



From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Dear Terrier Families,

Welcome to perhaps the strangest school year ever! We are off and running with a few hiccups, but we are working hard to ensure that all families and students are connected. Thank you for your patience as we get technology squared away. All students should have WSD issued iPads and for those with connectivity issues, a hotspot. If you are experiencing technological issues, you can email our technology team directly at: parenttechsupport@cdhl.wa.gov. We also have a tech support page on our website. Go to: Resources-Student and Family Resources-Tech Support

Since we send emails with school information and updates through Skyward, it is important that we have your preferred contact method. Please contact David Martin (for grades 7-12) or Jackie Valadao (for preschool-6th grade) with any contact information changes. David can be reached at 360-334-5775(VP) and Jackie at: 360-334-5449(VP).

Clark County continues to bounce back and forth between the moderate to high-risk categories for opening schools. Our school has further complicating factors in that we serve students from all over the state. Transporting students in and out of Clark County on a weekly basis remains problematic due to different counties being in different phases. Our school will remain virtual through at least Oct. 30. Depending on the status of Clark County and discussions with the Department of Health, we may make the decision to extend that. We will share information with families as we have it.

Our campus will be going through a major change in 2021. If all goes as planned, we will demolish four buildings that run down the center of our campus: Epperson, the Red Barn, the old boiler plant and the old cafeteria. These buildings have long been closed and at least one is deemed hazardous, as it is not earthquake-safe. We will begin the pre-demolishment work in October and hope to have all abatement and mitigation done by spring of 2021. The demolition of these buildings will make our campus safer and provide space for a new academic building in the future.

I hope all of our families are staying safe. The staff and I miss seeing our students in person. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns.



HotSpot

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Elementary Principal

April McArthur, ASL-English Bilingual Director & Elementary Principal

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful seeing our students and staff back in school again. I know that it has not been ideal to start school remotely and we look forward to being able to return to school in person when it is safe to do so. Some friendly reminders:

- While school may be Monday through Thursday from 8am to 3pm, our teachers have carefully designed their schedules to provide a balance of synchronous (face to face) and asynchronous (i.e. independent work) activities so that your child does not become overwhelmed online with Zoom. Please contact us if you have feedback or concerns.
- Be sure to like our WSD Facebook page if you are on Facebook. Look for "Washington School for the Deaf" with our Terrier symbol. We often share exciting announcements and videos on our FB page. For example, we posted several neat videos about Deaf Awareness Week (DAW) during the week of Sept. 21-25.
- Please make sure we have your current address, phone number and emergency contact information. If you moved recently, don't forget to email your new address to Jackie at jackie.valadao@cdhy.wa.gov

We have mailed home our Elementary Quick Guide handout for your convenience. This handout has staff names, contact information, school expectations and our calendar for the year. Please let us know if you have not received your copy and we will mail it to you. You are important partners to us in your child's education. Together, we will persevere and be TERRIER STRONG!

Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

Dear Families/Guardians: A few weeks ago when school started, I was thrilled to see staff and students through zoom. I could see everyone was ready to start school but wished to be on campus. Speaking of students not being on campus, teachers have continued to prepare for classes through zoom and Google classroom.

You should have your child's class schedule which we mailed it out August. Instead of having 6 zoom classes daily we have 3 periods through zoom and 3 periods through google classroom to avoid students becoming overwhelmed with watching zoom all day.

When and if students are missing classes or not completing assignments, teachers will be contacting you to let you know and check on your child. If you happen to change your address or telephone number please let David Martin know at David.Martin@cdhl.wa.gov.

If your child is struggling with using their IPad due to technology issues please contact the Technology department by using this email address ParentTechSupport@cdhl.wa.gov.

We are committed to helping your child have access to education.

If you have any question or concerns you can always contact me at Jason.Cox@cdhl.wa.gov

Library News!

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

Hello from the Library! I hope you are thriving and surviving during these crazy times. I have spent the start of the school year supporting staff and students with technology. If you are in need of help please reach out to us through our parenttechsupport@cdhy.wa.gov or you can email me directly at ginger.speranza@wsd.wa.gov and I will make sure we get you the tech support you need.

Reading options on your iPad



Epic app is a digital reading platform that has loads of books to choose from.



Reading A-Z has thousands of leveled readers that your teacher can assign to you.



Libby app connects you to the Fort Vancouver library where you have free public library books. If you are having trouble connecting please let me know.

Sports

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

We have started our Fall virtual session of after-school activities (VASP) and it's not too late to sign-up!

Fall virtual after-school activities started on Tuesday, September 8 and go through Thursday, October 29. Virtual activities take place after school from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

VASP activities are led by Residential Staff in a zoom setting. You or your child can contact their Residential Staff/Point Person to answer questions and assist with signing up.

Sports update as we navigate through these times and the uncertainty of when we will be returning to school and starting sports. Through the guidance of the State of Washington and WIAA (Washington Interscholastic Athletics Association) we are hoping to resume sports in January and will be providing updates as we move closer to that time. Basketball season is currently scheduled to start the beginning of January, Football and Volleyball seasons starting the end of February/beginning of March and Track season starting the end of April/beginning of May. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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PBIS: Changes in Approach

J.Piper Gallucci, Teacher & MTSS Coordinator

The Washington School for the Deaf adopted the Positive Behavior Supports (PBIS) in 2011. PBIS provides a framework for school-wide expectations and instructional approaches to support student academic and social success. In order to better support our students' diverse needs WSD integrated a variety of supports. This multi-tiered approach is referred to as the Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework.

The PBIS committee formally adopted the Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework and the committee is now called the MTSS Committee. Our district's MTSS framework includes: PBIS, Love and Logic, Trauma Informed Response, Anti-bias education, and Bully Prevention.

In other news, WSD actively recognizes student success in a variety of ways from immediate recognition during class to our monthly Student of the Month assembly. Our format has changed to Virtual Student of the Month, but highlighting and recognizing student social and academic successes will continue. Student names will be posted in the newsletter and a video recognition presentation will be posted on the WSD Facebook page.



Check out
Washington School for
the Deaf's Facebook

Residential Department

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

Greetings Terrier Nation from the Student Life Department!

We can all agree that the year 2020 is like no other and we have found ourselves at the start of the school year with remote learning for our students with our staff.

The residential department at WSD is still running with “Virtual Cottages” in place and our Student Life Counselors (SLCs) are geared up to help promote well being of our Terrier students. The SLCs are working with the academic department to help ensure we provide our students the best path to navigate the way ahead to the future.

What we can offer is support to the parents/guardians in various ways while also being there for our students to help/support in any way possible.

We do offer a Virtual After School Program (VASP), cottage meeting/social time, study hour(s), Virtual Independent Living Skills (VILS), and hopefully soon a campus wide social night on a weekly basis.

Our Virtual After School Program runs Monday through Friday from 4 PM to 5:30 PM. VASP offers such activities such as but not limited to exercising, art, cooking for various age groups, story time and even fishing!

Each cottage has SLCs ready to help out with students. The cottages have regular meetings with the students who are assigned to them (both residential and day students), have nightly study hours starting at 6:30 pm, and some cottages have more study time set aside to meet the needs of our students. SLCs are available as resources for the parents/guardians to gather information and also can help tutor our students on a 1 to 1 basis. Please feel free have some face to face time with the SLCs through Video Phones or Zoom.

We also offer the Virtual Independent Living Skills to our Junior and Senior classes every Monday night at 6:30 PM. VILS is a way for our students to engage in learning skills they need to know beyond high school. Such as how to apply for college/trade schools, look for a job, how to rent an apartment or buy a car. The most recent VILS had a guest speaker from our local Deaf advocate center explaining what the regional centers can offer for the Deaf community. It was an opportunity for our students to engage in conversation and discuss the range of services that can be provided. Our other meeting we had was educational for both students and staff alike as we discussed the Air Quality Index. The students were even showing each other and staff different APS on our phones on how to gauge our most recent smoke filled skies. VILS is not a lecture type of class but instead engages our students to put forth ideas and glean some knowledge from those with experience. I am looking forward to seeing what our VILS dinner nights will look like. Be prepared! Your own kitchen will be used by your aspiring chef!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for anything that the Student Life Department can do for you or your WSD student. I'd be happy to help or direct you in any way possible. I can be reached at rick.whitney@cdhy.wa.gov. Keep safe! Stay healthy!



SCHOOL VACCINE REQUIREMENTS



SCHOOL VACCINE REQUIREMENTS Distance Learning during COVID-19



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Department of Health and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction feel strongly about the importance of keeping our students, staff, and their families safe and healthy. We understand that during these extraordinary times, there may be questions and concerns about school immunization requirements as we begin this unique school year. This document clarifies state law and our recommendations about immunization requirements and exclusion of students.

For the 2020–21 School Year and K–12 Programs Only

- In light of the pandemic, if a student cannot meet the immunization requirements by the first day of school and a student is fully participating in remote learning, we are not recommending that the school exclude that student from school. The student should be immediately enrolled and served remotely.
- Students should be in compliance when they are back on campus for any reason, including small group learning or extracurricular activities.
- If the student's learning program is at school or only partially remote and the student is not in compliance with immunization requirements, they should be enrolled but excluded from physically attending school.
- As required by current state and federal law, any student experiencing homelessness or living in foster care must immediately be enrolled and served, regardless of their immunization status or educational setting.
- Schools should continue to work with the families to bring students into compliance as soon as possible.

Background Information

State laws and rules require compliance with immunization requirements on or before the first day of attendance at school. The purpose of the state immunization requirement is to protect the health of the public and individuals against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. Schools should continue to work to ensure compliance with immunization requirements in state law no matter the student's learning location. This means if a child participates in a school program, regardless of their location including online or remote learning, they must meet school immunization requirements per RCW [28A.210.080](#).

The Department of Health has communicated with health care providers about the importance of continuing routine immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many providers have been actively working to get kids caught up on vaccinations. If families don't have a family doctor or nurse, they can find a location that provides childhood immunizations by using the [Vaccine Finder](#) or by calling their [local health department](#).

Suggested Messages for Parents and Families

- It is important to keep students up to date on their immunizations. Students who are behind on required immunizations will need to be in compliance before scheduled in-person learning begins.
- Keeping students vaccinated will protect more than just the student. It also protects friends, family, and the community from disease outbreaks, such as measles. We've seen multiple disease outbreaks throughout the state in the past few years, and we don't want to experience another, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Getting a student in to a health care provider is about more than vaccinations. Well child visits ensure students get continued medical check-ups. These visits ensure the student is healthy and prepared to learn.

Thank you for your continued hard work during this challenging time. Keeping students immunized during the COVID-19 pandemic will reduce the risk for other disease outbreaks, which would further strain the return to in-person learning and the entire community and health care system. Thank you for helping us keep our communities safe and healthy.

Questions: Email oi cpschools@doh.wa.gov

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov. DOH 348-762 August 2020

MAP Testing

Shannon Graham, Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator

This is the time of year we start planning for our fall district-level testing for grades 2 and up to monitor academic progress in reading, language use, math, and science. We use Measures of Academic Progress (MAP): <http://www.nwea.org>.

MAP is a computer adaptive test, which means the difficulty of questions is based on how well your child answers all of the previous questions. As your child answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If your child answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. Ideally your child will answer around half of the items correctly. The score is an estimate of your child's achievement level. These scores are also compared with previous scores at your child's performance levels to determine progress.

Even though MAP is an English-based assessment designed for hearing, mono-lingual students with access to incidental learning opportunities, this is the best tool to date that is accessible, aligns with state standards, and can be used to communicate academic achievement and progress considering your child's current performance levels. This is important to consider when interpreting results. MAP has been adopted and vouched for by many deaf and hard of hearing programs across the country.

Fall MAP testing will begin mid-October and will be administered through Zoom.

While testing can be a stressful time for your child, it will most certainly be challenging to do this remotely. We will need your help to make sure your child is successful. Here are some tips to support your child:

1. Review

- Family toolkit
- Family guide to MAP growth
- Common and remote testing questions

2. Check

- Make sure your child's device is ready for testing

3. Get organized

- Find a quiet space for your student to take the test and confirm your technology is working properly.

4. Motivate your child

- Explain how doing their best will help their teachers know how to teach them better.

5. Support but DO NOT help

- Encourage your child to stay focused and try their best

6. Celebrate

- Congratulate your child and confirm they have completed the assessment.

More information will come soon through your child's teachers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teachers.



Greetings from the CDHY Outreach Team!

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering American Sign Language (ASL) classes online, open to anyone in the state that wants to attend! Shawn Broderick, ASL Specialist, will be teaching ASL via Zoom, with a different focus each week. This is a no stress, easy way to learn ASL. We would love to have families, students, and anyone else who is interested participate. The exact start date has not been finalized, but classes will begin sometime in October. Details will be posted on our CDHY website calendar page. Please join us!

Taking Family Fun Nights Online

In recent years, several school districts around the state have collaborated with CDHY and Washington Hands & Voices to provide Deaf Family Nights for their local families. Given this very unusual school year with COVID Safe Start, Family Fun Nights will be online via Zoom. Thursday, September 24, was the first statewide online Family Fun Night - during Deaf Awareness Week (DAW). There were over 50 people in attendance, including families from all over Washington, as well as a few professionals. Trix Bruce was the special guest for ASL Storytime. Patricia "Trix" Bruce, who is Deaf, delightful and dynamic, is an extraordinary performing artist with a spirited audience-participation entertainment style. She captivated the audience's attention wonderfully with her ASL storytelling of Too Hot to Hug by Steve Smallman. Trix reserved time at the end to take questions from the audience.

The next Family Fun Night is Thursday, October 29 at 6pm - with a Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Keep your eyes peeled for flyers with more information on CDHY and WA Hands & Voices Facebook pages as well as the CDHY website calendar. We hope to see you there!