



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
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October 25, 2024

TO: Green Hill School Staff & Residents

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

SUBJECT: Green Hill School Update – Oct. 25, 2024

Good Afternoon Green Hill School,

Last week I shared the success we had at a job fair two weeks ago. This week, we welcomed 31 new employees to GHS for a meet and greet with living unit leadership and a tour of the facility. We also hosted a Question & Answer session to further engage them in learning about their upcoming roles. This is a big step forward to increasing staffing levels to facilitate safe operations and will allow us to resume certain services for our residents, such as counseling. If you see one of our new employees during one of your upcoming shifts, please take a moment to say hello.

On Monday, we hosted a group of Superior Court Judges and Court Administrators for a tour of Spruce, Baker, Baker North, Recreation, the Academic and Vocational Schools to see the spaces and meet with youth. After the tour, they went to the Central Kitchen where an all-staff and resident forum was held.

Thursday evening we held a Powwow where 58 people, including residents, families, and community providers, were in attendance to share a traditional meal and enjoy traditional dances together. This was a great celebration for our community to share with loved ones to celebrate heritage and tradition.

Training continues to be an important part of ensuring sustainable safety improvements on campus. Last week, we shared updates regarding staff training about post-incident debriefs, and how to lead and document these incidents with accuracy. You can find this update and previous communications on our [Juvenile Rehabilitation webpage](#).

This week, Unified Command conducted an all-staff training where about 80 staff were in attendance. This training was the first in a three-part training on Security Mindset and Structured Environments. The training exercises related to professionalism and changing perspectives in the workplace. Thank you to all who took part. We all know how important the right mindset is to achieving personal and professional goals, and the same is true for achieving our safety goals at GHS.

Maintenance continues to ensure that living unit work orders are prioritized and campus grounds are a safe space for staff and youth.

We continue to use the Central Kitchen daily. This week we increased the lunch service at Central Kitchen to two living units per day. I'm very proud of this progress and I hope you are too.

DCYF is continuing to explore a possible new facility that would be located at Stafford Creek, and we are also exploring possible options in central Washington. While DCYF is doing a lot right now to prepare for a new facility, we ultimately need funding from the Legislature. We will be sharing proposals with the governor's office and legislators as preparations begin for the 2025 legislative session. Governor Inslee will release a budget proposal in December, and we know a new facility is one of his priorities.

I know many remain frustrated that we aren't yet able to resume the full range of programming and services that were possible when we didn't face overcrowding, but we are seeing improvements across campus as we continue to implement safety changes and ongoing hiring efforts to increase staffing. I believe these changes will benefit us in the long-term, even after DCYF opens new space and GHS's population returns to a safe level. Our work has evolved to serve new populations of young men, and our training reflects that.

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.