



# EDUCATION MATTERS

APRIL 2018



## Amid state funding changes, Hockinson stewards money

This old saying sometimes rings true in Hockinson: “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

The past couple of years have brought major changes to our school district facilities—a brand-new Middle School, plus a new band room, fieldhouse, grandstand and fields at the High School. Students and staff are now fully occupying these new areas, bringing a state-of-the-art education to Hockinson.

What has stayed the same? Hockinson School District’s sense of stewardship.

The fact that our community generously supported these new facilities by approving a bond in 2015 remained front of mind for district leaders and project managers throughout the construction and renovation processes.

The district worked consistently with architects, construction managers, county engineers, furnishing vendors and others to keep costs in check while building the projects we promised our community.

Read more about what we accomplished with our facilities inside this newsletter.

Meanwhile, in 2017 Washington State made sweeping changes to school funding as the Legislature addressed the state’s constitutional duty to fund K-12 basic education. The state increased

the amount of money it is investing in education, although the outcome varies from district to district.

It also made the following changes per \$1,000 assessed value:

- **State property taxes increased from \$1.98 in 2017 to \$2.89 in 2018.**
- **Voter-approved school district maintenance and operations levies—now called “enrichment levies”—are capped at \$1.50, beginning in 2019.**

These changes are referred to as a “levy swap,” which caused a temporary one-year tax rate increase in 2018. Once the swap is complete, property tax rates will decrease. Please note that this can impact individual properties in different ways, depending on changes to the assessed value of each property.

Looking ahead to 2019, the state Legislature voted to reduce state property taxes in 2019 by 30 cents per \$1,000 assessed value in an effort to remove some of the sting from the 2018 property tax bills.

To read more about these Washington State education tax changes and impacts on Hockinson [click here](#).



These sixth graders recently donned red as part of HMS’s “Color Wars.” Each grade wears a different color as part of the school spirit-building activity.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

This school year, 2017-18, has been a year of change and transformation in Hockinson School District, as well as in Washington State.

In Hockinson, we have wrapped up a major construction project at the Middle School and improvements at the High School. These new facilities are transforming the way we teach and learn.

Across the state, school districts watched with hope—and some trepidation—as the Legislature overhauled the state budget. Lawmakers added more money to education funding, in part by increasing state property taxes, but they also decreased the amount of money districts can request from taxpayers via levies.

Like other districts statewide, we are working to figure out what the changes mean to our district and our district's residents, while striving to keep everyone informed. So far it looks like our budget is going to be OK, but we are still in the midst of our analysis.

This newsletter focuses on impact of the state's funding changes and on our district's facilities accomplishments. We hope it answers many of your questions.

We also hope that you will join us for a celebration and dedication of our new Middle School on May 9. I look forward to seeing you there! Meanwhile, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 448-6400.

Sincerely,  
**Sandra Yager**

# HSD Wellness Corner

The HSD Wellness Committee encourages our community to protect our kids and the environment by disposing of unneeded and outdated prescription medications. Medications are being accepted for free at a takeback event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 28 at the Battle Ground Police Department, 507 SW 1st St., Battle Ground, and other locations. For more information, [click here](#).

For more information on nutrition, fitness and wellness, please [click here](#) to visit Hockinson's School Wellness page.



## FREE DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION

**Saturday • April 28, 2018 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

## Community Education Opportunities

Hockinson Community Education has a whole bouquet of spring offerings, including:

- **Art Club—May**
- **Legos**
- **Mad Science**
- **Tae Kwon Do/Tiny Tigers**
- **Spring After School Basketball**
- **Futsal**

*Summer offerings are heating up, and more classes will posted to our website as we receive information.*

- **Hockinson Soccer Camp**
- **Safe Sitter**
- **Kids for Kids**
- **UK Soccer Camps**
- **Girls and Boys Hawks Basketball Camps**
- **Tennis Camp**
- **Hawks Football Camp**
- **Coding camp**
- **Summer Ceramics Workshop**

For information on classes, more class offerings, teaching a class or After School Adventures, [click here](#). Or call Charity Schadt at (360) 448-6480.



# Capital Projects update:

Hockinson community makes progress possible

# THANK YOU, VOTERS!

## Hockinson Middle School construction

Completed 2018

- **Building:** ~80,000 square feet. Includes dedicated science classrooms, band room, gym and auxiliary gym, plus state-of-the-art, energy-efficient lighting throughout
- **Field:** high school/regulation size football/soccer field and eight-lane track with lighting, bleachers and scoreboard
- **Bus lane/loop:** ~19 bus parking stalls and lighting
- **Parking lot with lighting:** ~85 spaces, in addition to teacher parking



The HMS library features plenty of natural light plus state-of-the-art light fixtures.

## Hockinson High School improvements

Completed 2017

- **Band room:** ~6,100 square feet
- **Fieldhouse:** ~12,000 square feet
- **Grandstand:** new covered stadium seating for 1,475 plus 16 wheelchair spaces
- **Four tennis courts**
- **Fields:** four new sand-based fields that can be used during wet weather (two soccer/junior varsity football fields; one varsity baseball field; one varsity softball field), all with new scoreboards; baseball and softball fields include dugouts
- **Storage:** building to store equipment for fields
- **Entrance:** additional campus entrance/exit to alleviate traffic on 159<sup>th</sup> Street
- **Parking lot:** added new lot with 160 spaces



HHS band director Corey McEnry directs students in the school's new band room.



The new HMS site includes a high school regulation size football/soccer field and eight-lane track.



The HHS fieldhouse provides additional space for team practices and physical education classes.



# District projects encounter unexpected costs

When the Hockinson community passed a \$39.9 million construction bond in 2015, it kicked off three years of important facilities work. The state contributed \$7.7 million in funding assistance, and the district added \$2.2 million from its capital projects fund reserve to bring the \$49.8 million project to life.

The High School was outfitted with a new band room, fieldhouse, grandstand, tennis courts and four new athletic fields. The brand-new Middle School brought state-of-the-art facilities and additional classroom space, plus a new track and field that will be completed later this spring/early summer when drainage is installed. (Join us May 9 for an open house and dedication!) At the Elementary School, we are adding additional portables and working to address the district's growing population.

"We are thankful to have reached the end of the building process and to have wonderful facilities available for our students and community," said Superintendent Sandra Yager. "Was it a perfectly smooth road to get here? No. But we worked hard, learned a lot and advocated diligently on behalf of our community."

Numerous challenges emerged in the course of construction and renovation, but thanks to the district's financial preparation and collaboration with contractors, the work is complete, and unexpected costs are being covered using impact fees and general funds that had been set aside for capital expenses.

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"We are thankful to have reached the end of the building process and to have wonderful facilities available for our students and community."

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## CHALLENGES INCLUDED:

**The changing construction market:** Construction demand rose between 2014, when the bond amount was researched, and 2016, when the HMS project went out for bid. The lowest bid came in \$2.2 million higher than anticipated.

**Weather:** The 2016-17 school year was one of the wettest and coldest on record, which caused significant excavating and building delays at HMS. Soft soils and weather delays meant workers spent weeks working overtime to complete the project.

**Public works:** County permitting delays cost the project, as did requirements such as street and infrastructure upgrades, and a mandatory \$120,000 Distributed Antenna System (DAS), which enhances cell phone and first-responder communication within HMS.

"Although the state contributed \$7.7 million in matching funds to our Middle School project, county and state requirements, permits, utility hook-ups and sales tax cost the overall project more than \$4.2 million," Yager said.

# High-tech lighting earns county rebates



## Hockinson Middle School FORMAL DEDICATION

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

The honor of your presence is requested at a

### FORMAL DEDICATION for the Hockinson Middle School

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Building Tours	6:00-6:30 p.m.
Dedication Program	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Refreshments	7:30-8:00 p.m.

The dedication ceremony will take place in the Hockinson Middle School Gym.  
Address: 15916 NE 182nd Ave., Brush Prairie

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Steve Wrightson



*We look forward to seeing you!*



Maintenance/Operations supervisor Shaniko Ristau and staff member Eirik Huset check out the new LED lights in the HHS Commons.

Hockinson's efforts to upgrade its lighting resulted in rebates from Clark County at both the Middle and High schools.

The new Middle School design used the highest-quality energy-efficient LED lighting, both inside and out, which will save the school 105,860 kWh annually over baseline products—and earned the district a \$19,055 rebate.

At the High School, a 2016 levy-funded project to install modern lighting in the school gymnasium resulted in an estimated \$5,560 rebate. Lighting installed in the parking lot, fieldhouse and band room earned a rebate of \$7,224.

# Next focus: the Elementary School

With the district's Middle School and High School facilities in place, it is time to focus on our youngest students. The district plans to conduct a demographic study this spring to determine Elementary School needs.

**Currently HHES has 818 students—and a building with a capacity of 624.**

Population growth, particularly at the southern end of the district, in addition to recently implemented state requirements have created critical facilities needs at Hockinson Heights Elementary School.

The state's requirement of full-day kindergarten doubled Hockinson's kindergarten classroom needs to six. The state's reduction of class sizes for kindergarten through grade 3 meant the school needed to add four additional classrooms there as well.

To accommodate these issues and our growing numbers, the school site includes six portable buildings with two classrooms per portable. Because these are not permanent structures, the state considers these students "unhoused."

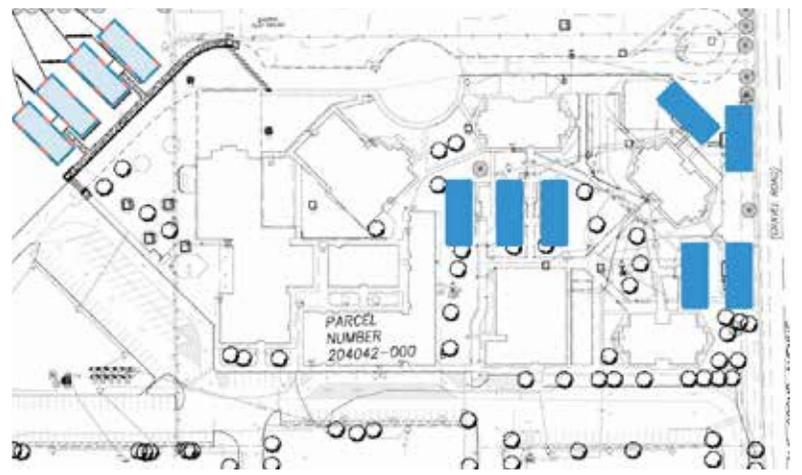
A seventh portable on the HHES site is used by the preschool. The district will add two more portables to the Elementary School site this summer, plus another two in summer 2019. By 2019-2020, the Elementary School site will include 11 portables—potentially 22 classrooms—the maximum number of portables allowed in the county's site plan.

*(Note: For 2018-19, the preschool program is moving into a portable at the High School, which is currently used by 18-21-year-olds in the district's Transition Program. That program will move into the District Office building, and the DO will move into a renovated wing of the old Middle School.)*



Kindergartners leave Sonja Einerson's art classroom, which is in one of the seven portables on the HHES campus.

*Four new portable classrooms will be added*



# HHS student receives Kindness Citation

It isn't every day that Sheriff's Deputy Jason Granneman hands out a citation for kindness. In fact, the one the Hockinson High School resource officer handed out on Friday was the first to go to an HHS student.

Describing senior Alyssa Chapin's "kind and encouraging spirit" he presented her with an orange citation, declaring, "Alyssa's character and kindness is consistent with earning a Kindness Citation from the Clark County Sheriff's Office."

students with their lessons and getting to know them as friends.

"She senses what the kids need and understands the routines well enough that she can just step in," said teacher Ronda Howard. "The kids respect her, and she respects them. She's all-around amazing."

*"She senses what the kids need and understands the routines well enough that she can just step in..."*

The Sheriff's Office began handing out Kindness Citations in November to recognize people who are doing things that are truly helpful to the community. The citations are part of Life Vest Inside's nationwide Inspiring Kindness initiative.

Since September, Alyssa has been working as a peer tutor in the HHS developmental resource room, helping

Alyssa, whose goal is to become a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, said she is glad she became a peer mentor, because it helped confirm her career direction.

"I definitely want a career helping others," she said.



Alyssa Chapin holds her Kindness Citation with Deputy Jason Granneman, top, and with peers in the developmental resource room where she volunteers, bottom.

## HHS art students recognized (back page story)



Abigail Walden,  
*"Gwen & Me"*



Brynne Barker,  
*"Kiwi in the Grass"*



Kelston Hubler,  
*"Central Sea Condo"*



Luke Haunreiter,  
*"Delta Hen"*

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## Superintendent

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## Hockinson Patron



**Come and see  
the changes!**

**Please plan to join us for a  
celebration and dedication  
of our new Middle School**

**May 9**

**See your invitation inside!**

# HHS art students recognized



“Dove”  
by  
ESD 112  
and college  
scholarships  
award winner  
Bailey Resleff.

Five of HHS art teacher Tanya Hochhalter’s students are among the winners in the 2018 Southwest Washington Regional High School Art Show!

Their artwork was among 239 pieces submitted from the ESD 112 six-county region.

At a March 20 reception, **Brynne Barker, Luke Haunreiter, Kelston Hubler, Bailey Resleff** and **Abby Walden** received ESD 112 Awards.

Bailey also received a \$3,000 Oregon College of Art and Craft Scholarship Award and a \$2,000 Central Washington University Scholarship Award; Brynne received a \$3,000 OCAC Scholarship Award; and Luke received special recognition from OCAC.

[Click here](#) to see more award-winning student art inside and online.

**Notice of Nondiscrimination:** The district will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. The superintendent will provide for annual evaluations, periodic surveys, annual notice and complaint procedures as required by law to ensure that there is in fact equal opportunity for all students in the district. The board will designate a staff member to serve as affirmative action/Title IX compliance officer.