



EDUCATION MATTERS

APRIL 2017

STEM expands kids' academic, social skills



Ask second-grader Kieran what his favorite class is, and he won't miss a beat: "STEM."

Ask him about his favorite STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics—project, and he'll describe the raft he and his partner built from straws and pipe cleaners.

"We made them so the three billy goats wouldn't get caught by the trolls," he explains.

What?

Each Wednesday, students in teacher Michelle Staley's classroom take on STEM projects—often linking science with literature.

In the case of the billy goat rafts, Staley's class read the folk tale "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." Then Staley challenged her students to build a raft that would carry the goats across the river. (That way they wouldn't have to cross the bridge and risk encountering a troll.)

"STEM is fun. It builds your imagination, how you get creative, how you react, how you'll build a structure."

— Second-grader Hudson

As with every STEM project in her classroom, Staley put her students in pairs. She gave them straws and pipe cleaners to build a raft, plus three pennies representing the three goats riding on the raft. The goal was for the raft to float for 10 seconds.

"STEM is fun," says second-grader Hudson. "It builds your imagination, how you get creative, how you react, how you'll build a structure."

Staley says she and other HHES colleagues find STEM inspiration online from fellow teachers who are also seeking ways to connect science to real-world applications.

Their efforts play into Hockinson's goal to expand STEM curricula district wide. Assistant Superintendent Slade McSheehy says STEM's hands-on learning offers students

pathways to a variety of occupations, including the construction trades, the medical field, technology, engineering and others.

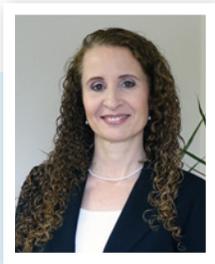
"STEM can help us create career awareness in the Elementary School, and career exploration and preparation in the Middle School and High School," he says.

Staley says she's amazed at how her students' knowledge has deepened over the school year, and she's observed that their STEM work appears to be impacting their other classes.

"They're starting to think more critically and work more collaboratively," she says.



Michelle Staley's second graders participate in hands-on projects every Wednesday at Hockinson Heights Elementary.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

2016-17 has certainly been a memorable year. Not only have we had a major construction project—the new Middle School—in our back yard, but we've had what seemed like countless weather events interrupting our day-to-day operations.

Now that spring is here, we trust the weather is behind us. I want to take this opportunity to thank our families, students and staff for their flexibility and their thoughtfulness, and for making the most of each and every day here in Hockinson. I'm always so proud of how our Hawk and Hornet community cooperates to make good things happen!

As for the Middle School, we are planning to start next fall in the new building, but due to our challenging weather this winter, the facility could be partly incomplete. Our contractor is diligent, and we are hopeful. We will keep you posted!

Thank you to everyone for your consistent support of our schools, our students and our staff members.

*Sincerely,
Sandra Yager*

Greetings from the School Board

Dear Hockinson Community,

Excitement is in the air as we watch our new Middle School growing ever closer to a completed learning facility. This is a community project, and we are thankful for everyone's support.

As this newsletter goes to press, the Board is in the process of selecting a new member to fill the District 5 vacancy. Please stay tuned. We will have news shortly.

Another task the Board is working on is a survey. As you probably know, the Board responded to requests from an active community group and decided to ask voters whether they would support the installation of a synthetic turf field at the High School.

In February, we received our answer—"no"—but the district is left with a question: what to do now?

The HHS field has serious moisture issues and is useable for only 20-30 events per year. This means the district often needs to rent facilities for practices and games, and is unable to host community clubs and events. We need to find a solution.



The survey is online at www.hocksd.org. Please take a few moments to add your thoughts, so we can understand our community's concerns and desires.

Thank you all for your support of Hockinson's schools!

*Sincerely,
Greg Gospe,
Hockinson School Board*

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Hockinson Community Education has some great classes coming up, including our popular 5-6 Grade Girls Volleyball program, starting April 19.

Our summer camp lineup is rolling out, and current information is posted on our website. Keep checking back for updates.

Do you have a skill or passion you want to share with kids in the community? We are always looking for instructors to teach new classes. Contact us today!

Upcoming Spring Classes:

- LEGOs

- Mad Science
- Art Club—May
- Coding Class
- PeeWee Basketball

Upcoming Summer Camps:

- UK Soccer Camps
- Safe Sitter
- Kids for Kids
- Hawks Football Camp
- Basketball Camps
- Girls Volleyball Camp
- High School Girls Volleyball Camp
- Tennis Camp
- Spanish Camp
- Coding Camp

For more information on classes, teaching, facilities rentals or the after school care program, visit: www.hocksd.org/Community/Community_Education or call Janet Hawkins, Hockinson Community Education, 448-6480.

HHS Mock Trial introduces judicial system

Hockinson High School offers students the opportunity to try out many different activities—from traditional sports and music groups to special interests like the Equestrian Team and Robotics.

One of the school's newer offerings is Mock Trial Club, which recently wrapped up its second year.

"It's like you're running an actual trial," explains 11th-grader and second-year attorney Codi Fortier. "We're trying to fight for a side."

For Mock Trial, teams of 14 students—three attorneys and four witnesses for the defense and prosecution sides—received extensive instructions in October.

The Hockinson team spent months preparing for the Clark County event with a team of legal and acting coaches from the community. They learned how to be effective witnesses, write opening and closing statements, and research similar cases.

The Mock Trial event took place in February at the Clark County Courthouse and involved six three-hour-long trials. The HHS team took fourth place, and HHS senior Lauren Rath won best witness. Three other HHS team members were nominated for best witness, and four were nominated for best attorney.

Codi, who worked as the group's pre-trial specialist, said she enjoys looking for the faulty logic in arguments. But when asked why she went out for Mock Trial, it's pretty simple:

"When I know I have the right information, I just really like to argue with people," she says.

"That's why kids come to Mock Trial at first," observes adviser and social studies teacher Heidi Morris. "We bond in amazing ways. We become a little family that likes to argue."



Hockinson High School defense team members Lauren Rath, Sterling Higgins, Codi Fortier and Cole Vandermaas await their turn in court.

BOND CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



Wet weather adds challenge to new middle school build

Despite record-setting precipitation this winter, the new Hockinson Middle School is still on schedule to open for the first day of school, Sept. 6.

"The weather has hurt us," says Damon Roché, district capital projects manager, explaining that cold temperatures and wet conditions are no friend to tasks like pouring cement and grouting walls.

However, in the absence of other major challenges, Roché anticipates all but some of the specialty classrooms—such as art, band and STEM, and the gymnasium—will be ready first thing this fall.

HHS updates nearly complete

Meanwhile, the High School improvements are nearly complete. When the site dries out, workers will pave the parking lot, and grade and seed remaining landscaping.

The new band room and sports pavilion are in full use, and the additional facilities have opened up space in the school and eliminated the need for many off-site rentals. This is saving the tennis team alone \$2,500 in rental fees this season, says HHS assistant principal and athletic director Josh Johnson. Plus it appears to be inspiring more student interest.

"It's a lot easier for kids who don't drive to be on the tennis team now," Johnson says. "They can stay on campus and participate."

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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Superintendent

Sandra Yager
sandra.yager@hocksd.org

Board of Directors:

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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

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HHS artists take home regional art show awards

Congratulations to the Hockinson High School artists! Five received awards at the 2017 Southwest Washington Regional High School Art Show, including two Regional Award winners who will continue on to statewide competition in April.

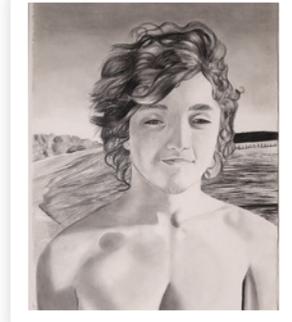
- Zoie Bryant, “B” (Shown top, far right)—Regional Award and \$3,000 Central Washington University Scholarship Award
- Juana Ladunskiy, “Best Friend Love” (Shown right)—Regional Award
- Corey Brooks, “Draco”—ESD 112 Award
- Kyle Brabec, “Chinese River Garden” (Shown bottom, far right)—Honorable Mention Award
- Ben Tilkin, “Tilk”—\$1,000 Central Washington University Scholarship Award

The art show was hosted by Educational Service District 112 and included 278 entries from high school students throughout the six-county Southwest Washington region. Twenty received Regional Awards.

We want to hear from you!



Please share your ideas about how to fix the HHS athletic field. A survey is online at: www.hocksd.org.



See more award-winning high school art at: www.hocksd.org.