

On My Desk and On My Mind

September 21, 2022

Dear Waterville Parents and Community,

I am so excited to see the incredible work happening in our school. We have so much to celebrate. Our staff is working hard to support all of our students to learn at their highest potential through systems built to serve the students and staff at Waterville. Our staff is carefully reviewing data, working together to ensure support for struggling students, and analyzing our practices to determine the work that most impacts student learning.

On my desk:

- Fliers for subs. We need YOU! Like nearly all schools in our region, state and nation, we are critically low on substitutes through the district. We need bus drivers, teachers, janitors, office staff, classroom paras and more. We will train you and you will get to spend time with the best staff and students on the planet. Contact Gina Mullendore at gmullendore@waterville.wednet.edu or at 509-745-8583 for more info. Without subs and staff in critical positions like bus driver (we are hiring a part time bus driver now too), it is difficult to maintain programs. We have increased wages, work to support you in having the certifications needed to sub as a teacher (you don't need a teaching certificate), and plan to grow our subs in the role so you can serve students most effectively. Please consider joining our team.
- School achievement data. OSPI has released the school report card on their website at: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us> . There is much to celebrate and a lot of areas to grow. Overall our school outperforms the state average in students meeting ELA standards and is nearly identical to the state average in both students meeting math and science standards. We far outperform the state average in regular attendance rate and graduation rate. Our student data shows our students achieving at a higher level in all assessed subject areas than area schools including Orondo, Bridgeport, Brewster, Manson, Methow Valley, Omak, Soap Lake, Wenatchee, Eastmont, Ephrata, Quincy, Pateros, and Palisades. We outperform several other neighboring districts in both math and ELA. We have identified areas for growth including 9th grade on track status, math throughout the district, and more. Our careful review of data shows that some student groups are performing at a lower level than others, encouraging us to ensure barriers to learning are removed and expectations are high for every learner. We reach out to neighbors to learn from their successes and reflect on our practices to improve academic outcomes for every student in our school. This is the Waterville Promise in action. We are both proud of the work we have done and continue to do and unsatisfied with our current outcomes for students. We will work tirelessly to ensure every student meets grade level standards and is prepared for college, career and post secondary success. I can promise you that you have the right staff to achieve this lofty goal.

- Air quality tools. During wildfire season our staff carefully monitors air quality using <https://www.airnow.gov/> and follow the guidance by DOH, WIAA and OSPI to keep our students safe. Do not hesitate to reach out to offices with questions or concerns. You can see how we make decisions using this chart: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs//334-332.pdf>

On my mind:

- Partnerships. We are so lucky to be a part of a larger community who supports our school and students in many ways. Just a few examples of this include:
 - The Douglas County Sheriff's Office staff joined our teaching staff and paraprofessionals on Friday for safety training.
 - Communities in Schools organized daily snacks for our Waterville Wonders program through a generous donation by Crunch Pak.
 - Grants through our Rural Alliance, the Community Foundation and Waterville Together that allow students to visit college campuses, take kids to ropes courses and other field trips and support work to partner with parents more effectively.
 - The Town of Waterville continues to provide use of equipment and expertise when needed at our school.
 - Douglas County TLS works through an interlocal agreement at a fair rate to provide support for our grounds with equipment and materials we are not able to purchase on our own.
 - Partner school districts collaborate to support and fund staffing like our expanded school nursing hours in partnership with Entiat and Palisades.
 - Our athletic combine partners at Mansfield work creatively with us to ensure transportation needs for our student athletes are met.
 - The Shocker Booster Club just launched their teacher, coach, advisor yearly grant process to fund projects that benefit our students.
 - Waterville Lion's Club, Shocker Booster Club and the Badger Mountain Masonic Lodge continue to make generous donations for projects like greenhouse fencing, scoreboards, uniforms, and more.
 - Community donations to our Shocker In Need fund purchase ASB cards, athletic equipment, and more for students who need financial support at our school.

Thanks to each of these groups and the many others who support our school, staff and students! This community supports kids. Always. Unendingly.

I hope you and your family are enjoying fall and the return to school. Great work is happening at Waterville School, and we are anxious to show off this work through the year!

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns or to discuss the great work happening in our schools and in our athletic programs and extracurricular options.

All my best to you and yours,

Tabatha Mires
Superintendent
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