



EDUCATION MATTERS

JUNE 2017

HHS grads share life lessons



Hockinson students are eager learners—both in the classroom and out. These three 2017 graduates took a few moments to share what they learned from sports, clubs and volunteering.

Jessie Lunceford



Next step: Study nursing at Gonzaga University

Goal: Become a trauma unit nurse

Jessie Lunceford's favorite high school experience involved coaching volleyball for community education.

"I love to watch kids begin, shy and unsure, and then see them grow and build confidence in the sport," she says.

Jessie recalls a little fifth grader who had a big goal: to get a serve over the net. Jessie gave her tips and drills at each practice. The girl also worked on serving at home.

In the final game of the season, it was her turn to serve, and Jessie watched as her student's serve finally went over the net. "It was the perfect serve," Jessie says, adding that it taught her an important lesson:

"Even if you have a setback, it's determination and perseverance that get you through in life."

Garrett Elgin



Next step: Join the U.S. Navy

Goal: Work in intelligence

It isn't surprising that Garrett Elgin wants to go into intelligence—he's always been a seeker of knowledge.

"I want to know," he says. "That's the drive I've always had."

One area Garrett explored while at HHS is robotics. The club, which included students from Camas and Washougal, introduced him to work like machining and software engineering. But his favorite part was gaining insight into the technology of robots.

"I wanted to see the direction the world is going," he explains.

Robotics also gave him a chance to meet the world. He and the team traveled to the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Texas and met people from Brazil, China, Israel, Mexico and Turkey.

Garrett says he learned three things from robotics:

- 1) "With enough time and effort, you can figure most things out." 2) "Don't underestimate rushing a project—you'll be surprised at what you can accomplish." 3) "People around the world are more alike than they are different."

Dana Robertson



Next step: Study marine biology at Oregon State University

Goal: Study marine mammals—or a career in criminal justice

A sad life event inspired Dana Robertson and her family to start fundraising, and it became a lifestyle.

When Dana was in middle school, her grandfather was fighting brain cancer. Wanting to help, her family began participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, an event that raises money for cancer research, prevention and education.

Dana's grandfather died when she was in eighth grade, but her family continued the Relay tradition. So far, their team, "Gray Matters," plus her mom's Jazzercise studio's Dance for a Cure, have raised nearly \$15,000.

Dana volunteers elsewhere as well. Through National Honor Society, she has planted trees, volunteered at a retirement home and helped at a food bank. Dana says:

"I learned that I make time for the things that I want to do. I learned that there's always time to help somebody else."



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

Our June 2016 newsletter featured the new Hockinson Middle School groundbreaking. Just 12 short months later, I am happy to report that our students will start the 2017-18 school year in a brand-new school.

Most likely we will still be working on part of the building as the school year begins—due to delays caused by this year's record-setting snow, rain and cold—but our contractor, Robinson Construction, and our staff have worked hard and shown great ingenuity to get the new HMS ready for this fall.

At the end of July, we will send letters to families of our incoming sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students to let them know what to expect on Sept. 6, so please stay tuned.

Also, our High School improvements—the new band room, fieldhouse, grandstand and fields—are complete, and the grounds are paved, ready for the new year.

We have talked a lot about our capital projects this year, but for most of our staff and students, the most important activities have taken place in our classrooms, rehearsal halls and sports facilities. During the 2016-17 school year, our staff has researched and selected new curricula for both math and K-12 English Language Arts; our students and staff have dived deeper into all sorts of subjects; and our teams—in the arts, sports and other pursuits—have played their hearts out.

As we embark on summer vacation, I want to take a moment to thank:

- Our staff for your dedication to each of our students, and for your creativity and flexibility in responding to our district's many projects.
- Our students for rolling with the unpredictable weather while channeling your energy into studies and extracurricular interests.
- Our community for your constant and generous support that makes what we do here in Hockinson possible.

Education is a community project. We do it together, and it matters.

Sincerely, Sandra Yager

New Middle School on home stretch



With the sunshine and drier weather, work on the new Hockinson Middle School is moving fast. "We're rocking and rolling now," says capital projects manager Damon Roché. "It's really pretty awesome."

On the first day of school, the new HMS will be ready to go with teaching pods, kitchen, cafeteria, administration offices, bus loop and student drop-off area complete. The rest of the facility will open a month or two later, including the art room, STEM classrooms, band room and gymnasiums.

Although the HMS project lost about 90 calendar days due to the weather, the project is still about a year ahead of its original schedule. Parts of the old HMS are scheduled for demolition in June 2017, and the field will be ready by spring of 2018. The track is already complete.



Community Education Opportunities



This summer, Community Education is offering fun camps and classes—from sports to ceramics, for students and adults! Check them out and sign up at www.hocksd.org/Community/Community_Education or call Janet Hawkins at 448-6480.

After School Adventures (ASA): We are accepting applications for our after school care program for 2017-18, serving HSD students in grades K-5. It runs Monday-Friday till 6 p.m. on school days.

Seeking instructors: Do you have a special hobby or area of knowledge? We are looking for instructors to teach new classes.

Facility use: We will begin accepting applications for school facilities rentals on Aug. 28.

Heroes abound at Hockinson Heights



Kaylin Oliver poses with District 3 firefighters Russell Franklin-Lyons and Drew Simpson, and Fire Chief Steve Wrightson after the awards ceremony

Hockinson Heights Elementary is fortunate to have plenty of heroes on hand.

District 3 Fire Chief Steve Wrightson recently honored three of them for their fast thinking in two separate incidences of students choking on food. Custodian Tucker Cendana and para educator Jessica Stecher received Life Saver Awards, and second grader Kaylin Oliver received a Good Samaritan Award.

“Our staff is always looking for ways to help our students, whether it’s teaching them or keeping them safe,” says principal Josh Robertson. “It’s exciting to see that caring attitude carrying over into the next generation—our students.”

Kaylin and her friend Makena Nelson were eating with classmates in the lunchroom May 5, when a friend’s face turned red, and he started grabbing his throat. Makena jumped up and down, calling for help, while Kaylin ran toward an aide.

“I ran as fast as I can to the aide, and said, ‘He’s choking,’” Kaylin recalls. “Then she ran even faster than me to where I pointed.”

Recess teacher Linda Bauer picked the student up and began the Heimlich maneuver. Cendana, who had been working nearby, rushed over to finish the rescue, dislodging the food. Kaylin says other students thought their friend just had heartburn. “She used her head, and

came over and got some help,” Bauer says.

In the other incident, which took place in March, one of Stecher’s students began choking while sitting next to her. She too employed the Heimlich maneuver. “That’s why we do all the trainings,” Robertson says. “This time it meant saving lives.”

HHES welcomes new assistant principal

Hockinson Heights Elementary will begin next school year with a new assistant principal. Meredith Gannon will join the staff July 1.

Gannon has taught at both the elementary and middle school level in the Battle Ground and Vancouver school districts, and is currently working as an instructional coach at Tukes Valley Primary School in Battle Ground. She says she is eager to take on a greater administrative role so she can make a bigger difference in the lives of more students.

“I’m really attracted to the fact that Hockinson is a community school,” she says, “and I’m excited to work side by side with families to support kids as they learn.”

Gannon is a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a national honor administered by the National Science Foundation. She also has received the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence and has worked as an author of Washington’s learning standards for Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Although entering an administrative role, Gannon plans to keep spending time in classrooms.

“I believe good principals are in classrooms every single day,” she says.

Gannon will fill the position of Chuck Sheron, who has served as assistant principal at HHES on a one-year contract.



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Class of 2017 Fun Facts



Our grads by the numbers*:

Graduating— **123**

Heading to college— **81**

Going straight to work— **4**

Playing collegiate-level sports next
year— **6**

Starting an apprenticeship— **2**

Entering the military— **3**

Going on a religious mission— **1**

Starting trade school— **2**

Other or not reported — **26**

Scholarship money received:

Offered = More than **\$3 million**

Accepted = **\$966,250**

Other facts:

14 percent of seniors earned the
State of Washington Honors Award

44 seniors are honor students
(cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)

15 seniors are members of the
National Honor Society

13 seniors are graduating with their
Associate of Arts degree



* Please note: Data comes from 97 of 123 graduating seniors.