Career and Technical offerings in Lake Stevens Schools (pgs. 1-2)

Learn about the progress of construction projects in our district (pgs. 3-4)

Teaching and learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic (page 5)
Upon first glance it may seem like the seventh-graders in Damara Hartzell’s Introduction to Computer Science Class at North Lake Middle School are simply playing with their food. After a few minutes, it becomes clear that they are using their creative engineering skills to plan, design and build a structure using candy and toothpicks.

The class is participating in International Dot Day—a global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration, created by Peter H. Reynolds, author of The Dot. Ms. Hartzell began the class by reading The Dot to her students. It’s the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to make her mark. What starts with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage.

Then, students were challenged to use 16 toothpicks and 10 DOTS candy gumdrops to build freestanding structures. First, students used their Chromebooks and Diagrams.net to design their models. Then, they used the candy and toothpicks to build their structures.

“Computer Science is more than coding, which tends to be a misconception made by many students,” said Hartzell. “In my class, students will be collaborating on projects, using algorithmic thinking, and learning how to interact with technology. Sometimes it can be challenging, but my goal is to challenge students to persevere and always do their best. The intention of the ‘Dot Challenge’ was for students to become familiar with the software, but also to explore their self-discovery and perseverance. To think that it all started with a simple dot which turned into something extraordinary—that’s what Computer Science is all about!”

Introduction to Computer Science is just one of nearly 100 Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes offered to seventh- through 12th-graders in Lake Stevens School District. Compared to vocational education of decades past, modern CTE spans nearly every industry.

“CTE provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, experience and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners,” said Dan Tedor, Director of Career and Technical Education. “In total, about 12.5 million high school and college students are enrolled in CTE across the nation. CTE prepares these learners for the world of work by introducing them to workplace competencies, and makes academic content accessible to students by providing it in a hands-on context. In Lake Stevens, students have access to in demand and high wage careers through CTE courses such as Computer Science, Engineering, Manufacturing, Business, Culinary, and much more. Our CTE students are career and college ready by accessing rigorous and inclusive learning environments.”

Exposing students to CTE programs in middle school helps them explore their passions and interests through the rest of career and college ready by accessing rigorous and inclusive learning environments.”

After designing a prototype on their Chromebooks, North Lake Middle School students use toothpicks and candy to create structures in celebration of International Dot Day in Damara Hartzell’s Introduction to Computer Science Class.

Ninth-graders at Cavelero Mid High School build pulley systems to determine changes in direction and magnitude of a force in their Principles of Engineering class. Clockwise from lower left: Maimuna Sylla, Axton Steinmetz and Jayden Omondi.

95% OF CTE STUDENTS GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH IS 10% HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

91% OF CTE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES EARNED 2-3 COLLEGE CREDITS

Source: aeseducation.com
their educational journey. At Lake Stevens Middle School (LSMS), Alex Moll uses his Design and Modeling class not only to teach students about the design and building process, but to help them choose their next electives at Cavelero Mid High School and Lake Stevens High School. Moll’s students have just created keychains and name tags using a computer program called SketchUp and 3D printers. This trial and error project highlighted design flaws and challenged students to collaborate with their peers to understand what tweaks need to be made to create a more polished finished product.

Cavelero Mid High School and Lake Stevens High School have several engineering-based courses as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Graduation Pathway. In the Principles of Engineering at Cavelero Mid High School, Will Fredin works with students on concepts of physical science as they are applied to technology in modern industry. During a recent class, ninth-graders were building pulley systems to determine changes in direction and magnitude of a force. Learning about pulley systems—and other simple machines—helps students understand how engineers use these tools to solve everyday challenges.

Students in Rob Davis’ Digital Electronics class at Lake Stevens High School learn the fundamentals of electrical engineering, electronics and circuit design. Recently, students were studying Kirchhoff’s Law, which looks at current in a node and voltage around a loop. They were charting and measuring resistance in order to complete calculations to accurately build and measure a circuit that lit LED lights.

Davis’ classes are held in the new West Building at Lake Stevens High School—the former 400 building, which used to house the library and classrooms. Now, thanks to the passage of the 2016 school construction bond that paid for the modernization and expansion of Lake Stevens High School, it’s home to the CTE and Special Education Departments. Students have access to a state-of-the-art manufacturing lab and computer lab.

Career & Technical Education Pathways in Lake Stevens School District

Lake Stevens School District’s Career and Technical Education Program offers courses in the following graduation pathways:

- Business and Marketing
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Skilled and Technical Sciences
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Several Lake Stevens CTE courses offer CTE Dual Credit. This provides students an opportunity to earn college credit for successfully completing the high school course. Many of these courses also provide opportunities for students to earn Industry Recognized Credentials, which support their journey into postsecondary success.

CTE programs in Lake Stevens utilize advisory committees composed of representatives of business, industry and parents from our community to keep inline of current trends and requirements of each program area offered.

Sno-Isle Skills Center

In addition to CTE programs at Lake Stevens High School, students also have the opportunity to enroll in any one of 20 programs offered at the Sno-Isle Skills Center in Mukilteo.

For more information regarding the Career and Technical Education Programs in Lake Stevens School District, please visit:

You may also reach out to Dan Tedor, Director of Career & Technical Education at dan_tedor@lkstevens.wednet.edu or 425-335-1528.
New athletic championship banners were installed in the new Lake Stevens High School gymnasium to commemorate the Viking’s long-standing legacy.

New perimeter fencing with electronically-locking gates for safety and security was installed on the Lake Stevens High School campus.
has also been installed throughout the campus for wayfinding and branding.

The high school tennis courts, which were used for construction parking throughout the project, were also refurbished and are now Viking Purple.

**Modular Classrooms at Glenwood and Skyline Elementary Schools**

Ten modular classrooms are being installed on the campuses of Glenwood and Skyline Elementary Schools. These classrooms are Smart Academic Green Environments (SAGE) modulars that are mounted on permanent foundations. SAGE classrooms are environmentally friendly and provide more daylight than a traditional portable. They have higher ceilings, natural ventilation, operable windows, and are more energy efficient. The buildings are being built at the same grade as the existing ground, so no ramps will be needed. Where possible, sinks and drinking fountains were installed.

Three double classroom buildings—for a total of six classrooms—are being installed at Skyline. Two double classroom buildings—for a total of four classrooms—are being installed at Glenwood. The buildings are painted to mirror the existing look and feel of each school building, and landscaping will be added.

This project is funded by construction mitigation fees, and the remaining K-3 Class Size Reduction Grant funding. In 2016 Lake Stevens School District was one of 21 districts in the state to receive a K-3 Class Size Reduction Grant from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The district was allocated $24.56 million for building projects that add or update classrooms to increase space for students.

Grant funds were also used to fund a portion of the construction of Stevens Creek Elementary School and the new Early Learning Center, and the renovation of the old Early Learning Center into Hillcrest West. New kindergarten classrooms were also added to Glenwood, Highland, Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck, Skyline and Sunnycrest Elementary Schools.

**Secure Entries Project**

The districtwide Secure Entries Project is complete. New electronic locks and hardware were installed that enable school staff to secure their entry in the event of an emergency. In some instances, this included building new walls and installing new doors to create securable entrance vestibules. The secure entries are programmed based on each school’s schedule, and the entry can be secured with the push of a button.

The project also includes a new entrance security camera and video screen, a front entry video intercom and integration to the intrusion detection system in each school building.

In addition, all buildings on the campuses at Lake Stevens and North Lake Middle Schools received new electronic locks so that the entire campus can be secured from the office.

*Each school in our district now has a secure entry system that allows school personnel to identify and greet people before granting them access to the school.*
The 2021-22 school year is off to a strong start, and preschoolers through 12th-graders are back in our schools for full-time, in-person learning. Navigating the myriad changes that the pandemic brings has been a major adjustment for our employees and students, but we have been incredibly impressed by our students’ ability to properly wear their masks, keep a physical distance, and to have fun through it all! The joy on their faces is evident, and it’s so rewarding having our students back for in-person instruction.

Lake Stevens School District is also offering a limited Distance Learning program for elementary and secondary students who are unable to successfully attend school in-person. These students are using their district-provided Chromebooks to access live instruction from teachers, and to complete assignments and activities.

As we navigate this school year, it’s important that our community understands how COVID-19 cases are handled in the district. While we are doing everything we can to keep students and employees safe, the reality is that there are COVID-19 positive cases in our schools.

District COVID-19 Safety Plan

Our District COVID-19 Safety Plan was developed from guidance set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Snohomish Health District. The plan is updated as new guidance is received. You can review the plan at www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/covid.

The COVID-19 Tracker shows confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in students and employees in our schools. In an effort to protect the privacy of our students and employees, we are not separating employee and student cases in the Tracker. We have not included close contact data, because it’s not a reliable indicator of positive cases in our district. The Tracker is updated every Wednesday for the week prior.

We appreciate the efforts of our employees and families to follow our COVID-19 safety protocols to ensure that our students can continue in-person learning. Our students are amazingly resilient and have done a wonderful job adapting to their changing environments. We are also incredibly proud of our employees who are diligently working to maintain a healthy learning environment.

Did you know? The state funds just 1.4 nurses for our 12 schools. We employ 13 full-time nurses using funds from the voter-approved Educational Programs & Operations Levy that expires next year. Our nurses are integral in our efforts to protect and maintain the health of our students.

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors is considering a four-year replacement levy in February 2022 to maintain the current level of service for our students. Additional information will be shared with our community once plans are finalized.

Student Mental Health

Adolescence can be a socially and emotionally difficult time for students—especially during a pandemic. Maintaining good mental health is an essential learning skill during this time, www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/mentalhealth

Student Mental Health Support Specialists
Each secondary school—Lake Stevens Middle School, North Lake Middle School, Cavelero Mid High School and Lake Stevens High School is staffed with a Student Mental Health Support Specialist. These employees are mental health counselors who work with students in groups and one-on-one. They can also help parents and guardians identify community resources and learn new ways to cope with student mental health struggles.

Intervention Specialists
Lake Stevens High School and Cavelero Mid High School also have Intervention Specialists who work with students on substance abuse issues.

Student learning and fun thrive in spite of COVID-19 pandemic

In addition to their core classes, students are also enjoying art, music, PE and other electives. Athletics, clubs and extracurricular activities have mostly resumed throughout the district.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE STATE FUNDS FOR OUR 12 SCHOOLS

WE EMPLOY 13 FULL-TIME NURSES USING FUNDS from the voter-approved Educational Programs & Operations Levy that expires next year.

Our nurses are INTEGRAL in our efforts to protect and maintain the health of our students.
Message from Your Superintendent

It’s hard to believe that we have already completed two months of the 2021-22 school year. Things are moving at an incredibly rapid pace as we navigate teaching and learning during the pandemic. I’m honored to be your superintendent, and to work with our Board of Directors, administration, the entire staff of Lake Stevens School District, and especially our outstanding students. Our students give us a daily reminder of what is truly important, and why we are here.

Our school community is the heart and soul of the Lake Stevens community. Lake Stevens is unique in its collaborative and thoughtful support of its schools and citizens. Our reputation for excellence would be impossible without your generous and consistent support and partnership.

This fall we welcomed more than 45 new teachers and specialists to our district. We also welcomed numerous classified support employees into our schools and departments. Our district is actively hiring for bus drivers, certificated and classified substitutes, custodians, and food and nutrition services staff. Lake Stevens School District is a great place to work—I’ve been a member of the Lake Stevens team for the past 31 years. I encourage you to consider applying for an open position, and to help us spread the word throughout our community.

Please remember to vote in the General Election on Nov. 2. Our local Lake Stevens political races help shape the trajectory of our city and district. Your vote is an important way to make your voice heard.

I hope you’ve enjoyed this publication and have learned about some of the amazing things our students are doing. It’s so rewarding having our students back in our schools. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,
Ken Collins, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Family Engagement Specialists

Our Family Engagement Specialists provide resources and support to students and their families by building positive relationships to gain a better understanding of needs.

School Counselors

School counselors are certified educators, who work in all of our schools (K-12), to improve student success for all students. They support students’ academic achievement, career development, and social and emotional development. Parents and students are urged to contact the school counselor to discuss any area of concern.

Crisis Help is also available 24/7. A list of resources can be found at www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/crisis.

Special Education services in Lake Stevens School District

The Lake Stevens School District is interested in locating, evaluating and identifying students from birth to age 21 who are suspected of having a disability for the purpose of determining whether they are in need of special education and related services. This extends to students residing in the district, whether or not they are enrolled in the public school system. This also includes highly mobile children (such as migrant or homeless students) who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

A student eligible for special education means a student who has been evaluated and determined to need special education because of having a disability in one of the eligibility categories, and who, because of the disability and adverse educational impact, has unique needs that cannot be addressed exclusively through education in general education classes with or without individual accommodations, and needs specially designed instruction. The eligibility categories are hearing, vision, speech, language, orthopedic or health impairment, intellectual disability, an emotional behavioral disability, autism, traumatic brain injury, deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, a specific learning disability or for students, three through eight, a developmental delay.

For more information, visit the school district website and click on “Departments” and “Special Services” or call 425-335-1660.

Lake Stevens School District is hiring

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Stay informed about what's happening in our schools!

The free LSSD mobile app provides easy access to news, calendars, notifications and lunch menus. Search “Lake Stevens School District” on the App Store or Google Play.

LAKE STEVENS SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HIRING!

VISIT: www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/jobs

Sincerely,
Ken Collins, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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2021-22 SIGNIFICANT DATES

Dates are subject to change. Please confirm dates and times on the district website calendar.

October
- 25-28 Middle School Family Conference Week; 2.5 hour early release for grades 6 & 7
- 85-minute early releases: 1, 15, 22, 29

November
- 1-4 Early Learning Center Family Conference Week; no preschool
- 11 Veterans Day; no school
- 24 2.5 hour early release
- 25 Thanksgiving Day
- 26 No school
- 85-minute early releases: 5, 12, 19

December
- 20-31 Winter Break
- 85-minute early releases: 3, 10, 17

January
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no school
- 21 End of First Semester
- 24 No school
- 85-minute early releases: 7, 14, 21, 28

February
- 14-17 Preschool to seventh-grade Family Conference Week; 2.5 hour early release; no preschool
- 18 No school
- 21 Presidents Day; no school
- 85-minute early releases: 4, 11, 25

March
- 85-minute early releases: 4, 11, 18, 25

April
- 4-8 Spring Break
- 85-minute early releases: 1, 15, 22, 29

May
- 30 Memorial Day; no school
- 85-minute early releases: 6, 13, 20, 27

June
- 9 Last Day of School for ELC
- 14 Last Day of School; 2.5 hour early release (pending no school closures)
- 15-17 Potential snow makeup days
- 85-minute early releases: 3, 10

In accordance with RCW 49.60, the Lake Stevens School District does not discriminate in employment and schools. The Lake Stevens School District provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, use of a trained dog to guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and designated youth groups. The district complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations to include, but not limited to, Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RCW 49.60 “The Law Against Discrimination,” and RCW 28A.640 “Sex Equity,” and covers, but is not limited to, all district programs, courses, activities, including extracurricular activities, services, access to facilities, etc. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures should be directed to Lake Stevens School District, 12309 22nd St NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Officer, John Balmer, (425) 335-1500, John_Balmer@lkstevens.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Miriam Tencate, (425) 335-1500, Miriam_Tencate@lkstevens.wednet.edu.