



# EDUCATION MATTERS

NOV. 2017

## Volunteers help settle new Middle School

Getting Hockinson Middle School's main wing open in time for the first day of classes this fall was a feat.

First, a reconfigured construction plan brought the opening a year earlier than originally expected. Then, the district's contractor, Robinson Construction, had to overcome about 90 days of lost worktime due to last winter's record-setting cold, wet weather.

But opening a new school requires more than finishing a building and striping a parking lot. Students, staff and families all need help acclimating to new facilities and finding their way around.

**"It's fun to get to know (our students') friends."**

— Volunteer and parent Megan Schierling

That's where a cadre of volunteers stepped up to help make the new Home of the Hornets feel like ... home.

Betsy Oliverio, the HMS representative with PWT (People Working Together), put out the call on Facebook for help with the first three days of school. Twenty parents volunteered and helped direct traffic—cars in parking lots and students in halls—and spent time with Hornets in the lunchroom and on the playground.

"We loaded up at the beginning to help parents and students know where to go and to cut down on the anxiety of the students," said Principal Brian Lehner. Now, several weeks into the



Sixth graders in Heidi Hoiland's science class run an experiment to see how many drops of water can fit on a penny (answer: upwards of 120!). The exercise illustrates the way water droplets stick together on dust particles—until they get so heavy that they fall to ground as rain.

school year, at least one volunteer is usually on hand at lunchtime to play games and talk with students.

"I want to break that barrier of parents thinking kids don't want them here, because that's just not true," said Oliverio, whose son Enzo is in seventh grade. When parents show up to volunteer, Oliverio says their students' faces "light up."

So do the parents.

"It's fun to get to know (our students') friends," said volunteer Megan Schierling, whose son Benjamin is in 6th grade.

### Open House details to come!

Hockinson School District will host an open house for the community after the new Middle School is complete.

Work on the east wing of the new HMS—including the band room, gymnasiums and career and technical education (CTE) area—was scheduled to be finished in November.

Details to come at [hocksd.org](http://hocksd.org), on Facebook or Twitter!



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

My message to you can be summed up in two words: **Thank you.**

As I'm sure you are aware, our new Middle School has opened, and our students and staff are busy settling into their new classrooms, facilities and grounds. We are thrilled that we were able to complete the project ahead of schedule—and on budget!—and that our staff now has the space and resources to give our HMS students the best possible learning opportunities.

Our High School is in its first full year with its improved facility—new band room, fieldhouse, grandstand and fields. We also have been making changes at the Elementary School campus, upgrading security and implementing safety measures.

None of this would be possible without the support of our community, our contractors, our volunteers, our staff and our students. Together, we have made great strides in achieving the district's goal to create safe, welcoming and positive learning environments that support high academic and behavior expectations.

I send my heartfelt thanks to each of you.

Sincerely,  
**Sandra Yager**

# HHS accredited, commended



HHS and ESD 112 staff celebrate accreditation. From left: Steve Cookson, Corey McEnry, Shannon McCombs, Asst. Principal Josh Johnson, Principal Colleen Anders, ESD 112 Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Mike Nerland, ESD 112 Exec. Director of School Success Kathy Whitlock, student rep. Cole VanderMaas, Leslie Ruby and Joey Harteloo.

Congratulations to Hockinson High School! At the Oct. 9 Board meeting, the school received its accreditation through 2023, along with several commendations from Washington's Association of Educational Service Districts:

- For bringing staff, students, parents and the community together to work on improving the school.
- For making the success and well-being of all students the core priority of the school and the community.
- For the staff's ability to focus on all students and know the details of students who might struggle.
- For the way school leadership accepts change as a normal and positive process, and fosters a spirit of collaboration and collegiality.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Hockinson Community Education has some great classes this fall. Find these classes and more on our website.

- Jazzercise (adults)
- Tiny Tigers (ages 5-8)
- Tae Kwon Do (ages 9-adult)
- Men's Basketball (adult men)
- Youth Basketball (grades 3-6, boys and girls)
- Clark County Youth Wrestling (grades K-8, boys and girls)
- Hockinson Sports & Conditioning Afterschool Winter Program

Seeking instructors: Would you like to teach a class? Do you have a hobby or knowledge in a certain subject area? We are looking for new class offerings!

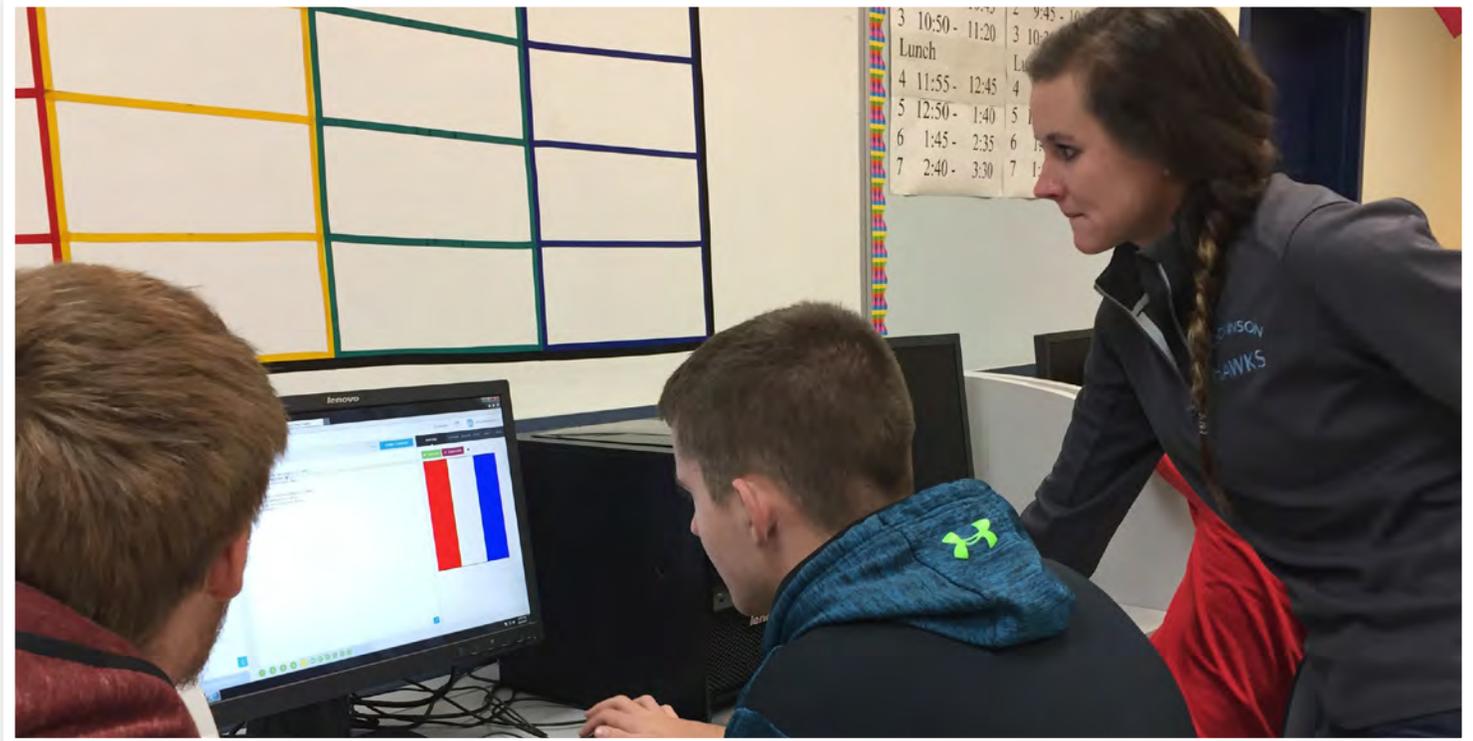
After School Adventures: Community Ed offers after school care for HSD students in grades K-5, on school days Monday-Friday till 6 p.m.

Facilities rentals: HSD facilities are available for rent after school hours by community members and organizations. Facility requests must be submitted at least 10 business days prior to use.

For information on classes, teaching, facilities rentals or the after school care program visit our website at [www.hocksd.org/Community/CommunityEducation](http://www.hocksd.org/Community/CommunityEducation) or call Charity Schadt at (360) 448-6480.

# HHS offerings expand to meet student needs

## Computer Science, metal fab and AP Spanish added



Computer science teacher Berit Kretz helps senior Kelston Hubler troubleshoot a program that creates an image of the French flag.

One recent morning, a group of Hockinson High School students sat at a bank of computers, writing and troubleshooting JavaScript code—part of the school’s first computer science class.

Taylor Lecount programmed directions for an onscreen dog; Katherine Johnson worked on a program that would compute how many miles per hour a person ran; and Kelston Hubler created a French flag.

“It’s more entertaining than regular math,” Kelston, a senior, said. “And I’m learning a valuable skill in an increasingly technological world.”

The course, which enables students to work at their own pace, offers an alternative to calculus or statistics for students seeking math credits.

“It’s not the typical math coursework, but all the logic and problem-solving is like math,” said math—and now computer science—teacher Berit Kretz. “It

does change the way you think.”

Computer science is one of three new offerings the school implemented this fall, along with metal fabrication and AP Spanish.

“We offer an incredible variety of classes for our small size.”

—Principal Colleen Anders

The metal fabrication class is an exploratory course in the school’s Career Technical Education program. Previously, those who wanted to study metal fab had to wait until their junior or senior years to go to Cascadia Tech Academy, which offers a full course.

The AP—Advanced Placement—Spanish option came as seniors, who received high school credit for Spanish as Middle School students, sought a way to continue their Spanish studies for a fifth year.

AP French could end up at HHS in the future. The Middle School began offering the language this fall.

### State testing data available

One of Hockinson School District’s strategic goals is to create a culture of distinguished teaching and optimized learning. State-mandated test scores are one measure of progress, and 2016-17 results are available at [reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us](http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us). (Find Hockinson in the dropdown menu.) Watch for state testing data in our annual report in January.

Hockinson School District  
17912 NE 159th Street  
Brush Prairie, WA 98606  
P: (360) 448-6400  
F: (360) 448-6409  
www.hocksd.org

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@HockinsonSchoolDistrict

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## Superintendent

Sandra Yager  
sandra.yager@hocksd.org

## Board of Directors:

Mr. Steve Nylund, Chair  
steve.nylund@hocksd.org

Mrs. Kathy Nordberg, Vice Chair  
kathy.nordberg@hocksd.org

Mr. Greg Gospe  
greg.gospe@hocksd.org

Mr. Dave Olson  
dave.olson@hocksd.org

Mr. Scott Swindell  
scott.swindell@hocksd.org

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## Hockinson Patron

# HHES students build real-world connections

When Jennifer Teegardin's second grade students learn about solids, liquids and gases, they don't just memorize words and definitions—they make pancakes.

"It gives them a chance to put something concrete with their knowledge and make those connections," she said.

Recently, when the batter hit the griddle, her students naturally began making observations: Heat turned liquids into solids. Bubbles formed from gases in the batter. Steam rose. Later, Teegardin asked her students to reflect on the experience: "Why do you think that was a liquid? Why a solid?"

"They had great conversations," she said. "It's not just paper and pencil. It's dialogue. The classroom is not quiet like it used to be. The kids are active and talking."

Hockinson Heights Elementary School Principal Josh Robertson calls this type of activity a "student-driven, teacher-facilitated model," which he contrasts with the old "sit-and-get" way, where teachers presented information, and students did worksheets.

The new model brings students beyond formulas that might not apply to every situation, and immerses them in problem-solving—collaborating to build connections between concepts and their real-life applications.

"They're doing the thinking," Teegardin said. "They can't



Second graders in Jennifer Teegardin's class learn about the states of matter by studying ... pancakes!

just say 'I knew it.'"

Robertson said his leadership team—Assistant Principal Meredith Gannon, instructional coach Cary Delbridge and reading specialist Stephanie Goad—is focused on this type of instruction.

"It's a deeper level of thinking," he said. "We're preparing kids to be unique thinkers, to design things, to think outside the box. We're not educating them for our past—but for their futures."