

HOCKINSON SCHOOLS

the  **of the**
community



Fall 2022 Newsletter

Hockinson Community Center expands offerings

Neighbors of all ages gather at the Hockinson Community Center to connect, learn, and get active. The Hockinson Community Center first opened its doors in 2020 as a space for remote learners to complete online coursework. The center has since expanded to host elementary after-school programs, an array of adult enrichment activities, and community events, including artisan markets, Fun Days, and the upcoming tree lighting. This school year, the center looks to expand to host after school clubs for middle school students.

"This space is ours to share," said Alex Elerick, Community Education Director. It's a space where year-round adult exercise, student summer camps, childcare, extracurriculars, and more happen under the same roof. The building is also available for rent on weekends.

Hockinson School District endeavors to improve strategies and programs to meet community needs. The Hockinson Community Center is an example of such people-centered thinking. The facility, which was formerly Hockinson Middle School, was repurposed to support families, rebuild a strong sense of community following the pandemic, and invest in a bright future for students and neighbors alike.



The new teen meeting room at the Hockinson Community Center opened this fall.

Unifying for kindness, against bullying at HMS

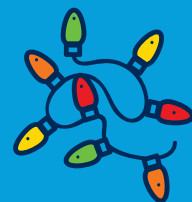
The October 19 Unity Day at Hockinson Middle School energized students to build kindness, acceptance, and unity into everyday school culture. The day was part of the school's involvement in National Bullying Prevention Month and its larger commitment to creating a safe, welcoming, and positive learning environment for all students. Students and staff embraced Unity Day's signature color by dressing in orange, which created a powerful display of connectedness at gatherings before school, at lunch, and during a school-wide assembly.

HMS staff and student leaders emphasize one character focus trait each month for the student body to develop and practice. Bullying prevention was the character focus trait this October. Students learned strategies to prevent, intercept, and report bullying behavior. The month was highlighted by Unity Day, during which many students signed a pledge to take a strong stand against bullying and treat others with kindness.

Student voice is at the forefront of decision making at HMS. The Associated Student Body (ASB) and student advisory groups provide insight and feedback to school leaders. Student leaders help shape school culture by having a voice in events like Unity Day. "I believe in students first," said Hockinson Middle School principal Meredith Gannon (shown above). "When students make themselves heard and are at the heart of every decision that we make, then we know that we're making the right decisions."

Mark Your Calendar

Community Tree Lighting
December 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.





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Farm-to-table food fuels students

Blueberries picked by Hockinson families at a Majestic Farms harvest event this summer have made their way on the menu at all three Hockinson Schools. This is the second year Majestic Farms has generously donated the blueberries for school meals. This partnership creates a farm-to-table experience for students, fueling both body and mind as students enjoy delicious berries and learn about where their wholesome food comes from.



Spotlight on HHE school library

"I really like the school library," said Jolynn, fourth grade student at Hockinson Heights Elementary School. "Every time I come to the library, I learn something new." On any given day, approximately 1,200 of the library's 2,000-book collection are checked out by the school's eager readers! The summer reading program at HHES was a big hit; elementary school students checked out approximately 400 books over summer break.



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 Community,

The 2022-23 school year is underway and over the past few months I have been reminded of how fortunate we are to have a community that has such a heart for its students and schools. This support is reflected in our school programs and learning opportunities, but it is also evident in the achievement of our students. Based on Spring 2022 state assessments, the rate of post-pandemic learning recovery by Hockinson's students exceeded that of most schools across our state. We could not have come to this place without a strong network of school, family, and community support.



Our students are also showing their talents and connections to school and each other. We have seen a high rate of participation in clubs and sports at our secondary schools, our spirit weeks have been amazing, and HHS hosted one of the largest Homecoming Dances in school history.

I am inspired by our students and I am thankful for our parents, patrons, and benefactors. Our students perform best when they know we believe in them and are dedicated to their learning and growth. This dedication may take different forms - from parents providing nightly homework assistance to the extra efforts of individual teachers to the contributions of PWT, Boosters, and school volunteers - but the collective impact on our students is profound and much bigger than we could ever hope to convey in one newsletter.

When it comes to our students' learning and health, there is no single "magic factor." Their success is a product of everything we do. Similarly, high-performing schools aren't the result of any one person; they are created by all of us.

With gratitude, Steve Marshall