



Pictures of students who won awards during Academic Week line the hallway at MHS.

## Madras High Celebrates Academic Week

Madras High School students and staff celebrated “Academic Week” recently with a host of activities promoting the importance of doing well in school and aiming for college after graduation.

A different dress theme was adopted for each day including graduation robes for staff, college t-shirts and accessories, dress for success day, and “Top 10” t-shirts donned by juniors and seniors in the top ten of their class. Students earned tickets based on academic performance for the chance to win a prize. Ice cream and cake were given out to those with a 3.5 or better GPA. Donuts were passed out to students with big academic improvements and for those with good attendance.

“Academic Week helped us recognize our students’ accomplishments and the hard work and effort they are putting into their education,” said MHS Principal Mark Neffendorf. “They learned about options after high school and the benefits of a college education.”



Class doors were decorated to reflect each teacher’s Alma Mater or career path during “Academic Week” at MHS.



Tech savvy students in the MHS Advanced Computer Tech CTE class choose their own challenging projects using programs that teach them video game design, physics, web design, coding, movie making, photo editing, and music mixing and editing.

## CTE Offers Pathways to Rewarding Careers

Madras High School students have the option of exploring a variety of job fields through Career and Technical Education programs. CTE provides students with elective choices that enhance both their academic and technical skills. The school’s four existing programs have been improved and expanded, and two new CTE options are being added to the roster for fall.

According to the national CTE Association, high school students involved in CTE are more engaged, perform better and graduate at higher rates. In Oregon, 85 percent of CTE students graduate from high school, 94 percent meet or exceed reading attainment goals and nearly 86 percent meet or exceed math attainment goals.

Currently, MHS students can take classes in video and media production, business, natural resources/forestry, and agriculture. The two new programs to be added in the Fall are construction and manufacturing/engineering. The new programs will be taught by two MHS graduates -- Jacob Struck and Ben Anderson.

Ray Hasart, a long-time educator and former Oregon Teacher of the Year, will be joining the district in July to help MHS expand and improve its CTE programs.

*“Once you make programs relevant to what kids want to learn about, they become more engaged and learn at a much faster rate,” said Hasart. “Focusing on CTE is a great opportunity for Madras High School to improve its graduation rates and help steer its students towards a successful future.”*

— Ray Hasart, Educator

### Performing Arts Center Events

#### May

- 24 Buff Music Lessons Recital - 6 p.m.
- 25 Madras Primary Lessons Recital - 6 p.m.

#### June

- 1 Madras Primary Spring Concert – 7 p.m.
- 2 MHS Band Spring Concert – 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Buff Intermediate Spring Concert – 6 p.m.
- 9 Buff Secondary Graduation – 9 a.m.
- 17 Dance Arts Showcase – 7 p.m.
- 18-19 Dance Arts Early Grade Recital 2 p.m.



## MHS Student Wins State National History Day Competition

Madras High School junior Thyrecia Simtustus won first place in the senior exhibit category at the Oregon National History Day competition and will go on to compete in the June nationals at the University of Maryland. In addition, Simtustus and her project were chosen to represent Oregon at the National Museum of American History on June 15 in Washington D.C.

Her project, an exhibit called “Encounters and Exchange: the Mid-Columbia Indian Trade Network,” fit this year’s National History Day theme -- Exploration, Encounters, Exchange in History. A Warm Springs tribe member, Simtustus spent months afterschool and on weekends researching her presentation. As a descendent of Chief Tommy Thompson of the Celilo Tribe, she has a deep personal connection to the subject.

“I chose this topic because it was an opportunity for me to study my own Native American history,” explained Simtustus. “At first I knew very little about the subject; only that my people were from the Celilo Falls area and my great-grandfather (five generations ago) was the chief of the Celilo Village during its inundation in 1957. During my research, I learned that Native American people lived along the mid-Columbia river and fulfilled their lives fishing, hunting,



MHS junior Thyrecia Simtustus poses with her presentation that won first place at the Oregon National History Day competition.

gathering and trading with numerous people for over 11,000 years.”

Nearly 130 students from around the state competed at the event sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society. Simtustus easily handled questions from the judges about her research process, her project’s relationship to the theme and her personal connection as a tribal member.

“Having this opportunity to study my own culture and history was amazing,” Simtustus said.

## Helping Special Needs Students Transition to Adulthood

Do you know a student between the ages of 17 and 21 with special needs who could use help preparing for life after high school?

The High Desert Education Service District’s Transition Network (hdesd.org/services/transition-network) offers many resources to assist in preparing Central Oregon students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead independent and productive lives after high school.

TN’s website has helpful information for students, families and educators including listings of community partners that provide services such as vocational rehabilitation, support services, developmental disability programs, family advocacy and employment services. The site also has transition planning guides, tips, assessments and much more.

You can also follow HDESD Transition Network on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. For more information about transition support for students with special needs in the Jefferson County School District, contact Wendy Dove at wdove@509J.net.



Students in the MHS Transition Program get employment experience by working at the Heart of Oregon Corps Thrift Store.

### Calendar

#### June

- 9 Last day of school
- 13 School Board Meeting – 7 p.m.
- 27 School Board Meeting – 7 p.m.

