

# Chimacum Schools: *Cultivating the Future*



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



## High School library remodel brings the outdoors inside

The library at Chimacum Junior/Senior High School has been well-used and well loved by generations of students, their families, and the community. Originally built in 1999 as part of the addition to the campus, the library needed some updates after 20+ years of patron enjoyment.

Thanks to the generosity of Chimacum voters, the 2018 voter-approved capital levy funded the summer 2023 remodel of the library space.

The library's walls received fresh paint in inspiring colors. New computers, updated lighting, and increased charging ports and outlets were added. A variety of seating arrangements around the library offered more flexible use of the space. The tall bookshelves that previously limited sightlines were replaced with shorter

shelves to display the updated library collection. The result? A more modern and inviting space that encourages reading and engagement with ease of movement.

Michelle Moriarity, District Librarian, says she is "most excited about how well the new space accommodates many people and a diverse number of needs all at once. It provides a very comfortable, functional, collaborative aesthetically pleasing, and calming space for students and staff throughout the day, as well as an inviting space for our community members after school and for special events."

Above the shelves, a gorgeous mural in blue-gray tones brings the outdoor environment into the building. The design team worked with Northwest Signs to expand the Chimacum logo and fine-tune

the details to make it fit the previously empty space and "bring the outside in."

Staff and students alike are already making great use of the space and reactions to the changes are overwhelmingly positive. Student School Board Director Reid Martin, a senior, said "it feels much more professional and a better use of the space."

Senior Paige Govia and junior Makayla Vandenburg really appreciate the design and feel of the space. "It gives us much more of an open and wide feeling. I feel like all the colors and design elements go together really well, and it's nice to have a calm and quiet place to enjoy or relax during the day" says Vandenburg. Govia agrees, "I like the mural and the different shades of blues and grays. It's a lot like a lounging space."

DEEP ROOTS BROAD HORIZONS

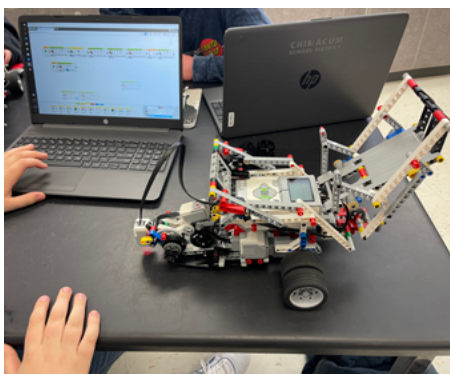
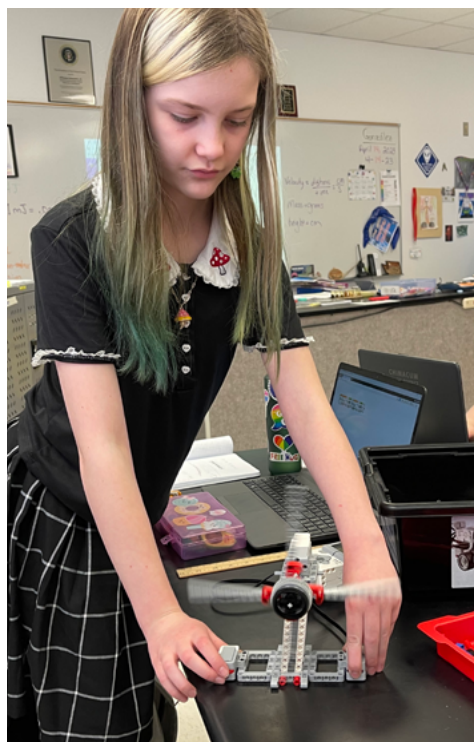
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## Robotics program provides hands-on experiences for students

Elementary school students in Chimacum are conquering real-world challenges in programming, engineering and design thanks to the STEM Robotics 101 program, Lego robotics kits, and the First Lego League.

"Robotics 101 is a fun, engaging, hands-on way for students to practice programming while learning engineering concepts and science standards," says 5th and 6th grade science teacher Al Gonzalez.

A favorite project is the Potential Energy Efficiency Design Challenge where students design and build a robot that performs an action, calculate the potential and kinetic energy required to complete the task, and then improve their build to perform the same action using less energy.

This year, First Lego League (FLL) robotics club and competition teams return to Chimacum Elementary. This before-school program is returning for the first time since 2019 thanks to the generous support from Friends of Chimacum and state grants.

In FLL competitions, two teams of 10 CSD students each will participate in three components:

- the *Innovation Project* where students research and plan solutions to a question, then present to a panel of judges;
- the *Robot Design and Engineering Notebook*, where students present the why of their robot design and missions chosen and how they wrote the programming;
- and lastly, the exciting *Robot Games*, where teams complete as many missions as possible in 2½ minutes.

Teacher and FLL lead Josette Mendoza says "FLL offers students so many opportunities to display their thinking, solve problems, and work collaboratively. They learn soft skills and concrete skills for STEM, as well as researching and presentation skills that will have lasting impacts on their schooling and in their communities."



# Construction Trades students build housing and job skills

High school students can now apply for the Chimacum Construction Trades Program. Participating students learn trades skills and work towards a completion certificate approved by Washington's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and recognized by industry leaders across the state.

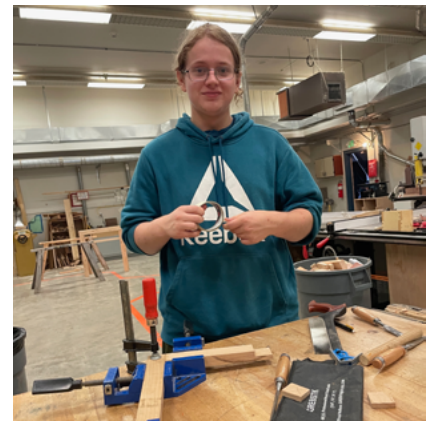
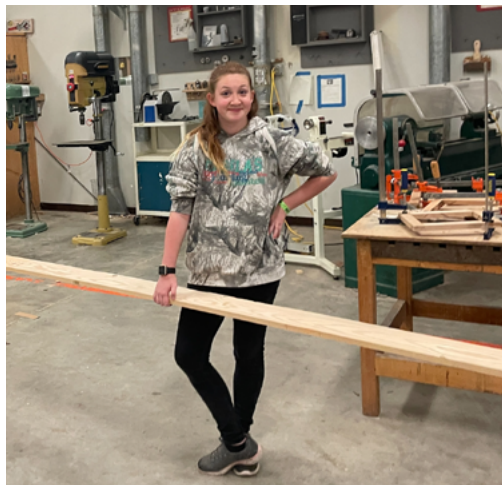
Students learn skills required for construction trades such as measuring, proper use of hand and power tools, reading plans, OSHA compliance, framing, and finish joinery. They also fine-tune their executive skills as they encounter challenges while completing projects: planning, time management, flexibility, adaptability, perseverance, and self-control.

Last year, students partnered with the Community Boat Project to build a Rubb Shelter behind the high school's wood shop.

A Rubb Shelter is a relocatable tent-like structure often used in the construction industry as well as emergency situations. Teacher Daniel Evans is excited about the flexibility this shelter provides his students, as it will house not only the construction of tiny studios but also "any creations they can dream up and tie into our Core Plus Construction framework."

"Learning how to construct homes and tiny studios can make a meaningful difference in alleviating the housing crisis within your community. We are not only creating new pathways to graduation and employment but also helping answer one of the greatest challenges our community faces currently," adds Evans.

Ninth grader Xander agrees: "Making a house on school grounds is not something you get to do often. More houses are needed to supply the demand of people looking for housing, so this is an important step to meeting this need in our community."







**DEEP ROOTS BROAD HORIZONS**

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## EARLY LEARNING

# Three offerings in Chimacum

### Head Start

The Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCap) rents space at CCP to provide Head Start preschool for children under the age of five. Head Start is a federally funded program to promote school readiness in low-income families. This program is staffed and operated by OlyCAP; applications can be found on the OlyCAP website.

### Developmental Preschool

With a goal of creating a caring community for children to develop a love of learning while recognizing each person's unique differences and supporting one another, CCP offers an inclusive classroom preschool program for three- and four-year-olds of all abilities. This half-day tuition-based program has children attend two or three days a week, depending on their age.

### Transition To Kindergarten (TTK)

This state-funded, free, all-day preschool program for four-year-olds helps prepare them for kindergarten. Now in its first full year at CCP, the program began in December 2022. Children in the program must be at least four years old by August 31 of the current school year.



**Get involved  
at CSD schools!**



Without the help of volunteers, many field trips and classroom projects would not be possible. If you're interested in learning more about making an impact through volunteering, please visit [www.csd49.org](http://www.csd49.org).

