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COVID-19
The 2021-2022 school year continued to stand out due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cascade School District (CSD) continued to modify the Healthy Start Plan that contained guidance on how the district would respond during the school year. School started and remained full-time and in-person, except for two instances during the school year when a classroom had to move to remote instruction temporarily. At the start of the school year, masking was required for students and staff, and that guidance changed to optional mask-wearing mid-year. To navigate the constantly changing guidance, we collaborated with the Chelan Douglas Health District on a weekly basis as well as the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the North Central Educational Service District (NCESD), the Washington Department of Health (WDOH), and Cascade Medical Center on a regular basis.

Leavenworth Farmer’s Market
The school district and the Leavenworth Farmer’s Market started collaborating in the summer of 2020. The Farmer’s Market moved to Evans Street in 2021 and took place next to the tennis courts.
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Building Ribbon Cutting

CSD hosted a ribbon cutting for our refurbished Career and Technical Education (CTE) building on the Cascade High School campus on August 19, 2021. CSD’s Career and Technical Education building has a history that goes back over 50 years. The original building was constructed in 1967. The shop building was constructed in 1984 over and around an existing wood-framed brick veneer building. 1984 construction included steel columns, beams roof joists and decking with a metal roof. In 1984, the metals shop was added. Recently, the building has been renovated and now serves students in middle school Pre-Engineering and Robotics, high school Engineering Design (CAD), Robotics, and Materials Engineering (woods & metals).

Digital Access

CSD received a grant from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) for $282,732 in order to purchase new laptops and provide internet access for economically disadvantaged students at home in order to ensure that they were able to access online homework.

American Sign Language (ASL)

This was the first year ASL courses were offered to Cascade High School students for a foreign language credit and dual credit opportunities at Wenatchee Valley College. Their activities included helping preschool and elementary students with learning ASL. Students were also able to practice signing during the high school Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly and sign songs during the holiday season throughout the district.

No More Chocolate Milk

Based on the Wellness Committee Recommendations, chocolate milk was removed from the food services menu at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Home Link

Home Link is an alternative learning experience based on a partnership between homes and schools, in which a portion of the instruction occurs at home. The remaining coursework is provided by Home Link staff. During the 2021-2022 school year, Home Link enrollment dropped back down to pre-COVID levels. Home Link courses included experiential learning, applied math and science, enrichment units, Spanish and art. Home Link also received a grant through the Washington State Department of Ecology to study reusable whiteboard markers. They conducted research, created a video and started supplying reusable whiteboard markers to teachers throughout the district for use in the following school year.
School Meals
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cascade food services, led by Colin Levi, changed significantly. During the 2021-2022 school year, meals were mostly served outdoors. This picture shows the outdoor meal space at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School. When the weather got cold, we bought kerosene heaters to help with the temperature. For January – March, meals were provided indoors with students spaced out as much as possible in the cafeteria and with Plexiglas set up. Nonetheless, hot meals were able to be served during this school year, which was an improvement on the sack lunches from the previous school year. The federal government ensured that food was free during the 2021-2022 school year to any children, not just those who qualified based on free and reduced lunch forms.

Masking Mandate
For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the State of Washington imposed a masking mandate in public schools. Masking became optional in schools as of March 11, 2022.

Vaccination Mandate
Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, Governor Inslee announced that school district employees would need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a medical or religious exemption on file. This requirement had to be fulfilled by October 18, 2021.

School Board Elections
School Board elections were held on November 2, 2021. Trey Ising and Zachary Miller retained their seats, and new member Dr. Mike Worden was elected.

Maintenance Department
The maintenance department, led by Teresa Disher, is comprised of custodial, grounds, warehouse/delivery and maintenance. During the 2021-2022 school year, the maintenance department team never backed down from a challenge. They were all ready and willing to do anything it took to make the school year a success. It was another challenging school year in that there was a lot of stress and anxiety for everyone. All year, the team covered for each other because there was a major shortage of substitutes. Their goal was for staff and students to feel safe at work, and they committed themselves to that task every day.

Transportation Department
In the Fall of 2021, the transportation department suffered many staffing challenges with the resignation of Tim Bentz, several regular drivers, the mechanics, and
a few substitutes. Cheryl Simicich came out of retirement to help train new employees and our interim director Lori Duncan began adjusting routes to manage the staffing shortage. With the partnership of the parents on River Road and the merging of several different routes our Transportation team adjusted to make it through the winter. In January 2022, Lori was hired as the Transportation Director, Cheryl got the needed employees trained, and the routes all went back in. The transportation team succeeded in weathering the record-breaking snowfall in early January and the subsequent winter storms with the assistance of both the Leavenworth and Cashmere Chelan County plow crews out in front making the roads safe for buses and our community. This small group of people came together and became a great problem-solving team defeating many challengers and winning the year with a great sense of accomplishment.

With all that happened this year, we want to thank the teachers who were patient, the understanding parents, and most of all the students who gave our new drivers their first year of memories. We look forward to seeing those smiling faces again next year.

Child Care
The 2021-2022 school year was the second with a partnership between the YMCA and CSD. YMCA provided child care at Alpine Lakes Elementary School for children in grades K-6 when school was not in session. In addition, the YMCA offered their first summer program in the summer of 2022 at Alpine Lakes Elementary School.

Kodiak Cubs Demonstration Site
The Kodiak Cubs continued in its second year as a Preschool Inclusionary Demonstration Site for Washington State. During the school year, the Kodiak Cubs worked with the University of Washington Haring Center and offered virtual site visits. The virtual visits included storytelling, shared experiences to strengthen inclusionary practices, artifacts to support implementation and professional learning, and opportunities to learn the structures, systems and relationships that build strong inclusive frameworks in Washington State schools. In addition, the Haring Center worked with the Kodiak Cubs; as an example, the Haring Center conducted some professional development with the Cascade High School Child Development students “big kids” who work with the Kodiak Cubs students. Lindsay Camp’s enthusiasm for early childhood education made compelling virtual visits for other school districts in the state.

Professional Learning
Professional development for the 2021-2022 school year began during the Fall Institute in August, 2021. Training was focused on FieldSTEM by the Pacific Education Institute (PEI), trauma-informed instruction, AVID engagement strategies, and how to support migrant students.

During the school year, staff worked at their own pace to complete the yearly required Safe Schools training, which are done online. In addition, CSD offered trainings for paraeducators across the district, behavioral intervention training led by Dr. Flint Simonsen at IRMS, and AVID trainings at various campuses.
Transitional Kindergarten
Transitional kindergarten is a kindergarten program for children below the age of five who do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences prior to kindergarten. Additionally, they have been deemed by the school district through a screening process to be in need of additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten the following year. Transitional kindergarten started for the first time during the 2021-2022 school year at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School with teacher Karlye Risdon and paraeducator Julie Dosh.

Transition to Teaching Program
The 2021-2022 school year was the second year that CSD participated in a grant supporting the Eastern Washington University’s Transition to Teaching program. Through this grant, CSD was able to sponsor one staff member as a scholarship recipient to obtain their teaching certificate. Lorie Wylie, paraeducator from Alpine Lakes, was CSD’s second scholarship winner. Our first recipient Sharlynn Parker completed her teaching certificate and was a first-year teacher at Beaver Valley.

Student Wins Teeshirt Design Contest
Congratulations to Lorelai! Lorelai is the GRAND PRIZE WINNER out of 5,500 entries received for her age division. This was her entry for the Life is Good T-shirt Art Contest.

Fire Sciences
Fire science students continued their work with the fire district this year. 10 students successfully learned in the 2021-2022 school year and were able to complete a controlled burn at the end of the school year. Cadets were also able to earn a Red Card for wildland certification. In addition, CSD completed an articulation agreement with Wenatchee Valley College so that students had the opportunity to earn up to 14 college credits for their work.

Trey Ising Re-Elected as WSSDA Resolutions Committee Chair
Trey Ising, Chair of the Cascade School Board, was re-elected Chair of the Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA)’s Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee of WSSDA is in
charge of the foundational beliefs of WSSDA; the purpose of this committee is to review and recommend permanent association positions to be acted on at the General Assembly.

**Zachary Miller Appointed to WSSDA Legislative Committee**

Zachary Miller, legislative representative for our school board, was appointed to the WSSDA Legislative Committee in February. The legislative committee recommends positions on legislative issues. Members also serve as ex-officio members of the Federal Relations Network.

**Highly Capable (HiCap) Services**

We updated the entrance guidelines and created a team that works with set criteria to decide which candidates would be considered HiCap. Tyler Cox, school psychologist, worked with students in the 6-8 grade levels every late start (twice a month) doing enrichment activities (see the rockets!). He also worked with elementary students every Friday doing similar activities. Looking ahead at the middle school, we will have a class designated to serve both HiCap students as well as other advanced learners. Tyler will continue to work with the elementary every Friday this coming year similar to what was being done this year.

**Hispanic Serving School District**

Cascade School District (CSD) became a 2022 Hispanic-Serving School District (HSSD), the first such school district in Washington State. In 2006, The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) launched its HSSDs initiative for school districts whose total enrollment is at least 25% Hispanic with the intent of close and substantive collaboration between PreK-12 and higher education. CSD’s enrollment of Hispanic students is 31%, which is why CSD was invited to become a HSSD.

Jeanette Morales, HACU Executive Director for Student & PK-12 Services, and Erica Romero, HACU Assistant Vice President for State Advocacy made a presentation at the Cascade School District School Board meeting on January 10, 2022. During the meeting, they mentioned the emphasis on improving access to and quality of post-secondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students, which aligns with Cascade School District’s goal of post-secondary success for all students. The Cascade School Board unanimously approved CSD’s membership as a HSSD during the School Board meeting on January 24, 2022.

**U.S. News and World Reports**

Icicle River Middle School was ranked by U.S. News and World Reports as well above expectations in reading and math performance. It was ranked as 48 out of 1,183 middle schools in the State of Washington and the third best middle school in Eastern Washington.
The Arts

The Methow Arts Alliance partnership was very successful at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School and Alpine Lakes Elementary School. Lore Smart worked at PD and Amber Zimmerman worked at ALPS. In addition, Teara Dillon supported students in the arts at the secondary level.

For the performing arts, Mandi Wickline directed school plays, James Mitsuyasu directed band concerts, and Mindy Wall directed choir concerts.

School Resource Officers

During much of the 2021-2022 school year, Deputy Dom Mutch shared duties between Cascade and Cashmere, as Deputy Daane Martin was on light duty and then maternity leave. Deputy Martin returned after her maternity leave to end the school year.

Historic Snowstorm

The City of Leavenworth received a record 36 inches of snow in under 24 hours on January 6, 2022. Some parts of the school district received up to 48 inches of snow. For this reason, Cascade School District had to call a very unusual 3 snow days.

Athletics

What a year for Kodiak Athletics! The Kodiaks finished 2nd in the Caribou Cup and won a total of four league championships (girls’ cross country, boys’ cross country, boys’ soccer, and softball)! Along with our league championships, we were able to add on two district championships. At the state level we were able to win a couple of state championships in track (Lauren Muscutt in the 800M and then our girls 4x400M Relay). We also had our boys’ cross-country team finish third at state and Mya Herrera finish


fourth in state for girls wrestling. Along the way, we had the following teams qualify for state: girls’ cross country, boys’ cross country, girls wrestling, boys’ soccer, boys’ track, girls’ track, and boys’ tennis.

Dr. Tracey Beckendorf-Edou Elected as Region 171 President
Cascade’s Superintendent Tracey Beckendorf-Edou was elected President of the North Central Region 171 superintendents. Part of this role included representing Region 171 on the board of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA).

Beaver Valley Celebrates Chinese New Year
Beaver Valley celebrated the Chinese New Year on 2/2/22 at 2:22 pm. Wishing you happiness and prosperity!

Technology Student Association (TSA)
TSA is an extra-curricular club devoted to providing students opportunities around Leadership and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Cascade TSA attended the state competition to compete in various team and individual events as well as participate in fun challenges and speakers. Mia Dreis was in the top five in the state in children’s stories and Madison Fish and Danielle Totman were in the top five in the state in fashion design. Four of the state participants, Jewel Leroy, Avery Houghton, Olivia Melton, and Cordelia Freeland, were also able to compete at the national competition in Texas for their Community Service Video. At the state competition, they won third in the nation for the Community Service Video, and Olivia Melton and Cordelia Freeland also placed third in the nation for Technical Design.

Ski and Snowboard Program
Fifty students in grades 3-8 participated in the after-school program at Ski Hill. There were lots of big smiles, laughs, and skills learned during the five Wednesdays at the Leavenworth Ski Hill. The season ended with the Pond Skim Event.

Plain Valley Nordic Team Skiers Qualify for Junior Nationals
Congratulations to Serenity Saugen, Adeline Loewen, Buster Richardson, Lars Sorom, Caroline Menna, Isabel Menna, Kirsten Jarmin, Lien Hagedorn, Quinten Koch, Silas D’Atre, and Peter Norby. They qualified for the 2022 PNSA Junior National Team. What an incredible accomplishment to be ranked among the top 10 of your age division in the Pacific Northwest!
Heritage Spanish
Cascade High School offered Heritage Spanish for the first time. During this class, Spanish-speaking students were able to focus on Spanish reading, writing, and conversational skills.

Learn to Return
*Learn to Return* was a program by the Washington State Department of Health in which COVID testing was integrated into school districts as an additional mitigation strategy. In Cascade, this included Everywell testing for interested staff and secondary students. Staff sent in swabs once or twice a week. In addition, nurses Kesha Smith and Shelly Zehm and medical specialists Chloe Hollatz and Jen Barber provided daily symptomatic testing at Cascade High School. The fire departments in Plain and Peshastin assisted with COVID testing at Beaver Valley and Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School, respectively.

Intervention Services
PD, Alpine Lakes, and IRMS all provided academic intervention services during the school year for struggling students. In addition, PD and Alpine Lakes offered after school intervention for selected students during part of the school year. As an example of the success of the program, 89% of third grade students improved on their Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) math test from the fall to the spring.

AVID
AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is a program aimed at promoting college and career readiness. It is especially intended to help future first-generation college students get the support they need to be successful in upper-level classes in high school and then in college and careers after graduation. Cascade High School continued a robust AVID program during the 2021-2022 school year, and Icicle River Middle School became an AVID-certified site for the first time. Alpine Lakes Elementary School also succeeded in AVID certification.

During the school year, Kenny Renner-Singer became trained as an AVID District Director and started conducting AVID trainings himself. Malia Renner-Singer is also an AVID trainer and conducted trainings herself. In addition, teams from each school were scheduled to attend AVID training during Summer Institute, 2022.

Knowledge Bowl State Champions
The Cascade High School Knowledge Bowl team under Coach Dayle Massey won the state title for the first time in its 30 years of participation. Student participants were Chase Runions, Quentin Farrell, Haakon Scheibler (team captain), Price Schubert, Evan Butruille, and Olivia Cappellini. According to Coach Massey, “The team never lost a round, but had to come from behind and win a tiebreaker to get in the championship room, where again they came from behind to win by one point.”
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Competes at State

Congratulations to the six FBLA students who competed at FBLA state in Spokane! The team of Reese Mathers, Lorelai Kinnear and Breanna Loomis won 5th place for their Community Service Project (canned food drive), and Britni Harris won 7th place in Business Calculation, 10th place in Help Desk, and 10th place in Personal Finance.

Students Compete at the Washington Career and Technical Medical Association (WCTSMA) State Competition for the First Time

In Cascade’s first time competing at the WCTSMA, Kestrel Foley placed third in medical terminology. This team was coached by teacher Jon Betz.

Equestrian Team

After competing and winning the first-place small team in the district, members of the Cascade High School WAHSET Team (Washington State High School Equestrian Team) qualified and competed in 18 events at the state WAHSET meet May 19-22 in Moses Lake. The team members had to qualify for state by earning top 3 in their events at the district level. Greer Swoboda also earned the overall cattle event highpoint at districts and Lauren Mongrain earned most improved athlete in district 1. The Cascade team is made up of students from Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Cashmere and Cascade and have been practicing throughout the year to compete in performance, gaming (timed) and cattle events and drill team. The Cascade Team is coached by Cindy Fowler, Kendra Wallace, Hollie Dahl, Linda Simons and Jeremy Price. Advisors are Mickey Lane and Kathy Wendlandt. At the state competition, Greer Swoboda won first place in Breakaway Roping and Greer and Alexis won third place in 2-Man Cattle Sorting.

Migrant Services

CSD was awarded a health and safety grant for migrant families that was organized under the direction of CHS English Learner teacher Jill Weil. This grant led to direct support and services for our migrant families through the coordinated efforts of community partnerships, including Upper Valley MEND. There was a migrant end of the year celebration where senior graduates were particularly celebrated. So far, 100% of migrant seniors have completed their graduation requirements.

Journalism Award

Congratulations to members of the CHS Publications Team! Our Publications team earned first place in the national American Scholastic Journalist competition with our school newspaper, "The Kodiak Chronicle" and earned first place for the 2020-2021 "Leave Your Mark" edition of our yearbook. Additionally, Isabel Menna won "Outstanding Story in a Digital Newspaper" for her article "Spanish Flu".
Board of the Year
The Cascade School Board won the 2022 North Central Education Service District (NCESD) Board of the Year. They were honored for many recent accomplishments, including “working with district administration during the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking funding to support geographically remote and low-income families to access remote instruction, actively learning about the climate and culture of each building, and working as a team to partner with administration to include student, parent and teacher voices in decision-making.”

Students Recognized in the 2022 Regional High School Art Show
“Mantis” by Pearl Wong won first place in the photography category at the 2022 Regional High School Art Show. It was also a Best in Show recipient. “Trapped” by Elsa Swart won second place in the mixed media category and was also a Best in Show recipient.

Lauren Muscutt Sets New Record in 800m
At the track and field state championship, Lauren Muscutt set a new school record by winning the final 800m in 2:15:46. The previous school record was set by Erin Mullins in 2017.

Greenhouse
In the 2021-2022 school year, we were able to finish construction on new greenhouse. This greenhouse was built to withstand the heavy snow load and will be used in plant sciences and other courses. Students will be able to grow plants in the greenhouse starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

Beaver Valley Trail Camera
The Beaver Valley Parent Group sponsored the purchase of trail cameras, and students gathered footage throughout the year. Each Beaver Valley student learned how to identify a flying squirrel, tell the difference between a cougar and coyote track in the snow, how to spot mistletoe in a tree, talk about sitzmarks, and what lives in a subnivean zone during the winter.
CSD Honored by U.S. Secretary of Education

Dr. Miguel Cardona

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona honored CSD for our use of federal COVID funding. CSD was featured on a video taken by Becca Freimuth, Communications Specialist from NCESD, which was distributed by Secretary Cardona.

Managing Waste

In partnership with Waste Loop, CSD conducted 13 audits and sorted over 800 pounds of waste. By volume, most of the waste was headed to the landfill, but by weight, most of it was compostable. In addition, CSD started mixed recycling in May. One great help in this regard was the hire of a custodian who specifically handed recycling. In one month’s time, CSD recycled over 2000 gallons of waste.

Early Learning Spring Fun Fair

Kodiak Cubs Preschool and CSD Transitional Kindergarten partnered with Head Start and Mountain Sprouts to put on a Spring Family Fun Fair on May 12, 2022 in order to share information about regional opportunities for preschool and pre-kindergarten.

Space Project

The 7th grade team at IRMS has led a space project for their students for five school years. This year was the third year that a representative from Blue Origin helped provide guidance and feedback to students. The Konabos1 team won the competition this school year with their Martian habitat project.

Jog-A-Thon

The Jog-A-Thon was back at Alpine Lakes Elementary School on May 27, 2022! Thank you to the volunteers, high school students, teachers and staff for making it a great event. Special thanks go to Ms. Anderson-Ashcraft for organizing the event.

Newsletter – Cascade School District Connections

In order to increase communication in the communities that Cascade serves, CSD re instituted a community newsletter with the help of parent, coach and journalist Marlene Farrell, Executive Secretary Julie Winters, and designer Sarah Rudback from well&good. The first issue was sent out late in the school year prior to graduation and was printed in both English and Spanish.
Kindergarten Graduation
Kindergarten had their second ever outside graduation ceremony. This ceremony was received very positively by our community, families, and school staff.

High School Graduation
High School graduation took place on June 11, 2022 at the Peshastin-Dryden Stadium at 8:00 pm. The weather was good, and it was a meaningful ceremony for the graduates and their families. Valedictorians were Olivia Cappellini, Ava Northrup, and Chase Runions. The salutatorian was Ruthie Biebesheimer. Two special additions to the ceremony included a tribute to Xander and farewell to Mr. Elia Ala’ilima-Daley, Principal of Cascade High School. Senior graduates had a 2022 college scholarship total of $517,505.00.
Eighth Grade Transition
Eighth grade transition took place outside of Icicle River Middle School on June 15, 2022. Students were brought in cars by their parents. Then their name was radioed in. Their name was announced and they got out of the car through an area lined with staff members all cheering and making noise. They received a certificate and had their picture taken in a special transition backdrop created by paraeducator and artist Kerry Siderius.

Elia Ala’ilima-Daley Departs Cascade
Elia Ala’ilima-Daley left Cascade School District after 27 years in order to be the Executive Director of Secondary Education for Olympia School District. He was recognized at high school graduation and by the school board.