

# Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: David Webber

POSITION: Turf Management

School: Facilities Support

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 15 years

Q. What are your responsibilities as a turf management specialist?

A. We care for all the grass fields which is over 150 acre as well as shrubs and trees. We also maintain irrigation systems. I help with hauling furniture, books and other supplies between buildings and departments. I consider the district like a farm where there is always something to do.

Q. How does the department's weed spraying program work?

A. We limit our spraying to focus on weeds which can be harmful to students such as puncture vine or clover which attracts bees. We focus on borders to keep them from over growing and we always ensure proper signage is posted announcing when we will or have sprayed. We always spray at times when students will not be present for an extended period of time. Safety is important to our spraying program.

Q. How has this year's drought impacted your department?

A. We try to water as little as possible to conserve resources and maximize our efficiencies. We adjust our watering cycles and fertilize a couple of times a year. This year has been a bad year because we haven't had much rain. We usually have enough rain in the spring to get us through the school year before we have to fertilize.

Q. How have you seen our irrigation systems evolve over the years?

A. For the most part all schools have at least some automated sprinkler systems. When I started with the district 15 years ago, sprinklers and hoses were moved by hand. Custodians continually had to go outside to drag hoses and move sprinklers. It was pure manual labor and not efficient.

Over 

## NOTES:

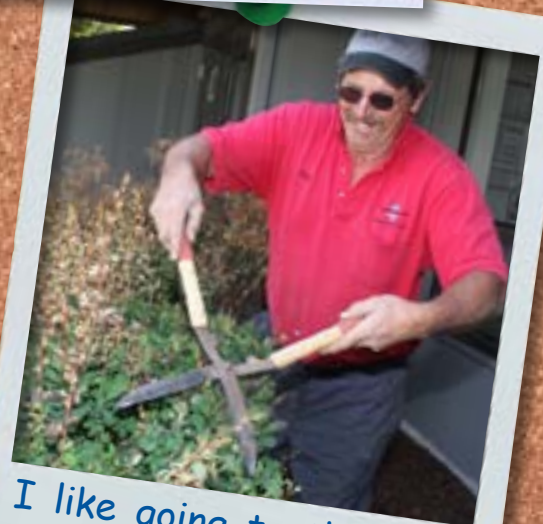
It is personal keeping our grounds looking good. One wants to do a good job at everything one does. If the grounds don't look good, then we are not doing our job.



Walla Walla Public Schools

# Highlights David Webber

Weather, student activities and events can impact our schedules, but we always find a way to get the job done.



I grew up and graduated from Waitsburg High School. Walla Walla is a great place to work and live. We love it here.

I like going to the river and mountains to play.