

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



WHS student Taylor Brown placed 3rd in the region in a VFW scholarship essay contest.

Students gain valuable career skills training

A focus on Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes is providing middle and high school students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners.

"Besides teaching core academic skills in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies, these career pathway classes also teach students technical skills related to the workforce as well as valuable life and career skills," said Margaret Rice, WSD CTE Director. "These skills include creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, quality and craftsmanship, teamwork, leadership and goal setting which help them prepare and succeed in job attainment."

Washougal students can gain skills in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Business and Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Finance, Construction, Health Sciences, Human Services, Arts and Technology, Transportation, and Information Technology.

What's more, CTE offerings can help students get ahead in the job market. "Students in some CTE classes have the opportunity to obtain industry certifications that demonstrate to a potential employer a higher level of proficiency in areas those employers are looking for, which helps our students become employed quicker and many times at a higher rate of pay," Rice explained. "Our students also have the opportunity to obtain college credit while in high school. We have partnerships with our local Community Colleges and align our courses so that our students can gain college credit for classes in the CTE Pathway that they would otherwise take in college. This saves our students and their families time and money."

Washougal community and business



Tanner Klopman (10) grinding a horseshoe wine rack in Metal Crafts. Photo courtesy of Adela Osorio.

partners are getting involved by participating on Advisory Committees, which are made up of individuals representing various fields to ensure the CTE courses/programs are relevant and up-to-date with current industry standards and equipment, job acquisition information, and future employment needs in the local area.

Washougal's CTE Advisory Committees have representatives from The City of Vancouver, Riverview Community Bank, Starbucks, Nourish NW, Washougal Sport & Spine, Pendleton Woolen Mills and The Scholarship Tutor.

Local Starbucks Manager and Washougal

CTE Advisory Committee President, Heather Jones, feels the perspective of businesses helps these courses prepare students. "Teachers are able to gather info from current business trends and incorporate that into lesson plans," she said. "The committee evaluates curriculum to ensure the classes offered are up-to date and useful for the students. Students benefit from the perspectives of the businesses."

"I think the more community members we can have in attendance on these committees the better," Jones added. "We can assist in setting our youth up for their future as they move into the workforce."

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Hello parents, students, and patrons,

We have had a busy start to 2016 and there is a lot of news to report in Washougal School District!

As you may be aware, our teachers' union and the Washougal School District recently negotiated changes to the teachers' employment contract. I'm pleased to announce that after many meetings and proposals we have reached an agreement that was approved by our Board of Directors January 26. Both parties worked to understand the concerns of the other group and I am very appreciative of their willingness to work together to create an agreement that meets teachers' concerns, falls within fiscal parameters, and meets the approval of our school board.

District staff has worked hard to develop a curriculum adoption plan to map out the introduction of new materials and resources in our classrooms over the next few years. I would like to applaud their work and I'm very excited about how this will assure a common set of materials across grade levels and schools and will help address learning standards to prepare all Washougal students for success.

As I write this, it is 50+ degrees and the sun is shining. It's hard to believe that we have had three missed days of school due to inclement weather. In order to familiarize myself with Washougal roads during my first winter in the district, I spent some time driving (and sliding) around the hills and most treacherous areas in our community. I don't take the decision to close school lightly but the safety of students and staff is a top priority. We will now have school on March 11, May 6 and June 17 to make up those days. Fingers crossed for mild weather ahead!

I hope you find this issue of Community Connections informative. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mike Stromme, Superintendent



Cape Horn-Skye named 2015 WA School of Distinction

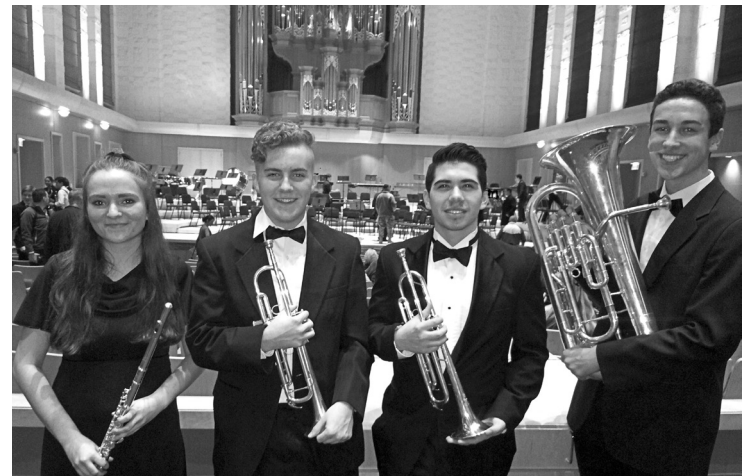
Cape Horn-Skye Elementary received the 2015 School of Distinction award for sustained improvement over a five-year period in reading/English language arts (ELA) and math.

The award recognizes schools in the top 5% of improvement and is given by the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) in partnership with the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD), the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), and the Washington Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (WASCD).

Cape Horn-Skye is a four-time award winner, having also received the award in 2009, 2011, and 2012.

WHS musicians perform in regional honor band

FOUR Washougal High School students recently performed with the Pacific Lutheran University Northwest High School Honor Band in Tacoma, Washington. This group of elite musicians was selected from high schools throughout Washington and Oregon, and spent two days studying with band directors from major universities. Congratulations to these students on their accomplishment!



Pictured: Madelyn Ault, flute; Ryan Anderson, trumpet; Nick Torres, trumpet; and Jalen Watts, euphonium.

SCHOOL BOND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Planning work for the construction and improvements to Washougal School District facilities approved in the February 2015 bond is progressing steadily, remaining on schedule.

The new Jemtegaard Middle School, new elementary school, Excelsior High School and new transportation facility sites continue in the Design Development phase. Draft Education Specifications have been devel-

oped for the schools and reviewed by the School Board. Each of the projects is moving through the permitting process.

Roof and HVAC work at Gause and Hathaway Elementary Schools will

soon have construction documents completed and bidding for the projects will begin by end of January 2016.

Construction documents are also nearing completion for the Safety and Security Improvements and bidding for that project will also start at the end of January. Bell Hardware won the bid to furnish interior door hardware to allow teachers to lock classrooms from the inside. Work will be done during non-school hours and should be completed before the end of February 2016.

For more about our projects, including an overview of each site and proposed designs, please visit our Bond website at: <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/bond-project-updates/>



Above: Robotics teams Robo Bonobo Dodos and The Digidogs at the state semi-finals. Right: Sean Seifert and Sean Marcos preparing their robot



Jemtegaard Middle School Robotics Club teams place at statewide semi-finals

In just their first year of competition, the Jemtegaard Middle School Robotics Club has already earned several awards, representing their school proudly at both the FIRST Lego League Regional Qualifier and the State Semi-Finals. Two JMS teams competed against their peers in grades 4-8 from across Clark County and beyond.

In the State Semi-finals competition in Olympia in January, Team Robo Bonobo Dodos, which includes Kyra Pierce, Kaylee Timmons, Garret Flowers, Sean Marcos, Moises Arriola, and Sean Seifert, earned 16th place in the robot game.

The Digidogs team, which includes Mathias Hight, Ivan Davydenko, Dillon Tuite, and Kolton Andrews took 12th place, won a trophy for Strategy and Innovation and qualified for the State Competition. The judges were particularly impressed with their engineering that went into a launcher they made that used a medium motor and gears to propel objects across the game board.

This is the second year for the robotics program at JMS and the first year that they have had a Robotics Club participate in FIRST Lego League. The robotics class is a popular one at JMS with a waiting list for students to participate. Currently the class is only open to 8th grade but a 7th grade class will be added next year.

Robotics teachers are Tim Davis and Cherise Marshall. Marshall says she is proud of her students. "Even if their robots don't work

right the first time, students have learned to develop perseverance," she said. "They truly understand how to work as engineers, which is to learn from their mistakes and come up with solutions to their problems. They have also learned to slow down. To do well at this work they need to do a quality job and do

things right as they go along. This has been such a valuable experience that will stay with them long after middle school is over."

The Robotics program has received several grants to support the program, including a First Lego League Grant through OSPI and a grant from Daimler.

Barney joins WSD Board of Directors



JARON Barney was sworn in to the Washougal School Board as the district three representative at the regular board meeting Tuesday, January 12. He was appointed to fill the position vacated by Bruce Westfall who resigned in November.

Jaron, 45, brings experience in public education to the WSD board. He worked as a classroom teacher and administrator in California for twelve years before moving to Washougal. He now teaches classes at Charter College in Vancouver. He earned a bachelor of arts in English from San Francisco State University and a master's degree in education from Chapman University.

He moved to Washougal five years ago with wife Kristina and children

McKenna and Ethan. McKenna is a senior at Washougal High School and Ethan, a fifth-grader at Gause Elementary. Jaron left California in part due to the cuts to education and the high cost of living there.

"I like that there are lots of positive things going on in the district and that we invest in our schools," he said. "The district's commitment to funding the arts is really something I am excited about."

"I am really excited to have Jaron joining the board," said WSD board member Karen Rubino. "He brings a strong background in education, an appreciation for the community and a true caring for the kids to the position."

Listening is Jaron's primary goal as he joins the board.

"I learned as an administrator, you need to do a lot of listening," he said. "You can't just come in and have an agenda. Narrow agendas do not serve the broader community well."



WASHOUGAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The Washougal School Board (from left): Jaron Barney, Karen Rubino, Teresa Lees, Elaine Pfeifer, and Ron Dinius.

Thank you school board!

Governor Jay Inslee declared January school board recognition month. These volunteer community members play a crucial role in developing district policies and making tough decisions on complex educational and social issues. School board members are directly accountable to the citizens of Washougal, serving as a vital link between members of the community and their schools. These dedicated citizens contribute many hours of volunteer work to support our students and schools and are invaluable to our educational system.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WSD, teachers reach contract agreement

THE Washougal Association of Educators and the Washougal School District reached a tentative agreement on a new, two-year contract. The agreement has been ratified by the Washougal Association of Educators and approved by the Washougal School Board. Full terms of the contract will be posted to our website in the coming weeks.

Mark your calendar: Snow makeup days

SCHOOL will be in session March 11, May 6 and June 17 to make up the days missed due to inclement weather. If additional school closures for inclement weather occur, the next day for make up would be the week of June 20.

Events benefit schools and community

AS 2015 came to a close, the Washougal community celebrated the season by supporting several worthy causes.

- » THE Sixth Annual Festival of Trees was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of more than 100 volunteers. This community event raised \$15,113 for Washougal schools!
- » Together, the Camas and Washougal students and staff collected 50,500 pounds of food and non-perishables as part of Stuff the Bus, supporting the greater community during the holiday season. Washougal students, staff and community embraced the spirit of giving by supporting families in need in our area.

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.washougal.k12.wa.us

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Mike Stromme

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ron Dinius, President
Elaine Pfeifer, Vice President
Karen Rubino, Legislative Rep.
Teresa Lees
Jaron Barney

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when you "Like" us!*



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www.facebook.com/WashougalSD

Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

February 23, Excelsior High School
March 8, District Board Room
March 22, Hathaway Elementary School
Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room, 4855 Evergreen Way, unless otherwise noted. All are invited!