



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

November 1, 2024

TO: Green Hill School Staff & Residents

FROM: Jennifer Redman *Jennifer A. Redman*
Green Hill School Interim Superintendent

SUBJECT: Green Hill School Update – Nov. 1, 2024

Good afternoon, Green Hill School,

Last week, I shared that we hosted a meet and greet for our new employees from the job fair earlier this month with living unit leadership, and a campus tour alongside a Question & Answer session. We are continuing to move forward with the hiring process for these new employees and are excited to have them join our campus and start training soon!

All-staff trainings are continuing to occur weekly, to ensure the safety improvements we are making are sustainable. Last week, we shared updates regarding the first in a three-part staff training about Security Mindset and Structured Environments. Staff participated in training exercises about professionalism and perspectives in the workplace. You can find this update and previous communications on our [Juvenile Rehabilitation webpage](#).

This week, Unified Command conducted Part Two of the all-staff training on Security Mindset. About 50 staff were in attendance learning about tactical awareness in observing their environment and their physical positioning. Your continued commitment to these trainings is appreciated and noticed. Knowing your physical environment is crucial to the safety and success of our staff, residents, and structure at GHS.

Cypress, Spruce, Hawthorn, and Maple Living Units are continuing to participate in cleaning and infrastructure improvements, with new carpet being placed in their entryways this week. Next week, contracted painters will be on campus repainting the walls starting with Cypress.

The increased use of the Central Kitchen continues daily, with two living units receiving lunch in the Central Kitchen, and all units eating dinner in the Central Kitchen daily. The increased use and consistency are allowing our residents to have normalized experiences in sharing a meal and getting to move throughout campus daily.

We are excited to begin the planning for hosting our annual Family Holiday Meal this holiday season. Even though we've had to make a lot of changes to our daily routines in the past year, this is one tradition that's important to keep and we'll share more details soon.

One of our Associate Superintendents and I had the opportunity to attend the Family Summit in Olympia last Friday, October 25. The purpose of this summit was to engage families of those with loved ones residing in Green Hill School in discussion about ways to improve the campus

and engage with them more frequently. One follow-up item from the summit is the creation of a Family Advisory Board. Planning is underway to identify board composition, terms, and other details. These details will be finalized in an upcoming meeting in early December.

I attended a second JR Summit this Wednesday, October 30 for our community partners and contractors who serve Green Hill School. This meeting focused on a jointly developed analysis to inform opportunities to further engage our surrounding communities in an effort to improve services to young people and staff on campus.

DCYF continues to discuss options for a new facility that would be located at Stafford Creek. Discussions with stakeholders and legislators are still underway to think through various questions about programming, staffing and operations. Another possible option is in central Washington. As I mentioned last week, DCYF is doing a lot right now to prepare for new facilities because that is the only way we'll be able to safely reduce overcrowding at GHS. We all wish this work could go faster, but finding the right space takes time and support from legislators.

Thank you, as always, for being part of GHS. If you have questions, please address them with your supervisor. Residents can reach out to their living unit manager.