



# EDUCATION MATTERS

SPRING  
2020

## At-home learning offers new challenges but also opportunities, teachers say



Middle schoolers check in with their classmates and teacher via Zoom.

Families, students and educators received a crash course in at-home learning this spring, as schools across the country took the unprecedented step of closing their doors to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

For teachers in the HSD, this transition away from traditional, in-person classroom learning presents both a series of challenges and opportunities. We asked our teachers to share some of their experiences thus far, and here's what they had to say:

### What has the transition to distance learning looked like for your class?

**Shawn Sears, Kindergarten:** "Thankfully my students and their families have been understanding, supportive and extremely resilient. Currently, my students and families use Schoology every day, as well as a classroom website I created to provide

resources, daily lessons and assignments. This process is running smoothly now and is working for students, families and myself. The success of this current distance learning format would not have been possible without the support I have received from my grade-level teammates, as well as my school principal, associate principal and instructional coach."

**Anna Penttila, Algebra 1:** "I have a folder for the week which includes a Google Slides document. These slides have everything the students need to do over the course of the week, and everything that is due on Thursday. Inside this same folder, students can turn in photos of their classwork and homework. Additionally, I have "office hours" over Zoom every day from 1 to 2 p.m. I have been uploading instructional videos

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## Hockinson turns 150!

Education is a 150-year tradition in Hockinson. The area's first public school was established here in 1870. The school was called "Eureka School" because Eureka was the name of the town at the time.

Our history is tied to the Klickitat and Chinook tribes as well as to the Scandinavian settlers who arrived in the late 1800s.

How much do you know about your community? Learn some fun facts and historic landmarks with our map on page 4!



Eureka School House in Hockinson, 1889



# A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT STEVE MARSHALL

Dear Hockinson Families,

Originally, we had planned on sending out this newsletter in early

March, but the Coronavirus pandemic prompted us to hold the presses while we turned our attention to supporting our employees and community. When I sat down to revise the original draft of my “Superintendent’s Message,” I found it interesting how much circumstances had changed, but how the theme of my remarks remained largely intact. The big concepts that are central to Hockinson School District’s Mission and its 2018-21 Strategic Plan have not changed.

Years ago, HSD articulated a commitment to developing independent thinkers who can positively contribute to our changing world. In 2018, it sharpened its focus with three priorities:

1. Providing students with high-quality instruction that optimizes their learning
2. Maintaining our facilities and a safe and positive culture inside them
3. Communicating with our community

The Coronavirus crisis has forced us to pivot and focus on services such as food delivery, day care and online instruction in a virtual classroom, but it has also affirmed our mission and strategic priorities. In many ways, it has elevated them to “cornerstone” status; we are doing everything we can to support the safety, intellectual growth and socio-emotional well-being of our students from afar. As you can imagine, this involves a lot of communication—nearly all of it virtual (email, video lessons, Zoom conferences, etc.).

## Community communications

This print newsletter also gives us an opportunity to communicate with our broader community. As we approach our district’s 150th Anniversary, the message I want Hockinson to receive is that the support of our community has been critical to Hockinson schools successfully fulfilling its mission. It is vital today. This pandemic has created, and will continue to create, a number of challenges. You deserve to be informed of what we are doing to address those challenges. It is even possible that it will create requests for your involvement and assistance.

It makes perfect sense why communication is right next to teaching and learning and facilities on our short list of priorities. Providing our students with a top-quality education is a team effort—and successful teams communicate effectively. I hope that you will reach out to us directly when questions or concerns arise, and let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can improve these efforts. Ultimately, it is your input that will help us meet your expectations as well as the needs of our learners and families.

## An improved website & online board meetings

While the newsletter is published on a quarterly basis, our website is updated with greater frequency. In the coming weeks, we will be adding new features to our district website, [www.hocksd.org](http://www.hocksd.org). All are meant to improve the overall user experience, because we know how frustrating it can be to spend time searching for something that should be easy to find.

One of those new additions is a redesigned contact page, where you can submit safety

tips, find links to our social media pages, and contact school and district administration. There is also a new Superintendent’s Blog, which I will update regularly to keep you informed about all things HSD-related.

The changes go beyond our website. For instance, our school board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month have shifted to an online format during this closure (and may even continue after schools re-open). You can access those meetings by clicking on the link on our main webpage, where you will also find a meeting calendar.

## Celebrating 150 years together

This is an all-around historic school year for the HSD. Not only has the Coronavirus impacted how we teach and learn, it has also forced us to put our 150th Anniversary Celebration on hold. Since we are unable to gather together to celebrate this milestone, we have included a driving tour around Hockinson beginning on page 4 of this newsletter for you to enjoy. Since 1870, the story of Hockinson schools has been intertwined with that of the Hockinson community. Accordingly, the 150th Anniversary Committee thought this educational activity might be something that could bring us all together during this time of physical distancing.

Thank you for your past and present support of the Hockinson School District. The story of our district would be incomplete without you. By staying in touch, I am hopeful that we will continue to earn your support and together create a future that excites us all.

Sincerely,  
**Steve Marshall**



### SUPERINTENDENT

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Learn  
about a

TEACHER



## Spotlight on kindergarten teacher Jen Siebert

**Education:** After graduating from CAM High School, I attended Clark College before heading north to Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia. There, with plans of being a school counselor, I studied psychology. After graduation, my husband and I moved to Albany, OR, where I worked at Therapeutic Behavioral Services. I eventually earned a Master's Degree in teaching from City University.

**Hobbies:** When the weather permits, I enjoy spending time outside with my family. I also spend a fair amount of time at my children's ballet and soccer practices. If I have any time left over, I enjoy reading and sleeping!

**Talents:** I can handle my own on a barrel racing course, and I still have my competition horse (my parents still board my horse—thanks dad)!

**What I enjoy most about Hockinson School District:** In addition to my students and their families, I really appreciate my colleagues and how everyone supports one another on both personal and professional levels.

## State grant to fund construction of new playground at HHES

Hockinson School District has been awarded approximately \$100,000 in Equal Access Grant funds from the state to construct a new ADA-approved playground at Hockinson Heights Elementary School.

Once complete this summer, the new playground will provide a play option that's accessible to all students, including those with disabilities.

"We're really trying to focus on equity across the district, and the existing playground at HHES has some very real barriers for our disabled students, like gravel grounds and limited access to ramps," said HSD Superintendent Steve Marshall. "With a grant of this size, we'll be able to install a new structure that enables all of our students to play together."

The ADA-approved playground features multiple slides, activity panels, ramp access from the sidewalk and much more.

"When I first found out the district had been awarded this grant, I was over the moon excited for our students," said Keila Dean, HSD Director of Special Education. "Second, I was thankful for all the people

that had a hand in applying for this grant. I appreciate how people within the district, inside and outside our Special Education program, pulled together to make sure we had all of the information needed for this grant to be approved! Our district team is always looking for ways to create a more inclusive environment for all of our students."

Hockinson School District's award represents nearly 10 percent of all Equal Access

Grant funds available across the state.

"It feels good knowing that this state-funded project will not only benefit our kids, but will help ease the financial burden on the local community as well," said Michelle Scott, HSD Director of Business Services. "As a relatively small district, it's critical that we continuously look for grant programs that support our mission, values and commitment to students."



A rendering of the new accessible playground, which is being entirely funded by state grant money.



*Special thanks to the Clark County Historical Museum and The Columbian for their historical records and assistance. Former HSD student Richard Neff created our 150-years logo.*

# TAKE A TRIP THROUGH HISTORIC HOCKINSON!

Below are some local historic locations, geographic features, and points-of-interest:

## **ALDERBROOK PARK.....U11**

This 63-acre park, which features an array of outdoor activities, opened in the 1960s. It is the home site for the Hockinson HS Cross Country Teams.

## **BATTLE GROUND.....E6**

This community was originally nicknamed “Strong’s Battle Ground” for an 1855 encounter involving Captain Strong and Chief Umtuch.

## **BATTLE GROUND LAKE.....L2**

This lake and state park used to be the site of a resort that featured a dance hall and roller coaster early in the 1900s. The State of Washington purchased the park from the Dollar (Dollar’s Corner) family in 1966.

## **BATTLE GROUND HIGH SCHOOL.....F6**

Before Hockinson had a high school of its own, local students completed their secondary education at Battle Ground High School. The school was established in 1910. Its original mascot was the Cheesemaker.

## **BERRY FARMS.....M11**

182nd Ave leads to a prolific Blueberry Corridor that includes Prairie, Majestic, Grandma Dixie’s, and Mattila’s Farms.

## **BLACKSMITH SHOP.....M15**

Located near where Hockinson Auto Works now stands was another early 1900s landmark: Charles Sandberg’s Blacksmith Shop.

## **BRUSH PRAIRIE.....E16**

Named for a brushy marsh located west of Hockinson, two of Brush Prairie’s historic landmarks are the General Store (ca. 1900) and Baptist Church (ca. 1860s).

## **CAMP BONNEVILLE.....X27**

Though 7 miles away, soldiers stationed at Camp Bonneville marched through the country roads of Hockinson as part of their training. This former United States Army post was used as a rifle range and weapons training facility

## **CEDARS NEIGHBORHOOD.....I12**

This area takes its name from the nearby Cedars Golf Course, which was built in 1975 and is presently the home course for the Hockinson HS Golf Teams.

## **CHELATCHIE PRAIRIE RAILROAD.....H12**

The timber salvage that occurred following the Yacolt Burn gave new life to this rail line that was started in 1887 to link Vancouver to Yakima. The railroad is now owned by Clark County, running north-east through the county.

## **CHINA DITCH.....K20**

(aka Eureka Ditch and Big Ditch Creek)  
In 1893, a work crew of about 100 Chinese laborers excavated this ditch using only shovels and buckets. A year later, “China Ditch” helped to transform swampy wetlands along 172nd Ave. into fertile farmland.

## **DUBLIN.....G1**

What the Finns were to Hockinson and the Swedes to Venersborg, so were the Irish to Dublin just north of Battle Ground. About all that remains now of this community are the Sacred Heart Cemetery and Dublin Road.

## **ELIM.....G14**

This area between Hockinson and Brush Prairie was named by devout Finnish Lutherans in honor of a biblical village on the route of the Israelites’ exodus. A number of Finns are buried at the Elim Cemetery, dating back to 1907.

## **ELKHORN MOUNTAIN.....Y14**

Disease and settlement displaced both the local Native Americans as well as the game that grazed on the open plains. A number of elk horns, discovered near Elkhorn Mountain (elev. 2,228 ft.), indicated that elk herds had moved to higher elevations.

## **EUREKA SCHOOL.....L14**

Eureka School opened its doors in 1873. It was located on the NW corner of 159th St and 182nd Avenue near the former Hockinson Middle School.

## **FIFTH PLAIN.....M22**

Also named “Campbell’s Corner,” Fifth Plain was named for being the fifth prairie away from Fort Vancouver. That name survives today in Fifth Plain Creek near NE Davis Rd.

## **FIFTH PLAIN SCHOOL.....N22**

This K-8 school was located at the corner of NE Davis Road and 192nd Ave. It consolidated into the Hockinson School District in the 1920s.

## **FINN HALL.....N14**

The sign that hung above the entrance designated this 1931 building as the “UFKB & S Meeting Hall”—a lodge for members of the United Finnish Kaleva Brothers and Sisters. But for generations of Hockinson residents it has gone by a more simple moniker: Finn Hall.

## **FINN HILL.....N12**

An area to the east of Hockinson named for the large number of Finnish immigrants who settled there. It is also the site of another historic Finnish cemetery.

## **FIVE CORNERS.....B27**

Four roads converged at the intersection of Covington Road and 76th, 92nd, and 94th Avenues creating five corners. 94th has since been closed.

## **FLATWOODS.....C12**

A huge forested area between Brush Prairie and then-Union Ridge (Ridgefield) that was covered with fir, ash, alder, cedar, and maple trees.

## **GRAVELLY POINT.....K12**

This gravel pit located at 167th Ave and 172nd St went by many other names including “Hard Scrabble,” which speaks to the challenge of farming on a gravel deposit.

## **HOCKINSON.....M14**

Originally called “Eureka” by Finnish settlers, Hockinson’s name changed when the town applied for a post office. There was already a post office named Eureka in Washington, so the name was changed to Hockinson in honor of the area’s first postmaster, Ambrosius Hakanson, in the 1880s.



**HOCKINSON CREAMERY .....N15**

This creamery was only one of five that still operated in the area in the early 1900s. Still, Clark County was one of the top cheese producing counties in the state.

**HOCKINSON HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ..... O13**

The largest and oldest school (est. 1968) in the Hockinson School District serves its youngest learners. Nearly 900 students K-5 students attend HHES. Its mascot is the Hornet.

**HOCKINSON HIGH SCHOOL.....K15**

Hockinson's first-ever high school opened in 2003. Over 600 students attend HHS. Its mascot, the Hawk, is named after the hawks that live near the fields of Hockinson and Brush Prairie.

**HOCKINSON MARKET ..... L15**

The market, built in 1928, originally housed the Hockinson Co-op Association of local dairy farmers. This corner was also the site of the area's first post office.

**HOCKINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL..... L13**

This school, rebuilt in 2017, serves over 500 students grades 6-8. Its mascot is also the Hornet!

**HOCKINSON MEADOWS .....K21**

This public park was developed in 2008. The Kane Memorial Dog Park was added 5 years later. A disc golf course is being added in Summer of 2020.



A more detailed, interactive version of this map is available on our website, [www.hocksd.org](http://www.hocksd.org).

**HOCKINSON WAR MEMORIAL ..... L14**

This structure was built to honor former Hockinson School District students who died in World War II and the Vietnam War. It was dedicated in March 1973.

**LARCH MOUNTAIN.. 10 miles E of map**

At an elevation of 3,480 feet, it is the highest free-standing peak in Clark County. It is named for the Larch trees that covered it prior to the Yacolt Burn of 1902.

**MESACHE .....R10**

Before becoming a General in the Civil War, George McClellan was an engineer in the U.S. Army. In 1853, his expedition traveled from Vancouver to Yakima over the Klickitat Trail to determine if the pass was a viable route for a railroad line from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Their fourth campsite near Venersborg was named Mesache, Chinook for "bad."

**MORGAN CREEK.....M15**

Located near 182nd Ave and 159th St, this creek is named for Lewis and B. Morgan, who built one of Hockinson's first homes here in 1888.

**NATURESCAPING WILDLIFE BOTANICAL GARDENS.....D15**

These themed gardens, located at 117th Ave and 49th St, demonstrate gardening concepts that attract birds, butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife to residential gardens.

**ORCHARDS ..... H23**

Just west of the district boundary line off of NE 162nd Ave lies Orchards, which was originally called Fourth Plain. The residents wanted a unique name, so in 1904 they named the area "Orchards" in honor of the area's large tracts of fruit trees.

**PADDEN PARKWAY ..... A25-K25**

This road, built in stages from 1993 to 2003, was named in honor of James Padden, a prominent Vancouver businessman and civic leader.

**PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL.....D21**

Prairie High School was built in 1979 and was one of the primary high schools attended by Hockinson students before Hockinson High School opened in 2003.

**PROEBSTEL.....T29**

Jacob Proebstel and his wife left Germany and settled in Clark County, where they raised seven children. Those children settled in and around the family home on Fourth Plain. The community of Proebstel takes its name from that family.

**PRUNE ORCHARDS .....Q12**

In the early 1900s, Clark County was regarded as "The Prune Capital of the World." Demand decreased during WWI, as did this area's number of prune orchards.

**SALMON-MORGAN CREEKS NATURAL AREA.....J10**

This 81-acre preserve features 1½ miles of soft surface trails that are open to foot traffic. It contains large stands of fir, western red cedar and hemlock.

**SIM SIK.....M22**

The Chinook called Fifth Plain "Sim Sik." This area, located just east of China Ditch, was also the third campsite of General McClellan's expedition over the Klickitat Pass.

**TUKES MOUNTAIN.....J5**

This 620 ft. mountain was named for John Tuke, who settled just north of Hockinson and ran a logging operation with his sons.

**VELVET ACRES.....N25**

This area was named for the 80-acre Velvet Acres Dairy Farm, which started in the late 1960s. Velvet Acres is now known for its u-pick produce and pumpkin patch.

**VENERSBORG ..... O5**

Its name means "A friendly place." The Swedish Land and Colonization Company advertised across Scandinavia promising settlers cleared farmland. They instead found burnt forests. Its school, established in 1912, merged into the Battle Ground School District in 1933.

**WARD ROAD ..... J25**

Named for W.A. "Al" Ward, who was an early homesteader in Brush Prairie and served on the Hockinson School Board.

**YACOLT BURN ..... V18**

A massive and destructive forest fire that began at the Wind River in Skamania County and was fueled by the east winds through Clark County.

# At-home learning teacher Q&A

*continued from front page*

on the slides so that students only have to go to one document to see their work and instruction.”

**Beth Tugaw, ASB Leadership Advisor; Athletic Coordinator:** “My students have worked hard to plan Color War, Tolo, the spring recognition assembly, prom, 8th Grade Move-up, Mr. Hockinson -- the list goes on. Now that those events are not taking place, we are working on building school culture while not being at school. Our first projects were a video and a virtual ‘spirit week.’ We are constantly brainstorming new ideas to keep the Hawk spirit alive.”

## What are your priorities as an educator as we move forward with at-home learning?

**Jade Scott, 9th Grade English:** “My priority is making sure everything is clear. I give video directions and written directions. I also don't want to give students too much work; what I might imagine being 2 hours of work could be 3 hours for some students. I can't see their faces or talk to them if they look stressed; I can't read their body language and know what they need, so I find myself focusing on making everything clear and giving an appropriate workload.”

**Myke Pace, Counselor:** “My main priority is looking after the social/emotional well-being of my students. I worry about the ones who are not engaged in their distance learning. It is also a priority, and challenge, to ensure that my students (seniors especially) are meeting all their graduation requirements in this new model.”

**Corey McEnry, Band:** “Equal in my attempts to help students grow as individual musicians is to encourage them to stay positive and remind them of why they have chosen to be a part of our music program over the years. There is a reason why more than 1 in 6 students at the high school are part of the band. My goal is to keep our student musicians focused on the positives and keep an optimistic eye on the future when we can finally get back together and work as a team. We will keep up our communication, build and maintain relationships from a distance, and keep our

memories of the past and goals for the future in the forefront of our minds.”

## How has this experience changed your perspective?

**Kari DeBower, Algebra 2; Pre-Calculus; Computer Science:** “I am so impressed with how so many of our parents and students have taken on this challenge of remote learning and excelled! This experience has highlighted how important it is for students to reach out and communicate with their teachers when they have questions and need help.”

**Sally Drendel, 10th Grade English; Yearbook:** “I realize how much I miss the daily interaction with students: the passing jokes, the “aha!” moments, the friendly interactions, etc. Also, I realize the importance of writing clear emails! When so many people are sending emails, sorting and responding is much easier when people keep it simple, concise, use bullet points and/or bold text for key parts. Perhaps this will all make us better writers!”

**Shannon McCombs, 10th Grade ELA; Instructional Coach:** “My perspective hasn't changed so much as my outlook, as I'm seeing opportunity for a shift to using technology to enhance instruction. We are able to enhance student learning opportunities. I can provide specific written or audio feedback that is attached to a specific part of a presentation. We can bring in presenters from a distance who can interact with our students. There are so many different possibilities. Now the limitations have become our own imaginations.”

## What's your advice to families who are still trying to adjust?

**Myke Pace, Counselor:** “My advice is to try and get organized and have a routine. Students will start to get into a groove again much like they do at the beginning of the year after a long summer. And the most important thing: reach out if you are feeling overwhelmed, in over your head or at the end of your rope. There are many of us willing to empathize and help.”

**Shawn Sears, Kindergarten:** “Just do the best you can, give yourself some grace, and know that reading, writing, math, social studies, and science skills are important, but not as important as a child's emotional and social wellbeing. While many things in

life are canceled right now, things such as family dinners, family walks, board games, and family nights are not. These moments are just as valuable to a child's development in life as any classroom assignment right now. When children feel safe, secure, nurtured, and loved they simply learn and develop better overall.”

**Leslie Pershall, 9th Grade Health:** “Take it day by day! Be patient with yourselves, your students and your teachers. If we all commit to doing our best, we will get through this! Our classrooms will be filled before we know it. We can't wait to be with your kids again, we miss them more than we could ever express.”



Get to know a

STUDENT

## Spotlight on 8th grader Addy Stecher

**Favorite subject:** English

**What I like to do (hobbies):** I enjoy hanging out with my friends and playing basketball.

**What I like about my school:** I love how kind everyone is to each other and how mostly everyone knows everyone!

**What I like about at-home learning:** I feel more organized and can plan out my day in a way that works best for me.

**If I could have one superpower, it would be:** The power of invisibility!

**What excites me most about high school is:** Being able to go to the sports and be a part of the student section.

**In the future, I want to:** Be an elementary school teacher!

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## Coming together as a community, through thick and thin

The Hockinson school district has been providing essential services to the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to help those in need. Here are just a few of the ways the district has had an impact outside of the classroom:

### No-cost childcare for essential workers

Earlier this month, Hockinson School District began providing free full-day child-care services to first responders, healthcare workers and, as spots have allowed, grocery workers.

### Free pick-up meals

The district has provided free pick-up breakfast & lunch service M-F to all students during the COVID-19 school closure. This included preparing more than 1,800 meals on the Friday before Spring Break to ensure our families were covered throughout the following week.



**Pitching in:** District staff members Jenny and Shaniko Ristau helping to distribute meals.



The 150th Anniversary Committee has been working hard to celebrate Hockinson's history. L-R: Steve Wrightson, Laurie Anderson, Marcia Neff, Steve Marshall, Julie Ruhl, Vern Freeman, Kathy Nordberg, Dave Sotka. Not pictured: Kim Abegglen, Jennifer Teagarden, Beth Tugaw

### HSD Care Closet

The HSD has a Care Closet that supports local families in need with food items, clothing and more. This community resource has continued to operate during the Coronavirus pandemic, though in-kind donations are not being accepted at this time.

### 150 Anniversary Committee

Community representatives, HSD parent representatives and past/current district employees made up the committee to celebrate the district's 150th year. Although the ongoing pandemic changed the scope of the committee's work, the group helped to produce the historic community driving tour found in this newsletter (page 4).

### Early learning playgroups

From January until the statewide closure of schools, Hockinson School District was offering families the opportunity to bring their young children (ages birth to five) to the former Hockinson Middle School building for a free program known as 1-2-3 Grow & Learn. The weekly, 90-minute program focused on preparing young learners for kindergarten. It came at no cost to families thanks to a grant procured by ESD 112 in partnership with the district.

With school closures and social distancing in effect, 1-2-3 Grow and Learn is now offering virtual early learning playgroups daily, M-F at 10 a.m. To join the fun, register through Zoom at: [tinyurl.com/HSD-123](https://tinyurl.com/HSD-123).