

District salutes this year's retiring staff *Thanks for a job well done!*

Berney Elementary

- Susan Meiners - Learning Specialist (30 years)

Blue Ridge Elementary

- Harriet Michael - 3rd Grade Teacher (29 years)
- Shirley Rodenberg - Library Media Specialist (34 years)
- Peggy Lightfoot - Blue Ridge Title I Para-Pro (30 years)
- Gail Danielson - Blue Ridge Para-Pro (22 years)

Edison Elementary

- Glenys Stacy - Para-Educator (23 years)

Green Park Elementary

- Kathi Goodwin - 3rd Grade Teacher (29 years)
- Juanita Gillum - 2nd Grade Teacher (26 years)

Garrison Middle School

- Judi Kessler - Para-Educator (17.5 years)
- Diane Briggs - PE Teacher (35 years)
- Gloria Camp - Reading Teacher (17 years)

Opportunity Program

- Chris Anderson - Teacher (16 years)

Plant Facilities

- Duke Morrow - Trades Assistant (28 years)

Pioneer Middle School

- Dianne Jackson - Kitchen Manager (26 years)

Prospect Point Elementary

- Linda Hanson - Para-Educator (14 years)

Specials Programs

- Linnea Keatts - Occupational Therapist - (8 years)

Walla Walla High School

- Shirley Blake - Special Education (13 years)
- Linda Jacky - Math (32 years)
- Barbara Knowlton - CTE (26 years)
- Dave McClelland - CTE (28 years)
- Gary Mires - PE (36 years)
- Jim Thacker - Social Studies (34 years)
- Marcia Tomlin - English (30 years)

**Walla Walla
Public
Schools**

Annual Report

A Report to our Stakeholders - 2004 | 2005



Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

**Walla Walla
Public
Schools**

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Board of Directors

- Tim Donaldson
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- Toni Rudnick

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For more information about the school district contact Communications Director Mark Higgins at: 509.526.6716 or by e-mail: mhiggins@wwps.org.

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District Shining Stars...

Campus Pride! Wa-Hi students complete campus beautification project

Led by Assistant Principal **Kirk Jameson** and six staff members, nearly 40 Wa-Hi students spent a Saturday in May working on a campus beautification project.

Students painted all the blue railings, pulled weeds, trimmed and planted shrubs and flowers, put out new bark, sprayed down walkways and cleaned up trash.

Students contributed over 200 labor hours to help the maintenance staff. The volunteer hours for these students were to meet their Blueprint for Success portfolio requirement of at least 10 hours of service per year.



Walla Walla teachers earn national certification

Walla Walla Public Schools teachers **Dawn Jepson** (Pioneer Middle School), **Mindy Meyer** (Wa-Hi), **Anne Swant** (Wa-Hi), **Dan Ojcius** (Wa-Hi), **Natalie Allen-Tibbling** (Paine Alternative Campus), and **Kristen Harvey** (Garrison Middle School) recently received notification they have earned certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Requirements included authoring a detailed professional portfolio, video taping classroom instruction and passing a challenging assessment to test subject knowledge.

Successful candidates earn a 10-year certificate; receive a \$3,500 annual stipend subject to Washington state legislative appropriation; have their state teaching credentials renewed to match the length of the national certificate; and will be able to apply graduate credits earned while studying for National Board Certification to advanced degrees.

Berney celebrates century of excellence

Special thanks to Berney Elementary Learning Specialist **Susan Meiners** and her peers for coordinating last fall's Centennial Celebration.

Displays of photos, annuals, uniforms and more representing eras from 1904 to the present were showcased during the event.

Students sang, danced and played instruments to pay tribute to students who came before them.

Staff members paraded in clothes from various eras during a one-of-a-kind fashion show. The Berney Centennial was a huge success.

District still saving energy and tax dollars

Hats off to district Energy Manager and Wa-Hi teacher **John Butenhoff** for leading the district to the \$1 million savings mark through energy conservation practices. After wrapping up Year Five of the district's Energy Management program, tallies show total savings at more than 24 percent for usage and utilities costs.

Energy savings per category

- \$169,000 or 28 percent on Electricity
- \$24,000 or 14 percent on Natural Gas
- \$64,000 or 25 percent on Water/Sewer

Principals serve time for March of Dimes



Green Park Principal **Mike Lambert** (L) and Wa-Hi Principal **Brian Pendleton** (R) await precious bail money during this year's March of Dimes "Jail & Bail" fundraising program.

They participated to help fund research for birth defects and other genetic disorders through the *March of Dimes*.



Superintendent
Dr. Richard Carter

- **Telephone:**
(509) 527-3000
- **E-Mail:**
rcarter@wwps.org

New strategic plan marks high point of 2004-2005

I am so proud of the team of educators we have in Walla Walla and differences we made in the lives of children this past school year.

This year we had the challenge of replacing three top administrators we lost to retirement. I could not be happier with the addition of **Dr. Bill Jordan** in Personnel, former Wa-Hi English teacher and coach **Oscar Graybill** to head our Teaching and Learning Department and **Len Taruscio** to direct our Curriculum and Instruction Department while we searched for a permanent replacement for **Dr. Judy Reault**.

In February we hired longtime Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Linda Boggs** as my Assistant Superintendent beginning this summer to direct our Curriculum and Instruction Department.

We also were fortunate to have former Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Joanne Martin** come back for one year to work with our administrators. These veteran leaders provided tremendous leadership and support to our dedicated teachers and support staff.

We brought our community together last fall on the campus of Whitman College to help define a vision for what Walla Walla expects from its public schools and what skills and attributes graduates will need to be successful in the 21st Century.

Symposium 2004 was an opportunity for these 100 community members, staff, students and parents to dream and set lofty goals for the future. We were able to take many of the ideas and concepts that came forward in the Symposium and develop a new five-year strategic plan to help serve as our *Roadmap to the Future*. We are now excited about putting these ideas into action.

We also had a clean federal financial audit, reinforcing we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars. We hit the \$1 million savings mark through our Energy Management program, graduated 427 highly skilled seniors, raised thousands of dollars for Tsunami Relief efforts and safely transported thousands of students to school and activities.

Thank you for all your support and contributions to this successful school year.

2004-2005 Highlights - 'Closing the Gap Initiatives'

- Approved increased collaboration time throughout the district by adding weekly Early Release Wednesdays at elementary schools for 2005-2006.
- Taught and trained teachers and administrators how to use protocols -- *agreed upon guidelines for conversation-to increase productive collaborative dialogues throughout the district*
- Targeted extended learning -- *instruction offered after regular school hours*
- Dual language program -- *Enhancing language skills and cultural awareness*
- Standards based math and science -- *closely aligned with state targets*
- Hired additional instructional coaches at secondary levels (grades 6-12)
- Elementary Three-tier Reading Intervention - *Recognized state-wide as one of two districts to successfully implement the K-12 Reading Model*
- Formed K-12 district Writing Leaders who created common writing assessments linked to WASL standards. Starting in September, common writing assessments at each grade level will be administered, scored, interpreted, and utilized to inform instructional practices

Superintendent Carter receives state award

Superintendent **Dr. Rich Carter** received the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Student Achievement Leadership Award in June at the organization's annual summer conference in Spokane.

Carter earned this prestigious state award for the Southeast Region of WASA for leading Walla Walla Public Schools' efforts to close the achievement gap through professional collaboration.

He was recognized for providing leadership for the implementation of innovations that have resulted in measurable growth in student achievement.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive this recognition from my peers," Carter said. "I've been involved in WASA for many years and it's always been an association I can turn to for outstanding leadership and support."

Superintendent Coffee Chats

This year Superintendent Rich Carter established Coffee Chats at each of the district's 10 schools to discuss district issues and programs.

Carter hopes to build on this program in the years to come to better connect parents and community members to their Walla Walla schools.

Coffee Chat dates and locations for 2005-2006 will be posted on the district's website in September and in other district publications.

Community Involvement Special thanks to our Partners in Learning

Community supports American Education Week

Nearly 100 community members went back to school November 18 to Celebrate American Education Week.

Now in its third year, the Celebrate American Education Week event is an opportunity for community members to visit their local Walla Walla schools, listen to district success stories and challenges, ask questions, meet students and tour facilities.

Today's teachers do more than teach basic skills. They nurture and inspire children despite obstacles. They help students learn essential skills not always measured in testing, such as critical thinking, conflict resolution, cooperation, and problem solving, which help students throughout life.



This year Walla Walla Public Schools launched its new E-News Service. This service was created to help community members, parents, staff and students stay connected to their local public schools.

It's simple to sign up! Just go to the *News and Events* area on the district website (www.wwps.org) and sign up!

We'll e-mail you school closure announcements, news briefs and more -- directly to the computer of your choice.

Art Regier *Volunteers of the Year* recipients honored for excellence

Walla Walla Public Schools named **Russ Martin**, **Missy Peterson**, and **Marilyn Yaple** its *Art Regier Volunteers of the Year*.

The *Art Regier Volunteer of the Year* award is a thank you for the hundreds of hours and tireless dedication these outstanding citizens have given to the district over the years on behalf of students, staff and the community.



Russ Martin - *Pioneer*

- PTA officer
- All night basketball tournament supervisor
- Budget/Strategic Plan committees member
- Stars Camp parent volunteer



Missy Peterson - *Numerous programs*

- Elementary math contest leader
- *Books for Babes* grant writer
- Longtime Explorers program leader
- Reflections art program volunteer
- Knits hats and scarves for kids in need



Marilyn Yaple - *Pioneer*

- Pioneer library volunteer
- Longtime volunteer for Pioneer athletics
- Bakes treats for students
- Shelves books and other library tasks

District names 2005 Graduates of Distinction

Walla Walla Public Schools inducted three outstanding alumni to its Graduates of Distinction program. They are: Dr. George Cole Williams Jr., Gerwyn A. Jones, and Michael Maiden

With the Graduates of Distinction program, Walla Walla Public Schools recognizes the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates. This program also pays tribute to school staff members who were inspirational in the lives of these graduates.



Dr. George Cole Williams Jr.
Class of 1947

*Well respected dentist
Genealogist
Mineralogist*



Michael Maiden
Class of 1968

*Artistic Visionary
Successful Businessman*



Gerwyn A. Jones
Class of 1928

*Community Advocate
Rotary Club Leader
"Mr. Baseball"*

2004 Graduates of Distinction

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Jeffrey Frank Ray | Class of 1978 |
| Harold R. Frank | Class of 1941 |
| Ned Shafer | Class of 1961 |

Promoting **Positive School Activities**

Citizens raise funds for new Garrison track



Community members **Craig Nelson**, **Ed Nelson**, and **Steve Gerling**, representing *Citizens for the Garrison Track Project*, led a fund-raising campaign this year to donate an all-weather track to Garrison Middle School.

Through hard work and determination, the group was able to raise more than \$150,000 to complete the project.

Special thanks to the numerous local businesses and private donors for making this community driven project a reality. Construction will be completed later this summer and ready for use this coming school year.

Special Thanks!

- Braden & Nelson Construction
 - Transtate Asphalt
 - Anderson Perry & Associates
 - Opp & Seibold Construction
 - Apollo Construction
 - Mike Johnson Excavation
 - Konen Rock Products
- Major Project Contributors --

Pioneer Pride

Jazz Band entertains community during American Education Week celebration



Pioneer Middle School Music Teacher **Bill Gilbert** leads the school's Jazz Band during a special performance during the American Education Week celebration in November. More than 100 community members visited district schools to salute Walla Walla educators.

'Best of the Best'

Sirmon donates sign for Wa-Hi gym

Special thanks to longtime Wa-Hi Athletic supporter and former Big Blue Booster President **Gary Sirmon** for his generous donation of a new sign for the Wa-Hi main gym. Sirmon's four sons were stand-out athletes in district athletic programs and all went on to play college athletics -- with Peter advancing to the NFL.

"Gary said he had seen similar signs at other schools and felt we should also have one," Wa-Hi Athletic Director Don Wilkins said.

Berney student wins Sweet Onion contest

Congratulations to Berney fourth grade student **Bobbie Prior** for winning the annual Walla Walla Sweet Onion drawing contest. Her drawing is being used on this year's Sweet Onion T-shirt.

Fine Arts program shines

- Wa-Hi student **Abe Pedroza** received the State Superintendent's Choice Award.

- Wa-Hi Chamber Singers receive select invitation to perform at Northwest Music Educators Conference.

- Wa-Hi Senior **Sarah Parnicky** was selected as a National Merit Award winner in the soprano voice division.

- Wa-Hi students **Lyn Beckett**, **Tim Davis**, **Jeremy Ueckert**, and **Alex Bernstein** named to All-Northwest Honor Music Groups.

Wa-Hi softball team academic winner

Wa-Hi's Girls Softball team earned top academic marks for the the state this year with a team 3.693 GPA.

Of the 830 student athletes competing at Wa-Hi, 558 maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher and 349 were Honor Scholar Athletes with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Congratulations Wa-Hi student athletes.

Technology Department

The role of technology in Walla Walla Public Schools is one of support and enablement. The infrastructure and daily working tools for all electronic systems, as well as assistance for learners, staff and administration, are all supported by various aspects of the technology department.



Janis M. Barton

Director of Technology and Library Media Services

Technology staff key to successful year

“The enormous amount of accomplishments and ‘behind the scenes’ work that is performed by the dedicated technology, telecommunications, and media team members allow our district staff and students to have the tools, training, connectivity and access to use today’s technology and online resources.

Janis Barton

- Rick Pummel - Network Engineer
- Shane Jacobson - Software Support Specialist
- Cory Fish - Internet Engineer & Web Developer
- Steve Olsen - Telecommunications Specialist
- Pat Griffith, Pam Nichols - Secretaries
- Computer Coordinators -- at each school site
- Tech Master Teachers -- Shannon Ahrens, Bill Calhoun, Dennis Bennett and Mike Gobel (Web page training, MicroSoft Office, Intel)

Tech Department plows way for Future Farmers



Wa-Hi Future Farmers of America advisor **Mike Martin** presented Technology Director **Janis Barton** with an appreciation plaque earlier this year for her department’s technical support at this year’s state event. Barton sent software specialist **Shane Jacobson** to the Pullman event to help set-up computers for various FFA competitions.

Tech Highlights

Technology focus of new Strategic Plan

- **Goal Three:** Plan and Build State-of-the-Art Facilities with Technology to Enhance Educational Opportunities
- Develop quality learning environments
- Provide staff development and learning opportunities to optimize the use of technology.

Hardware and Software Improvements

- Replaced/upgraded computers across the district to support student learning.
- Career & Technical Education lab
- Learning Opportunity Center
- Pioneer Middle School main lab
- Added mini-lab at Pioneer library
- Garrison Middle School main lab
- 75 donated lap tops and desktop systems added to district classrooms across the district
- Re-engineered the Wa-Hi Cad lab.

- Upgrade server/router software (districtwide)
- Installed eight new LCD video projectors
- Installed secure wireless networking services at Wa-Hi, Sharpstein, Berney and the District Office.

Internet and Web

- Support 100 teacher and classroom websites
- Staff/coordinate Walla Walla Fair Technology projects display to showcase student work
- Completed 30 major projects and almost 2000 work orders via web-based order system.

Professional Development and Research

- Continued Intel model staff technology training. Approximately 250 teachers have now received training.
- Provided support/training for transition to Skyward student records management system.
- Work Study Computer Technicians: area college students trained to provide replacement for technical support at WWHS, Paine and other district sites.

Successful Schools Closing the Achievement Gap

Student achievement focus of new Strategic Plan

School board members this year gave their approval to the district’s new five-year Strategic Plan — thus paving a Road Map to the Future.

Development of the district’s new strategic plan was a year long process. The plan centers on three goals and is supported by key action steps designed to achieve desired outcomes.

Strategic Plan Focus Areas

- Teaching and Learning*
- Communications*
- Facilities and Technology*

The Strategic Plan is posted on the district’s website. District administrators are currently discussing how to link the new Strategic Plan to building and department annual improvement plans.

“The open process used to develop the Strategic Plan encouraged community input from the onset. This Strategic Plan will serve our district as a guiding force for the next five years and beyond. The precedent has been established for ongoing community inclusion in the district’s strategic planning process.”

Community Member **Jody Schneidmiller**

Regarding her participation on the Strategic Plan Committee

2005-2010 Strategic Plan Timeline

September 2004 - Community Symposium: A group of 100 community members -- including Spanish only speaking -- staff, parents, and students met on the campus of Whitman College for two days to help define skills the 21st Century graduate will need.

October-December 2004 - Strategic Planning Committee: A group of nearly 40 community members, parents, staff and students -- many of whom participated in the *Community Symposium* -- formed a committee to take ideas, strategies and concepts generated from the Symposium and other district strategic planning efforts to develop a five-year plan.

January-March 2005

Action Teams: Small groups of district leaders, parents and community members were formed to finalize the Strategic Plan. Action teams focused on three theme areas: *Teaching and Learning, Communications, and Facilities and Technology.*

April 2005

Adoption: Strategic plan approved by School Board. Implementation begins.

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1

Develop a 21st century learning community that supports continuous learning through relevant and aligned curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development.

Goal 2

Improve two-way communication with parents, schools, students and the community.

Goal 3

Plan and build state-of-the-art facilities with technology to enhance educational opportunities.

Copies Available

Copies of the district’s entire new Strategic Plan are available at the district office (364 S. Park Street) and online: www.wwps.org.

Strategic Planning Team Members

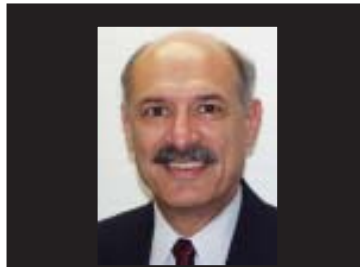
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Doug Barram | • Janis Barton |
| • Linda Boggs | • George Burgess |
| • Rich Carter | • Laura Droke |
| • Jane Eacker | • Mira Gobel |
| • Anne Golden | • Mark Higgins |
| • Barbara Hoffman | • Kirk Jameson |
| • Dana Jones | • Bill Jordan |
| • Lawson Knight | • Mike Lambert |
| • Russ Martin | • Roseann Martinez |
| • Jackie Martinez | • Mary Matau |
| • Cindy Meyer | • Carol Morgan |
| • Carolina Padilla | • Brian Pendleton |
| • Erica Prins | • Aron Rausch |
| • Judy Reault | • Lori Reid |
| • Toni Rudnick | • Jim Russo |
| • Lowell Schneider | • Jody Schneidmiller |
| • Dick Simon | • Spike Teal |
| • Jeffrey Townsend | • A. Valencia-Garcia |
| • Tom Vicari | • Dave Warkentin |
| • Jeffrey Weeks | • Margaret Yount |

Personnel Department Putting people first

Jordan hired to direct Personnel efforts

Veteran administrator promoted to Deputy Superintendent

Former Pioneer Middle School teacher and administrator and Garrison Middle School Principal **Dr. Bill Jordan** came back this year for his second stint in Walla Walla after leaving in the 80s to pursue administrative career opportunities.



Department Responsibilities

- Recruiting & hiring
- Staffing
- Salary placement
- Contract management
- Negotiations
- Athletic Department
- Health Services Department
- Student Hearings

Jordan -- who in June was promoted to Deputy Superintendent -- serves as the district's Executive Director of Personnel.

Jordan's extensive professional career includes being classroom teacher, principal, superintendent, and Duputy Superintendent to State Superintendent Dr. Terry Bergeson.

"It feels very good to be back in the Walla Walla School District. This district has an excellent statewide reputation for developing practical strategies to improve student learning.

I am ready to listen and learn, and eager to help continue the tradition of excellence in Walla Walla."

Dr. Bill Jordan

New Hires for 2005-2006 School Year

Administrators - 3 Teachers - 23
Support Staff - 3 (Approximate - hiring numbers subject to change)

District Staffing (as of Summer 2005)

Administrators - 36 Teachers 395
Support Staff - 333

District Enrollment (2004-2005)

Student counts based on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students

- In School programs _____ 5375
- All programs _____ 5759

(Walla Walla Public Schools enrollment grew slightly this year, up just 18 FTE students from last year.)

Outstanding staff recognized by peers for achievement

Congratulations to this year's Staff Achievement Grant recipients:

- **Missy Johnson**
Green Park Elementary 4th grade teacher
- **Dawn Jepson**
Pioneer Middle School Math teacher
- **Kate Venneri**
Sharpstein Elementary Explorer teacher
- **Yvon Barber**
Pioneer Middle School Secretary
- **Peggy Willcuts**
Science Specialist and Homelink teacher

Staff Achievement Grant Winners are nominated and chosen by teachers and support staff for superior performance, innovation; exemplary leadership; exceptional service or contributions to the Walla Walla Public Schools. No administrators are included in the selection process.

Staff Achievement Grant Winners receive a \$1,000 stipend and five days of paid release time for professional growth activities.

These outstanding educators are recognized by their peers as the best of the best. Congratulations!

Paraeducators work to earn degrees

Congratulations to the following paraeducators who successfully completed their one year Paraeducator Certificate program at Walla Walla Community College.

You can look for their names, and other fellow paraeducators next year when they graduate with their two year AAAS Paraeducator Degree.

- Richard Bartlow
- Mary Erdman
- Rachelle Fullen
- Teresa Martinez
- Virginia Rios
- Magali Hernandez-Ruiz
- Eunice DeWitt
- Lupe Fraire
- Rose Martin
- Tami Naccarato
- Brandy Smestead

Student safety comes first! **Safe and Drug Free Schools**

Safe Schools Committee • 2004-2005 Highlights

Electronic school safety maps

Paine Campus and the Opportunity Program joined the second phase of schools across the state of Washington in a campus-mapping program to enhance safety and security. Funds were provided for in the state's Capital Budget during the 2004 legislative session.

First responders (e.g. police, fire, medical) will use the "maps" -- electronically documented digital floor plans, escape routes and other building data -- in the event of a natural or man-made crisis at schools. The project is managed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in collaboration with the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) and the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs (WSAFC).

Community emergency responders train with district

Walla Walla School District Safe Schools Committee conducted a community table talk exercise involving first responders in a mock incident at Walla Walla High School.

The mock table talk exercised focused on an early morning hostage situation in the library at the high school during school hours. Emergency responders were able to access and test the digital mapping that has been completed for Walla Walla High School.

Walla Walla County's Emergency Management department assisted in the planning of this multi-agency table talk drill. The district and county emergency services teams are looking at using a full-scale drill sometime in the fall of the 2005-2006 school year.

Schools conduct practice safety drills

All district sites conducted practice drills involving evacuation and/or lockdown procedures under the observation of local law enforcement and fire departments.

This joint effort allows for our local first responders to see safety plans in action and provides them with the opportunity to assist schools in the improvement of our overall safety in the district.

"Through our participation with the Emergency Response Crisis Management Grant in partnership with ESD 123, all of our school sites will have comprehensive safety audits and staff training by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. This process will allow schools to address strengths and weakness of their plans and better develop partnerships with local area responders."

Safe Schools Chair Jeff Weeks

District teams with ESD 123 to improve emergency response

Walla Walla Public Schools has entered into a partnership with the Educational Service District 123 to improve Walla Walla County emergency and crisis response in our public schools.

This two-year partnership will provide every school building site with a personalized safety audit, assistance in addressing improvements needed in safety planning, and a liaison for professional development training for staff and community table talk exercises.

Jim Gould, a retired Richland Police Officer -- who is now coordinating the program for ESD 123 -- will be working with all of our schools to continue to improve our safe schools program.

Safe School Helpline available

Walla Walla Public Schools this spring launched a new program designed to provide a safe and anonymous way to share information.

The Safe School Helpline is a 24 hour messaging service that empowers students, parents and community members to report unsafe, at-risk situations without identifying themselves.

This process allows school officials to respond in a proactive manner to solve problems and eliminate unsafe conditions or threats to learning.

Callers are not involved in one-on-one interrogations. School officials are notified within minutes of receiving emergency information. Numerous districts in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are now using this system.

Helpline Features

- Report any information which could jeopardize safety (violence, theft, drugs, sexual harassment, weapons)
- Daily toll free -- 24 hour service
- Anonymity for all callers (non-intrusive)

Helpline Telephone Number
(800) 4-1-VOICE (418-6423) ext. 359

Curriculum Department Student achievement is our #1 Priority

Elementary early release approved

High levels of collaboration key to success

Consistent collaboration time is one of the nine characteristics of a successful school according to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and numerous experts in the field of education.

School Board members this year paved the way for elementary teachers to join the district's secondary teachers in having structured and determined time to learn together by adopting a Professional Development and Collaboration plan for elementary schools.

What Makes a School Successful?

• High Levels of Collaboration and Communication

There is strong teamwork among teachers across all grades and with other staff. Everybody is involved and connected to each other, including parents and members of the community, to identify problems and work on solutions.

Source: OSPI <http://www.k12.wa.us/SchoolImprovement/success.aspx>

Elementary Early Release Plan outline (begins this fall)

- Elementary staff will have weekly collaboration each Wednesday afternoon. Students will be dismissed an hour early on Wednesday afternoon. Bus schedules will be adjusted to meet needs

- Elementary principals will work with teachers and parents to provide supervision alternatives for those families unable to arrange for afterschool care.

- Instructional time will be made up within the weekly schedule.

Curriculum Department Highlights

- Completed work on new 6-12 Social Studies Curriculum and Textbook Adoption
- Completed review of Grade Level Expectations (GLE) alignment for Math Investigations K-5
- Approved new curriculum for Culinary Arts/ Food Production & Service at Wa-Hi
- Approved revised curriculum for Agriculture/ Farm Supplies Retailing and Wholesaling at Wa-Hi
- Conducted Initial Kit Use Trainings and Science Notebook presentations for elementary science
- 6-8 Explorer curriculum adopted and supplementary novels approved

All Day Kindergarten gets nod

Full-day linked to higher achievement

In an effort to help all students acquire the skills necessary for a successful first grade experience, school board members this year approved an all day kindergarten program for next year.

The all day kindergarten program allows flexibility to accommodate those parents who still desire a half-day session.

Beginning this fall, all kindergarten students across the district will have the opportunity for an all day program. Parents who feel a half day program would best meet their families' needs will have their child dismissed at the current ending time for morning kindergarten. All other students will remain for extended learning opportunities.

"We felt strongly we needed to offer a choice for parents," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "This plan keeps students at their attendance area school and respects the parents' contact time with their children."

The district shifted its elementary summer school program to the fall to help fund the all day kindergarten program.

No Child Left Behind requirements

District meets 109 of 111 federal categories

Walla Walla Public Schools this year met 109 of the 111 target standards required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The district did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) -- the NCLB mechanism for judging improvement -- for 4th Grade Bilingual Reading and on-time graduation rates and is therefore placed in 'improvement' status.

Each district must meet target standards in all 111 categories in order to escape the needs improvement label. Categories include ethnicity, special education, limited English speakers and free/reduced-price lunch.

"We're proud to have met 109 of the categories, but we need to focus on 4th Grade Bilingual Reading and graduating students in four years," Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Len Taruscio** said. "These areas in need of improvement are addressed in the Strategic Plan developed by the district this year."

Walla Walla Public Schools has put 10 percent of its Title I budget -- federal funding for schools serving a high percentage of families in poverty -- to address the professional development needs of teachers who work with the student groups that have not met AYP criteria.

No Child Left Behind is the federal law that requires increased accountability for all public schools, especially those that receive Title I funds.

Schools considered in "school improvement" status face a series of escalating consequences until they meet established AYP criteria for two consecutive years.

District Challenges

4th Grade Limited English students miss target

• 44.8 percent of the WWPS Limited English 4th graders met standard on the Reading WASL in 2004; 46.3 percent in 2003. The AYP target was 52.2 percent. As a result Walla Walla School District is considered in the first year of district improvement.

On-time graduation rates fall short

• No Child Left Behind (NCLB) also requires school districts to report on-time graduation rates for the high schools and unexcused absence rates for K-8.

The district's graduation rate (which includes Walla Walla High School, Paine Campus, Opportunity Program and Alternative Ed at Walla Walla Community College) for 2002 was 60.5 percent and in 2003, 59.2 percent. The state's target is 66 percent. At least a 1 percent improvement each year is also considered meeting target.

WASL Wrap-Up

Washington Assessment of Student Learning

4th Grade

District 4th grade scores dropped slightly in all areas of the 2004 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), but still remained above the State Uniform Bar (SUB) target scores required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB):

Reading	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	65.4%	68.6%	52.2% (above target)

Math	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	45.3%	53.4%	29.7% (above target)

Writing	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	43.8%	48.2%	Not required by NCLB

NCLB does not require students to be tested in Writing. This is Washington's choice.

7th Grade

District 7th grade scores increased in Reading and Math and dipped slightly in Writing.

Reading	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	64.3%	46.9%	30.1% (above target)

Math	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	48.2%	32.0%	17.3% (above target)

Writing	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	59.6%	61.9%	Not required by NCLB

10th Grade

District 10th graders' scores increased in Reading, Math and Writing.

Reading	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	63.0%	50.3%	48.6% (above target)

Math	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	36.2%	32.6%	24.8% (above target)

Writing	2004	2003	State Target (SUB)
	59.5%	53.7%	Not required by NCLB

Science

8th and 10th grade students posted gains in Science

8th grade	2004	2003
	51.4%	39.1%

10th grade	2004	2003
	33.6%	31.5%

More district test scores online at: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.

Teaching & Learning We serve all

Longtime Wa-Hi English teacher and coach **Oscar Graybill** was promoted to Director of Teaching and Learning this school year.

Graybill is responsible for directing the district's Special Programs, Mentor Teacher program, staff development efforts and the Head Start/ECEAP program.

Graybill is known as an excellent communicator and instruction specialist.

Oscar Graybill

Director of Teaching and Learning



"Teacher-to-teacher communication about teaching and learning is the most powerful and sustained source of professional learning and instructional improvement."

Special Programs students served • 2004-2005

Special Education	735
Transitional Bilingual	736
Title I / LAP	2,131

(Approximate student counts)

Writing leaders create common assessments



District writing leaders this year researched cutting edge strategies of successful schools -- with a main goal of creating common writing assessments K-12. **Oscar Graybill**, who heads the district's Teaching and Learning Department, said the group is excited about this work and looks to have common assessments in writing in place districtwide this fall.

Special Programs Highlights

Title 1/LAP

Kindergarten Orientation

Established this year at all elementary schools.

Bilingual/Migrant

Promising Practices - In October teachers of at-risk students attended the second annual Promising Practices fall institute to learn best practices for instruction of English language learners.

Two-Way Immersion at Sharpstein - This year 50 first graders continued in the Two-Way Language Enrichment program at Sharpstein while 50 kindergartners entered the program. The program continues through fifth grade.

Migrant Student Leadership - Around forty-five Garrison and Wa-Hi migrant students participated in several days of workshops in April to improve communication and leadership skills. The conference was organized by **Melito Ramirez**, Migrant Home Visitor.

Students exit Transitional Bilingual Program - This spring 50 kindergarten through twelfth grade students met the reading and writing exit criteria on the Washington Language Proficiency Test. Also, many students improved their oral skills in English in the last year to meet Washington state expected growth standards.

Special Education

Students make vocabulary gains - Intensive instruction labs were provided in all six elementary schools, Pioneer and Wa Hi this year. These 10 week, 2 hour per day labs provide intensive instruction on phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, vocabulary and comprehension.

Behavior program staff collaborate

This year behavior program staff K-12 collaborated monthly to develop program consistency with social and behavior skills instruction.

Life skills program expanded

The K-3 Inclusionary Life Skills program at Green Park was expanded to a K-5 program to provide enhanced services to students in need.

Fiscal Integrity

District Establishes Budget Committee

In the 2004-2005 year, Walla Walla Public Schools established a broad-based District Budget Committee. This committee included teachers, classified staff, administration, a board member, and community members. The committee looked at all programs in the district and made recommendations regarding the budget to Superintendent Rich Carter.

District receives positive Audit Review

The State of Washington Auditor's Office has done an extensive review of our state, federal, and local programs, cash handling, and equipment inventories. Law and policy compliance are also part of the review. Walla Walla Public Schools had an extremely positive audit. Our entire staff needs to be commended.



Aron Rausch
Business Manager

Financial Resources

The district receives 72% of its revenue from the state, 15% locally, and 13% from federal sources. The total general fund budget for the **2004-2005** school year is \$46,688,056 which averages an expenditure of approximately \$8,320 per student.

Cost to educate one student for one day! \$46.22

\$33.44 - Teaching

(includes: salaries and benefits for teachers and teachers' assistants; library media specialists; counselors; classroom supplies and equipment; staff professional development; and extracurricular expenses.)

\$5.77 - Administration

(includes: salaries and benefits of health clinicians; psychologists; speech/language specialists; therapists; principals; staff in the principals' offices; school board expenses; superintendent's office; curriculum and instruction; personnel office; and business office)

\$7.01 - Support Services

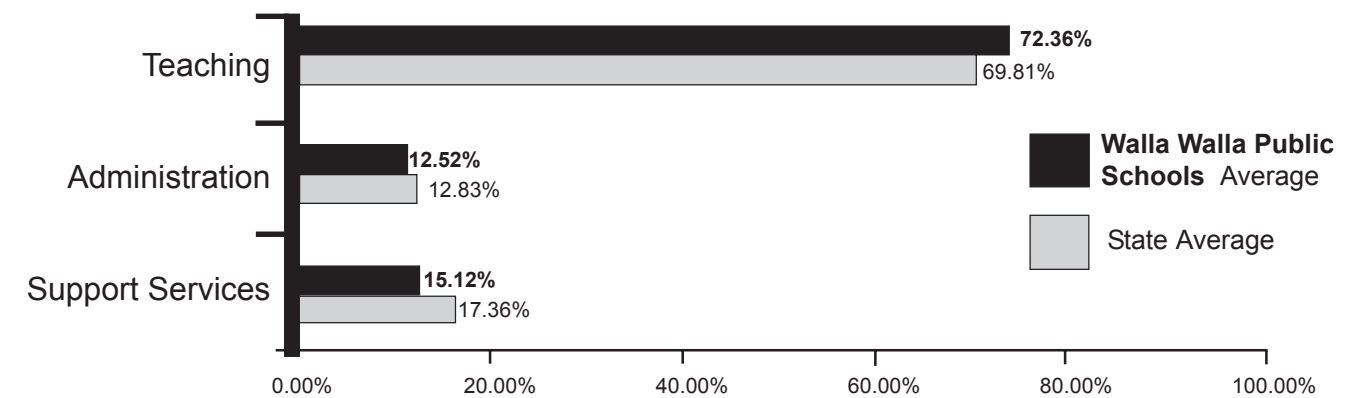
(includes: expenses for student transportation; food services; maintenance; grounds; custodial services; utilities; insurance; security; data processing; printing; and warehouse.)

Business Office Highlights

- Hired experienced administrative assistant Maryelyn Hebel as Business Office Secretary.
- Promoted Susie Golden to Fiscal Assistant for Business Operations. Susie has 7 years of solid experience in the Business Office.
- Completed a draft 25-year Facility Plan.
- Processed \$37,400,000 in payroll and \$10,200,000 accounts payable vouchers.
- Conducted \$3.6 million in business with local business establishments.

How is the budget spent?

Compared to the rest of the state, Walla Walla Public Schools economize on administration and support services to make more money available for teaching.



Information from the Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction (2002-2003).