

# Community *Connections*

SUMMER 2023



Get involved as a school volunteer! pg. 7

## Congratulations to the class of 2023!

Washougal High School graduates gathered at Fishback Stadium on Saturday, June 10 to close out their high school career with classmates, family and staff. Speakers celebrated the Class of 2023 for building a positive culture of kindness, determination, and hard work at WHS. We look forward to seeing the great things that these Panthers accomplish!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of the school year. Springtime brings a buzz of activity as we cheer on our 2023 WHS graduating class, who are rising as well-prepared citizens to their next adventure.



The recent passing of our EP&O Levy and Capital Levy highlight how Washougal pulls together to support students and each other. I am grateful to the community for this generous support of student-centered programs like performing arts, athletics, after school programs, and student support staff for the next three years.

Thank you to all of the parents, community members, and staff who attended our listening tours this year. The opportunity to informally listen to folks and answer questions was invaluable, and we plan to continue listening tours next school year.

Lastly, a special thank you to our educational staff, community volunteers, and parents whose investment in the lives of our students has a life-long impact. We're most successful when we work together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



## SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

Thank you Washougal voters! Thanks to continued support from our community, the Educational Programs & Operations Levy and Capital Levy will continue to invest in great programs, staff, and services that benefit our students and make Washougal a great place to live, learn, and work.

The feedback from community members during the board listening tours has been very valuable. The board plans to continue listening tours in the coming school year on February 13, 2024, and April 9, 2024.

The Washington State Auditor's team wrapped up their audit of our district finances, and we once again have a clean audit with no findings. This year's audit process was particularly complex with tracking of expenditures from September 2020 through August 2022, including the challenges of the pandemic and federal ESSER funding. The state audit team was impressed by the incredible work of the business office, and their sound business practices.

The board is working closely with district leadership on the budget for the coming school year. The process includes forecasting for staff needs based on projected enrollment and changes to staff and material costs. The board is committed to a fiscally responsible budget that increases student achievement by focusing on the priorities outlined in our strategic plan.

A draft version of the budget will be posted to the district website by July 10, and the board will meet in August to adopt the budget. Visit our website to learn more about the budget process.

## Congratulations to our 2022-23 WASA award recipients

### Anna Paul, Read Northwest

Anna Paul makes a difference in the lives of young students in Washougal by leading Reading Buddies programs at Hathaway and Gause Elementary through Read Northwest. Anna served 5 years in the US Marine Corps as an Intelligence Analyst in Iraq and now serves as a role model and hero for Washougal School District students developing literacy skills. After great success in the 2022-23 school year, the Reading Buddies program is expanding programs at Columbia River Gorge Elementary and Cape Horn-Skye Elementary next school year.



### Student Representatives to the School Board

Three Washougal High School students—Megan West, Savannah Yokel, and Claire Zakovics—serve as student representatives to the Washougal School Board. The board representatives gather feedback from fellow students and share that during monthly presentations at board work sessions. Each student brings unique perspectives on changes, ways the school and district leadership can support students, and cast advisory votes as the board takes action. Having students share their real experience has highlighted ways to build a school community where students and teachers work together to build great learning opportunities.



WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WashougalRising

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Dr. Mary Templeton

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Cory Chase, President; Angela Hancock, Vice President; Chuck Carpenter, Legislative Rep; Jim Cooper; Sadie McKenzie



# DISTRICT BUDGET BRIEFING

## AN UPDATE FROM KRIS GRINDY, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

Each year district leaders and the school board work through the budget planning process to create a roadmap that prioritizes student learning and important programs our community has identified through the strategic planning process.

This process begins each winter, and ends with the board adoption of the budget in August. During the process student, family, staff, and community priorities are identified through surveys, and this feedback is incorporated into the program and staffing plan.

Over the last five years, our enrollment has decreased by about 10%. Washougal experienced a significant growth in enrollment when families moved into the Sunset Ridge neighborhood in the early 2000s. As the last of that large wave of students graduates, our enrollment is projected to decline over the next four to five years. Enrollment is the primary driver of funding for our schools, so we are adjusting staffing to balance our budget, while still advancing student achievement.

Throughout the year, the board and leadership monitor the financial and enrollment data, and real-time adjustments are made to spending. The information about the budget and enrollment is posted to the website as part of our open and transparent board process. This lets community members with questions about the budget process review this data. We are also working to publish additional budget resources to our website to make sure we're providing helpful and timely information about these processes.



### Good news!

Our district will be able to purchase three school buses this coming year using state depreciation funds, saving local rate payers about \$505,000.

### WSD'S BUDGET CYCLE



## MEASUREMENTS OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS:



9th Grade on Track

**73.6%**

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

70% statewide Target: 100%



On-Time Graduation Rate

**86%**

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

82% statewide Target: 100%



Audit Findings Over 6 Years

**0**

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Target: 0

# SPRING 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

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## **PATHERS RISING! EVENT CELEBRATES WASHOUGAL SENIORS' PLANS FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

The Washougal High School student body and community members celebrated the Class of 2023 and their post-high school plans at the annual Panthers Rising! event this month. Our seniors have big plans for next year: attending a 2- or 4-year university, beginning a trade school program, joining the military, entering the workforce, and more. At the event, each student was presented with a yard sign which displayed the logo of the institution or program that they plan to attend next fall. The annual event has celebrated seniors, and inspired younger students at WHS since 2019.

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## **POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE VISITS COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE ELEMENTARY**

During a Police Activities League (PAL) visit at Columbia River Gorge Elementary, students met law enforcement officers, learned about their role in ensuring safety in our community, and got the opportunity to tour one of the vehicles. The Police Activities League focuses on building positive relationships between members of law enforcement and youth through educational and community recreational opportunities.

We're thankful for the contributions and support we receive from the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Washougal Police Department, along with other first responders who work hard every day to keep our community a great place to learn, play and live.

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## 8TH GRADE STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREERS

On April 19, middle school students from Jemtegaard Middle School and eighth grade students from Canyon Creek Middle School gathered for a day of career exploration. "Students met various local career specialists during the event, which helped them understand people's paths to success in their careers," said David Cooke, principal at Jemtegaard Middle School. "We also aim for students to learn the importance of finding a job that they enjoy doing," said Cooke.

"These eighth grade students will go on to be the Washougal High School Class of 2027," said Hillary Chapman, administrative intern at Jemtegaard. "By setting the stage for successful high school careers, we hope to raise on-time graduation rates for the Class of 2027," said Chapman.



## WHS FBLA STUDENTS COMPETE AT STATE

Ava Rana, Carter Wilson, Xavier Pineda-Gutierrez, and Cyrus Rana represented Washougal High School at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference. The conference brought together FBLA chapters from across the state with competitions in business leadership skills. The WHS students competed in five competition categories: public speaking, journalism, health care administration, computer problem solving, and introduction to business.

WHS earned FBLA Champion Chapter recognition and Ava Rana placed within the top 12 in Washington State for public speaking at the conference. ConMet, a global commercial vehicle equipment supplier headquartered locally, donated \$3,600 for the Washougal High School students to attend the competition.



## BACK TO THE '80S! SOUNDSTAGE PRESENTS "WE GOT THE BEAT"

Middle school students in the Soundstage after school program showcased their singing and acting skills in this spring production.

"I'm looking forward to performing my monologue," said Libby Gilderhus, 6th grade student at Canyon Creek Middle School. "Soundstage is helping me to break out of my shell."



## SPRING MUSICAL CREATES COMMUNITY

The cast of 47 student actors and 20 technical and musical student crew members worked hard to present six showings of *Mean Girls the Musical* to students, staff, and community members in mid-May.

"The most exciting part of being a part of the *Mean Girls* cast is realizing that everything is student made, from the pit playing the songs live to the set and posters being made by students," said Daisha Paz-Mondoza, a senior at Washougal High School who played the role of Janis Sarkisian.

Photo by Gracie Miller, WHS yearbook photography editor.

# Congratulations to our 2023 graduates who earned scholarships this year!

*Altogether, our graduates were awarded nearly \$2.5 million from 112 scholarships.*

## **Anika Adams**

Western Washington University Admissions Achievement Award, \$2,000; Admissions Merit Award, \$1,500.

## **Caleb Adamson**

International Air and Hospitality Academy Airline/Travel Specialist Scholarship, \$500.

## **Liam Atkin**

Washington State University Distinguished Achievement Award, \$4,000; Ronald Philips Memorial Science Scholarship Fund, \$2,500.

## **Makena Bjorklund**

Loyola University Chicago Damen Scholarship, \$100,000; Loyola Grant, \$5,670; IUPUI Jaguar Excellence Award, \$20,000; University of Nebraska Lincoln Ruth Leverton Scholarship, \$52,000.

## **Olivia Buck**

Centralia Community College Athletic and Academic, \$1,000; Centralia Community College George Washington Award, \$4,770.

## **Grace Christensen**

Washington State University Vancouver Academic Award, \$12,000.

## **Caroline Collins**

Gonzaga University Regent Scholarship, \$96,000; Distinguished University Achievement Award, \$8,000.

## **John Costa**

College Bound Scholarship, \$500.

## **Brooklyn Curtis**

WHS Alumni Scholarship, \$3,000.

## **Eva Delliquadri**

University of Portland Arthur Schulte Scholarship, \$96,000.

## **Abby Farrell**

WSU Achievement Scholarship, \$4,000; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500.

## **Lauren Filipczak**

Clark College Athletic Scholarship, \$297.

## **Isaiah Franco**

Hamilton College Scholarship, \$290,260; Camas Washougal

Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500

## **Heidi Gaona-Barbosa**

Washougal Association of Educators 2023 Scholarship, \$2,000.

## **Kadence Gifford**

Washougal Association of Educators 2023 Scholarship, \$2,000.

## **Illia Gudyma**

The Peter Marsh Foundation Silent Server Award, \$500.

## **Carson Heath**

Camas/Washougal Rotary Trades Scholarship, \$2,000

## **Carson Holmes**

Montana State University Academic Achievement Award, \$48,000; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Achievement Scholarship, \$16,000; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Chancellors Scholarship, \$75,000; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Alumni Grant, \$4,000; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Alumni Endorsement Grant, \$4,000; Embry-Riddle Alumni Scholarship, \$4,000; Embry-Riddle FIRST Robotics Scholarship, \$8,000; Northern Arizona University Founders Gold Scholarship, \$24,000; Cascadia Tech Foundation GAC Achievement Scholarship, \$5,000; University of New Mexico In-State Tuition Scholarship, \$65,224; Lonnie Belz ODD Fellows Scholarship, \$1,000; University of Portland Presidential Scholarship, \$120,000; Colorado School of Mines PROVOST Scholarship, \$40,000; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Travel Scholarship, \$4,000; University of Portland Grant, \$8,000; University of Portland Housing Grant, \$20,800; Vancouver Methodist Foundation Scholarship, \$1,250; Northbank Masonic Lodge Ward Hoxsie - John Sinden Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; WHS Alumni Scholarship, \$3,000.

## **Tanner Hopkins**

University of Vermont Presidential Scholarship,

\$64,000; Camas/Washougal Rotary Scholarship, \$3,000; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500; Northbank Masonic Lodge Ward Hoxsie - John Sinden Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

## **Sterling Kesler**

AOPA Foundation You Can Fly High School Flight Training Scholarship, \$10,000.

## **Tucker Kneipp**

Camas/Washougal Rotary Scholarship, \$3,000; Camas/Washougal Rotary Sophomore of the Year Scholarship \$500; Zain Justis Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000.

## **Dustin Lee**

Jim Martell Foundation Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000; WHS Alumni Scholarship, \$3,000.

## **Austin Lewis**

The Peter Marsh Foundation Silent Server Award, \$500.

## **Natalie Logan**

Grand Canyon University President Scholarship, \$7,050; Northbank Masonic Lodge Ward Hoxsie - John Sinden Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

## **Blake Mattern**

Lower Columbia College Athletic Scholarship, \$500.

## **Christina McElhaney**

Washington State University Institutional Grant, \$4,000; Experience WSU, \$1,000.

## **Mackenzie Mills**

Grand Canyon University GCU 2023 Provost Scholarship, \$3,025; Grand Canyon University Priority Registration Award, \$200; Eastern Washington University Presidential Scholarship, \$3,000.

## **Caleb Moeller**

Northwest University Faculty and Grants, \$22,000; Washington Student Achievement Council Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) Scholarship, \$10,400.

## **Sydnee Momakov**

Clark College Athletic Award, \$594.40.

## **Mikala Neyer**

Montana State University Achievement Award, \$16,000; Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Award, \$450;

Northern Arizona University WUE Opportunity Tuition Scholarship, \$10,000.

## **Carter Nichols**

Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, \$1,500; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500.

## **Aspen Olson**

Highline Community College Athletic Scholarship, \$2,700.

## **Madilyn OndoWorth**

Washington State University University Achievement Award, \$2,000.

## **Lailah Partridge**

Grand Canyon University Antelope Award, \$1,150.

## **Eduardo Perez**

Camas/Washougal Rotary Trades Scholarship, \$2,000.

## **Caleb Perkins**

Utah State University Nonresident Presidential Scholarship, \$50,000.

## **Emmanuel Picho**

Washington Student Achievement Council College Bound Scholarship, \$4,966.

## **Kiana Ramirez**

Washougal Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

## **Makiah Rodriguez**

Washington Student Achievement Council College Bound Scholarship, \$10,464; Washougal Association of Educators 2023 Scholarship, \$2,000.

## **Natalie Schoenborn**

Grand Canyon University President Scholarship, \$28,100; Grand Canyon University Select Scholarship, \$2400; President's Academic Scholarship and Biola University award, \$31,417.

## **Jackson Scukanec**

Washington State University Achievement Award, \$4,000; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500.

## **Benjamin Stephenson**

United States Air Force AFROTC Type 1 Scholarship, \$300,000.

## **Abigail Swenson**

Washington State University Regents Scholarship, \$16,000.

## **Grace Timmons**

WSU General Scholarship,

\$2,000; Washougal Chapter PSE Len Bottemiller Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500; Northbank Masonic Lodge Ward Hoxsie - John Sinden Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

## **Hannah Watson**

Washington State University R.H and Jane Logan Scholarship, \$8,000.

## **Eva Watts**

Washington State University Regents Scholarship, \$16,000.

## **Megan West**

University of Oregon Summit Scholarship, \$40,000; Northern Arizona University Founders Gold Tuition Scholarship, \$24,000; University of Portland President's Scholarship, \$108,000; Oregon State University WUE (Western Undergraduate Exchange), \$60,000; Grand Canyon University President's Scholarship, \$60,000; Washougal Chapter PSE Len Bottemiller Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Independent Order of the ODD Fellows - Washougal Lodge 194 Lonnie Belz Scholarship, \$1,000; The Peter Marsh Foundation Silent Server Award, \$500; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500; Northbank Masonic Lodge Ward Hoxsie - John Sinden Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

## **Savannah Yokel**

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Women of Excellence, \$5,000; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Chancellors Scholarship, \$18,500; Independent Order of the ODD Fellows - Washougal Lodge 194 Lonnie Belz Scholarship, \$1,000; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship, \$500; United States Army ROTC Minuteman Scholarship, \$232,756; Air Traffic Control Association Gabriel A. Hartl Scholarship, \$7,000; Purdue School of Engineering Scholarship \$24,000; Vancouver Methodist Foundation Scholarship, \$1,250.



# Thank you, 2023 retirees!



**AL SEAMAN**

Lead Craftsman  
WSD Maintenance  
30 years of service



**CARLA ECKLUND**

Teacher  
Washougal High School  
29 years of service



**RACHEL JUAREZ**

Custodian  
Cape Horn-Skye Elementary  
27 years of service



**MICHAEL ASBJORNSEN**

Custodian  
Washougal High School  
6 years of service



**TIM DAVIS**

Teacher  
Jemtegaard Middle School  
40 years of service



**FRANCIE AKERS**

Paraeducator  
Cape Horn-Skye Elementary  
15 years of service



## Gause Boosters: Community Volunteers Make a Difference in Washougal Schools

Gause Boosters creates a sense of community by involving volunteers in day-to-day school support and extracurricular events. These dedicated community members make a difference for students at Gause Elementary throughout the school year.

This year, the Gause Boosters brought OMSI classroom labs to each grade level at the elementary. Hands-on activities with an OMSI educator engaged students with scientific concepts. Gause Boosters also coordinates the Mileage Club, which motivates kids at Gause to move their body and earn tokens as they achieve their goals. "We are planning more experiences for our students, but none of them can happen without the help of parent support," said Gause Boosters President Kelli Eldridge.

The group has purchased \$2,000 in books for the Gause library this year, and are in the process of ordering another \$3,000 worth of books. This initiative increases student access to books that motivate young readers to find a passion in literacy.

Approximately 15 volunteers are involved in Gause Boosters this year. Volunteers apply their unique skill sets to create flyers, organize supplies, design and decorate event materials, make phone calls, provide support in the classroom, and chaperone field trips. "The opportunities are endless with how people can get involved," said Eldridge.

Interested parents, family, and Washougal community members can email Gause Boosters at [gause.boosters@washougalisd.org](mailto:gause.boosters@washougalisd.org) for more information.

## Volunteers Needed for Read Northwest

Looking for ways to get involved? Read Northwest is looking for volunteers for their Reading Buddies program in Washougal School District schools! Dedicated volunteers spend time reading with elementary students at Gause, Hathaway, Cape Horn-Skye and Columbia River Gorge Elementary. The program promotes literacy and an early passion for reading.

Volunteer applications are open now for 2023-24 school year. Want to make a difference in the lives of Washougal kids? Learn more and apply at the Read Northwest website!



All WSD volunteers must pass a background check prior to volunteering.

## Take our annual communications survey!

Communication is key. Every year, we check-in with Washougal families about the messages, stories, and posts that they are receiving from their schools and school district. Family and community input helps us to understand what methods of communication are working best for our community. Please take a few minutes to fill out the short survey by scanning the QR code. We want to hear from you!





#WashougalRising  
www.washougal.k12.wa.us  
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Washougal, WA 98671

# YOUR LEVY DOLLARS AT WORK

Thank you, voters, for your support of our EP&O and Capital Levies!  
These levies cover school programs not fully funded by the state, and allow us to maintain our school buildings and technology through 2026.



## EP&O LEVY







Arts, athletics, after school programs, student support staff, health and safety staff, facilities maintenance staff and more.



## CAPITAL LEVY

Tech, including 1:1 student tech devices, WHS roof repair, ADA entrances, flooring, security and HVAC system upgrades

## Capital Levy Project Timeline\*

	2024	2025	2026
 1:1 replacement, new teacher devices, wireless infrastructure	PURCHASE PLANNED REPLACEMENTS	PURCHASE PLANNED REPLACEMENTS	PURCHASE PLANNED REPLACEMENTS
 Washougal High School roof repair	Design, planning & Request for Proposal	AWARD BIDS, COMPLETE WORK	
 Security door upgrades		Design, planning & Request for Proposal	AWARD BIDS, COMPLETE WORK
 ADA entrance installations		Design, planning & Request for Proposal	AWARD BIDS, COMPLETE WORK
 HVAC system upgrades and boiler replacements		Design, planning & Request for Proposal	AWARD BIDS, COMPLETE WORK
 Carpet and vinyl flooring replacements		Design, planning & Request for Proposal	AWARD BIDS, COMPLETE WORK

\*The district may adjust these schedules based on the bid process and funding timelines for the capital levy, which will be presented at a school board meeting for final approval.