

509-J Schools in Action!

www.jcsd.k12.or.us



Students continue on path of "learning" vs. "doing"

In Jefferson County, education is not about getting an "A", it's about getting the knowledge. For the past six years, Madras High School teachers and students have been moving towards a more meaningful teaching and learning system to help students graduate with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in college, careers and life. This year, all grade levels K through 8 will begin to prepare for the new standards-based grading system that measures how well they understand subjects instead of how many assignments they complete. This is a big shift in education across the country and JCSD 509J has been leading the charge for Oregon schools.



Josh Hoeker, MHS senior and student advisor to the school board.

"We're no longer just measuring what students are 'doing'," said District Instructional Coach Sue Taylor. "We're looking at what each student is actually learning and what they need to help them graduate for a successful future, whether that's college or a career or both."

According to JCSD 509J Superintendent Rick Molitor, the high school goals have been highly ambitious, which is a good thing, but the District team is continuously learning and adjusting to improve student success.

"We're moving to a more versatile grading system that still keeps the bar high and encourages growth," said Molitor.

According to Josh Hoeker, MHS senior and student advisor to the school board, the more flexible version of standards-based grading is a good compromise.

"Standards-based grading is a good thing because it allows teachers to hold students more accountable and it helps prepare us better for college, but now we don't have to pass every standard to pass a class," said Hoeker.

Students in primary grades are beginning to prepare for standards-based grading which will be in full swing by the 2016/2017 school year.



JCSD 509J School Board members (from left) Stan Sullivan, Laurie Danzuka, Tom Norton, Courtney Snead, and Lyle Rehwinkel.

School Board kicks off school year with special training

Recently the JCSD 509J School Board participated in a training to strengthen their skills as education champions and confirm their roles and responsibilities as board members. The training, sponsored by the Oregon School Board Association, includes a guided discussion of the roles played by board members and the District administration. OSBA also reviewed school board research, best practices, and protocols, district policies to shape understanding of these critical roles and their impact on student achievement.

"We talked about who does what and why, and how we can work together to better support students and prepare them for the future," said JCSD 509J School Board Chair Tom Norton.



Food Services staff members Diane Dodge (left) and Sally Thompson serve lunch to students at Buff Intermediate School.

Tasty Trivia

Did you know that during the 2014/2015 school year our Food Services team served more than:

- 648,000 meals
- 1 million fruit cups
- 600,000 cartons of milk
- 51,000 slices of pizza



"We have an amazing Food Services Team," said JCSD 509J Superintendent Rick Molitor. "They follow an incredible amount of guidelines to make sure our students are getting well-balanced, nutritional meals and they do a great job."



(From left) Linda Pantovich, cook's helper, Tamara Scroggs, head cook, and Meg Tucker, assistant cook, get ready for lunch at MHS.



JCSD 509J Superintendent Rick Molitor shares lunch and laughs with students at Buff Intermediate School.

Are you in the loop?

If you haven't signed up to receive important District updates by phone, email, text and social media, don't wait any longer! We want to be sure we can reach you in the event of an emergency! If you've already signed up, but your contact information has changed, let us know ASAP!

www.jcsd.k12.or.us/parents/509j-myconnect-calling-system

JCSD Alumni: Where are they now?

Do you know a JCSD alumni who has moved on to college and/or career success? We are looking to feature our graduates in future *Schools in Action* updates. If you know of a former student, drop a note and photo to Superintendent Rick Molitor: rmolitor@509j.net.

Getting to know our school board members



Meet Tom Norton, JCSD 509J School Board Chair. Tom's children are the third generation to attend school in the District. Tom's father served as the school board chair 26 years ago.

"I can't think of any place I would rather my kids become prepared to take on the world. They are exposed to so much and are being taught by great teachers. I'm proud to say that my kids go to 509J"

— Tom Norton Jr., School Board Chair



New Buff Intermediate Principal Billie White spends time with students during lunchtime.

"The staff members at Buff have been amazing and they were so excited to have the kids back in the building."

— Billie White, Buff Intermediate Principal

Performing Arts Center Events

PAC

October

3 "Coming to Light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indians" 4:00 p.m. • All Ages • Free Admission • Donations Welcome
Film screening to celebrate Sept./Oct. *Shadow Catcher* Exhibit Presented by JCSD 509J in partnership with A6 Gallery, The Museum at Warm Springs, and BendFilm Festival.

9 "Songs My Brothers Taught Me" BendFilm Festival 6:00 p.m. • Free Admission • Donations Welcome
Adults Only (adult language and themes, drug/alcohol use/reference) American drama film written and directed by Chloé Zhao. The film, set on the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Badlands, explores the bond between a brother and his younger sister. Premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival, and screened at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

November

17 "Mistatim" 6:00 p.m. • All Ages • Free Admission • Donations Welcome
A coming of age theater production about the truest of friendships. Presented by JCSD 509J in partnership with the Tower Theater's LessonPlan Program.

For more information, call 541.475.4327 or visit www.jcsd.k12.or.us/PAC.

Calendar

October
8-9 No School/Teacher Work Days
12 School Board Meeting: 7 p.m./SSB
26 School Board Meeting: 7 p.m./SSB
30 Last Day of 3rd Quarter

