

Community Connections

FALL 2022



Grads in the community, page 3

Wood Arts class building job skills and community



Fine Arts Woodworking teacher Brent Mansell delivers hands-on instruction to Washougal High School students.

In Fine Arts Woodworking, a Career & Technical Education (CTE) class at Washougal High School, students gain relevant trades experience with hands-on lessons in woodworking skills. CTE classes connect students with professionals working in skilled trades and careers. Students gain valuable job-readiness experiences as they navigate choosing their own career path.

"Anytime we can provide authentic, real world application of skills and knowledge, we're better preparing our students for the world of work," said Margaret Rice, Washougal School District CTE Director. "When we can do that in a way that supports them through our education system, that's an added bonus because they have a support system through that learning process."

As an emerging leader in Career & Technical Education, Washougal School District offers hands-on opportunities to apply technical knowledge while serving our local community. The Career & Technology Education program at Washougal School District is a valuable addition to many students' High School and Beyond Plan, a personalized learning plan which maps skill development and career pathways from 7th to 12th grade. Learn more about Career & Technical Education programs at Washougal School District on our website at washougal.k12.wa.us/cte/.



Katherine Baxter, Special Education Teacher at Canyon Creek Middle School, was awarded the statewide 2022 Public School Employee (PSE) Honorary Member of the Year.



In partnership with the Panther Foundation, Washougal School District hosted summer sports camps to prepare students for the fall athletics season and develop teamwork skills.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

The autumn leaves are falling, the weather is turning “crisp”, and our school houses are filled with the laughter and enthusiasm of our students. The opening of school this year has had a practically emotional impact on me as we welcomed our students back to a more normal experience and were able to focus on accelerating learning, providing social and emotional support, and offering the opportunity to re-engage in the “joy of learning”. As I begin my fifth year as your superintendent, I remain optimistic and committed to the vision of all students rising to their bright futures!



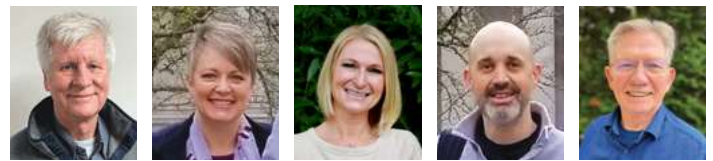
The Fall Newsletter will highlight a few of our staff and student accomplishments, but what I hope it does more than that is to provide you a “glimpse” into our mission of preparing all students to be job-ready, intellectually capable, service oriented, and skilled in the areas of communication, collaboration, and creativity. Our excellent staff work daily with students to create a culture where high respect, high belief and high expectations are evident in classrooms, lunch rooms, on buses, and on the playing fields. We know that our students will be most successful when they have a strong sense of belonging and purpose for the learning. We also believe that our students, families, and community benefit when our students understand how to approach the world with curiosity and how to treat each other with kindness.

I am excited to highlight our WashougalRising Graduate profiles and the accomplishments of our former students. When asked how we know Washougal Schools are doing great work, there's no more powerful story than our graduates, who have found success in skilled trades, professional careers, and military service. We are featuring our Washougal alumni on social media and on our website, and hope you will check out these great stories.

As our students continue learning this fall and we all move into the busy season of the holidays, I wish you wellness, kindness, and peace.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

Board identifies goal areas for 2022-2023

At the September 13, 2022 school board meeting, the school board identified three goal areas for this school year from the newly revised Strategic Plan 2025. The board identified clear measurements for progress that are shared in the strategic plan which will track the district's progress over the remaining three years of the strategic plan.

In the Effective Instruction pillar, the board noted that providing high quality instruction in every classroom is essential. The board has supported teacher training around collective efficacy and teacher collaboration, and provides paid time for teachers with time to meet in Professional Learning Communities, allowing teachers to collaborate with each other to improve student learning.

Within the College & Career pillar, the board noted the importance of hands-on learning and job-readiness skills for success after high school, whether in skilled trades, college, military service or professional careers. Through the High School and Beyond Plan process, students learn about future educational and career opportunities and take coursework that aligns with their pathway. The robust Career and Technical Education programs allow students to explore their interests and cultivate skills that will help them reach their future goals.

The board chose the Educational Engagement pillar as their final goal area, noting a need to market opportunities beyond the school day to students and the community. The board values the extracurricular programs and community based partnerships that foster connections between students and caring adults who lead athletic teams, clubs, service organizations or faith communities. The board sees this as an opportunity to grow partnerships between the district and youth-serving organizations, which can foster student contributions to the community.

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in-person and via Zoom.

Visit our website for information on how to participate.

November 22: District Board Room (4855 Evergreen Way)

December 13: District Board Room (4855 Evergreen Way)

January 24: District Board Room (4855 Evergreen Way)



WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WashougalRising

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Mary Templeton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Cory Chase, President; Angela Hancock, Vice President; Chuck Carpenter, Legislative Rep; Jim Cooper; Sadie McKenzie

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Washougal grads shine in the community

When Washougal School District students graduate and join the local workforce, they make a positive difference in our daily lives. Many of our coworkers, neighbors, and friends are graduates of Washougal School District. Positive impacts of the high quality education at Washougal School District can be felt across the community, far beyond school campuses.

The caring team at Washougal School District nurtures students who become thoughtful and successful adults. "Financial Fitness with Ms. Simek encouraged me to pursue studying business," said Karina Root, Client Services Associate at Morgan Stanley. Root graduated from Washougal High School in 2015. Financial Fitness, a course now called Personal Finance, is a part of Washougal High School's robust Career & Technical Education program.

"Being a part of student government at Washougal High School gave me important problem solving, leadership, and teamwork-oriented skills that have carried well

into my professional career," said Brandon Rotundo, Marketing Communications Specialist at Edwards Vacuum and 2015 WHS graduate. Student government is now known as the Leadership and Project Management course at Washougal High School.

"Mr. Anderson distinctly stands out in my mind as a teacher that helped shape my career path," said Bryce Samwel. Samwel, a 2015 graduate, is now a Data Analyst on the Global Marketing team at Fisher Investments. "AP Calculus with Mr. Anderson solidified my passion for math which helped me find a career I love."

While it may be a few years since these grads had their last class at Washougal High School, the impacts of Washougal School District programs last well into their career. Washougal grads go on to create successful careers, positively impacting our local community. Washougal School District knows, nurtures, and challenges all students to rise.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **Kiley Harper** graduated from Washougal High School in 2010. Now, she works as a teacher at Jemtegaard Middle School where she gets students excited about math. **Karina Root**, Washougal High School class of 2015, is now a Client Services Associate at Morgan Stanley. **Brandon Rotundo**, Washougal High School class of 2015, now works as a Marketing Communications Specialist at Edwards Vacuum.

Evan Miner and Suzanne Brown Voted Washougal High School Homecoming King and Queen

This is one important milestone as Evan and Suzanne begin their senior year of high school. "The senior class in particular has embraced Suzanne and included her in a way that she did not expect," said Jennie Brown, Suzanne's mother.

"This act of kindness sets the Washougal High School student body apart from others their age," added Jodi Miner, Evan Miner's mother. "They were a part of something really beautiful. Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected this. This is such a testament to the student body of Washougal High School."





#WashougalRising

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Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton visits a first grade Dual Language classroom at Hathaway Elementary.

Dual Language immersion program enters its second year at Hathaway Elementary

The Dual Language program is a Spanish immersion option for kindergarten and first grade students in Washougal School District. Based at Hathaway Elementary, classes are composed of a mix of native Spanish speakers and native English speakers learning together in Spanish. Dual Language meets the needs of our diverse student base and prepares students for the future.

Beginning in 2021 as a pilot initiative, the program has since grown to include first grade for the 2022-23 school year. Washougal School District plans to expand the Dual Language program to include second grade beginning in fall 2023. Families can look for this option when registering their student for kindergarten, first grade, or second grade classes next year.

"We know that as we support our Spanish-speaking families and make those strong connections with our community, that is going to make us a strong school district," said Superintendent Dr. Mary

Templeton.

Research has shown that students who participate in Dual Language programs score higher on academic achievement tests in both languages, are more engaged in classroom instruction, experience greater motivation to learn, and achieve higher graduation rates. "My favorite thing in school is learning Spanish," said Marty Swofford, a first grade student in the Dual Language program.

"When you learn Spanish at school, you do better at school and at home," said Javier Pena-Contreras. Javier is a first grade student in Ms. Veronica's Dual Language class. Students in the Dual Language program at Hathaway Elementary achieve strong academic results and have cross-cultural experiences all while learning another language.

Support from the Washougal community and district families make the Dual Language program possible.



Two Washougal students receive \$500 ENSPIRE Arts scholarships

Washougal School District students Tia Williams and Ben Termini are two out of four students awarded the prestigious ENSPIRE Arts Ambassador Scholarship from May 2021 to May 2022 for demonstrating an outstanding passion for art and a heart for their community. Each year Ensfire Arts offers scholarships to young artists who are dedicated to improving their talents, as well as committed to creating an arts based community gift that makes a meaningful contribution to Clark County.

"Art gives people an outlet to make themselves happy and make others happy," said Williams. "It's important to use art to give back to the community because the community gives you so much. It's a gratitude thing."

The students each received a \$500 scholarship for use toward private art instruction, skills workshops, or summer study. As recipients of the scholarship, Williams and Termini will also give back by each donating a musical performance to the community.