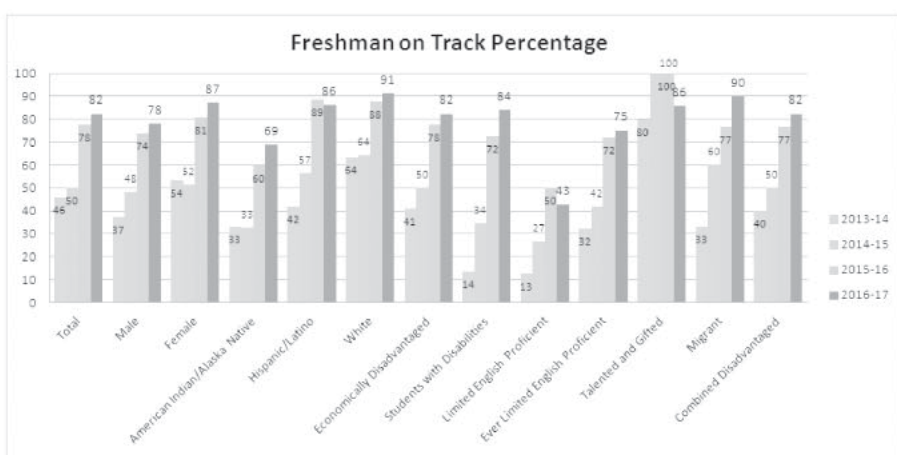




Above left: Buff Elementary teachers Erika Scaar (left) and Angel Wilson (far right) visit local neighborhoods with popsicles to welcome kids to the new school year.

Above right: Buff Elementary teacher Hayley Campbell greets kids in the community with smiles and popsicles.



MHS freshmen on track to graduate

The MHS team has been working hard to build stronger relationships with students from the moment they walk through the doors of the high school as freshman. The goal is to improve high school graduation rates.

“That 9th grade year is critical for students. If they are failing two or more classes at the end of their freshman year, we know there is an 80% chance that they will drop out of high school,” said MHS Co-Principal HD Weddel.

According to Weddel, there is no one “magic bullet” for student success, but building relationships is a first and important step.

“The high school team has been working toward this goal for several years, but we’re really focused on connecting with students to understand their challenges outside of school,” said MHS Co-Principal Mark Neffendorf. “We know that family and friends can have a huge impact on

student success. We’re trying to get to know our students better and provide extra support and guidance to those who need it.”

Weddel added that accountability, trust, respect and attendance are key to helping students succeed.

“We have a number of student-centered systems in place that focus on clearly communicating expectations for both academics and behavior,” said Weddel.

In addition to working with freshman, the new Bridges Career and Technical Education High School has created an opportunity for those students who are still struggling at the end of freshman year.

“We know that our students at Bridges are very encouraged to have the option of finishing high school in a non-traditional setting and many are moving toward graduation as well,” said Weddel.



The Buff Elementary team gets ready to deliver popsicles in the community before the start of the school year.

Off to a sweet start with Buff!

On Friday, September 1 – the week before school started -- Buff Elementary teachers and staff hopped on a school bus to visit local neighborhoods and welcome kids back to school. With smiles and popsicles, teachers and staff said hello and let the kids know they were excited to have them back in the classrooms.

“We just wanted to welcome them back to school and get them excited about coming back, since we all are!” said Buff Elementary Principal Billie White.

In addition, the Buff team made a special popsicle delivery to the staff at Metolius Elementary.

“It’s a fun way to kick off the school year and we wanted to let our friends at Metolius know we are excited to partner with them again too,” said White.

MHS to welcome distinguished alumni

JCS students, teachers, staff, and community members will gather to honor six distinguished alumni from Madras High School during Homecoming Week on Friday, September 29. Upon arrival, the honorees will be paired with student leaders who will escort them and their families throughout the day’s activities:

- 9:45 – 10:45: Breakfast/Madras Performing Arts Center
- 11:00 – 12:00: Student assembly/MHS Gym
- 12:15 – 12:45: Reception with MHS staff/MHS Library
- 12:45 – TBD: Panel interview with alumni/MHS Library
- 5:45 – TBD: Pre-Homecoming game “Tailgater”/MHS PAC
- 7:00 – TBD: First Quarter alumni recognition/MHS Athletic Field

Honorees include:



1. Margaret McBride Lehrman (MHS '62)
National Emmy award-winning producer and Washington deputy Bureau Chief for NBC.



2. Tom Norton Sr. (1940-2007; MHS '58)
Premier cattle buying and transporting entrepreneur and long-standing school board member.



3. Erin Olson (MHS '82)
State, Federal and private practice prosecutor and recipient of the National Crime Victim Institute’s Legal Advocacy Award.



4. Ken Smith (MHS '54)
Former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs and CEO of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.



5. Juanita (Wickham) Kurtin, PhD (MHS '92)
Co-founder and chief technical officer of Pacific Light Technologies, a leader in the development and application of quantum dot technology.



6. Dallas Stovall (MHS '75)
President/CEO of Bright Wood Corporation, a leading supplier of high-quality precision wood components for windows, doors, and other millwork products in Oregon, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Otautau, New Zealand.

“This is our second year to welcome and honor Madras High School alumni who have made tremendous contributions to society,” said MHS Co-Principal HD Weddel. “We are proud to have graduated these remarkable individuals. Their accomplishments have made our communities and world a better place.”

According to Weddel, the annual event has two important goals.

“We want to celebrate these remarkable leaders and their accomplishments while inspiring our current MHS students. These alumni who graduated from our local education system have made a tremendous impact both locally and worldwide. They are role models who exemplify the power of education and perseverance,” said Weddel.



Metolius students share tomatoes picked from the school garden.

Metolius in full bloom

The garden and greenhouse at Metolius Elementary are in full bloom thanks to support from the JCS maintenance crew, district office, and local Lowes and Ace Hardware stores. Grants and donations have the kids up to their elbows in flowers and veggies and the monarch butterflies are thriving right alongside the students.



Students from Metolius Elementary grow gardening skills thanks to district and community support.



Gus Torres, custodian at Metolius Elementary, helps make the Metolius Elementary garden possible.

PAC Calendar

September

29 MHS Distinguished Alumni Events (see article above)

October

6 Popovich Comedy Pet Theater/ 7 pm

Calendar

October

- 9 School Board Meeting/ 7 pm/ District Office
- 13 No School – Inservice Day
- 23 School Board Meeting/ 7 pm/ District Office
- 29 MHS Distinguished Alumni Events (see article above)

November

- 3 No School – End of quarter teacher workday

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, contact the District office at (541) 475-6192.



Visit the District website at jcsd.k12.or.us