

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTIONS BURST!

Soccer and Spanish top list

As part of the new strategic plan's push to increase student engagement and success, next year middle school students will have an opportunity to explore twice the number of electives. The goal is for students to explore their interests through more class options. The change was made possible by district-wide support in adjusting the class schedule.

In the works for next year:

- Spanish World Language
- Soccer (competitive, league sport)
- STEM
- Coding and Technology
- Career & Technical education
- Continuation and expansion of advanced and honors options
- Earn more high school credits

YOUR HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN BEGINS HERE!

DISTRICT INVESTS IN LATINO OUTREACH

New director brings experience

This spring, Victor Vergara was named Director of Bilingual Education and Latino Outreach. This new position represents one component of many to be implemented next school year as part of the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Director's strategic planning efforts to increase Latino/a outreach and close the achievement gap.

"In addition to Mr. Vergara's role, many other ambitious steps are being taken to improve student engagement and learning outcomes," said Superintendent Wade Smith. "A Latino community liaison will be hired and additional after-school and summer school opportunities for students will be implemented. We will also offer additional middle school elective experiences beginning this fall and add competitive middle school soccer next school year."

Vergara was named Oregon's 2012 Middle School Principal of the Year. He was also honored with the 2016 Distinguished Latino Educator of the Year award and is currently President of the Oregon Association of Latino Administrators. He is a two-time recipient of Oregon's Closing the Achievement Gap award.

Walla Walla Public Schools

Today's Girls' League takes page from the past *Club was formed in 1922 and remains strong nearly 100 years later*

A quick glance at a recently donated pristine copy of Walla Walla High School's Royal Blue yearbook from 1923 reveals the Girls' League was formed in 1922 to provide a way to advance girls' activities and opportunities. Fast forward 95 years and the foundational beliefs of the club remain the same today.

After going dormant for several years, the club was revitalized this year by Walla Walla High School students Emma Case, Katie Harvey, Kyla Gonzalez, Lily Clancy and Wafa Abedin. Social justice issues pushed these five ambitious students to get more involved. Issues like wage inequality, Title IX and body positivity are rising to the top of the agenda for today's Girls' League.

The club is officially registered with the Associated Student Body and maintains more than 50 members, boys and girls, in grades 9-12. English teacher Lori Dohe is the club advisor. They have developed a new mission statement, written rules of conduct and defined the club's organizational structure.

Earlier this year, students across the campus helped support the Girls' League feminine hygiene products drive. More than 15,000 items were donated. Students collected the products in their classrooms and organized friendly competitions during the drive to make it more interesting. Local social services agencies, schools and school health clinics were the beneficiaries of the donations.

A century later the Girls' League at Walla Walla High School continues to have an impact on advancing career and educational opportunities for girls. Today's leaders, like those in the past, are driven for success.



PHOTO L-R: the Girls' League Senatorial Board: Emma Case (11th grade), Katie Harvey (10th grade), Kyla Gonzalez (11th grade), Lily Clancy (11th grade), and Wafa Abedin (12th grade).



History of District on Display - Preserving our Heritage

Time travel through the history of Walla Walla Public Schools during your next visit to the district office. Lifelong resident and local history enthusiast Susie Golden has initiated a new display case featuring a variety of district history. Items include an 1862 register of students of the first school in Walla Walla, yearbooks, diplomas, historic school photos and a trophy from the early 1900's.

Local historian Joe Drazan has donated thousands of photos from his Bygone Walla Walla Project historic photo collection. Many of these photos may be found on a Walla Walla Public Schools historic photos website Golden developed -historyofwwps140.blogspot.com.

"Preserving history of our schools is a privilege," said Golden. "We are fortunate that alumni of our schools have documented the history of Walla Walla schools. As these treasurers are found, they will be posted on the *History of WWPS 140* website."

If you have items that would help tell the history of Walla Walla Public Schools, contact Golden at 509-526-6715 or sgolden@wwps.org.



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Walla Walla Public Schools

School Counselor of the Year *Angie Gardea honored by state for Excellence in Education*

Garrison Middle School Counselor Angie Gardea has been named the Washington state School Counselor of the Year for 2016.

"I am so honored to be nominated and selected for this award," Gardea said. "Everything I have been able to accomplish during my 18 years with Walla Walla Public Schools has been due to the support I have received from my family, staff, community members and families in the Walla Walla Valley."

Gardea is also the district's Crisis Recovery and Threat Assessment Coordinator and serves on the district's Safe and Civil Schools Committee.

"Mrs. Gardea's incredible efforts, both at Garrison Middle School as well as her critical leadership role in district-wide suicide prevention and response, has positively influenced countless students and families across our district," said Superintendent Wade Smith.



Garrison Middle School Counselor Angie Gardea was recognized by the state for operating a top-notch, comprehensive school counseling program. Her nomination now advances for national consideration.

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Dave Klicker Track

Legendary athlete honored for a lifetime of achievement

Walla Walla Public Schools is proud to call Dave Klicker one of its own. The legacy of Mr. Klicker spans multiple generations as an athlete, teacher, coach and mentor. History was made April 22 as hundreds flocked to his alma mater to dedicate the new track in his name. The Dave Klicker Track name is fitting for this beautiful new facility, according to Superintendent Wade Smith.

"Through this dedication, his legacy lives on," said Smith. "It's true Dave Klicker was a gifted athlete. In fact, his accomplishments are largely unmatched in Wa-Hi athletic history. But it is his

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Developing Washington's Most
Sought-After Graduates

OUR MISSION

Walla Walla Public Schools
ensures all students receive
high-quality instruction in an
aligned and coherent system
while addressing their social
and emotional needs in a safe
and engaging environment.

www.wwps.org



Superintendent’s Message

Walla Walla Public Schools mails the Focus on Education newsletter to the homes of residents three times per year. This publication serves as a platform to keep our community informed and connected to the school district.

We appreciate your involvement and support. The Board of Directors and I value your input and welcome your ideas as we strive for a world-class education for all students—“Developing Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates.”

Wade Smith
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Walla Walla Public Schools...

Board takes bold course of action

After nearly ten months of substantial community, staff, and stakeholder engagement to inform the district’s strategic planning efforts, the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors recently defined a clear and affirming direction for the future of our school system. In a courageous and bold course of action, our board members voted unanimously to target resources, efforts, and energy directly to the core improvement opportunities identified by their constituency.

This recent decision provides the critical framework as we collectively strive to achieve our new vision toward developing Washington’s most sought-after graduates. These strategic investments will help ensure core tenets including increased Latino student performance and family outreach; quality instructional resources and training made available to staff; enhanced student behavioral supports provided to meet the social/emotional needs of pupils; and expanded opportunities for student engagement are achieved both inside and outside the classroom.

This is an exciting time for students, staff, and the community of Walla Walla as we carry forward our mission to ensure all students receive high-quality instruction in an aligned and coherent system while addressing their social and emotional needs in a safe and engaging environment.

Partners of the Year

Catholic Charities of Walla Walla, Friends of Children of Walla Walla and Whitman College Student Engagement Center were named Partners of the Year.



PHOTO L-R: Superintendent Wade Smith, Noah Leavitt, Tim Meliah, Jim Byrnes, Katrina Kerrigan and Dr. David Hampson.

DAVE KLICKER TRACK DEDICATION

Hundreds of family and friends flock to Wa-Hi in honor of Dave Klicker



Dave Klicker Track Dedication continued from page 1

service to others that stands out to me. Dave Klicker modeled putting others first and he lived to help young people pursue their hopes and dreams.”

Klicker was born in Walla Walla in 1935 and his spirit and desire for competition surfaced at a young age. He won the state title in the 110 high hurdles and helped lead Wa-Hi to its only state team title in track and field in 1953. He went on to Whitman College where he continued to dominate the competition, including winning an NAIA national title. Following college, his patriotism was evident as a member of the United States Navy.

Klicker is also remembered for his 28-year teaching career in Walla Walla and his 11 district titles as the Pioneer Junior High School track coach. Hard work, sincerity, patience, determination and grit were hallmarks of his character. Dave Klicker made everyone in the room feel important and special. He always made time for others and put their needs first.

“From this day forward, Dave Klicker Track is officially on record in Walla Walla Public Schools history,” said Superintendent Smith during the ceremony. “Dave Klicker has earned this honor.”

EVENT PHOTOS:

TOP: Dave’s wife Ardell and children Mike and Kriss were in attendance to celebrate this special event.

NEAR RIGHT: Class of ‘83 Graduate Scott Krivoshein organized the project fundraising effort and led Dave’s nomination.

FAR RIGHT: Class of 1968 Graduate Roberta Bardsley sings the national anthem and her brother Richard of AM VETs Post 1111 gives instructions for presenting colors.

BELOW: Klicker family gathers in honor of Dave Klicker.



Walla Walla Public Schools

Developing Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates

School board approves Strategic Plan

Goals and initiatives focus on supporting today’s educational needs

School board members approved a new five-year Strategic Plan this spring which resulted in new Vision, Mission and Values statements for the school district as well as measurable goals and detailed initiatives to support today’s learning needs. The new Strategic Plan will serve as a framework for focusing efforts, allocating resources, and prioritizing initiatives.

GOAL FOCUS AREAS:

- >> Goal 1 - High-Quality Instruction
- >> Goal 2 - Aligned and Coherent Systems
- >> Goal 3 - Social and Emotional Needs
- >> Goal 4 - Safe and Engaging Environment

GOAL SUMMARIES:

>> Goal 1 - Supporting a districtwide culture where all instructional staff reflect on their practice, collaborate with their peers, and incorporate best-practice teaching strategies to ensure high levels of learning for all students.

>> Goal 2 - Ensuring articulated programs and systems to support a comprehensive, consistent, and responsive learning environment for all students.

>> Goal 3 - Implementing high-quality behavioral models and interventions to support the social and emotional needs of all students.

>> Goal 4 - Ensuring all students are engaged and connected to their school, peers, and community in a safe and secure educational setting.



“The Strategic Planning process utilized multiple layers of dialogue involving students, staff, parents and community members every step of the way as we collectively envision a world-class education for all students.”

—Dr. David Hampson
School Board President



“The Health Center Board of Directors extends its heartfelt gratitude to Walla Walla County Commissioners Jim Johnson, Jim Duncan and Todd Kimball for their financial support to reach even more students.”

Stan Ledington
Executive Director

County funds for mental health counseling support Wa-Hi expansion

The Health Center continues to offer rays of hope and support to students in need and will more than double in scope with the expansion of services to Walla Walla High School beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, with a focus on mental health services.

Significant funding for the expansion was made available through Walla Walla County. Funds were allocated from the county’s one-tenth of one percent of sales tax revenue which specifically called for the expansion of mental health services in the area.

“We are thrilled to expand our relationship with The Health Center as we continue our efforts helping support student mental health needs in our schools,” said Superintendent Wade Smith.

Family farm life instills Case’s lifelong work ethic...



Case atop Ben A’an Mountain in Scotland.

She earned double majors at WSU!

As a little girl, Walla Walla High School graduate Samantha Case was up early collecting eggs and feeding chickens on her family farm. Her efforts soon grew to a business where Case would sell eggs at the local farmer’s market and restaurants throughout the valley.

Samantha is now about to graduate from Washington State University with a double major and has been accepted to a prestigious master’s program at the University of Glasgow (Scotland) where she will specialize in information management and preservation.

“The 12-month program provides you with an understanding of contemporary information and records management issues,” said Case. “It pays special attention to the management of digital records and electronic resources, and how to manage these alongside analog resources.”

Since she was a child, Case has been interested in libraries and books inspiring her to major in history. She plans to find a job working in archives or libraries following her master’s program.

“My experiences at Wa-Hi prepared me for college by making sure that I knew how to stay on top of my schoolwork,” Case said. “Advanced Placement classes were especially helpful as they allowed me to enter college with 30 credits.”

Case encourages today’s students to get involved in school and work hard. Samantha’s success began on her family farm where she developed a strong work ethic and determination. Library leaders across the world take notice: Samantha Case has what it takes!