

MISSION

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

(Approved by Board of Trustees 2009)

VISION

MCPS provides a broad education, recognized for its quality, for every student in a safe, stimulating learning environment. All MCPS students are challenged to develop critical thinking skills, citizenship responsibilities, communication competency, value for the arts, literature, and sciences, understanding of the importance of health and wellness, a love for learning, and preparation for life beyond high school regardless of their vocational pathway. The community trusts and supports the MCPS Board of Trustees' leadership and vision because the Board: Seeks out and values input from the community through useful public participation strategies and is known for fiscal responsibility and efficiency. Hires highly qualified and competent administration and staff and encourages ongoing education for them as well as Board members. Searches out and is successful at finding alternative and non-traditional funding sources to support District programs. Is perceived by the public as competent, consistent and having integrity.

(MCPS Website, 2014)

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 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.

(MCPS K-12 Technology Standards, 2011)

FIVE MEASURABLE DISTRICT GOALS

- Achievement and graduation for all students, regardless of their circumstances and abilities
- Refine and implement a quality supervision and evaluation program for all staff
- Define and implement a quality professional development program that encompasses best practices and supports the needs of all staff
- Restructure the organization to become more efficient, effective and accountable to support the goals of the District
- Cultivate and enhance staff, student, parent, business and community involvement

(MCPS Website, 2014)