



# EDUCATION MATTERS

SUMMER  
2021

## *Congratulations, 2021 graduates!*

We are so proud of the Class of 2021 for everything they achieved, despite the numerous pandemic-related obstacles of the past 18 months. HHS's first-ever outdoor commencement was a joyous celebration of our students' accomplishments and future opportunities. If you missed the ceremony, you can stream it on Youtube at [bit.ly/HHSGraduation](https://bit.ly/HHSGraduation).





# A message from Steve Marshall



Dear Hockinson Families,

We have seen again and again that the best educational experiences result from a strong partnership between our community and schools. When we collectively rally around common goals that focus on our community's kids, we are all better off: Our students receive high-quality and robust educational experiences and achieve at high levels; our school board and staff show the dedication and professionalism we have come to know and love; our businesses prosper; and our entire community thrives.

Public education in Hockinson is a collective effort and looking back on 2020-21, I couldn't be more appreciative of our families, grateful to our community, and proud of our students. In addition to individual achievements...

Our students and families stepped up to the challenge of remote learning this past year, demonstrating remarkable flexibility, endurance and creativity.

Our staff promptly adapted to online instruction and varied reopening schedules, changing long-held classroom practices quickly and, along the way, learning alongside our students.

When we transitioned back into the classroom, our staff and schools followed rigorous health and safety protocols that kept our schools healthy and our community safe.

We continue to seek opportunities for new efficiencies and funding. This year we discovered and secured a number of energy and educational grants.

Our community has shown up time and time again to support schools, students, and events that bring us all together. Among the examples: PWT fundraisers to refresh the HHES Library and create a new learning garden for kids; service activities on MLK and Earth Days; athletic contests and plays (both remote and in-person!); and our inaugural Hockinson Saturday Markets.

This has undoubtedly been a very challenging year for all, but Hockinson has not lost sight of its shared commitment to our schools and kids. You will see examples of our resilience and successes sprinkled throughout this newsletter and these accomplishments by our staff and students are something we can all celebrate with a little extra satisfaction and admiration.

Unfortunately, COVID is still with us. But with your continued partnership I believe our schools are primed for a breakthrough year in 2021-22. I look forward to sharing additional examples of success stories and why "The future is bright in the HSD" in next year's newsletters.

With appreciation and anticipation,  
Steve Marshall  
*Superintendent*

## School updates for this fall

Back-to-school information will be sent directly to parents via email and made available on your child's school website. Here are just a couple of updates that apply to all Hockinson Schools beginning this fall.

### State standardized testing for grades 3-12

The Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) and the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) are normally administered each spring. Due to COVID-19, testing originally scheduled for spring of 2021 will take place this fall. Students will be assessed on learning standards for the grades that they were enrolled in during the 2020-21 school year. Testing dates and additional information for this year's state standardized testing will be sent out to families this fall.

Note: Students will be required to also take state standardized tests next spring to account for the 2021-22 school year.

### Covid-19 information

The Washington State Department of Health recently released updated safety guidance for K-12 schools that will require all staff and students to wear masks or face coverings while at school, regardless of vaccination status. The district is still working out specific details regarding the reopening of schools this fall, and will share more detailed information with families as it becomes available. Please check [hocksd.org](http://hocksd.org) regularly for updates.



#### SUPERINTENDENT

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# Two more HHS graduates earn appointments to US service academy

Continuing a long tradition of academic excellence and commitment to service and country in Hockinson, two HHS graduates headed to basic cadet training at the United States Air Force Academy this June. Since just after graduation, Ally Peterson and Ryan Fitzgerald have been honing their physical fitness abilities and learning the ropes of serving in the US Air Force as they prepare to start their undergraduate education.

While at HHS, Ryan took Advanced Placement classes and was Class co-Valedictorian and Senior Class President. He also played golf, held an officer role in National Honor Society, and participated in Key Club. Ryan credits some of his success in being accepted into USAFA to the small school size in Hockinson, as well as the support of his family. He also had the support of former HHS Associate Principal Josh Johnson, a former Marine who helped Ryan condition for the academy's Candidate Fitness Assessment.



Ryan Fitzgerald and Ally Peterson are attending the Air Force Academy this fall.

During her time in high school, Ally was a two-time District cross country champion (in 2020 and 2021, her junior and senior years) as well as the runner up during her freshman and sophomore years. She also took multiple AP classes and was involved in the Key Club and Mock Trial. "The small school environment at HHS gave me confidence and the opportunity to dream big, and my teachers and coaches were invested in

my success every step of the way."

Ally and Ryan will begin taking classes this fall as they embark on their individual undergraduate programs. Once they graduate, they will be required to fulfill at least five years of service in the Air Force.

Since 2015, four other HHS graduates have gone on to attend service academies—a remarkable achievement for a district the size of Hockinson.

- Joseph Brennan, class of 2019, United States Naval Academy
- Colton Wheeler, class of 2018, West Point
- Thomas Brennan, class of 2016, United States Naval Academy
- Meghan VanderMaas, Class of 2015, United States Air Force Academy



## Check out our new website at hocksd.org!

Hockinson Schools is launching an updated website ahead of the 2021-22 school year. We've also updated several of our logos to create a consistent look and feel across all Hockinson schools. Be sure to follow us on Facebook to know when our new website launches this month.





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Hockinson Patron

# Caps off to the Class of 2021!

## HHS SENIOR ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

Number of graduates: **145**

This fall, they are:

 Heading to college (2- and 4-year): **59%**

 Going straight to work: **12%**

 Beginning an apprenticeship: **3%**

 Entering the military: **3%**

 Starting trade/technical school: **3%**

 Undecided: **6%**

 Other: **16%**

 Attending HSD 18-21 program: **1%**

Scholarships  
awarded:

Offered:  
**\$1.8 million**

Accepted:  
**\$822,545**

Other facts:

**44%** of graduates  
are **HONOR STUDENTS**  
(cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)

**17%** of graduates earned the **STATE OF  
WASHINGTON HONORS AWARD**

**11%** of graduates are members of the  
**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

**15%** of graduates also received an  
**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE**

