



WASHOUGAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
4855 Evergreen Way
Washougal, WA 98671

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Washougal, WA
Permit No. 14

Washougal School District Patron
Washougal, WA 98671



Remember to vote by Feb. 14!

Look inside for information about the upcoming M&O and Tech levy propositions.

We're listening

School boundary Open House

Hear from the committee of parents and district staff working to create new elementary and middle school boundaries necessary for the opening of Columbia River Gorge Elementary in Fall 2017. An open house will be held February 8 from 6-8 p.m. at Washougal High School, 1201 39th Street. Learn about the extensive process involved in this work and review and comment on the most recent draft boundary maps.

Special Education survey

Our Special Education Department has been selected to participate in a state audit for the 2016-17 school year. As part of that process, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is requesting input from parents of special education students regarding the district's attempt to partner with families. A confidential survey from Washington State University will be mailed directly to parents of children with special needs. We encourage all parents who have children with special needs to be on the look-out for the survey and to take advantage of the opportunity to provide direct feedback.

Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

January 24, District Board Room

February 14, District Board Room

February 28, District Board Room

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

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.

www.facebook.com/WashougalSD

District News Winter 2017



The district's new transportation facility is nearly complete, thanks to bond funding.

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

New program aims to boost attendance

Hathaway Principal David Tudor is asking his students and their families to "Strive for Five." The goal is for students to have fewer than five missed days in an entire school year.

Statistics show that students who miss ten or more school days have a far greater chance of not reaching their grade level learning targets. Last school year, just 22 percent of Hathaway students had five or fewer absences. More than half of students in each grade level missed 10 or more school days last year, with an average of 12 missed days.

The Hathaway "Strive for Five" program begins with educating parents to the negative effects of missing school at the elementary school level. Information has been shared to remind parents of the importance of regular attendance on student learning. For instance, how easily students can fall behind missing even just a day or two of classes every few weeks.

Absences also affect the whole classroom. "Not only are students missing valuable instruction but they are needed for group projects," Tudor said. "When several days are missed, that student misses collaboration work and group lessons." Teachers and groups need to slow down learning to help missing children catch up.

The campaign also shares ways for parents to help their students including setting regular bed time and morning routines. "Children thrive in routines and are more successful and more prepared to be better learners," Tudor explained. Parents are also reminded not to let their child stay home unless they are truly sick, avoiding appointments and extended trips when school is in session and reaching out to teachers if their child is feeling anxious about going to school.

The school year has started strong for attendance with the percentage of students missing two days or less moving from 70% last September to 90% this year and from 70% to nearly 80% for October. A Baltimore City Study indicated that students who miss



To help support the goal of a positive school environment, staff recently welcomed students at the school entrance with a human tunnel of high fives, cheers, and smiles.

less than two days in September went on to have good attendance through the year giving Tudor confidence that absentee numbers will continue to improve through

these efforts.

"We just have 180 days with our students," Tudor said, "so each moment, each hour, each day we have them is important."

WHS students get into the act with Blue Note Cafe concerts

Washougal High School's Blue Note Café concert series has been a hit with audiences since it started in 2003. Quality performances by students, staff, alumni and community members continue and, this year, the Blue Note is completely student run.

Each show features a combination of Blue Note "regulars" and first-timers. "This is important because the regulars often accompany new students and help make their performance experience fun and successful," said Jen Mahorney, WHS Choir teacher and BNC advisor.

Featuring acoustic folk, blues, jazz, and rock music, BNC provides a great opportunity for students to perform in front of an audience in a safe and supportive environment to spread their wings and grow their voices.

When the curtain rises you see a stage transformed into a darkened café, with two

or three dozen student performers seated around candle-lit tables. They take turns stepping up to the microphones into the spotlight. The audience and waiting performers participate with shouts of encouragement and each act receiving thunderous applause at the end in a show of support.

Now, the series is entirely student run. Junior Jessie Larson is BNC Club President and runs auditions and the backstage crew. She works with club members to hear auditions and determine each show's lineup.

A new element of BNC is the display of Fine Art works by WHS and Jemtegaard Middle School art students.

The next show is set for March 24. Interested performers are welcome to audition a week before each show. Contact Mahorney at jen.mahorney@washougal.sd.org, for details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Washougal School District patrons,

On February 14, Washougal School District voters will consider a replacement Maintenance

and Operations Levy and a Technology Levy that support classroom learning, school operations, and technology in our schools.

Some information about these levies:

- The levies are not new taxes.
- The levies would replace the current levies, which are set to expire December 31, 2017.
- The levies make up approximately 20% of the district's budget.
- The Maintenance and Operations Levy funds services and operations not funded by the state or federal government. These services include: health and safety; instructional support; athletics and activities; student learning and staffing; and operations and maintenance.
- The proposed Maintenance and Operations Levy rates will remain flat over the next three years (2018, 2019, and 2020) at \$2.91 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- Technology Levy dollars pay for the district's 1:1 initiative, up-to-date computers and devices, classroom instructional technology, professional development and coaching, technology infrastructure, and curriculum and software.
- The proposed Technology Levy rates will also remain flat over the next three years (2018, 2019, and 2020) at \$.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

In this newsletter you will find more information about the levies and what they support. Visit our website to watch a short informational video and find additional facts about these levies: <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/district-budget-information/levy/>

Sincerely,

Mike Stromme, Ed.D., Superintendent

Facts about the 2017 Washougal school levies

WHAT IS A LEVY?

Levy dollars are used for services and operations not funded by the state or federal government. A Technology Levy pays for technological equipment and upgrades, whereas a Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Levy pays for most other operating expenses.

- These are replacement levies and not new taxes.
- Levy dollars make up almost 20% of the district's budget.
- The levies will fund basic programs and services for 2018, 2019, and 2020.
- Levies do not pay for new school construction.

HOW MUCH WILL THE LEVIES COST?

The combined rate for the two levies for 2018 is estimated to be \$3.21 per \$1,000 assessed home value, the same rate as 2016.

Proposed Levy Amounts & Rates				
YEAR	M&O Levy		Technology Levy	
	AMOUNT	RATE*	AMOUNT	RATE*
2018	\$7,550,000	\$2.91	\$775,000	\$.30
2019	\$7,775,000	\$2.91	\$800,000	\$.30
2020	\$7,980,000	\$2.91	\$820,000	\$.30

*Future tax rates are estimates

WHAT DOES THE TECHNOLOGY LEVY PAY FOR?



- The student 1:1 initiative
- Up-to-date computers and devices
- Classroom instructional technology
- Professional development and coaching
- Technology infrastructure
- Curriculum and software

WHAT DOES THE M&O LEVY PAY FOR?



STUDENT LEARNING & STAFFING

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Advanced Placement
- Highly Capable program
- Substitute teachers
- Professional development and training
- Special education support
- English Language Learner support



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

- Librarians
- Secretaries
- Paraeducators
- Textbooks
- Curriculum



HEALTH & SAFETY

- High School Resource Officers
- Security staff
- Counselors
- Nurses



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- School athletics
- Coaches
- Advisors
- Performing arts
- Extra-curricular activities
- Competitions
- Transportation



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Custodians
- Grounds and building maintenance
- Supplies and equipment
- Utilities
- Fuel
- Vehicles and maintenance

Did you know?

Levy dollars make up **20%** of the district's total budget.