

## **MISSION**

At Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS), our mission is to ensure that each student achieves his/her full and unique potential.

## **VISION**

The MCPS Board of Trustees represents all citizens of the District in their stewardship of Missoula County Public Schools. To this end, the Strategic Plan includes the following vision that describes what the Board of Trustees strives to provide.

### **MCPS Learning Environment**

MCPS is a non-judgmental, inclusive, personalized, adaptable, learning environment where individual talents are identified and explored and children are fully challenged in small learning communities with adults who care. Children are celebrated and “membership” in the school is facilitated for every child. Children have stimulating interdependent and independent learning experiences and learning is related to the outside world at all grade levels. A climate of respect exists, and rules and policies are in place, understood, and consistently applied within buildings and across the District. District high schools continue to be evaluated with movement toward a model that addresses identified issues; meets the District’s vision and goals; assures equity and challenge regarding class and program opportunities regardless of building attended; encourages active involvement of all students; facilitates the flexibility (scheduling) to accommodate the diverse needs of today’s high school students; and works collaboratively with families, teachers, and counselors to successfully transition students from “feeder” Districts.

### **MCPS Educators**

Educators at MCPS are experts in their fields, critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and planners who are actively involved in accomplishing District goals and strategies. Educators’ enthusiasm, nurturing, and love for working with children are demonstrated by efforts to meet the needs and goals of individual children and their learning styles. MCPS educators creatively stimulate and challenge students with the result being children who discover they can do more than they ever imagined. All staff members successfully communicate and are competent in behavior management strategies. They value opportunities to work collaboratively to increase their individual depth and breadth of knowledge about learning as well as subject matter. MCPS educators mirror local diversity and work to understand the local community and its educational values and goals. Professional development is aligned with District vision and goals, curriculum, and assessment data. MCPS educators are publicly recognized for creative, successful strategies and their ability to teach.

### **MCPS Instruction**

MCPS offers a variety of “whole child” instructional programs, practices, and literatures that are integrated rather than compartmentalized – curriculum content to content, building to building, and throughout the K-12 system. Decisions are made based on instructional goals, and best practices and processes in education are embraced. Teaching plans, aligned to learning targets, guide all classrooms. Technology is used appropriately. A number of assessment tools are used in addition to current required “testing”.

### **MCPS Facilities**

All MCPS facilities are safe, clean and inviting; age-appropriate; in good repair; wired for technology and “wireless” for information access; handicapped accessible; family-friendly; and have space for all activities. Wherever possible, buildings are designed and operated to address societal goals such as energy conservation and recycling. At the same time, the District recognizes the importance of buildings that are historical community assets. MCPS exhibits stewardship and responsible planning regarding facilities through a facilities master plan. It works carefully with the community regarding use and disposition of school buildings and appraises the real and long term value of District assets before making decisions. The District recognizes that budget and size are not the only influencing factors regarding the opening and closing of buildings and reconfiguring attendance boundaries. Facilities are considered vehicles for public education and the District uses public services to support them.

### **MCPS Community**

MCPS is committed to implementation of an active model for genuine community partnership and ongoing evaluation of the success of that model. Through that partnership, the District develops understanding of the needs and desires of the community regarding its public schools and charges the community with active involvement. MCPS provides access to information and facilitates two-way communication and ongoing conversations among students, educators, parents, the Board and the general public. The District’s Strategic Plan is a dynamic document and timelines and benchmarks for achieving its desired ends are shared, discussed, and monitored with the community. The District facilitates attachment and involvement and capitalizes on volunteer expertise in the community. Active involvement with stakeholders (i.e., families/parents, students, teachers, counselors, etc.) from “feeder” districts, internal and external to MCPS, results in a smooth transition for students and their families.