



KSD family CONNECTION

November 9, 2021

Dear KSD Community,

This is our twice monthly communication, KSD Family Connection. Each edition includes:

- 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.



this month

There is so much to be grateful for. Always. In November, we focus our gratitude on the men and women who serve our country. Not only do we vote on the first Tuesday of every November, choosing those who will be our voice in government; but we also honor and recognize our veterans on November 11, Veterans Day. [Click here to see how the students of Huntington Middle School are thanking local veterans this year.](#)

This month is also host to:

- [Native American Heritage Month](#) - celebrating the important contributions and diverse cultures of Native American/Indigenous people.
- [World Kindness Day](#) (Nov. 13) - a global day that promotes the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world.
- [Sesame Street Day](#) (Nov. 10) – “Sesame Street,” a pioneering TV show that taught generations of children the alphabet and how to count, made its broadcast debut on this day in 1969. It has aired in more than 120 countries and became the most widely viewed children’s program in the world.



health & safety

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 [November 3 CCHHS report](#):

- New case counts have generally leveled off in all age groups in the county. Teens aged 12-17 years continue to have the highest case rate of any age group.
- A recent [report](#)* found that Cowlitz County case rates since the emergence of the Delta variant are 3-4 times lower among residents who are fully vaccinated compared with those who are not vaccinated. (*And hospitalization rates are 7-13 times lower for those who are fully vaccinated.)
- Cowlitz County saw an average of 3 residents admitted to a hospital for COVID-19 each day from October 18-24. New COVID19 hospitalizations among Cowlitz County residents are lower than their peak in late August and appear to have leveled off since early October.

COVID-19 links and resources:

- WDOH [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements](#)
- CCHHS [COVID-19 Reports & Presentations](#)
- WDOH [K-12 Isolation and Quarantine Decision Trees](#)
- Kelso School District [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

SPECIAL FEATURE: Expanded Testing Center Hours

Starting on November 15, we will be increasing the hours of our COVID-19 Testing Center. We will be open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for our school community, and will be opening up an hour early at 7:00 AM for staff who may need a test prior to coming to work.

Kelso School District Testing Center

2001 Allen Street
Open from 8:00-4:00 Monday-Friday
No appointment necessary.









As a learning community, our goal is to connect, listen, and support our Kelso team of staff, students, and families. We want to stay connected throughout the school year and hear your thoughts in a few key areas: health and safety, student learning, and communication. With that in mind, the first in a series of five Thoughtexchanges was shared on October 22.

In addition to asking about the key areas above, the survey asked: ***What are the most important skills and experiences Kelso students need to prepare them for success in learning and life?***

The thoughtful responses are being reviewed by our team to inform our future work as a learning community. You can see the results by participation groups here:

- [Parent / Caregiver](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Student](#)



The Kelso School District board of directors have been recognized as a [2021 Board of Distinction](#) by the [Washington State School Directors' Association](#) (WSSDA). Selected for how their actions exemplified visionary leadership and helped our district close opportunity gaps, our board is one of 34 to be honored across the state.

We are proud and honored by the thoughtful work and caring dedication our board continues to exhibit, especially in these unusual times. All 34 Boards of Distinction will be honored on November 19 during the 2021 WSSDA Annual Conference.

We'd also like to congratulate board members Leah Moore and Karen Grafton, who were re-elected to their posts in the November 2 election.



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

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
Kelso School District
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