



EDUCATION MATTERS

WINTER
2018-19

Garden brings science, community to life

The folk tale “Stone Soup” starts with a cooking pot that contains nothing more than water and a stone. As passersby add ingredients, it evolves into a tasty soup the entire village enjoys sharing.

Over the past few years, Hockinson Heights Elementary School has been cooking up its own version of Stone Soup, one

that will enhance science education and is helping build community.

It started with a dream. Julie Paso, the school’s lead secretary, lost her 29-year-old sister to cancer in 2010. Because Wendy Munio Paso had been a Hockinson student, Julie wanted to honor her with a bench on the elementary school grounds.

As she shared her idea with others, it began to evolve.

“I couldn’t believe how the project took off from there,” Julie Paso said.

PWT—the local parent-teacher organization—donated a gazebo and \$3,000 toward what became known as the Legacy Garden. Staff members and families contributed a shed and tractor time for grading and compacting soil. Volunteers and staff assembled cedar planter boxes. They acquired rock, compost and seeds, and offered their time and energy. A contractor with the High School and Middle School construction projects donated a retaining wall. Art students and teachers painted a mural—which departing fifth graders now add to each year, incorporating flowers, birds and animals.

The Legacy Garden continues to grow. By next spring, each grade will have its own planter box to grow plants in, and Hockinson’s young scientists will get to study life science outside, year round.

“I’m excited about learning outside,” said Lyla, a fifth grader.

“I just love plants—they’re beautiful,” added her classmate Austin, as he pulled weeds from a planter box.

“Some kids do great sitting in a classroom, but some kids don’t,” said Principal Josh Robertson. “The garden will help provide multiple pathways for students to be engaged at school.”

The Legacy Garden goes hand-in-hand with the school’s recycling, composting and waste-reduction efforts, which recently earned the school a Washington Green Schools certification.



Fifth graders in Anna Hoffman’s class check out the Legacy Garden’s last standing tomato plant.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Life is full of surprises.

Little did I know when we started this school year that it would be my last serving Hockinson. As many of you know, I have accepted the position of superintendent of Cornerstone Christian Academy, beginning in July 2019.



I am very thankful for the nearly 18 years that I have spent in Hockinson, as a principal as well as superintendent, and am humbled to have had the opportunity to serve our students and our community. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for all you have taught me.

Our Board has already begun the process to find a leader who understands the culture, strengths and needs of Hockinson School District. Because of the respect and genuine kindness the HSD community has shown one another, in tough times and good, I am confident that the district will attract well-qualified applicants for this position.

I have great confidence in Hockinson School District as it moves forward. This is a community that makes things happen. You are well known throughout Southwest Washington and beyond for the ways you support our students and teachers, and for the high-quality educational opportunities you provide for our young people. I will continue to applaud Hockinson's progress and accomplishments, and will watch with great interest to see what will come next.

Meanwhile, we have much to accomplish yet this school year, and I am glad that we get to walk the rest of the year together.

I wish you all the best this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Sandra Yager

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Garden, continued from page 1

Last year the school implemented Sort Tables, where students sort recyclables, food waste and garbage, and a Share Table, where they leave unopened milk or packaged foods for others, instead of throwing it away. Students were amazed to watch as their cafeteria went from filling up four garbage bags a day down to one.

"All of this helps get students excited about science and creates a positive school culture," Robertson said.

The Legacy Garden, which has been developed without the use of any public funds, has changed something else as well: "Some people who aren't that comfortable volunteering in the classrooms are comfortable in the garden," Robertson said. "We're building school-community connections."

As for Julie Paso's dream of honoring her sister, she now envisions painting a special flower or a bouquet into the mural that forms the backdrop to the garden Wendy inspired.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Hockinson Community Education is offering some great classes this winter term, including:

- Indoor Soccer (Grades K-5)
- Men's Basketball
- Brick Builders LEGO
- Mad Science
- Taekwondo Kids/Taekwondo
- Success Thru Chess (Grades K-5)
- Winter Basketball Camp (Jan. 3 & 4)
- Power Volleyball—Adults
- Art from the Heart (Grades 3-5)
- Futsal, Boys & Girls (Grades 4-6)
- Jazzercise

For more information on classes and camps, please see www.hocksd.org/administration/community-education.

KEEPING COSTS DOWN

Thanks to modern printing equipment, we are able to print and mail this newsletter in full-color, glossy magazine format for less than it used to cost in spot color on plain paper. We hope you enjoy this updated version of the Hockinson School District newsletter.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: Hockinson School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator & Title IX Officer: Sandra Yager, Superintendent, sandra.yager@hocksd.org; 504 Coordinator: Keila Dean, Director of Special Education, keila.dean@hocksd.org



HHS junior Kelton Duncan says students appreciate having opportunities to share their ideas.

Students help improve HHS culture

A positive school culture can have a major impact on student learning and achievement. That's why one of the things Principal Andy Schoonover has established this year at Hockinson High School is the Student Advisory Council.

His goal? To learn what's working and what's not at Hockinson High School, from the student point of view.

"We get so wrapped up in school administration, but we're here for the students."

- Principal Andy Schoonover

"It helps me keep the kids' perspective," said Andy Schoonover, who started as principal at HHS in July. "We get so wrapped in school administration, but we're here for the students."

The 22 council members include athletes, students taking Advanced Placement classes, struggling learners, band members, leadership students and more.

"I was trying to get as diverse a group of students as I could find," Schoonover said.

Over the past three months, he's heard about topics as wide-ranging as ineffective hand dryers (which have since been replaced), preferred instructional styles (which helped guide professional development for teachers) and sources of stress (often it's involvement in multiple activities).

At one meeting, students discussed how every class seemed to have tests on Fridays—which meant some students had six tests in one day. Schoonover took that concern to his staff, and ...

"The next week, the tests were more spread out," said junior and advisory council member Kelton Duncan.

Kelton said his experience on the Council is teaching him how important it is for students to know that their views matter.

"I've been learning that people don't really speak their voice until they have a place to do it," he said.

As for Schoonover, he says he is glad for this opportunity to share and solicit ideas.

"It's the highlight of my week to sit and talk to kids about what they're thinking," he said. "And I hope it makes a difference in their school experience."

WELLNESS CORNER



Hockinson School District's Wellness Committee focuses on making our schools a healthy environment for everyone.

The Committee wants to remind families that the holidays can be stressful times and can trigger emotional and mental health challenges. Here are some resources to check out if anyone in your family needs assistance:

Clark County Crisis Line 360-696-9560

Care Crisis Response Services
(mental health) 800-584-3578

Girls' and Boys' Town 24-Hour Hotline
(abuse, anger, school issues, chemical dependency, relationships and depression) 800-448-3000

Domestic Violence Hotline 800-562-6025 or 800-799-7233

National Eating Disorders Association
800-931-2237

Washington Recovery Help Line—24 Hours (substance abuse, problem gambling and mental health)
866-789-1511

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
800-273-TALK (8255)

National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-HOPE (4673)

Teen Link—teen volunteers 6-10 p.m.
www.866TEENLINK.org 866-833-6546

Washington Information Network
(health and human service community resources) 2-1-1

24-hour Crisis Text Line: Text "GO" to 741741

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) (rape/sexual assault)
800-695-0162

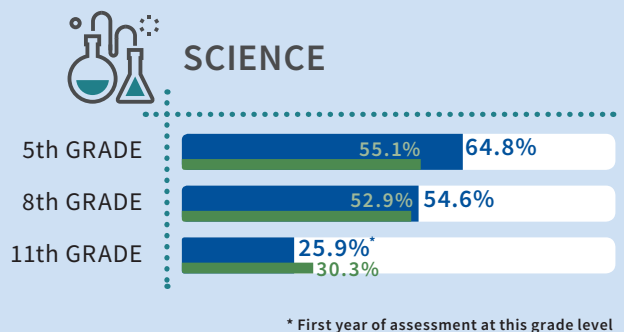
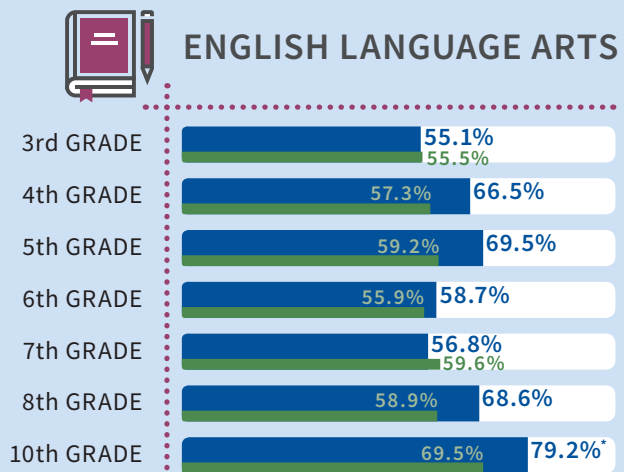
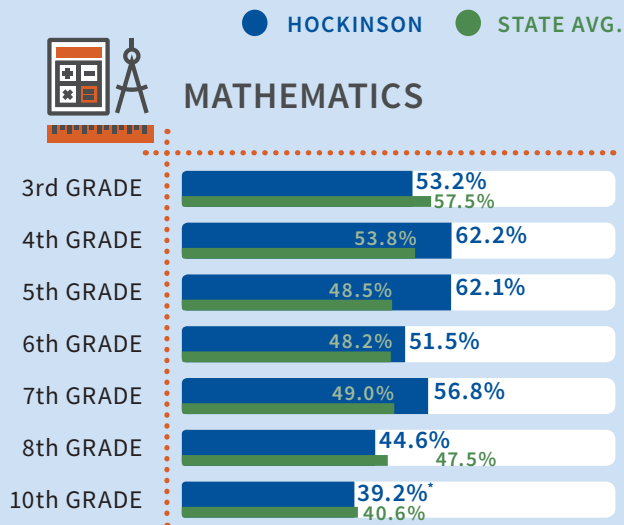
To learn more about the School Wellness initiative in Hockinson School District, please see our webpage at tinyurl.com/Hock-wellness.



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www.hocksd.org

2018 REPORT TO THE HOCKINSON COMMUNITY

State Testing Data**



For more details, visit reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us. Under "Organization Type," select "School District," and under "Organization," select "Hockinson."

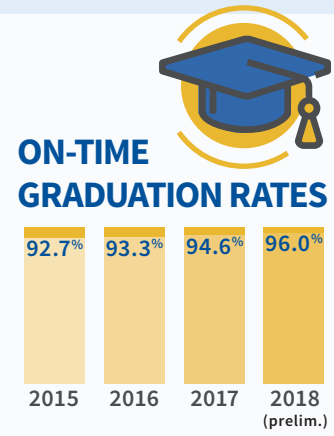
District Quick Facts**

1,974 STUDENTS
AT **3 SCHOOLS:**

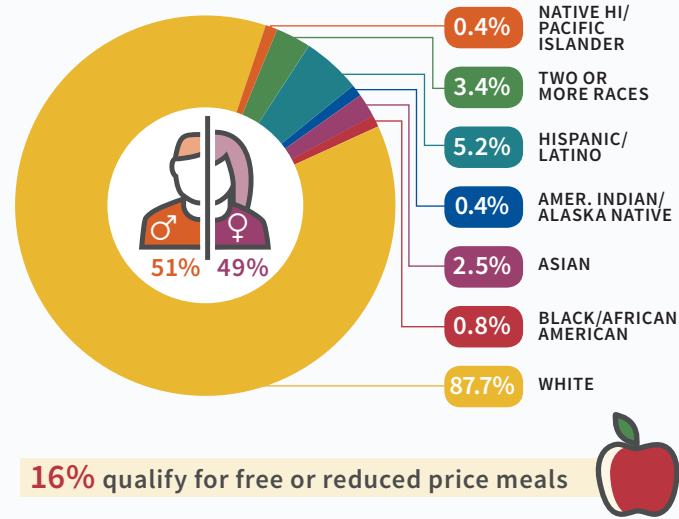
846 | Hockinson Heights Elementary School

453 | Hockinson Middle School

675 | Hockinson High School



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



WE EMPLOY:

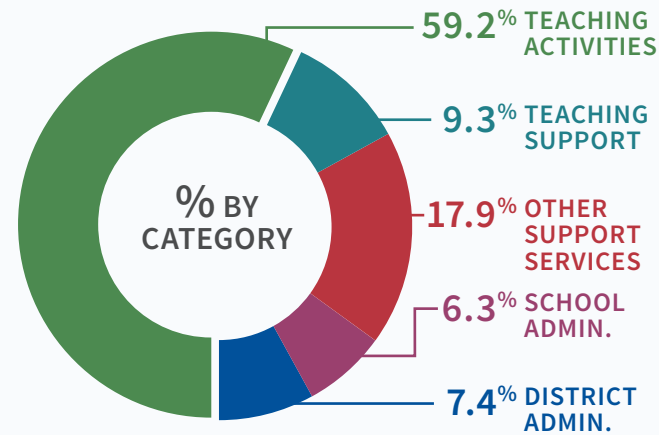
- 117** | teachers & certificated staff
- 87** | support staff
- 5** | school administrators
- 2** | district administrators

STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)*

- Kindergarten | **18:1**
- Grades 1-3 | **21:1**
- Grades 4-12 | **26:1**
- Grades 6-8 | **22:1**
- Grades 9-12 | **22:1**

District Finances

2018-19 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES



TOTAL 2018-19 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

\$24.4 MILLION

(Up from \$22.7 million in 2017-18)

EXPENDITURES PER STUDENT

\$12,756

(Up from \$11,781 per student in 2017-18)

REVENUE SOURCES (YEAR CHANGE)

SOURCE	2017-18	2018-19*	% +/-
LOCAL LEVY	\$4,435,006	\$3,335,605	-24.8%
LOCAL NON-TAX	\$676,820	\$803,881	+18.8%
STATE, GENERAL	\$14,216,068	\$16,808,489	+18.2%
STATE GRANTS	\$2,723,463	\$3,307,413	+21.4%
FEDERAL GRANTS	\$690,480	\$688,778	-0.2%
OTHER	\$11,093	-	-
TOTAL	\$22,752,930	\$24,944,166	+9.6%

*Budgeted

Schools levy request goes to voters on February 12

The Hockinson School Board of Directors has approved two requests that will go before the community on the Feb. 12, 2019, ballot. They are a Replacement School Programs & Operations Levy and a new Capital Levy for Technology & School Improvements.

Local levies enable school districts to cover expenses for educational programs and services, and athletic and academic extra-curricular offerings that are not funded, or are not fully funded, by the state.

These needs include transportation, special education and extra staffing, including some of our teaching staff and support personnel (such as nursing and security),

which the state partly funds.

In 2018, the state increased school funding to districts statewide, but it decreased districts' ability to collect local levies. So, although in 2016 Hockinson voters approved a local levy that would have provided \$5 million for the school district in 2019, HSD is now allowed to collect only \$2.4 million in 2019. Why? Hockinson voters had agreed in the 2016 election to pay \$3.94 per \$1,000 assessed property value in 2019, but new state law limits school districts to collect only \$1.50 per \$1,000 AV, beginning in 2019.

In 2012, Hockinson voters approved a capital/technology levy to improve in-

structional technology and complete a few other projects in the district. The district did not request a similar levy in 2016, because the bond that was used to build the Middle School and update the High School enabled some technology upgrades. Some of the district's other instructional technology now needs a refresher.

If approved, the two three-year levies proposed on the February ballot will cost an estimated \$1.50 per \$1,000 AV for the SP&O levy, and an estimated \$0.36 per \$1,000 AV for the T&SI levy.

Please watch your mailbox for more information arriving in January.

HSD teacher, volunteer heroes recognized for educational excellence

Identity Clark County's Land Here, Live Here, Learn Here program recently recognized an HHES teacher and a Hockinson volunteer as "Learn Here Real Heroes."

The award is given by area business leaders who thank volunteers and staff for making the region's educational system great.

The awards committee described Cary Delbridge, instructional coach at Hockinson Heights Elementary, as an "all-star instructional coach who helps teachers develop engaging lessons plans with students in mind."

They described Julie Ruhl, president of PWT—People Working Together, as a "diligent community leader who creates vibrant learning environments for student success."



HHES teacher Cary Delbridge (left) and Hockinson volunteer Julie Ruhl (right) were both recognized by area business leaders

Hockinson School District is thankful for these women and for all of our staff and volunteers, who often go above and beyond the call of duty!

HHS THEATRE PRESENTS "FIDDLER"

The Hockinson High School Theatre Company presented audience favorite "Fiddler on the Roof," to rave reviews this fall.

The six-performance production was truly a schoolwide effort involving more than 50 students in the Theatre Company and 12 students in the pit orchestra. Numerous staff members collaborated on the musical as well, including drama teacher Greg Saum and band—and pit orchestra—director Corey McEnry, lead custodian Kade Hoots, who played the role of onstage fiddler, and shop teacher Eirik Huset, who worked with students to build sets.

Well done!



HHS student earns perfect ACT score



Lexie Stucki shows that practice can, indeed, make perfect.

The HHS senior scored a perfect 36 on her ACT test. She's among fewer than 0.2 percent of test-takers scoring that high on the college entrance exam in 2018.

"I was pretty sure I did well but did not think it'd be that good," she said.

Lexie had taken the ACT once before and then bought a program that analyzed her previous score and guided her in areas where she could improve. She spent about 50 hours over the summer studying and working on practice problems.

Although she said she wouldn't describe the process as "fun," the new score has inspired her to expand the list of four-year universities she's applying to. Her goal is to focus on math or science.

"She's a motivated student who wants to do well and always wants to challenge herself," said HHS guidance counselor Myke Pace. "Lexie is a well-rounded kid who'll go on to be successful in whatever she does."

Lexie plays clarinet in band and marching band—which she describes as "a big, happy family"—and participates in soccer, National Honor Society and Key Club.

What advice does she have for other students preparing to take the ACT?

"Find enough time to study, so you don't have to cram it all in at the end."

HHS girls soccer dedicates season, wins league title

When the HHS girls soccer team beat Longview's R.A. Long High School for the 2A Greater St. Helens League title, it was more than a win for the team. It was also a win for Wyatt.

The team dedicated its season to Wyatt Draper, a 5-year-old from Ridgefield who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

When the team warmed up before matches, they wore "Warriors for Wyatt" T-shirts. Before each game began, they'd say, "Let's play for Wyatt."

"We play for each other, we play for our community—but we also play for Wyatt," said soccer team captain Brooke Grosz, a junior.

Wyatt is the son of Tyler and Sara Draper, who went to school with HHS soccer coach Joe Chicks in Ridgefield.

"I thought it would be a good way to get



"We play for each other, we play for our community—but we also play for Wyatt."

- Brooke Grosz, team captain

our girls involved in something bigger than sports and giving back," Chicks said. "Some things are more important than just soccer. This puts things in perspective."

In addition to winning their league title, these players received 2A GSHL honors:

Brooke Grosz, junior, defensive player of the year; first team members: Ellie Seekins, sophomore, Grace Abbott, freshman, Jamie Jeschke, sophomore; second team members: sophomores Kati Waggoner, Kendall McGraw and Alyssa Pfaender.

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HAWKS SOAR!

Football team takes State Championship for second year in a row

Congratulations to the Football Hawks, who beat Lynden High School 42-37 in an exciting game Dec. 1 at the Tacoma Dome. They secured their title of Class 2A State Football Champions for another year!



PHOTOS: JENNY RISTAU



Duty calls HHS senior



Our Hawks are amazing on the football field and off! Read about senior Joe Brennan's plans to carry on his family's legacy at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. The Reflector story is online at: tinyurl.com/Reflector-Brennan.