



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
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August 30, 2024

TO: Green Hill School Staff & Residents

FROM: Felice Upton
JR Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Green Hill School Update – Aug. 30, 2024

Good afternoon, Green Hill School

This week, I want to take a moment to thank our staff for their hard work and dedication. This has been a challenging situation. I admire you for showing up every day and putting in the work. Your dedication to learn from the unified command structure and apply these principles of enhancing safety and security for our residents does not go unnoticed.

I also want to thank the residents of GHS. Your patience and cooperation as we make these efforts has helped us make the strides we have so far. I've enjoyed hearing from the unified command members who have had opportunities to interact with you and have positive experiences.

Green Hill continues to receive new residents, which is a good reminder that the most significant effort leadership can make is to address overcrowding. While there will continue to be challenges and limitations until the overcrowding at GHS is resolved, together we are already making a positive difference.

In addition to telling you about some of the improvements we are making and the programs that we have been able to resume, we want to share some photos that further illustrate our progress.

This week, education continued for our high-school students, and college classes began thanks to Centralia College. Our construction program is preparing to begin their flaggers certification courses.

The health and safety of GHS residents is our priority. We are ensuring that psychology associates continue to provide mental health care to our residents daily.

We have continued to serve dinner in the dining hall every day and are pleased that this new movement structure is



Greenhill Residents eating dinner in the dining hall



Construction flagger students attending class

going well. We also worked with our local community partners to improve maintenance and sanitation on the grounds.

In Maple Unit we have repaired broken locks and windows, painted over gang signs there and in other areas of GHS that have been in disrepair. Throughout the grounds there have been significant efforts to refresh and clear out areas of clutter that also posed safety concerns.

Additional searches were conducted where we were able to recover additional dangerous items. DCYF staff continued to receive training on safe movements, so that we can continue to achieve additional goals in the future for more movement on campus and out of units.

Our plan in the next week is to begin adding lunch mealtimes in the dining hall, to continue adding back a normal routine for GHS residents. We are rearranging our main access area to better streamline access for visitors and staff. Additional facility improvements will continue with more painting and clean up scheduled. We are also working on additional population management, as we ensure that folks are in the housing unit that best meets their needs.

This week we also published our conditions of confinement report we initiated in April 2024 and completed this summer. It is a comprehensive third-party review of GHS conditions that the Council of Juvenile Justice conducted in July of this year. **You can read that full report and our related priorities [on our website](#).**

Thank you again for your continued cooperation and patience during this time. If staff have questions, they can address them with their supervisor. Residents can reach out to their living unit manager.