

Oct 2026

- **Oct 26-30 early release/ Conferences**
- **November 3rd College & Career Fair 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **November 10th Veteran's day assembly @ 9:30 All Veterans welcome**
- **November 11th No School**
- **Thanksgiving break Nov 26-27**

School Board Meeting:

- **November 16, 2026**



Food Service Bites

NEW LOCAL SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAM

When Kim joined Power Up

Your Program in the fall of 2025, she knew updating her school district's wellness policy was a priority, but she wasn't sure where to start. Using tools provided by the course, Kim identified tangible steps toward reaching her goal. She used the Rudd Center Model Local School Wellness Policy as a template, then, section-by-section, tailored the policy to the specific priorities, needs, and resources available in her school district. When the Superintendent showed support for the policy update, Kim asked to attend a meeting with district principals, where she shared the proposed plan updates, responded to questions, and gathered input. By adding this step, Kim established an environment of collaboration that fostered new connections, raised awareness of the important work Food Service Directors oversee, and invited district administration to feel more invested in student wellness policies and initiatives. The revised Wellness Plan has been presented for adoption at the last Board meeting and will be implemented in the school year 2026–2027.



Turnip the Beet! High Quality Summer Meals Award Program

The Turnip the Beet! Awards recognize outstanding summer meal program sponsors nationwide who provide children with nutritious, appealing, and high-quality meals. These programs help reduce summer hunger for children who lose access to school meals during summer break while supporting their health,

growth, and readiness to learn. The awards highlight sponsors who go above and beyond to improve meal quality and promote healthy choices, while supporting USDA priorities to connect American farmers with nutrition programs and strengthen healthy families and communities.

This is an incredible honor and a tremendous achievement for our district! Only 170 school districts nationwide—and just three in the entire state of Washington—received this prestigious recognition. We are exceptionally proud to be among them! This success would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our longtime employee, Melissa Comer. This award represents a true team effort and reflects our shared passion for providing children with nutritious, high-quality summer meals. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families throughout our region, and we couldn't be more proud of what we have accomplished!

Meet our new Director of Special Education

Hello, Mossyrock!

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Director of Special Education at Mossyrock School District. I am new to Mossyrock this fall, but I bring with me more than 20 years of experience working in special education. I have always had a passion for supporting students and helping them reach their full potential.

Although I am still getting to know the Mossyrock community, I have already had the opportunity to meet many wonderful students and staff members. I have truly enjoyed the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and I am excited to be working in a small school district where relationships and community are such an important part of the school experience.

A little about me outside of school: I have four grown children—three daughters and one son. They have kept me busy and taught me many things over the years, and I am enjoying this new chapter of life with them all grown.

I look forward to getting to know more of the students, families, and staff at Mossyrock. I hope to bring my experience and knowledge in special education, along with a friendly and approachable attitude, to our school community. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received so far and am looking forward to a great year in Mossyrock!

-Stacy Maddigan



Athletic Directors Corner

This is John Hartz 33rd year in education. I spent the first 32 years of my career in Idaho, where I served in a variety of roles, including vice principal, athletic director, teacher, and coach. Throughout my career, I have coached football, basketball, and golf, each of which provided valuable opportunities to mentor and support students beyond the classroom. My family is a central part of my life. My wife, Suzette, and our children, Dempsey and Gabriela, keep me busy and bring me great joy when I am away from school. I earned my bachelor's degree from Boise State University and my master's degree from Idaho State University. Education has always been my passion. The most rewarding part of this profession is helping students grow, achieve their goals, and develop into confident, successful individuals. I also value the relationships I build with colleagues and the opportunity to learn from those around me.

My time at Mossyrock has been outstanding so far. I am grateful for the warm welcome and look forward to continuing to serve and support our students, staff, and community.

We are looking forward to a great winter season in the athletics department.

- Winter Athletics is starting up
- Middle School Girls Basketball (10/14)
- Middle School Boys Basketball (10/26)
- High School Boys and Girls Basketball (11/16)
- Wrestling will continue to be a sport in cooperation with Onalaska

Homecoming week was a great success.

- The hallways were decorated with sports themes.
- The students had several class competitions.
- The football game did not go as planned, but the students and community represented us well.

Huge wins and great seasons....

- Middle School Volleyball (A team) finished with a 7-3 record
- Middle School Volleyball (B team) finished with a 6-4 record
- Varsity Volleyball had a huge win at Adna on 10/6/26 that pushed us into the top half of the entire 2B conference

Upcoming winter sports schedules will be posted soon.

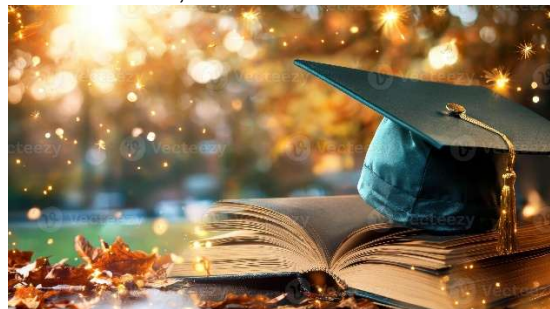
Go Vikings!

Introducing the GEAR UP program

Dear Mossyrock School District Community, My name is Jill Winters and I am excited to join the Mossyrock School District as the new GEAR UP Advisor for all of Mossyrock's 7th through 12th grade students. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful school community. Having worked in schools, I understand and appreciate the importance of building positive relationships with students, families, and staff.

I am also excited to introduce the **GEAR UP Program - Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs**. GEAR UP is designed to prepare students for education and training after high school by increasing awareness of college and career opportunities, providing academic support, and helping students and families navigate the steps towards their future goals. GEAR UP is a federally funded program that opens doors for students from all backgrounds.

As the new GEAR UP Advisor for Mossyrock School District, I am excited to be here and to



be able to serve this community. I look forward to connecting with students, families, staff and community members as we work together to support student success.

Let's go Vikings!!
Jill Winters

Principal's Points:

The 2026–2027 school year is off to an exciting start! I am proud of the effort our students demonstrate each day and grateful for the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our teachers and staff.

Our classrooms are filled with opportunities for students to explore, ask questions, solve problems, and develop a lifelong love of learning. It is wonderful to see our students growing academically, building friendships, and developing the skills they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Strong partnerships between home and school make a meaningful difference in children's lives. Thank you for communicating with teachers, supporting learning at home, attending school events, and encouraging your children to always do their best. Your involvement and support are essential to creating a positive and successful school experience for every student.

I look forward to the many opportunities ahead for learning, growth, and collaboration. Together, we will continue to build a school community where every student feels supported, valued, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Lori Cournyer
Secondary Principal



Superintendent:

Dear Mossyrock School District Community,

Happy October! Our schools are filled with energy, and we have a very active fall ahead across the district.

Supporting Our Student-Athletes

Our fall sports teams are in full swing. Please join us in cheering on our student-athletes as they represent our district in football, volleyball, and cross-country. Whether they are on the field, the court, or the trail, our Vikings are representing Mossyrock. Your support in the stands makes a wonderful difference for our students and school community.

Family & Community Engagement

Strong partnerships between home and school are essential to our students' success.

We invite you to get involved this month:

- **Conferences & CEE Climate Survey (Last Week of October):** Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for the final week of October. Partnering in your child's education is vital to their success. Please look out for communication from your school regarding conference scheduling so we can celebrate progress and set goals together. During conference week, we will also launch the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) Climate Survey. This survey will be distributed to parents, staff, and students to help us gather crucial feedback on our school climate, culture, and learning environment. Your input is vital in helping us continually improve our schools.
- **HomeLink Program:** We hope to create a liaison program in order to connect with our local Homeschool Community.

Important Upcoming Dates & Activities

We have a full calendar of events designed to build strong connections in community:

- **STEM Family Night:** Join us for our upcoming STEM Family Night. It will be a fun-filled evening with interactive learning activities and opportunities to connect with other families across the district. Be on the lookout for specific event details soon.
- **Career Fair:** Please encourage your student to attend the High School

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Career Fair on November 3 rd. Many exciting visitors will be here to participate, with multipole opportunities.



- **Community Garden:** Our district is starting a community garden. We invite students, families, and community members to get involved, and help as we prep the garden for the winter season and plan for spring planting.

Update on the Four-Day School Week

We continue to explore a potential transition to a four-day school week schedule. Keep an eye out for informational materials outlining the prospective benefits of this schedule for our students, staff, and community. A survey will follow in the near future to gather your feedback and perspectives, and we appreciate your partnership as we maintain a schedule that supports both academic growth and student well-being.

Staff Professional Development: November 13

Please note that there will be no school for students on Friday, November 13, as our district staff participates in a full-day Professional Development session. Our educators will be diving deep into Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies and effective behavior interventions.

Upcoming Holidays & Breaks

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming school closures:

- **Veterans Day (Observed):** Schools will be closed in honor of Veterans Day as we pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country. An assembly will take place to honor them the day before.
- **Thanksgiving Break:** Schools will be closed for Thanksgiving Break, giving our students, staff, and families time to rest, reflect, and spend time with loved ones.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, dedication, and support of our district in making Mossyrock School District a wonderful place for our students to learn and grow. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Warmly,

Dr. EJ Dean
Superintendent of Schools
Mossyrock School District

