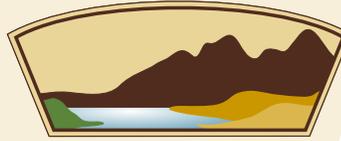


Community Connections

SPRING 2018



The new Jemtegaard Middle School and Columbia River Gorge Elementary opened in Fall 2017. Additional facilities improvements are coming soon to other district schools.

Washougal middle and high school students explore career interests

As early as the seventh grade, Washougal students are thinking about their future career paths as they begin working on their High School and Beyond Plans, where they identify interests, explore career and education possibilities, and create a pathway for their future. Students are able to explore how they learn best, consider their interests and skills, connect to potential careers, identify their career pathway, and strategically plan four years of high school classes to maximize their opportunities.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, approximately 80% of U.S. college students change their major at least once. For that reason, the State of Washington and the Washougal School District want to help students consider what they want to do and then choose a post-secondary option that would support their goal. On average, college students change their major at least three times over the course of their college career. This equates to considerable time and expense to the student and family.

“Our hope is that students making more informed decisions based on personal goals and values will be more engaged in their school experience and therefore achieve



Counselor Michele Mederos helps CCMS student Simone Velansky explore career options.

more success academically, personally and professionally,” said WSD Career and Technical Education Director Margaret Rice.

In Washougal, the High School and Beyond program is a team effort, with the career specialist, counselors, administrators and teachers working together to help foster student success. WSD staff assists students in learning about opportunities that are

continued inside >

Extra state funds allow for additional district facilities improvements

A second round of capital improvements is coming to Washougal schools soon, thanks to excellent fiscal management of funds from the 2015 \$57 million bond.

The Washougal School Board, with input from the Citizen Oversight Team, has identified and prioritized the use of \$2 million in excess state assistance funds. “These capital items were actually prioritized by the Board before the 2015 bond election but fell outside of the budget the Board was comfortable asking voters to approve,” said WSD Board member, Ron Dinius.

Construction projects will start this summer and continue through the fall.

The projects in priority order are:

1. Construction of covered play areas for Gause and Hathaway Elementary Schools;
2. Safer traffic flow and parking improvements at Gause Elementary School;
3. Construction of a dry storage building for athletic equipment at Canyon Creek Middle School; and
4. Improvements and upgrades to the Fishback Stadium (including replacing existing restrooms with ADA accessible facilities, relocating the concessions area, additional dry and secure equipment storage, replacing wood plank seating with aluminum, and installing new visitor side bleachers.)

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal School District Patrons,

With the end of the school year on the horizon, I find myself in the final leg of my journey as



superintendent of the Washougal School District. Now it's time to pass the baton and I've been preparing for a successful handoff to the district's new leader.

As you may have heard, Dr. Mary Templeton has been selected by the school board as the next superintendent for Washougal School District. Mary is currently the Human Resources Director for Certificated Personnel for Spokane Public Schools.

As she begins her new role, Mary will have an exceptional team of teachers, support staff, and administrators to help her succeed as she carries on the great work that's been accomplished over the past few years.

As I work with Mary, we will focus on several areas that we have been addressing, including:

- Adopting high quality curriculum for students;
- Adding three weeks of instructional time at the elementary level with art instruction, more P.E. and library/media time;
- Creating increased opportunities for engagement around the arts and continuing to value creativity and innovation in our district;
- Enhancing the development of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to provide students a foundation to pursue career and college opportunities.

As Mary starts her journey, I know she will guide the good work of continuous improvement in the Washougal School District. It has been my pleasure to serve the children and families of Washougal.

Sincerely,

Mike Stromme, Ed.D.



Cape Horn-Skye math club adds up to fun

Who knew math could be so fun? That's the secret of the Crazy Eight Math Club at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary led by CHS third grade teacher, Darcy Hickey.

The lively and fun activities are designed for 1st through 3rd grade students who are not fond of math. "This is not a 'sit down and do worksheets' type of club," Hickey explained. "We are loud, we get silly, and just like its name, we get CRAZY at times."

Students learn math concepts they then use in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities. Projects include Flying Marshmallows, Zip Line Zoo and even a Toilet Paper Olympics.

Toilet Paper Olympics made the concept of measurements fun. After learning how to use a ruler in the classroom, students went to the gym to compete in events like long jump and shot



put. Once they understood each square of toilet paper was four inches long, they used the roll to measure their jumps and tosses.

"The kids are loving it," said Hickey. "Of course, I haven't told them that they are actually doing math yet. I'll save that little secret for the end." 🌿

Careers *(continued from front page)*

available and will help them get a jump start into their career. Programs like CTE Dual Credit, College in the Classroom, Advanced Placement, Running Start, and Cascadia Technical Academy are important opportunities for students. Students may also participate in internships, volunteer opportunities, conversations with professionals in the community, and career and college fairs to give them exposure and first hand career exploration experiences. Workshops to assist students with the college application process, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, and applying for and interviewing for a job are all a part of their preparation. The district uses an online program called Career Cruising/

Xello, which provides the vehicle for gathering their High School and Beyond information, including career research, post-secondary education requirements, the salary range for jobs in that field, creating goals and their four-year plan and more.

"Through this process we help students see that there are multiple paths to reach their career goals," said Rice. "The hope is that the more information they have about what it takes to reach their career goal, the better choice they will make. Each student's path will vary. We want our students to take ownership of their plan/goal and create their own pathway to success." 🌿

Resources support students & families

Two amazing free resources for Washougal School District students and families exist thanks to school and local volunteers and the generosity of our community.

Hathaway Clothes Closet offers families in Washougal School District a resource for free clothes and clothing care. Located at Hathaway Elementary School, the program offers clothes for all seasons and shoes for all sizes as well as free use of a washer and dryer.

“Our priority is kids clothes,” said Nancy Boon, WSD Family Resource Coordinator at Hathaway. “But many parents can find shoes, coats and clothing for themselves too. The

washer and dryer are also a great convenience for families who have that need.”

“Resources for students by students” is the slogan behind the Washougal High School Panther Den. This free program is for students who find themselves in need of one-time or ongoing help.

“Our purpose is to provide a service to students who need access to basic items such as clothing, hygiene products, school supplies and food,” explained Sheree Gomez-Clark, WHS Associate Principal. “We even offer business attire for students to use on loan for job interviews and senior project presentations. There is a changing room for students to find clothes that fit and look just right.”



WHS Associate Principal Sheree Gomez-Clark and Family Resource coordinator Nancy Boon talk with WHS student volunteer Aubrey Turner in the WHS Panther Den.

Hathaway Clothes Closet

Location: Hathaway Elementary School in Portable B on the east side of the property

Access: 4-6:00 pm. on the Second and Fourth Thursday of each month or by appointment

Contact: Nancy Boon, WSD Family Resource Coordinator at Hathaway, 360-954-3809.

WHS Panther Den

Location: Washougal High School

Access: Students fill out a request form specific to need. Orders are filled confidentially and sent to a trusted teacher for pickup. Forms at the Counseling Center or online under Resources at www.washougal.k12.wa.us/whs/

Contact: Sheree Clark, WHS Associate Principal, sheree.clark@washougalsd.org

Donations: Of most need are items such as high protein items (chili, beans, canned soups, canned beef/chicken), boxed meals (hamburger helper/tuna helper etc), personal hygiene items (regular/large sized and travel sized), socks and underwear.

High School changes campus rule

To improve safety and security of students, Washougal High School will be a closed campus starting with the 2018-19 school year. This decision was based on the following goals:

- Increase student and staff safety. By allowing only the main entrance to be unlocked during the school day, the building will be safer and more secure.
- Decrease tardiness and truancy. Many students who leave for lunch have a difficult time returning to school on time. Students who go off campus do not have enough time to eat their food

so they bring it to class, which causes a disruption to the learning environment.

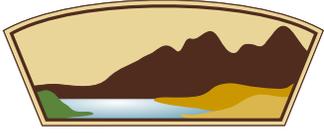
- Decrease use of illegal substances. Closing campus will reduce the opportunity for students to access drugs or alcohol as well as limit students' tobacco use.

Upon arrival at school, students will remain on campus for the entire school day, unless they are enrolled in a school-related program that requires them to leave campus or they are properly signed out of school. This also includes the lunch period. A parent or guardian may come to the school and sign out their son/daughter through the front

office and accompany the student to lunch. Students will not have access to their cars unless given permission by a school staff member.

For the current 2017-18 school year, seniors have been allowed off-campus privileges as long as they meet attendance, behavior and coursework expectations.

The WHS administrative staff is working with Sodexo regarding food options during lunch. Students will be able to access the library and gymnasium during both lunches.



**WASHOUGAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
4855 Evergreen Way
Washougal, WA 98671

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Elementary academic change adds more learning time

Students will have five full days of instruction with more P.E., media, arts time, due to additional specialists

Washougal kindergarten through fifth grade classroom schedules for the 2018-19 school year will feature approximately 70 hours of additional instructional time for elementary students. This change is made possible by hiring additional specialist teachers to provide opportunities for teacher preparation and planning time (270 minutes) throughout the week, rather than having a two-hour block of teacher preparation time each Wednesday afternoon. The 40-minute period of time set aside (early release) for teacher Professional Learning Communities will remain in place and consistent for all K-12 schools.

“This 70-hour increase in instructional time provides the equivalent to approximately three extra school weeks, which is nearly seven percent more classroom time, with teachers for our students,” said Dr. Mike Stromme, WSD Superintendent.

“The change will also allow students to have a consistent daily routine, and more consistent schedules for families. This planned change to add specialist time to the elementary school schedule will be equitably implemented across all four elementary schools.”

A committee of teachers and principals met five times this winter to provide ideas and implementation input into the development of increased teacher specialist time.

In addition to regular instructional time, students’ weekly schedule in the 2018-19 school year will include:

- **90 min. Physical Education** (30 additional minutes)
- **60 min. Library/Media/Tech** (30 additional minutes)
- **60 min. Visual Arts** (new specialist)
- **60 min. Music** (no increase) 🌱

Ready, set, STRIDE!



Mark your calendar for the 15th annual Washougal Schools Foundation STRIDE for Education, Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Fishback Stadium.

This community event promotes fitness and learning, with sponsorship dollars going directly to the classroom.

A big thank you to Discovery Dental, the event’s Title Sponsor!

The WSF Student Stride for Education is a fun-filled morning, featuring student length runs (by grade level), and an adult 5K run/walk. Participants receive a commemorative 15th anniversary t-shirt, race-day medal, bottle of water and finish line treats. Signing up is easy with forms available at the schools after Spring Break, or you can register online.

This year’s stride logo was designed by sixth grade student Brendon Broucher from Jemtegaard!

More info at: <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/stride/> 🌱

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.washougal.k12.wa.us

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Mike Stromme

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Chase, President

Teresa Lees, Vice President

Ron Dinius

Elaine Pfeifer

Donna Sinclair

Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

May 22, District Board Room

June 12, District Board Room

June 26, 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!

Take our communication survey

Our communications team is gathering feedback on the ways that school patrons, parents, and staff access news about the district.

Please take this very short, online survey to help guide our work to share great news and information about the excellent teaching and learning happening in our schools.

