

# College Board AP Honor Roll

Walla Walla Public Schools is one of 447 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 8th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. Walla Walla High School increased student participation taking AP exams 51 students from 2015 to 2017. A total of 477 AP exams were taken by Wa-Hi students in 2017, up 46 exams over two years. Wa-Hi students scoring 3 or higher also jumped by 25 students from 2015 to 2017. The district also had to increase access to AP courses and exams to students of diverse backgrounds.

### AP Courses offered at Wa-Hi:

- Biology
- Calculus (AB and BC)
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- Environmental Science
- Human Geography
- Language and Composition
- Literature and Composition
- Physics: Algebra Based
- Psychology
- Spanish 4
- AP Studio Art / 2D Design/Drawing
- US Government and Civics
- US History

# NEW! Spanish social media sites

The Bilingual Education Department is broadening efforts to communicate to Spanish-speaking parents and community members. New district Twitter and Facebook pages were recently created to support Spanish-speaking families. The demand to communicate in Spanish has increased in recent years as the district's demographics become more diverse.

### WWPS Spanish Social Media Sites:

-  Escuelas Públicas de Walla Walla
-  @escuelasDWallaWalla

## Walla Walla Public Schools

# Pioneer Middle School

Book assignment inspires project with local Cancer Center



Pioneer Middle School 6th grade students in Stephanie Kytola's Honors English Language Arts class read the book "A Monster Calls" which addresses cancer. Students decided to make colorful inspirational rocks to give to the local Providence Cancer Center for patients receiving treatment.

"It felt so good to help people who are going through a tough time," said student Katherine Wilson. "We are very thankful."

### Jerry Zahl continued from page 1

Zahl, a Walla Walla High School Class of 1962 graduate, was named a Graduate of Distinction recipient in 2016. He began working harvest when he was 11, and by age 18 was in charge of night shift pea harvest. He was excited to participate in Ag Class in 9th grade at Pioneer Junior High School. He would climb aboard the school bus and make the trek to "the old" Wa-Hi on Park Street where the classes were held. From there it was on to high school where even more doors to opportunity began opening.

"There were so many activities to get involved in," said Zahl who was Study Body Vice President, FFA President, Homecoming Prince and voted friendliest senior. "A good thing about student leadership involvement was traveling about the region to student leadership camps and seminars where one would meet truly great kids from other areas."

Zahl went on to attend Oklahoma State University and join the school's new Agricultural Economics Department. He also took Advanced ROTC at OSU before serving two years in the United States Army as an Operations Officer.

Following his military service, Zahl yearned to get back to the country so he returned to his roots to serve as Farm Manager for a local pea and

wheat farm. He became active in crop consulting to area farmers in 1984. Jerry has had long ties to the Oregon-Washington Pea Growers Association and served on the State Board. He was also County President of the Wheat Growers Association.

Zahl has been married to Kathryn since 1988. They have a son Andy who also graduated from Oklahoma State University. Zahl is a member of the Community Facilities Task Force working to develop a Long-Range Facilities Master Plan. He also founded the Walla Walla Public High Schools Scholarship Fund which has accumulated more than \$100,000. He was instrumental in the formation of the committee to erect a Memorial with the names of Walla Walla area servicemen who lost their lives in World War II. Zahl is semi-retired and enjoying life with his family and friends.

*"All is well with the world, and Walla Walla Public Schools does a very good job preparing students for life after graduation."*



## WHITMAN SCIENCE OUTREACH

Whitman College continues to support local schools through its Science Outreach program. Established in 2009, the K-12 program is focused on promoting the exploration of science. The Science in the Schools component features hands-on classroom programs, family science nights, planetarium programs and field trips.

The Advance Studies Enrichment Program (ASE) component allows Whitman science and math students to provide AP study sessions in the Hall of Science atrium on the Whitman campus.



Science Outreach Coordinator Heidi Chapin instructs a squishy circuits lesson at Wa-Hi.

## Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson  
Ruth Ladderud  
Jaenemy Perez de Luengas  
Derek Sarley  
Sam Wells

# BOARD



# Focus on Education

Is a community newsletter published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

## Walla Walla Public Schools

364 S. Park St.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509.529.7713 (FAX)  
509.527.3000  
website: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

## Walla Walla Public Schools

# A Look Back in District History

Proudly Serving Students and Families Since 1857



March, 1964 - Walla Walla High School students conduct science experiments in the science lab at the newly opened school on Abbott Road.

Walla Walla Public Schools  
364 S. Park St.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362  
Permit No. 35

VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE EN EL SITIO WEB DEL DISTRITO --- [WWW.WWPS.ORG](http://WWW.WWPS.ORG)

Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2018 | Volume 20 | Issue 2



## Inside This Issue:

- Board members take oath
- 2018 Bond Planning information
- 2018 Bond planning survey
- Cancer Center inspiration
- Whitman Science Outreach
- New Spanish social media sites
- AP National Honor Roll

# Graduate of Distinction

Walla Walla schools offered Jerry Zahl a platform to shine

Jerry Zahl was raised in a family of seven children on Five Mile Road just east of Walla Walla. He attended and graduated 8th grade from Maxson School, a small two room country school with no hot water or telephone. The school was closed when he graduated in 1958.

"4-H participation and church seemed to be our only contact with the outside world, for we had no sports facilities or sports programs," recalls Zahl who was named a Graduate of Distinction in 2016. "We would build dams in the creek in summer, or pour ice on the hill during freezing weather for seasonal outdoor recreational activities."

*"Even though I was a farm kid with chores to do day and night, I was involved in many positive school activities. Our schools prepared me well for life after graduation."*

Jerry Zahl  
Wa-Hi Class of 1962

continued inside . . .

## OUR VISION

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](http://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.

The Board of Directors and I value your input and welcome your ideas. Working together we can ensure our legacy of success continues. We strive for a world-class educational experience for all students.

Our Vision: *Developing Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates.*

Wade Smith  
Superintendent  
(509) 527-3000  
wsmith@wwps.org  
Twitter: @WallaWallaSup

Walla Walla Public Schools...

District bond debt-free in December

The Community Facilities Task Force reconvened in the fall of 2016 with a charge to prioritize educational, safety and facility preservation needs through the development of a Long-Range Facilities Master Plan. The Task Force has developed two options for consideration which focus on renovation rather than replacing schools. The committee has keyed in on the November 2018 election, as it aligns with the last remaining payment of all existing bond debt. The School Board and Community Facilities Task Force will openly engage with all stakeholders over the next three months to seek input on the two options. The School Board is expected to approve one of the options in May to be placed on the November 2018 ballot. A Bond Oversight Committee, comprised of 10 community members, will be formed to monitor project costs and ensure bond dollars and state match funds are spent only on voter-approved projects. -[www.wwps.org/2018bondplanning](http://www.wwps.org/2018bondplanning)



Jaenemy Perez de Luengas joins school board

New school board member Jaenemy Perez de Luengas and incumbent Sam Wells were sworn into office in December by Walla Walla County Superior Court Judge John Lohrmann. Perez de Luengas has lived in Walla Walla her entire life. She is the Birth-to-Five Program Coordinator for Educational Service District 123 and is also employed by Walla Walla Community College in the Early Learning Department as an Early Achievers Coach and Parent Educator. She is a Walla Walla Public Library board member and is on the steering committee for the Walla Walla Latino Alliance.

Sam Wells begins his second term as Board of Director Wells, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, has been active with the Blue Mountain Humane Society, Junior Achievement and Walla Walla Noon Rotary.

Community Facilities Task Force Membership

- Paul Schneidmiller (Chair) Business
- Tony Cabasco Higher Education
- Jim Dumont City of Walla Walla
- Roger Esparza Realtor
- Darcey Fugman-Small Business
- Chris Garratt Health Services
- Randy Glaeser County of Walla Walla
- Don Holbrook Corrections
- John Keifel Classified Rep
- Dean Lodmell Local Engineer
- Dick Moeller Local Contractor
- Linda Newcomb Local Architect
- Jim Peterson Higher Education
- Kara Schulke Parent
- Phil Shivell Local Contractor
- Craig Sievertsen Finance
- Keith Swanson Certificated Rep
- Peter Swant Port Commissioner
- Casey Waddell Finance
- Jerry Zahl Agriculture

2018 Bond Planning- Renovation of existing schools and school infrastructure Improvements at Wa-Hi, Pioneer Middle School & Lincoln High School

In December, Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors accepted for further community input two bond package options prepared by the Community Facilities Task Force. These options will be discussed with the community over the next three months before the school board makes a final decision in May on which bond package option is placed on the November 2018 ballot. Both options include renovations of Walla Walla High School, Pioneer MS and Lincoln HS. These package options also address select school infrastructure needs across the district such as roofing, HVAC and school safety improvements. Both options apply all of the \$52.6M eligible State Match dollars to the school renovation projects identified to fully fund improvements at Walla Walla High School, Pioneer MS and Lincoln HS. All existing bond debt will be paid off in December 2018. A survey is posted on the district webpage for community input. Several community presentations, school tours and public meetings are also planned.

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE OPTIONS:

**OPTION 1**

**\$65.6M Bond Package**

- » Renovations of Wa-Hi, Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School
- » Select school infrastructure improvements - roofing, HVAC and school safety
- » Eligible for \$52.6M State Match which will all be applied to the school renovation projects
- » Approximately \$1.23/\$1,000 tax rate (Replaces current bond tax rate)

School Infrastructure - <b>\$6.68M</b>
Lincoln Renovation - <b>\$5.71M</b>
Pioneer Renovation - <b>\$16.05M</b>
Wa-Hi Renovation - <b>\$37.18M</b>

**NO TAX RATE INCREASE**

**OPTION 2**

**\$73.9M Bond Package**

- » Same school renovations as Option 1
- » Approximately \$8.3M of additional school infrastructure projects
- » Eligible for \$52.6M State Match which will all be applied to the school renovation projects
- » Approximately \$1.38/\$1,000 tax rate (15¢ increase above current bond tax rate)

School Infrastructure - <b>\$15.05M</b>
Lincoln Renovation - <b>\$5.71M</b>
Pioneer Renovation - <b>\$16.05M</b>
Wa-Hi Renovation - <b>\$37.18M</b>

**15¢ TAX RATE INCREASE**

Bond Planning Survey We need your Input...online, in person or by mail!

1. What affiliation best describes your relationship with Walla Walla Public Schools?

☐ Employee   ☐ Parent   ☐ Community Member   ☐ Student

2. Which option developed by the Community Facilities Task Force best aligns with the community’s priorities and approach towards facility improvements. Check one box.

☐ **Option #1 -**  
\$65.6M Bond Package that renovates Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School, addresses \$6.7M in school infrastructure projects, and maintains the current bond tax rate.

☐ **Option #2 -**  
\$73.9M Bond Package that addresses the same renovations of Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School, and Lincoln High School, addresses \$15M in school infrastructure projects, and results in a 15 cent increase to the current bond tax rate.

3. The Community Facilities Task Force developed a Long-Range Facilities Master Plan following months of research and study. This draft plan is based on extensive facility analyses which took into account the age and infrastructure conditions of the district’s remaining eight campuses not identified for significant renovation in 2018. This plan utilizes replacement bonds approximately every 15 years to address long-term renovation and preservation projects while maintaining a consistent bond tax rate for the community. Check the box which best reflects your opinion of this approach to the district’s draft Long-Range Facilities Master Plan needs as developed by the Task Force:

2018 Replacement Bond Renovation Projects (Example of Basic Option)	2033 Replacement Bond Renovation Projects	2047 Replacement Bond Minor Renovations
» Walla Walla High School » Pioneer Middle School » Lincoln High School » Infrastructure projects (roofs, HVAC, safety)	» Berney renovation (54 years old) » Prospect Point renovation (63 years old) » Blue Ridge renovation (51 years old) » Garrison Middle School & Green Park Elementary minor renovations (38 years since remodels)	» Sharpstein renovation (45 years since remodel) » Edison minor renovation (38 years old) » SEATech minor renovation (33 years old)
Cost per \$1000 = Approximately \$1.23 (Maintains existing bond tax rate)		

☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Agree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Strongly Disagree

4. The Community Facilities Task Force is recommending all of the eligible \$52.6M in State Match funds be applied only to the voter-approved projects -- renovations of Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School. Combining local bond funds with State Match to fully fund these projects lowers the cost to local taxpayers. Check the box which best describes your opinion of this approach to the use of State Match funds.

☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Agree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Strongly Disagree

5. The Community Facilities Task Force is recommending any excess funds remaining after completion of the voter-approved projects be returned to taxpayers by paying down the bond debt. Check the box which best describes your opinion towards this approach.

☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Agree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Strongly Disagree

6. Please check how you prefer to receive information about the 2018 Bond Planning Process.

☐ Local Newspaper   ☐ District Newsletter   ☐ Radio   ☐ District Social Media   ☐ Email  
☐ District webpage   ☐ Personal contact   ☐ Presentations   ☐ Tours

We need your input on the two options!

Please take time to review these options and share your feedback via the survey provided here and on our website at:

[www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

3 ways to submit your survey:

- 1. ONLINE**  
Take the survey online at: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)
- 2. IN PERSON**  
Hand deliver to the WWPS District Office or any district school
- 3. BY MAIL**  
Walla Walla Public Schools  
Attn: Communications Dept.  
364 S. Park St., Walla Walla, WA 99362

Tours & Information

- VIRTUAL TOURS**  
Don’t have time to visit in person? Visit the district website to see detailed virtual tours of the three schools being proposed for renovation.
- SCHOOL TOURS**  
Contact the WWPS District Office for a guided tour - 509.527.3000

**INFORMATION**  
For more details and information please visit the district webpage. [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)