

**HOCKINSON SCHOOLS**

the  of the  
community

Preparing all students for lifelong success

**Fall 2023 Newsletter**



"I create a positive school culture by trying to show younger kids how high school students should be."

- Ben Maitland, HHS



"I'm coordinating the Powderpuff football game, which raises money for breast cancer."

- Celia Racanelli, HHS



"I help other people feel like they belong by making friends with new students."

- Amira Ceresoli, HMS



"Band is fun and helps me feel like I belong."

- Emmet Waddle, HMS



## SCHOOL CULTURE:

This year, all three HSD schools share a focus on student belonging. Six students share how they contribute to a positive school culture.

"I always encourage others to get involved because the more I put myself out there, the more I feel I belong."

- Lyla Taylor, HHS



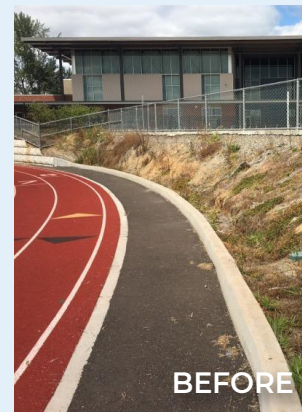
"I help people out if they're feeling lonely. If someone doesn't have a partner then I try to be their partner and be nice to them."

- Larkin Frohs, HHES

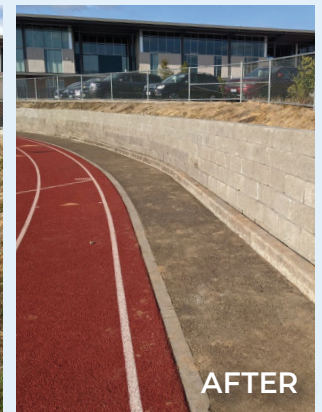


## Facilities projects improve schools and protect community investment

Over the summer, our custodial and maintenance teams tackled a variety of projects to ready the buildings for the school year and improve the longevity of our facilities. Recent projects include sanding down and refinishing the HHS Gym floor, installing a new playground safety fence at HMS, painting play areas and adding new cedar chips and rubber safety mats on the HHES playground. Learn about the recent HVAC project on page 2.



BEFORE



AFTER

Follow us on Facebook or scan the QR code to see more project updates on *Facilities Fridays*.



New retaining wall at HMS prevents erosion of dirt and rocks onto the track surface and supports the curbing for the parking lot above.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Save the dates:

NOV. 17-DEC. 14 - HMS Food Drive  
DEC. 8 - Community Tree Lighting



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## Energy efficiency projects save taxpayer dollars

**Did you know?** HSD has saved a total of 1,608,891 kWh as a result of energy efficiency projects over the last 15 years. That's enough energy to power roughly 1,200 homes for an hour!

In total, energy efficiency projects like the recent HVAC and lighting retrofits have lowered district energy costs by \$78k. These energy efficiency projects were made possible by a \$500,000 state grant.

Students in the HHES and HMS green teams have also made both schools more efficient by reducing food waste. For example, by sorting food scraps, recyclables, and trash at sorting tables in the cafeteria (pictured above), students divert an average of 80 pounds of food scraps from the landfill to composting facilities every day!

## Superintendent's Message

Hockinson Community,

I am inspired by energy and optimism on all three of our campuses. It's November, but it still feels like the first day of school. It is so exciting to see our students, parent volunteers, and HSD staff teaming up to enrich student learning. It is also rewarding to see this hard work reflected in our test scores, club and sports participation rates, and more.



I occasionally share "By the Numbers" articles with parents to highlight accomplishments of our students. While not everything that counts can be counted, numbers can tell a story of growth.

Last year, our teachers invested nearly **1,600** professional training hours to better support our students. The results are encouraging: HMS 6th graders outperformed the state by **16.3%** points in English and **16.2%** points in math; TK students mastered **50** Kindergarten-ready skills; **86%** of 9th graders passed all of their courses; and **98%** of 2023 seniors graduated last June—one of the highest graduation rates in our state!

At HHS, **44** students passed AP tests last spring. This fall, **296** HHS students are on track to earn over **1,100** free university credits through the expanded College in the HS program. Incredible!

Our levy helps us maintain a **17:1** student-to-teacher ratio. The levy also funds **26** extracurricular clubs and **24** sports. Across grades 5-12, **305** students participate in band. This fall, **241** HHS students and **72** HMS students participated in sports.

Our commitment to learning goes far beyond the quantifiable. We believe in the unlimited potential of every **1** of our students. Your ongoing support is the foundation of this **153**-year tradition!

- Steve Marshall