



SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

Spring
2022

Welcome to our modernized school building!

\$3.8 million state grant enables needed facilities improvement without local taxpayer burden

In 2021, Skamania was awarded a \$3.8 million Washington State Modernization Grant to make critical updates to the aging school building.

“The modernization grant was a game-changer, as it provided the essential updates without requiring additional funding from our community,” says Superintendent and Principal Dr. Ralph Pruitt.

The existing school building was built in 1947, with many of the original systems still in use. While the structure of the building is very solid, many systems were at the end of their usable life prior to the updates.

The grant-funded renovations dramatically improved the efficiency and longevity of the building, with a new roof, new windows and doors to minimize heat loss, and the creation of a leak-proof building envelope that will continue to protect current and future generations at Skamania.

The failing heating and cooling system
Story continued inside



New lighting, paint, carpet, windows, furniture and other important improvements make Skamania School a welcoming, comfortable place for students and staff alike.

School Board message:



Greetings from the Skamania School Board!

I would like to start off by thanking our amazing staff! You are the heartbeat of our school and make it a safe space for our students to learn and grow. We could not have gotten this far without each and every one of you.

Students and families, I am so proud of your resilience these past few years. You have conquered each challenge put before you, and there have been many.

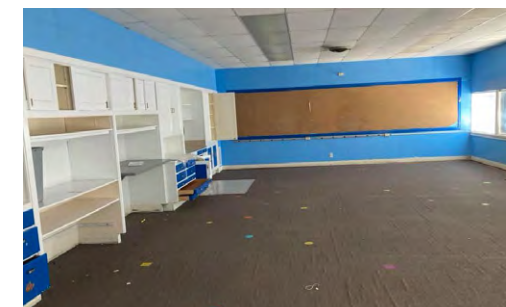
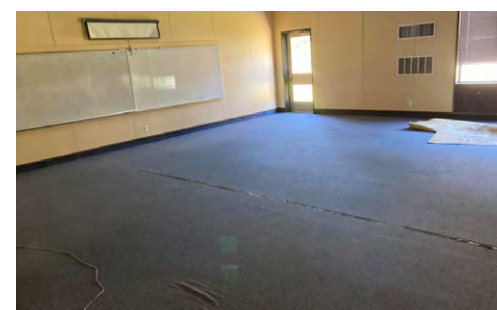
I would also like to thank our superintendent/principal, Dr. Pruitt, for the immense impact he has had on our school during the last 5 years. A few highlights include completion of the modernization project, shifting to personalized learning plans, making our Woodard Creek property more accessible as an outdoor education space, and managing the complexities of the COVID pandemic while keeping the focus on student learning.

The world has experienced a lot of changes in the last few years, and Skamania is no exception. We've had quite a bit of turnover on our board, and after 42 years of service in education, Dr. Pruitt will begin his next adventure this summer: a much-deserved retirement. We are already in the process of hiring his replacement, with the next superintendent/principal expected to start by July 1. We will share more information throughout the spring as we move through the selection process.

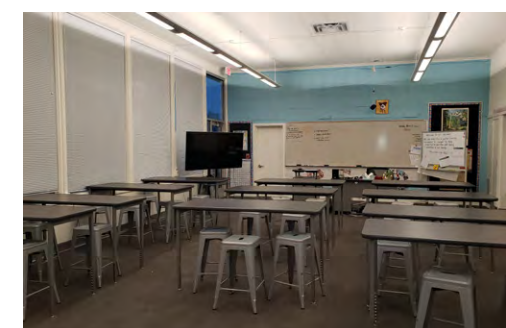
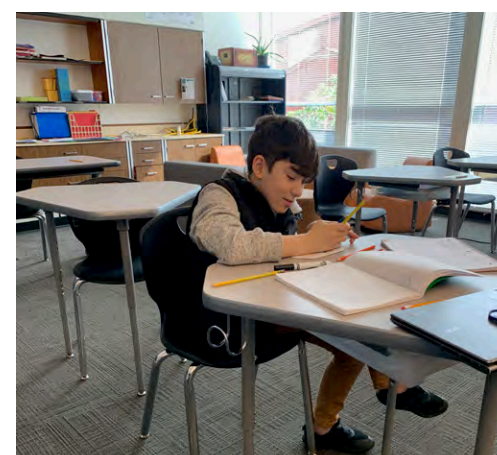
Change can be hard, but I am excited to see where our next superintendent and new board members lead us. As always, the board will continue working closely with the new superintendent to ensure our focus remains on providing the best education for our students, supporting our staff, and maintaining the family-feel of our small school that is so unique to Skamania.

Angus Anderson, Chairman

BEFORE



AFTER



Modernization continued

was replaced with a new HVAC system that keeps rooms at a comfortable temperature, and has increased the filtration and circulation throughout the building to maintain healthy air in classrooms. New fire suppression and electrical systems throughout significantly increase the safety of the building. A new intercom system allows for staff to communicate more easily during the school day and in emergencies. A previous grant paid for the recent replacement of the original plumbing system.

Students and staff returned in September 2021 to a brand-new school interior. New paint, flooring, lighting, and fixtures were installed throughout the building. "The school looks spectacular! My favorite part is the big windows because they let so much sunshine in while I'm working. The colors make me feel happy," says fourth-grader Emmalyn.

Classrooms also received new and adaptive furniture sized for the students they serve. Audrina, a first-grader, likes the wobbly stools best "because you can fidget with them and it helps me focus on the teacher."

Many districts pay for construction or upgrades through a bond or capital levy measure, which increases taxes in the community for a few years. By using grant funds for these improvements, Skamania was able to increase the safety and comfort of all who use the school, without burdening local taxpayers.

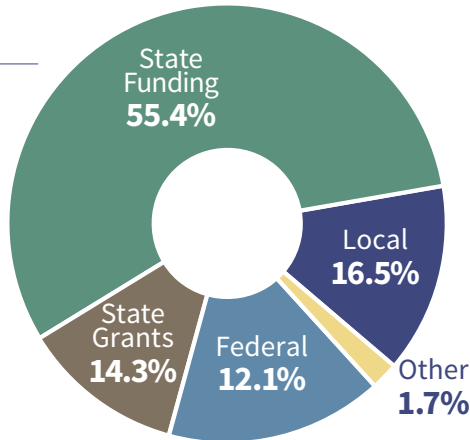
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- Emmalyn, 4th grade

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21 Revenues & Expenditures

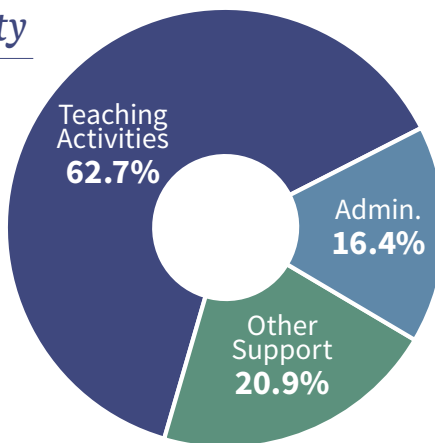
Revenues by Source

LOCAL	
Levies.....	\$214,889
Non-tax.....	\$7,325
STATE	
Funding.....	\$746,116
Grants.....	\$192,391
FEDERAL	\$162,920
OTHER	\$23,090
TOTAL: \$1,346,730	



Expenditures by Activity

TEACHING - \$794,999
Classroom and extracurricular activities, library, guidance and counseling, professional development, curriculum
OTHER - \$264,758
Maintenance, custodial and grounds work, utilities, insurance, food services, transportation and public activities
ADMINISTRATION - \$207,882
Principal/supt., office manager, supplies, materials, school board expenses, elections, audits, outside contracts, supervision of transportation/food services/maintenance



TOTAL: \$1,268,640

2020-21 EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT = **\$20,105**

District Data

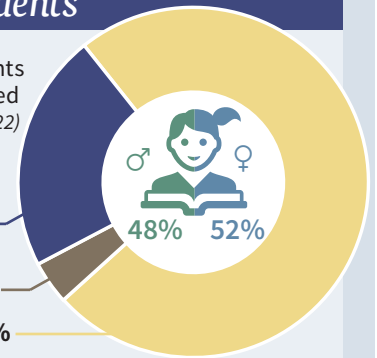
Our Students

62 students enrolled
(As of March 2022)

Hispanic/Latino - **21.4%**

Two or more races - **4.3%**

White - **74.3%**



42% of our students qualify for free or reduced-price meals

Our Staff



10 support staff



9 teachers/certificated staff



1 district administrator

STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS

1:9 TK-K

1:10 1st-2nd

1:9 3rd-5th

1:5 6th-8th



Fall 2021 State Assessments

ELA, Math, and Science for 3rd through 8th grade

Due to COVID, Spring 2020 assessments were delayed 18 months until Fall 2021, and the assessments were shorter than normal. Like many districts around the country, Skamania School has seen a decline in scores, due to the disruption in normal instruction. To address learning loss, we are providing remedial support, monitoring student progress more closely in order to intervene promptly, have purchased an updated reading curriculum, and are exploring a new math program. For more information, please visit www.skamaniashooldistrict.org.