



EDUCATION MATTERS

JAN. 2017



New band facility inspires HHS musicians

Hockinson High School's new band room has only been fully operation for a couple of months, but band director Corey McEnry is already seeing big changes.

"They're not only practicing more—they're practicing better," he said.

One reason is that the music program now has a dedicated space that includes a main rehearsal hall, an ensemble room and four practice rooms. Until this year, practice rooms were storage closets containing tech equipment and instruments, and the rehearsal hall was the auditorium, which musicians shared with drama, P.E. classes and assemblies. Band members spent part of every rehearsal setting up and putting away chairs and equipment.

"We're getting the equivalent of an

extra rehearsal day per week with this room," McEnry said.

Another benefit to the new facility is a sound system that, with the push of a button, can make the rehearsal hall and rooms sound like almost any acoustical setting. Whether they're preparing for a performance in the HHS Multi-Purpose Room or for competition in an arena, students can get a sense of how long their notes will linger and how the sound will bounce off the walls.

"The students are thinking more critically and paying greater attention to detail," McEnry said.

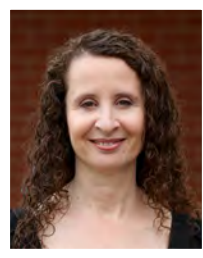
Senior Dana Robertson, who plays trumpet in Jazz Band and French horn in the Wind Ensemble, says having a dedicated practice space has changed the dynamic of the band.

"We can focus on our music more. I think everyone has gotten swept up in the excitement, and everyone's putting in more effort," she said. "We're improving faster than we did before."

But it isn't just the facilities that make the music ensembles shine. McEnry said the strong music program at Hockinson Middle School, consistent support from the district and families who encourage their students and volunteer with the program also make a big impact. And one more thing:

"There's something about Hockinson kids," McEnry said. "They've always been hard workers."

Catch the band at every home HHS boys and girls basketball game, and at upcoming parades and festivals.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

It's hard to believe the 2016-17 school year is nearly half over! We are back to full steam after the winter holiday and already anticipating the fun of spring projects and performances.

While our Hockinson schools always strive for academic achievement, they also cultivate a culture of caring for our community. In this issue we feature a few of the ways our students have been involved in community-building—gathering food and toys for families in need, and establishing a Random Acts of Kindness Club to help make Middle School a friendlier place for students and teachers.

Our featured story this month shows the outcome of our community's investment in school district facilities. The music program at the High School has been reinvigorated by the new band room, and this program in turn contributes to our community and those farther afield. In addition to performing at home basketball and football games—and traveling to away games in playoff seasons—these ensembles represent our community in parades, festivals and competitions, sharing Hockinson's community spirit.

You have probably received a flier with information about a levy that would pay for synthetic turf and resurfacing the track at the High School. We share this information in response to a proposal from a group of Hockinson community members who have researched the pros and cons of synthetic turf. The district has no funding available for such a project, so we are asking Hockinson residents to tell us through your vote whether this is a community priority. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

We continue to watch with excitement as the new Hockinson Middle School rises and invite you to monitor its progress through our posts on social media and the district website!

Sincerely,
Sandra Yager

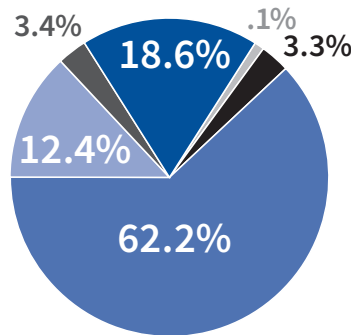
FINANCIAL REPORT



Hockinson School District values our community's strong support and is a careful steward of our financial resources. In the 2015-16 school year, our expenditures per student were \$10,431. In 2016-17, we anticipate they will be \$10,978.

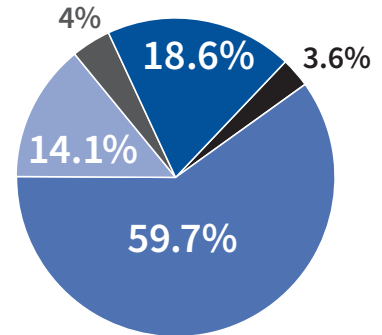
Here are our budgeted revenues and expenditures for the current school year, plus our final numbers from 2015-16. For details on each category, please visit our website at hocksd.org/district_information/financial_information/report_to_community

2015-16 REVENUES



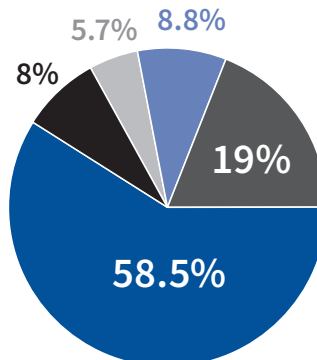
- Local Levies
- Local Non-Tax
- Other

2016-17 REVENUES



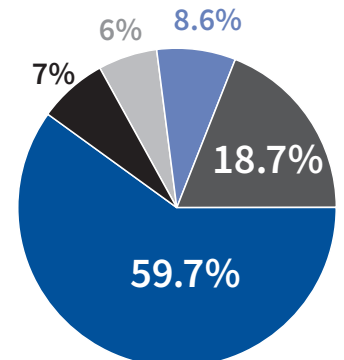
- State, Gen. Purpose
- State Grants
- Federal

2015-16 EXPENDITURES



- Teaching Activities
- Other Support
- District Administration

2016-17 EXPENDITURES



- Teaching Support
- School Administration

Fifth graders take on leadership role



Student Leadership Team members work on a thank-you poster to be presented on behalf of the Elementary School.

When students reach the top grade in a school, they know how to get things done—and they often turn into role models for younger students.

Hockinson Heights Elementary tapped into its student resources last fall by establishing a fifth grade Student Leadership Team.

“I like to promote the idea of servant leadership,” said assistant principal Chuck Sheron, “to get kids outside their own bubbles, to learn more about the school around them, the community around them and what we can do to help others.”

Students were invited to apply to be leaders by writing essays about how they would help make the school a better place. Then, two from each class were selected by a team of five teachers plus the fifth grade’s six classroom teachers.

“They’ve definitely stepped up and want to be in this role,” said art specialist Nancy O’Neill. “And the other kids want

to help too.”

So far, the student leaders have helped organize the school’s Giving Tree project, which collected food and toys for families in need at the holidays, and assisted with the school’s Veterans Day assembly by handing out programs and making introductions.

“I like being able to help on all the projects and having a say in what we get to do,” said fifth grader Ashley Suva. “It’s fun helping the community.”

The Leadership Team’s future plans include reenergizing the school’s recycling program and spearheading a legacy garden project in the school’s courtyard, where they plan to establish raised beds that each class can plant.

“We’ve got a great staff, we’ve got great kids, and of course none of this happens unless kids and families participate,” Sheron said. “They’ve really responded, and it’s been fun to see that.”

HMS promotes kindness

Hockinson Middle School is becoming an even kinder and gentler place with the addition of a Random Acts of Kindness club—also known as RAK.

“We want to promote kindness in the school to reduce bullying,” said HMS counselor Jessica Ambrose. “This is a prevention program.”

Ambrose started the group at the beginning of the school year, and it now has a weekly lunch meeting, where about a dozen sixth and seventh graders come up with ways to brighten their schoolmates’ days. So far their efforts have included hiding rocks with inspirational messages, providing umbrella services for other students on a rainy day and greeting parents at fall parent-teacher conferences.

“I think the RAK club is a great way to make people think of the good things in life and not the bad and how you can treat others,” said sixth grader Hunter Osborn.

The rest of the school is getting drawn into the act by an RAK bulletin board, where any student can leave a Post-It note challenging others to offer kindness: “Give high fives to 5 people.”



The Random Acts of Kindness bulletin board is located outside HMS counselor Jessica Ambrose’s office, where students can add their own kindness challenges.

“Clean up your classroom.” “Write thank you notes to teachers.”

RAK goes hand in hand with other school initiatives, including Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and leadership and mentoring programs.

“We’re giving students opportunities to be involved in the school and connect with other people,” Ambrose said. “It’s a continuing effort to spread kindness.”

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HMS efforts feed area families

Hockinson Middle School's 2016 Canned Food Drive brought in 2,749 food items this fall. HMS students carried their goods down the street to Fire District 3, where the fire cadets sorted and bagged the food, and then distributed it to local families and churches.

Students were spurred on by a competition among Home Base classrooms and office staff, with the winning Home Base being HMS food drive organizer Joe Loper's. His students will take a January field trip to help at Share House, which serves homeless and hungry people in Clark County.

"Thanks should go to all the Middle School staff, students and parents for their humbling kindness and generosity during this event that helps so many of the people around us," said Loper, who teaches math and coding at HMS. "In addition, we truly appreciate the Hockinson fire department for taking, sorting and distributing the food that not only HMS has donated but others in the community as well."



At the end of their food drive, HMS students delivered 2,749 food items to Fire District 3.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!



The February ballot includes Proposition 3, a capital levy request for athletic improvements at Hockinson High School's main athletic field. For more information, please see the district website—www.hocksd.org—and click on the "Levy" link. Ballots are due February 14.