



SUMMER
2020



STUDENT

Spotlight on 11th grader Sam Finklein

Favorite subject: Theatre

What I like to do (hobbies): Theatre, golfing, working out, hanging out with friends and family.

What I liked about at-home learning:

Fewer distractions and flexible working times.

The biggest challenge about at-

home learning: No face-to-face interaction with peers/teachers.

What excites me the most about

next year: Being a senior and making tons of memories with friends!

In the future, I want to: Travel the world and spread positivity!

HSD RESOURCE REPORT



Budget CHALLENGES

Hockinson School District is confronted with a difficult budget reality for the 2020-21 school year. The reason? District revenues are not keeping pace with increases in services and personnel costs. Here are five budget-related challenges facing the HSD:

- 1 State funds allocated to the HSD based on inflation (IPD) will increase for the '20-'21 school year by just 1.6%. Meanwhile, many equipment, services and contract costs are increasing by double-digit percentages. For example, the district's risk insurance policy is projected to increase next year by at least 15%.
- 2 The HSD has a lower-than-average levy rate of \$1.50 (per \$1,000 of assessed property value), with no capital levy. Levies allow school districts to provide things like teachers, support staff, supplies and materials, or services that the state only partially funds.

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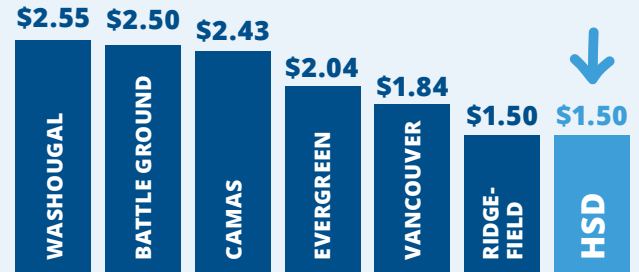
Online kindergarten registration is happening now!

To enroll your student, visit www.hocksd.org/Content/onlineenrollment

HSD RESOURCE REPORT (cont.)

- 3 The district did not pass its most recent capital levy resolutions for technology and facility improvements, limiting the ability to replace outdated student and staff technology and make needed expenditures in the areas of maintenance and other supplies and services.
- 4 The HSD operated the 2019-2020 school year using \$250,000 from its reserve fund balance. This unsustainable financial practice is something the district will have to equalize for the 2020-21 school year.
- 5 All school districts in Washington are being directed to prepare for dramatic state budget reductions rivaling those of the 2008-12 recession. Currently, that shortfall is expected to be approximately \$8.8 billion.

School District Local Levy Rates* CLARK COUNTY



*Includes operations, technology and capital levies for 2020

5 Facts about the COVID IMPACT

Did Hockinson School District save money or spend more as a result of this year's statewide closure of schools? The truth is, it's a little of both. Here are five ways the closure impacted the district's finances this school year:

- 1 While the repercussions of the COVID-19 closure are yet to be fully realized, cost savings were realized in some areas, such as substitutes and utilities.
- 2 The district redirected approximately \$102,000 in cost savings to enable the purchase of Chromebooks to facilitate at-home learning.
- 3 School districts are not allowed to redirect state funding for transportation, so the district used school buses during the closure to deliver homework packets, meals and student items that were left behind at schools.
- 4 Facilities closed, but school remained in session. As a result, all staff members contracted for the '19-'20 school year continued to receive full pay during the closure.
- 5 Enrollment planning for next fall began during the '19-'20 school year. However, if as a result of COVID-19, families opt for home school or an online program outside of the HSD, it will greatly affect the district's ability to meet budget (as enrollment is tied to state funding and staffing for '20-'21 is in place for a full return of students).

5 Things WE'RE DOING

Behind an unwavering commitment to student excellence and to fiscal responsibility, the district and its Board Members have taken steps to manage current and anticipated budget shortfalls. Here are five steps we've taken:

- 1 The HSD formed a Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) to provide recommendations to the Board and Superintendent on district budget proposals and other issues related to the budget process.
- 2 The district is constantly looking for available grants. In fact, it was by illustrating the HSD's challenging financial position that the district was awarded a \$100,000 grant for a new ADA-approved play structure at Hockinson Heights Elementary School.
- 3 The district expects to receive CARES and FEMA federal funds to help offset the costs of PPE (personal protective equipment), sanitation, and other extraordinary costs due to COVID-19.
- 4 The district's maintenance team got a head start on several building projects during the COVID closure that typically would have had to wait until the summer to be addressed. By taking great care of our facilities and equipment, the district can extend the life of these public resources and reduce costs in the long-term.
- 5 This spring, with Board guidance, the HSD reduced and eliminated some programming. This difficult decision resulted in the shifting and/or loss of HSD staff.

A message from Steve Marshall



Dear HSD Families,

The 2019-20 school year has come to a close, and what a year it has been. It feels like it has been two years rolled into one: Pre-COVID (Sept - March) and Post-COVID (March - June). Guess which one seems longer?!

While there's nothing quite like face-to-face, in-person learning, this experience has taught us a lot about education and has reminded us of its possibilities in the 21st Century. New tools are offering new ways to learn and grow; teachers are sharing new skills and teaching "outside of the box"; students are experiencing new learning formats and overcoming challenges unique to our time.

As we shift our focus to next school year, the district has convened a Re-opening Schools Task Force, made up of HSD staff and members of the community. The Task Force seeks answers to the question that is ultimately on everyone's minds: "What will school look like in the fall?" The task force will pour over guidance from Clark County Public Health and OSPI as it addresses its two-fold goal of:

1. Providing direction and clarity regarding the resumption of education and school services for the 2020-21 school year, and
2. Generating recommendations for consideration by the HSD School Board of Directors.

While it has been announced that Washington schools will reopen for in-person classes in the fall (with precautions such as temperature checks, masks and social distancing), we anticipate that online education will continue in some manner. Why? A number of HSD parents have told us that they prefer it for the sake of their students' learning style and/or health. At the same time, some employees have health concerns that need to be accommodated, and we will need to be ready to shift our delivery model should we receive direction from the state to close schools again.

Despite being given some guidance about next school year, at this point we still have many unanswered questions. I know this is unnerving for our staff, parents and students. We ask for everyone's continued patience and our community's support because, as we have learned over the past three months, the answers will emerge. A lot has developed since March and, similarly, a lot will develop between now and September.

For now, what I can say with certainty is this: Alongside student learning, our primary mission is the health and safety of students and staff, and I pledge to you that we will do our best to protect it.

Sincerely,

Steve Marshall
Superintendent

HSD schools earn state recognition

The State Board of Education (SBE) has recognized Hockinson Heights Elementary School and Hockinson Middle School for demonstrating growth and supporting students.

The two HSD schools were among 391 schools in Washington that received state recognition in April for closing gaps, showing growth and demonstrating achievement between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

"We are excited to receive this recognition," said HSD Superintendent Steve Marshall. "Student growth is a special achievement because it is indicative of effective instruction by our teachers and effort by our students. Ideally, you want to see everyone in our schools learn and grow—our employees as professionals and our students as learners. I am hopeful that our emphasis on teacher collaboration and all of our student support initiatives will continue to fuel these kinds of gains moving forward."

Way to go, Hornets!



SUPERINTENDENT

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Anatomy of a Chromebook

Get to know the devices that HSD schools are using to bolster secondary students' computer literacy & transform learning.

WHAT

What is a Chromebook? It's a small, basic laptop that runs Google's Chrome Operating System and needs an internet connection to function. Rather than storing data on the device itself, Chromebooks rely on cloud storage, and can work with both browser-based and mobile applications.

WHY

Why are these devices needed? In addition to the many benefits listed below, Chromebooks have replaced district-owned iPads that have "aged-out" and are no longer supported by the state for online assessments. To maximize resources, the district's most current iPads are being repurposed for elementary school use.

HOW

How was the district able to purchase Chromebooks? 2019's Technology Levy failure left the HSD without dedicated funds for network upgrades, classroom technology and student devices. Out of necessity, the district used existing savings and reduced programs in other areas to facilitate the purchase of Chromebooks.

21ST CENTURY TEXTBOOK

No longer reliant on expensive, heavy printed textbooks, these devices support digital student curriculum at all grade levels.

ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY TOOLS

Devices can be easily locked down to meet the needs of the district's IT policies.

COST SAVINGS

At \$260 per device, Chromebooks can be bought in bulk for thousands of dollars less than other bulk devices like iPads and traditional laptops.

TESTING-APPROVED

Meets all OSPI connectivity and hardware specifications for online assessments.

EASE OF USE

Chromebooks have an operating system that's easy to navigate, even for younger users.

5 REASONS THE HSD CHOSE GOOGLE CHROMEBOOKS



HSD HAPPENINGS

Summer News and Events



Virtual Graduation

Hockinson School District held its first-ever virtual graduation ceremony on Friday, June 12. You can view the ceremony by searching "HSD News" on Youtube.

New Elementary Playground

A new ADA-approved playground is being installed at Hockinson Heights Elementary School. Construction crews expect it to be complete by August.

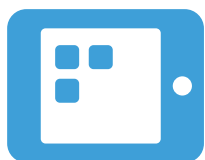


Athletics Practice & Conditioning

In compliance with Clark County Public Health and guidance from the Washington Interscholastic Athletics Association, practices and conditioning for HSD fall sports are set to take place later this summer with precautions in place.

Berry Festival

The HSD is collaborating with the Hockinson Main Street Team to produce the inaugural "Hockinson Berry Festival," taking place on Saturday, July 11 at the corner of 159th and 182nd Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Learning Retention

Elementary students in grades 1-3 are keeping their district-owned iPads over the summer to participate in the Lexia Learning Program. The program is designed to help students retain and strengthen their reading skills.

Curriculum Grant

Hockinson School District received a \$7,885 media literacy grant from the state to bolster its K-12 technology curriculum. The HSD was one of only eight districts in the state to receive funds from this grant program.



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Valedictorian Jasmine Shigeno gives her commencement address at the HHS virtual graduation ceremony.

Number of graduates: **173**

Next year, they are:

 **Heading to college (2- and 4-year): 69%**

 **Going straight to work: 7%**

 **Beginning an apprenticeship: 5%**

 **Entering the military: 4%**

 **Starting trade/technical school: 4%**

 **Undecided: 3%**

 **Other: 3%**

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

Scholarships awarded:

Offered = \$1,422,417

Accepted = \$772,417

Other facts:

42% of graduates are HONOR STUDENTS (cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)

9% of graduates earned the STATE OF WASHINGTON HONORS AWARD

8% of graduates are members of the NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

10% of graduates also received an ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE