

HLS NEWS

Alumni Newsletter



6th grade students learn in their new classrooms at the North campus.

Welcome Change

by Sally Heit, Admissions Director

Autumn arrived on September 22nd and what a beautiful day it was, a perfect start to the school year. My husband, Eric, teases me that by about mid August my ultra sensitive nose is sniffing out fall weather and announces to anyone who will listen (our dogs, mostly), “It’s Fall!”

Although every new school year is exciting, this one was extra special because Hope welcomed middle school students into the newly renovated North campus. What a joy it was to see students walking the halls again after a two year closure! Kindergarten through grade 5 students moved to the second floor of the main campus, and we added a transitional kindergarten class on the first floor. Almost every class relocated except the three preschool classrooms and third grade! A ton of heavy lifting was required and we could not have done without help from our alumni, teachers, and volunteer renovation crew at the North campus.

Students are settling into their new spaces nicely as they meet new faces - including nine new staff members! We look forward to seeing what the year holds for our entire Hope School community, new spaces and all.



Fall and Winter Fun

by Sally Heit, Admissions Director

The school year started off with a bang as the sixth grade took the ferry to Miracle Ranch for Outdoor Ed in September. In addition to horseback riding, archery, swimming, and kayaking, students enjoyed the new ropes course delivered some real excitement!

Fall sports practices began for cross country and volleyball, involving many of our students. Their hard work paid off and the volleyball team placed second at the Bremerton Peace Tournament! See Mr. Goodspeed's article for a fall sports recap.

Fall Olympics is a Hope tradition that brings all our students together as one big community, and is still going strong. They cheer for their team in relays, goldfish toss, and slow bike race to name a few.

Hope Student Council officers and representatives are leading the charge for the school Thanksgiving food drive. Last year, **collected 155 lbs.** of food to replenish the Hope church food pantry. Treats for Charity collected **184lbs of candy** this year that will be distributed to the Senior Center and Birthday Dreams. On December 7th, the council will serve hot chocolate at the Junction Hometown Holiday's Christmas Tree Lighting, to more than 700 people free of charge. Any donations collected will be given to the charity organizations that the council votes on.

For the holiday season, Hope School is providing Christmas gifts for families through our Giving Tree. Each class has adopted a family to support.

We are also preparing for LEST (Lutheran Elementary Schools Tournament), coming February 13-15 at Pacific Lutheran University. Students compete in fine arts, writing, drama, Knowledge Bowl, basketball, swimming, math, science, Lego Robotics, Rubik's cube and bowling, a new competition added last year. As we get closer to LEST, you can find updated information [here](#).

Giving Tuesday - December 3rd

The **Eagle Excellence Fund** is in its sixth year of providing support for five key pillars of excellence: *Academics, Staff, Technology, Student Life and Affordability*. Overall, over \$140,000 in gifts have supported staff bonuses during Covid, new Google Chromebooks and iPads for students, continuing ed courses such as Tech21 for staff, administrative staff development, elective classes, facilities upgrades and so much more. Classroom tools and curriculum as well as unbudgeted items are made possible by generous gifts that support these five pillars of excellence.

This year, our **primary goal is 100 percent participation** in the Eagle Excellence Fund, and we encourage all alumni and their families to be a part of this meaningful effort. Our **secondary goal is to reach \$20,000 in tax-deductible gifts by year-end**, ensuring we can continue providing a Christ-centered education to future generations. As alumni, you have seen firsthand how a foundation rooted in faith, academics, and community transforms lives. Your continued connection and support are a testament to the lasting impact of Hope School and the relationships built here. We invite you to stand with us in faith and determination to support the students of today and tomorrow.

Give online to the Eagle Excellence Fund, please visit:
HLS.HopeSeattle.org/Support or scan the QR code.



#HOPEEAGLEECELLENCE



Give to Excellence!

Pic. 1: 8th grader, Kayla, learns about mass in the science lab.

Pic. 2: New Google Chromebooks run Lego Robotics programs.

Pic. 3: Preschoolers make apple prints with Hope alumni, Ms. Taylor.



Autumn Athletics

by Mark Goodspeed, PE and Athletic Director

As the days grow shorter, and the tree leaves start to change color and drop, the crispiness and bite of the cool air hits a little more often, and the rain falls almost every day. We look forward to being inside and hearing the sound of a basketball being dribbled on the floor and hearing the cheers for our teams as Winter sports arrive at Hope. However, we cannot forget that it also marks the end of our Fall sports season. We had two sports competing this Fall, Girls Volleyball and Co-Ed Cross Country. Both made enormous strides, working hard and improving over the course of their respective seasons.

Cross Country: Led by new coach Manuel Alba, the team was comprised of mostly younger first-time runners. Eager to improve themselves, they often ran hard during their practices so that they could place higher in our league meets. At our League Championship meet, the team placed fourth. The team was consistently paced by runners Henry (6th), Siena (5th), Bryson (8th), Edison (5th), and Eli (5th) during the season. I am thrilled to see this team grow together and place even higher in the coming years! Special congratulations to Siena for placing fourth for girls at the League Championship meet.

Volleyball: Led by veteran coaches Jen Rice and Sally Heit and newcomer, Jessica Esses, the school saw a record 21 girls turn out for the team! Split almost evenly down the middle between 7/8th grade and 5/6th grade, we formed two complete teams during the season.

Our 7/8th grade team was a veteran group this year with many of the girls having played for the school for the past 3-4 years. Their experience showed as the team took second place in the Peace



Lutheran Invitational. Their season record reflected how good they were throughout the season as they came together to be a true team, learning their strengths and weaknesses and supporting each other during the course of the season. Led by 8th graders Eve and Kayla, along with 7th graders Issabella and newcomer Remy, the volleyball team placed fourth in the League's Championship Tournament.

The 5/6th grade team was a mix of new players (some whom had never played volleyball ever) and returning players. They competed hard and learned a lot of the essential building blocks of how to play volleyball during the season, which will lay the groundwork for them to continue to grow even further next season!

Congratulations Eagles on a great fall season! As their athletic director, I am super proud of all our athletes who represented Hope so well! I look forward to it continuing into the basketball season now underway. Go Eagles!



Second place! Head Coach, Jen Rice & Assistance Coaches, Sally Heit and Jessica Esses

SUNDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL

SUNDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL for adults is happening every Sunday at 7 PM. Stop by the Hope North Gym for a pick up game or to just shoot around. Questions, contact David Knittel or the church office.

**GO
EAGLES!**



**HOPE BOYS AND GIRLS
7TH/8TH GRADE
BASKETBALL
SCHEDULE**

Dec 12	Hope VS Lighthouse 3:45 PM Girls, 5:10 PM Boys
Jan 13	Hope VS CCA 3:45 PM Girls, 5:10 PM Boys
Jan 23	Hope VS Evertt Christian 3:45 PM Boys Only
Feb 3	Hope VS NW Christian 3:45 PM Boys Only
Feb 13-15	LEST @ Pacific Lutheran University

**FREE ENTRY
Concession Stand Open!**

**HOPE
SCHOOL**

**Game Times:
3:45 & 5:10**
Games at the Hope Gym

New Faces

Growing with Excellence

Hope School teachers and staff make a difference in the lives of students each day. We're pleased to introduce our newest members so you can know more about the wonderful team who is committed to faith, growth and excellence at Hope.



**KRISTIN GIMELLI HEMME,
7TH GR. HOMEROOM**

Ms. GH, as she is known, attended Lutheran schools K to 12, graduating from Hope Lutheran and Seattle Lutheran High. She is excited to teach at the North campus with middle school. One of her favorite things about teaching middle school science is sharing her love of nature and God's amazing world with students.



**KRISTEN WARFIELD
PRESCHOOL LEAD TEACHER**

A PNW native who grew up in Portland, Mrs. Warfield earned a bachelor's degree from PLU in Tacoma, and spent 20+ years working in the tech industry in Seattle. In addition to being a Hope parent and working with Hope students as a substitute teacher, she has been blessed to serve in many Christian Education ministry roles her life.



**HANNAH STEWERT
KINDERGARTEN**

A graduate of Seattle Pacific University, Ms. Stewart took the short journey across the West Seattle bridge from Queen Anne to join the warm Hope community. And speaking of being on the move, you'll find her running, riding her longboard or even traveling the world when she's not in the classroom.



**CLAIRE WARBINGTON
PRESCHOOL ESC**

Claire is excited to join our preschool extended care staff after having substitute taught for Hope last year. A resident of West Seattle for 31 years, she brings warmth and fun to the classroom. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her cat, Cobweb.



**JENNIFER REVIS
1ST GRADE**

Mrs. Revis escaped the heat of Las Vegas, her hometown, to join the Hope staff as our new first grade teacher. Moving to Seattle this past summer also brought her closer to family. A graduate of both UNLV and Lesley University, Mrs. Revis is ready to contribute her learning and skills to our school community - including to a gaggle of first graders - in meaningful ways.



**LUZ BRATCHER
ART TEACHER**

Her path to teaching was a bit untraditional. Mrs. Bratcher spent the last 20+ years in the design industry working on software and hardware products. The pandemic uncovered a love of teaching art and she shifted her career away from tech and back into the studio. When she is not at Hope Lutheran, Mrs. B runs her own therapeutic art practice, Golden Repair.



**DR. REGGIE REVIS
5TH GRADE**

"Teaching seemed natural and has been my calling all my life. God has been good. I have been in education for over three decades in three states: South Carolina, Florida, and Nevada. Our family is South Carolinian and Nevadan by birth, and we are coming to the Pacific Northwest to serve the Hope community thereby maintaining our unity as a family," said Dr. Revis.



SAMRA TINO TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Ms. Tino is a homegrown teacher - originally from right here in West Seattle. A recent graduate of Seattle Pacific University, she is our very first Transitional Kindergarten teacher, a new program offered at Hope as we grow to meet the childhood educational needs in our community. What makes Hope special to Ms. Tino? The strong family involvement was a huge plus for her, and with it, a unique and rich educational experience for both students and staff.



SHARON MEAD OFFICE ASST. (NORTH CAMPUS)

When the need for office staff at the North campus arose, Ms. Mead stepped in. She welcomes students to the office three days a week with a smile and sometimes a tardy slip. Ms. Mead is a parent of a Hope middle schooler and a Transitional Kindergartener. Originally from Seattle and a marketing major from Seattle Pacific, Ms. Mead helps edit and write content, too. She's got a sharp pencil and a quick eye.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Concerts: (Hope Sanctuary)

December 10

Kindergarten - 4th Grade Program

6:30 PM

December 13

Preschool & TK Program

6:30 pm

December 18

5th - 8th Grade Concert, 7 pm



Aloha Auction 2025

by Melanie Fukumoto, PTH President

The Hope Lutheran PTH invites you to the Aloha Auction!

Please join us for a fun evening of fellowship, dancing, dinner, desserts, and bidding on amazing items!

Festive Hawaiian attire encouraged!

We hope that you will come spend the evening with us

and help us reach *beyond the horizon* to make a difference in our Hope community!

Saturday, March 8, 2025

The Hall at Fauntleroy

Check for updates and ticket information [here](#).

North Campus Opens!

By Sally Heit, Admissions Director

On September 8th, the Hope Church and School community dedicated the North campus and its mission to continue the legacy of Christian education. The congregation and guests gathered at the church before walking down the block singing, and finally congregating at the gym doors to pray over the students, teachers, and staff. Student Council PTH President, Benjamin Corley (8th grade) cut the ribbon.

It was truly a day of celebration and hope for the future for the school and church. Students arrived on September 3rd on their first day of school, some of them only having seen the inside of the building a week earlier.



Pic. 1: Kristen Okabyashi, Principal & Benjamin Corley, Student Council President Pic 2: Pastor Peter Mueller giving the message.



The energy in the hallways was buzzing on the first day of school as students explored their classrooms, the science lab, and art room. “I thought the campus was big and bigger than most schools. I think we are blessed to have this large building and the same student-to-teacher ratio,” said 8th grader Addie Groteleuschen.

What a blessing to have a dynamic and knowledgeable team of volunteers who have worked hundreds of hours over the last year, supervising every renovation, painting, plumbing, cleaning, and so much more. There are too many volunteers to name, but Hope would like to thank the core team of Hope parishioners: Bill Clifton, Larry Koltz, Don Wickland, Dave Kannas, facilities manager, Tjaden Pals, and his sons, Ira and Jurgen, both Hope alumni. Without them and many others, this dream could not have become a reality.

This is truly an exciting time of growth and change. Right now all K-8 classes are using the gym for PE and the art room. But, there are still projects left to do such as build a women's and ADA bathroom on the main floor as well as refinish the gym floor and repaint.

We are in the **second year of a three-year campaign**, and we invite you, our faithful alumni, to join us in being strong and courageous and participate in this effort. Campaign gifts could include cash, stocks, gifts from grandparents, or any other methods of contributing. [Click here](#) to make your pledge to support Christian education.

Together, we can give to ensure that more children in our community can experience the love of Jesus with a strong academic foundation. Thank you for your prayers and continued support!



HAVE AN UPDATE?

[Click here to update your contact information and let us know what is new. We love to hear from alumni!](#)

Contributors: Kristen Okabayashi,
Sally Heit, and Mark Goodspeed
Editor: Sharon Mead

