

Community *Connections*

SUMMER 2021

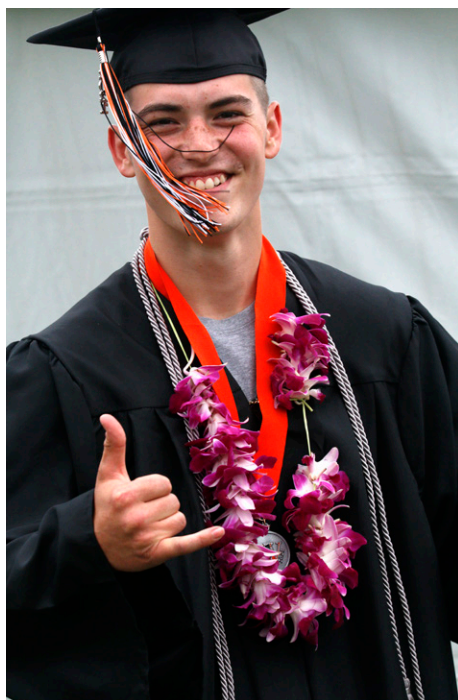


Brenda Hitchins named Teacher of Year, pg. 5

Congratulations to the class of 2021!



WHS graduates gathered with classmates, family, and staff in June, closing out their time with Washougal School District and starting their new adventures. Speakers shared memories of this most unusual year and the ways they used 21st century skills such as grit, determination, and creative problem solving, to forge successful paths to graduation. Congratulations, graduates! We are so proud of all your accomplishments!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Washougal Community,

School Year 2020-21 has successfully concluded and we are already making ambitious plans for student learning in the fall. Operating a school district during a global pandemic and state of emergency was, to say the least, one of the most challenging experiences any of us has ever faced in public education. These challenges were experienced by each and every one of us: students, parents, teachers, staff, leaders, school board members and our community partners.

This year, we learned much from each other and about each other. We learned that commitment, determination, and compassion are critical components of our mission to nurture and support the 3,000 students in the Washougal School District. We confirmed that 21st century learning skills like hard work, determination, resilience, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and appreciation across differences are essential for student success in school and in their future careers. We learned that flexibility and family-friendly options were absolutely necessary for this school year and for school years to come. We learned that our strength comes from our ability to stay together during complex times. And we confirmed that our bright future is still in front of us and that our resilient spirit is poised to grab onto our destiny to Rise as a top performing school district in the State of Washington.

A number of accomplishments and indicators show that we are fulfilling our vision to ensure all of our students are rising to their full potential. Our graduation rate continues to climb, providing the ticket to the future that every Washougal student deserves. Jemtegaard principal David Cooke was honored as the Principal of the Year by AWSWP. WHS teacher Brenda Hitchins was honored as the ESD 112 Teacher of the Year. Our communications team was honored by the Washington State Public Relations Association for their work. The Jemtegaard staff was recognized with the Whole Child Award for their work supporting students. Our schools have been state recognized schools several years in a row for continued progress toward closing the achievement gap. Washougal High School has been recognized for their sustainability efforts in recycling and reducing waste.

In the midst of all of this, we have continued to progress, creating new opportunities for students and families. This has been made possible by the tireless dedication of our team, which has worked to ensure the pandemic didn't put our rise on hold.

I am heartened by what we were able to accomplish together and am optimistic about a return to normalcy in the fall. Stay well and we will see you on August 31st!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

Dear Washougal Community,

I am pleased to share that the Washougal School District Board of Directors adopted an equity, diversity, and inclusion policy at its June 8 board meeting. The board is appreciative of the committee that helped craft this policy using a solid, transparent process, which included input from district patrons, staff, parents, and students. The new policy is a good foundation to ensure we respect, value, and welcome every student in our schools.

When the district began gathering feedback in 2018 as part of our strategic planning process, equity was a central theme. Parents, students, staff, and community members identified equity as a pillar of the district's 2019-2025 Strategic Plan, and we created ambitious goals for our district.

We are committed to listening and staying engaged in this work, recognizing that without courageous conversations about equity, diversity, and inclusion, we cannot ensure that every student succeeds. The board is responding to our community and has heard both from those who want this work to move more quickly, and those who have reservations about equity work. The board appreciates those who come forward to share feedback and seeks to find the right balance that can keep the community moving in the right direction.

We believe that relationships are key to this work. When we talk about knowing, nurturing, and challenging students, the relationship with a student and their family is what lets us understand the challenges each student is facing, and the ways our schools and staff can support them. Our goal is to prepare every Washougal child for graduation with the knowledge and skills they need to find their path in life, whether in skilled trades, higher education, or professional careers.

Thank you to everyone who participated in developing this important policy to help ensure all learners have the opportunities for success in our system.

Sincerely,

Cory Chase

WSD Board Chair

BOARD MEETINGS

August 10 & 24. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office and via Zoom.

Visit our website for information on how to participate.



WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WashougalRising

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Mary Templeton

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

Equity is at the heart of what we do as a district

When the Washougal community came together to develop the 2025 Strategic Plan, equity was identified as a central theme. The district heard from students, families, and patrons that addressing issues of equity, encouraging diversity, and creating inclusive learning environments were needed to improve outcomes for all students. As a result, we have made a number of investments in equity, diversity, and inclusion to make sure the gains are shared, regardless of a student's or their family's background. Take a moment to read about a few of our programs and how they've made a difference in our school community.

Flexible virtual learning options for all grades

Washougal Learning Academy (WLA) provides support for students and families who need additional flexibility in learning programs. Through WLA, students who want to accelerate their learning or learn at a different pace are served with individual support from certificated teachers, meeting each week to customize their learning plan and provide one-on-one learning opportunities. Ensuring that Washougal's academic programs work for all types of learners is another way that equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts can improve outcomes for all types of families.

Advanced learning programs for students seeking high achievement

The district has also invested in AVID, a program designed to foster academic and behavioral skills students need to succeed in college, including soft skills like organization, time management, and critical thinking. The program was founded on the principle of providing equitable opportunities for all students who seek high achievement, and focuses on engaging students from lower income and racial and ethnic minority families who are historically under-represented in American colleges. AVID provides teacher training focused on maintaining high expectations, encouraging students to fully believe in themselves, and building confidence for students to pursue rigorous coursework and prepare for college. Implementing this framework throughout Washougal schools builds every student's capacity to achieve more.

Reducing financial barriers for students

Family Resource Centers at Hathaway and Columbia River Gorge provide support for families for whom income is a barrier to school participation, as well as for students who are experiencing homelessness. FRCs connect students and families with community resources, provide for basic needs, and ensure students are able to fully participate with their peers. This important work contributes to building a cohesive and inclusive community.



Spanish-speaking family outreach moved outdoors during COVID-19, but families still showed up to build relationships and connect their students with great programs. Families have shared that this investment has made them feel better connected, more included, and able to guide their students' academic, social, and emotional success.

Support for Spanish speaking families

Over the last several years, school and district leaders have been asking families and students what supports they need that are not yet provided. We believe families know their circumstances and needs best, so we start by listening. By listening, we are able to respond with programs, services, and supports that remove barriers and provide more equitable opportunities for students.

When the Washougal community's Spanish speaking families identified a need for additional support, the district began a series of Spanish Speaking Family Nights. Through several meetings together, parents, students, and staff identified challenges that schools could work on and brought in resources to better serve families.

The district now provides tutoring in the Addy Street neighborhood that is well utilized by students from Spanish speaking households. New this school year, a Spanish speaking family liaison acts as a conduit for information between families and school, ensuring they have the information they need to connect with support for their students.

"It was a great community gathering," said Lina Alvarez, Commission on Hispanic Affairs Commissioner and WSD Equity Committee Member. "I can't think of anything more that says, 'we hear you and we're doing something.' In addition to teaching, WSD is listening, learning, engaging, and executing actions to address all students' and their families' needs."

Rigorous learning a top priority for 2020-21 school year

by Renae Burson-McMurray,

WSD Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning



The culmination of another school year means promotion ceremonies, seniors who are off to begin a new chapter of their lives, and, of course, summer vacation. For those of us who work in the school district, it is a time to reflect and plan for the upcoming year.

Over the past year, we've encountered some daunting challenges that significantly impacted our students' learning environment. While we have stretched and learned a great deal, we are nevertheless all ready for a more "normal" year. In the fall, we plan to serve students in person five days a week. One thing that is clear: the time teachers and staff spend working directly with students is crucial to student success. Next school year, teachers will return to doing what they do best—building relationships with students and designing rigorous learning experiences.

Washougal is committed to challenging all students to rise, but what does that mean, exactly? Students grow and learn when they are presented with rich tasks that stretch their thinking. As an AVID (Achievement via Individual Determination) district, we use the following definition of rigor: "Using inquiry-based, collaborative strategies to challenge and engage students in content, resulting in increasingly complex levels of understanding. Rigorous Instruction involves designing and facilitating learning experiences that help students make meaning for themselves."

To be successful in careers of the future, students must be problem solvers and critical thinkers. For teachers, the challenge is



Washougal High School graduates created customized yard signs to proudly declared their post-high school plans at the Panthers Rising event in June.

finding the balance between a task that is too difficult and leads to frustration and a task that is too easy and does not result in new learning. Students must engage in productive struggle in order to grow and learn. Teachers are masters at determining the right amount of scaffolding—providing what each student needs to engage in critical thinking. So we are planning for a year of challenge and struggle—in the best possible way!



These Jemtegaard Middle School students will join the Washougal High School AVID program in the fall.



Brenda Hitchins named Regional Teacher of the Year

WHS Culinary Arts teacher Chef Brenda Hitchins has been selected as the ESD 112 region's Teacher of the Year for 2021. Brenda earned this high honor for her work transforming the high school's traditional home economics program into a successful culinary arts career preparation program. Brenda has called on her years of experience in the restaurant industry to teach students the skills they need to enter a career in culinary arts.

"Thanks to Brenda's tutelage, students with an interest in culinary careers can step confidently out into the job market with the skills needed to move forward in life," said Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton, adding, "I could not be more proud than when I attend community events catered by Brenda's culinary students. They are professional, impressively dressed in their WHS chef jackets, and working the buffet line or dessert table proudly serving delicious food they have created to an enthusiastic and impressed community."

Brenda was also recognized for the creative ways she adapted to the pandemic, such as putting together meal kits for students to take lessons home and creating demonstration videos to support students when she was not able to cook alongside them. WHS Associate Principal Dr. Michelle Massar says that, "Chef maintains high

expectations paired with support and establishes a safe, positive, and consistent learning environment so that all of her students can thrive. She is always looking for feedback to improve her craft and is constantly seeking new opportunities to learn. Our students are lucky to have her as a teacher and mentor, and we are a better school because of her role on our staff."

Brenda has formed partnerships with industry professionals and community members, keeping her program aligned with industry standards and providing relevant learning opportunities for students. She also started a Skills USA Club, and her classes offer dual credit for high school and college.

"In order to facilitate a 'service to others' mentality in her students, Brenda provides opportunities for them to get involved, like utilizing their culinary skills while catering at community events, providing assistance serving meals at the local soup kitchen and mentoring elementary students on how to behave in situations at special events, as well as planting and participating in a school/community garden," said CTE Director Margaret Rice.

Brenda was awarded grants to start a garden to provide farm-to-table options for students, including those with specific dietary needs through a partnership with



Washougal's Adult Transitions Program. Brenda and her students provide catering at city and Rotary events, and they regularly serve food at the Refuel Washougal homeless meal program.

"Brenda's recognition with this honor is another example of how Washougal schools, programs, teachers, and students continue to rise," said Templeton. "We are proud of the work she's accomplished for our students and WHS."

Congratulations to our 2021 graduates

Even though they spent most of their final year of high school learning at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the class of 2021 continued to rise! Altogether, our graduates were awarded more than \$2.2 Million from 126 scholarships this year.

Kylee Aguon

Montana State University
Presidential Award, \$40,000

Jacob Albee

BYU-Hawaii David O McKay
Scholarship, \$10,934

Charlotte Baker

Creighton University Roman
Shaffer, SJ Award, \$6,000;
Creighton University Founders
Award, \$84,000; University
of Alabama Out-of-State
Collegiate Scholarship,
\$40,000; WSU Orientation
Zoom Scholarship, \$1,000;
WSU Distinguished University
Achievement Award, \$8,000;
Oregon State University
WUE Scholarship, \$60,000;
Schick-Ogle VFW Post 4278
2nd Place Scholarship, \$400;
IQ Credit Union, \$4,000;
University of Mississippi Ole
Miss Scholarship, \$10,000

Erika Barnes

George Fox University Merit
Scholarship, \$68,000; George
Fox University Summit
Scholarship, \$4,000; University
of Portland President's
Scholarship/UP Washington
Success Award, \$104,000

Skylar Bea

University of Idaho Full
Athletic Scholarship -
Basketball, \$110,304

Lauren Bennett

UW Washington College Grant,
\$1,104; UW Undergraduate
University Grant, \$14,340;
UC-Irvine Director's
Scholarship, \$20,000;
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University, Prescott,
Presidential Scholarship,
\$76,000; ERAU Women of
Excellence Award, \$20,000;
ERAU Western Aerospace

Scholars Scholarship, \$8,000;
California Polytechnic
State University, Pomona,
Western Undergraduate
Exchange, \$26,532; Camas-
Washougal Rotary Club
Sophomore Student of the
Year, \$500; Northwest Athletic
Trainers Association Family
Scholarship, \$500; Lonnie
Belz Odd Fellows Scholarship,
\$3,000; Washougal PSE Len
Bottemiller Scholarship,
\$1,000; Camas Washougal
Business Alliance Scholarship,
\$1,000; The Historic Trust
Marshall Youth Leadership
Award Finalist with
Scholarship by Klinge-Meyer
Family Fund, \$500; Camas-
Washougal Rotary Club
College and Technical School
Scholarship, \$2,000

Matthew Chaffee

North Bank Masonic Lodge
Ward Hoxsie - John Sinden
Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000

Hayley Courtney

Washougal Association
of Educators 2021 Future
Educators Scholarship, \$1,500

Emily Crabtree

WSU-V Academic Achievement
Scholarship, \$3,000

Jordan Dye

Western Washington
University Merit Award, \$5,500

Aurora Espinoza Chaney

Montana State University
Western Undergraduate
Exchange Scholarship, \$17,018

Ashlee Evans

Seattle University Academic
Achievement Award, \$41,000

Amara Farah

WSU: Regents Scholarship
\$16,000, Distinguished

University Achievement Award
\$4,000, Distinguished Scholars
Award \$1,000, Distinguished
Regents Scholar Award
\$1,410, & Music Scholarship
\$2,000; CWU Music
Scholarship, \$35,000; WWU:
Music Scholarship \$8,000
& Admissions Scholarship
\$8,000; Len Bottemiller PSE
Scholarship, \$1,000; Music
Teachers Association of Clark
County Scholarship, \$1,500;
Lonnie Belz Odd Fellows
Scholarship, \$1,000; Peter
R. Marsh Foundation Silent
Server Award, \$500; Washougal
Association of Educators
Future Educators Award,
\$1,500; Camas Washougal
Business Alliance Scholarship,
\$1,000; Community Foundation
for Southwest Washington
Angela Svendsen Memorial
Music Scholarship, \$2,000;
Burger King Scholars Award,
\$1,000; Camas Washougal
Rotary Scholarship, \$3,000

Tristan Farrell

Camas Washougal Business
Alliance, \$1,000

Luke Flock

WSU-V Academic Achievement
Award, \$3,000

Emma Free

Montana State University
Achievement Award, \$40,000;
California Institute of the Arts
Merit Scholarship, \$20,000;
University of Portland Merit
Scholarship, \$118,000

Taylor Gibbons

Boise State University Western
Undergraduate Exchange,
\$12,866; Vancouver Methodist
Foundation Scholarship Jen
Walton Scholarship \$1,250

Taylor Greenberg

Camas Washougal Business
Alliance Scholarship, \$1,000;
CW Chamber of Commerce
Scholarship, \$1,000; Whitworth
University Visit Scholarship,

\$1,000; Whitworth University
Scholarship, \$23,100;
Whitworth University College
Grants, \$7,100; WSU College
Bound Scholarship, \$2,165;

Wyatt Grindy

Rotary Club of Camas-
Washougal Trades Scholarship,
\$2,000

Bryce Holmes

North Bank Masonic Lodge
Ward Hoxsie-John Sinden
Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000

McKenna Jackson

University of Portland
Presidential Scholarship,
\$104,000; Phi Theta Kappa,
\$3,000

Kayla Johnson

Eastern Washington University
Presidential Scholarship,
\$12,000

Meryl Keeler

OSU Western Undergraduate
Exchange Scholarship, \$60,000;
Colorado School of Mines
Merit Scholarship, \$56,000;
UO Excellence Scholarship,
\$60,000; University of Portland
President's Scholarship,
\$104,000; UP Washington
Success Award, \$4,000; WWU
Admissions Achievement
Award, \$8,000; WSU
Distinguished University
Achievement Award, \$4,000;
IQ Credit Union Scholarship,
\$4,000

Alexandria Kneipp

Washougal Association of
Educators Future Educators
Award, \$1,500; North
Bank Masonic Lodge Ward
Hoxsie-John Sinden Memorial
Scholarship, \$2,000; Lonnie
Belz Odd Fellows Scholarship,
\$1,000; Washington State
Mathematics Council Rita
Lowe Scholarship, \$1,000

Jaden Le

North Bank Masonic Lodge
Ward Hoxsie-John Sinden

who earned scholarships this year!

Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000

Lauren Locke

Montana State University WUE
Award, \$10,000

Jada Loganimoce

BYU-Hawaii David O. McKay
Scholarship, \$10,934

Amberley Lumbatis

WSU Army Reserve Officers'
Training Corps Scholarship,
\$51,723

Emily McElhaney

George Fox University Merit
Scholarship, \$60,000

Ethan Mills

United States Navy Reserve
Officers' Training Corps
Scholarship, \$180,000; VFW
Post 4278 Voice of Democracy
Essay Scholarship, \$900;
WSU: University Achievement
Award, \$4,000, Voiland
College of Engineering
and Architecture Dean's
Engineering Scholarship,
\$12,000, Experience WSU
Scholarship, \$1,000

Ezekiel Mitchell- Hopmeier

WSU: Regents Award, \$16,000,
Dean's Scholarship \$6,000,
University Achievement Award
\$4,000, & Matilda F. Gannon
Scholarship \$1,400

Mariah Moran

Rotary Club of Camas-
Washougal Scholarship, \$2,000;
Lonnie Belz Odd Fellows
Scholarship, \$1,000; 4-H WSU
Extension Thomas R. Quann
4-H Scholarship, \$1,000;
Carroll College: Presidential
Scholarship \$84,000 &
Myhre Band Scholarship
\$1,000; Whitworth University
Scholarship, \$24,400; Montana
State University Achievement
Award, \$40,000; Peter R.
Marsh Foundation Silent
Server Award, \$500; Camas
Washougal Business Alliance
Scholarship, \$1,000; North

Bank Masonic Lodge Ward
Hoxsie-John Sinden Memorial
Scholarship, \$2,000

Kailee Neyer

OSU Provost Scholarship,
\$6,000

Emilia Nicholson

OSU Provost Scholarship,
\$8,000; University of Puget
Sound Faculty Scholarship,
\$88,000

Reid Rotundo

University of Portland
Presidential Scholarship,
\$100,000

Grayson Seymour

Pacific Lutheran University:
Academic Scholarship \$23,000,
Housing Scholarship \$3,500,
Q Club Scholarship \$3,222, &
Alumni Referral Scholarship
\$1,000; Washington State
College Grant, \$974

Wyatt Sims

OSU WUE Scholarship, \$60,000

Lauren Snedeker

Seattle Pacific University:
Athletic Scholarship \$21,000,
Merit Scholarship \$11,500 &
In-State Matching Scholarship
\$23,901

Karena Stephens

George Fox University: Merit
Scholarship \$17,000 and
Scholarship Summit \$2,000

Danae Walker

WWU Admissions Merit
Award, \$2,000

Daria Walker

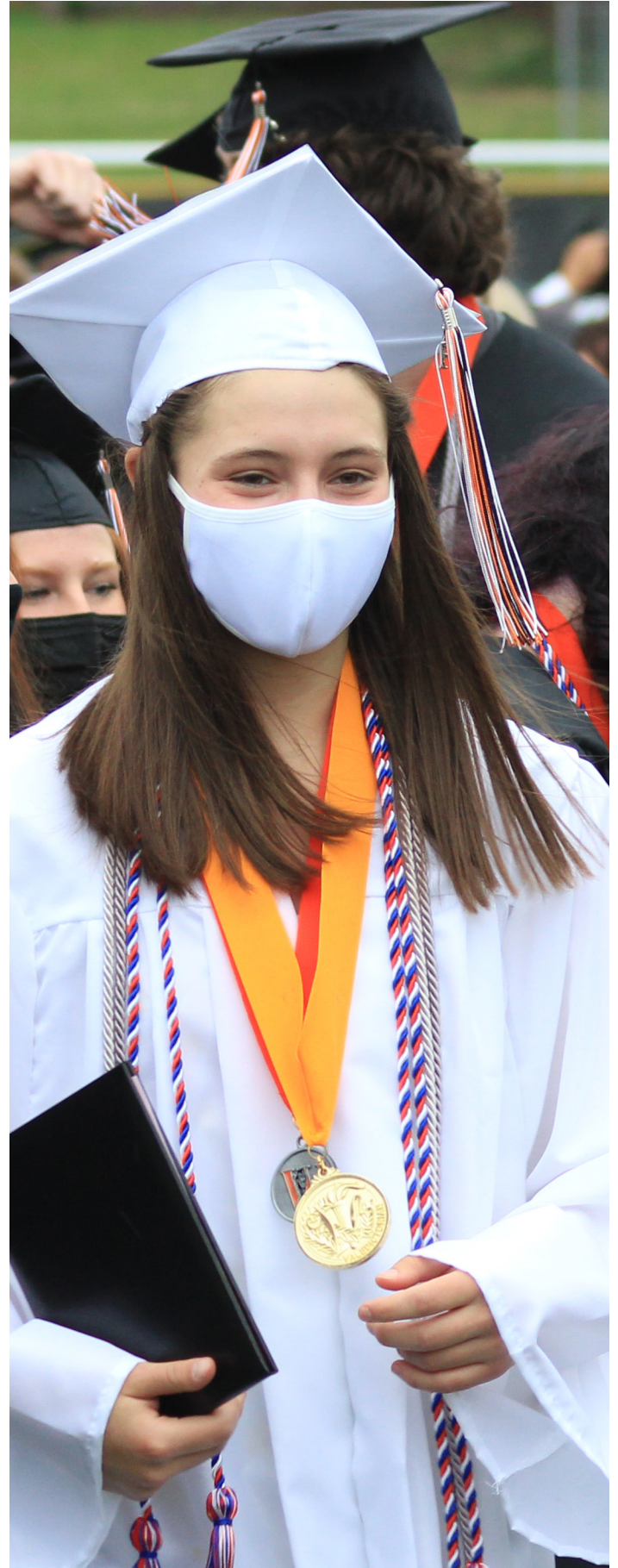
Ronald Phillips Memorial
Science Scholarship, \$2,500;
WWU Admission Achievement
Award, \$8,000

Ted West

Camas-Washougal Volunteer
Firefighters Scholarship, \$1,000

Hayden Zumwalt

WSU Vancouver Academic
Achievement Award, \$3,000





District-wide initiatives lead to costs savings and waste reduction

Washougal High School received a Bronze Level certification this June from EarthGen, a program that provides a framework for K-12 school communities to take long term action and earn recognition for their commitment to making healthier, more sustainable campuses. The achievement comes following several new eco-friendly initiatives in Washougal schools, such as the new chef-made meals program being served on actual plates with real silverware and multimodal

recycling stations for sorting of meal waste.

The concept to use real plates and silverware surfaced last summer, when the district made the switch to chef-made meals. “Not only would this present the food in a more appealing manner, but moving away from disposable food serviceware would reduce costs as well as waste,” explained Margaret Rice, Director of Culinary Services and Career and Technical Education. “This whole body of work was an amazing team effort that included staff from culinary, custodial, CTE and administration, as well as our students.”

Earlier EarthGen (formerly known as Washington Green Schools) work has also paid off with the installation of milk dispensers in elementary schools. The district has already seen an annual savings of approximately \$10,000 in each of those schools because of less milk waste and reduced garbage costs from not serving individual milk containers.

“We are in year three of our six-year strategic plan in which Stewardship of Resources is one of the pillars,” said WSD Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton. “The dollars saved from using real dishes and milk dispensers is significant and will really add up over the years.”

Moving forward, there are plans to create an official Green Team club at WHS. Until then, WSD CTE Professional Technical Assistant Alexandra Yost has been working with WHS ASB leadership to create interest for the next school year.

“Our student leaders have developed the Panther PAW Pledge,” explained Yost. “The pledge asks students and community members to be, ‘Personally Accountable for the Waste I create.’ The campaign is designed to help raise awareness for ways to reduce waste personally and in our community, keeping Washougal clean and healthy for everyone to enjoy.”



WHS LifeSkills freshman Blake Early uses the recycling table he and his classmates helped create for the school cafeteria.

Spanish language programs promote bilingualism and spark cultural appreciation

An individual's heritage is a part of who they are and how they see themselves in the world and in their community. Helping Washougal's Hispanic middle school students discover a deeper understanding and appreciation of their culture is the focus of La Chispa, an engaging program that teaches leadership and life skills, promotes the value of bilingualism, and builds cultural pride.

"For one reason or another, some students don't always feel like other school programs are for them," said Sandra Renner, WSD Spanish speaking family liaison coordinator. "The program we're building now gives them a chance to express and explore their ethnic backgrounds, and be a part of the school and larger community."

The program meets on Wednesday mornings at Jemtegaard Middle School. Each session features guest speakers, games, and activities that introduce concepts around team building, self-reflection, sharing, and time to get to know each other.

"Personally, my mom got me interested in coming to La Chispa," admitted JMS eighth grader Denise Corona. "She said I'd meet a lot of people and be able to learn about my culture." And Corona's mom was right! She made a lot of new friends in the first three weeks, friends she expects to keep as she transitions to high school.

"All of the teachers and guest speakers have been amazing," Denise said. "It's great to see people who are successful and hear how they felt when they were younger and what they have overcome. It helps you believe that you can do anything if you really try."

In addition to La Chispa, WSD has a number of other efforts in place to assist Hispanic students and families, including:

- Spanish Speaking Family Nights at Hamllik Park
- Spanish language tutoring & peer tutoring
- A new Dual Language Kindergarten program
- Translated home-to-school messaging via ParentSquare, the district website, social media, and flyers
- English Language Learner program



TOP: La Chispa participants Logan and Denise Corona work on a family tree project. BOTTOM: Eddie Esparza, of One of a Kind Drum Line, works with La Chispa middle-schoolers.

NEW SHOES GIFTED TO ALL HATHAWAY STUDENTS

Bright shoes and bright smiles were in abundance at Shoe-a-palooza, which took place on June 9 at Hathaway Elementary. The shoes, one pair for every student, were sourced through Operation Warm and funded by a local non-profit. "I am thrilled for this opportunity for our families," said Hathaway Principal Wendy Morrill. "It has been a challenging year and this type of event sends a message of hope and that life is starting to return to normal. The school is once again reopened and providing resources for our families."



Thank you, 2020-21 retirees!

SANDI ALCANTARA

Bus Driver
8 years of service

SANDY BELL

Food Server, GES
15 years of service

BOB CRAIG

Maintenance Craftsman
7 years of service



LEANNE CROUCHLEY

Secretary, CRGE
25 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "Almost all of it. Each school that I worked at brought its own excitement and great people to work with. The kids were always great to get to know and watch grow up."

Retirement plans: "Travel, work on projects and crafts, hike, and as soon as international travel is possible I want to go visit my granddaughters and their parents who live in Prague."



ERIC ENGBRETSON

5th Grade Teacher, GES
17 years in education

Favorite WSD memory: "The look on any student's face when he or she had that 'aha' moment. Building friendships with my colleagues—both present and retired."

Retirement plans: "My wife and I are moving to France to renovate an old farmhouse we bought and enjoy a slower pace of life. We plan to travel to nearby countries to explore the history there."



SHARON HOUSE

Food Server, GES
25 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "It has been the kids. When I worked at Hathaway and I saw students at the store or in town, they would say, 'Hey Mom, it's the Lunch Lady. Hi Lunch Lady!'"

LINDA JONES

Counselor, WHS
17 years of service



PAT JONES

Speech Language Pathologist
25 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "My favorite memories are my many years spent

as the preschool Speech-Language Pathologist. My days were filled with fun, laughter, some tears, and hard work helping improve the lives of our youngest learners. I was privileged to be a part of their education and to team with a lot of wonderful staff members to change the lives of these students."

Retirement plans: "Somewhat uncertain due to Covid, but when I first thought about retirement, I made a list and it seemed to be filled with keeping busy! I quickly got rid of that list and decided to just relax to start with and not feel guilty about it. Eventually, I plan to travel and spend time with family, golf, read, garden, socialize with friends, and do some type of volunteer work."



DEBBIE LEIFSEN

Library Assistant, JMS/CRGE
33 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "Over the years, kids would always give me little animal toys to set on top of my computer. About 17 years ago, a group of boys came to check out books, but they were acting strange, so I asked them what was so funny. Then, I noticed they had placed a real frog among the toys! The frog moved and it startled me so badly, I jumped up, knocked my chair over, and almost fell to the ground. Those boys got mighty scared all of a sudden—I'm sure they never dreamt it would scare me that badly! They apologized all over the place, but the final laugh was by me. They thought they were in big trouble, but it actually seemed pretty creative after it was all over."

Retirement plans: "My husband and I like to ride quads, so we plan to travel more to dunes in Washington, Oregon, and Utah. We'll spend more time with our eight grandchildren and catch up with longtime

friends. We will probably do more motorhome trips, too, but we always like to come back home."



LISA LEONARD

Career Specialist, WHS, JMS, & CCMS

34 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "School Plays, FBLA and JAS (Job Acquisition Skills). Seeing students participate and gain confidence and pride in themselves. Seeing students all dressed up!"

Retirement plans: "Farming, playing grandma, and traveling."

TERESA NELSON

Secretary, WHS

32 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "I have too many wonderful memories to come up with a favorite. I have worked with so many great people and students over the years."

Retirement plans: "Being able to do what I want when I want, and spending more time with my family and friends (especially my grandkids)."



RHONDA REESER

Teacher, Cape Horn-Skye
32 years in education

Favorite WSD memory: "I have been blessed to be a part of the Washougal community. Our parents, community members, school board, administrators, Unite! Washougal, Washougal

Schools Foundation, school booster clubs, churches, staff, and student government all demonstrate passion and commitment to helping all Washougal students rise to their potential. I look forward to continuing to be a part, but as a retiree.

Retirement plans: "I am looking forward to additional time with my Reeser clan, volunteering opportunities, and travel."

KELLY RITTER

Music Teacher, WHS

20 years in education



CHERA THOMPSON

Teacher, Hathaway

28 years in education

Favorite WSD memory: "There are so many memories of staff, students, and families that I will cherish. But my most memorable time at Hathaway is when I was pregnant with my first child. I started aggressive labor while being observed by my principal for my evaluation."

Retirement plans: "Spend lots of time with my children in Idaho and see the world!"

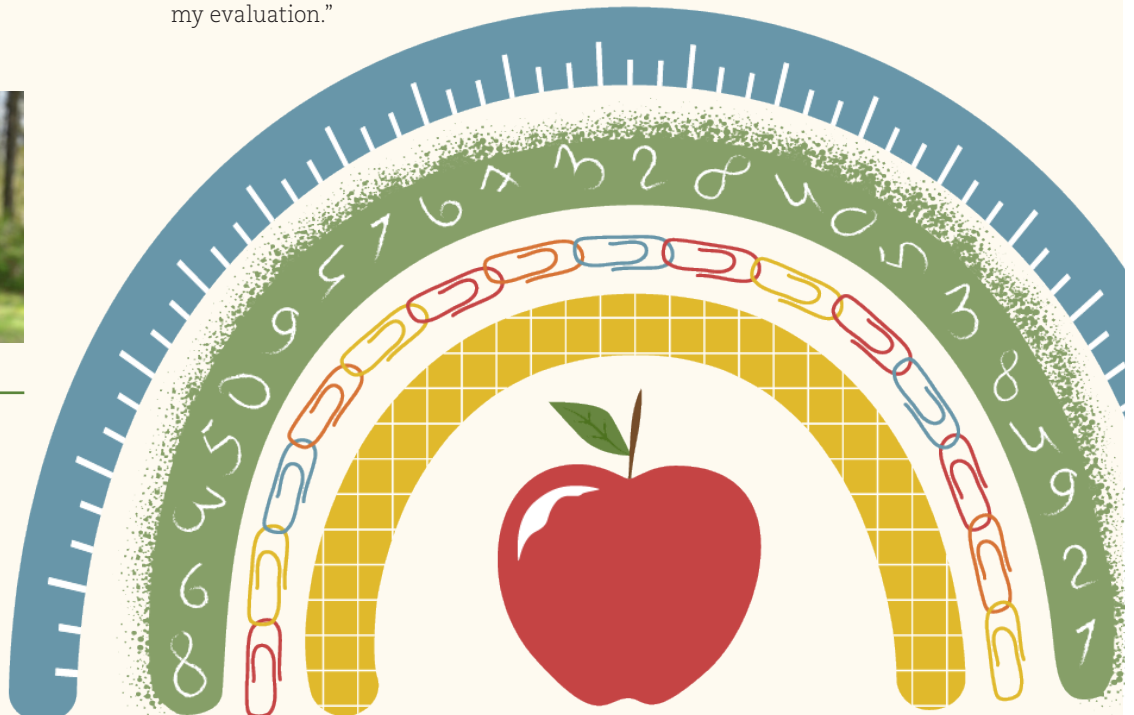


HOLLY VONDEROHE

Library Assistant, Cape Horn-Skye
21 years of service

Favorite WSD memory: "The favorite memory is a hard one because there are years of good memories. One CCMS Battle of the Books Day really stands out though. It was especially exciting, because a team won the final Grand Battle by only two points, which is as close as you can get in the competition."

Retirement plans: "My husband and I bought a house and moved to Seeley Lake, Montana, to be closer to our grandchildren. Nora is 18 months old, and Ava is two months old, and we love seeing them more often. We've been enjoying working on the house, pursuing our hobbies, and watching our grandchildren grow."





#WashougalRising

www.washougal.k12.wa.us

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Summer TIME



Summer Learning

A number of summer learning programs will be available throughout the summer for students in grades K-12. See below for options, or check with your student's school for more information about available programming. Options available for your student may include:

Ready, Set, Kindergarten

For next year's Kindergarteners
Tuesday-Friday, July 6-30

Brain Boot Camp

For grades K-8
August 2-13

Summer School Splash

Available for grades K-3 and 6-8
Tuesday-Friday, July 6-30

Extended School Year

For students with disabilities
(provided for students based on IEP process)
Tuesday-Thursday, July 6-29

Recovery of IEP Services

For students who missed services outlined in their IEP
Session 1: June 22-July 2 • Session 2: August 2-13

High School Credit Recovery

For students who need to make up credits to graduate



FREE Summer Meal Services

Gause Elementary School

Open to children 18 years and younger.
Tuesday-Friday, July 6-30, 2021
Breakfast 8:45 - 9:15 a.m.
Lunch 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Jemtegaard Middle School/
Columbia River Gorge Elementary**
Open to children 18 years and younger.

Tuesday-Friday, August 3-13, 2021
Breakfast 8:45 - 9:15 a.m.
Lunch 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



Youth Athletics Camps

WHS is hosting a series of summer camps for students who are looking for FREE, fun, and active learning events in July. Camps are available for future Panthers in grades 3-8. Visit our website at bit.ly/WHSSummerAthletics for more information and to register.

Boys Basketball

Morning session for grades 3-5
Afternoon session for grades 6-8
July 20-23

Volleyball

July 26-30

Soccer

July 26-30

Middle School Football

For grades 6-8
July 26-30