



# EDUCATION MATTERS

FALL  
2020

## HSD welcomes back small groups of kindergarteners in-person

After months of remote learning to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, the HSD began to welcome back small groups of kindergarteners for in-person learning beginning November 2. While most HSD students have been enrolled in remote learning or the new Hockinson Virtual Academy, HSD has been serving small numbers of students in person since the summer, including special education students and English language learners. The Washington Department of Health's Decision Tree Framework and Clark County Public Health guidance have deemed bringing back small groups of students, especially younger students, is safe for them

and their teachers, as long as appropriate safety protocols are followed, including wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and practicing social distancing. All of these practices are observed at all HSD facilities.

Kindergarteners and their teachers were thrilled to return to campus, their huge smiles evident even behind their masks. For these brand new students, getting to see their peers in class for the first time instead of through Zoom was a special treat.

"We know that young students, especially those in elementary school, learn best in the classroom, and we're so excited to start welcoming them back to campus," said HHES Principal Josh Robertson. "We haven't seen our students, families, and teachers this happy in a long time."

As Southwest Washington continues to see rising case levels this fall, and is projected to experience even higher numbers throughout the winter, HSD will continue to work with local and state health officials to determine how and when to move forward with additional in-person instruction this school year. This is an ever-evolving situation, and the district is committed to keeping the community informed as new guidance becomes available and as any shifts to learning models become possible or necessary.



Hand washing is always an important part of the kindergarten day, especially now.



Get to  
know a

STUDENT

### Spotlight on HVA senior Avianna Hille

#### What I like about Hockinson

**Virtual Academy (HVA):** I am always busy with activities and sports, and I like that I can learn and do my work when I have the time to do it. Also, the lessons are pretty good and I have learned a lot.

**Favorite class:** Architecture. It is my favorite class, but it is also the most challenging. I plan on majoring in architecture in college, and I feel fortunate to be able to take it through HVA because it isn't normally offered at HHS.

**Activities:** HHS Varsity Soccer

**College plans:** I have applied to CalPoly, UC Berkeley, Montana State, Arizona State and all four northwest Pac 12 universities.

# A message from Steve Marshall



Dear HSD Families,

This fall, like last spring, has been a test for the Hockinson School District. The pandemic has tested our district's commitments to safety and high-quality teaching and learning. But while it could be argued that tests like this one are too difficult or unfair, it could be also argued that they bring out the best in us.

## Safety

Safety is not just a consideration for students. School safety planning includes everyone in a school community: students, staff, and visitors. COVID-19 has forced schools to also consider the safety of the broader community at the local, county, and regional levels. Since March, our district has worked closely with our local and state health officials to determine how to safely reopen schools. Using their guidance, as well as the state's Decision Tree Framework, the HSD hosted small groups of students for in-person summer school and began welcoming back our youngest learners in early November.

Everyone involved in in-person learning is required to adhere to safety protocols by wearing masks, practicing good hand hygiene, and practicing social distancing. We will continue to make decisions about reopening our schools based on what is safest for our students, staff, families, and larger community.

## High quality teaching and learning

The HSD Strategic Plan consists of three main goals relating to facilities, communication, and the centerpiece: academics. Online teaching and learning employs different technology and practices than in-person instruction, but the success of both formats depends on the motivation and growth of the learner, the support of our families, and the instructional skill of the teacher. In August we launched a district-wide focus on Criterion 8 of the Washington Teacher Evaluation model:

*Exhibiting collaborative and collegial practices focused on improving instructional practice and student learning.*

Our goal is for teachers to collaborate weekly to support each other's professional effectiveness by identifying and adapting key learning standards to an online instructional format and share best practices and assessment strategies so they can maximize their impact on our students.

## Bringing out our best

The situation we're in is not an ideal one for schools or families. We all tend to do better when conditions are familiar and stable. With COVID-19, conditions are ever-changing and stressful. As I have heard many times, "There is no playbook

for a situation

like this." While

we may not have a definite series of steps or a timeline of when we will defeat the pandemic and return to normalcy, we are beginning with the end in mind and asking ourselves, "What will it take for us to say: 'We faced the daunting challenge of COVID and won the day for our staff, families, and students?'"

When posed with this question, our building leaders responded by identifying seven qualities that coincidentally all begin with the letter "C":

- Courage
- Care
- Creativity
- Can-do attitude (rather than a "cannot be done" attitude)
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Compassion

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you notice these Seven Cs as well as the new technology, programs, and innovations we have added to ensure each of our students gets the education they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Steve Marshall

*Superintendent*



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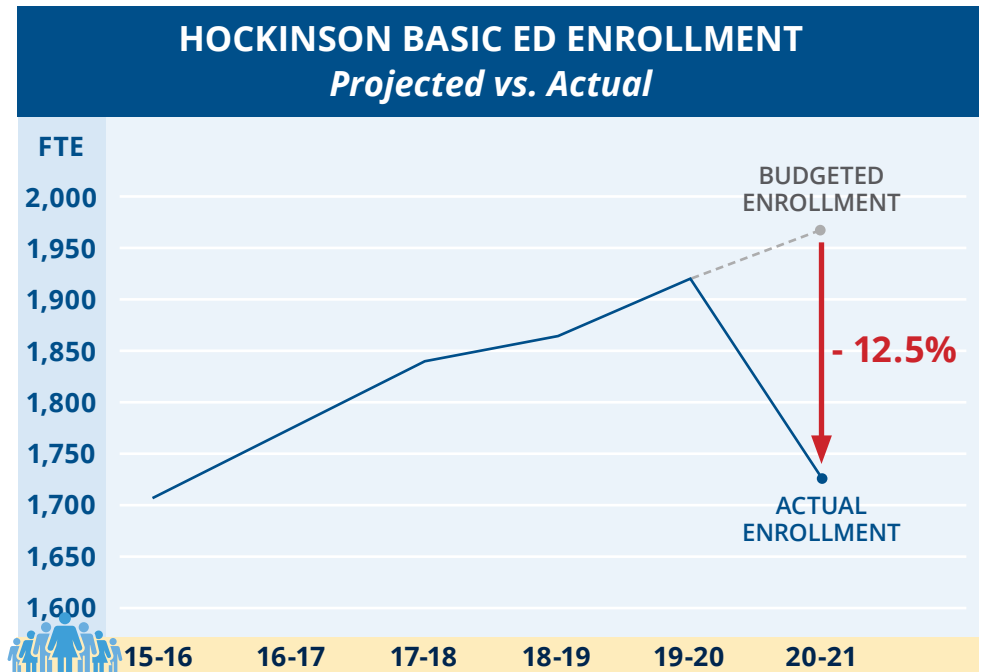
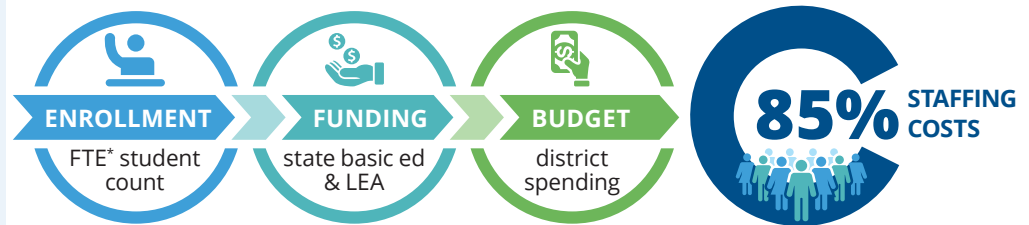
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# Navigating our 2020-21 budget challenges

Hockinson, like so many other districts this year, is facing significant budget challenges related to decreased student enrollment because of the pandemic. The state of Washington funds schools based on student enrollment numbers. Last spring, the state froze enrollment numbers at pre-pandemic levels, meaning districts were not forced to make difficult budget cut decisions, but that waiver did not continue into the 2020-21 school year. This fall, HSD has seen a more than 12% drop in expected student enrollment because of the pandemic, meaning the district's budget was significantly impacted. While this does present some real challenges, district leaders are working to limit the impact on its people, programs, and services.

"We're taking a number of steps to address our budget challenges this year, and our goal is to be as transparent as possible," said HSD Director of Business Services Michelle Scott. "We will engage the community to identify our biggest priorities and build efficiency around resources we already have. We also plan to work with community, state, and federal partners to secure additional resources."

HSD is also working closely with its Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), made up of an HSD board member, HSD staff, and parents who meet monthly, to help



**TOTAL ESTIMATED FUNDING SHORTFALL,  
DUE TO ENROLLMENT DECREASE:**

**= \$2.5 million**



\*FTE = full time equivalent the standard way of measuring student enrollment

guide district budget decisions. The BAC takes into account the district's projected fund balance, revenue forecasts and other pertinent financial information to help

make informed recommendations that are in line with the mission and vision of the district, while increasing transparency in the budget process.





HSD Running Camp participants and high school volunteers take a quick break from their socially distant Halloween practice for a photo opp.

## Hitting the pavement to support HHS peers

In the midst of seeing practically all sports and activities canceled over the summer and for the beginning of this school year, HHS senior and 2020 cross country champion Ally Peterson wanted to find a way to keep active and connect with other HSD students through physical activity. In October, along with her mom and a few other HSD cross country teammates and

alumni, she started a Running Camp for children in grades Kindergarten through 7th grade. Approximately 20 students signed up and met twice a week over the next six weeks to have fun and get a little physical activity in. Students met at the HMS track and practiced in socially distant "pods" of five students each, keeping in compliance with county public health

and WIAA guidelines.

"It's been fun to get to connect with the community," Ally said. "Around this time, I would normally just be finishing cross country season, but this way I still get to participate in a running team with a wider range of people. I enjoy getting to see the younger kids and watch them have fun."

## HSD welcomes new board members

We are excited to welcome new board members Tim Hawkins (pictured top), District 1, and Patrick Carter (pictured bottom), District 2, to the HSD School Board! Both members were sworn in at board meetings this fall and are eager to get to work representing students, families, and community members in their respective districts.

Tim Hawkins has a long career in marketing and is currently the executive director of creative arts at Summit View Church in Vancouver. He and his wife Becky, HHS' main office secretary, have three children who have graduated from the HSD: Brad, Erik, and Lucy.

Patrick Carter is the Washington marketing director for Weyerhaeuser Corporation. He has two students in the HSD: Caleb and Eli. His wife, Ada, is active in the nonprofit People Working Together, as well as in the Hockinson Main Street Team.



## Thank you, HHS Boosters!

Despite having to cancel its annual auction, the HHS AAA Boosters organized its first-ever Hockinson Virtual 5K Fun Run/Walk to help raise funds to support the middle school and high school athletics, activities and academic programs. The virtual run held in October was a huge hit with the community with 347 participants. It raised over \$43,000 through corporate sponsorships, generous donations and registration fees. The high school cross country team set up a 5K course at Hockinson Meadows park which participants could choose to use over the weekend to add to the fun. The boosters are thrilled with the event's success and hope it brought some light during this difficult year. Go Hawks!



# HVA offers independence for students, flexibility for families

Did you know? Just over 24% of HSD students are enrolled in Hockinson Virtual Academy, the district's new all-online alternative learning environment. This self-paced option provides flexibility and customization options for HSD families and students who need something a little different than HSD Remote Learning. Enrolled students receive weekly support and check-ins from teachers to make sure they're on track. If and when students choose to return to in-person learning when it's available, they'll be set to stay on pace with the rest of their peers.

"HVA is a great option for students and families who need more flexibility in their learning," said HHS Associate Principal Josh Johnson. "They can choose when and where they want to learn, allowing us to provide our students with unique learning opportunities that really work for them."

While no one type of learning format



works for every student, HVA families have reported that the alternative learning environment provides them with the following benefits:

- Students develop time management skills
- Regular one-on-one student/teacher contact
- Real-time feedback on assignments
- Greater accountability for student progress

## HSD teachers and administrators collaborate to provide engaging remote learning activities

When most schools across the country went remote for this school year, educators had to adapt existing teaching and learning frameworks to fit virtual and hybrid learning environments. Using the Washington State-backed Danielson Framework for Teaching, as well as student and teacher feedback, the HSD created three areas of focus for teacher instruction this year: 1) Engagement, 2) Relationships, and 3) Assessment, or "ERA."

Teachers are finding new ways of engaging and building relationships with students by adding connection activities to their virtual classrooms, and they're employing appropriate assessments for activities that work specifically for remote learning. Some

strategies are designed to recreate the social and participatory environment that does occur more organically in an in-person setting. For example, the framework recommends having students interact with each other and their teacher within the first five minutes of class to establish an expectation of student interaction.

ERA is a natural fit with HSD's goal of prioritizing teacher collaboration. Teachers at all three schools will continue working together in grade-level and content teams to adapt curriculum and instruction and assessment strategies. This teamwork ensures the district can achieve a high level of student learning and meet school improvement goals in a new "ERA" of education.



Get to know a  
**TEACHER**

### Spotlight on Shaun Spadolini

**Who:** 5th Grade Teacher at HHES known for infusing humor, creativity, and technology into his classroom.

**What do you like about online learning?** Technology has enabled students to work independently and get immediate feedback on their work. I'm able to monitor the progress of multiple students at one time. Also, virtual breakout rooms and Jamboard enable students to collaborate and engage in activities like group editing, and I can observe and support them while they work.

**What's your biggest success story from Remote Learning so far?** This platform invites parent involvement, and I see Schoology (the HSD's learning management system) being used to a greater degree than in years past. Remote Learning also gives students more opportunities to move forward independently and problem solve.

**What do you enjoy about working in the HSD?** I have high expectations for students and take a lot of satisfaction in pushing them academically and celebrating when they succeed. I love when students come back to me years later and thank me for helping to prepare them for middle school. I enjoy working in a small community where I can really get to know students and families.

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# HSD FACILITIES UPDATES



## ADA playground complete (pictured above)

Earlier this year, the HSD reported that the district was awarded nearly \$100,000 in Washington State Equal Access Grant funds to construct a new ADA-approved playground at Hockinson Heights Elementary School. The playground's construction was completed over the summer, and the HSD is pleased to be able to offer this brand new, completely accessible outdoor play space for all HHES students.

## Former middle school becomes community center

The HSD is excited to announce the completion of renovations on the former Hockinson Middle School building on the corner of 182nd Ave. and 159th St. Custodial and maintenance staff worked over the summer to make needed improvements to the building, including new carpet, roof repairs, and new paint throughout.

Since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, the building has housed Hockinson Day Camp, a new HSD Community Education program designed to support students and families who need daytime learning supervision for HSD Remote Learning.

Once large group events and gatherings are safe again, the HSD plans for the community center to be a multi-use facility, including use for community classes, facility rentals, indoor markets, and more. The HSD is proud to steward this resource for the Hockinson community.

## Clark PUD grant leads to major HSD energy savings

Since last year, HSD has been partnering with the Clark County Public Utilities Department for a free program that helps to reduce energy costs for the district. The Strategic Energy Management (SEM) program has led to an overall savings of more

than \$49,000 for the district, including reductions in energy costs and an incentive for good performance within the program. On average, each of HSD's school buildings clocked a savings of around 11 percent last year—that's huge, compared to the program's typical per-building savings of 3-5%.

"We're proud to be able to make these positive changes for our school buildings and save the district some money in the process," said Shaniko Ristau, HSD Director of Operations. "We're thankful for this opportunity and our partnership with Clark PUD."

With funds from the PUD grant program, HSD will be able to install approximately \$60,000 worth of energy efficient LED exterior lighting to all of our school buildings and the district office. In addition to providing energy savings, this enhanced lighting system will make our campuses safer and more secure.