



KSD family CONNECTION

September 14, 2021

Dear KSD Community,

Welcome to our new monthly communication, KSD Family Connection. On the second Tuesday of each month we'll send a themed email with:

- Relevant and timely information based on the month's theme
- A health and safety section
- A brief spotlight on one of our district programs, clubs, services, etc.

Our hope is that you enjoy these emails while getting to see some of the great things happening inside Kelso School District.



this month

In addition to welcoming our students back to school, in September we honor [National Suicide Prevention Month](#). If ever there was a time to focus on our personal and collective wellness, it's now. Your health and happiness not only matters, it is vitally important to you and all those who care about you. If you or someone you know needs support, you can find resources on our website at bit.ly/ksd-mh. You could [#BeThe1To](#) help save a life.

September is also host to:

- [National Family Meals Month](#) - underscore the benefits of family meals and how they can improve your family's health and happiness
- [National Self-Care Awareness Month](#) - paying attention to you, your body and your emotions
- [International Literacy Day](#) – acknowledging the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies



The health and safety of our students and staff is always a top priority. We continue to work closely with state and local health authorities, such as Washington Department of Health (WDOH) and Cowlitz County Health & Human Services department (CCHHS) to ensure our mitigation strategies are strong and effective.

From the [September 8 CCHHS report](#):

- Weekly new case counts saw a thirteen-fold increase between early July and mid-August and appear to be holding steady at all-time highs.
- Cowlitz County saw an average of 10 residents hospitalized for COVID-19 each day from August 23-29.
- Cowlitz County has seen an average of at least one resident dying from COVID-19 each day in August.

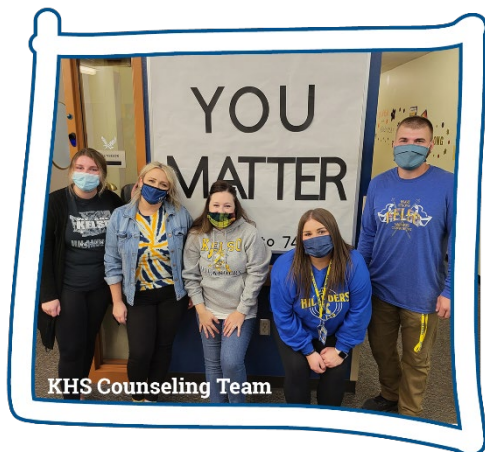
COVID-19 links and resources:

- WDOH [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements](#)
- CCHHS [COVID-19 Reports & Presentations](#)
- CCHHS [Student Screening Flow Chart](#)
- CCHHS [Staff Screening Flow Chart](#)
- Kelso School District [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



In the Kelso School District, mental and emotional well-being is as important to us as physical wellbeing. Over the last 18 months, the need for social and emotional supports has only increased. To better support the needs of our students, we have added the equivalent of four full-time counselors to our district staff this year. To support our students and families, we are also adding a full-time Social Work "Whole Child" Navigator to our team.

Kelso School District Counseling Team



Elementary Schools

- Carrolls and Rose Valley share one full-time counselor (Tailor Martelli)
- Barnes, Butler Acres, and Wallace each have one full-time counselor (Rebecca Viscuso, Sarah Marlow, and Lavern Dollarhyde)
- Lexington has two full-time counselors (Erin Sasser and Cami Rothwell)

Middle Schools

- Coweeman and Huntington each have two counselors (Emily Allred, Rachel Leinweber and Christina Zepeda and Zoe Dieter)

High School

- KVA & Loowit share one full-time counselor (Yenni Woodall)
- Kelso High has five full-time counselors (Angie Knowles, Justin Sitch, Megan Elam, Kali Dalton and Kylie Chapman)
- Kelso High has one full-time Substance Use Disorder Professional (Ken Davis)

District

- District-wide, we have one full-time Family Support Specialist / Homeless Liaison (Nancy Baldwin)



celebrations & accolades

Congratulations, Nancy Baldwin!



I am thrilled, honored, and overjoyed to share with you that our very own Nancy Baldwin was awarded the [Washington State Classified Employee of the Year](#) by OSPI.

Nancy's heart-centered work as Family Support Specialist / Homeless Liaison is critical for our families; of which, over 10% are or have been homeless. She is so very deserving of this great honor. Her compassion and dedication has been a gift to Kelso School District for 15 years and we are deeply thankful for her student-centered service.



As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
Kelso School District

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