

HOCKINSON SCHOOLS

the of the community



Spring 2022 Newsletter

HMS Students Now Have a 'Hornet Hangout'

Stress and anxiety due to the pandemic are issues students and teachers face at higher levels than in past school years. The academic impact of these issues on the students is yet to be determined, but what is known is that overstressed and anxious minds are not ideal for learning. Hockinson Middle School understands these struggles and has created a student retreat, the Hornet Hangout, where students spend their lunch recess to play games, be social with friends, or simply relax.



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"In reviewing responses on our student survey, we saw a need for a special place for students who did not want to participate in traditional outdoor activities during lunch recess due to weather conditions, social anxiety, or lack of interest," Meredith Gannon, HMS School Principal stated. "We wanted to meet the students where they are at by creating an option and space that meets their needs."

Educators believe that when students are comfortable, calm, and connected, they more easily engage and transition throughout their school day. Other benefits of reduced stress include stronger relationships, confidence, resiliency, and overall well-being. Gannon is already seeing an impact. "We have had an incredible interest in Hornet Hangout and have seen large numbers of students make new connections with their peers and expand their circle of friends. It's been really positive."

Seven Hockinson Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

Most students find a space to belong when they participate in extracurricular activities such as band or sports. In some instances, these activities can create post-secondary opportunities. For seven Hockinson High School scholar-athletes, their hard work in the classroom and sports has paid off in the form of college scholarships that were recognized at a recent signing ceremony.

HHS competes at the 2A level, and having seven athletes sign letters of intent shows that the quality of our programs is top-notch. Compared to other area schools, Hockinson's seven signings were exceeded only by Union and Skyview High Schools, both of which are in the larger 4A classification.

To HSD Superintendent Steve Marshall, the 2022 signing class has individual and institutional significance. "This is an impressive group of scholar-athletes," he said. "I am a believer that involvement in our activities benefits students in many ways, most importantly with academics. This group has helped to set higher expectations for our underclassmen and the entire school moving forward."

Congratulations to the following HHS scholar-athletes: Hale Prior, Football, Stetson University; Grace Abbott, Soccer, Adams State University; Molly Romanchock, Soccer, Lower Columbia College; Maggie Skinner, Softball, Clark College; Ellie Ritter, Soccer, Northwest Nazarene University; Kylie Ritter, Basketball, George Fox University; Kyla Muller, Volleyball, Rocky Mountain College.

Save the Date

Friday, June 10: HHS Graduation (outdoor ceremony) at the Hockinson High School Stadium





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Campus projects bloom across Hockinson

Maintaining Hockinson's schools so they are safe and conducive to student learning goes far beyond spring cleaning. Dave Wilson, HSD Maintenance and Operations Director, has seen a number of simultaneous projects through to completion as HSD makes the move from indoors to outdoors.

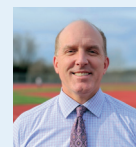
Wilson is pleased that he has been able to move some ongoing projects forward and check other longstanding projects off the "to do" list. "But it seems like when one project gets done two more appear," he chuckled.

A top priority for Wilson was the installation of a retractable American flag donated by the Class of 2020. "We wanted to honor these students' donations, but we ran into a series of electrical, logistical, and financial issues," he said. "However, the flag is finally in and it is really cool."

Working in a small district means Wilson ends up doing some of the work himself. "Our custodians and grounds staff are busy, plus I take a lot of satisfaction in seeing things get fixed," said Wilson. HSD continues its efforts to maintain buildings and expand its energy efficiency program through community partnerships. "I couldn't do it without the support of Clark Public Utilities, our businesses, and our volunteers," he said. Wilson and the Hockinson School District invite the community to join in its Earth Day Clean-Up on Saturday, April 23. Look for sign-up information on the HSD website.

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: Steve Marshall, Superintendent, steve.marshall@hocksd.org; 504 Coordinator: Keila Dean, Director of Special Education, keila.dean@hocksd.org

Superintendent's Message



Dear Hockinson Families,

Although winter lingered a little longer than expected, spring is definitely in the air. At home and in school, spring - especially *this* spring - refreshes our focus and sense of optimism.

Over the last few months, our district has worked through challenges and experienced successes due in large part to your commitment to our students. In particular, I want to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who voted to invest in Hockinson's schools. With our levy passing, we can return our full attention to our school improvement initiatives and continue the important work of preparing all students for lifelong success.

As we enter the final few months of our school year we have much to appreciate. Thankfully, we are at a point in the pandemic where mask mandates have been lifted in schools and we can see our students smile - and we will surely see a lot of smiles at the upcoming HHS Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022. Reaching milestones such as these would not be possible without teamwork and sacrifice. Thank you to everyone who helped us continue in-person learning while also ensuring the health and safety of our staff, students, and families.

With masks becoming optional in our schools, I think we are all looking to the future with greater optimism. I know I really mean it when I say I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming school events! Whether it is a spring sport, a music performance, or a robotics competition, I am confident that our students will inspire you with their talent and energy. In the meantime, I hope you find something in this newsletter or in our digital newsletter that puts a little spring in your step.

- Steve Marshall