

Helping Students GROW



In This Issue

**Computer Science
Lab** Creates New
Possibilities

CPSD Pride:
Janna Clark

Students Launch
Fentanyl Awareness
Campaign

April is
**Month of the
Military Child**

Message from Superintendent Banner



“CPSD schools create a sense of belonging and community among our military-connected students.”

and support needed to make hard transitions easier so students can focus on their learning.

Each April, we recognize the Month of the Military Child by honoring the resilience military students show and recognizing the sacrifices they make by being part of a military family. Properly supporting our military students is part of our commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where all students feel valued.

Join me in celebrating our military students by wearing purple this month. Let us come together as a community to honor and celebrate the bravery and strength of our military students.

Thank you to our military families for your service, thank you to our students for inspiring us with your courage and perseverance, and thank you to our community for helping us support all of our students, both military-connected and non-military-connected alike.

We are better together.

— Superintendent Ron Banner

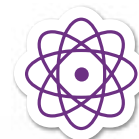
CPSD is a unique community. With Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) inside our district boundaries, we educate children from different cities, states and countries whose parents serve in the military and are stationed on JBLM.

In fact, nearly a third of our students are military connected.

We take great pride in the role we play in the lives of military-connected students and families. Regular moves, overseas deployments and other factors can make the lives of military students a little different than their peers.

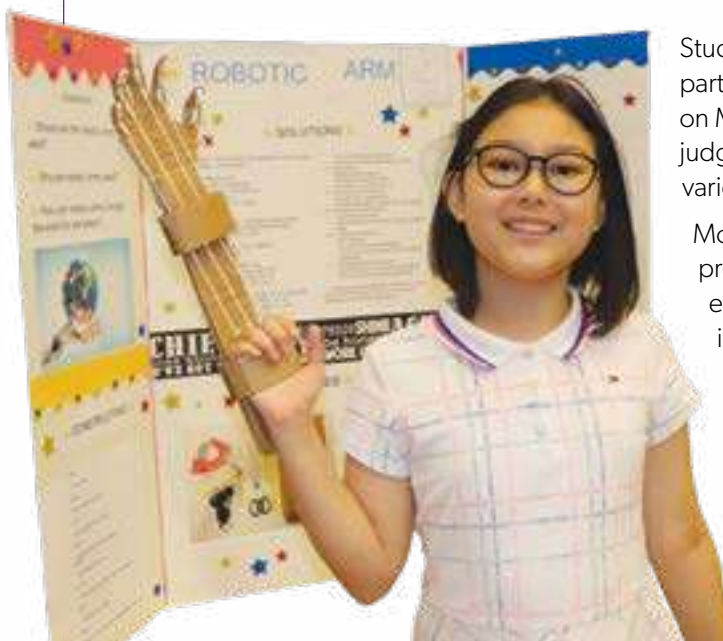
We provide the resources

Students Showcase their Science Skills



Students from every grade level participated in the district's STEAM Fair on March 9 by showcasing their work for judges and attendees and engaging in a variety of hands-on STEM activities.

More than 125 CPSD students presented their STEAM projects at the event and many more participated in STEAM activities. Winners of this year's STEAM Fair were announced at their school and given an award for the category in which they participated.



Month of the Military Child



Each April, we celebrate the resilience, strength and bravery of our military-connected students who often face frequent relocations, deployments of family members and other challenges associated with military life.

Nearly a third of CPSD students are military connected. They bring an important perspective to our schools, and through their pride in their family's service, they remind us of the tremendous sacrifices made to keep our country safe.

Show your support for our military-connected students by wearing purple, engaging in celebratory activities, expressing your experience with others and sharing encouraging messages.



Lochburn Computer Science Lab Creates Possibilities



With state-of-the-art technology and colorful lights, Lochburn Middle School's new computer science lab and STEM space opens the door to the endless possibilities of computer science for students.

The new lab allows Lochburn to offer computer science and related classes as part of its regular course catalog. The lab and associated courses offer a new breadth of 21st century learning opportunities for computer savvy Lochburn Lions.

Computer science is one of the fastest growing job sectors in the world, which makes it a perfect focus for career and technical education for CPSD students. By exposing students to foundational concepts and practical skills in computer science early on, the lab helps broaden their horizons and tailor their academic and career aspirations for a technology-reliant future.



"It is essential that we build strong career and technical education programs at each of the middle schools so that students can really hit the ground running when they start high school," said College and Career Readiness Director Tim Stults.



"Getting students thinking about future pathways earlier on in their academic careers helps them better prepare for life following graduation," said College and Career Readiness Director Tim Stults.



The computer science lab serves as a hub for hands-on learning experiences that go beyond traditional classroom instruction. Through courses such as coding and video game design, students can develop their creativity, innovation, problem solving and many essential career and life skills.

The futuristic space was designed to be multifunctional. In addition to 20 computer stations, the lab also has spectator seating and other flexible seating arrangement options that allow teachers to get creative in how they teach.

"What I think really shines through with the new lab space is that it really looks and feels like a workplace in the computer science industry," said Career and Technical Education Consultant Teacher Amy Ulen. "The technology is all industry standard and the room feels like more than just a classroom."

Lochburn is planning to start an esports after-school club next year that will allow students to utilize the computer science lab space while competing against other schools in video game competitions.



Cultivating Success *Through* STUDENT GROWTH

The colorful chart on the wall of Samantha Mathews' classroom at Four Heroes Elementary School tells a powerful story with its pink and green squares—each one represents a student in the fall and again in the winter. The numbers on each square are the student growth percentiles (SGP) of each student in the class. While the students may not know exactly what their number means, they know that bigger is better, and that's what they're working on.

SGPs are a measure of academic progress that CPSD teachers and administrators use to guide instruction in the classroom. Understanding SGPs helps everyone see clearly where each student is and where their learning is headed.

Understanding SGPs

SGPs describe the growth of one student compared to other students across the state of Washington.

It is a measure that illustrates how much the

student has grown over the course of the school year and from one school year to the next.

Scores provided by yearly standardized tests, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment, give students, teachers and families a snapshot in

"There is no way we could increase growth as much as we have without leaning on each other," Banks said. "We are all working to create a better learning environment for every one of our students."

time of how well a student is meeting learning standards each year. They are a helpful tool, but they don't tell the whole story.

Students enter the district with different experiences, which put them at different levels academically. A basic standardized test score doesn't tell you anything about where a student started.

SGPs provide a more complete picture of a student's learning growth over the school year. By charting the growth of a

student compared to his or her peers over time, SGP scores are a more equitable metric to show how much a student has grown regardless of how high or low their starting points may be.

SGPs are also easy to understand. An SGP score of 50 represents the state average and indicates a student has experienced a year's worth of growth. Any score higher than 50 represents more than a year's worth of growth while a score lower than 50 represents the opposite.

All schools in CPSD target an average SGP score of at least 55 for all students.

"Focusing on SGPs as a district means we are making sure we're doing everything we can to help every student succeed," said Director of Assessment Brian Gabele. "Whether a student is currently meeting standard or not, their growth still matters. That's a key part of why SGPs are so important to our work."

Focusing on SGPs in the Classroom

Four Heroes Principal Lindsay Akoni Guzzo puts SGPs front and center in her school's work. She says that data tells a story teachers can use to put students on the right track.

"All of our students have the opportunity to grow," she said. "From the moment they enter the building until the moment they leave, they should be growing. It's not the only thing we look at, but it's a big part of our work."

A typical Four Heroes classroom features two types of instruction. The traditional model of students learning as a full group still plays a major role, but students also participate in small group instruction with classmates at similar levels.

For example, in Lauren Banks's fifth grade class, you might find one group of students working on fractions while the group next to them works on early geometry concepts. They are in the same fifth grade class, but they are receiving the individualized instruction they need.

This practice is utilized across the district. By putting students in smaller groups, they can focus more directly on areas of growth than they can as a full class. Teachers also collaborate with their grade level peers to find the best strategies to help their students grow.

Student Growth Percentile



High Growth

Typical Growth

Low Growth

A score higher than 50 represents more than a year's growth.



Español

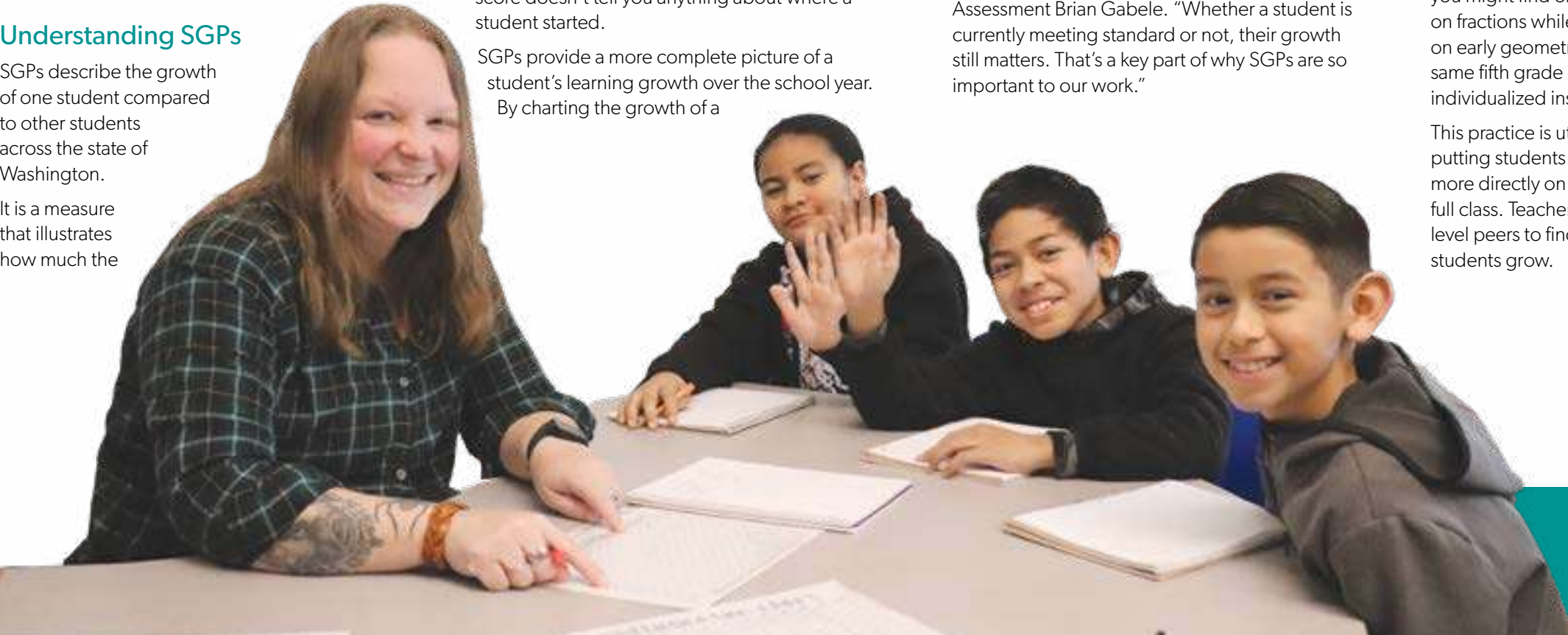
<https://bit.ly/3uX5ILA>



English

<https://bit.ly/3P38vcP>

VIEW THESE VIDEOS made by our assessment team to get a more in-depth understanding of Student Growth Percentiles and how to interpret them for your students.



CPSD Pride: Janna Clark



“

“The fact that I can positively impact students so much that they remember me years later means everything to me,” said CPSD bus driver Janna Clark.

”

Janna Clark has been a bus driver for CPSD for “a quarter of a century” and has become a staple of the Lakewood community. “When people ask how long I’ve been here, I always say a quarter of a century because 25 years doesn’t represent the same sense of history,” she said.

In the quarter of a century Clark has driven CPSD students, she has built connections that are part of a much larger legacy. She even drove students years ago who are now teachers in the district, and the children of students who used to hop aboard her bus. “At one point, Jermaine Kearsse was my passenger because I shuttled athletes for training,” she said. “You know, that’s history.”

Clark is not only known in our community for her kind personality but is also lovingly referred to as the “hat lady.” Clark’s hat collection began when a coworker became disinterested in her job as a bus paraeducator.

Clark asked her if she would work on her bus and promised she would make each day interesting with a new hat. “I told her, ‘You do realize you’ll have to be seen with me, and I’m going to be wearing extremely hideous hats,’ and she said, ‘bring it.’”

Clark and her colleague worked together for years until her colleague lost a battle with cancer.

Clark promised herself that she would keep spreading positivity by continuing her crazy hat collection and bringing joy to her students. “Now, when I’m making my routes, people in their car will gesture for me to look to the window or open my door and they say, ‘Wow, you do exist!’,” she said. “The officers on base have even said it has affected the morale of their soldiers, so it is something that goes beyond just a bus ride.”

About 12 years ago, Clark made the transition to driving students with special needs and currently drives for Evergreen and Hillside elementary schools on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This is a job she wouldn’t trade for the world because of the privilege she has to watch these students overcome obstacles that feel impossible. “I’ve seen children learn to talk and learn to walk,” she said. “It’s not a career, it’s a miracle to me.”

Clark has worked at other districts but has a deep love for CPSD. She loves how the families here care for their students and how tight knit our community is.

She would encourage anyone who is contemplating starting a career as a CPSD bus driver to apply but prepare to have their heart stolen by students. “In this district, it’s always an adventure and the kids just manage to grab your heart,” she said.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPEN for the 2024-25 School Year

Children who are five years old by Aug. 31 can start kindergarten this fall. CPSD offers learning experiences to ensure your child has the tools necessary to explore their interests and build a foundation to achieve at higher levels with each coming year.

- **Visit our enrollment web page** to fill out our online enrollment form and start your child’s journey today!
- **You will need** your child’s birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residence to register.
- **Your residential address determines** the school your child will attend. If you are considering a transfer, contact your neighborhood school regarding the process. Not all schools are open to transfers.

Please contact **Elementary Education**, 253-583-5160, if you do not have computer access or need help registering your student for kindergarten.

cloverpark.k12.wa.us



Students Launch Fentanyl Awareness Campaign

Members of CPSD's Superintendent's Youth Advisory Council entered the school year with the desire to make a positive impact on their school and the greater Lakewood community.

As part of those efforts, students created a series of public service videos to highlight the dangers of fentanyl and the effect it has on their classmates and surrounding community. The idea for the videos emerged as students researched the topic and how they could help make a difference.

The videos were created with the help of a grant from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, and the district intends to share them in secondary classrooms and assemblies across the district.

<https://bit.ly/3Tb1g3P>



Finding Value in Every Person



Mental Health



Awareness in Our Community



Social Support

Lakes Student Nominated as U.S. Presidential Scholar



Nominated!

Dylan Pant
Lakes High School student

Lakes High School senior Dylan Pant was recently nominated as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Career and Technical Education Program. Pant's nomination was spearheaded by Lakes business and marketing teacher Randy Wilson.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 2015, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

Pant is an active member of the Lakes DECA program. He works as one of the managers of the school's student store and qualified for the international DECA conference in Anaheim in the student store category.

He has a strong interest in computer science, served as a page for 28th District Senator T'wina Nobles and enjoys volunteering in the Lakewood community, by serving as a member of the Lakewood Youth Council.

Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars receive a Presidential medallion, in commemoration of their achievements during the online National Recognition Program.

The next step in the U.S. Presidential Scholar process requires Pant to write five essays and receive recommendations from staff members. Final selections will be announced in April.

"Mr. Wilson told me one day that I was qualified and I should apply," Pant said. "They use a very holistic viewpoint when looking at students for the program, so I know I'll be evaluated based on everything I've done at school and in my community."

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS



Key Dates

Budget Workshop

6 p.m. - Tuesday, May 21
Student Services Center

The Arlington Project at Clover Park High School

Opening Ceremony – Wednesday,
May 22

Snow Makeup Day

No School – Friday, May 24

Memorial Day

No School – Monday, May 27

FOLLOW US!



Inside Schools

Writing and Design Team

Leanna Albrecht, Siobhan Chachere,
Janet Elseth, Ben Miller,
Shelley Thornton-Simon

Clover Park School District Board of Directors

Alyssa Anderson Pearson, President
Bryan L. Thomas, Vice President
Dr. Krissy Kim
David Anderson
Janet Caldwell

Ron Banner, Superintendent
and Secretary to the Board

Celebrating the Service of our Dedicated Staff

Our dedicated staff is the reason we are able to keep creating promising futures for each of our students. Congratulations to Clover Park School District employees who reached a new service milestone of more than 30, 35 or 40 years of service to this district, students and the Clover Park community!

40 Years Of Service

Loraine Allen, Evergreen Elementary
Darlene Blessum, Dower Elementary
Michael Stephanik, Transportation

35 Years Of Service

Patty Bagley, CP Early Learning Program
Cynthia Brewer, Dower Elementary
Kelly Budnick, Four Heroes Elementary

30 Years Of Service

Phillip Aponte, Clover Park High School
Nathalie Farrow, Evergreen Elementary
Allan Francisco, Lakes High School
Denise Isom, CP Early Learning Program
Mark Johnson, Lakeview Hope Academy
Brian Laubach, Deputy Superintendent
Constance Lomax, Evergreen Elementary
Deborah White, Idlewild Elementary

City of Lakewood: Kids Fishing Event May 18



Head to American Lake Park on Saturday, May 18, to teach your child(ren) how to fish!

The city of Lakewood is again hosting its annual Kid Fishing Event on the shores of American Lake. For \$10 children get to take home a fishing pole and a fish. They will learn how to bait a hook, cast the line and reel in their catch.

The city of Lakewood hosts this event in partnership with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fish and Wildlife stock the swimming beach area of the lake with Rainbow Trout for the event, making it easier for children to catch fish. Event registration is online at CityofLakewood.us/Youth-Fishing. Sign up now to secure your spot, spaces fill up fast!