

THIS EDITION OF SKYKOMISH ROCKETS PRESS IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY TEGAN SHELTON'S 2<sup>nd</sup> PERIOD PUBLICATIONS CLASS.

# SKYKOMISH ROCKETS PRESS

EVERYONE SUCCEEDS. NO EXCEPTIONS. NO EXCUSES



feedback by completing the following surveys:

*The Leader in Me* Measurable Results Survey:  
<http://tinyurl.com/measurableresults>

Skykomish School District Satisfaction Survey:  
<http://tinyurl.com/skykomishsatistfaction>

These surveys will be open and available until Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for taking the time to provide our District with this valuable feedback!

Sincerely,

Thomas Jay  
Superintendent



[www.facebook.com/skykomishschooldistrict](http://www.facebook.com/skykomishschooldistrict)



## SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

March 29, 2019

Dear Skykomish Community,

Happy Spring! We are more than thrilled to say goodbye to Winter and to welcome Spring. We just completed our third quarter and will enter into Spring Break during the first week of April.

As we complete this third quarter we are gearing up for student-led conferences April 18-19 where students will actively engage in their learning process and highlight their learning for their parents.

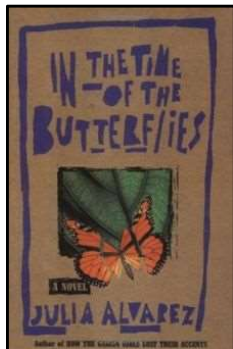
Spring also lends itself for an opportunity for reflection and improvement and our District is currently engaged in the

Association of Educational Service Districts accreditation process. The accreditation process supports a long-term vision for a performance-based educational system that aligns accreditation requirements to the continuous improvement of student learning, achievement and growth. The process provides for collaboration and deep reflection by our school community, for external review and validation of the school improvement plan, and the process that led to its development. It also provides a statement of accountability to the public. Accreditation status is granted for a period of six years if approved.

As a part of that accountability and reflection we are asking parents and guardians for your

## NOTES FROM ENGLISH CLASS

- Tegan Shelton, High School English



Students are hard at work in English class! Our freshmen and sophomore students are working on

finishing their reading of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and will soon be coming together to work on their final group project, which will consist of a modernized scene from the play.

Our juniors have finally finished the yearbook. They are now working on a creative, collaborative assignment in the form of a novella. Together, they have designed characters and created a fantastical plot full of twists and turns. They have also created art pieces to accompany their writing.

Our senior class is finishing up their senior projects while also focusing on *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. They are learning about the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960 and comparing themes of the time to similar issues faced today through an exploration of essential questions. They will soon begin their research projects to accompany the unit.



## ENGAGING STUDENTS IN SCIENCE

- Kimberly McCullough, Science and Math Teacher



The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) have been in place for a couple of years now. The new science tests are based on these standards. The shift is away from rote memorization and towards inquiry. Students are encouraged to investigate the world around them - the new shift encourages more exploration.

In our high school biology class, we use a curriculum from BSCS called Biology: A Human Approach. All of our lessons are based on the 5E's principle – Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. The Engage portion asks questions like, "Why did this happen?" and "What do I already know?". The Explore section allows students to think freely within the limits of the activity. This section incorporates the Scientific Method and allows students to test predications. The Explain portion allows students to listen critically to their classmates, record observations, explain possible

solutions, and comprehend explanations from the teacher and classmates. The Elaborate section gives students a chance to apply what they have learned to a new situation. It helps them record observations and explanations and draw reasonable conclusions from evidence. The Evaluate section helps students answer open-ended questions using the evidence they gathered and observations they made. It also allows students to evaluate their own progress and understanding and encourages future investigations.

This approach can be used at all grade levels. Encouraging students to engage with the world around them and to ask questions will help them be successful in science. Critical thinking skills are very important for children and adults. It is important that we teach children these skills early on in their education so that they can evaluate information around them and learn to determine if the information is reliable. In addition, getting children interested in science at an early age will help them be more successful. Help your child learn about the world – go on a walk or a hike, encourage your child to make observations and ask questions. How could they find the answer?

Happy Exploring!!



## HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLANNING

- Sonia Bartosek, School Counselor



### Middle School:

Middle School has been introduced to the High School and Beyond Plan and has been assigned to do at least 2 of the 3 assessments (one must be the career profiler). They will begin exploring the program and start working on their goals and recording their grades and activities for the remainder of the school year. It is time to start thinking about their academic paths for high school and what they need to get there – academically, motivationally, and socially. Benchmarks will continue. Remember, the higher you score on the Benchmarks and Smarter Balance Testing at the end of the year, the less additional intervention will be required.

### Freshmen:

Your 1st year of high school is almost over and you have had to not only adjust to having a

variety of teachers and increased academic demands, but to the responsibility that comes with a little more freedom. Your Career interest inventory, one additional assessment, academic/social/personal goals, input of 1st semester grades, and an exploration of a job/career should be nearing the end in WOIS. We will be switching to My School Data for your High School and Beyond Plan, but we will still be utilizing WOIS and the Career Washington Curriculum during NAV. Any documents you have in WOIS will transfer into My School Data. It's time to start reflecting on your year and what changes you would like to make within yourself to get closer to your academic and future goals. We will begin thinking about which classes you would like to take next year. Next school year you will also begin taking standardized testing, beginning with the PSAT in November, the Interim Smarter Balance English and Math assessments during 3rd quarter, and finally, the Smarter Balance English and Math tests in May – these are required for graduation. If you pass them during your Sophomore year, you do not have to continue to retake them. And, of course, there will be benchmarks. Remember, we are not only looking at grades and testing scores, but at discipline, attendance, and tardies to class as well.

### Sophomores:

You have now experienced your first Smarter Balance testing of high school. The tests in May count toward graduation. You have also experienced taking a National Standardized Assessment, the PSAT. Taking the ACT and the SAT, along with getting a good score, will become very important if you are planning on attending college. Next year, you will be taking the Washington Comprehensive Science Test. This test must be passed for graduation purposes as well. This is the time of your lives when you should begin thinking about your plans for after high school so we can work together to help you get there. Your High School and Beyond Plan is a significant part of your role as a student, regardless of the path you believe you will follow. Remember that your credits are important, as you must have 24 specific credits to graduate. As we have discussed before, it is up to you to begin thinking about graduation and what it takes to get there. We have 6 class periods each day times the typical 4 years of high school....24 credits. What does that mean for you? You must keep your eye on what is best for you. If you want to complete high school in 4 years, you must take responsibility for your learning. What does that look like? Attending your classes,

paying attention to the teacher, asking questions, participating in all assignments (yes, even homework), and doing your part to make your school experience a positive and productive one.

Juniors:

You will be the leaders of the school next year. Make sure your High School and Beyond Plan is up to date and that you are turning in your community service hours. You will be taking the Washington Science Assessment this year. You are the last graduating class who does not have to have a particular score to graduate, but please do your best and let us know what we can do to help the upcoming classes. If you have not taken and passed the Smarter Balance ELA and Math tests, you will take those again; remember that you need a particular score to graduate. We need to start looking at your goals for after high school and make decisions regarding national standardized testing such as the ACT or SAT. You should be using your time focusing on your grades, your extra-curricular activities, and thinking about what you want out of your senior year. What can you do this summer to help you personally? What can you do or be a part of to make your senior year the best it can be? What legacy do you want to leave at the school? You will also be taking an additional

career exploration assessment, the ASVAB, that helps look at options/skills that are different than typical standardized testing shows. We need your enthusiasm and participation.

Seniors:

Your time at Skykomish High School is coming to a close, but your whole lives are ahead of you. Have you been working on your senior project? Do you have all community service hours? Is your High School and Beyond Plan almost complete? Please make sure you are doing your best in your classes and asking for help if you need it. There is still another quarter to go – you’ve got this! You still have time to leave a positive mark on the school and the community. Some will be staying in the area, while some will be leaving, however, you will always be a part of our school family. You have the tools to write the narrative of your story. If you are going to college, make sure your FAFSA is complete, you have applied for as many scholarships as possible, and have taken (or are scheduled for) your ACT/SAT. If you are going to an apprenticeship, internship, or to work, remember the 7 Habits and continue to examine and better yourselves. You have one chance to make a first impression. The world of work expects your best every day. The biggest difference between high school and work is that

often times second chances aren’t as frequent outside of the school walls. If you still have Smarter Balance testing to take, May is the last opportunity to do so and to graduate on time. You will also be taking an additional career exploration assessment, the ASVAB, to add to your toolbox to assist with future decisions.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

04/18/19 – 11:30 Early Release,  
Parent Conferences,  
*We Day* in Tacoma for *Me to We* students

04/19/19 – Early Release,  
Parent Conferences

04/24/19 – School Board Meeting  
At 6:30 pm.

## Non-discrimination Statement:

Skykomish 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(s) have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Thomas Jay  
Civil Rights Coordinator

Dan Bubar  
Title IX Coordinator

Karen McEachern  
Section 504 ADA Coordinator

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