

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS

The district recently produced three short videos to share the amazing work going on in our schools. The videos highlight our curriculum, which provides a strong foundation in core academics as well as real-world experiences and access to sports and the arts.

With a focus on small class sizes, early learning, individualized instruction, and technology, our programs help prepare students for life beyond high school and future success in college, career or wherever life takes them.

View them online:
www.washougal.k12.wa.us/levy.



You'll love what you see when you "Like" us!

Follow breaking news and celebrate student, teacher and school achievements by "Liking" the Washougal School District Facebook page. And be sure to "Share" any story you find interesting! You can also visit your school and district websites for important, up-to-date information.



Find us at:
www.facebook.com/WashougalSD

Message from the Superintendent

I recently had the opportunity to hear Dr. Robert Brooks speak and was motivated to read his book, *Raising a Self-Disciplined Child*. I would recommend the book to anyone who is raising a child or who considers the challenges of preparing our youth for responsibilities of adulthood and the world of their future. Dr. Brooks' research has lead him to write about what he calls the "resilient mindset," making a case for the importance of helping children to learn to handle stress and pressure, cope with everyday challenges, and bounce back from disappointment or adversity. Children with a resilient mindset can set goals, solve problems, relate to others, and develop empathy, altruism, and self-discipline. Self-discipline provides the ability to stop, think, generate strategies, consider alternatives, and act, while always weighing the effects of those actions.

I see incredible successes daily in our schools, and I know that it is through our partnership with parents and community that we are accomplishing the vision and the goals that have been set. I continue to be encouraged by the district's work to develop a "resilient mindset" in our students. Starting with the foundation of core academic skills, teachers, classified staff, and administrators are working to nurture the essentials of self-discipline, tenacity, empathy, and citizenship.

To continue this work, the district will have two initiatives on the ballot for the February 11, 2014 election. Proposition 3 will be the renewal of the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy. The current four-year levy, that provides the district with 20% of our operating budget, will expire at the end of this year. The second initiative, Proposition 4, will be for the renewal of the current Technology Levy. These dollars provide our students with the technology tools needed to support their learning and ability to critically consider the information that comes at them daily through the Internet and media.

The current M&O Levy has provided resources that make it possible to offer key programs and support to our students that the State is not able to fully fund. With these dollars we provide nursing services, a Washougal Police Department School Resource Officer, after school athletics and performing arts programs, textbooks, training for staff, student transportation, community education, facility

maintenance, and student support programs. The district has successfully reduced class sizes over the last three years to allow for students to receive individual attention and to nurture the development of their interests and talents. Our current Technology Levy has provided the tools and infrastructure to assure that our Washougal graduates have the skills needed to tackle higher education and the requirements of 21st century jobs. These "renewal levies" will include an increase in the tax rate to support the enrollment growth in the district and to further enhance the programs currently being offered.

New levy dollars would allow the district to provide all-day Kindergarten for every student, increased security staff and safety for our schools, and additional one-on-one learning opportunities for students ready to excel or needing additional support.

Your ballot should arrive during the last week in January. I would ask that you study the information available on the district website as well as printed materials as you consider these propositions. There are also three short videos that can be viewed that provide the community with an update on the district's Community Vision work at www.washougal.k12.wa.us/districtinfo/mission.htm.

Sincerely,

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE BY

February 11
 Thank You!



Levy dollars bridge the gap...

Maintenance and Operations Levy

The M&O levy will be set at \$6.3 million and will cost taxpayers an estimated \$3.31 per \$1,000 assessed property value. This is an increase from the current levy, which remained flat for four years. Since then, enrollment has increased and Washougal's per student funding has dropped to one of the lowest in Clark County. Additional levy dollars are needed to maintain current programs for increasing enrollment, and fund expanded learning opportunities and programs, such as all-day kindergarten across the district, summer school, instructional coaches and safety improvements at all buildings.

Technology Levy

The Technology Levy will be set at \$700,000 and will cost taxpayers an estimated \$.37 per \$1,000 assessed property value in 2015, decreasing to \$.35 in 2016 and \$.34 in 2017.

The Maintenance and Operations Levy will fund early learning programs, individualized instruction, the arts, languages and technology, programs that prepare students for careers or college, safety, and professional development.

The Technology Levy will support learning tools, such as the iPad pilot program where fifth grade students saw great gains in the state outcome assessments. Results showed that students in the iPad classroom scored 14.7% better in Math, 11.4% better in Science, and 8.7% better in Reading. Teachers reported that the iPads changed the type of learning that was possible; increasing opportunities for spontaneous research, discussions, and collaboration; and speeding up students' learning.

Did you Know?

Levy dollars fund the difference between what the state pays and the actual costs of operating our schools.

Maintenance and Operations dollars pay for:

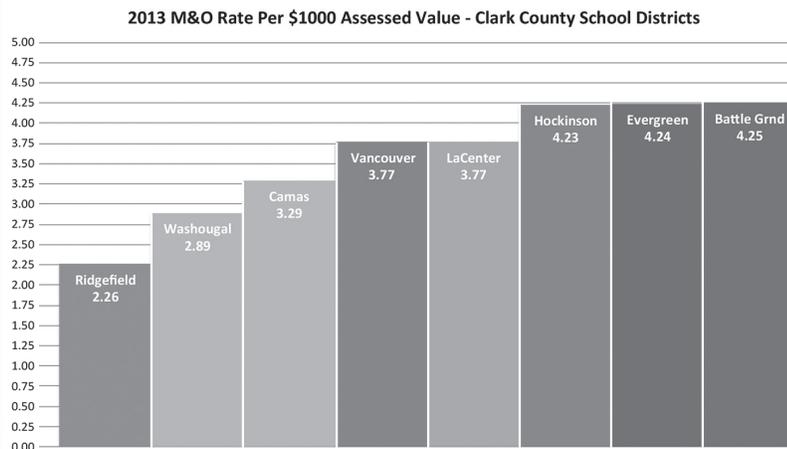
- » student health and school safety,
- » sports programs,
- » extracurricular learning and performing arts opportunities,
- » textbooks,
- » student transportation,
- » professional development,
- » community education,
- » facility maintenance, and
- » student support programs.

Technology Levy dollars support:

- » learning tools for the classroom, and
- » network infrastructure and training for staff on how to use new technologies in the classroom.



Clark County Comparison



5 facts every washougal citizen should know about the upcoming levies

- The district is asking citizens to vote on two levies--a Maintenance and Operations Levy and a Technology Levy. These levies replace the current levies that expire at the end of 2014. These are not new taxes. The levies will continue funding basic programs and services for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.
 - » A strong foundation in the arts, world languages, health and technology. Preparing students for college and careers.
 - » Training for teachers and staff in current educational techniques.
 - » Maintaining small class sizes.
- The replacement levies are an increase from the rate local residents are currently paying. In 2010, prompted by declining enrollment and the economic downturn, the board ran a flat levy. Over the past four years, as our enrollment has increased, the available funding per student has decreased. Our current levy rate is one of the lowest in the area, and the proposed rate places our district in the middle of the region. The new rate will allow the school district to continue successful programs with an increasing student enrollment and grow several areas of focus which are already netting positive results.
 - » Technology Levy dollars would support:
 - » Putting powerful learning tools in the hands of students.
 - » Providing job embedded professional development and technical support for staff.
 - » Helping students become wise consumers of information and respectful users of technology.
- Levy dollars are used for essential educational services, maintenance, and general district operations that are not funded by the state or federal government. The state does not fully fund the cost of basic education. Local funding through our levies provides 20% of the budget for educational costs in Washougal. Levies bridge the gap between what the state pays and the actual costs of operating our schools.
- The board authorized the three-year levies to replace the expiring four-year levies to align with neighboring districts in order to reduce future levy filing costs.

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Proposed levy amounts and rates

YEAR	Maintenance & Operations Levy		Technology Levy	
	Amount	Estimated Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Amount	Estimated Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value
2015	\$6,300,000	\$3.31	\$700,000	\$.37
2016	\$6,552,000	\$3.31	\$700,000	\$.35
2017	\$6,814,000	\$3.31	\$700,000	\$.34

Washougal educators named fellows

Washougal teachers Penny Andrews (Math), Lucie Willeman (English Language Arts), and Cheryl MacIntyre (Math) have been named Washington State Common Core Fellows Teacher Leaders by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the ESD Regional Coordinators. These teachers will be trained as leaders in the district to support their peers as schools transition to implementation of the Common Core Standards.



Lucie Willeman



Penny Andrews



Cheryl MacIntyre

Raising the bar to ensure student success:

THE NEW COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Washougal School District is excited to join the national movement toward common language arts and mathematics standards that are raising the level of academic rigor for all students and better preparing them to excel in college and compete in the 21st century workplace.

Work on these standards began in 2009 by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association in tandem with parents, teachers, school administrators and other experts across the country.

The common standards replace the current system in which each state had its own standards leading to a range of expectations and quality.

Washougal School District began phasing in the new standards in 2011-12. The transition will continue through 2014-15 when new state assessments will be implemented. Families will increasingly notice significant changes in what students are taught and the expectations for mastery. Watch for more information coming soon.

SUPERINTENDENT
Dawn Tarzian

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WCER offers something for everyone

Washougal Community Education & Recreation offers educational and recreational activities for area residents of all ages. Visit our website at www.washougal.k12.wa.us/wcer to download or view our Winter Catalog.

Adult Classes—R.I.P.P.E.D. - A new exercise class for adults; ZUMBA FITNESS - Latin-inspired dance-fitness; Corner Cupboard Recipe Cooking Classes w/Reva McClure; Spanish; First Aid/CPR; Ballroom Dance; Combination Dance - Tap, Ballet, Tumbling, Jazz, Creative Movement, for ages 3-adult; Tae Kwon Do; Tai Chi/Qigong and Yoga; Wood Carving; Living Ready Series - for families in the Cape Horn-Skye area; Advanced Volleyball; and Vegetable Lacto Fermentation.

Youth Classes—Lego Classes - Early Release Wed. classes for grades 2-5, Open Lego Labs for 4 years to grade 5, and Lego Pneumatics Camp for grades 4-6 who have taken Lego Engineering in the past - this camp will introduce the new addition to the Lego Kits!; Mad Science, Meet Me in the Lab - Early Release Wed. classes for grades K-5; Mathemagician's Club - Early Release Wed. classes for grades K-5; Safe Sitter - Babysitter Training Class for ages 11-14; Combination Dance Classes - Tap, Ballet, Tumbling, Jazz, Creative Movement, for ages 3-adult; Tae Kwon Do - for ages 6 to adult; Co-Ed Flag Football - for ages 6-11; Mini Kickers Sports, ages 3-6. For more information, contact us at (360) 954-3838.

Find More News at www.washougal.k12.wa.us

Washougal School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer and Section 504/ADA coordinator, Allan Fleck, Director of Special Education.

You're invited to the Washougal School Board meeting!

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room, 4855 Evergreen Way, unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 28, Jemtegaard Middle School
Feb. 11, District Board Room
Feb. 25, Excelsior High School

Many factors converge in calendar development

Much like sitting down to plan your personal family calendar, many factors contribute to the development of Washougal School District's annual calendar, including State required annual attendance days, holidays, employee contracts, and the possibility of inclement weather. This year, the Washougal School District calendar did not align with the calendars of many of our neighboring districts. The board has asked that this year's calendar development process work to align our winter and spring breaks with ESD 112, the Clark County Skills Center, Clark Community College, and our neighboring districts if possible. The board understands that parents wait to make family plans until after the annual calendar is adopted. Coordinating with other educational agencies can slow the process down. To support our families as this process is underway, the board has adopted the first day of school which will be September 2, 2014, the day after Labor Day. Even with careful planning, changes may be necessary.

Due to inclement weather, the district has scheduled two snow make up days this year. Next year's calendar takes into consideration alignment with other districts in the region with students who also attend the Clark County Skills Center as well as neighboring school districts and colleges, for the purposes of programs such as Running Start. As our Board considers future calendars, our Director of Human Resources will be very involved and opportunities will be available for community input.

Friday, March 14, 2014 is a snow makeup day for Tuesday, December 10 and Friday, May 2, 2014 will be a snow makeup day for December 11. Families should note that the only remaining snow makeup day, June 20, is after the regularly scheduled last day of school. If we experience any further snow days, we will use June 20, and extend school into the week of June 23, 2014 as necessary.

Events raise funds for schools and community



The Festival of Trees event, held December 6, featuring decorated trees and gift baskets, as well as a Breakfast with Santa event, raised \$7,466 for Washougal schools!



Stuff the Bus was delayed due to freezing weather but that did not dampen the efforts of Washougal and Camas schools. 35,000 pounds of food were collected and will help families at Children's Home Society for the coming year.

Thank you to all who contributed and worked so hard to make these events successful.