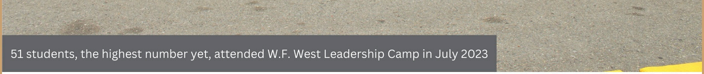
CHEHALIS
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Leadership Shines in Chehalis
FRIDAY
CONNECT
April 19, 2024

Student Leaders Shine in Chehalis

In the Chehalis School District, we are committed to our missional statement of providing a comprehensive, student-centered education. We center our efforts on our students by making sure student voices are heard and valued through many avenues, including student leadership. In honor of national Student Leadership Week, we would like to recognize those students who take part in leadership activities throughout our district.



51 students, the highest number yet, attended W.F. West Leadership Camp in July 2023

W.F. West High School (grades 9-12)

W.F. West High School offers many ways students can serve in leadership positions. There are 4 elected Associated Student Body (ASB) officers, 4 elected class officers and a an appointed ASB group of 20. Many clubs and organizations within the high school such as DECA and FFA have elected officers as well.

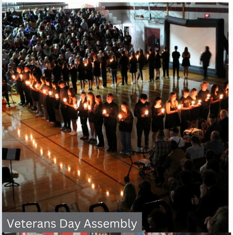
The ASB officers and members help plan and execute a variety of events during the year at W.F. West. They plan assemblies, make posters advertising different events during the school year and this year, leadership members visited 2nd Graders at James Lintott Elementary to work together on a Martin Luther King Jr. Day assembly.

During the summer, a variety of students are invited to take part in a leadership camp. Last summer, 51 students attended W.F. West Leadership Camp, the largest number yet. Increasing the number of students who take part in the camp is part of the overall goal of creating a culture of inclusion at W.F. West where a variety of perspectives are heard and valued.

"Through student leadership, we practice and grow skills like event planning, marketing, budgeting, public speaking and creative brainstorming, which in turn helps us develop strong character traits. Traits I see in our leadership team include integrity, enthusiasm, listening, empathy, sound decision making and flexibility. Having a strong student leadership team can really set the tone within our building and build a vibrant, healthy culture for all of our students," said Stacey Cummings, one of the staff members who is involved in working with the W.F. West leadership team.

“Say Something” Week

Freshman Link Day



Veterans Day Assembly

W.F. West ASB team during homecoming week

W.F. West leadership working with 2nd graders at James Lintott and then welcoming them to W.F. West for a shared assembly

Chehalis Middle School (grades 6-8)

Like W.F. West, Chehalis Middle School also offers students more than one pathway to participate in leadership. There are 5 elected ASB officers as well as a leadership class that is open to all students.

"Student leadership is important at CMS because it creates opportunities for students to be heard, to feel part of something, to contribute to the positive culture of the building while supporting students and staff members. CMS student leaders are always eager to promote, celebrate and create the amazing that happen throughout the year," said Principal Chris Simpson.

Sarah Spogen, who teaches the leadership class, currently has 29 students in the CMS leadership program. Leadership students work on projects geared toward servant leadership, which means students practice leading others by serving and asking themselves, "How can we make CMS a better place?" This has included: school grounds clean up; planning socials; planning assemblies; and participating in reading buddies at James Lintott Elementary (grades K-2).

"Student leadership is important to me because I am offered the opportunity to grow as an educator along with my students. Each task we take on is a learning opportunity and a chance to grow as individuals. It is inspiring to be on the same team as my students and working towards the same goal together. In this collaboration I get to see my students shine and become the experts," Spogen said.

Chehalis Middle School ASB Officers

Chehalis Middle School leadership class works with 1st Graders at Lintott

MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS INCLUDED

Orin Smith Elementary’s 2023-2024 class representatives

Orin Smith Elementary (grades 3-5)

Orin Smith Elementary has always had student leadership in the form of classroom representatives but this year, there's a few more faces in the room. That's because the school's student leadership used to comprise only 5th graders and this year encompasses 3rd through 5th grade. Orin Smith now has one representative and one alternate representative for every classroom in the school.

"It's really an opportunity for us to include more student voices in the process," said Principal Rachel Dorsey.

Orin Smith's student leadership team takes an active role in helping plan activities at the school, from assemblies to special events. Most recently, the student leadership planned a volunteer appreciation event that included: a breakfast for volunteers with 5th grade representatives as servers; thank you notes for volunteers signed by entire classrooms; and a special video incorporating words of thanks from many classes.

A volunteer appreciation where student representatives served volunteers and helped create a video of thanks

A meeting for student representatives at Orin Smith

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