

The Review Longview PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Summer 2022

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A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DAN ZORN

BOUNCING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

As part of our annual review and update on our schools, I am proud to report that the students and staff of Longview Public Schools continue to do well in spite of the challenges of this year.

The 21-22 school year was largely about getting back to normal and re-establishing our focus upon improving the achievement levels of the students we serve. The pandemic of the past 2 ½ years has impacted student learning and we will continue to work hard to make up for the learning loss that has resulted. Our focused strategy to promote learning includes expanded summer school opportunities for our 1st and 2nd graders that provide targeted academic support and instruction in Reading and Mathematics. Expanded summer school opportunities are available to our middle school students as well. We are also excited to offer a new Kinder Bridge program for 4 year olds in the 22-23 school year, and will be implementing the use of new reading materials in our elementary schools.

Our focus throughout the district will remain upon improving the instruction we provide while maximizing the collaborative opportunities available to our teachers each Wednesday afternoon. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with local organizations as we address the social and emotional needs of our students.

The 2021-22 school year marked the fifth year in a row that our high school graduation rate exceeded the state average. Nearly 90% of seniors earned their high school diplomas this year. While we are proud of this record, our goal is to continue graduating a high percentage of students each year so all of our students

get a great start in life. Our continued focus upon providing credit retrieval and alternative learning opportunities will help to make this goal a reality.

Another important success to highlight is the passage of the replacement Capital Projects and Technology levy. We are very grateful that, once again, the Longview community chose to invest in our schools and our children. Thank you!

Levy funds will be used to improve our schools in five important areas:

- 1. Improving classroom environments
- 2. Extending the useful life of the district's schools and facilities
- 3. Improving district-wide safety and security
- 4. Upgrading and replacing student and classroom technology
- 5. Repairing and upgrading district sports facilities

There is a lot to be proud of this school year. I am confident that through our continued focus upon improving the instruction provided our students, increasing graduation rates, and fostering partnerships with our families and community, we will meet the student achievement gains we are focused upon.

Our public schools play one of the most important roles in our community - educating each of the children in Longview. We appreciate your support of Longview Public Schools and our mission to effectively educate every student who comes through our doors.

With Gratitude

Dr. Dan Zorn, Superintendent



SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Every day our focus is to support each student so they can reach their academic goals. The first step to achieving goals is to provide a safe and secure environment to learn and grow. Here is a brief synopsis of our ongoing efforts to provide students a safe place to learn.

Several years ago, the district hired a school safety consultant to identify safety and security weaknesses at our campuses. Since that time, measures have been taken to:

- Lock exterior doors and create single or limited points of entry (dependent on school design)
- Improve exterior security lighting and trim back and remove landscaping to eliminate hiding places
- Install extensive security camera systems to allow real time viewing of our schools
- Install property access controls, such as fencing and electronic locking doors to secure school grounds

UPCOMING SAFETY MEASURES

This summer, front door electronic access controls will be installed at Mt. Solo, Monticello, Cascade and CVG, and fencing to strengthen property access control will be installed at Mark Morris, CVG and Robert Gray.

One of the major projects occurring this summer is the construction of secure front door vestibules of Discovery High School, and Olympic, St. Helens, Robert Gray, Mint Valley, and Kessler elementary schools. The secure entryways will serve as a check-in point for visitors.

Next summer, security vestibules will be built at Columbia Heights, Northlake and CVG elementary schools, and at



NEW SECURITY FENCING AT MINT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN DECORATED WITH ARTWORK FROM ALL OF THE STUDENTS. MARK MORRIS AND R.A. LONG SHOP STUDENTS HELPED PUT UP THE COLORFUL BOARDS ON JUNE 1.

Cascade, Mt Solo and Monticello middle schools.

By limiting access to our schools to single/limited points of entry, better securing the exterior of our schools, and requiring visitors to be identified and buzzed in by staff, we are able to better control access into our schools and slow down possible threats. In addition, by practicing active threat drills, we increase our preparedness, response time, and efficiency while continuing to build on our relationships with our emergency response agencies.

While we are improving safety and security in many areas, there is always more work to be done. The district will continue working hard to make sure all of our students and employees are safe in school.

"LITERACY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE DO."

2021-22 CTE HIGHLIGHTS



OUR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IS BACK TO WORK!

Getting back to in-person learning allowed the district's Career & Technical Education (CTE) to achieve outstanding results. Students were once again able to attend field trips, such as the pre-apprenticeship trips to the IBEW training center in Portland and JH Kelly in Longview. Both Mark Morris and R. A. Long students qualified for the State Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) leadership conference.

Students are also once again earning industry-recognized credentials through their CTE courses, such as food handler cards, OSHA-10 certifications, and First Aid cards that were very difficult to complete while in remote learning.

DECA DOMINATES

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Our Mark Morris DECA club had 14 students compete at the State Career and Development Conference. Two students placed in the top 10 of their events and qualified for the DECA International Career and Development Conference in Atlanta, GA. Isabella Merzoian placed 8th in the hotel and lodging event and Emily Provolt placed 10th in accounting applications.

CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS LEND A HELPING HAND

The pre-apprenticeship program completed a storage shed construction project. The materials were donated through ESD 112. The completed shed will be donated to the Girl Scouts Camp Evergreen where additional storage space is needed.

CTE TEACHER RECEIVES STATE RECOGNITION

Longview CTE Teacher and Mark Morris graduate, Mr. Sam Kell, was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Washington Industrial Technology Education Association for his work with the apprenticeship preparation program. The award is one of five the association gives out at its annual banquet.

STEM LEARNING IS STRONG IN LONGVIEW

R. A. Long sophomore, Audrey Zdunich, was selected as the STEM Rising Star for Cowlitz County and then for all of Southwest Washington by Educational Services District 112 (ESD 112). She was nominated by her teacher, Hanna Burleson. As the STEM Rising Star, she received a \$250 stipend from Career Connect Southwest, a certificate, and a goodie bag from local partners.



Also recognized for STEM learning, Mr. Rich Gushman of Gibbs and Olson, Inc. a local engineering firm, was recognized with an award as the Business Partner of the Year for Southwest Washington for a "flipped internship" program. A flipped internship program is where companies come into secondary schools to teach workplace skills and career planning.

Last year, R.A. Long science teacher Hanna Burleson won Educator of the Year for Southwest Washington from Career Connect Southwest. All three award-winners were recognized at the awards ceremony at ESD 112 this June.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP STUDENTS WITH THEIR COMPLETED STORAGE SHED

A MARK MORRIS AND R.A. LONG STUDENT IN THE MARK MORRIS WOODSHOP

ISABELLA MERZOIAN AT THE NATIONAL DECA CONFERENCE

FBIA STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT THE STATE CONFERENCE

SOPHOMORE AUDREY ZDUNICH, BUSINESS PARTNER RICH GUSHMAN AND TEACHER HANNA BURLESON AT THE CAREER CONNECTS SOUTHWEST AWARDS CEREMONY IN JUNE



WELCOMING BACK OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

REGAINING GROUND

Staying focused on goals, engaging students, creating effective teaching, and using data-driven learning strategies are key to getting students back on track with their learning. Before the pandemic hit, Longview students were experiencing significant improvement in Mathematics and English at all grade levels tested. Our graduation rates were consistently above the state average. These outcomes were the result of years of hard work by our teachers, parents, and an engaged student body.

We are confident that our students are getting back on track with the learning they may have lost as a result of school disruption.

In an effort to remove barriers for some students, we have expanded summer school, extended day learning, and added credit retrieval opportunities.



We also continue to provide increased mental health support in all schools to address the social/emotional needs that have increased as a result of the pandemic. Looking forward, we are moving full steam ahead with a renewed focus on our students' academics and well-being and will continue rigorous teaching to keep our kids positively engaged.

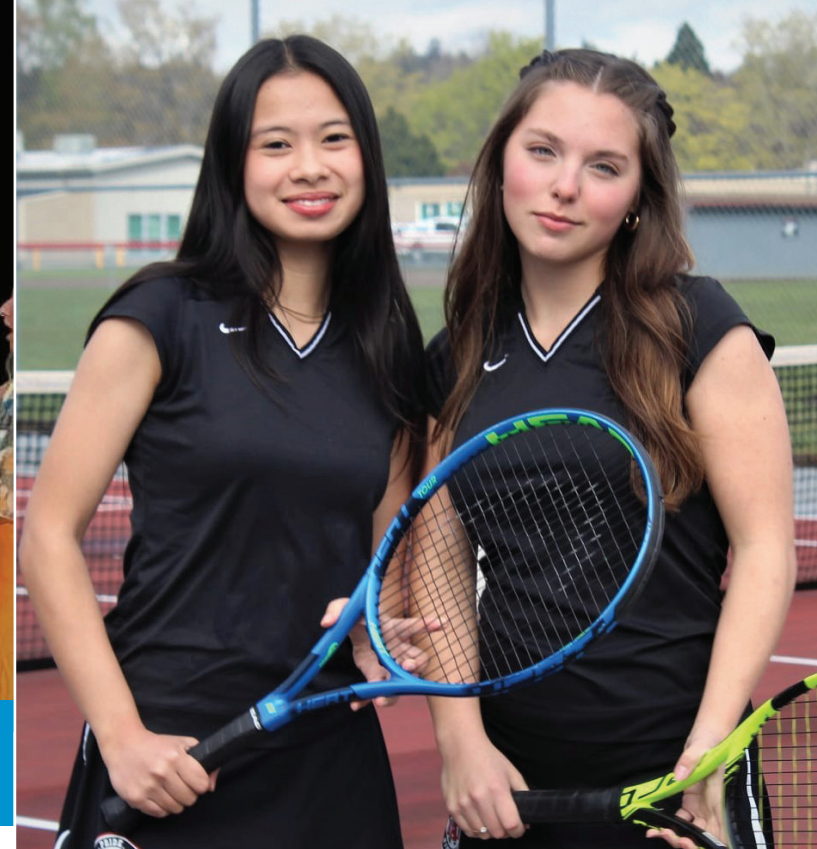
PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

As you have likely heard us say, "Literacy is the most important thing we do." This is especially true when a child's family is active in student learning. Ways caregivers can be engaged include: reading to young children, helping when their student isn't understanding homework, encouraging kids to read on their own, reaching out to their child's teacher if they feel they are struggling, volunteering at school, and attending school conferences or other school events. We also encourage you to help your child experience new things in your community, such as taking them to the zoo or a local festival.

Longview Public Schools have excellent educators and family support personnel who are happy to work with families to help their children succeed. To learn more about how to get involved in your child's education, reach out to their teacher or the school staff next fall. We hope to hear from you!

ABOVE: R.A. LONG HIGH SCHOOL THEATER STUDENTS ENJOYED A RETURN TO THE STAGE WITH "SPONGEBOB: THE MUSICAL"

LEFT: ROBERT GRAY ELEMENTARY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS ENJOYING A RECENT GAME NIGHT.



THANK YOU, VOTERS!

YOUR LOCAL LEVIES SUPPORT ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

WHY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES MATTER

Studies have shown that student participation in athletics, music, theater and school clubs has been linked to higher grades, improved behavior and overall school engagement. Athletics are a lifeline for many kids who may struggle in school, and they offer important leadership and teamwork opportunities for all participants.

Here in Longview we offer a long list of athletic and extra-curricular opportunities in middle and high school. Many sports, like track, volleyball, football, basketball and baseball are well-known, but did you know that we also offer golf, bowling, swimming and water polo? There is truly something for every student!

SPORTS FACILITY UPGRADES COMING SOON

Voters approved a replacement Capital Projects and Technology levy on the ballot this past April and part of that support will go towards our sports facilities. We cannot thank the community enough for the ongoing support of not just the levy, but our schools and kids.

MEMORIAL STADIUM REMODELING

Since the levy passed, the district has been hard at work planning the first phase of remodeling the Memorial Stadium sports complex. In Phase 1 the grass field will be upgraded to turf, so the field can be used for boys and girls sports even during periods of heavy rainfall. The track will also be replaced and the pole vault and long jump tracks will be redone.

Over the next four years, the stadium will get much-needed repairs and upgrades to the roof and bathrooms. The old scoreboard will also be replaced with a new digital scoreboard system that will provide a better experience for the athletes and spectators.

In the final stage, we will rebuild bleachers on the visitor side of the field. We are looking forward to the environment matching the athleticism of our students and will keep our community informed along the way!

Thank you for supporting Longview Public Schools.



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