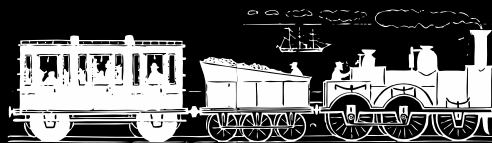


GFSO

EXPRESS



SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH!

January is School Board Appreciation Month. If you see one of our Board Members in the month of January, please take the time to say thank you for their commitment to our schools. School Board Members are responsible for approving the district's financial budget, including contracts for teachers and other employees, hiring the Superintendent, setting policy, providing accountability and advocating for students and staff. We have an outstanding group of dedicated Board Members working hard for our students, staff and community.

GRANITE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Hello GFSD Staff- Welcome to the new year!

The lessons we have learned in education in the last two years have stretched and taught us several things, but for the most part, we have learned that community and parent partnerships and state and local resources are huge in being able to educate and support our students. From having enough Chromebooks, technology capabilities to support remote functions, and mental health resources to support the ever-growing mental health struggles of our students and staff, we have relied on the support from our community and families.

The School Board has decided to run two levy propositions on the February 8, 2022, special election ballot:

- Replacement School Programs and Operation Levy to support current services and programs such as buying special education services, additional program offerings, new curriculum, staff support, transportation costs, extra-curricular (after school) programs, utilities (heat, water, lights) and upkeep of all facilities and grounds.
- Replacement Technology and School Improvements Levy to support current services such as computer hardware, software, applications, licensing and other needs for student learning as well as musical instruments.

The School Board is asking for a continuation of the current spending amount. The changes that have taken place in the legislature have decreased the amount that schools are able to ask for from taxpayers with an increase going to the state to fully fund basic education. Our district has been able to provide added electives and advanced classes for our students that are not considered basic education. The School Programs and Operations levy along with the Technology levy will replace or “continue” the current levies that expire December 31, 2022. The levies represent 16% of our daily operating budget and are critical to the operation of our schools. The district is not asking for additional funding. We deeply value the support that our community provides for our children’s future. More information can be found on the district website.

Our board members are strong supporters of our schools and community, working to create great opportunities and experiences for students and with January being School Board Appreciation month now is a great time to share our thanks. When you see our board members in the next few weeks, please take the time to say thank you for their commitment and dedication to our schools. School Board members are responsible for approving the District's financial budget, including contracts for teachers and other employees, hiring the superintendent, setting policy, providing accountability, and advocating for students and staff. We have an outstanding team of dedicated board members working hard for our students, staff, and community. Thank you Robert Butler, Carl Cary, Tina Veatch, Karley Kincaid, and student representatives Emma Lanegan and Miah Manibusan!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our schools and community! - Dr. M

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Observed annually on the third Monday in January.

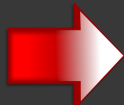
In January 2004, the Washington State House of Representatives passed House Resolution 4676 to recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, honoring the importance of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Dr. The resolution calls on the people of the state of Washington to study, reflect on, and celebrate Dr. King's life and ideals in order to fulfill his dream of civil and human rights for all people and urges "all citizens of our state to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a day of service- a day on, not a day off."

Granite Falls School District will observe this day on Monday, January 17, 2022.

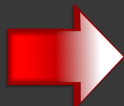


**"DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT
DARKNESS; ONLY LIGHT CAN DO
THAT. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT
HATE; ONLY LOVE CAN DO
THAT."**

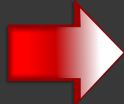
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



**Granite Falls School District @
GFSD332**



Granite Falls SD @ GFSD332

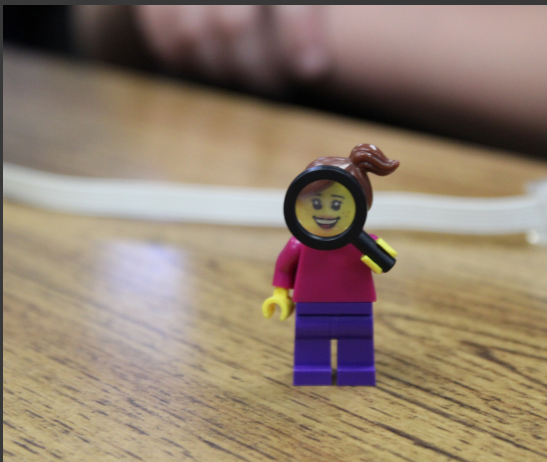


granitefallsschooldistrict332

STUDENT SUCCESS IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations Success in Education Winners!!

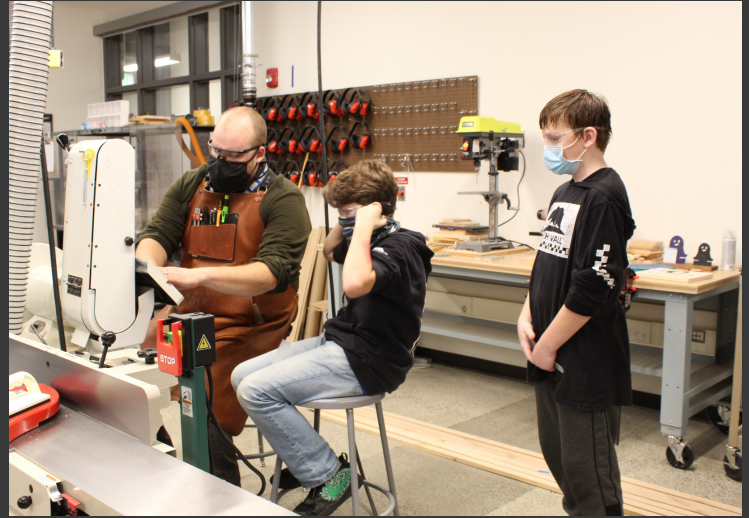
The District announces its 2nd quarter 'Success in Education' award winners! Congratulations to High School winners: Jack McGill, Shelby Rising, Erika Westphal & Florence Glenn; Middle School winners: Anacely Syson, Israel Aparicio & Brooke Mann; Monte Cristo Elementary winners: Ryker Dykes, Loden Smith & Jaxon Ward; Mountain Way Elementary winners: Violet Wood, Bodee Williams & Macie Stone. The award represents students that show an understanding of the importance of education and provide a committed, excellent service to other students, staff members, or the community. Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the school's administrative team.



REMEMBER TO VOTE- FEBRUARY 8

Registering to vote has never been easier. The state has a simple online voter registration process that only takes a couple of minutes. You can also register by mail or in-person. It's not too late to vote in the February Special Election. The last day to register to vote is January 31, 2022. Ballots need to be post-marked by Tuesday, February 8, 2022, in order to be valid. For the convenience of voters and our community, there is a ballot drop box located at the Granite Falls Sno-Isle library. Please contact the Snohomish County Elections Department at 425-388-3444 with questions.





COVID UPDATES

On January 7, 2022, the Washington State Department of Health updated its guidance for school districts across the state. You can view the updated guidance [here](#). Included in these most recent updates are updated isolation, quarantine, and testing recommendations, integration of technical clarifications from the November 4, 2021 K-12 Schools FAQ and expanded eligibility for activities allowed during modified quarantine in Test to Stay programs. Please note: Granite Falls School District does not currently have a Test to Stay program approved by Snohomish Health Department.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Wear a mask in public.
- Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart from others
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home and avoid contact with others when sick
- Get vaccinated

More information on COVID-19 can be found on the [Snohomish County Health website](#).

TESTING, VACCINATIONS & BOOSTERS

- A new mass testing site opened at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe.
- COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters are now available at no cost to ages 5 and older at Everett Mall. The Washington State Department of Health is offering a \$50 gift card to each individual who receives their first or second dose at that location. Though not eligible for a gift card, booster doses are also available. You can find more information at www.snohd.org/everettmallvax

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY

- 2 - Early Release
- 2- School Board Meeting
- 2 - Ground Hogs Day
- 7-11- School Counselor Week
- 8- Voting Day, Special Election
- 9- Early Release
- 16- Early Release
- 16- School Board Meeting
- 18- No School, Mid Winter Break
- 21- No School, President's Day
- 23- Early Release



SCHOOL LEVY ELECTION

February 8



TWO LEVIES ON BALLOT



Proposition 1

Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy

- 4-year levy; funds collected 2023-2026 (Total \$5,000,000/year)
- Accounts for approximately 16% of Granite Falls School District's revenue
- Purchasing curriculum and maintaining programs that are important for our students and our schools such as extracurricular activities, student mental health support, special education, school safety and security resources, and more!



Proposition 2

Replacement Technology & School Improvements Levy

- 4-year levy; funds collected 2023-2026 (\$750,000/year totaling \$3,000,000)
- Provides funding for technology for student learning including computer hardware, software, application and licensing; repairs of facilities and repair or replacement of systems such as windows, roofs, HVAC, electrical, etc., as well as construction as needed.



About the two propositions:

The Granite Falls School District has two replacement levy measures on the ballot February 8, 2022. Both levies replace existing levies that expire at the end of calendar year 2022. Collection for both replacement levies would begin in calendar year 2023.



FAQS

VOTE February 8

DIDN'T WASHINGTON SCHOOLS ALREADY RECEIVE MONEY FROM THE STATE BECAUSE OF THE MCCLEARY DECISION?

Yes. However, the funding provided by the state does not cover the actual costs to provide a comprehensive educational program. Because of this, virtually all school districts utilize levies to fill the gap in the funding provided by the state of Washington and the actual cost of providing a comprehensive education program.

The Washington State Supreme Court's "McCleary decision" resulted in public school districts receiving a funding increase in 2018 with a levy funding allowance decrease. However, state funding is restricted to basic education, and only covers approximately 75% of the full educational programs that Granite Falls School District students receive.

WILL MY TAXES DECREASE IF MORE PEOPLE MOVE INTO THE DISTRICT?

Yes. As the population of Granite Falls School District increases, the cost of school taxes to each homeowner decreases. The amount collected by the district cannot change, so as more people move into our area, individual cost decreases.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS LEVY COST ME?

In a school levy election, voters approve a collection amount- not a rate. Even if both levies pass, the rate per thousand will be approximately \$1.08 less in 2023 than it was in 2017, before the state changed the mechanisms for funding school operations and programming.

DIDN'T WE JUST VOTE ON A LEVY?

The Granite Falls School District's current levies will expire on December 31, 2022. Unless voters approve these levies to renew the existing ones, these funds will no longer be available for schools and the Granite Falls School District will be forced to make cuts to pertinent programs and offerings for our students. Important to remember: This is not a new tax.



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