot - FALL 2018
- Roof replacement
- ✓ Gym drainage - COMPLETED
- ✓ Sump pumps for utility vaults - COMPLETED
- Replace chalkboard with dry erase

Frank Wagner Elementary

- ✓ Refrigerator/freezer condensing unit replacement - COMPLETED
- ✓ Play equipment replacement - COMPLETED
- Modernization & expansion - OPENING SEPTEMBER 2018

Frylands Elementary

- ✓ Inlaid gym lines - COMPLETED
- Noise reduction in hallways
- Replace main entry window wall

Hidden River Middle School

- Expansion - breaking ground September 2018

Maltby Elementary

- ✓ Resurface playground asphalt - COMPLETED
- ✓ Gym floor lines - COMPLETED
- Parent pick-up/drop-off - IN PROGRESS

Monroe High School

- ✓ All-weather ball fields - COMPLETED
- ✓ Access to stadium for athletic teams - COMPLETED
- Track repairs and resurfacing
- Upgrade/additional lighting in Performing Arts Center

Park Place Middle School

- Modernization - OPENING SEPTEMBER 2018

Salem Woods Elementary

- Modernization - OPENING SEPTEMBER 2018

Sky Valley Education Center

- ✓ Update electrical - COMPLETED
- ✓ Replace heat pump compressors and refrigerant - COMPLETED
- ✓ Remove overhead Breezeway along gym - COMPLETED
- ✓ Scrape & paint soffit & fascia boards - COMPLETED
- Replace worst flooring - IN PROGRESS
- Climber/lift for ADA access to band room
- Upgrade/expand fire alarm system
- Plumbing repairs & upgrades
- Off-street parking

Wagner Center

- ✓ Replace heat pump compressors & refrigerant - COMPLETED
- New gutters & downspouts

Other District Facilities

District Office

- Upgrade electrical
- Replace flooring

Maintenance

- Replace roofing

Transportation

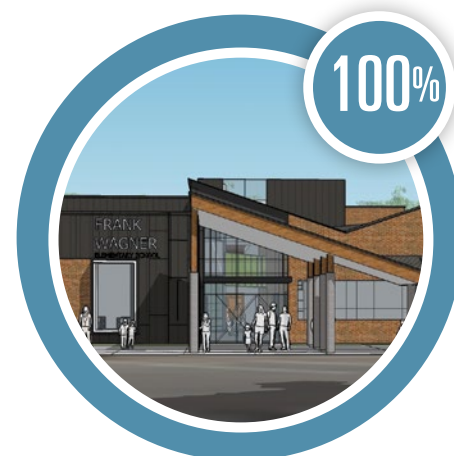
- Resurface asphalt

OPENING

SEPTEMBER 2018



**Park Place Middle School
modernization**



**Frank Wagner Elementary
modernization & expansion**



**Salem Woods Elementary
modernization**

POWERFUL INSTRUCTION

THROUGH BALANCED LITERACY

Many factors contribute to a student's learning, including individual characteristics, family, and life experiences. But research suggests that, among school-related factors, teachers matter most. When it comes to student performance on reading and math tests, a teacher is estimated to have two to three times the impact of any other school factor. In other words, powerful instruction matters!

It is important to understand what we mean by powerful instruction. Powerful instruction is made up of three essential components. First, teachers need to have a clear understanding of exactly what they want their students to know and to be able to do. We often refer to this as the learning targets or objectives.

Next, teachers design learning activities that provide students with multiple opportunities to experience and practice the learning target. This is what we would commonly recognize as the teaching phase of instruction.

Great teaching includes teachers providing a demonstration of how to do something, followed by guided support for the students to try to do it with teacher or peer assistance, and, finally, the students try to accomplish the task independently. An easy way to think about this teaching model is "I do - We do - You do."

The last component of powerful instruction is assessment. Data is collected from the assessment to inform the teacher of how the students performed compared to the learning target/objective. If the assessment indicates that some students were not able to demonstrate their grasp of the learning target, a powerful instructor gathers these students together and provides additional instruction until they can successfully demonstrate their learning. Meanwhile, students who were able to demonstrate the target would expand their understanding and continue their exploration of the new learning.

One of the ways we are currently supporting powerful instructional practices in Monroe School District is through a focus on implementing balanced literacy practices into our elementary classes. Balanced literacy instructional practices incorporate the "I do - We do - You do" model into reading instruction.



Powerful instruction through balanced literacy includes teachers modeling reading strategies through whole class interactive read alouds (“I do”). Teachers then support readers through shared reading, where together, the teachers and students read text that is on grade level and practice reading strategies (“We do”). Readers are also supported through guided reading, which is instruction in small groups of students with similar reading abilities or through strategy lessons taught to small groups of students based on strategies in which they need support. Finally, students are provided uninterrupted blocks of time to read independently in order to apply the skills they’ve seen and practiced (“You do”). During this time, teachers meet one-on-one with students to listen to them read and offer support where needed.

To help prepare our elementary teachers for teaching reading through a balanced literacy approach, we have been partnering with the University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership (UW CEL). Our CEL trainer, Maria Losee, is beginning year three with us, supporting teachers in having a deep understanding of what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level.

Maria also models the planning process for creating lessons designed to support students in achieving the identified learning targets. She then models powerful instruction by teaching balanced literacy lessons in actual classrooms throughout the district while groups of teachers observe. We are excited to have Maria hosting her second round of training sessions for teachers this August. She will also continue to support our elementary teachers throughout the coming school year.

In addition to these professional development opportunities for our elementary teachers, we have also added over 5,000 high-interest books to each of our five elementary schools (25,000 books total!) to support powerful instruction through balanced literacy.

Our commitment to our community is to provide students with powerful instruction in every classroom.

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is to provide students with powerful
instruction in every classroom.*

We continue to strive to ensure that teachers are prepared to uphold this commitment through quality professional development experiences. We are confident that powerful instructional practices will support all of our students in meeting their fullest academic potential.

Dr. Justin Blasko

*Assistant Superintendent
of Learning & Teaching*





Monroe School District

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Monroe, WA 98272

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www.monroe.wednet.edu

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IMPORTANT BACK TO SCHOOL INFO

- School supply lists can be found in the 'About' drop down menu of each school's web page at www.monroe.wednet.edu
- School offices reopen August 22nd
- Bus routes, class placement & class schedules will be available on Family Access August 22nd
- August 23rd is Kindergarten Kindness Day - Kindergarten families meet at the Transportation Department (1410 West Main Street) at 10:00 a.m. and go on a bus ride to their school
- August 23rd is district-wide 'Fill Your Forms Day' from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Parent HUB at Wagner Center (639 W. Main Street). Get a head start on filling out your annual forms (volunteer application, free and reduced price meal application, etc) before school starts!
- Orientation for 6th and 9th grade students will take place September 4th
- September 4th is the grand opening for Park Place Middle School from 5:00-6:30 p.m. - all are welcome to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and tour the new school!
- The first day of school (for all students except Kinders) is September 5th
- Kindergarten Family Connections meetings will occur September 5-7
- The first day of school for Kindergarten students is September 10th
- Salem Woods Elementary Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be August 29 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend!
- Frank Wagner Elementary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be September 15 at 10:00 a.m. along with a community open house at Park Place Middle School, Salem Woods Elementary and Frank Wagner Elementary. Our entire community is invited to come tour all of our incredible new buildings between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.!

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator

Joanne Dickinson:
360.804.2530
200 E Fremont St., Monroe, WA 98272
dickinsonj@monroe.wednet.edu

Section 504/ADA Coordinator

David Paratore:
360.804.2603
200 E Fremont St., Monroe, WA 98272
paratored@monroe.wednet.edu

Compliance Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW

Joanne Dickinson:
360.804.2530
200 E Fremont St., Monroe, WA 98272
dickinsonj@monroe.wednet.edu

The Monroe School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities. For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact: Ginnie Ayres, 360.804.2558.



CONNECT WITH US @ www.monroe.wednet.edu

