

Community *Connections*

WINTER 2020



Kindergarten students practice reading



Washougal schools honor local veterans for their service

Patriotic and music-filled assemblies were presented throughout Washougal schools on Friday, November 8, to honor Veterans who were in attendance. Washougal High School hosted their event on Monday, November 4.

Local Veterans enjoyed their front row seats at the assemblies which featured special honor guards, poems, band and choir performances, guest speakers and hosted breakfasts and coffee service at many schools.

"It was wonderful to see such thoughtful tributes presented by our students," said Mary Templeton, WSD Superintendent. "It is important for us to recognize and thank our local veterans for the service and sacrifices they have made to protect our freedoms." 🌿

Register to vote!

Make sure you are registered to vote before the February 11 election. Parents, this is a great opportunity to be a role model. Talk to your child about the election, issues you care about and why you feel voting is important. This encourages kids to become involved in the electoral process once they are old enough. Registering to vote is easy, and can be done online through early January, or in person with the Clark or Skamania County Elections office up until election day. Visit VoteWA.gov to register now! ★ ★ ★

Sports programs help Washougal students to rise

Washougal High School athletes had a great fall season. Gary McGarvie, Athletic Director for Washougal High School, provided a recap of the fall sports programs around Washougal. WHS boys football made it to the state quarterfinals, which was the team's best showing in 40 years. In addition, WHS senior Breavan Bea was named the league defensive player of the year.

This year was the first offering of WHS girls slowpitch softball. The team qualified for state and made it to the semifinals, finishing 5th in state.

WHS girls volleyball is a very young team, and will continue to grow and get better. Senior Gracie Dolan was selected as first team all league.

Both boys and girls cross country qualified for the state tournament, and finished in the top 12. Girls finished 3rd in the district competition and boys placed 4th. WHS girls swimming had an excellent turnout, sending 11 girls to districts, the most ever for the team, with five of them qualifying for the state competition.

WHS boys golf had a great season with two golfers who qualified for state, and the WHS team placed in the top six at districts. Girls soccer also had a great season, qualifying for districts with a very young team. There is a very bright future for this program. Boys tennis did well with a very young and talented team. This program will continue to grow and qualify more athletes in district. Wyatt Sims shone as a standout tennis player this year qualifying for districts. 🌿

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

As we start the new year, I am reminded how fortunate we are to be living in such a fabulous community and how grateful I am to have the opportunity to lead the Washougal School District. We are committed to making sure that every student who walks through our doors is known, nurtured, and challenged to rise to their potential. We believe that our district is poised to be one of the top performers in the state, and we also know that this vision for the future can only be attained as we commit to working together and maintaining our strong connections to one another.



A year ago, we launched an ambitious process to develop a new strategic plan that would guide this aspirational work into the future. As we conducted listening tours, our stakeholders clearly communicated to us that they value our strong academic tradition, our excellent athletics, music, and S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) offerings. Additionally, we heard that we must keep the physical and emotional safety of our students and staff at the center of all that we do. Stakeholders also emphasized providing students with hands-on technology experiences that prepare them for the workplace, as well as using technology tools to enable access for all learners. Critical to the success of our Strategic Plan will also be the opportunity to innovate and create new experiences for our students, which will allow them to wonder, invent, and thrive.

On February 11, the Washougal School District will be bringing before the community a request to renew the Educational Programs and Operations levy (EP&O) and the Technology levy for another three years. We know that these investments in our schools will provide us the resources we need to rise to our potential, prepare all of our students for a successful future, and allow us to fulfill our destiny as one of the top-performing districts in our state. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



WSD teacher and volunteer named Real Heroes of Clark County

A Washougal School District teacher and a long-time school volunteer were recognized as Real Heroes of Clark County through the Learn Here project honoring individuals for outstanding service to students and education in Clark County. Dani Allen (above right), art teacher at Jemtegaard Middle School and Rona Ager (above left), parent, Booster Club member and STEAM advocate, were recognized at an award program on October 17 with 21 other honorees.

The countywide program recognizes educational staff and volunteers in partnership with educational institutions for their efforts to serve the Clark County school communities. Sponsors of the award program were RealLiving Real Estate Group, Port of Vancouver USA and NW Capital Mortgage.

DANI ALLEN

Dani Allen, art teacher at Jemtegaard Middle School, has worked for the Washougal School District for 12 years in a combination of Special Education and Art positions. Allen is a passionate advocate for public art, partnering with the City of Washougal and the Washougal Art and Culture Alliance to showcase student art through projects like murals in parks, art displays at City Hall, and art galleries as part of Washougal Youth Art Month. She and her Club 8 students recently completed a mural on a retaining wall in downtown Washougal.

Allen is a champion for students with special needs and differences, too. She started a Unified sports program in 2014, and was a Gay Straight Alliance advisor for students in several schools.

RONA AGER

Rona Ager has been volunteering in classrooms and supporting the Gause Elementary Boosters for nearly 10 years. She is known for spearheading and taking the lead on numerous Booster projects and is always available to help where needed around school.

When beloved Gause teacher, Alisa Vail, passed after a battle with cancer, Ager organized the purchase, installation and unveiling ceremony of a Buddy Bench to honor Vail.

Ager leads and coordinates many events and celebrations, including the Mustang Hall of Fame Celebration, Veterans' Day assemblies, and the "Honor roll/On a roll" at JMS. She has assisted with numerous other programs. 🌱



The district's Technology Levy supports devices used for learning and levy-funded instructional coaches educate students on how to safely and effectively use those devices.

Washougal voters to consider levies in February

On February 11, 2020, Washougal voters will vote on two replacement levies: one for Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) and one for Technology. These two levies are not new taxes, they are replacing the levies expiring in 2020.

The EP&O Levy funds services and operations not fully funded by state or federal dollars. These services include: health and safety, including student support staff, (Safety Resource Officer, counselors, and nurses); instructional support (paraeducators, librarians, secretaries, ELL, Highly Capable, and Advancement Placement); athletics, activities and clubs; visual and performing arts; student learning and staffing; and operations and maintenance (custodians and maintenance staff).

The Technology Levy puts powerful learning devices in the hands of teachers and students, and provides curriculum, infrastructure and staffing to ensure those tools are supporting classroom activities.

The EP&O Levy will cost taxpayers \$2.14 per thousand of assessed value, and the Technology Levy will cost \$0.25 per thousand of assessed value.

The proposed Educational Programs and Operations Levy rates are projected to remain flat over the next three years (2021, 2022,

and 2023) at \$2.14 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The levy is projected to collect \$7,392,656 in the first year of collection, \$7,984,068 in 2022, and \$8,622,793 in 2023.

Dr. Mary Templeton, Superintendent of Washougal School District, stated that the "Levy provides the funding that allows our district to invest in supports for students, capacity to innovate, and ensure programs that let us know, nurture, and challenge all students are available and helping students rise every day."

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 staffing, and curriculum and software.

The proposed Technology Levy rates are projected to decline over the three years of the levy, with the rate per \$1,000 of assessed value at \$0.25 in 2021, \$0.24 in 2022, and \$0.22 in 2023. The Technology Levy is projected to collect \$845,000 in the first year of collection, \$870,000 in 2022, and \$898,000 in 2023.

For more information visit: www.washougal.k12.wa.us/district-budget-information/levy/



The Educational Programs & Operations Levy supports programs like afterschool athletics, visual and performing arts activities, and additional instructional support.



#WashougalRising

www.washougal.k12.wa.us

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Washougal, WA 98671

Winter weather policy

When the weather outside is frightful, we'll keep you updated

Winter is here and the Washougal School District is preparing for dropping temperatures and the potential impacts of inclement weather on area schools and commutes.

Many buses in Washougal travel to high elevations, where roads can be harder hit by winter weather than surrounding communities. Even the lower regions of the district can be unsafe for travel when cold air is blowing from the Columbia River Gorge. WSD leadership must make decisions regarding safety when transporting students in these weather conditions.

All district families are notified of a change in routine with an early morning automated text and phone call that begins at 6:00 a.m. "It can take up to 20 minutes for all 5,000 phone calls to be made," explained Superintendent Mary Templeton. "We know families need this information as soon as possible to make childcare and other plans." Families are encouraged to check the district Facebook page, website, Twitter, and watch for updates on local media.

Families often ask why the district doesn't close only the schools at higher elevations while keeping the lower elevation schools open. One reason is that Washougal High School covers the entire district and students travel from many areas. Bus drivers and staff live across Washougal and beyond as well. "If some roads are unsafe for buses and cars to travel, then it's unsafe for staff to get to work too," explained Templeton. "If road conditions are unsafe, the best choice is to close all schools."

More information on weather-related emergency information, including updated snow routes, can be found on the WSD web site: www.washougal.k12.wa.us/emergency-information/ 🌿

Recruit and hire at the Industry Hiring Fair on February 27

Local Clark and West Skamania County businesses are invited to meet, recruit and hire local employees at the Industry Hiring Fair on February 27, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at Washougal High School.

The free event is for job seekers of all ages and is jointly coordinated by Washougal, Camas and Stevenson Carson School Districts. Special pre-event workshops will be available for potential applicants to attend to create or brush up their résumé so they are interview ready at the fair.

If you are a business looking for talented employees, please register to host a table by calling 360-954-3119 or visit www.washougal.k12.wa.us/ihf 🌿

Youth Art Month returns in March

Washougal School District and Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance are teaming up for a second year to spotlight student art throughout March as a part of the national recognized Youth Art Month.

Washougal youth will have opportunities to create, experience and display art throughout the events and activities planned all month long. Flyers with details on what is planned will be available at all schools and online in February. 🌿



SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Mary Templeton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cory Chase, President
Angela Hancock, Vice Pres.
Donna Sinclair, Legislative Rep.
Jim Cooper
Ron Dinius

Upcoming Board Meetings

Jan. 14, Hathaway Elementary
Jan. 28, Cape Horn-Skye Elementary
Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m.
All are invited!

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The Washougal School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal, WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Title IX Officer: Gary McGarvie, 1201 39th St., Washougal, WA 98671, (360) 954-3104; Section 504 Coordinator: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal, WA 98671, (360) 954-3050.

2018-19 District Financial Report

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



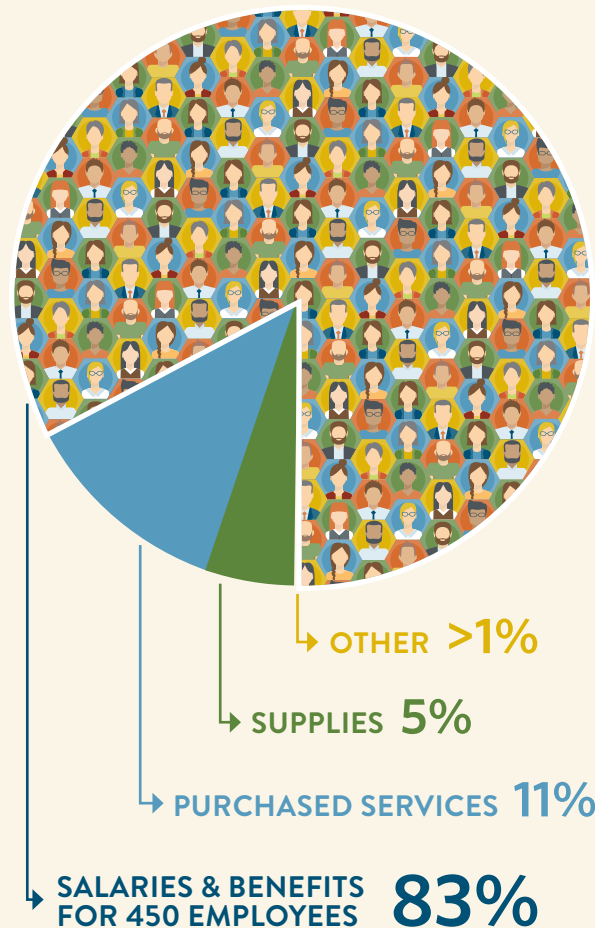
2018-19 REVENUES*

STATE FUNDS - 77%	\$33,960,512
Per pupil funding, State Levy Assistance, Transportation funds	
FEDERAL FUNDS - 5%	\$2,140,558
Special Ed, CTE, Title I, Title II, USDA Commodities	
LOCAL NON-TAX FUNDS - 3%	\$1,161,425
Facility rentals, community education, donations, etc.	
LOCAL LEVY FUNDS - 15%	\$6,560,518
Educational Programs & Operations Levy, Technology Levy	
TOTAL 2018-19 REVENUE	\$43,823,012

2018-19 EXPENDITURES*

BASIC EDUCATION - 55%	\$24,763,861
Most salaries & benefits, materials, professional development	
SPECIAL EDUCATION - 14%	\$6,378,959
Educating students with special needs	
CAREER & TECHNICAL ED. - 4%	\$1,677,210
Middle and high school work- and college-readiness	
OTHER INSTRUCTION - 4%	\$1,760,041
Title I, Learning Assistance, bilingual programs, Highly Capable program	
TRANSFERS OUT - <1%	\$50,000
One-time, long-range capital facilities planning	
SUPPORT SERVICES - 23%	\$10,322,042
Purchased services and other operational expenses	
TOTAL 2018-19 EXPENDITURES	\$44,952,114

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS LEVY

Washougal received over \$5.8 million in local operations levy dollars in 2018-19, plus another \$361,553 in Local Effort Assistance* from the state.

This funding supports...

12%

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

- Librarians
- Secretaries
- Paraeducators
- Textbooks
- Curriculum
- Food Service
- AVID
- Community Programs

42%

STUDENT LEARNING & STAFFING

- Art
- Music
- Advanced Placement
- Highly Capable Program
- Professional Development & Training
- Substitute Teachers
- Classified Substitutes
- Special Education Support
- English Language Learner Support

13%

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- School Athletics
- Coaches
- Advisors
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Performing Arts
- Transportation

29%

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Custodians
- Grounds & Building Maintenance
- Supplies & Equipment
- Utilities
- Fuel
- Vehicles & Maintenance

4%

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Security Staff
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Family Resource Centers

* Local effort assistance (LEA) is state money paid to eligible districts to match excess general fund levies. These payments help school districts with above-average tax rates due to low property valuations.

TECHNOLOGY LEVY

Our \$845,000 Technology Levy supports...

- The Student 1:1 Initiative
- Up-to-date Computers & Devices
- Classroom Instructional Technology
- Professional Development & Coaching
- Technology Infrastructure
- Curriculum & Software