



#WashougalRising
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Washougal, WA 98671

Sports are in full-swing for Washougal students

The feel of crisp cool air signals the return of Fall sports. Washougal middle and high school athletes are enjoying the physical challenges, exciting competition, and important team camaraderie as in person play resumes in public schools.

Fall sports include:

HIGH SCHOOL

Cheer
Boys Cross Country
Girls Cross Country
Football
Boys Golf
Slowpitch
Girls Soccer
Girls Swim
Boys Tennis
Volleyball

The Winter sports season will welcome back:

HIGH SCHOOL

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Unified Team Basketball
Cheer
Girls Gymnastics
Boys Swim
Boys Wrestling
Girls Wrestling

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys Wrestling
Girls Wrestling



Special Services provide top-quality care and instruction

Washougal School District has a team of student support professionals who help students of all ages develop the tools and skills they need to be successful in school and in life. For Hathaway fourth-grader Collin Wilson, this team of professionals has been a critical part of his educational journey since preschool, helping him navigate school and life with the tools needed to be healthy, happy, and successful.

Collin started receiving support in preschool, through Washougal's Developmental Preschool program. He currently receives speech therapy, occupational therapy, reading support, and handwriting support as part of his regular school routine. He is able to meet with his various support team members throughout the school day. Collin's mom, Dana, says this level of support for Collin has been absolutely critical to his success as a student.

"This biggest impact on Collin has been the positivity shared by every member of his team," Dana said. "When Collin has a tough day, his team is always there to pick him up."



ABOVE: Occupational Therapist, Caitlin Snowden is an important member of Collin Wilson's team of support services professionals at Hathaway Elementary School. BELOW: Fourth grader Collin Wilson and other Washougal School District students receive supports to help them successfully navigate school and life challenges.

Dana says that whether it be a new strategy, tool, or simply a pep talk, Collin's support team is always there to help him through any adversity or challenge. Dana is also happy to be an active participant in the teamwork supporting Collin's education, and it gives her peace of mind to know everyone is working together so Collin can be successful.

"When I meet with Collin's team, we refer to ourselves as 'Team Collin,' Dana said. "I love that I am included as part of his team. Knowing...that [Collin] always has a team rallying for him is a great feeling."

For Collin, the support he's receiving is just another part of the school day, which is exactly as it should be. His favorite part of school is his time working with an

occupational therapist, because he gets to complete an obstacle course, through which he learns a lot of useful skills in a fun, engaging, and nurturing environment. Collin's favorite subject is reading and he hopes to be a police officer when he grows up, and there is no doubt he will be able to achieve whatever he sets his mind to. According to Dana, this is all thanks to the incredible, caring individuals working with Washougal's Special Services department.

"I am thankful for Collin's team and especially because everyone that we've worked with through special services has truly been a champion for children with special needs," said Dana. "Because of them, I know that Collin has a bright future ahead of him."



STUFF the BUS is back!

Stuff the Bus returns to kick off the season of giving! Washougal school families and the community will have the opportunity to donate non-perishable foods and personal care items November 1 - December 3 at any school and the local Safeway. Donations benefit a variety of local agency holiday and emergency food programs.

For more information and a list of most needed items visit:
washougal.k12.wa.us/stuff-the-bus-2

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

Fall has arrived in Washougal! I know that because the mornings have turned cool, the leaves have turned bright hues of orange and yellow, and pumpkins are back at Safeway. More importantly, I know that fall has arrived because our children are back in our schools, where they are daily learning, laughing, growing, creating, and being supported to stretch academically, socially, and emotionally. As your superintendent, I feel a strong sense of responsibility to see each student successfully prepared for their bright futures and having our schools open for full time, in-person learning is critical for fulfilling this mission.



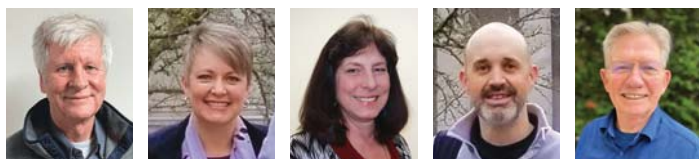
Students have been engaged in not just the classroom this fall, but also in activities and athletics. We have all benefited by being able to watch our children as they grow and gain critical skills for the future through our traditional fall activities, like homecoming, musicals, and after school clubs. Participating students gain important skills around teamwork, critical thinking, creativity, grit, and high expectations for self and others. While we still have safety mandates that we must adhere to, we are thrilled to welcome our students and fans back to cheer for our students!

We are listening to those we serve via feedback surveys and listening posts for community members to weigh in on our progress toward the goals of the WSD 6-year strategic plan. We will soon host "Sweets with the Superintendent," an informal conversation with parents over treats prepared by our WHS culinary classes at each school. Please check our website for more information about these opportunities.

Finally, I want to thank our parents, staff, students, community, and our school board for your tireless work to navigate the many challenges of a global pandemic. All of us, together, are keeping students moving forward, and our school board has shown courage by maintaining their unwavering commitment to keeping our schools open, keeping our staff and students safe, and ensuring that all students are known, nurtured, and challenged. I am proud to be on the winning Washougal team.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

Board Identifies Goal Areas for 2021-2022

The Washougal School Board identified goal areas within the WSD Strategic Plan 2025 for the coming school year. Board members weighed pressing issues, areas of concern, and future needs in choosing the areas of focus, which center on the Educational Engagement, Effective Instruction, and Equity pillars of the strategic plan.

Board members highlighted the need to re-engage with students and families within the Educational Engagement pillar, especially as the pandemic impacts a third school year. Board members discussed the impacts of remote learning, lost instructional time, and pressure on family systems. They also reinforced the need to address gaps that students may have as students prepare for success in skilled trades, military, college or career pathways, and the 21st Century Learning skills students need for the future.

Board members chose Effective Instruction, recognizing the impact of relevant, rigorous and supportive instruction with high expectations as the bedrock for the district's continued success. The board emphasized social emotional growth, developing coping skills, and a need for digital literacy, especially as it pertains to preparing future citizens for participation in our democracy.

Finally, the board weighed the progress in the Equity pillar, and a need to sustain this work in the coming year. Board members prioritized continuing to listen to community members as this work continues, especially the ways we can value and recognize the contributions that each family brings. The board stressed closing achievement gaps by setting high expectations for all students, to help more students leave our schools with the ticket to the future all students deserve.

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in-person (masks required) and via Zoom. Visit our website for information on how to participate.

October 26: Canyon Creek Middle School (9731 Washougal River Rd.)

November 9: District Board Room (4855 Evergreen Way)

November 23: District Board Room (4855 Evergreen Way)

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Mary Templeton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Cory Chase, President; Angela Hancock, Vice President; Donna Sinclair, Legislative Rep; Jim Cooper; Chuck Carpenter

School counselors share techniques to build coping and social skills for students who need them

Washougal School District educates the whole child by providing an education system that recognizes the connections between children's social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development, as well as their physical and mental health. Throughout the pandemic, the challenge to support students socially and emotionally has never been so great.

"Stress, anxiety, and depression are at an all-time high," said Becky Nordstrom, Canyon Creek Middle School Counselor. "Quarantining, being isolated and then attending school completely at a distance and now coming back after a year away – it's a lot."

Nordstrom is a part of the Student Support Team at CCMS and Cape Horn-Skye Elementary. The team also includes Wendy Butler, Prevention Specialist; Tracey Stinchfield, Student Support Specialist; Heather Kassel, administration intern; Amy Henke, CH-S Counselor; Alden Clark, Associate Principal; and Brian Amundson, Principal. Similar teams offering student support exist at all Washougal schools.

According to Nordstrom, the team uses Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and also reviews individual student data weekly such as behavior referrals, attendance, tardiness, grades and observed social conduct. "We look at what their needs are and then put interventions in place to meet those needs," she said. "Some students also self-identify that help is needed and seek us out. Our doors are always open."

Students receive help in small groups or individually and learn coping and social skills. "We work on strategies for how to calm down by taking breaks or breathing. Sometimes we help with social or friendship skills or even study skills. These tools are designed to lower stress levels, so students can stay in class and stay connected to their education. Our goal is to see the help they receive reflected in their grades and attendance."

Ultimately, as a school counselor, Nordstrom said she wants to help children be successful in life. "This begins with success in school and with peers and teachers," she said.

Attending school full time and having access to activities is



CCMS Counselor Becky Nordstrom gets group conversations started with the thumb ball, featuring questions for students to share feelings.

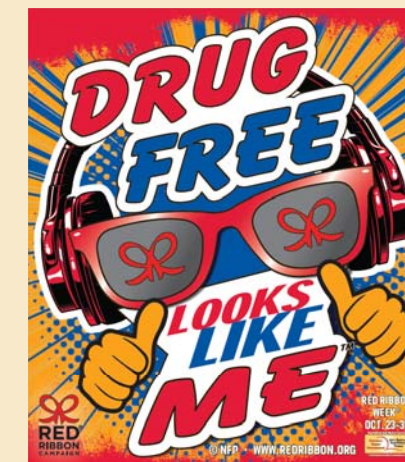
helping students stay connected and reduce stress. "Students are motivated by the social aspect of school, such as sports and clubs," Nordstrom explained. "These opportunities keep them connected and foster relationships with peers and teachers."

"It is so great that we are back in person," said Nordstrom. "Yes, we have masks and COVID protocols to follow but we are here, together! When we are outside without masks, I love to see the smiles on students' faces and see how excited they are to be here and around peers."

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN RED RIBBON WEEK: OCTOBER 23-31

Washougal elementary and middle school students will explore the positive empowerment of healthy lifestyle choices during National Red Ribbon Week (RRW), Oct 23-31, 2021. This year's theme is "Drug Free Looks Like Me."

RRW, held in conjunction with Unite! Washougal Community Coalition, will look differently at each school. Elements could include morning announcements, Social Emotional Learning lessons, encouraging participation in the RRW National photo contest, pop up parties with swag giveaways, and spirit/dress up days to show support for healthy choices. "This week is really a celebration," explained Wendy Butler, Canyon Creek Middle School Prevention Specialist. "It is about coming together as a community in positive ways to increase awareness around the benefits of making healthy and safe choices."



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: Penny Andrews, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3020.