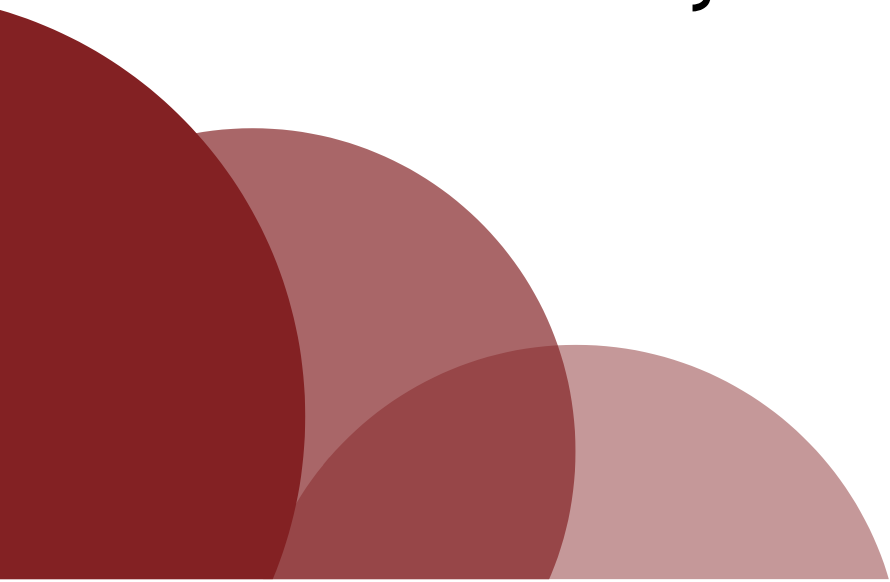





# APAA Beginner Packet for New Students

Created by AMS Leadership



# Welcome, new Firebird!

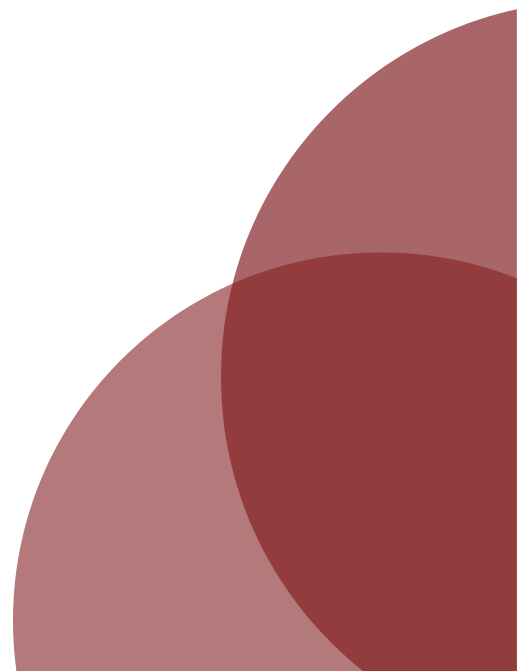
Welcome to Aspire Performing Arts Academy! Whether you are a 6th grader or just new to our school, this packet will help you learn a bit about your teachers, find your way around the school, and feel confident before your first day. Aspire specializes in performing arts, such as band, orchestra, choir, and drama. We also have 7 periods a day to fit in 3 electives. We hope to see you around!



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**Made by:**

ASB Leadership

For further resources, visit

*<https://www.nthurston.k12.wa.us/aspire>*

# Section One:

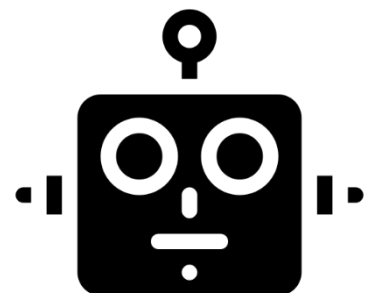
*teachers*

1 Randi Decker

## (Science & Robotics)

Ms. Decker teaches science and robotics. Prior to joining Aspire, she taught at Chinook Middle School.

[rdecker@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:rdecker@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# 2 Stephanie Bivins

## (Choir)

Ms. Bivins teaches choir to sixth through eighth graders. Ranging from 6th grade Concert Choir, 7th - 8th grade Fire Choir, an advanced audition-based choir class for 7th and 8th graders called *Bella Voce*. Additionally, she teaches one period of music and culture. Lastly, she hosts Glee choir, another exclusive audition-based group of 18 singers. They meet before school twice a week.

[sbivins@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:sbivins@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# 3 Oscar Salazar (Support Classes)

Mr. Salazar provides reading, writing, and mathematics support.

Mr. Salazar strives to support special education students of all grade levels.

[osalazar@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:osalazar@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)





# 4 Katie Doolittle (Hi-Cap Humanities)

Ms. Doolittle teaches Hi-Cap ELA and Social Studies for seventh and eighth grade. She also hosts the semester-long elective courses Creative Writing and Debate.

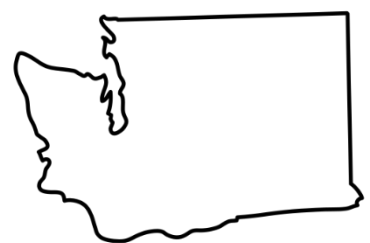
[kdoolittle@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:kdoolittle@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# 5 Jenna Wittman (Fizz) (Social Studies)

Ms. Fizz came to our building in the 2021-2022 school year. She teaches 7-8th grade history/social studies. She enjoys being outdoors and exploring Washington. Ms. Fizz is also a trainer at the local Cirque Climbing Gym.

[jwittmann@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jwittmann@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



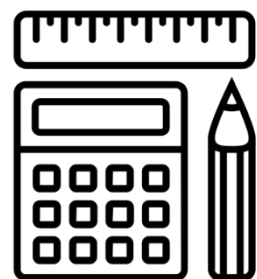
6

# Jacqui Gibbons

## (Advanced Mathematics)

Ms. Gibbons teaches advanced and Hi-Cap mathematics to students in 7th and 8th grade, including Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and one period of Geometry.

[jgibbons@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jgibbons@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

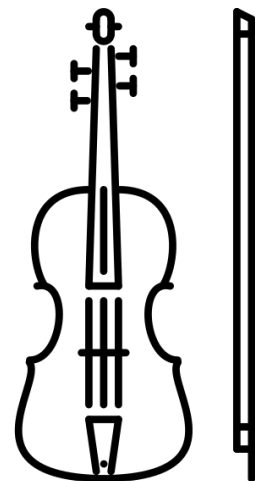


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# Chad Hocutt (Orchestra)

Mr. Hocutt conducts 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade orchestras. In the mornings, he teaches orchestra at Timberline High School. For this reason, he does not have an advisory at Aspire.

[chocutt@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:chocutt@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

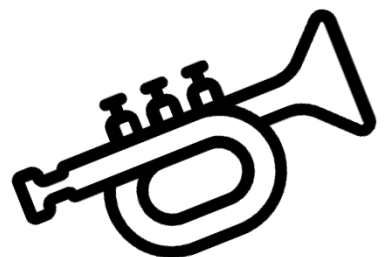


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# Jerry Huff (Band)

Mr. Huff teaches a variety of band-related courses. He hosts 6th-grade general band, 7th-grade Symphonic Band, and 8th-grade Wind Ensemble, as well as Percussion and Jazz Band.

[jhuff@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jhuff@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

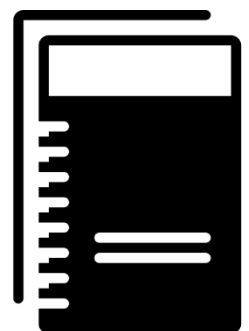


# 9 Alyssa Knudtson (ELA)

Mrs. Knudtson teaches core English to students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. She also teaches a Leadership elective.

Leadership is an 8th-grade-only course that focuses on teamwork and school spirit!

[aknudtson@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:aknudtson@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



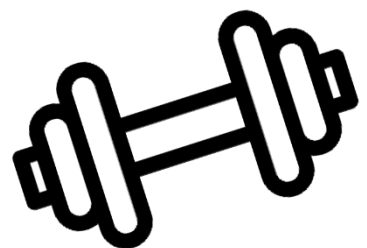
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April Gibson

(Humanities and Health)

Ms. Gibson hosts 6th-grade  
Hi-Cap English and Social  
Studies. She also teaches  
Health and Fitness, which is  
our athletic course at Aspire.

[agibson@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:agibson@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

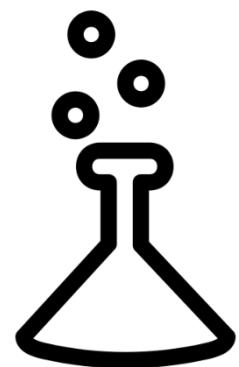


# Hillary Lyons

## (Science)

Ms. Lyons teaches 7th and 8th-grade science. In addition, she teaches the electives Physics Olympics and Oceanography. In Physics Olympics, students learn the fundamentals of engineering and beginner physics. Oceanography is a deep dive into all marine life!

[hlyons@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:hlyons@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)





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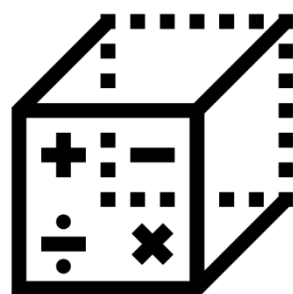
# Natalie Moss

## (Science and Math)

Ms. Moss teaches science and math to all grade levels. She is one of the many rays of sunshine in our school and loves anime. She hosts the DND (Dungeons and Dragons) club.

All experience levels are welcome!

[nmoss@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:nmoss@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# Haley Rockholt

## (Humanities)

Ms. Rockholt teaches English and Social Studies to students of all grades. She is an expert in old and middle English. Ms. Rockholt is also a huge Shakespeare fan!

[hrockholt@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:hrockholt@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# Jennifer Valera (Theatre)

Ms. Valera teaches Drama, Theatre Arts, and Improv. In addition, she runs the school's GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) that meets every Wednesday during lunch. We welcome everyone, regardless of your sexuality or identity!

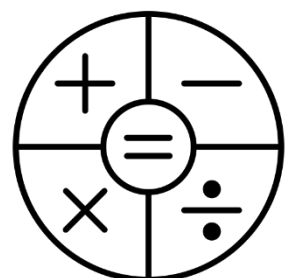
[jvalera@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jvalera@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# Ali Whisnant (Mathematics)

Mrs. Whisnant teaches both core and Hi-Cap math to all sixth-graders. She also teaches eighth-grade core pre-algebra.

[awhisnant@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:awhisnant@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



## Section Two:

General Information  
+ Staff



## **Advisory**

8:50 - 9:20 AM

### **1st Period**

9:23 - 10:07 AM

### **2nd Period**

10:10 - 10:54 AM

### **3rd Period**

10:57 - 11:41 AM

### **1st Lunch**

11:41 AM - 12:12 PM

### **4th Period (2nd Lunch)**

11:44 AM - 12:28 PM

### **4th Period (1st Lunch)**

12:15 - 12:59 PM

### **2nd Lunch**

12:28 - 12:59 PM

### **5th Period**

1:02 - 1:46 PM

### **6th Period**

1:49 - 2:33 PM

### **7th Period**

2:36 - 3:20 PM

## **ACT Day:**

### **1st Period**

8:50 - 9:29 AM

### **2nd Period**

9:32 - 10:11 AM

### **3rd Period**

10:14 - 10:52 AM

### **1st Lunch**

10:52 AM - 11:22 AM

### **4th Period (2nd Lunch)**

10:55 AM - 11:32 AM

### **4th Period (1st Lunch)**

11:25 AM - 12:02 PM

### **2nd Lunch**

11:32 - 12:02 PM

### **5th Period**

12:05 - 12:43 PM

### **6th Period**

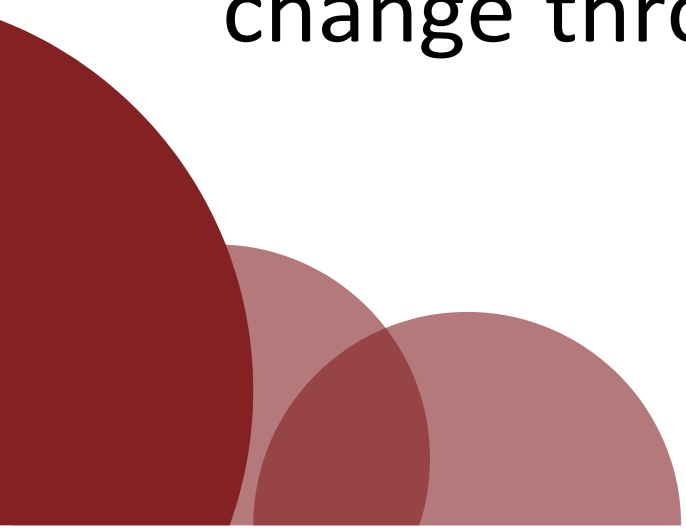
12:46 - 1:24 PM

### **7th Period**

1:27 - 2:05 PM

# Advisory

Advisory is a mandatory year-round class that acts as a homeroom for all students. The advisories are separated by grade level. In addition, this course takes place first thing in the morning, before 1st period. In Advisory, you could catch up on your work, develop emotional and mental maturity, and check-in with your classmates. Your advisor does not change throughout the year.



# 19 **Meet the Principal**

Our lovely principal here at Aspire Performing Arts Academy is Mr. Suhling.

We do not have an assistant principal. Mr. Suhling is amazing and very hardworking.

Be sure to ask him about his time as a band director or about the instruments he plays!

[msuhling@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:msuhling@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# **Aspire's Library**

Ms. Bertram is our librarian at Aspire! She helps with Chromebook support and checking books out. Our little library is small but mighty, as we have hundreds of books! You can head up to the library at lunchtime, your English class, or even in your advisory. Just be sure to ask for permission!

[cbertram@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:cbertram@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# Other Contacts

## Office Personnel:

Mrs. Steadman

[ssteadman@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:ssteadman@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

Ms. Brandy

[breed@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:breed@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

## Nurse:

Mrs. Cortez

[jcortez@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jcortez@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us)

# Counselor:

Mrs.Gonzalez

rvining-gonzalez@stu.nthurston.k12.wa.us

