

Wishram School **NEWSLETTER**

February 2020



Feeling the Love!

With the support of our community behind us, the sky's the limit for Wishram students.

From the Superintendent:

Hello Wishram community, and thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter!

This message is going to be an attempt to display the gratitude I have for your continued support for our academic and athletic programming. Wishram School District #94 is making unprecedented headway in several crucial areas, and this wouldn't be possible without having you in our corner. From the bottom of my heart, thank you voters for showing that you support our students, and that you are willing to invest in their future.

With our new levy in place, we have the opportunity to continue to expand our educational opportunities and outcomes through the 2023/2024 school year. For those who voted in favor of this initiative, thank you. For those who didn't approve, I still want to thank you for participating in the special election, and exercising your right to vote. While I'm sure you have your reasons, my sincere hope is that you are able to see the tangible results of your investment within our students and the greater community. Levy taxes are unique in the fact that you actually know what your tax dollars support, and those funds stay within your local community unlike the multitude of other taxes both voter-approved and initiated by the legislature. While any amount of additional taxation can be burdensome, we want to assure you that these funds will directly benefit the students who attend our institution.

Our CTE (Career and Technical Education) program is one of the largest beneficiaries of our levy, and I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the future programming we will now be able to offer. Along with maintaining a highly qualified instructor in Mr. Dave DeVoe, we are also in the midst of expanding our facilities and course offerings. It is our full intent to add welding and plasma cutting to our architecture and millwork pathways. A significant portion of our levy funding will be used to obtain materials and machinery to place within this new facility, thus assisting us in continuing our efforts to provide a comprehensive educational experience for our students.

The levy also helps us continue to provide a full-time school counselor (Ms. Ashley Blodgett), who has been instrumental in providing social-emotional learning lessons to all of our students K-12, and who ensures that our students obtain assistance in career planning, post-secondary enrollment, and experience all assessments necessary for them to take the next step in their lives beyond their public schooling experience in Wishram. These essential opportunities help our students understand and take advantage of the many options available to them post-graduation.

At our most recent awards ceremony, 25 out of 30 of our secondary students made the honor roll. This means that 83% of our secondary students currently have a 3.25 GPA or higher. This is one of several data points that sets Wishram apart from most schools both regionally and statewide. Our school doesn't provide students with easier assignments, a watered-down curriculum, or use gimmicks like giving students credit for work they never turned in to obtain these results, we simply hold high expectations and provide an appropriate amount of support to ensure that those expectations are met.

Every student at our school does every assignment, and that is the hinge pin for our continued academic success. We believe that within every one of our students is a desire to exceed expectations, it's simply our job to make sure that they believe in themselves, and we take a great deal of pride in assisting them on that journey.

In closing, I again want to say just how thankful I am to all of you within our wonderful community. Our school, students, and staff are all grateful for your continued support, and we are all looking forward to the fantastic outcomes in store for our learners. With this levy now firmly in place, we can begin to take action on our vision of expanding educational opportunities for all students. The best is yet to come.

*- Mr. Mike Roberts
Superintendent/Principal
Wishram School District #94*

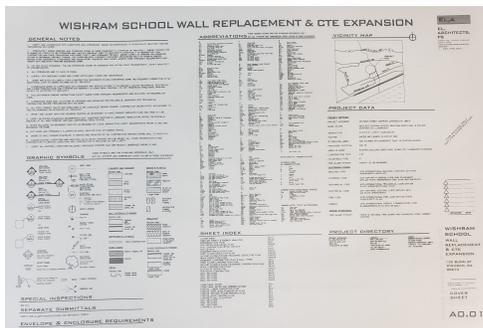
Athletics & Operations

Hello Wishram friends and family,

Before we know it, Spring will be here and we can all start getting out and enjoying the weather. I hope you all enjoyed the rain in January, because we sure did receive plenty of it! Let's not forget that we received the most snowfall last year in February so winter might not be over as of yet. I for one am hoping we don't have a repeat of that this year.

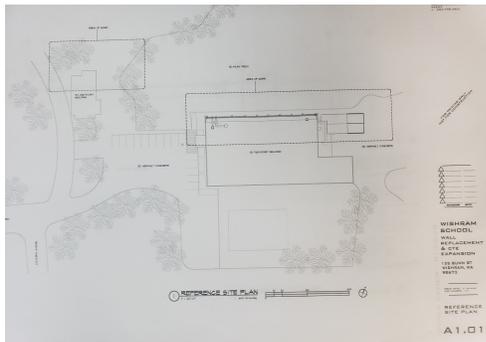
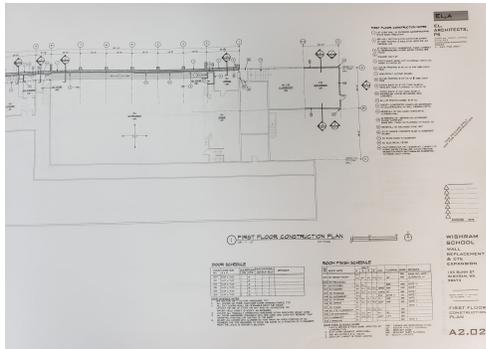
The Levy and This Wonderful Community:

I cannot thank you enough for your support of the students here at Wishram School. By passing this levy, this community has proven how much it cares for our students. Barring any unforeseen emergency, the passing of this levy has secured our counselor, CTE Program and athletics for the next 4 years. Trust us, we know just how hard life can be and none of us enjoy paying taxes, but this is one tax where you are welcome to come and see just what it is doing for our students. If you ever want to visit our school and take a look at some of the projects coming out of our CTE program or visit with our counselor, just give us a call and set up an appointment.



Update on the North Wall Demolition/Construction & CTE Expansion:

I finally got the survey back from Pioneer Surveying and Engineering which allowed us to move forward with the design of these two projects. Mr. Roberts and I met with the architect and the electrical engineer on January 30th. I got to walk with the architect and the electrical engineer around the building photographing all the electrical components that will be affected by the demolition and construction of our North wall and the



expansion of our CTE facility. After that Mr. Roberts and I met with the architect to go over the design plans for both projects. We are about 90% done with the design. We've provided 3 pictures out of the 100-page design pamphlet for your viewing. To say that I'm a little overwhelmed is putting it lightly. At this point, we are still on track to go out to bid this month, probably closer to the end of February or early March. The architect is estimating that these projects will take around 6 months to complete. We are going to allow contractors to get started in April and hope that the project is done by the end of October 2020. We have to watch how many stipulations we place on the jobs as stipulations just cause the cost of the project to go up. As I've explained before, we have exactly 3.9 million dollars (All provided by a grant) to spend on the north wall and \$150,000 to spend on the CTE expansion Right now, it's looking like the cost of the north wall repair will be somewhere around \$3.5 million. So, as of right now we do have some contingency money left for the north wall project. We are still working on how much the CTE expansion is going to cost. Grants are a crazy thing, you have to design projects like this so that you have contingency money but at the same time, you are not allowed to spend any of the grant money on anything other than what the grant was written for and you have to give any leftover money back to the state.

There will be multiple interruptions to our school days once these projects start but I promise we will do everything in our power to minimize the interruption to the education of your children. The north field will be closed to all traffic during the construction. The kitchen will be shut down and we will be using the lunchroom to prepare all the food. The English room will be closed and English will be taught in a neighboring classroom. The gymnasium/stage and weight room will be closed as well. We will even have to pick a different place to host our graduation. We are currently working on what that might look like. During the summer, we will also be working to shore up the hillside behind the lunchroom. Please prepare to bear with us during all of this as Wishram School will be a better place once it's all done.

School closures due to weather can become a reality this time of year. We, here at Wishram School have many different ways to keep our friends and families informed of school closures and or delays from a messenger system that I will send out once the decision has been made to close or delay along with also using FlashAlert which will not only send you a Push Notification but will automatically send the information to all local TV and radio stations. To download the FlashAlert App , just go to your Play Store or Apple store and download the App on to your phone. We also put delays and/or closure information on the Wishram School Facebook and the Wishram School Website. www.wishramschool.org. We also send out voice messages to your phone and if you would like to sign up to receive these messages just give Mrs. Back a call at the School Office.

Athletics:

Winter sports are now over. Both our boys and girls basketball teams played in their crossover games on February 6th. It was a winner advance, loser-out situation. Both our teams lost but they played hard and enjoyed their season. Spring sports will start on March 2nd. We would love to see your children sign up for track, baseball or softball! Sports are one of the best ways to keep your children active, healthy and off the streets.

All of our athletic schedules are on our webpage for your viewing. Visit www.wishramschool.org for athletic schedules. You can also take a look at our Facebook page on Mondays for weekly sports schedules.

*-Mr. Tye Churchwell
Director of Operations & Athletics*

Classroom & Beyond

College Check-In: Gerry Kindrick

2019 Wishram graduate Gerry Kindrick is halfway through his freshman year at the University of Washington. He stopped by for a visit when he was home for the winter holidays, and was eager to share his impressions of college so far with his friends and former classmates here at Wishram School.

When asked about the biggest challenge he has faced in his college coursework so far, Gerry pointed to the amount of work students are expected to do vs. the amount of time spent in class. He commented, “There is a lot of course work that you have to study for and work hard on and it is quite a time management task. Studying is such an immense part of your time spent doing homework and assignments.”



Gerry expanded on this idea when talking about the major differences between high school and college, noting that “You have your 45-50 minute classes in high school, and college is essentially the same for the amount of time spent in class, but when it comes to homework and study time, college gives a much heavier load for homework and studying. You may spend a little time studying and doing homework for your high school courses, but at the college level, you are doing 2 hours of studying outside of class for every 1 hour of time you spend IN class, in addition to having a lot more homework than high school.”

When asked about how his experiences here at Wishram School helped to prepare him for the rigors of college, Gerry was candid in expressing that there was very little that could have prepared him for UW, considering the size of the University of Washington (over 46,000 students are enrolled at the main campus in Seattle) compared to Wishram School, where Gerry’s graduating class of 11 was considered to be quite large. He did note, however, that having online access to Running Start classes through Clark College during his junior and senior years of high school was helpful in introducing him to the pace and expectations of college work.

Finally, when asked what advice he would give to current Wishram students regarding things they could be doing now to better prepare them for college, Gerry shared the following tips: “Get into a good mindset of studying, even if it is not needed because you are definitely going to have to get used to it at some point if you decide to go to college. You will also want to get into your head that there are going to be a lot of people and you have to get used to being around a lot of people and you cannot compare your intelligence to anyone else at college because there are a lot of intelligent people. You have to also get used to not necessarily getting 1:1 time with your professors and you're probably going to struggle at least a little bit until you adapt to having to do everything on your own. Some more advice I would give would be to get used to working in groups because it really does help a lot and will make your life and education that much easier and smooth sailing. Plus, it gives you time to connect with people you don't know and increase your social skills and make new friends.”

First Semester Finishes with Honors

In the secondary grades (6-12), the first semester concluded with 25 of 30 students earning Honor Roll recognition. These students all finished the semester with a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher: Gessey Atchison (6), Alyssa Fletcher (6), Aurora Howell (6), Sam Bernier (7), Kaylee Woodman (7), Kayden Woodman (8), Ethan Mcconville (8), Dakota Miller (8), Katelyn Schalk (8), Faith Warrilow (8), Chance Bernier (9), Makayla Churchwell (9), Tiffany Kucher (9), Blake Kostrach (9), Bridgitte Trenary (9), David Bernier (10), Avery Flock (10), Alaura McCullough (10), Sterling Miller (10), Harlee Schalk (10), Robbie Dorr (11), Cruz Montoya (11), Justin Ingraham (11), Hayden Flock (12), Brandon Montoya (12).



Mr. Weaver Recognizes Top Efforts for 1st Semester

We recently held our 1st-semester awards assembly. In my classes, several students were recognized for excellence or improvement. For my middle school Social Studies classes, Alyssa Fletcher was given a certificate of excellence for having the highest grade average. For my high school classes, I had several students who excelled with high scores. Chance Bernier, Bridgitte Trenary, David Bernier, and Alaura McCullough were honored for excellence. For middle school P.E., Katelyn Schalk was honored for outstanding achievement and Faith Warrilow was honored for improvement. I hope to see these students and many more striving for excellence in this new semester.



REACH Updates



REACH is a program of Educational Service District #12

Fall 2019-20

NEWSLETTER



RELATIONSHIPS
ENRICHMENT
ACADEMICS
COMMUNITY
HOMEWORK



FALL ACTIVITIES

Students have enjoyed a lot of hands-on activities that encourage growth in, and the enjoyment of, reading, math, writing, science and art. One particular activity that students took a lot of interest in was their leaf collages. Students spent time collecting a variety of leaves and then created beautiful collages.



GRANT PARTNERS

We had our much anticipated and enjoyed visit from Dale Connell from Rivermark Bank. Dale brought dictionaries to our students and did word searches and other fun activities to help students become acquainted with their new dictionary. Thank you, Dale!

PARENT EVENTS

On Halloween we had our annual Halloween Carnival. We had games and fun activities to do, plus a considerable amount of candy to give away that was generously donated by the local Wishram Community members.

On November 26th we had our 19th annual Cultural Exchange. This event is made possible by donations from Gorge area businesses, Wishram School, and families of Wishram Community and Wishram School staff members. We begin preparations a few weeks before the event by making decorations during the REACH Program. This year we made Salmon to put on the gymnasium wall, and accordion pumpkins to adorn the decorated tables.

On the day of the event we start by decorating the gym and the tables. It was so very festive and beautiful! At noon the feast begins with a blessing and learning the importance of specific traditional foods such as salmon, venison, and berries, then the feast begins. We have all the traditional foods from our two cultures: salmon, venison, turkey, potatoes, stuffing,





corn, huckleberry sauce and more. Dessert and clean-up occur next in preparation for the dancing, music, storytelling and songs.

Our day ends with the Friendship dance where one circle becomes two and we shake hands. This is a wonderful tradition our school and community will continue to host for many years to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events include our annual Winter Program where all students participate. REACH students will help with the decorations and perform a poem or song in sign language.



Student Highlight



ALLYSSA FLETCHER (6TH GRADE)

What is your favorite thing about REACH?

"I really like to help the little kids with their homework. It reminds me of the work I used to do when I was their age. I especially liked the science projects, like the erupting lemon!" (See photos below.)

What is something fun you did at REACH recently?

"Something fun I did in REACH recently was watercolor painting. I haven't been able to do that in a while."

What have you learned recently?

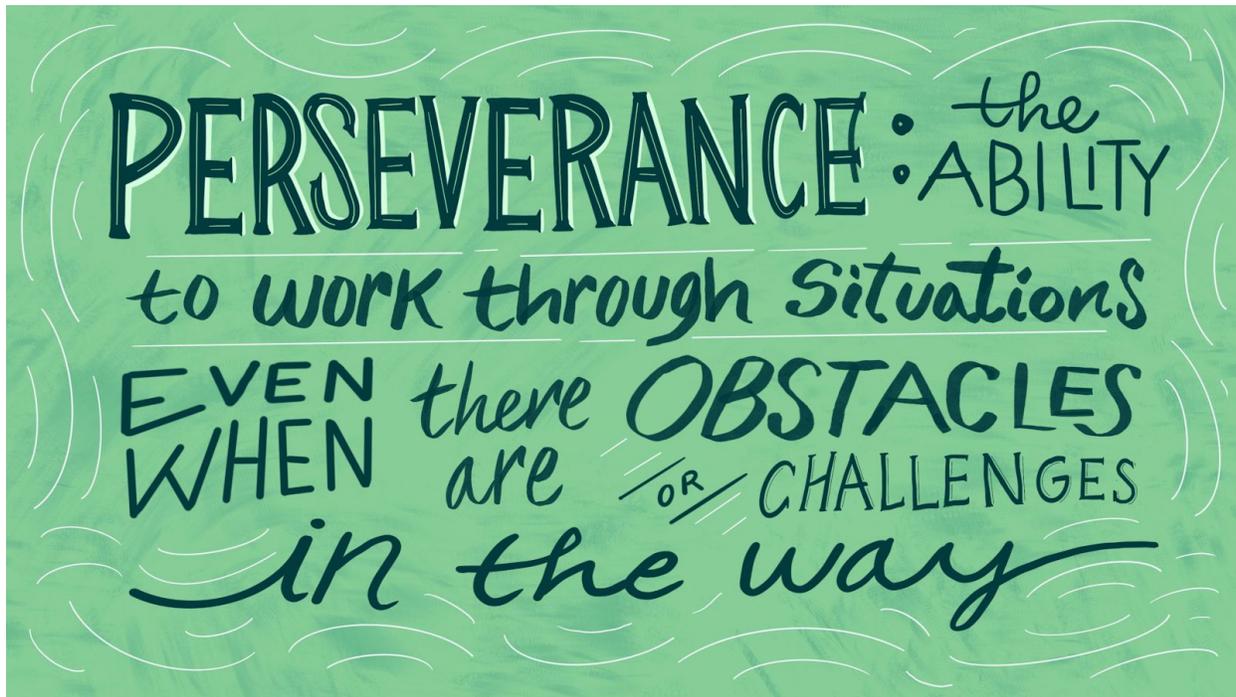
"I have learned in Science that the lemons could actually have that reaction with baking soda."



Wishram

Counselor's Corner

Happy Valentine's Day! Our students are continuing the Character Strong curriculum, and this month we're talking about the trait of Perseverance. The dictionary defines it as: "Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success." The definition we are using here at school is:



Angela Duckworth is an author and researcher who discovered that the most successful people in our world right now have one big thing in common: their ability to persevere through tough situations. She calls it Grit! In fact, she found that Grit is a higher indicator of success than SAT scores, IQ, or GPA. This month, we are talking about how we respond when things get really hard or when we feel like we've failed or can't do something. Over the next few weeks, there will be stories of inspiring and resilient role models. We will talk about what happens and what our thought process is when we feel frustrated or stumped. We will talk about having a Growth Mindset instead of a Fixed Mindset—to see challenges and failure as an opportunity to learn or try a new path instead of thinking, "I'm just not good at this" or, "If I failed this time, I will fail again next time." People that persevere are people that know failure is just the beginning of new growth or learning!

In other news, our juniors and seniors have an exciting opportunity coming up on Thursday, February 27th. They will attend Clark College's Professional Technical Day in which they get some hands-on experience with the technical programs offered at Clark College. Our seniors are also moving along in their college and career readiness journey and will begin learning about finances, job searches and applications, resumes, cover letters, and job interview skills. They are also very excited to begin working on their Senior Presentations which will take place in a few months!

*-Ms. Ashley Blodgett
School Counselor*

Snapshots from the Shop



Wishram Students Set to Participate in Wind Challenge



COLUMBIA GORGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mark your calendars!

The Gorge Wind Challenge is coming Saturday March 14 (3.14...otherwise known as Pi day). The Wind Challenge is a hands-on program that fuels student interest in science, technology and wind energy! This event is brought to the Gorge by the Gorge Tech Alliance, Columbia Gorge Community College, and Google.

During the event, teams of middle or high school students learn about wind turbine technology and design, and apply their skills in an all-day competition to build, test, and present their wind turbine models.

Prizes are given to the three high school teams and the three middle school teams whose wind turbines had the fastest speed for transferring the kinetic energy and the most electrical power generated.

Two teams of Wishram students will be attending this year, one middle school team and one high school team. This year we have two returning team members: Avery Flock and Kayla Churchwell. The rest will be attending the challenge for the first time. This will be our 7th year competing in this event. While we may not always place in the top 3, we always have a great time. Competition usually begins around 11:00 with the public welcome to come and watch. This event will be held at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center, up by the college.

There's also a hands-on STEM Fair that helps keep the participants busy and is open to the public from 11:30 – 3:00, for free. Last year some of the Fair booths included:

- Youth robotics with high school FIRST Tech Challenge teams
- Gorge Makerspace with building activities
- Mini wind turbine building with Columbia Gorge Community College
- Virtual reality with Google Tiltbrush
- Plus information from Oregon universities

Come and cheer on your Wishram Wind Challenge teams!

Also sponsored by the Wishram REACH after school program.



Food Service

February Breakfast & Lunch Menu:

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3B- French Toast Sticks, fruit, milk L- Popcorn Chicken, fries, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	4B- Omelet, toast, fruit, milk L- Chilli & Cornbread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	5B- English Muffin, fruit, milk L- Grilled Cheese, tomato soup, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	6B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Beef Stroganoff, breadstick, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	7B- Blueberry Muffins, fruit, milk L- Pizza, garlic bread, veggie, fruit, milk	8
9	10B- Oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk L- Mac-N-Cheese, breadstick, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	11B- Pancakes, fruit, milk L- Tuna Noodles, garlic bread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	12B- Bagel, fruit, milk L- Tuna Noodles, roll, veggie salad, fruit, milk	13B- Waffles, fruit, milk L- Taco Salad, garlic bread, veggie, fruit, milk	14B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Meatball Subs, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	15
16	17B- French Toast Sticks, fruit, milk L- Spaghetti, breadstick, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	18B- English Muffin, fruit, milk L- Chicken Gravy & Mashed Taters, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	19B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Mexi-Mac, garlic bread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	20B- Omelet, toast, fruit, milk L- Sloppy Joe 's, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	21B- Biscuits & Gravy, fruit, milk L- Chef Salad, garlic bread, veggie, fruit, milk	22
23	24B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Chicken Nuggets, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	25B- Waffles, fruit, milk L- BBQ Chicken Sand, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	26B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Tuna Sand, veggie, salad, fruit, milk *Noon Release	27B- Pancakes, fruit, milk L- Burritos, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	28B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Pizza, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	29

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Upcoming Events

Presidents' Day Holiday

There will be no school on Monday, February 17th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Bookmobile

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library Bookmobile will be in the school parking lot on Tuesday, February 25th from 9:30am-10:30am.

February School Board Meeting

The Wishram School District #94 Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, February 25th, at 5:15pm in the Wishram School Gymnasium.

Noon Release

Wishram School will release all students at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 26th for staff professional development.

CEP

Wishram School is currently operating under the CEP (Community Eligibility Program), which was created through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and allows qualifying high-poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students without requiring families to complete an annual household application.

Local and Federal Non-Discrimination Statement/Policy

Wishram School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Wishram School Superintendent, PO Box 8, Wishram, WA 98673, (509) 748-2551.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Surveillance Equipment

Our surveillance equipment will be taking pictures of all the school grounds all of the time, north, south, east and west, as will the camera in the front hallway. Wishram School videotapes teachers periodically as a tool to improve our teaching. We look at how we teach and how our students respond. These videos are for in-school use only. If you do not want your children to be a part of this process, **please call Mr. Churchwell at the school at 509-748-2551.**

Live Tip! Anonymous tip line for school safety: 1-866-LIVE-TIP Ext. 940 (1-866-548-3847, ext 940)

Report anonymously 24 hours a day/365 days a year:

- School violence—weapons, bomb threats
- School damage—vandalism, theft
- Physical/sexual abuse or harassment
- Drug/alcohol issues
- Fights/gang activity
- Discrimination

A recorded message will prompt the caller to either speak with a live operator or leave a recorded message. Messages are transcribed and emailed to the district contact. In case of emergency, district administrators are contacted immediately.