



Leadership Corner

A Message from Rick Molitor Superintendent



We're excited to welcome our JCSO students, families and staff to the new school year. Each year we show improvements in reading, writing and math and each year we strive to do better. We still have work to do in meeting state standards, but we've been making great progress over the past several years and continue to partner with families and community members to help students succeed. Our percentages are climbing as we work to meet the individual learning styles and interests of our students.

Here are a few accomplishments from last year:

- Students from Warm Springs K-8 Academy increased their median growth percentile by 16% in English Language Arts and 10% in Math.
- ACT scores for Madras High School students are above the state average in all areas.
- The percentage of Madras High freshman on track for graduation has increased to 79%.
- 90% of our parents surveyed feel the assigned school work is relevant to their child's future success.
- 85% of our students surveyed feel their teacher expects them to do their best.

Here are a few exciting new things happening this year:

- We've opened a new school (Bridges Career and Technical High School).
- We're expanding our Career and Technical Education programs and staff.
- We've opened a new Futures Center to help students plan for college and career training.
- We're working to increase collaboration and build stronger relationships with our tribal partners.
- Metolius Elementary is welcoming life-skills learners to their newly remodeled building.
- Madras Elementary (formerly Primary) and Buff Elementary (formerly Intermediate) are now welcoming students in grades K-5.
- Buff Elementary is launching a new K-5 Behavior Program.
- Madras Elementary is welcoming a K-5 Life Skills Program.
- The Warm Springs K-8 Academy is welcoming many new team members to support the individual needs of our students.
- Big Muddy K-8 is welcoming their largest student body to date.

All of our efforts are designed to provide students with the skills and characteristics they need for success in school and life. Please join us as we strive to improve education for Jefferson County School District students. We look forward to partnering with you!

Rick Molitor, JCSO Superintendent



(Upper left): Teachers new to the district listened attentively to a panel of 509-J veterans during new teacher induction week. (Upper right): New 509-J teachers experienced a round dance with Warm Springs youth while touring the Museum at Warm Springs during new teacher induction week.

Life Skills program rolls out at Madras

Madras Elementary is offering a new program this year for students who need support developing life skills. The program teaches functional academics and daily living skills with a strong concentration on social skills.

"The Life Skills program is one of several options we offer to students who need special education services," said Special Education Director Barbara Garland.

According to Garland, the curriculum is based on individualized need and may include communication, socialization, functional academics, daily living skills or motor skill development.

"A child may need to develop skill in communicating his or her needs to others, for example," explained Garland. "Another may need to learn the functional routine of toileting. We tailor the learning for each individual student."

Inspiring positive behavior

Buff Elementary is implementing a new behavior intervention program this year called INSPIRE. INSPIRE targets students experiencing behavioral, emotional, or social challenges and helps them adjust to expected classroom norms and routines.

"We are teaching these students the skills they need to be successful in school," said Buff Elementary Principal Billie White. "Our goal is to help them learn to cope and flourish in the classroom."

Two behavior specialists are teaching the program. Tasha Huskey will be working with students in grades K-2 and Annie Entenmann with grades 3-5. Students will spend time on class work in addition to learning behavior skills.

"The program also incorporates academics so students don't miss out while they are away from their regular classroom," White explained.

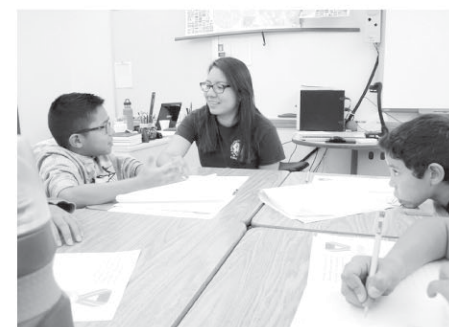
INSPIRE is provided through the Jefferson County Education Service District.

Madras Elementary hosts summer interns



Ingrid Sanchez works with students at Madras Elementary this summer. Sanchez was taking part in the Teach Central Oregon internship program which aims to increase the quality, diversity, and coordination of teaching in Central Oregon.

Madras Elementary was fortunate enough to host several summer interns taking part in the Teach Central Oregon initiative. Coordinated through the High Desert Education Service District, Teach Central Oregon is aimed at increasing the quality, diversity and coordination of teaching in Central Oregon. The Madras interns taught groups, assisted with prep work, observed in the classroom, and supervised playground activities during recess.



(Upper left): Madras Elementary second graders get help from summer intern Patty Santos. (Upper right): Intern Laura Diaz works with Madras Elementary fourth graders this summer.

JCSO builds bridges to success

When it comes to the challenge of completing high school, the Jefferson County School District understands that one size does not fit all. The traditional four years in a regular high school setting doesn't work for some students who have difficulty fitting in or who experience personal challenges in their lives that makes focusing on academics more difficult at times.

The district now offers a variety of options to students who fall behind in credits and need support to get back on the graduation track.

"We want to do everything possible to ensure the success of all JCSO students," said Superintendent Rick Molitor. "We experienced success with some of our alternative programs last year and are rolling out more options this year."

The Annex

Madras High School alternative program, called "The Annex" because of its location, saw 40 students graduate last year – the most students in one school year to complete all grad requirements since the program opened six years ago.

"The students who graduated all worked incredibly hard, stayed the course, followed the guidelines and expectations, and the system worked for them," said Caron Smith, who ran the Annex program last year.

Building bridges

This fall, the Annex will become part of the Bridges Career & Technical High School located at the site of the original Madras Union High School.

A second campus, located at the old Warm Springs Elementary, will be the Bridges Center at Warm Springs. This center offers another path for Warm Springs students to achieve success in their education and future lives. Students can attend whichever campus is the best fit for them.

Smith is working with counselor Jess Swagger and teacher Earl Simmons on changes to the Warm Springs program.

"We will use a system similar to the Annex that provides the structure and guidelines to help keep students on track. Our main goal with both Bridges Annex and Bridges Center in Warm Springs is for students to earn credits, complete their state essential skills and career requirements and to graduate from high school," Smith explained.

Credits are earned through an on-line studies program that allows for more flexibility and individualization than a traditional high school model can usually provide.

Meeting with Students and Families

"We are fortunate that JCSO sees the value in providing multiple opportunities for students to graduate. It's very exciting when students begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel and start really taking charge of their lives," said Smith.

To ensure that all students start the school year off on the right track, Smith and her colleagues plan on meeting with learners and their families as soon as possible.

"We are meeting with the families and students who will attend Bridges Career-Tech in both Madras and Warm Springs. We are checking their credits and graduation requirements, setting goals to move them forward, and putting some supports in place for student success," Smith said. "We hope to meet with all Bridges Career-Tech students and families by the start of school. We want to have those success plans in place right away so students can get started building a strong and positive foundation for learning."

September 23
Film & Fundraiser:
Harry and Snowman
Tickets: \$10
(benefitting Warm Springs Horse Network)
Silent Auction: 6:30 pm • Film: 7 pm

PAC

Calendar

September

26 School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. (SSB)