



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Annual Report 2011 – 2012



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MISSION: Missoula County Public Schools’ mission is to ensure that each student achieves his/her full and unique potential.

GOALS: The district remains focused on five goals that guide the development and implementation of programs, resources and budget. MCPS will collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure continuous progress toward these five goals:

- Achievement and graduation for all students, regardless of their circumstances or abilities.
- Refine and implement a quality evaluation and supervision program for all staff.
- Define and implement a quality professional development program that encompasses best practices and supports the needs of all staff.
- Restructure the organization to become more efficient, effective and accountable to support the goals of the district.
- Cultivate and enhance staff, student, parent, business and community involvement.



We will prepare our students to pursue their dreams and hopes with the skills, confidence and courage necessary for success in college, career and citizenship.



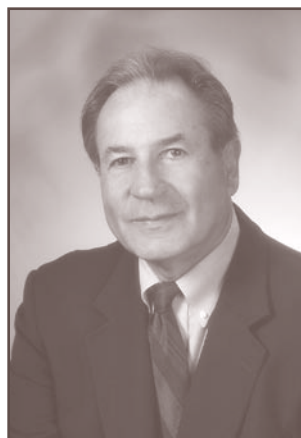
Moving forward with courage – for all our students

The 2011-2012 school year has been one of excitement and great accomplishment. Missoula County Public Schools continues to set the standards of academic achievement and innovation in the state of Montana. From continuing to increase the graduation rate (nearing 90 percent) through our nationally recognized Graduation Matters Missoula initiative to increasing standardized test scores beyond state and national averages, MCPS is moving forward courageously to ensure the best possible education for all our students.

As our students and staff continue to excel and challenge the status quo, MCPS continues to ignite the fuse of innovation and creativity by successfully establishing a Health Science Academy at Big Sky High School and an International Baccalaureate Programme at Hellgate High School. After much preparation during the 2011-2012 school year, both programs welcomed their first students in fall 2012.

In addition to these efforts, our all-encompassing 21st century initiative continues moving forward to ensure students attain the core knowledge and skills required to not only compete on the world stage but to win regardless of the competition. The 21st century initiative will ensure our students and staff succeed by increasing student engagement, transforming learning environments, encouraging innovation, personalizing professional growth, and also enhancing and increasing collaboration at all levels of the education community.

By providing challenging and engaging 21st century learning environments, such as the International Baccalaureate Programme, the Health Science Academy, dual credit (MCPS-UM), digital learning and early world language immersion (kindergarten fall 2013), we will prepare our students to pursue their dreams and hopes with the skills, confidence and courage necessary for success in college, career and citizenship.



Your continued support and involvement will help maintain our leadership in public education in the state of Montana and beyond. I sincerely look forward to our continued collaboration and success.

Sincerely,

ALEX P. APOSTLE, Ph.D.
Superintendent

YOUR MCPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Missoula County Public Schools, a unified district, is governed by an 11-member elected Board of Trustees. Members serve without compensation for overlapping terms of three years each and convene monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. We appreciate the 11 trustees who have dedicated hundreds of hours in thoughtful discussion and procedural meetings during the 2011-2012 school year to support MCPS students, employees, families and community members.



SCOTT BIXLER

Bixler was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2004 and is a realty specialist for the U.S. Forest Service. He graduated from Helena High School in 1971 and moved to Missoula to attend The University of Montana, where he earned a bachelor's in 1975 and a master's in 1992. He currently volunteers with Boy Scout troop 1909 and is a member of First United Methodist Church's Jubellation Handbell Choir. Bixler is a K-12 trustee serving both the elementary and high school districts.



DEBBIE DUPREE

Dupree was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2002. She works as an auto mechanic and business owner of Seeley Lake Auto Parts. After graduating from Shelby High School in 1983, she earned a degree in mechanics from Helena Vo-Tech. Dupree is involved with both the Seeley-Swan High School Booster Club and the Seeley Lake Trailblazer 4-H club. Dupree is a high school trustee representing the areas of Seeley Lake, Swan Valley, Clinton, Potomac and Sunset.



ADAM DUERK

Duerk, prior to joining the law firm of Milodragovich, Dale & Steinbrenner P.C., was a wilderness guide and staff trainer for the Outward Bound School in Colorado, Utah and the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. A Missoula attorney with close ties to the community, Duerk was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2012. Duerk is a K-12 trustee serving both the elementary and high school districts.



MARCIA HOLLAND

Holland was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009. She is an attorney with a bachelor's degree from The University of Montana and law degree from The College of Law, Chicago-Kent. She is involved with Kiwanis and serves on several Missoula boards. She is a Montana native and has lived in both Missoula and Butte. Holland is a high school trustee representing the Hellgate School district community.



JOSEPH KNAPP JR. (VICE CHAIR)

Knapp was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009 and is a cardiologist with the International Heart Institute of Montana. Knapp completed his undergraduate studies at Saint Clara University and earned a medical degree at Georgetown University. He moved to Missoula in 1982 and has practiced cardiology both in Missoula and Seattle. "It is imperative for the health of our community that we have an educated populace, prepared to face the demands of the 21st century. The future of our democracy is dependent upon an educated and involved citizenry. The job of educating our youth is one not done solely by our teachers, but in some fashion or another, by each and every one of us. It is for this reason that I am committed to advancing the quality of education that is available in Missoula County Public Schools," Knapp said. Knapp is a K-12 trustee serving the elementary and high school districts.



DRAKE LEMM

Lemm was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1996 and works as a building contractor and developer. He graduated from Pendleton High School in Pendleton, Ore., in 1967 and earned a bachelor's degree in business and economics from Seattle Pacific University in 1971. He moved to Bozeman in 1971 before taking an insurance job in Missoula that same year. He married his wife, who was then a teacher at Lewis and Clark Elementary, in 1972. Lemm is a high school trustee representing the Lolo School district community.



TONI REHBEIN (BOARD CHAIR)

Rehbein was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2004. She is a retired educator with a master's in counseling from The University of Montana. Rehbein is a K-12 trustee serving the elementary and high school districts.



JIM SADLER (VICE CHAIR)

Sadler was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1994. He is a consultant for several federal agencies, including the Department of Education and Administration for Native Americans. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Great Falls, a law degree from The University of Montana, and a master's in social work from Portland State University. He moved to Missoula to attend law school. "I have found Missoula to be very generous and supportive to me and my family. Serving on the school board is my way of giving back to my community and the children of the city the kindnesses we have received," he said. Sadler is a high school trustee representing the areas of Target Range and Bonner.



MICHAEL SMITH

Smith was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2010. He is currently an environmental science specialist with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Smith is a K-12 trustee serving both elementary and high school districts.



JOE TOTH

Toth was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2004. He works as Battalion Chief with the Missoula Fire Department and has a bachelor's in wildlife biology from the University of Montana and a secondary certification of broad field science. He taught in the adult education program for 13 years. "Missoula is a great town; we're lucky to live here," he said. Toth is a K-12 trustee serving both elementary and high school districts.



SHELLY WILLS

Wills was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009. She is a self-employed property manager and a stay-at-home mom. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from the Montana State University in 1984. She moved to Missoula after graduating so that her husband could attend The University of Montana School of Law. She is a volunteer at Missoula Children's Theatre, Graduation Matters Missoula Marketing Committee, MCPS Teaching and Learning Committee and the Hellgate High School coffee cart. She is a member of Christ the King Church. Wills is a K-12 trustee serving both elementary and high school districts.

IMPLEMENTING THE 21ST CENTURY MODEL OF EDUCATION

The 2011-2012 school year marked the first year of implementation of an exciting *21st Century Model of Education* for Missoula County Public Schools. In the year previous, MCPS collaborated with stakeholders to develop an educational vision and plan that would positively transform classrooms and schools, and ensure that students are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to be college and career ready.

The MCPS 21st century model is based on the integration of six key “elements of change” that are woven throughout programs across the district. These six elements are guiding the development and management of teaching and learning programs and services:

- INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
- TRANSFORM LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
- SUPPORT INNOVATORS
- PERSONALIZE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
- ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS
- COLLABORATE TO MAKE DECISIONS

Through innovative approaches and new technologies, educators are creating opportunities for students to be more engaged, to solve authentic “real world” problems, and to learn anywhere at any time of the day.

INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Connect student learning to the “real world” through authentic and innovative experiences.

HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY

Big Sky High School is officially a pioneer in the great state of Montana. The 2011-2012 year brought final preparations – including significant remodeling of several classrooms – for the launch of a Health Science Academy in fall 2012. About 90 freshmen students are in the inaugural class – in four years, the Academy will serve about 400 students in grades 9-12. The program is supported by a hands-on, project-based biomedical STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum. As students progress in the next four years, they will have opportunities to investigate health career pathways through work experiences and internships at Missoula’s hospitals and health care clinics, research laboratories, veterinary facilities and other locations.



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

“Engage globally, teach locally” is a descriptor often used to describe the philosophy of an International Baccalaureate Programme. Hellgate High School received final approval this year from the International Baccalaureate Foundation to launch an IB Programme in fall 2012 – only the second high school IB program in the state. The academic tract will serve junior and senior students through rigorous course work that focuses heavily on international education and service learning. Students can complete the full two-year program and earn an IB diploma, or take select classes and earn IB certificates. In September 2012, nearly one third of all juniors and seniors at Hellgate were registered for an IB class. Brit Hanford, an IB English teacher, said the curriculum emphasizes a skill set that will serve students well in college, and also in life. “The IB philosophy addresses the whole student, so it is essential that the material and the approach grow from an empathetic, genuine curiosity to understand human experience.” Hanford said her role as a teacher is more “participatory” in an IB class. “The classes are a community of learners where I am a learner as well as a guide.” Reflecting on her first month of teaching in the IB program, Hanford added: “The year, so far, has been thrilling and nerve-wracking. My students are working so hard and I have to bring my “A” game every single day. They deserve it and I want to do my part to make the program thrive for years to come.” MCPS hopes to establish IB programs at additional schools in the next few years.



Continued on next page

INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT *Continued*

iPAD INITIATIVE AT PAXSON ELEMENTARY

A group of Paxson Elementary students and staff are implementing the district's first one-to-one iPad initiative in fall of 2012.

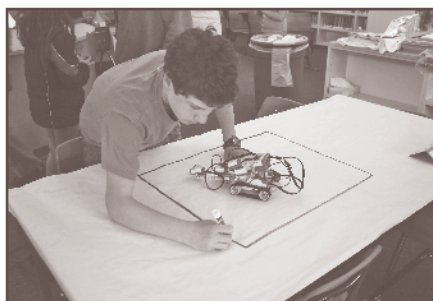


Paxson teachers during the 2011-2012 year created a research-based implementation plan for the tablets, which were purchased with a contribution from a generous private

donor. All second and fifth graders, as well as one class of kindergartners, are using the devices in math, reading, science and social studies curricula. The iPads increase students' ability to communicate and collaborate in problem-based learning activities. For example, the devices can link to digital whiteboards – allowing students to share their work through Apple TV. Peggy Manning, a second grade teacher, said her students adapted quickly to the technology and are excited to have the new tools at their fingertips. Paxson is not the only school that uses iPads – the devices, along with iPods and other similar tech tools, can be found in smaller numbers across the district.

MISSOULA ROBOTICS TEAM

MCPS launched a high school robotics team in the 2011-2012 year. A group of students representing all high schools



collaborated to design and construct a robot for the regional U.S. FIRST High School Robotics competition in Cheney, Wash. The students were supported by two advisors and numerous volunteers.

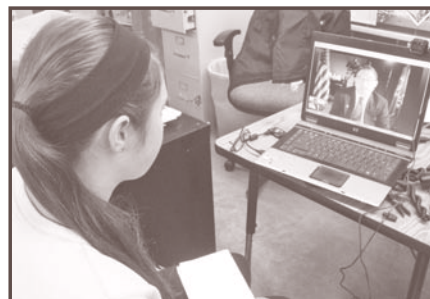
Missoula businesses contributed more than \$8,000 to help students acquire materials, complete the robot and attend the competition. The high school team will be back for the 2012-2013 school year; MCPS will expand robotics into middle schools at that time as well.

TRANSFORM LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Transform traditional school and classroom spaces and structures to embrace dynamic, sustainable and mobile learning environments.

MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY

Launched in 2010, the Montana Digital Academy offers a variety of core and elective online (Web-based) classes



for high school students, some of which provide opportunities to earn Advanced Placement credit and dual-credit (earning both high school and college credits). MTDA also provides

opportunities for students to recover credit and, by taking MTDA classes while maintaining full course loads, get back on schedule for “on-time” graduation – a goal of the Graduation Matters Missoula initiative. In the 2011-2012 year, MCPS students earned 174 credits through MTDA – 46 more credits than students earned in the 2010-2011 year. Region 1 Director Mark Thane explains that students are using MTDA to accelerate or extend their learning. “Students may access courses of interest that may not be included in the regular district course catalog, such as marine biology. In addition, they have the opportunity to take more courses than they can schedule in a traditional seven-period school day.”

CHANGING TIME AND SPACE

Two schools adjusted their schedules in the 2011-2012 year to pilot new concepts that give students enhanced academic support and class choices. Meadow Hill Middle School launched PACE (Practice Activity Choice and Enrichment), a program that allowed students to use the final 30 minutes of the school day to get special tutoring in a class of their choice or to attend their homeroom where they could finish schoolwork. Students in good standing were given additional choices on how to spend PACE time, creating an incentive for students to improve their academic standing. At Sentinel High School, students for the first time had an option to take a “zero hour” class at 7 a.m. The early morning class period allowed students to make up credits, take an extra class for enjoyment, or leave school early later in the day.

SUPPORT INNOVATORS

Support educators who wish to employ teaching practices that emphasize authentic learning experiences and increase student engagement.

INNOVATORS CADRE

MCPS was determined to support educators who implemented innovative teaching practices in their classrooms during the 2011-2012 year. In January 2012, the district organized the first “Innovator Cadre.” Through the winter and early spring, 35 teachers met in small groups to discuss their projects, exchange ideas and provide encouragement for each other. Projects addressed topics such as a flipped classroom, student-led conferences, learning blogs and standards-based grading. Many innovators participated in the TEDx and MSLAedu conferences. The cadre will come back together in 2012-2013.

TEDx AND MSLAedu

MCPS teachers and administrators participated in two special events on May 9, 2012, both designed to highlight innovative teaching and learning practices. The district partnered with The University of Montana to sponsor a half-day conference on the UM campus that showcased collaborative programs that demonstrated the University’s Global Leadership Initiative and MCPS 21st Century Model of Education. Learn more at www.mslaedu.org. Later in the day, a group of MCPS educators presented the first TEDxMCPSTeachers event at the Hellgate High School Auditorium. Eighteen administrators, teachers and students presented thoughtful and reflective commentaries on 21st century education on stage in TED talk style. The free event was limited to 100 audience members, but was streamed live on the Internet. TEDxMCPSTeacher presentations are available on YouTube. Learn more at www.TEDxMCPSTeachers.com.

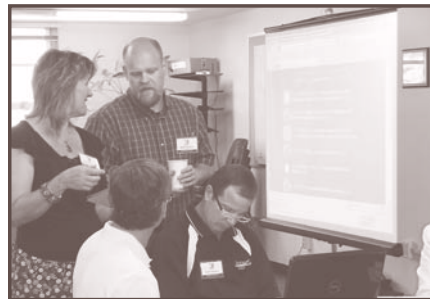


PERSONALIZE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Cultivate and model a culture of dynamic professional learning that embraces continuous change and improvement.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

One strategy that MCPS is employing to integrate the six elements of the 21st Century Model of Education into



school culture is Professional Learning Communities.

In education environments, PLCs are used to formalize the process of bringing a school community – in this case, teachers and

administrators – together to continuously seek and share learning and then to act on what they learn. Teachers work to enhance their effectiveness as professionals, and as a result students benefit from the PLC process. MCPS schools throughout the district are using the PLC model to address important topics and promote shared leadership.

ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS

Advance the use of communication tools that foster transparent conversation.

NEW WEB-BASED PLATFORMS TO ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING

MCPS launched two Web-based platforms in the 2011-2012 year to provide educators with online tools that enhance classroom learning and provide additional options for communication. The district established a wiki for staff who wish to share documents and collaborate online. The site has been extremely helpful for committees working on curricula review, 21st century projects and other collaborative efforts. View the wiki at www.mcpsonline.org. The district also purchased a K-12 website platform called Schoolwires that supports the district’s website and 17 school sites. The new platform offers an extensive menu of advanced Web 2.0 applications for teachers and students. New websites will be designed over a two-year period. View the new district site at www.mcpsmt.org.

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THE TARGET:

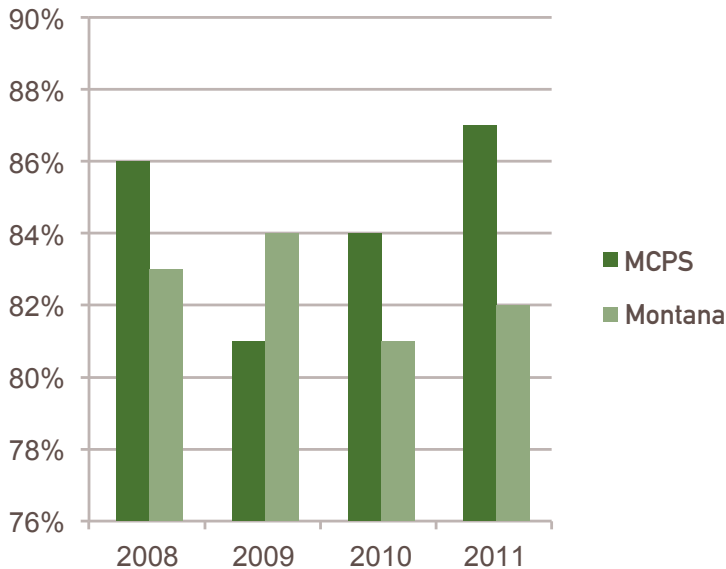
Every student will start – and finish – high school with a diploma in hand.

That’s the goal of Graduation Matters Missoula. MCPS continues to stay focused on this single aspiration by working with the community to create solutions to help at-risk students remain in school and earn their diplomas. The school-community partnership, launched in 2010, now serves as a model across the state. Inspired by the success of Missoula’s initiative, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau is helping communities of all sizes to focus on increasing the number of graduates. Students, parents, teachers and community members are coming together to address this very important state and national issue.

MCPS GRADUATION RATE IS UP

MCPS graduation rates have steadily improved over the past three years. The district’s rate was 87 percent in 2011, up six percent from 2009. The rate is based on the number of students in a single class who start and finish high school in four years having successfully earned a diploma (adjusting for transfer students).

Graduation Rates



In 2010, MCPS created special committees of counselors, teachers and administrators in its high schools to identify and assist students at risk for dropping out. As students become identified, teachers work with these students and their families to provide enhanced academic support, often focusing on credit recovery. Community agencies are called upon to provide resources to students who are struggling with poverty, homelessness, drugs and alcohol, and/or other issues. This new approach is paying off. Since 2009, the district has reduced its dropout rate from 4.7 percent to 2.6 percent; this is the lowest dropout rate of any AA district in Montana.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Graduation Matters Missoula was recognized in 2011 by the National School Boards Association as one of 18 recipients of its 2011 Magna Awards. Trustee Scott Bixler received the award at the NSBA national conference in San Francisco. Magna awards recognize successful educational programs that exhibit strong collaboration between school boards and community organizations and businesses. The NSBA featured Graduation Matters Missoula and other Magna recipients in its national magazine.

2011-2012 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 900 freshmen from Big Sky, Hellgate, Sentinel, Seeley-Swan and Willard schools were bused to The University of Montana's Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011, for the first annual Graduation Matters Missoula Freshmen Rally. This unique event provided an opportunity to demonstrate to freshmen how much the community cares about them and to address the importance of earning a diploma. Speakers included Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, UM President Royce Engstrom, MCPS Superintendent Alex Apostle, MCPS graduates who are now UM students, and many others. Monte, Missoula's number one celebrity, gave out numerous "high fives." For some freshmen, the rally provided their first opportunities to step foot on a college campus.
- GMM's four main committees – parents and family, schools and staff, community and business, and students – focused their efforts in the 2011-2012 school year on improving attendance, enhancing student wellness, engaging parents and community, and promoting early childhood development. The GMM Student Subcommittee conducted focus groups with MCPS high school students in December 2011 to learn more about the barriers to graduation. These discussions, combined with students' comments from the My Voice Survey, will help educators identify strategies to better assist students.
- Graduation Matters Missoula was awarded a \$3,600 grant from the Montana Office of Public Instruction to support building resilience and positive attributes in MCPS fifth graders. The award was one of 15 distributed by OPI, and was funded with a grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to the Graduation Matters Montana initiative.
- Graduation Matters Missoula held a special community celebration in March 2012 at Southgate Mall to recognize two years of progress. The event included speakers and a performance by Missoula's Flagship students.
- A marketing committee of students, staff and community members spent the 2011-2012 school year working with a local artist to design a new logo for Graduation Matters Missoula. The result was a creative design that mixes both modern and traditional elements, and has broader appeal to individuals of all ages. The logo also spawned a new website design at www.graduationmattersmissoula.org.
- Stakeholder meetings were held in the fall, winter and spring to keep the Missoula community up to date on GMM's progress and current projects.




The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and navigation links: Home, About GMM, Take Action, Multimedia, FAQs, Resources, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large image of hands clasped together, with a 'GET INVOLVED' call to action. Below this, there is a '100 PERCENT GRADUATION.' section with a brief description and a photo of graduates. On the right side, there are sections for 'CONNECT WITH GMM', including a sign-up for an e-newsletter and a Facebook link.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The support provided to MCPS schools through parent and community involvement is tremendous. Missoulians, and individuals living in neighboring communities, are proud of their public schools. Our schools – and district overall – are fortunate to experience communitywide support and genuine enthusiasm from students, parents and the general public. Each year, hundreds of parents, community members and local businesses donate time and materials to help MCPS further its educational mission.

MCPS registered more than 1,450 volunteers who performed service to students during the 2011–2012 school year. These volunteers included parents, college students, retired residents, business professionals and other community members who donated thousands of hours to assist educators both inside and outside of the traditional classroom. A sampling of volunteer activities included tutoring, mentoring senior projects, chaperoning field trips, chaperoning dances and other student activities, guiding student research, and providing work-based internships and job shadows. *Volunteers give in so many ways!*

The district launched a formalized and comprehensive Volunteer Resources program during the 2011–2012 school year. All volunteers were asked to register with the district and, depending on their assigned duties, many also completed a basic criminal background check. More than 700 of our 1,450 registered volunteers completed background checks and as a result were approved to work “unsupervised” with students (which means the volunteer can work directly with students without an MCPS employee being present). About 36 percent of volunteers identified themselves as parents of MCPS students, while 64 percent identified themselves as college students, businesspersons or community members who do not have students in MCPS schools.

The district has several partnerships with community organizations that provide volunteer services to students. Organizations include school parent-teacher groups (PTAs and PTOs), Flagship Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Missoula Aging Services, YWCA, Writing Coaches of Missoula, Missoula Family YMCA, Garden City Harvest, Montana Auto Technologies, Missoula Writing Collaborative, Missoula Parks and Recreation, Missoula Organization of Realtors, and numerous organizations affiliated with The University of Montana.

Plus *many, many, many* more businesses, organizations and individuals that go unnamed.

On behalf of everyone at Missoula County Public Schools, thank you to all of our volunteers. The work that you do every day in support of students and teachers is important and impactful. It helps students succeed and graduate!



SOME DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS

DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS

In 2011-2012, MCPS operated nine elementary schools, three middle schools, four high schools, an alternative high school program at Willard School and a preschool program at Jefferson School. The district served approximately 8,450 students. MCPS served hundreds of adult students in the community through its adult basic education, trade and technical, and special interest classes at The Lifelong Learning Center at the Emma Dickinson Building.

TITLE I SERVICES

MCPS served hundreds of students through Title I programs in the 2011-2012 school year. Title I provides federal funding to districts and schools with high numbers or high percentages of students from low-income families to help ensure that all students are achieving academically. Services were provided schoolwide at Franklin, Hawthorne, Lowell, Russell, C.S. Porter and Seeley-Swan schools. Big Sky and Hellgate high schools received Title I funding to provide services to eligible students. Each school receiving Title I funding has a plan that guides the development of specific programs and services in its building that are designed to improve student achievement. Schools review academic data annually to assess the needs of students and adjust Title I programs and services as necessary.

ENROLLMENT

	2010	2011	2012
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Chief Charlo	443	440	422
Cold Springs	472	475	463
Franklin	264	267	277
Hawthorne	317	322	326
Lewis and Clark	467	466	491
Lowell	245	276	285
Paxson	337	338	340
Rattlesnake	390	393	437
Russell	313	310	337

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

C.S. Porter	408	460	468
Meadow Hill	492	426	455
Washington	627	621	572

HIGH SCHOOLS

Big Sky	1031	1033	1047
Hellgate	1229	1239	1252
Seeley-Swan	101	102	113
Sentinel	1187	1191	1181
District (K-12)	8,323	8,359	8,466

% FREE & REDUCED MEALS

	2010	2011	2012
Elementaries	48.2	49.3	49.1
Middle Schools	40.9	42.7	41.5
High Schools	31.3	33.4	33.7

Data taken in February of each year.

ATTENDANCE

MCPS daily student attendance for the 2011-2012 year was 92 percent.

Since 2001, K-12 enrollment in MCPS schools has declined overall about 10 percent. In the past three years, however, enrollment is slightly up across the district, including larger-than-average class sizes for students entering kindergarten in both fall 2011 and fall 2012.

In recent years, MCPS has experienced an increase in the numbers of students receiving free or reduced-price meal benefits. The increase is largely due to the recession that continues to impact local, state and national economies, but MCPS staff is also working harder to reach out to families in need. The largest gains in the percentage of families receiving benefits in the 2011-2012 school year were at the high school level.

SCORE GAINS SHOW LEARNING IMPROVEMENT IN MISSOULA COUNTY

Each March, more than 4,000 students in MCPS schools sit down to take Montana’s annual assessment tests as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Students’ scores on these tests determine which schools and districts across the state achieve Adequate Yearly Progress; the Montana Office of Public Instruction publishes AYP data in the Montana NCLB Report Card, available online at www.opi.mt.gov.

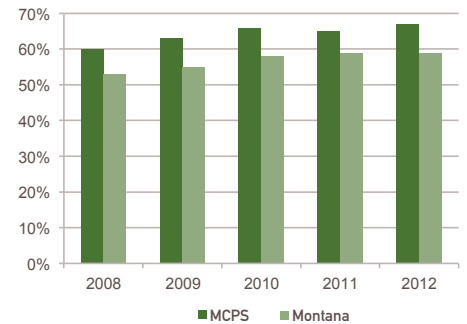
In March 2012, MCPS students – on average – performed better on these tests than did students across the state (as a whole) or the nation. The assessments measure students’ skills and knowledge in mathematics, reading and science.

Test results show steady progress toward improving MCPS students’ math scores. Educators are in the fourth year of implementing a new math curriculum that emphasizes developing math language and communication – so that students understand concepts rather than just follow a sequence of procedures. The curriculum is just one tool that educators are using to improve students’ performance.



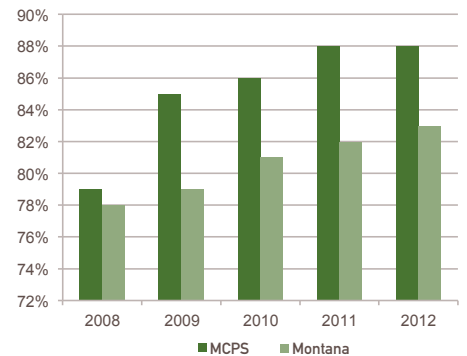
*Sixty-seven percent of all MCPS 10th graders (the only grade tested at high school level) scored proficient or advanced on the math assessment in March 2012. That’s two percent higher than last year and eight percent above the number of 10th graders scoring proficient or advanced across the state. The number of MCPS students in grades 3-8 who scored proficient or advanced in math was 78 percent, compared to 69 percent statewide.**

% Students (grade 10) Proficient or Advanced MT AYP Math



*The percent of MCPS 10th graders scoring proficient or advanced in reading held steady at 88 – five percent higher than 83 percent statewide. 93 percent of MCPS students in grades 3-8 scored proficient or advanced on the reading assessment, compared to 87 percent across the state.**

% Students (grade 10) Proficient or Advanced MT AYP Reading



*Data source: NCLB Report Card 2011-2012; OPI website.

Schools are required to meet 41 benchmarks on the Montana assessment tests to meet AYP under the federal NCLB Act. A school’s AYP is also calculated on test participation, academic achievement, graduation rate and other statistics. Every few years, the percentage of students who must achieve proficiency on state tests increases to get closer to a 2014 deadline of 100 percent proficiency for all students.

In 2012, the following MCPS schools made AYP under these strict federal guidelines: Chief Charlo, Cold Springs, Franklin, Hawthorne, Lowell, Paxson, Rattlesnake, Russell and Seeley-Swan.

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

MCPS GAINS NATIONAL AP RECOGNITION

MCPS was one of 400 districts in the nation to receive a prestigious honor from the College Board in fall 2011. The district joined the second annual **Advanced Placement Honor Roll** for simultaneously increasing access to AP courses while maintaining the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both goals is the ideal scenario. It indicates our high schools are identifying motivated, academically prepared students likely to benefit most from AP coursework. Since 2009, MCPS has increased its number of students participating in AP classes from 309 to 350. The percentage of students earning AP exam scores of 3, 4 or 5 has remained steady at 77 percent. The majority of U.S. colleges and universities grant college credit or advanced placement for a score of 3 or above on AP exams.



ACT

In 2012, 416 MCPS students registered and reported ACT scores – 59 more MCPS students than took the test in 2011. Average ACT composite scores for MCPS students were up slightly, boosted by increases in average scores in math, reading and science.

MCPS students who completed the ACT:

- 2011 – 357 students**
- 2012 – 416 students**

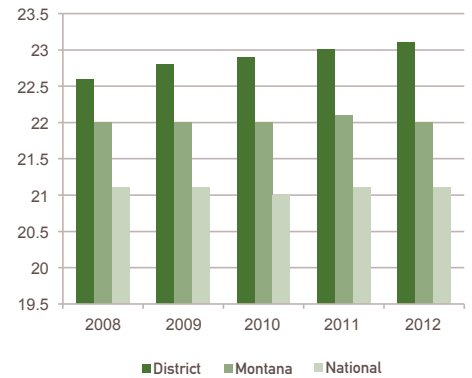
Sentinel students participate in ACT pilot

Sentinel High School's entire junior class of 235 students joined juniors at 50 other Montana high schools in taking the ACT Plus Writing test at no charge to them. Normally, students pay out of pocket each time they take an ACT or SAT college entrance test; and normally they take these tests during nonschool hours. This new pilot project resulted from a partnership between Montana's Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. In spring 2013, all juniors in Montana will take the test at no charge. The test will help them prepare for similar college entrance exams and help educators measure Montana students' college readiness. In this pilot year, Sentinel students' scores were not included in official ACT data that is reported to colleges across the country.

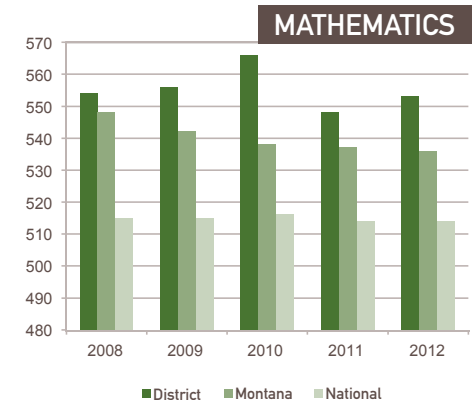
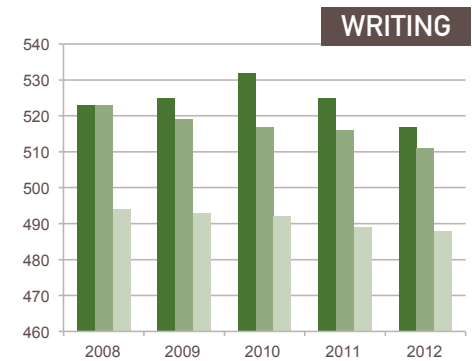
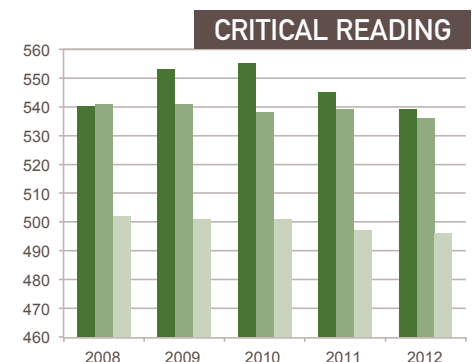
SAT

In 2011, 367 MCPS students registered and reported SAT scores – 82 more MCPS students than took the test in 2010. MCPS students on average scored above state and national averages in critical reading, math and writing.

ACT:
2008-2012 Comparison District/State/
National Composite Scores



SAT:
2008-2012 Comparison District/State/
National Mean Scores





MCPS GENERAL FUNDS AND BUILDING RESERVE FUNDS

MCPS is a unified school district, but operates two separate general fund budgets – a K-8 elementary budget and a grade 9-12 high school budget. The elementary and high school districts (budgets) have different student attendance boundaries and separate tax bases – the elementary district serves the urban Missoula core, and the high school district serves Missoula and several outlying neighborhoods and communities.

The general fund is the primary operating source for a Montana school district. The fund supports employee salaries and benefits, utilities, instruction and assessment programs, textbooks, supplies and equipment. It does not pay for transportation of students to and from school or for adult education programs.

In the 2011-2012 school year, MCPS received 51 percent of its total revenue for all budgeted funds from the state, 38 percent from local property taxes, 10 percent from county sources and 1 percent from local nontax sources.

MCPS operated on an elementary general fund budget of \$31,089,540 (up \$231,779 from the 2010-2011 school year) and a high school general fund budget of \$26,915,054 (up \$41,647 from the 2010-2011 school year). MCPS did not ask local voters to approve any additional levied taxes, such as an operation levy or building reserve levy, during the 2011-2012 academic year (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012).

BUILDING RESERVE PROJECTS

In May 2011, voters supported a \$2.5 million elementary building reserve levy (\$500,000 per year for five years) and a \$3.15 million high school building reserve levy (\$450,000 per year for seven years). Building reserve funds provide for limited new construction as well as day-to-day maintenance, repair, and equipping of schools, grounds and other facilities.

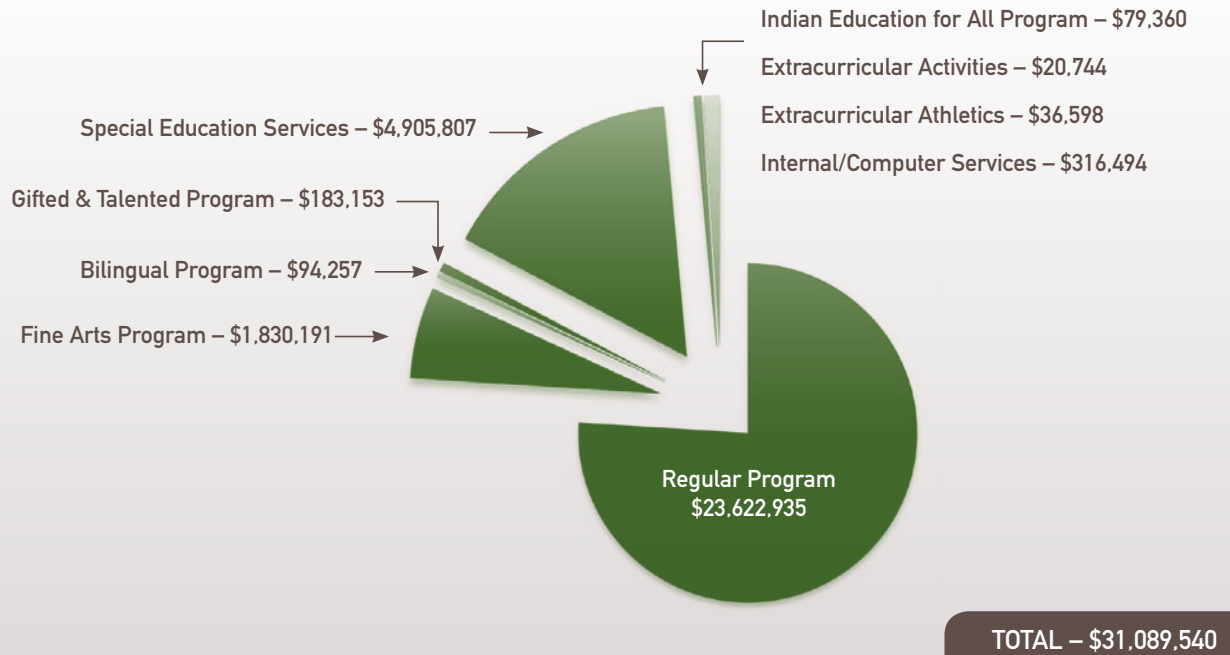
Here is a sampling of projects funded with building reserve moneys during the 2011-2012 school year (many projects were completed during summer months):

- **Remodeling of six classrooms and installation of specialized shelving and equipment for the Health Science Academy at Big Sky High School.**
- **Construction of two modular buildings, one at Lowell Elementary and one at Rattlesnake Elementary, to provide two additional classrooms at each school.**
- **Installation of new phone and data cabling to provide enhanced connectivity for computers and other mobile devices in the following buildings: C.S. Porter Middle School, Franklin Elementary, Seeley-Swan High School, Big Sky High School (only a portion of the school), MCPS Administration Building and Business Building.**
- **Major repairs to heating boilers at Hellgate and Sentinel high schools.**
- **Installation of new roof at Administration Building.**
- **Installation of additional security cameras at Sentinel High School.**
- **Installation of ADA-compliant bleachers in gymnasiums at Seeley-Swan High School and Jefferson Center.**
- **Remodeling at Russell and Franklin schools to provide enhanced classroom spaces.**
- **Remodeling of student bathrooms at Big Sky High School.**
- **Resanding and refinishing of gym floors at Lowell, Hawthorne, Cold Springs and Seeley-Swan schools.**
- **Annual maintenance, repair and updating of floors, windows, plumbing and heating systems, bathroom partitions and other equipment across the district.**

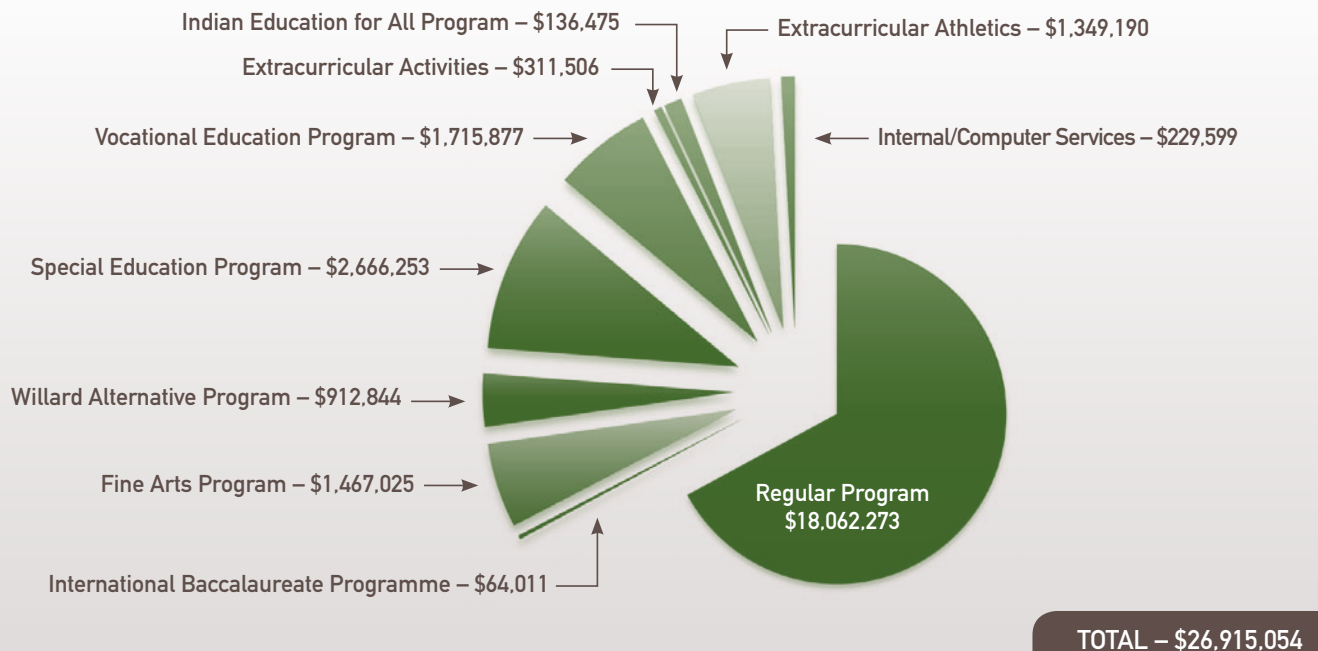


Rattlesnake Elementary

ELEMENTARY GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES – BY PROGRAM



HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES – BY PROGRAM



COLLABORATE TO MAKE DECISIONS

Establish a culture of collaboration to solve problems, make decisions and provide leadership.

HEALTH CLINIC AT LOWELL SCHOOL

Missoula's Partnership Health Center and MCPS are collaborating on the construction of a primary health care clinic at Lowell School in Missoula. The clinic's construction is supported by a \$500,000 federal grant, awarded to PHC, through the Affordable Care Act. This will be the first



school-based health care center in Montana and will serve Lowell students and their families. During the 2011-2012 school year, PHC worked with Lowell families and other neighbors to design the clinic building, which will be located adjacent to the school. Construction should begin during the 2012-2013 school year. The clinic will provide primary health services including health screenings and disease prevention services, services for chronically ill children, and dental and behavioral services.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

MCPS is committed to ensuring its curricula are aligned with Montana's Common Core Standards. The state adopted



Common Core Standards in English language arts, literacy and mathematics on Nov. 4, 2011. Montana is one of 45 states and three territories that have adopted common core state standards

in an effort to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn. Montana's standards are robust and relevant, and were developed through a state-led initiative sponsored by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. This past school year, MCPS educators collaborated to review and revise district curricula and instructional materials to ensure that they align at each grade level and provide a common sequencing to facilitate teachers' teamwork at the school level. In the next year, teachers will be working on implementation and assessment. Learn more online at www.opi.mt.gov.