

Mancos School District

Strategic Plan Report

OBJECTIVE 1A: *Our district will use Project Based Learning to connect our students with professionals, and place students into our local businesses/organizations to provide authentic learning experiences.*

Submitted by: School District Administration

October 18, 2021

Board of Education Strategic Plan Report

OBJECTIVE 1A: *Our district will use Project Based Learning to connect our students with professionals, and place students into our local businesses/organizations to provide authentic learning experiences.*

Work Study Program

The work study program is available to high school students. Currently students work at the Mancos Volunteer Fire Department, Cox Conoco, and Fahrenheit Coffee Roasters. The student and the employer align work hours to complement students' schedules as outlined in the work study contract. Additionally, there is a rubric that the employer has to complete each semester to confirm alignment with the students' career interests.

Career Talks

Mancos High School hosts *Career Talks*, which focuses on 9-12th grade students' exploration of career fields. These Google Meets talks prepare students to join the workforce, or explore career options after post-secondary training. Career professionals are allotted 20 minutes to present information about work responsibilities, required training, career outlook, careers in similar fields, work-life balance, and more, through presentation and question and answer. Students learn how to create an education path from high school to career. Approximately 112 students attend each week. After the meetings, students have an informal discussion with teachers, and some visit with the registrar to discuss next steps for their education, as a result of the meetings.

Board of Education Strategic Plan Report

We have the following scheduled for this year; Rick Spencer-Fire/EMS, Anthony Mestas-Welder, Ashley Berry-Radiologic Tech/MR Tech, Neil Dolder-Project Superintendent, Tomena Goodwin-Nurse/Medical Spa, Justin Goodall-Mancos Marshal, Carrie Hawkins-Dental Hygiene, Emily Hutcheson-Brown-COO of V's Barbershop, Travis White-Chiropractor, Eddie Martinez-Paramedic, Ryan Brown-Musician, Dale McNamee-Pilot/Owner: Chrome Mafia Custom Cycles, Cayce Lockhart-Veterinary Technician, Cody Miller-User Experience Designer & Researcher at Google, Emily Baumgartner-Cosmetologist/Salon Owner, and Holly Crites-Chef/Hotel Restaurant Management.

Parent Volunteers

We have over 35 Watch DOGS already signed up for this year, and will have a Watch DOG at least once a week until December. Signed up now, we have a minimum of a Watch DOG at least twice a month 2nd semester. Watch DOGS are fathers, uncles, grandfathers, or male community members. They are employed in no specific profession, as Watch DOGS are from all areas of employment. When they are on campus, they are scheduled to be in their own child's classroom for the first 30 minutes, eat lunch, (which is paid for by the school) with their child, and end the day in their child's classroom. Throughout the day they are in every grade level classroom throughout the school, out on recess, in Specials, etc. They help with reading, math, recess duty, etc. They are an extra pair of eyes and ears, as well as assisting teachers and students throughout their day. A personal 'thank you card', written and signed by the elementary principal, with the picture of the Watch DOG and their student, is given to them at the end of the day. Their picture is also hung on the Wall of Fame board at the elementary school. At the end of the day the Watchdog takes the WATCH D.O.G.S ® 'End of Day' online survey at

Board of Education Strategic Plan Report

<https://dadsofgreatstudents.com/end-of-day>. Finally, there are several volunteer positions listed on the school website.

Parent of the month

The 4th grade has a ‘Parent of the Month’ come into the classroom. ‘Parent of the Month’ is an opportunity for each family to come in and share something about their family. It can be a profession, share a favorite book, memories about a vacation, a favorite recipe or craft... just about anything! The 4th grade wants to create a community in their classrooms where students can have their family in the limelight and the rest of the students will get to know their classmates better. Additionally, the elementary school has parent and community volunteers that have a designated time that they come into the classroom. (e.g. We have one signed up that goes into 2nd grade on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00.) The volunteers need to fill out an application and a background check is completed. The librarian has a volunteer that works from home to prepare new books for the elementary library. She puts in the AR information (Quiz number, Reading level, and point value), and tapes and stamps the books. Furthermore, the Mancos School District has volunteers working on campus who have officially filled out the volunteer application and went through the CBI driver’s license background check. The volunteer serves as an elementary classroom aide, elementary PE yoga instructor, and the high school football helper.

Community Engagement with Student Learning

Willowtail Springs - Beginning in the Spring 2020 semester, a partnership was formed between The Willowtail Springs Lodge & Nature Preserve and the Mancos School District. As an initial flagship PBL project, our Art and Outdoor Education and Science teachers developed a

Board of Education Strategic Plan Report

plan to produce an inventory of the native trees and woody plants on the preserve, which would then become a published guidebook (both physical and digital) for the preserve to use for its visitors, and more importantly for Willowtail, to become accredited as an arboretum. At this point in the project, the students have made two trips to Willowtail to learn species identification and sketching techniques, conducted species identification and documentation, and are now building an inventory.

Shaw Solar - The physics class has begun a project to evaluate the costs involved in providing electrical power to the Mancos RE-6 campus. As part of this process, an expert in solar energy from Shaw Solar has made one visit to the class to provide the students with the initial resources and information necessary to assess each of our campus buildings. Students have since been engaged in the process of a cost/benefit analysis to determine whether or not a conversion to solar energy would be cost effective for our campus. Shaw Solar is committed to a return visit to evaluate the work done by the students and provide feedback.

Mancos Gear Share - Over the last ten months, what started as a partnership between the MSD and the Mancos Public Library to establish a community gear-lending library has grown into a community-wide collaborative effort, with opportunities for student involvement now coming into the picture. Currently, there is one student that has committed to serving on the steering committee, one student that will act as Spanish translator for all Mancos Gear Share communication (with potential to expand this effort out to our state parks), and conversations are in progress around the idea for Math and/or Econ students to help build a 501c3 business plan. Additionally, the high school art class has begun the process--supported by a class visit & professional activity--of developing a professional quality logo and tag-line with the guidance of local and nationally renowned brand developer T.J. Zark. Lastly, a plan is in place for our

Board of Education Strategic Plan Report

Mancos students to design and paint the physical gear library space that will be located behind the Mancos Common Press. While it is not directly connected to student involvement, it is worth noting that throughout this project's process, we have gained financial support and partnership commitment from the Mancos Creative District, Alpacka Raft Co, the Town of Mancos, Friends of the Mancos Library, as well as support through in-kind donations from community members and numerous regional businesses. *Town Parks Trail & Kiosks* - Nearing completion (MTG, SJMA, Town, MSD) Now entering its third year, the Town Parks Trail partnership project, which is a collaboration between the Mancos Trails Group, the San Juan Mountains Association, the Town of Mancos, and Mancos Schools, is nearing completion. Currently the 5th grade class and the Shop students over the last two years have established a kiosk on the corner of Grand/Mesa Avenue that houses student work, and the installation of two other kiosks (NorthSide Park and Cottonwood Park) are nearly complete. All three of these kiosks are/will be physical spaces to house and highlight the project-based work of our students.

District-wide Digital Portfolios

The process of establishing district-wide digital portfolios has begun through our first professional development session on October 15th. In an effort to make our district's *student work, in the form of exhibitions and project products, an ever present, visible part of our local community*, we are building a system to provide a window for our parents to be able to directly see the work their kids are doing.

Community Engagement coordinator

The Mancos School District hired the Community Engagement Coordinator. This person is currently working part-time in a full-time position.

Board of Education Strategic Plan Report

The Mancos School District's administration reports **At Standard** for objective 1A - *Our district will use Project Based Learning to connect our students with professionals, and place students into our local businesses/organizations to provide authentic learning experiences.*