



EDUCATION MATTERS

Nov. 2016

HMS students visit future school

Hockinson Middle School's STEM classes took a break from their own building projects to don hard hats and boots at the site of a much bigger undertaking: the building of a new Middle School.

"What better opportunity than to go out and experience the building of a school in your back yard," said science, technology, engineering and mathematics teacher Mark Muckerheide, whose classes work on everything from building gadgets to keep dropped eggs from breaking to robotics.

On the construction site, Robinson Construction Co. staff oriented students to the future school and answered questions, such as:

"How do you know what's going to go where?" (Answer: There's a big book where everything is listed, down to the lockers and desks.)

"Are we all going to have lockers?" (Answer: Yes. Response: "Cool!")

"Where's the band room going to be?" (Answer: Next to the STEM room, on the northeast corner of the building.)

"Are you going to blow up the old school?" (Answer: No, it will be used for administration, storage and other purposes.)

Construction is moving rapidly, with a revamped phasing plan that will have the school ready for use at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year—a semester earlier than planned.

Improvements on the High School, which include the new band room, sports pavilion and grandstand, are expected to be complete in November, and the new fields should be ready for baseball, softball and soccer in the spring.

Visiting with Robinson project engineer Ray Seeley, Jr., one STEM student exclaimed, "I want to write a big, humongous note that says, 'thank you!'"

Hockinson School District seconds that sentiment! We thank our community for your support of these projects, which are being completed with bond funding and state matches.



ABOVE: Hockinson Middle School students collect information about the new HMS construction site from Robinson Construction project manager Bryan Kenney.



ABOVE: Hockinson Middle School construction began early this summer, and this aerial photo of the site was taken in October.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

Hockinson is addressing current facilities needs and preparing for a strong future with projects on all three campuses. We are thankful for the generosity and foresight of you, our community members, who approved the bond and levy funding that has made this work possible.

Many of you have experienced the hospitality the High School can now offer with its new grandstand and sports pavilion, and our music students are being inspired by the new band room facilities.

At the Middle School construction site, underground utilities and footings are complete, most slabs have been poured, and the walls are rising. We are scheduled to move into the school in time to begin the 2017-18 school year—four months earlier than planned!

At the Elementary School, levy funding has enabled us to bring security up to date, including new fencing and security cameras that help ensure the safety of our youngest learners.

Although facilities have been a major focus this past year or so, it's what happens inside the classrooms and on the fields that matters most. I am proud to count Hockinson's creative, caring educators as my colleagues and never cease to be impressed by the accomplishments and efforts of our students.

Thank you all for the many ways you make this high-quality education possible here in Hockinson.

*Sincerely,
Sandra Yager*

Greetings from the School Board!

Our top priorities this year involve overseeing the implementation of our bond and levies in the building program for the Elementary School, High School and the new Middle School. This is an exciting time for the district, and we are very grateful to the citizens of Hockinson for investing in our students and teachers, and ensuring that we are able to maintain a high-quality, safe learning environment into the future.

Our Board, made up of five elected citizen-volunteers, oversees district policies and goals, and ensures the best use of our community's financial resources. I like to say that we don't run the school district, but we see that the school district is well run.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, which take place on Mondays twice a month, except November and December. Citizens with a concern or idea to share are allotted two minutes each to address the Board. However, we've found that it's often most expeditious to speak first with one of our Board members or, if it's a school-related issue, to start by contacting the school, because in many cases that is where the issue will be resolved.

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

Find the Board calendar, contact information and more at:

http://hocksd.org/district_information/school_board.



ABOVE: School Board Chair Greg Gospe

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Hockinson Community Education has some great classes this fall. Find these classes and more on our website: www.hocksd.org/Community/Community_Education

- Jazzercise (adults)
- Tiny Tigers (ages 5-8)
- Tae Kwon Do (ages 9-adult)
- Men's Basketball (adult men)
- Clark County Youth Wrestling (K-8th grade, boys and girls)
- Winter Break Basketball Camps

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 instructors to teach 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 five business days prior to use.

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

2016 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

ENROLLMENT*	ETHNICITY			
1,874	American Indian / Alaskan Native	0.4%	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
GENDER	Asian	2.3%	White	89.2%
Male 51.6%	Black / African American	0.7%	Two or More Races	2.7%
Female 48.4%	Hispanic	4.6%		

**Based on October 2015 student count*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Percent of Hockinson students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals (May 2016):	18.6

Our students are served by three campuses:	On-time graduation rate	We employ:			
Hockinson Heights Elementary School	2016 93.3%	Teachers 116			
Hockinson Middle School	2015 92.7%	Support staff 78			
Hockinson High School	2014 89.9%	District administrators 8			
		School administrators 5			
Average student:teacher ratios*					
Grades	Kindergarten	1 st – 3 rd	4 th – 5 th	6 th – 8 th	9 th – 12 th
Ratio	17:1	22:1	24:1	21:1	23:1

DISTRICT REPORT CARD



If you would like more information on our District and our accomplishments, visit the OSPI website at reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us. Select Hockinson in the summary search box. When you arrive at the HSD page, select 2015-16 for the most recent update.

2015-2016 student achievement data

The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) are state-mandated tests that measure student skills and abilities in English Language Arts/literacy (ELA), math and science.

The SBA ELA and math results show the percent of students who met state standards for their grade

The high school biology end-of-course (EOC) exam results show the percent of students who have met the state standards in biology by grade 10.



See 2015-2016 performance data on next page.

Want to learn more about testing in Washington state?

Here are a couple of websites that offer information about everything from why students are encouraged to take the test to how to interpret the results: testscoreguide.org/wa/about/ and www.readywa.org/smarter-balanced.html

Testing data offer insights

Scores from last spring's state-required assessments show Hockinson students making strong gains in many areas, with most grades improving at faster rates than the state as a whole.

Hockinson's grade 8 English Language Arts (ELA) students stand out for their progress meeting the state standards—increasing from 47 percent in 2015 to nearly 66 percent in 2016. (Statewide, about 60 percent met the ELA standard.)

Grade 11 students, however, continued to earn low scores on both the ELA and math portions of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). Assistant Superintendent Slade McSheehy was not surprised.

"We're not going to get reliable test results from SBA for another two years," he says.

The reason? Passing these tests is not yet a requirement for graduation.

2015-16 was the second year of testing with SBA, which is used across Washington and other states to evaluate whether students are meeting expectations in English and math learning.

The class of 2017—this year's seniors—must only pass the ELA portion of SBA to graduate, along with either the math end-of-course (EOC) exams or math SBA. Because many students had already passed the math EOC, they did not need to pass the math SBA last spring. McSheehy says many students logged into the test and did no more. Or didn't show up at all.

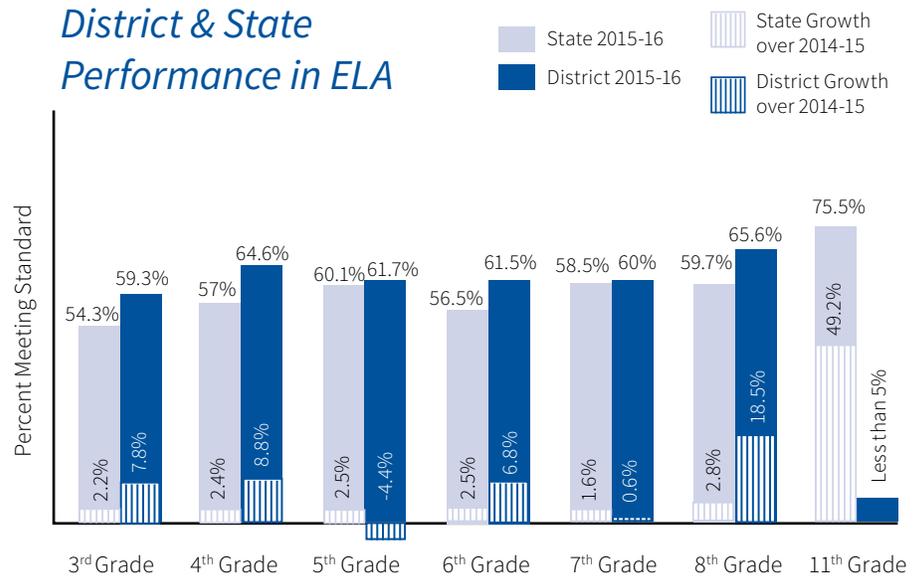
The stakes are higher for the class of 2019—which will need to meet standards on the SBA ELA and math tests, and the biology end-of-course (EOC) exam to receive a diploma. (Students with significant cognitive challenges take an alternate assessment called the WA-AIM.)

McSheehy's primary interest with the data is to identify groups of students who are not meeting state standards and finding ways to close those achievement gaps. The goal is to equip students with the knowledge and skills that will make them competitive when pursuing further schooling and careers.

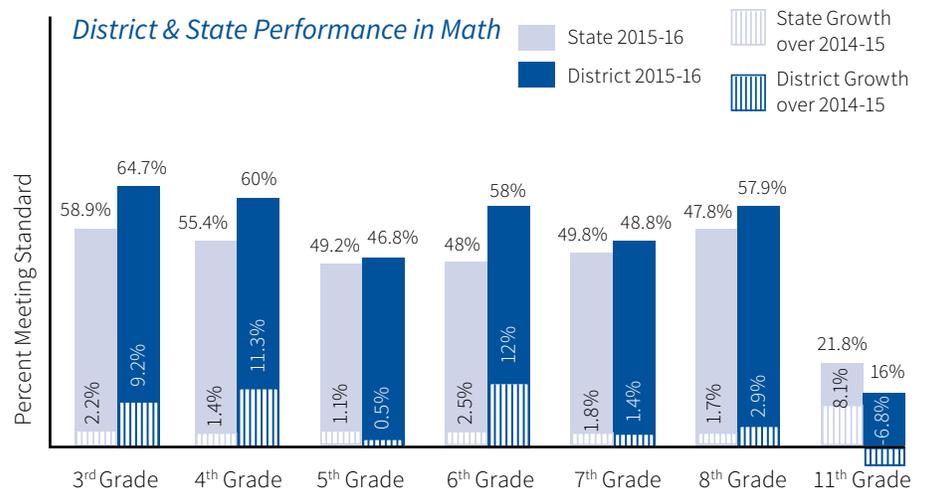
"I want to know what we're going to do now," he says.

NOTE: Test scores are only a starting point for discussions about the performance of students and schools. They do not necessarily predict students' futures and should be considered with other sources of information, such as student portfolios and conversations with teachers.

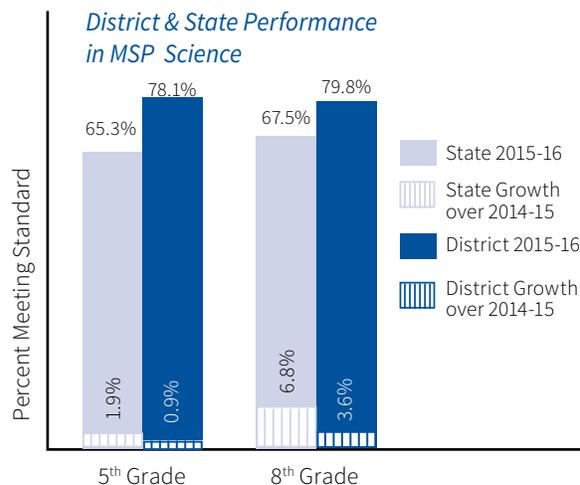
District & State Performance in ELA



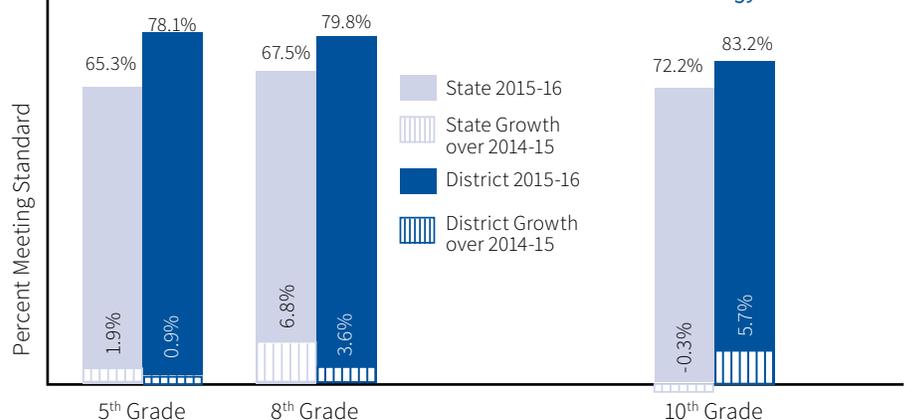
District & State Performance in Math



District & State Performance in MSP Science



District & State Performance in EOC Biology



Hawks coach introduces ‘Man Class’

Hockinson High School football coach Rick Steele is trying something new this year—he’s teaching an optional 45-minute “Man Class” every Wednesday before practice. HHS junior Colton Wheeler says the talks are bringing the team together and having a positive impact. “It’s preparing us to make the right decision and choose the right path,” Colton says.

We asked Coach Steele what it’s all about ...

Q: What is Man Class?

Rick Steele: It just started one day in practice. We were talking to the boys about how to shake hands, because high school kids can come across as not being confident. A good firm handshake and looking the person right in the eye—that shows confidence and leaves a good impression. Now every day at practice the kids all go around and shake hands with coaches before they leave.

We try to help these boys understand there’s more to life than school, and we’re trying to fill in some gaps with this class.

Q: What topics do you discuss?

RS: We’ve talked about how to control anger, how to leave good impressions with people, how to treat young women.

On a recent Wednesday, we talked about class progress reports coming out. I asked one of the boys who I’d had seen in the hallway with his girlfriend, “Grade your-

“Our job as coaches is to teach these young men more than football.”

self on how you treat your girlfriend.” He thought for a minute and said, “B minus.” I asked another kid how he grades himself with treating his parents and so on. No one gave themselves an A.

It’s a class they’ve never had before. It’s good to see these boys open up in front of each other.

Q: Is there a reason Man Class is important now?

RS: I just don’t think these conversations are happening with young men like they used to. I remember one day my son said he didn’t know how to change a tire. I thought, “Golly, how did that happen?” We get so busy these days, and we forget about little things that boys growing into men should



ABOVE: Rick Steele has been coaching the Hawks for 12 years. This autumn he began teaching “Man Class.”

know. I don’t want to make it sound like dads aren’t doing what they’re supposed to be doing, but if we can help out with that a little bit—that’s what we’re doing.

I’ve had parents come up and thank me, because these kids have been going home and talking about class with their parents. It’s nice to know we’re driving some discussions at home.

HHES unifies staff, students

With plenty of new faces—including its two top administrators—Hockinson Heights Elementary is focused on building community.

The moment students arrive, staff members are there to greet them. Often the greeters include Principal Josh Robertson, Assistant Principal Chuck Sheron and instructional coach Kristin McEnry.

“That first positive interaction helps students have a little bit better day,” Robertson observes. “Now they say ‘hi’ and give me high fives.”

Another way the school is building unity is by establishing a student council. A team of teachers is working to start the group, which will draw two student representatives from each classroom.

“My vision is to give students a voice and opportunities to lead and to make their school—our school—better,” Sheron says. “We’re going to build this together.”

Meanwhile, staff are collaborating in Professional Learning Committees focused on student learning.

“If we look at what students are learning by looking at data,” Robertson says, “we can use that to inform our teaching.”

Later, teachers will review fresh data to see what teaching strategies are working best.

As they settle into their new roles at HHES, Robertson says he and Sheron are doing a lot of listening.

“We’ve had a lot of parents coming to us,” he says. “We’ve taken advice from the community.”



ABOVE: Principal Josh Robertson and Assistant Principal Chuck Sheron prepare to welcome students to Hockinson Heights Elementary School.

Before they were Hornets ...

Principal Josh Robertson taught grades 1, 2, 3 and 5, and also served as a reading specialist at Image Elementary in Vancouver’s Evergreen School District.

Fun fact: He was a Hornet in grades 3 to 6!

Assistant Principal Chuck Sheron has worked as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal in both public and private schools in Washington and Oregon, and came from King’s Way Middle School in Vancouver.

Quote: “So far, the only surprise has been all the hugs from students. Our kids are great!”

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Lights, camera ... Hockinson!

Have you ever tried to explain to friends or family what makes Hockinson special? Our video playlist—"About Hockinson Schools"—might help.

You can find it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HockinsonSchools>. Feel free to share!



We're getting healthier!



It's a fact—healthier students are better learners. That's why Hockinson School District has put together a new team to make our schools a healthier environment for everyone. The District Wellness Committee will be planning ways to make eating

healthier and getting more exercise a fun and integral part of every school day.

Watch for updates at:

hocksd.org/district_information and on our Facebook and Twitter feeds!

Join the Citizens Advisory Committee



The Citizens Advisory Committee is seeking new members!

The CAC is a recommending body that was created to help facilitate communication between the School Board and district residents. It currently has 12 members and would like to increase its numbers by at least three.

CAC meetings are usually held the first Monday of the month, 6-8 p.m., in the Hockinson Middle School Library.

Learn more about the CAC and download an application at
<http://hocksd.org/community>