



From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Dear WSD Families,

As we near the end of May, I wanted to reach out and thank you for your patience, your understanding and your daily efforts to engage your child so they can continue their learning at home during the statewide closure of school facilities. I know that remote learning is difficult and has many shortcomings. It simply cannot compare to classroom-based learning. I am proud of our teachers, staff, families and students for working so hard to make the best of a challenging situation.

I realize that families are thinking ahead and wondering what the start of the 2020-21 school year will look like. We are involved with discussions happening at the state, regional and local school district level that include a range of possibilities and will follow state public health guidelines for the safety of our students, employees, and families. Along with all other state agencies, we have also been directed to make 15% budget reduction plans. These are very complicated times, and I will again ask for your patience as we sort through a variety of factors that will impact the start of our school year.

Our plans must be made in collaboration with our state and local school district leaders, and reflect the input we receive from staff and parents. Among the many details are transportation, social distancing protocols, classroom environments, residential services, personal protective equipment, meal services and cleaning and sanitizing procedures. We certainly don't have all of the answers, but we are examining a variety of options, some of which include a combination of alternating distance and in-person learning environments. We will share information as soon as we can.

Your responses to a tech survey on distance learning will guide us as we improve our remote learning lessons and expectations. We will refine our practices based on your comments and suggestions as we plan for next year. Teachers and staff will continue to receive training to help them understand how to better support their students. Please take a few minutes and take this short survey. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/5hu29Xxq4Ym9exVSA>

I am grateful to be working in a school, community and state that cares so deeply about our deaf children. I know you as parents share our desire to meet the academic and non-academic needs of all students, I am confident that we will overcome the challenges of the coming months and we will continue to be the B.E.S.T. choice to meet your child's academic needs

I will continue to provide updates about WSD as we learn more about the impacts on our school related to the pandemic and about our plans for summer and the 2020-2021 school year. Meanwhile, please stay safe and healthy.

Elementary Principal

April McArthur, ASL-English Bilingual Director & Elementary Principal

Dear Families,

I know that the last 3 months have been challenging, to say the least. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our families and staff members for all of your hard work navigating through the challenges of supporting our students through remote learning. It was not easy, but I am proud of how everyone worked tirelessly to try to figure out how to keep learning going and stay connected. It is your spirit, perseverance and creativity that inspires me and makes me proud to be a WSD Terrier! As we wrap up the school year, one for the history books for sure, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s) or me if you'd like some suggestions or ideas for the summer to continue supporting your child's language and academic growth. Stay healthy and safe.

Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

“While we have missed many important events due to COVID-19 we are still thinking of our seniors who will be graduating June 4th 2020.”

It is hard to believe that it is almost the end of the school year—as a reminder, the last day is June 19th. First, I want to thank staff, students, and parents for doing an amazing job of responding to the current COVID-19 situation. Since our school was closed back in March, we have changed our way of teaching students through virtual teaching. It has been a challenge but with your help it made it easier for us to teach students. While we have missed many important events due to COVID-19 we are still thinking of our seniors who will be graduating June 4th 2020. Regardless, of over two months of not being at school, we celebrate the seniors for the hard work and perseverance they have demonstrated.

We do not exactly know what this coming 2020-2021 school year will look like in the fall. We are expecting to hear more about it soon. Once we know more, you will be getting information from us through email/letter.

Congratulations WSD Class of 2020!



Student Life Department

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

Hello from the Student Life Department!

It has been challenging since WSD sent the students home on March 13th. Most of us didn't realize that we would be not seeing each other until the fall or that we were seeing each other for the last time for a long time. Our hearts are with the Senior class of 2020 and we are hoping we can still have some kind of send-off in person.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the parents, the students, and the staff in all the departments for figuring out how to make all of this work. We are all in the same storm but on different boats. I do not think it is easy on anyone and the challenges we are facing are hopefully unique by being a one time event in our lifetimes. Please be safe and follow your local county guidelines during these COVID days. Enjoy the summer break!

Secondary School Student of the Month

J.Piper Gallucci, PBIS Coordinator and Teacher

School is not physically in session, but teachers and students are still engaged through distance education. Students continue to put in effort and time to their learning. As such, we wanted to recognize those students who go above and beyond expectations during WSD distance school.

Library News!

Ginger Speranza, Librarian



As the school year comes to a close we have a lot of questions about returning items. Please keep all books, iPads, charger bricks and cords until fall. Keep them safe and keep reading!

WaCAD: Post High School Program

Washington Career Academy for the Deaf (WaCAD) serves young deaf adults, ages 18 through 22, who have graduated from high school or hold a GED. WaCAD is not an IEP-related program. The program provides training and instruction related to employment readiness skills, work-based experience, independent living skills, and college support.

How to Apply?

Visit the Washington Career Academy for the Deaf web page at www.wsd.wa.gov to print an application. Send completed application form along with a \$25 non-refundable application/processing fee to WSD- 611 Grand Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661. There is no application deadline. We are currently receiving applications now until vacancies are filled. WaCAD Fall opening date is on September 20, 2020.

For questions and application, contact:

Shauna Bilyeu; Superintendent

Email: shauna.bilyeu@cdhy.wa.gov

Toni Stromberg; Program Coordinator

Email: toni.stromberg@cdhy.wa.gov

Student of the Month

3 R Superstar
Iran Sanchez

Momentous Motivation
Briyana Moore
Micaela Medina

Inspiring Improvement
Coeya Fine
Sierra Jones

Super Supportive
Deborah Dennis
Jace Lewandowski
Chyann Wisdom

Astounding Attending
Julian Robinson
Micaela Medina
Mukshina Nabieva

Positively Prepared
Iran Sanchez
Enrique Jose
Julian Robinson



Washington Hands & Voices is honoring 2020 Deaf & Hard of Hearing high school graduates with a raffle to win \$100.

What do you need to do?

Send your favorite senior picture and answer 3 questions to info@wahandsandvoices.org by June 12 @ 5pm

What high school did you attend?
What are your plans for next year?
What was your favorite thing about high school?

You will be featured on WA Hands & Voices Facebook page and entered in \$100 raffle.

Winner will be announced
June 22, 2020

Congratulations Class of 2020!
We are proud of you!

Check us out on Social media:

Twitter:

@cdhy_wa (www.twitter.com/cdhy_wa)

Instagram:

@cdhy.wa (www.instagram.com/cdhy.wa)

Outreach Team

National Theater of the Deaf

The National Theater of the Deaf (NTD) will host its fifth Theatre Immersion Program (TIP) for Deaf and hard of hearing High School students from June 15 through July 25. Originally scheduled to take place in-person, TIP was moved online due to the coronavirus crisis.

The NTD TIP Program will feature expert Deaf theatre professionals who will provide lessons on: comedic acting, dramatic acting, ASL songs, dance, improvisation, ASL translation, auditioning, marketing yourself, playwriting, technical theatre, make-up and more.

Please share the attached flyer with your high school students (including incoming freshmen and graduating seniors). Students, their parents and teachers can learn more about the TIP program and register at: <https://ntd.org/2020-theatre-immersion-program/>

If you have any questions about the TIP program, please direct correspondence to Brian Cheslik at bcheslik@ntd.org.



Check out
Washington School for the
Deaf's FaceBook Page!