



Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

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Flexible learning remains key to special ed success

Chimacum's Flexible Learning Program (FLP) operates out of a double classroom in the high school. This special education program was formerly called Life Skills.

The students in FLP range from kindergarten through age 21. Some are nonverbal; others are already in the workforce; most fall somewhere in between. Some of the youngest students travel, by van, to Chimacum Creek Primary to spend halftime interacting with their general population peers.

Under the umbrella of Director of Special Services Holly Patton, six education assistants and three high school peer tutors assist teacher Ann Abraham. Four resource teachers operate districtwide assisting students in mainstream classrooms.

Ann found her calling in high school, when she worked with its special education class. An autistic student, in particular, fascinated her. Ann earned a degree in special education, plus a master's in autism.

Decades later, when two positions opened in Jefferson County, the Port Townsend grad chose Chimacum.

"It's small and unique. And there was a chance to build a program," Ann recalled. With a U-Haul full of her materials, she arrived at CSD six years ago.

FLP's walls are filled with eye-catching materials. Great for many, but not all. Spartan work stations are set up for those, who can't handle distractions. Others wear headphones to help deaden the noisy environment.

Students are provided with the least-restrictive environment for their learning. Each has an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

For students on the autism spectrum, communication is the key focus. A lack of communication skills equals behavioral issues. The Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) used districtwide are implemented here, as well. In the junior high years, functional skills are added, such as learning grocery words and safety signs.

Hands-on, creative projects are used in FLP, as both teaching tools and fundraisers. FLP inherited the Skookum jump rope contract. They run the store at the elementary and also have a full booth at the annual Chimacum Arts and Craft Fair.

Testing can be a challenge. Ann creates individual tests, in line with the Washington Access to Instruction & Measurement, for each student. WA-AIM is an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

It takes someone special to teach someone special.



Even in high school, Ann Abraham knew she wanted to teach special ed. The challenges are great, but so are the rewards.



CES eSports club teams learn how to strategize

Two days a week, 26 sixth graders take the big kids' bus to Chimacum Schools. At 7:30 am, when they could still be asleep, the students are focused on building medieval castles or competing with peers in the United Kingdom. They're playing Minecraft: Education Edition.

Sarah Sayer just lit up, when asked about the game, "Minecraft is fabulous. It teaches kids how to do creative math lessons. Minecraft just seems like a bunch of blocks to parents, but to kids, we can build castles. There are books, too, that diagram how to build them. It's a world of endless possibilities."

Chimacum Elementary School (CES) teacher Al Gonzalez has long been passionate about subjects focusing on STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The idea of a Minecraft eSports Club has been ruminating in his brain for a few years.

Chimacum already used Minecraft: Education Edition, as teaching tool. The more he researched, the more he knew it was a perfect fit for many of his students.

Kain Leaf feels like he's in his element, describing the team events that play out on his screen.

"It's fun. Normally, inside my head, I talk about what I'm doing, when I play with my brother," Kain said. So, being club announcer is a perfect fit.

"Not all game play is violent," Al stressed. "After looking into competitive Minecraft, I found a popular competitive eSports game is Capture the Wool, created to be like Capture the Flag. There are also building competitions."

There is a Competitive Minecraft League that sixth graders could join. But CES plays mostly in the morning, when other schools are in session, so they couldn't effectively compete.

"Having a school club to participate in still gives students a school activity they can really enjoy. When kids play together, in a team or club, and get to compete, they gain the same



Chimacum Elementary School's Minecraft eSports Club members compete with each other, as well as against students around the country and in the United Kingdom. Clockwise, from front left, Penina Vailolo, Selene Ramos, Averie Graves, Jaylynn Eubanks and Brooke Tomasetti.

teamwork, strategy and leadership benefits, as participating in physical school sports," Al said. "The students are engaged 100 percent. Playing Minecraft, kids are communicating, collaborating and problem-solving—all 21st century skills educators are harnessing in their students."

As in any sport, preparing the younger students for the high school team is key to a successful program. At Chimacum Junior/Senior High, the eSports program started with a game called Rocket League.

Many colleges and universities offer scholarships for students, who are good at the many eSports games.

"I am NOT a knowledgeable Minecraft player," Al admitted. "I can't do even the tiniest fraction of what these kids are doing on Minecraft, so I am always asking them for help. This club formed itself. I was just here at the right time and the right place to facilitate its creation."

Cost to set up the club was limited to computer mice, new laptop batteries and 14 Minecraft: Java Edition accounts.



Comments/questions?
Rick Thompson, Superintendent
360.302.5896
or Art Clarke, Assistant
Superintendent of Operations
360.302.5895

Safety concerns? Tell us!

Safety is a top priority here at Chimacum Schools. If you ever have ANY concerns, please contact your school office. If you prefer to report an incident anonymously, you may use SafeSchools Alert. Tips can be submitted 24/7, via phone, e-mail, text message and/or website. The online incident reporting system is accessed through the bright red "plus sign" at the top right of csd49.org.



CSD donors provide financial support via FOCS

The Friends of Chimacum Schools Education Foundation (FOCS) is the umbrella group for donations to the Chimacum School District.

The community member board oversees scholarships and educator grants, as well as advocates for educational programs and provides needed equipment and materials.

FOCS, a 501(c)(3), was formed in 1994. The nonprofit has come a long way from its sole \$500 scholarship in 1999. This year's goal is to raise an additional \$20,000 in scholarships.

"We're still alive, thriving and doing well," said former CSD Director Maggie Ejde, the new FOCS president.

Maggie credited her predecessor, Karen Newman, for being a driving force of FOCS.

"In addition to the scholarships, we also want to raise at least \$20,000 for educational grants this year," Maggie said. "With a \$500 cap, teachers may

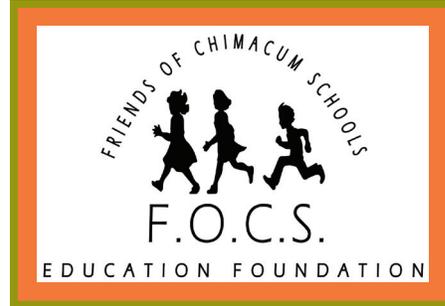
apply for grants for projects not funded by the schools."

In 2019, grants were awarded to Speech/Language Pathologist Alice Ferland for "Social Thinking Materials," teacher Gary Coyan for our "Bee Campus USA," teacher Greg Reed for the "English 7 Workshop," teacher Thaddeus Jurczynski for "Lego Robotics,"

and to the Read to Rover program for the "Read to Rover T-shirt Project."

Chimacum Creek Primary School's "Read to Rover" program was created by a FOCS personalized donation. Donations to FOCS may be earmarked for whatever the donor wants: scholarships, music, technology, field trips, special education and more.

FOCS is launching a website later this month. FOCSEF.org will feature updates, news, program details and an easy-to-navigate pay portal for tax-deductible donations.



The FOCS's logo has been updated by Kaitlyn Ejde. Maggie hopes to produce promotional items with the new logo to boost public awareness of the FOCS's mission.

Maggie would like to build the membership of FOCS. She wants YOU! The group meets twice a year and its membership fee is minimal. For more information, or to donate, call Maggie at 360.316.9764.



Chimacum has its eye on the coronavirus

All around the world, people are experiencing respiratory illnesses caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We are in communication with local health officials to stay abreast of any changes or developments in this area. The district office will continue to share information about this emerging health issue, as it pertains to staff and students, on our website and via Facebook.

Connect with Chimacum on social media

Social media is one of the ways the schools and district office keep parents and the community informed. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

On Facebook, the district-managed pages are:

- ◇ **Chimacum School District**
- ◇ **Chimacum Jr./Sr. High School**
(a group)
- ◇ **Chimacum Elementary School**
- ◇ **Chimacum Creek Primary School**
(*chimacumcreekprimaryschool, no spaces*)
- ◇ **Chimacum High School Bands**
(a group)
- ◇ **Chimacum High School Cheerleading**



And on Twitter: @ChimacumSD49

(There are also other Facebook fan pages not managed by the district, such as Chimacum School Alumni, Chimacum Big Blue Boosters, Chimacum Primary and Elementary PTSA, Chimacum Cowboy Football and others.)

Jobs within CSD

We strongly encourage you to consider applying for substitute employment (classified or certificated), even if you desire permanent placement.

Substitutes have the unique opportunity to become better acquainted with our district and each school location, as well as various employment opportunities. Many of our substitutes are hired for permanent employment because staff, principals and supervisors get to know their skills and abilities on a first-hand basis.

Our application process allows you to apply for both permanent and substitute positions at the same time.

If you are interested in becoming a substitute, please complete our classified application for non-teaching positions, and our certificated application for teaching positions.

Visit <https://chimacum.tedk12.com/hire/> to view the job listings and/or apply.



Volunteers are always wanted at Chimum Schools

Volunteers are an essential component of our district. Their patience and dedication, assisting in any way that's needed, is a valuable cog in keeping the schools running smoothly. Opportunities run the gamut, from working with students to working

in an office without a child in sight. There are many ways to volunteer, such as field trips, overnight trips, transporting students, classroom and building support, and student athletics. We have a place for you.

Please visit the office of the

school you think would be the best fit. Each has a handle on the needs of the building's staff. Different jobs may have different requirements. Those details and applications may be picked up in the offices or online at www.csd49.org/Content2/34.

Chimum School Board:

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Superintendent:
Rick Thompson

Editor: Sandy Hershelman
www.sandyhershelman.com

Chimum School District #49

P.O. Box 278
Chimum, WA 98325-0278

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Chimum 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 employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Chimum School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities. For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact 360.302.5891. Title IX Coordinator: 360.302.5891. Section 504/ADA Coordinator: Holly Patton 360.302.5885. Compliance Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW Stephanie McCleary: 360.302.5894.

Elementary library is now a central hub of the school

Chimum Elementary School's new grades 3-6 library is a fabulous space. Bright colors, low bookcases and inviting spaces for the students to hang out and read. The huge, interactive whiteboard has an interactive pen and wireless connection for ease of use from anywhere in the room. Bookcases and tables move to allow flexibility. A dozen search stations are active. Thirty laptops are available.

"One of the things I like the most is that we're in a central space," said Michele Moriarty, the K-12 library media specialist. She's excited to build the district's collections, as well as weed out ancient, inaccurate books. The district's catalog system now allows her to track books and textbooks.

The library is essentially one-half of the former middle school commons. Using funds from the 2012 Capital Projects Levy, it was split in two to create an elementary commons and library. The ease of access, being right next to the lunchroom, is an added bonus. It's safer, too. The student path from library to playground is visible to the librarian.

Young adult books from the former 3-8 library were moved to the junior/senior high library. Unlike the 1968 brick building, the new library has lots of natural light and up-to-date heating. The thick wall between the commons and library deadens any lunchtime sounds.



K-12 Library Media Specialist Michele Moriarty



Everyone is a reader.



Some just haven't found their favorite book yet.