



Mineral County School District **“Where the Stars Are Aligning”**

MCS D TEAM MEMBERS

Ann Kee- Leader

Shannon Williams- Schurz Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher
Claire Hayhurst- Hawthorne Elementary School 4th Grade Teacher
Drew Schaar- Hawthorne Jr. High/ High School CTE Teacher

Introduction

In October I attended the **TOGETHER, Building Nevada’s Future of Learning** in Las Vegas and was amazed to see the impressive work being done throughout the state to improve student learning. I also realized that as a small rural district, Mineral County School District was behind in both our knowledge of statewide initiatives and having a voice for our students at the state level.

My enthusiasm was challenged over the months following the conference as MCS D was facing many changes. The “Small Steps to Big Change” theme from the conference kept echoing in my head. The first Portrait of a Learner work session in January introduced the Six Levels of Transformation to our team. WOW, it was the trigger needed to embrace the future of MCS D learners and to have a focused direction towards the goal of improving student learning.

That’s when the stars started aligning for MCS D. Mineral County School District is partnering with [TNTP](#), a national nonprofit organization that supports districts like MCS D, to develop a new vision and strategic plan to guide the district work moving forward. During the next few months, we engaged with our community members in a wide variety of ways to understand our diverse perspectives and collaborate towards common goals.

We incorporated the information gathered at all the district wide Strategic Plan Stakeholder meetings to develop our priorities for the Portrait of a Learner Dream Protocol.

Intended Impact

- **Develop systems for two-way communication between students, parents, teachers, community members and leaders to build trusting partnerships.**
- **Conduct professional development to build a culture of belonging, and that explores issues around identity, diversity, equity, and inclusion.**

Project Work

Took the new District Motto and used it with students at each school to incorporate the learning values. At Schurz the students’ values were translated into the Paiute language. Six J1 visa teachers from the Philippines were hired over the last few years to address the district’s teacher shortage. They have become valuable assets to the school and community and help encourage a broadened ethnic diversity to the district. The students’ learning values were then incorporated into a design by junior and high school CTE students to be placed on shirts for students and staff to wear to share the Portrait of a Learner project. The elementary students will be taken to the high school to work with the older students to create their individual shirts.

MCS D Motto
“No’oko numu tunedooe”
“We all learn/teach”

Next Steps

- Present our Portrait of A Learner work to the Mineral County School District Board of Trustees and then Walker River Paiute Tribal Council.
- Create learner values with each class at Schurz Elementary In August when students return to school.
- Incorporate our Portrait of a Learner values with the Mineral County School District Strategic Plan

Lessons Learned

- Schools need to validate and honor the cultural backgrounds, languages and heritage that students bring.
- Resources need to be equitably directed to schools and students based on needs.
- There needs to be more transparency and accountability.

HES 4th grade students working with High School CTE to produce Portrait of a Learner shirts.

