

Open Line

Fall 2023



Continuous Student Learning in a Caring, Engaging Environment



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Kevin Bogatin, Superintendent

Greetings Tumwater School District Community,
I think autumn is one of the most beautiful times of the year and I can't help but draw a parallel between the changing seasons and the ever-evolving journey of the school district. Just as nature undergoes a transformation, the Tumwater School District is continually evolving, nurturing, and inspiring the growth of each student. And much like our trees and the changing leaves, our students will grow and develop throughout the year, sometimes in ways that aren't always visible.

In my short time here, I've been privileged to witness the support and enthusiasm the community has for its schools. My tenure started with a warm welcome at the 4th of July parade and I've been impressed with the incredible members of the Tumwater community and how they show up to support our students, our staff, and our schools! I've been able to meet many of you as I attended open houses, club events, athletic contests, and more. It is evident that our community values our schools and the education and programs we are able to offer.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff. Their unwavering commitment to our students is truly commendable. Our educators, administrators, and support staff work tirelessly to provide a safe and supportive space for our students to learn, succeed, and excel.

To the parents and guardians of our students, you are invaluable partners in this journey. Your active involvement in your child's education is pivotal to their success. Your support and collaboration with our schools are key ingredients in nurturing the potential of our students. Together, we create a collaborative environment where continuous student learning thrives.

I am honored to be the new superintendent of the Tumwater School District. It's been an exciting journey so far and I'm profoundly grateful for the privilege to serve this dynamic and dedicated community. Tumwater is not just the place that I work, it's my home. I'm eager to continue our journey together and I'm committed to working with all of you to ensure that TSD remains a place where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support, and I'm excited about the possibilities that the future holds for our district.

Warm regards,

Kevin Bogatin, Superintendent

Career Readiness Options Expand

By Brian Hardcastle, CTE Director

In Tumwater schools, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs begin in middle school and continue into high school. Students are given opportunities to have a sneak-peek at different career pathways and take classes that will help them toward their interests. With these options, it allows students to better plan and prepare for their future career.

Career and technical programs tend to emphasize pathways that are explicitly designed to prepare students for post-secondary education as well as careers in high demand, high wage occupations. While some traditional vocational programs remain in place, Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the Tumwater School District (TSD), has become integrated into a student's program of study. Each secondary school in the TSD offers classes in six Career Program Areas; Agriculture & Environmental Studies, Business & Marketing, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health Sciences, Skilled & Technical Sciences, and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM). As an example, students with a Program of Study in the Health Sciences Program Area are able take classes in traditional courses such as biology, chemistry and physics, but now have the option of adding additional opportunities such as Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Interventions, Nutrition Science, and/or Family Health. Two of these courses - Anatomy and Physiology and Nutrition Science - are College in The High School courses. Students in the Agriculture & Environmental Studies (CTE) Program Area may add Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Plant Biology, and/or Natural Resources Ecology.

In addition to the course work, work-based learning opportunities have been linked to business/industry professionals that support the exploration of various job sector opportunities. Work-based learning comprises a wide range of activities that are conducted as extended learning experiences as part of our school program including guest speakers, structured fieldtrips, school-based enterprises, job shadows, and worksite learning. The TSD welcomes the

connection between various industry sectors that align with the scope of our student career pathways. If you have an interest in providing work-based learning opportunities in the TSD that connect course work to in context learning, please contact us at tsd.connects@tumwater.k12.wa.us

Tumwater Middle school students were invited to participate in the first-ever First Green Program in Tumwater, held at The Valley Golf Course. They learned how math and science are involved in maintaining the greens as well as how contaminants travel through the ground, how water quality is monitored, how the golf course is a habitat to wildlife and native plants in our community, and stewardship.



Equestrian Drill Team Takes Gold!



The Equestrian Drill Team from Tumwater High School – with members from Black Hills High School and other local high schools – GALLOPED TO GLORY and took home the State Gold! The Quad Team also took home Silver! These accomplishments are well-deserved and showcase their hard work and dedication.

(photo credit Julie Alonso)



In-house fieldtrips create a win-win for our students while providing a lot of fun! Pacific Shellfish Institute recently visited Bush Middle with water samples from local waters. The buzz and energy in Molly Watkins class was contagious as students traveled from microscope to microscope to observe plankton and other organisms.



New School Leaders

As we prepared for a new school year, several of our schools also welcomed new leaders.



Heidi Center-Howden
MTS Principal



Kyle Grunenfelder
MTS/THE Asst. Principal



Shawn Guthrie
BMS Asst. Principal



Jody Halterman
BHHS Asst. Principal



Elliott Hedin
BMS Principal



Matt Ishler
CHS Principal



Brittany LaPalm
PGS Asst. Principal



Lisa Perreira
THS Asst. Principal



Zach Suderman
THS Principal

Black Hills High School Student Maverick Collins Shares His Talents in Tumwater Schools

With excerpts from story written by Kristina Lotz for ThurstonTalk.com

We know that art can change the feeling of the space we are in. One of our very talented students, BHHS junior Maverick Collins, has been sharing his talent in big ways in several of our Tumwater schools. Most recently, Maverick unveiled a mural at Black Lake Elementary, but has also installed murals at Tumwater Middle School and Michael T. Simmons Elementary School.

When Maverick was in 8th grade at Tumwater Middle, he was approached by one of the administrators with the hope that he would share his talents and create a mural in the school. He gladly accepted the task and volunteered over 100 hours to create his first mural masterpiece at TMS. Through this project, he discovered his love of the process of visioning, creating, and painting murals. Since then, he has been spending a good part of his summers creating murals in Michael T. Simmons and Black Lake elementary schools. A mural at Black Hills High School will be his next masterpiece.

Despite being color-blind, Maverick loves using bright colors, sharp lines, and subject matter that reflect the Pacific Northwest. Maverick shares, "I hope to use my art to inspire others to share their creativity, and to promote a fun and expressive way in doing so. Being able to paint my murals in these schools is allowing me to do just that."

We thank our supportive voters for the levy funding that helps the district to supplement art options for students in our district. Tumwater is thrilled to be providing opportunities for students to discover and develop their love of the arts.



Artist Maverick Collins with BLE Principal Misty Hinkle as he proudly displays his latest mural.

Students Enjoy New Learning Space

With excerpts taken from story written by Nancy Krier for *ThurstonTalk.com*

LINCS stands for "Learning Independence by Networking, Community, and School." Tumwater's LINCS program teaches young adult special education students a wide variety of life skills like laundry, cooking, riding public transportation, how to find employment, and other independent living and working activities.

"Typically our students have both classroom and vocational training," explains Exec. Director of Special Education Chris Burgmeier. She says students begin their day learning pre-vocational and vocational skills, like filling out job applications. Over the course of the day they work on other life competencies, such as meal preparation. They also go to their jobs in the local community at the Thurston County Food Bank, the Tumwater Parks & Recreation Department, the Tumwater Timberland Library, Morningside and other employers and partners. Students are then transported back to the school before going home.

The new LINCS modular building is located adjacent to the district office on Linwood Avenue SW, Tumwater, and houses a classroom, kitchen, office and restrooms. This means the new building will be able to accommodate both classroom instruction and life skills lessons, all in one convenient location.

"The reality is 18- to 21-year-old students are no longer high school students. They are young adults and deserve to have their own space," Burgmeier says of the dedicated building for LINCS students. "It's no longer just a classroom setting but a lifeskills setting."

The impetus for the LINCS program came about with a recognition that both classroom and independent living skills can better support students as they prepare to transition out of a high school setting.

The federal special education law Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) covers students until age 21. LINCS students in the Tumwater School District have met high school graduation requirements, but have not yet graduated. Until age 21, they can participate in LINCS during the nine-month school year.

LINCS encourages competitive/supportive employment, adult leisure activities, and self-management skills in the community. LINCS' partners provide jobs which



Following a morning of learning, the LINCS students and teacher (far right) were happy to show off their brand new learning space.

help participants make decisions about their future employment. Burgmeier says LINCS receives great feedback from partner employers and organizations. "The partners are always very appreciative of our students' contributions," she says. "We also want feedback on our students because we want to support them, too. And typically, the families are also very appreciative of the independence skills and vocational skills the students gain in connection with the support of paid employment."



First-grade students at Tumwater Hill Elementary used their scientific power of observation to see wormholes and study apples that were brought in by paraprofessional Jen Slep from her 100 year old tree. The kids used their five senses to record what they found.



Tumwater is proud of our strong music programs to help grow the talent in our students. Starting in grade 5, students have the opportunity to join band and orchestra and in middle school they can choose between band, choir, and orchestra. Tumwater School District is partnering with the City of Tumwater to put on a "Tumwater Youth Variety Show" at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts on February 13, 2024. Be watching for more details about that fun event.



Black Hills High School Increases Energy Efficiency!



New solar panels were installed on the roof of Black Hills High School as part of our efforts to increase energy efficiency. Partial funding of the project was provided by a grant through Washington Commerce.

Capital/Bond Funded Projects Around the District

By Mel Murray, Director of Facilities

The Tumwater community has consistently supported our schools and we are incredibly thankful. The capital funds from the 2022 four-year Capital Levy continue to allow us to provide warm, safe and dry facilities for students, staff, parents and community members. When the School Board set the levy amount for the 2022 election, these were the goals set forth:

- Safety & Security – maintain and add to existing systems with additional improvements where needed
- Asset Preservation - major maintenance of essential building components like walls & roofs, HVAC systems, electrical and plumbing systems
- Energy Efficiency/ WA Clean Buildings Act Compliance - upgrades to building envelopes, lighting replacements, alternate energy sources and other measures to save energy and lower utility costs
- Site improvements – repairs to pavement, sidewalks and PE fields to support school and community functions
- Student Learning Improvements – Small renovations for program changes and expansions

In order to keep our student, staff, communications and security technology systems current and functioning, \$8 million of the capital levy was directed towards new and updated technology. This includes replacement of staff computers and student Chromebooks, a new District-wide telephone system, replacement of aged-out security cameras, additional security alert message boards connected to the school intercom systems, and upgrades to our and District data center.

You may have noticed a new modular building was added next to the District Office building on Linwood Avenue. This space is for our Learning Independence by Networking Community and School (LINCS) program. The new building has a classroom and a Living & Learning lab for 18-21-year-old lifeskills students as they transition from high school to living and working on their own in the community. Students practice and learn how to apply for jobs, interview, cook, clean, etc. in the LINCS building and then use what they learn by travelling on Intercity Transit to community workplaces. The LINCS program moved from its former location in the Tumwater Learning Center, making space to expand enrollment in Cascadia High School.

Our schools: Black Hills High School (BHHS), Tumwater High School (THS), Cascadia High School (CHS), Bush Middle School (BMS), Tumwater Middle School (TMS), Black Lake Elementary (BLE), East Olympia Elementary (EOE), Littlerock Elementary (LRE), Michael T. Simmons Elementary (MTS), Peter G. Schmidt Elementary (PGS), Tumwater Hill Elementary (THE), and Tumwater Virtual Academy (TVA). Board of Directors: President Scott Killough, Vice President Darby Kaikkonen, and members Jill Adams, Melissa Beard, Casey Taylor, and Interim Superintendent Dr. Carole Meyer. Editing, photography: Laurie Wiedenmeyer, Director of Communications & Community Relations. Graphic Design: Lisa Wenham.

Tumwater School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, religion,

color, national origin, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person of disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Shawn Batstone, Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512. Andra Kelley-Batstone, 504 - 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512.

El Distrito Escolar Tumwater proporcionará oportunidades educativas y trato igual a todos los estudiantes, en toda parte de los programas académicos



We are currently hiring for the following positions:

EARN COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS

- **Bus Drivers (regular and substitute)**
- **Day and Evening Custodians (regular and substitute)**
- **Support Services Assistant Technician**
- **Paraprofessionals – both full-time and part-time (regular and temporary)**

Visit our website at tumwater.k12.wa.us/Page/11072 for links to our current open positions.



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y actividades, sin discriminación por la edad, sexo, raza, creencia, religión, color, origen nacional, estado de veterano de guerra o servicio militar, orientación sexual, expresión o identidad de género, estado matrimonial, discapacidad física, mental o sensorial, o el uso de un perro guía o de servicio. Se dará igual acceso a las propiedades del distrito a los Boy Scouts of America y a todos los demás grupos para jóvenes que se encuentran en la lista de Título 36 de grupos patrióticos de EE.UU.

Se ha designado a las personas siguientes a recibir reclamos por motivo de discriminación: Shawn Batstone, coordinador de cumplimiento de Título IX y Derechos Civiles, 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512. Andra Kelley-Batstone, 504 - 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512.