



# EDUCATION MATTERS

JUNE 2018

## Arts enhance learning for HHES students

"Pizza! Pizza! Macaroni cheese!

"Ice cream! Ice cream! Cherry on the top!"

These chants—and the garbage can drumming that accompanied them—filled Hockinson Heights Elementary's library for four days in early June.

No, it wasn't a rally for new school lunch offerings. These were the sounds of third graders studying drumming and learning how to collaborate ... and becoming more aware of their posture ... and practicing multiplication ... and exploring the culture of Japan.

"It was fun, confusing and hard all at the same time," said third grader Makena, describing with classmates Julianna and Victoria how challenging it was to pound the drums for "a minute straight" and to figure out which animal's footsteps different drumbeats sounded like.

Each of this year's third grade classes



Third graders learn about rhythm, posture, math and Japanese culture through taiko drumming.

spent three 45-minute periods with taiko teacher and Young Audiences artist-in-residence Kazuyo Ito, who brought in four Japanese taiko drums plus plastic garbage can-drums for each student.

"The kids responded so well and rose to the occasion," observed third grade teacher Tia Kane.

The experience was part of HHES's arts program, which brings professional artists into the school and takes students on cultural field trips. This spring the second graders worked with storyteller Anne Rutherford to create their own characters and write stories using the key composition strategies of pre-writing, organizing and revising.

The school's kindergarteners, first and fifth graders attended productions by Oregon Children's Theatre in Portland, and fourth graders visited the Lelooska Museum

in Ariel, Washington. And everyone enjoyed an in-school performance by the Vancouver Pops Orchestra.

The goal isn't necessarily to turn students into musicians, actors or storytellers but to expose them to art forms they might not otherwise experience and show how they relate to what they learn in the classroom.

"Arts integration is really powerful for kids," said Assistant Principal Meredith Gannon. "It connects to their academic learning."

All of these events were funded with money raised by the school's annual Run for the Arts. Students gather pledges from family, friends and neighbors, and teachers and PWT volunteers run the event. This spring they raised \$15,000.

Check out a video of students practicing taiko drumming at [www.youtube.com/HockinsonSchools](http://www.youtube.com/HockinsonSchools).





## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Community Members,

As this summer began, I gained entry into a new group: parents whose students are alumni of Hockinson High School!

Reaching this milestone causes me to reflect on our district's hardworking, encouraging and inspiring staff who strive to help each of our students find their areas of interest, teach them new skills and help them build internal resources that will serve them for the rest of their lives. We truly have an amazing team in Hockinson.

I also have been recalling some of our district's achievements: opening the Middle School on the first day of school; our HHS football team bringing home a state championship trophy; and our musicians bringing home awards from competitions far and wide.

But education is about more than visible victories. I celebrate our students who learned to read and do addition this year; who became more competent at library research; who found their life's passion; and who learned new ways to be kind to one another. In education, every day is an opportunity for growth and change. It truly is a privilege to be part of it.

I want to send my heartfelt thanks to our Hockinson families for entrusting your students to us; to our Hockinson community for supporting us in countless ways; to our students for your hard work and contagious excitement; and to our staff for your relentless efforts on behalf of the children of our community.

Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

**Sandra Yager**

# HSD Wellness Corner

Happy summer—from your district Wellness Committee!

Summer is a great time to encourage students to practice healthy habits. Here are a few goals suggested by Action for Healthy Kids, a group that encourages schools, families and communities to pursue healthy eating, physical activity and healthier schools where kids can thrive:

- Eat more fruits and vegetables.
- Swap out one sugary drink a day for milk or water instead.
- Try to get 60 minutes of physical activity every day.
- Cut down on screen time.

For healthy eating tips, check out the HSD Food Service Food Focus at: [http://hocksd.org/parents/food\\_services/MonthlyFoodFocus/](http://hocksd.org/parents/food_services/MonthlyFoodFocus/).

## Community Education Opportunities

### Summer activities

This summer Community Education is offering fun camps and classes—from sports to ceramics—for students and adults! Check them out and sign up at [www.hocksd.org/Community/Community\\_Education](http://www.hocksd.org/Community/Community_Education), or call Charity Schadt at 360-448-6480.

### After School Adventures (ASA)

We are accepting applications for our after school care program for 2018-19, serving HSD students in grades K-5. It runs Monday-Friday until 6 p.m. on school days. Spots are filling up fast!

### Seeking instructors

Do you have a special hobby or area of knowledge? We are looking for instructors to teach new classes, including a Tae Kwon Do or martial arts instructor for this fall. Contact Charity Schadt at 448-6480.

### Facility use

We will begin accepting reservations for school facilities rentals Aug. 20. Visit [www.facilitron.com/hsd98606](http://www.facilitron.com/hsd98606) to submit your request. If you have any questions, please contact Facilitron at support@facilitron.com, or call 800-272-2962 ext 0.



## Q: Why is my school district newsletter in color?

*A: Thanks to new, modern equipment, the printer we use is able to print our newsletter in full color for the same price as single color!*



# Hockinson Middle School: It's Official!



Board chairwoman Kathy Nordberg and directors Greg Gospe, Dave Olson, Steve Nylund and Gordon Smith accept the Middle School's commemorative plaque. With them are Superintendent Sandra Yager, Matthew Braun with DOWA-IBI Group, Bryan Kenney with Robinson Construction Co. and HSD construction manager Damon Roché.

The Hockinson Board of Directors officially accepted the new Hockinson Middle School at a May 9 dedication ceremony in the HMS gymnasium, with many Hockinson families attending.

Creative solutions and collaborative relationships among the district, contractors and architects made it possible for the Middle School to open a year ahead of schedule, enabling students and staff to begin the 2017-18 school year in the completed part of the building.

Watch our celebration video at:  
[www.youtube.com/HockinsonSchools](http://www.youtube.com/HockinsonSchools)

The dedication ceremony included performances by the HMS jazz band and a keynote address by retired District 3 Fire Chief Steve Wrightson, who highlighted the Hockinson community's history and habit of saying "yes" to progress and new endeavors.

Principal Brian Lehner told the community members who gathered that the Middle School is a place where "all are learners, all are valued."

## High school, district sees leadership changes

Andy Schoonover will take the reins as principal at Hockinson High School beginning July 1.

He comes to Hockinson from Battle Ground School District, where most recently he was principal at Summit View High School. He also served as assistant principal at Pleasant Valley Middle School, Chief Umtuch Middle School and Prairie High School, where he was the athletic director. Prior to that, Schoonover taught social studies in Battle Ground schools and served as a senior counselor at Association of Washington School Principals student leadership camp for 13 years.

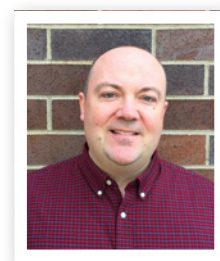
"We are looking forward to welcoming Andrew to our school district," said

Superintendent Sandra Yager. "He is excited to join our team, and I know he will be a wonderful addition."

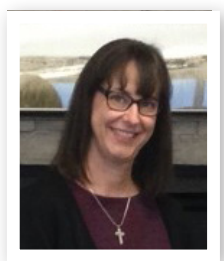
Schoonover assumes the post that has been held by Colleen Anders, who has worked in Hockinson School District for 26 years—at both the High School and at Hockinson Heights Primary, where she was a teacher and then principal.

As part of district-level restructuring, Anders has been named director of Teaching and Learning for the school district. She will support all areas of curriculum adoption, assessment, and federal- and state-funded programs.

Anders' new responsibilities will include some that have been held by Assistant



Andy Schoonover



Colleen Anders

Superintendent Slade McSheehy, who is leaving the district to become superintendent of Vashon Island School District.

McSheehy was principal at Hockinson Middle School from 2012 to 2015 and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction from 2015 to 2018.

Hockinson School District  
17912 NE 159th Street  
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

P: (360) 448-6400

F: (360) 448-6409

[www.hocksd.org](http://www.hocksd.org)

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[www.youtube.com/HockinsonSchools](http://www.youtube.com/HockinsonSchools)

### Superintendent

Sandra Yager

[sandra.yager@hocksd.org](mailto:sandra.yager@hocksd.org)

### Board of Directors:

Mrs. Kathy Nordberg, Chair  
[kathy.nordberg@hocksd.org](mailto:kathy.nordberg@hocksd.org)

Mr. Dave Olson, Vice Chair  
[dave.olson@hocksd.org](mailto:dave.olson@hocksd.org)

Mr. Greg Gospe  
[greg.gospe@hocksd.org](mailto:greg.gospe@hocksd.org)

Mr. Steve Nylund  
[steve.nylund@hocksd.org](mailto:steve.nylund@hocksd.org)

Mr. Gordon Smith  
[gordon.smith@hocksd.org](mailto:gordon.smith@hocksd.org)

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## Hockinson Patron



## From challenges to championships: a special senior year



Read 2018 graduate Tony Richardson's story, which was included in the Columbian's annual high school graduation feature at <https://tinyurl.com/HHSTonyR>.

# CLASS OF 2018 FUN FACTS



**Number of graduates: 184**

**Next year, they are:**

Heading to college—88  
Going straight to work—34  
Beginning an apprenticeship—7  
Entering the military—6  
Starting trade/technical school—3  
Attending HSD 18-21 program—2  
Going on a religious mission—2  
Undecided/no response—42

**Scholarships awarded:**

Offered = \$1,702,302  
Accepted = approx. \$752,145

**Other facts:**

**36%** of graduates are **honor students**  
(cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)

**12.5%** of graduates earned the  
**State of Washington Honors Award**

**12.5%** of graduates are members  
of the **National Honor Society**

**9%** of graduates also received  
their **Associate of Arts degree**

**Notice of Nondiscrimination:** The district will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. The superintendent will provide for annual evaluations, periodic surveys, annual notice and complaint procedures as required by law to ensure that there is in fact equal opportunity for all students in the district. The board will designate a staff member to serve as affirmative action/Title IX compliance officer.