

TerrierTimes

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Executive Director, Interim Superintendent

Welcome Back Terrier Families!

WSD classes are in full swing, and the campus is buzzing with lots of busy students and staff. Change always comes with the beginning of the school year. New students and staff are adjusting to our school; there are different teachers teaching different classes, perhaps there are some schedule changes for your child, the list goes on. Even the campus is undergoing some change, although it may be slightly less noticeable than last year with the new school building and gym.

We are on track to begin renovations to one of our older buildings on the southeastern edge of campus, Northrop Elementary, in the beginning of October. Northrop is on the National Historic Register, so there are certain characteristic defining features that must remain the same, however significant updates to the interior and mechanical systems will occur.

Northrop will eventually become an Early Learning and Parent Resource Center for birth to age 4 deaf and hard of hearing children and their families, plus house the WSD Alumni Museum on the second floor. Renovations will occur over the course of this next year. We hope to move everyone back next fall. Currently, audiology services, OT/PT, and preschool classes are temporarily housed in different locations on campus.

Other campus updates include new carpet and furniture for our cottages! This is the first time they have received updates since they were built in 1999! We are grateful for these upgrades!

If you haven't been to Divine Academic in a while, you may not have seen the new art installation. The very last thing to be complete in the new school building was a series of three glass sculptures that portray messages of pride and empowerment for our students. They hang in the lobby of Terrier Hall and are beautiful. Come see them! We plan to have a dedication ceremony during Deaf Awareness Week.

Last, but not least, the middle and high school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) lab in Kastel Cafeteria is finished! This state-of-the-art room will house our computer applications classes, robotics, Esports, 3D printers and more. Classes are already happening in this space. Ask your child if they have a class there!

As always, please make sure we have your most current contact information. There are several important events coming up soon, we will send reminders through Parent Square but see dates in this newsletter as well. Enjoy the fall!

WSD's Website www.wsd.wa.gov



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Residential Department

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

We do have a couple of new tidbits to share about the residential department or otherwise known as the Student Life Department.

First of all, we have a new graveyard Dean joining us this year. Heidi Redford will be taking on her new role this year. She is the new Graveyard Dean after our last one retired last spring. Please join me in welcoming Heidi to her new position!

Secondly, the cottages have new furniture for the first time since 1999! We have replaced the couches, chairs, tables, coffee tables and added a bean bag for each cottage. The old furniture stayed with us for 26 years! I wonder how long the new furniture will last and hopefully I will be retired for a while before another announcement like this happens.

Parents/guardians of our cottage students please refer to your parent letters on the best ways to contact your child's Student Life Counselors (SLCs) and please direct any questions regarding transportation needs to our Administrative Assistant Residential/Transportation, Sharon Caton, for the Student Life Department.

If you have any questions about our sports program or after-school activities please do contact our Athletic Director/After School Coordinator, Ron Spratlen, and he will be happy to help.

All of the students in the cottages have the opportunity to attend social nights during the week at Clarke Hall in the basement. The social room has a variety of pool tables, air hockey and other games for our students to use. We also have a snack bar located there where they may purchase drinks and snacks if they wish. We also do show movies on occasion for all students with a loud sound system that is always popular.

All juniors and seniors in the cottages are part of the Independent Living Skills program. They attend classes on Monday evenings that cover a range of subjects to help them beyond school. They will also be planning to a dinner meal once a month for their cottage families. ILS students also get to enjoy new movie nights on Wednesdays at the Clarke Hall basement. Day students are welcome to join the program and should contact our ILS/WaCAD Program Supervisor, Toni Stromberg, about enrolling.

We have two Student Life Deans that oversee the SLCs outside of school hours. Carey Price works in the afternoons and evening times. As mentioned earlier, Heidi takes over at midnight and is on campus until the students are back into school.

All of our contacts is on our web site, www.wsd.wa.gov, under the staff directory. I am looking forward to the new buildings that are soon coming our way and all the memories that we will make this year.

Calendar:

Sept 22-26 Deaf Awareness Week

Oct 6 Picture Day

Oct 6-10 College Week

Oct 13-17 Book Fair

Oct 17 Homecoming Break

Oct 20-24 Spirit Week

Oct 23 Homecoming

Oct 23 Early Release

DAW LIVE STREAMING

Next week is Deaf Awareness Week! We will have a Kick-Off Assembly on Monday, September 22nd at 8:30 am. If you would like to check it out, here is the live streaming link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Sr2PTDBPdvo>

We have a special guest coming on September 24th, Justin Perez, who is a well-known Deaf Storyteller. He will be providing workshops to our students. We are excited to have him here!

Save the Date
Homecoming Dance
October 23!

Sports

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director/After School Program

Welcome back for the 2025/26 School Year, we are excited to have the students back on campus and look forward to a great school year!

High School Volleyball, Football, Cross Country and Elementary Soccer sports seasons have started. Please see our WSD webpage for our varsity sports schedules.

Our Homecoming Football game this year will be Saturday, October 18 against Iowa School for the Deaf, kick-off will be at 1:00pm, admission is \$5.00 per person. Come out and support our Terrier Teams!

ASP (After School Program) Fall session has started with activities happening on Monday's and Wednesday's, concluding on Wednesday, October 29. If you have any questions, please let me know.

First Day of School ICE CREAM SOCIAL





ALL FOR LUNCH

LUNCH FOR ALL



Scan the QR code to donate today!



Help Keep Washington School for the Deaf Lunch Debt Free!

100% of your tax-deductible donation will go directly towards eliminating school lunch debt and ensuring every child at Washington School for the Deaf has access to the meals they need to thrive in school. Together we can make a difference.

All for Lunch and Lunch for All!

For more information, contact:
sara.gallagher@cdhl.wa.gov

www.allforlunch.org/WSD

Help Keep Washington School for the Deaf Lunch Debt Free! Join us in making a difference in the lives of our students by contributing to our All for Lunch, Lunch for All Fundraiser. Every dollar raised helps ensure that no child faces the stigma of unpaid lunch balances. Together, we can give every student the chance to focus on learning — not lunch debt. Donate today and help feed the future!



Acamedics

J.Piper Gallucci, Assitant Principal

Welcome back to a new school year! We are thrilled to see our students return to campus, full of energy and ready to learn. As we begin this new chapter together, we remain committed to helping each child grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our school introduced the values of being respectful, responsible, and safe—guiding principles that support student success both in and out of the classroom. We encourage you to reinforce these values at home, and together we can build a strong collaborative relationship between home and school.

We also look forward to the many events that make our school community so special. From Deaf Awareness Week to Homecoming to our fun Friday tradition of “being a cow,” there will be many opportunities to celebrate, connect, and build school pride. These activities not only bring joy and excitement, but they also reinforce the importance of belonging and community for our students. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust—we are excited for all the wonderful things this school year has in store!



The Epaulette Sharks
are this week's
Class of the Week (COW)
Congratulations to all!



College Week!

Teresa Stotler-Martin, Career/Transition Services Coordinator

College week will be happening be week of Oct. 6th - 10th.

Each day, a different college, that have strong ties for deaf students, will be presenting either in person or via zoom. Each day will be livestreamed. Links will be shared soon on Parent Square. Prior to college week, students will sit in a presentation with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. This agency provides post-secondary support. DVR's goal is mainly related to employment. If college is needed or special training is needed, DVR could provide some financial support. If your child needs help seeking employment, DVR can help. This session will occur on September 30th. Again, this will be livestreamed. Links will be provided via Parent Square. Students in grades 9 - 12th will be participating. Parents are encouraged to join in.

Tuesday, Sept. 30th -Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Monday, Oct. 6th -Gallaudet University (Gally)-Washington, D.C.
(in person)

Tuesday, Oct. 7th -California State University, Northridge (CSUN)
(zoom)

Wednesday, Oct. 8th -Southwest College for the Deaf (SWCD)
Big Springs,Texas (zoom)

Thursday, Oct. 9th -Clark College (Vancouver, WA) (in person)

Friday, Oct. 10th - National Technical Institute for the Deaf under
Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID/RIT) Rochester, NY(in person)

If you need more information about DVR services, colleges or future plans, feel free to contact Teresa Stotler-Martin, Career/Transition Services Coordinator at teresa.stotler@cdhl.wa.gov

GIVE MORE 24!
A GREATER VANCOUVER CHAMBER PROGRAM

IT'S ALMOST HERE!
 Support us on September 25th

STANDING TERRIER STRONG

Deaf Education Advocates Foundation is raising funds to support student learning at the Washington School for the Deaf!

- Provide supplies and equipment for students
- Help ensure students have nutritional support
- Connect students to local and regional services
- Help make sure every student feels safe, supported and ready to learn



Join us in supporting WSD students!

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.givemore24.org/organization/Wsddeaf>