

BETTER SCHOOLS, BETTER COMMUNITIES

*Building a gym, cafeteria ,
classrooms and
remodeling the library for
a modern school that
meets 21st century
educational goals and
rigor. Estimated cost is
only 8 mills more than
what families paid in 2017.
Proactive fiscal
management saved each
family 36 mills over the
last two years. The
estimated cost for the
renewed school is 44 mills.*

Paid for by Matthew Driessen



DeSmet Elementary
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DeSmet Elementary 2020 School Bond



DeSmet Elementary
Teaching Inspiring Nurturing



OUR TURN, OUR SCHOOL, OUR COMMUNITY

The Bond will cover the cost of a gym, cafeteria, classroom wing and a library remodel. To help offset the cost of the expansion, we also are selling lots next to our school for owner occupied housing. The net proceeds will be used to lower the cost of the bonds. With the addition of housing around the school plus the housing slated for development in Butler Creek, DeSmet Elementary will see a significant rise in student population over the next several years. The building design is created with a community center in mind. The gym, cafeteria, and classrooms can be used by community members after school hours. DeSmet Elementary will be the heart of the community, for the students, families and businesses.

COMMUNITY UNITY

A school is much more than just a building. A school is the heart of our community. It is where we send our children to be educated. It is where we watch our teams play. It is where our community members gather to celebrate and learn.

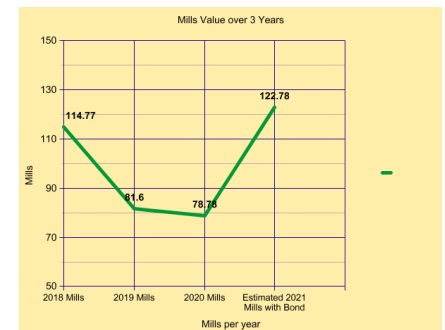
Part of our school community is our library. In a library no child is alone. Exploration of our language is the foundation for all learning, and the basis of a community. It is in understanding each other that we celebrate each other and our differences, that is what makes our community special.

Breaking bread is the corner stone of social community unity. Everyday we feed our children. They are fulfilled both physically and emotionally. A cafeteria not only serves our students, but can also serve our community: whether that is a business get together, a social function or a family celebration. The cafeteria is the center where we gather as a community in fellowship with each other.

Cheering our students in a scrimmage with friends from other schools is the foundation of pride. Pick-up games after school with parents and children is a healthy endeavor with life-long benefits. A school and community gym gives us a place to play, laugh, and enjoy a Saturday matinee or dance. We gather at a gym to assert our better selves.

FINANCING THE FUTURE

Starting in the fall of 2016, the school board and administration began working on a plan to expand and remodel the school, based on the DeSmet School Improvement Plan. They worked with the Montana Department of Revenue to revalue the District Valuations after the sunset of the TIF District. The business clerk and the school administration tightened the school budget, and reallocated money to better serve the school. In 2019 the last debt of the school was paid off. The total savings to the district was 36 mills. DeSmet School District now has the lowest mills of any school in Missoula County. The cost of the remodel and expansion is estimated at 44 mills. The estimated cost is \$10 per month on a \$200,000 home. Compared to 2017 tax it is an increase of \$1.80 a month, or the cost of a cup of coffee per month on a \$200,000 home. In school districts that modernized their school, many homeowners saw an increase of \$10,000 to \$15,000 in their home value.



Graph showing declining school mills over the last three years and projected mills if the bond levy passes.