



OCTOBER 2017

communiqué

COLLEGE PLACE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Importance of Outcomes

Greetings from the Superintendent's Office



As I begin my 17th school year in College Place two thoughts came to mind: (1) people are most important; and (2) the importance of outcomes.

If you've been around me for any amount of time you probably have heard me say, "the people are more important than the work." The very core of any school district are people and relationships. This year, our work is to always remember that we are educating PEOPLE and people need to experience love, caring, safety, food, and security. As Maslow states, "learning comes after our basic needs are met." This is not only true for young people, but also for the adults in our District working with them.

Outcomes are important for many reasons in life, work, and relationships, but especially in education. Our Mission here at CPPS is to graduate students of distinction. Without the concept of outcomes and the standards by which the outcomes are communicated and measured, not much will get intentionally accomplished at an acceptable level. We are reminded that what gets intentionally communicated and measured ultimately gets results.

As a district we have a set of standards that have been established and set by our school board: our Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles and 5 Pillars of Character. Our goal for every student is that when they graduate from College Place High School, we know what the outcome will be: *As a College Place graduate, I will distinguish myself by communicating, leading, learning and serving with integrity. I am driven by a lifelong commitment of respect of others, the community, and myself.*

Making a conscious effort to intentionally communicate outcomes is what we are all working toward here at CPPS this year. We have made many strides in the last five years: built new schools, hired new staff, and doubled the number of students we serve. This year we will focus our attention on evaluating the substance of our outcomes and how we will need to shift instruction and learning to best meet the needs of students. Meeting students where they are, providing positive interactions, and assisting them in the development of a solid 5th year plan to ensure their lifelong success is our goal. To graduate distinguished students from our system is the business we are in here at College Place Public Schools.

Everything we do from Kindergarten to 12th grade MUST be aligned with that goal in mind. Measuring both the mastery of knowledge and subject standards alongside measuring the important soft skills of- communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and character.

As a district we will continue our work toward an integrated way of learning. At CPPS, the term "standards-based learning" is defined as the system of learning through instruction, assessment, grading and the reporting of student outcomes of their demonstration, understanding or mastery of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they matriculate through their education.

In summary, people are what matter most ... period. We as a district are committed to this. Focusing on kids and their learning (needs and outcomes) is at the core of our work. We commit to intentionally communicate our outcomes and standards then teach, measure, and evaluate our students with love and care in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Tim Payne
Superintendent

How are we doing?

Check out our Annual Community Report

You can find data about district goals, state assessment results, student demographics, teacher information, and annual notifications at cpps.org/District/CollegePlacePublicSchools/CommunityReport

Student Highlight

At College Place Public Schools, we are leading and teaching the Five Pillars of Character: Leadership Development, Selflessness in Service of Others, Team/Togetherness, Disciplined Life, and Integrity so that all CPHS graduates are distinguished and understand why these character traits are important. This month we are highlighting College Place High School senior **Monica Ibarra** as a student who embodies the Five Pillars of Character.

What motivates you on a daily basis?

The thing that most motivates me on a daily basis is my passion for God, I spent a long time living my life based on my own standards while ignoring his plans for me and that got me nowhere. Now that we have this tightknit relationship together He is who I want to please because at the end of the day I know His plans are ALWAYS greater and ALWAYS better!

Who is a person who has had a tremendous impact on you in your life and how did this person have an impact on your life thus far?

There hasn't been just one person who has had a tremendous impact on my life and frankly I can't name just one because they all left a life-long imprint in different areas of my life. Furthermore, I am so incredibly thankful for everyone in my life now and everyone that has been in my life in the past, whether they made a good impact or bad, because everyone has served as a stepping stone to get me where I am today.

What is one characteristic that you feel every student should possess to become a distinguished graduate of College Place High School?

If I had to say only one characteristic that every student should possess in order to become a distinguished graduate of College Place High School it would be passion. I say passion because that is what gives us motivation, tenacity, yearning, LOVE, and so much more. Passion is the root of success. I believe that love and passion go hand in hand, you can't have one without the other. Whatever situation, whatever goal, whatever our students go through or face, I strongly believe that it will not be accomplished, they will not have it, and they will not win until they have that fire burning and heart wrenching passion in their souls.

What does being a role model mean to you and describe how you have been a role model to others in your life in and out of school?

To me, being a role model means that I try my best, I live my life the way I've been taught, and when I make mistakes I do whatever I can to make it right. I won't be perfect and I don't want to be but I'll learn from my faults and encourage others to not repeat my errors. A role model is a leader; and a truly unforgettable, impacting leader is a servant to those he or she leads.

What is a challenge you have faced and how did you overcome it?

The biggest struggle I have ever faced within my seventeen years of life was finding myself, figuring out who I was meant to be and how I was going to get there. It was difficult because I was extremely self-conscious and so insecure and these problems were rooted in my inability to find myself.

What is one piece of advice you would give to anyone you encounter?

A piece of advice I'd give anyone I encounter would be to seek for the eternal/long-lasting things in life whether it be a long-lasting impact or an eternal thing and dwell in that because there is nothing more heartbreaking than wasted time doing meaningless short-term things when you could've been doing so much more.

Miss Ibarra's 5th year plan is to attend George Fox University next fall and major in nursing.

Safety @ CPPS



Student Resource Officer Joey Langlois

As part of a continued focus on safety at College Place Public Schools, we wanted to update our parents on some new safety measures we have implemented over the summer. This year, the team has been busy conducting building assessments, updating technology, procedures and protocols, and leading trainings for school and district level staff. The overall goal remains: ensuring the safety of our students and staff.

We are pleased and excited to have hired Joey Langlois as our Student Resource Officer. In partnership with the College Place Police Department, Mr. Langlois has joined our team and will be a regular face at Davis, Sager and College Place High School. Joey grew up in College Place where he and his wife Ashlee have three children. The CPPS Safety Team has been working with the College Place Police and Fire Departments to further refine the safety procedures in our schools. If you encounter Joey at school or in the community please introduce yourself!



Hawks Debit Card—Every swipe gives back to CPPS!

In conjunction with the Gesa in the High School Program, CPPS and Gesa Credit Union have created a special Visa debit card for existing and new Gesa Members. This program is exciting because every transaction you make, Gesa will pay five cents back to College Place Public Schools! All payments will directly benefit the students and educational programs of CPPS. In July, Gesa donated \$8,000 to College Place Public Schools! Get your card today at any Gesa branch.

CPHS Offers Traffic Safety Education

At the start of the 17-18 school year, College Place High School launched a Traffic Safety Education (TSE). Once a standard elective in all high schools across the nation, it has mostly been removed from over half of all schools due to liability and budget cuts. By cutting these programs from the school day, many teens are waiting until



Mr. Henderson with his Traffic Safety Education class



they turn 18. Once they turn 18, they can skip the class and cost to simply take the written and driver test at the DMV with little time behind the wheel and no formal classroom training.

At College Place High School, we are committed to doing school differently and adding TSE to the curriculum is one way we are doing this. Having a driver's education program was the vision of the School Board while planning for the new high school.

Creating the vision for the program was a great concept, however, the challenge came in finding the right instructor and the vehicles necessary to execute the program. Enter newly hired math teacher Austin Henderson and Walla Walla Valley Honda.

Mr Henderson was hired as a new graduate of Washington State University and he has spent several weekends over the summer in Bend Oregon attending one of the nation's most rigorous training programs requiring 130 hours of instruction to become certified to teach TSE.

In addition, over the summer, District staff started conversations with Walla Walla Valley Honda owner Blake Underriner. At the first meeting, Mr. Underriner committed to providing 2 vehicles each trimester for the program. The generosity and working relationship with Walla Walla Valley Honda has been amazing and we are very grateful for this community partnership

The new class which is offered each trimester is expected to serve 85 students with a cost of \$250 per student. This is almost one half of the cost this year to attend traffic safety education training.

Highly Capable Highlights

By Ted Knauf, Hi Cap Teacher Sager Middles School and Marissa Waddell, Director of Special Programs

One of the ways that College Place students are offered a chance to excel in their area of giftedness is the Highly Capable (Hi Cap) Program. The Hi Cap Program is offered in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Here are some highlights from our middle school Highly Capable Program that serves approximately 30 students.

In grades 6-8 at John Sager Middle School our Highly Capable Program currently offers engaging ways for students to explore their world. All students in the middle school Highly Capable Program compete in national math competitions, AMC8. Sixth grade focuses on inventions, contraptions, completing a program called Think Tank, and looking at the world through analogies. Seventh and eighth grade has a focus on a long term problem solving competition, Destination Imagination (DI).

Last year Sager fielded four teams in the areas of: improv, structure/building challenge, a science challenge that focused on codes and ciphers, and a theatre challenge involving the loss of a color to their world. We had great success with all teams at the regional competition. Our theatre team won first place at regionals enabling them to compete at the state tournament in March 2017. The team came away with a coveted second place at state. If you would like to know more about DI you can check out podcast episode 28 on our district website at www.cpps.org.

Reporting On Student Progress

By: Dr. Chris Drabek, Director of Teaching & Learning: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Special Education



Focusing on kids and their learning is always at the forefront of what we do in College Place Public Schools. It is for that reason that we are continuously focused on increasing positive and clear communication with students, parents, and the community. When it comes to student learning, in College Place, the phrase 'standards-based learning' is defined as the system of learning through instruction,

assessment, grading, and the reporting of student outcomes of their demonstrating understanding or mastery of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they move through their education. The *Washington State K-12 Learning Standards*—i.e., explicit, written descriptions of what students are expected to know and be able to do—determine the goals of a lesson, and teachers then determine how and what to teach students so they achieve the learning expectations described in the standards.

The goal of standards-based learning is to ensure that students are acquiring the 21st century knowledge and skills that are deemed to be essential in school, higher education, careers, and adult life. 21st century knowledge and skills as identified by the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills:

- Cognitive Skills: problem solving/decision making, metacognition, creativity/innovation
- Core Subject Area Knowledge: English, math, science, social studies, arts
- Global Understanding: cross-cultural skills
- Communicating: speaking, writing
- Collaborative Skills: teaming, managing conflicts, interpersonal, cooperative
- Technology Skills: digital/media literacy, using networking tools, using digital technology
- Dispositions: motivation/engagement, perseverance, initiative/self-direction, flexibility/adaptability, responsibility

College Place Public Schools has been actively engaged in what is known as standards-based learning (SBL) since 1996 when Washington State officially adopted the first set of common academic standards called Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs). Along with the EALRs the state

introduced a common assessment at milestone grade levels to check student progress toward the attainment of mastery of those standards. Currently, The Washington State Learning Standards are our basis for daily instruction and the Smarter Balanced Assessment is our current assessment system.

This year, one of our district initiatives is to identify a standards-based reporting tool that will be implemented system-wide (K-12). The goal for this standards-based report is to provide students and teachers a systematic uniform approach to informing parents of student progress toward attaining and meeting standards at each grade level; additionally, the report will include a continuum of soft skills that begin in Kindergarten and lead up to a College Place High School graduate who distinguishes themselves by communicating, leading, learning and serving with integrity and is driven by a lifelong commitment of respect of others, the community, and themselves. Progress towards these soft skills will also be reported annually to parents.

Currently, our building principals are working with each of their respective buildings and facilitating conversations regarding the implementation of standards-based reporting. As we move forward throughout the year, please keep an eye out for updates and check-in with your student's schools to inquire about progress. We will keep you posted as this initiative moves forward. Just as we look forward to seeing our first class of College Place High School seniors graduate in June 2018!

Sager Science Rules

By Patty Stone, Sager Science Teacher

John Sager Middle School science has been advancing by light years during the past five years. The Sager team of teachers and administration recognizes that science, engineering, and technology are essential components of modern life. We want our middle school students to receive strong backgrounds in these fields so they will graduate from College Place High School with the skills they need to enter careers of their choice. To achieve this goal we have designed a program in which students actively engage in scientific and engineering practices over multiple years of school. All three middle school teachers, Kathleen Pickel, 7th grade; Patricia Stone, 8th grade; and Mark Wegner, 6th grade, have designed the Sager science program based on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and STEM education. It is designed to help students continually build on and revise their knowledge and abilities, starting with their natural curiosity about what they see around them and how the world works. The team made the choice to implement NGSS in order to avoid shallow coverage of a large number of science topics and to allow

more time for teachers and students to explore science in depth.

Starting in 2014, the team joined the NGSS/STEM Leadership Network through our Educational Service District and the Washington State LASER alliance (Leadership & Assistance for Science Education Reform). For the past three years, we have researched, developed, and integrated NGSS/STEM strategies in our district.

We piloted and adopted new science curriculum with the encouragement and full support of the district and school administration. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students now use the STC (Science and Technology Concepts) middle school curriculum developed by the Smithsonian Science Education Center. This curriculum is aligned to NGSS through performance expectations. It is demanding and highly rewarding for students because it revolves around project-based assessments not traditional worksheets, tests and textbooks. Instead, students use science kits which provide everything they need to perform investigations designed so they can learn through experimentation.

In addition to the regular science classroom units, students also have the option of a STEM elective in each grade. This class offers even more opportunities for students to work independently on various engineering projects. These include, robotics, rocketry, scientific competitions, building, and physics investigations. The STEM class has become a favorite with students who get to accomplish real science experiments with real results independently of either a textbook or an instructor.

Science is fun at Sager. Not because it's easy but because it's really all about a students' accomplishments (and a lot of sweat and tears).

Be a Force in Your Child's Education

By Keiri Boggs, parent and Davis PTA President

I joined a new club this year ... It's the "I've just sent my first child to college" club and let me tell you ... it's an ugly cry affair! It wasn't a club that I meant to join, well ... I mean, of course I did because I'm so incredibly proud of our son but wait... I just didn't realize that it would signal the end of his childhood. Weren't we just dropping him off at kindergarten a couple years ago?

The crazy part of this whole "school journey" is all the mom friends that I have collected over the years. They are the reason that I even know about this club because they all just joined it too. We bump into each other in the grocery store, downtown, or the local coffee shop. "How's your momma heart doing echoes off our lips?" We briefly share and hug, tears collecting in our eyes and then move on with our life. These mommas ... what would I do without them. They have been there to celebrate the joys, the hardships, the break-ups, the championship games, the carnivals, and all the things that life has thrown at us over the last 12 years of our children's education. They have opened their hearts to my kids, loved them as their own, and believed in them as I have in theirs. We are a beautiful tribe ... the momma tribe.

I recently read a quote that said "Your Vibe attracts your Tribe" and it made me laugh. As a mom of four kids ages 7 to 19 I thought to myself ... "Really what IS my VIBE?" Like most of us I'm a momma bear and would do anything to help my kids grow and

Sager students dive deep into Next Generation Science



be their best. Having two older kids and two younger kids gives me the unique ability to see what I've done that has mattered for my older children and what hasn't. My husband and I often joke that we get a do-over with our younger kids. What we have learned is that kids spell love T-I-M-E and this go round we are focusing on creating memories and building strong relationships.

Part of building strong relationships is being involved in our kid's education and making a difference in their schools. This is where tribe building starts and it definitely has a vibe in my experience. What is that vibe? I believe it is a generous spirit and making time for others. Time is the most valuable thing we have to offer because it is finite. Choose to be a positive force in your child's education. You don't have to be a super mom or dad. It actually works best when we give little moments over the year. Maybe volunteer in a classroom, join the PTA/PTO/Boosters Club, help with the carnival, chaperone a dance, or go on a field trip. As other moms and dads open their hearts and make themselves available in the same way a tribe begins to form. We work side by side over the years and our hearts are knit together in a common cause, our children. My momma always said that many hands make light work and you know what? She is right! So as we start a new school year ask yourself "what will my vibe be this year?" Chances are you are already building a tribe!

Interview with Chris Plucker

Vice Principal - Davis Elementary School



Can you name a person who has had a tremendous impact on you as a leader? Maybe someone who has been a mentor to you? Why and how did this person impact your life?

With respect to school leadership, Mira Gobel has played an instrumental role influencing the style I bring to my administrative approach. She is a former principal of Pioneer Middle School, and now works as the Director of Teaching and Learning at ESD 123. Mira was my mentor as I went through my internship, and continues to be an inspiration, not only to me, but to many former students and staff. She taught me the importance of leading through inspiration and taught me how to develop the leadership capacity of a staff.

How do you encourage creative thinking at Davis Elementary?

I am focused on empowering teachers to take ownership over building-wide systems. I think that when you create an authentic space for collaboration, where those interested in participating in building leadership have the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way, trust can be established, followed by a willingness on the part of the participants to take risks in sharing ideas. Over the course of this next year, I hope to help grow as many of these spaces as I can at Davis, so that we can effectively collaborate in a creative way to improve our systems for students' growth.

What is one characteristic that you believe every great teacher should possess?

Every great teacher I've known knows why they do what

they do, and utilizes what Eric Jensen calls 'The Five Rules for (student) Engagement': 1. Possesses a Great Attitude 2. Builds Relationships and Respect 3. Gets Student Buy-In 4. Embraces Clarity and 5. Shows Their Passion. Great teachers know who they are, approach the profession as a practice, and never cease in seeking to grow as practitioners.

What are two of the most important things a parent can do to best assist their child to have a successful educational experience?

I like to see parents commit to reading to and with their children. If students can read, they can succeed. Follow that up with asking great questions and holding their children accountable for their learning and behavior, and I think the odds of a fantastic educational experience increase dramatically.

What is your favorite book, movie and documentary?

I really enjoy the writings of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R Tolkien ... anything by them is great, in my opinion! As far as movies go, The Goonies is my all-time favorite. And I really enjoyed the documentary Paper Tigers.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend time with my kids and love to get out and fly fish whenever I'm able.

How our Levies impact Student Outcomes

By Pam Deccio

Good citizens, like good parents, understand that an investment in education is an investment in the future. In February of 2018, the College Place School District is asking voters to approve a replacement levy to continue local support for school programs. Levy approval is critical to keep College Place schools strong. We are committed to educational excellence for every student.

The money authorized in this levy benefits our community, our infrastructure and our young people. Levies form an essential proportion of school income. The district is committed to continuing to examine our ongoing operations for efficiencies while providing our students the best educational opportunities possible. What is funded by this levy? Day to day expenses, special education, programs, nursing services, music, physical education, Hi Cap Program, extra-curricular and sports programs, staffing above state funded levels, and curriculum and instructional materials. These are some of the programs and services that would be greatly impacted or lost if voters do not support the levy.

Our kids are the greatest resource in this community and are worth the commitment. Please embrace this opportunity to continue the support for our schools. Our students of our future and community are worth it.

Bond & Levy Update

Levy: The District projected the cost per \$1000 at \$3.26 for the 2017 tax year. Actual \$3.10.

Bond: The District projected the cost per \$1000 at \$2.70 for the 2017 tax year. Actual \$2.60



COLLEGE PLACE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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- Receive notifications and SO much more!

Important Dates

- October 23 - No school Professional Day
- ~ November 10 – No School Veteran's Day
- ~ November 22 – Early Dismissal
- ~ November 23-24 – No School Thanksgiving Break

College Place Public Schools at a Glance

Vision Statement

Focusing on kids and their learning.

Mission Statement

As a College Place graduate, I will distinguish myself by communicating, leading, learning and serving with integrity. I am driven by a lifelong commitment of respect of others, the community, and myself.

College Place Public School District Guiding Principles

- All students have positive, personalized relationships where they feel connected, valued and inspired to learn and contribute.
- Responsive, learner-centered environments that engage and rigorously challenge each student.
- Students are connected to their community through real-life learning experiences, mentorships and adult advocacy.
- All students learn through relevant, project-based, and collaborative experiences.

5 Pillars of Character

- Leadership Development
- Selflessness in Service of Others
- Team/Togetherness
- Disciplined Life
- Integrity

Current Enrollment - 1402

Davis - 664 Sager - 353 CPHS - 385