



SCHOOL DISTRICT | SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS TODAY, BRIGHT FUTURES TOMORROW

# COMMUNICATOR

NEWSLETTER | FALL 22-23

## Communication is key to today's success and tomorrow's growth

Talk to anyone in any kind of relationship, be it a friend, family, business, neighbor, or spouse, and they will tell you communication is an essential ingredient to make that relationship thrive.

The relationship between school staff and its students and families is no different. That is why at every level of the Quincy School District, you will find people focusing their efforts on improving the communication between all parties.

At the elementary level, specifically at Monument Elementary (MES), Principal Phil Averill describes the parent-school communication pipeline as one of the focal points of the school's improvement planning for 2022.

"We are striving to bring consistent, relevant, and timely information to parents through different modes of communication," he answered.

"Our office staff and teachers are working hard to connect with our families to share out all of the great things that are happening here at Monument on a daily basis", and to Averill, it's essential that people hear about them. The staff is working hard, he added, and "we just need to communicate it out!"

District-wide, the tools to make this communication possible

are varied, from the traditional to the innovative. The Parent Advisory Committees at all Quincy schools including MES have helped lead the way when it comes to listening to parents.

"Our Parent Advisory Committee, called Monument Helpers, has been incredibly influential in what we communicate, how we communicate, and how often we communicate," Averill said, adding that the idea is to turn communication into a two-way street.

At the same time, the staff at MES is conscientious that there's a big language barrier that needs to be overcome, both in written and verbal communication.

"We are trying hard to ensure that everything sent out is both in English and Spanish," he said. A good example of this is the school newsletter reaching parents monthly in both languages.

At Monument, the efforts to communicate with parents in two languages also involve what the school presents on social media. And while the results so far have been positive, the need to communicate better continues to evolve and challenge.

"As our enrollment changes, our families' needs will change accordingly," Averill wrote. "Our

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## A snapshot of DISTRICT COMMUNICATION

All data as of 11/7/22

### PRINT - COMMUNICATOR NEWSLETTER

Quarterly 4-page newsletter in English and Spanish mailed to all Quincy residents with copies distributed to all schools and departments.

The newsletter ensures ALL Quincy residents receive important information from the District.



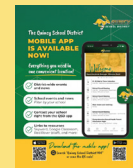
### PRINT - SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Mailed to all Quincy residents each year at the beginning of August
- Shared digitally via our social media pages and website
- Calendar is filled with important dates and photos sourced from each school

### PRINT - FLYERS

Printed flyers are sent home with students, distributed at events, or available at buildings. Examples:

- Levy Factsheet
- StopFinder digital app announcement
- New mobile app announcement



**5500**  
Follows on Facebook

For Quincy School District page



**1520**  
Follows on Instagram



### DIGITAL - SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media accounts are one of the fastest and easiest ways to communicate with parents and the community. We can also reach people who don't typically follow our pages as people can share our posts with their friends.

### DIGITAL - WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP

The newly redesigned website is: easy to navigate, accessible on any device and can be translated.

The mobile app was launched in September and has everything families need in one location like events, school news, school contact information and more.



**750**

App downloads



### DIGITAL - REMIND

Remind is a free, safe text messaging app that keeps families and staff up to date with what's happening in the classroom and schools. We can reach staff, students, and parents when we need to—on any device.

**324,921**

messages were delivered on Remind since the start of the school year

QUINCY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
#144-110  
119 J ST SW  
QUINCY WA 98848

Carrier Route

Postal Patron

Non Profit BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE PAID  
QUINCY WA 98848  
PERMIT NO. 2

# Superintendent's Message: A hopeful start to the year

What an excellent start to the school year!

The feeling across the district is that this school year feels "normal" for the first time in many years. Of course, the COVID years were anything but normal. Even prior to that, in 2019 we moved students and staff as part of the K-8 reconfiguration and moved into our beautiful new high school. When you factor in two years of construction and reconfiguration, the staff and students at Quincy Middle School have not had a "normal" start to the school year since 2016.



Superintendent, Dr. Nik Bergman

What does normal even mean? The word "normal" has become an adjective with little significance or substance and is often so subjective that there is no real meaning to the word. Yet, with the start of this school year, there have been so many layers of hope, positivity, and

optimism folded into a feeling of "normal." In speaking with students, families and staff it seems that the word "normal" has become synonymous with hope.

Throughout this first quarter, students and staff have been able to engage in "normal" pre-pandemic activities such as:

- Open Houses – All of our schools welcomed families into our build-

ings this year

- Field Trips – Our students have gone on field trips around the community, visiting pumpkin patches, Yeates Family Farms, and The Quincy Valley Historical Society, for example
- Athletic Events – All of our Fall athletic events have occurred "normally" without restrictions
- School Activities- Quincy High School hosted its annual Homecoming dance with no COVID restrictions and school fundraisers have restarted
- K-12 Sprit Week- All schools in the Quincy School District participated in spirits activities, capping off the week with all students showing their Jackrabbit pride in support of the homecoming game

The hope and optimism we felt with the "normal" start to the school year did not happen by accident. This hopeful climate and culture have been built through the intentional efforts of our staff, students, and families working together to make our start to the school year great. Through the framework of our Strategic Plan, together we are creating a culture of inclusion, belonging, equity, and academic excellence for our school community.

And we have sustained hope that these partnerships will carry us forward into a stronger, "normal" winter and the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Nik Bergman, QSD Superintendent  
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509.787.4571

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desire is to continue to be responsive to the parents' needs and in order to do that, we need to maintain current lines of communication, while also developing new ones."

Key as always will be involvement in any advisory committee, he said.

"They (parents) will have more opportunity to mold their children's educational experience while in school by working as part of a Parent Advisory Committee."

Another example is occurring at Quincy High School, where Activities/ASB Advisor and Leadership teacher Kristen VanHoomissen said that the school staff is reading the daily announcements in two languages, with great reviews.

"From what teachers have said, and what students have said," VanHoomissen noted, "this has increased awareness of events and services and where to go to get more information. We also use our TV screens to push out information in English and Spanish."

With what we all hope is the worst of the pandemic behind us,

the two years spent in its shadow also left some lessons behind that can help strengthen communication in the future.

"Throughout the pandemic, we learned much more equitable and effective strategies for partnering with families and students in decision-making," wrote Camille Jones, Digital Education Coach for the district. "I'm excited that the district is committed to continuing to use these practices."

Such practices include interviewing, surveying, and helping interpret the data at decision-making time, Jones said. As an example, she mentioned that this fall, the district is seeking input from families and students on a variety of topics, including safety and belonging at school, the next science and social studies curriculum, improvements to the food services department, and the new Family Superintendent Advisory Committee.

At the district level, the work continues, not just to communicate but also to keep up with the times.

The district recently revamped its website, and unveiled a new

free mobile app this fall, after parents communicated during the Strategic Planning Listening and Learning Sessions about the need to have a spot where they could access school and district news, events, and other information, said Jessica Blancas, the district's Communications Coordinator.

On this app, Blancas noted, parents can filter news and events by school and contact the school straight from the app. Other features include the capability to view district-wide news and access links that allow them to look at grades, look at schedules and report concerns.

The district has high hopes for the app, Blancas stated, with the expectation that its use grows among families and "it becomes the first place where families and students get accurate and up-to-date school and district news."

Such growth is the phenomenon that has occurred with another app that the district uses, called Remind, a free safe text messaging app.

"Teachers use Remind to help strengthen relationships with students and parents," Blancas

said. "Since the pandemic, this platform has grown in active users."

Another development is what Jones termed a "one-stop-shop": An online cadre of student information called Homeroom.

"This is something families had asked for repeatedly," Jones wrote. Homeroom features and organizes must-have information such as attendance, schedules, grades, report cards, assignments, and more. In the past, some of this data has been available through other portals, like Skyward, but only through grades 6-12. Homeroom is available to all students, and it has a broader scope than Skyward, with information on state and district assessment tests, and common unit assessments.

Quincy School District Superintendent Dr. Nik Bergman agreed, "During our Strategic Planning Listening and Learning Sessions this past Spring, communication was a topic that was consistently brought up. Parents asked for one place where they could view their student's grades, progress, and

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attendance and one place where they could stay up to date with school/district news and events,” said Superintendent Dr. Nik Bergman. “As a result of listening to our families during those sessions, we are launching the Homeroom Family and Student Portal and just recently launched the mobile app,” added Superintendent Dr. Bergman.

“This new tool (Homeroom) was introduced to families this fall at conferences, and the district will continue to follow up throughout the year,” Jones wrote, “with short videos to help families use specific components of Homeroom, such as how to translate it or how to look at up-to-date report card information.”

Of course, families cannot live on technology alone, so the more traditional means of communication, such as this newsletter, still play an important role.

“We also understand we may not be able to reach all our families digitally,” Blancas wrote. “So, we continue to use print. Important need-to-know information is always printed and sent home with

students.”

Besides reaching families through newsletters, Dr. Bergman is eager to reach parents through his new Family Superintendent Advisory Committee. “This new committee is a way for Quincy parents to share celebrations and concerns and actively engage with one another” described, Dr. Bergman.

Maria Valle, Family and Community Outreach Coordinator for the district added, “We will be having a quarterly meeting with Dr. Bergman. During these meetings, our Building and District PACs (Parent Advisory Committee) will have an opportunity to share information with our superintendent. This is the first time, we will be providing this opportunity for families. We are super excited to collaborate and partner with parents.

That last point, the connection with families is the overwhelming force behind every one of the district’s efforts to communicate.

“I want all our families to feel like they can open up to us and know we want to be an extension of their community,” Averill wrote.


# Meet our new nurse



**Name:** Shelley Story  
**Title:** Registered Nurse  
**Hometown:** East Wenatchee, WA  
**Birthplace:** Wenatchee  
**Alma mater (HS):** Eastmont  
**Alma mater (Post-secondary):** Washington State University, Go Cougs!  
**What attracted you to nursing?** So many things but initially it was the emergency medicine aspect of nursing.  
**What brought you to your current position in Quincy?** My kids are school aged now and I wanted to work where

they went to school and have the same schedule as them!  
**How long have you been on the job?** This job here at Quincy.....3 months.  
**How would you describe a great day on the job to someone you’ve never met?** A great day for me would be one where I worked directly with the kiddos and used critical thinking to help treat a sick or injured kiddo.  
**In your opinion, what do you bring to the position that few others could?** My variety of medical experience. Before I was a nurse I was an EMT- I really enjoy responding to emergencies.  
**How many years have you been a nurse?** Just shy of 10  
**Where did you work prior to Quincy?** Cashmere School District and Confluence Health for nearly 9 years.  
**What’s the most challenging part of your work?** The fact that medicine is ever changing which means so is our job, policies, etc. Change can be hard for most people!  
**What’s the most exciting part of your work?** Making the difference in a kid’s day. Whether that’s teaching them about germs with sparkle glitter or reassuring them when they’re injured- it all makes my job worth it!

*In the next issue, get to know our new nurse Carrie Harris.*



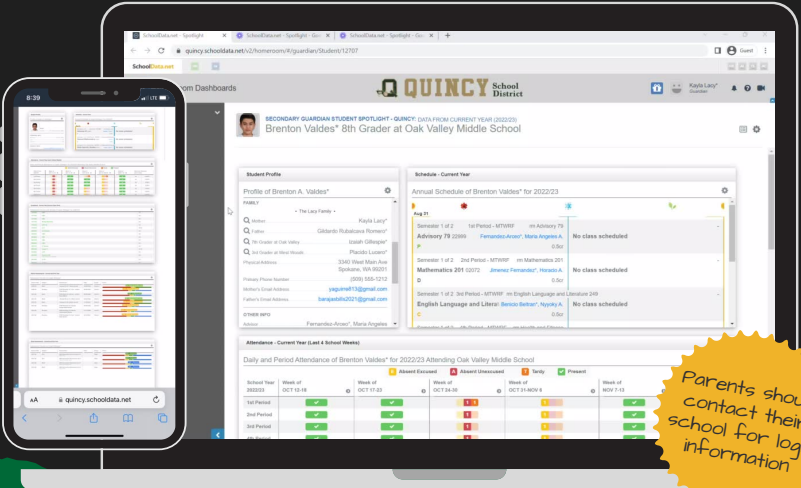
## Introducing Homeroom

### FAMILY AND STUDENT PORTAL

The Homeroom Family and Student Portal is a new online tool that gives families and students access to more information than ever before!

**Access to:**

- State & District assessments
- Attendance/Tardies
- Report Cards
- Grade K-5 Classroom Assessments
- Grade 6-12: Class Schedule, Current Grades, & Assignment Status



## Our Board of Directors

- Jack Foglesong, President, [jfogleso@qsd.wednet.edu](mailto:jfogleso@qsd.wednet.edu)
- Tricia Lubach, Vice-President, [tlubach@qsd.wednet.edu](mailto:tlubach@qsd.wednet.edu)
- Chris Baumgartner, [cbaumgar@qsd.wednet.edu](mailto:cbaumgar@qsd.wednet.edu)
- Heather Folks-Lambert, [hfolks@qsd.wednet.edu](mailto:hfolks@qsd.wednet.edu)
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## How to contact the Quincy School District

Mail - 119 J St. SW Quincy, WA 98848  
Phone - 509.787.4571 | Web - [qsd.wednet.edu](http://qsd.wednet.edu)



# With Quincy in the heart

The influence of being from Quincy can be seen almost immediately when talking to Esperanza Tafoya.

Born in George, WA, Tafoya is Quincy through-and-through! This conviction is reflected not just in her past but also in the goals she has for the future, not just for herself, but for the community she loves so well.

Site manager at the Quincy Community Health Center, Tafoya says she feels fulfilled at the end of every day, being part of helping someone feel better by receiving care. This also speaks to her upbringing in our valley and the lessons she learned along the way.

Helping others was almost a way of life growing up. In fact, she wanted to be a lawyer so she could do just that: Help those in need.

At school, teachers like Nicole Monroe served as a huge source of encouragement.

“She encouraged me to become a member of DECA because she thought I would do well in studying business,” Tafoya wrote. “Being part of DECA was a very rewarding

experience, it helped set the foundation for me to become a leader within the organization I work for.”

Community leader Mary Jo Ybarra Vega has also made a big

her daily work, but in the fact that she’s still here, thriving in the same community that saw her grow up.

“My family and community keep me in Quincy,” she said. “I also-

her focus on what is important. “We are all fighting for the same thing, and this is making Quincy a better place so we can continue raising our families here and feel safe,” she wrote. “Our diverse community has a great focus on growth and education and healthy alternatives for everyone. There is a lot of work to do to continue making progress and I am excited to be a part of it.”

Tafoya wants to be part of that future progress. As site manager at the center, she wants to continue being an advocate for parents and students in the Quincy School District as well.

“I can support younger generations by advocating for them and their parents,” she wrote “in order for them to be as successful as they can be.”

The future is bright for the future generations, and for Tafoya, the future is in Quincy, caring for Jackrabbits both young and young at heart.

“What does it mean to be a Jackrabbit? Being a Jackrabbit means to be a part of a caring community family.” she noted.



Esperanza Tafoya feels fulfilled working at Quincy Community Health Center.

impact on Tafoya’s vocation. “She always believed in me and encouraged me to be part of activities to help my professional growth,” she added.

Such influence lives on not just in

lutely love how the community is family-oriented and involved in improving our kids’ lives. I am now raising my two children here.

Living in Quincy has shaped her outlook on life and has sharpened

The Quincy School District

**MOBILE APP IS AVAILABLE NOW!**

Everything you need in one convenient location!

- ✓ District-wide events and news
- ✓ School events and news  
Filter by your school
- ✓ Contact your school right from the QSD app
- ✓ Links to resources  
Skyward, Google Classroom, Red Rover (staff), and more!

Download the mobile app!

Search "Quincy School District 144" or scan the QR code!

**WINTER WEATHER IS HERE!**

Be prepared for:

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOLS**