



Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Health Clinician Vickie Rogers for being named the ESD 123 Regional Classified Employee of the Year. She helps students with complex medical conditions to ensure they receive the support needed to be successful in school and in life. Rogers is known for her ability to build strong, positive relationships with students, parents, staff and local community partners.



Dell Scholar

Walla Walla High School senior Lynely Salazar has received a \$20,000 Dell Scholarship. The scholarship award also includes a Dell laptop computer and funds to pay for college textbooks. Salazar is currently taking three Advanced Placement courses. She is involved in the AVID program which supports students in their pursuit of higher education. Salazar has a 3.951 GPA and is interested in studying business in college. She has narrowed her college choices down to three and plans to make a final decision soon. Her parents are Felipe and Maria Salazar.

Walla Walla Public Schools

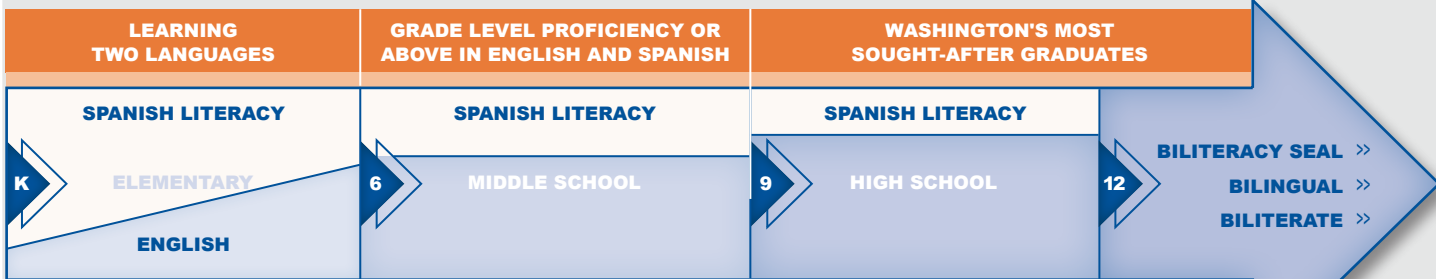
Demand fuels dual language expansion Program to serve 40 additional kindergarten students this fall

Demand for Walla Walla Public Schools' successful Dual Language Program continues to grow, fueling an expansion of two new kindergarten classes at Green Park Elementary next fall.

The additional interest in the program was uncovered during a series of parent informational nights explaining the two-way Dual Language Program. Bilingual Department staff followed-up the informational meetings with interviews of prospective families with

for two classrooms to be dual and two classrooms to be traditional English-only to accommodate attendance area students who desire the English-only. In addition, 29 of 130 students who showed interest already reside within the Green Park attendance area."

Those interested in learning more about the Dual Language Program are encouraged to contact the district's Bilingual Education Department by phone or email.



kindergarten students. Following the interview process, a total of 130 kindergarten students surfaced expressing interest in participating in the two-way Dual Language Program next school year. Currently the district can only serve about 80 kindergarten students at Edison Elementary, the district's magnet school for Dual Language programming, prompting the move to expand offerings at Green Park.

"Our families understand language is power," said Dr. Victor Vergara, Director of Bilingual Education and Latina/o Outreach. "The Bilingual Education Committee's recommendation in 2017 stated if program interest outpaces what Edison can accommodate, then expansion to additional sites should be considered."

The district's Dual Language Program begins in kindergarten where students will spend the majority of the day learning through Spanish instruction. The percentage of English instruction increases as students progress through the program. The program model at Green Park will be identical to Edison in support of the district's aligned and coherent direction. The Dual Language Program utilizes the buddy system where native Spanish speakers are paired with native English speakers to advance their knowledge and skill set. This also promotes cultural diversity and respect among all students. Research shows Dual students typically outperform English-only students in the classroom by the end of their elementary years.

"Green Park Elementary has a rich history of bilingual education and has the physical space available to allow for four classrooms at every grade level," said Vergara. "The size of the school permits

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Better Together Parenting Series

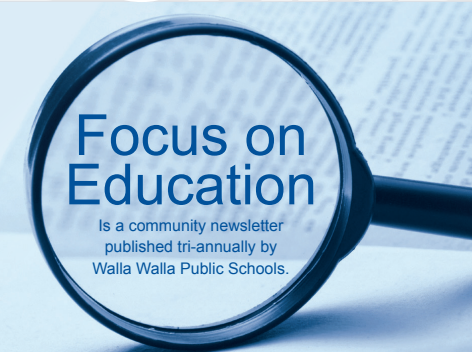
Walla Walla Valley Disability Network has partnered with the district this school year for the Better Together Parenting Series. These evening trainings bring parents of students with disabilities together with educators to address issues related to raising and educating students with disabilities. Nine trainings have been held during the 2018-2019 school year with an aim to motivate and encourage individuals with disabilities to reach their fullest potential. The program offers free daycare and dinner to enhance participation.

PHOTO (L-R) - Libby Thompson (WWPS Special Education Director), Glenna Gallo (OSPI Special Education Director) and Cyndy Knight (Walla Walla Valley Disability Network Executive Director).

Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Derek Sarley
Terri Trick
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Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

Walla Walla Public Schools



Board studies expansion of early learning programs

Walla Walla Public Schools' Board of Directors is conducting an Elementary Consolidation Review and Early Learning Expansion study. This comprehensive study is centered on potential elementary consolidation by the 2020-2021 school year and an assessment of early learning program needs and the potential

development of an early learning center. School board members will make site visits to elementary schools, conduct surveys, review enrollment data, analyze district finances and study preschool program options as part of the study. School board members will make a decision in early November.

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Walla Walla Public Schools Focus on Education

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Graduation Success Wa-Hi and Lincoln HS graduation rates soar past state average

The high school diploma is a significant milestone in the lives of youth, representing the culmination of 13 years of meeting rigorous national, state and local educational standards.

The district is celebrating recent graduation results released from the Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction revealing Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School are outpacing state averages.

Walla Walla High School's four-year graduation rate was 91 percent for the Class of 2018, 10 percentage points above the state average. Lincoln High School's four-year rate last year was 85 percent, representing an all time high.

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“I'm so proud of our teachers, support staff, students and administrators for their hard work to ensure our students graduate college and career ready.”

-Christy Krutulis
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

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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



NAVY VETERAN GENE GOSSETT

Walla Walla Public Schools...



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.

Our Vision - *Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates.*"

Wade Smith
Superintendent
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Survey results show strong support *Data reveals school district is on the right track*

As the snow-covered Blue Mountains surrounding our valley begin to thaw and flowers begin to adorn many of our yards, these annual rituals serve as a reminder that graduation and end-of-year activities are right around the corner.

This year marked a historic one for Walla Walla Public Schools; one that will be remembered for many years to come. Receiving nearly 75% support, our community stepped up to invest in the preservation of three of our most aged campuses; WaHi, Pioneer, and Lincoln. In addition, our voters affirmed the critical need to invest in safety, security, infrastructure and efficiency improvements across other school sites. As these projects begin to take shape, we are delighted that much of the work has already been awarded to local contractors and vendors.

As our district enters year three of our five-year Strategic Plan, the targeted investments, focus, and efforts across our campuses are beginning to reveal themselves. Graduation rates are not just up, they are way up. Thanks to our dedicated staff, with a renewed focus towards engaging students, aligning our systems and removing barriers, both Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School graduation rates now far exceed state averages.

In addition, our dedicated Board of Directors continues their efforts around transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility. Recent community-wide surveys show their efforts are paying off. Over 85% of community constituents believe WWPS is on the right track and our Board operates in an open and transparent manner. Also, 93% would recommend our district to others and over 80% believe we are using tax dollars wisely.

As I enter the fourth year as our district's superintendent, I could not be more proud and humbled to serve as its leader. Although we will be incredibly busy with capital improvements across our campuses, this will not detract from our collective efforts that high levels of learning remain our primary goal. Although we are experiencing success, we can and will continue to improve our outcomes, efficiencies, and commitment to ensure we deliver on our vision - *Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates.*

THE LATEST BOND NEWS



Wa-Hi window options

Perfection Glass of Walla Walla employees install a mock-up of energy efficient window samples for the Walla Walla High School renovation. Earlier this spring, staff, students, parents and community stakeholders weighed in on the windows they want for the modernized school. Sample choices were light tint to a dark tint on the top panel and frosted to black-out version for the bottom section designed to improve safety.



Pioneer staff visit area schools

Pioneer Middle School staff serving on the Educational Specifications Bond Construction Planning Team toured Armand Larive Middle School (Hermiston) and Chinook Middle School (Kennewick) to review current educational designs and best practices.

These tours were an opportunity to generate ideas and begin a discussion about potential design decisions for the Pioneer Middle School remodel. Construction on the Pioneer Middle School remodel project is expected to begin Fall 2020.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Bond Oversight Committee

This group is carefully monitoring delivery of the bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency and community trust. This group has met four times thus far and will continue to meet regularly to review finances, bids, project scope and construction timelines.

Membership

- » Scott Morasch, *Chair*
- » Mark Hess, *Vice Chair*
- » Bonnie Bowton
- » Yolanda Esquivel
- » Lawson Knight
- » Kim McDaniels
- » Terry McConn
- » Dick Moeller
- » Jennifer Mouat
- » Ken Seibold
- » Tony Wenham

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Walla Walla businesses working on bond projects thus far:

- » Jackson Contractor Group, Inc.
- » Anderson Perry & Associates
- » PBS Engineering and Environmental
- » Integrity Design & Copyworks, LLC
- » Pacific Power
- » Perfection Glass of Walla Walla
- » S&K Mountain Construction
- » Wilson Design Company

SUMMER PROJECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY

- » Berney Roof/HVAC
- » Blue Ridge & Green Park Roofs
- » Safety & Security
 - Secured Vestibules
 - Camera/Surveillance Upgrades
 - Fencing/Signage Improvements
 - Access Control
- » Garrison Backup Power
- » Prospect Point Roof Repairs & Kitchen Cooler Upgrades

PROJECT OVERVIEW - A CLOSER LOOK

New Science Building



Wa-Hi

Roofing/HVAC Prep



Berney

High-Tech Science Facility -

Preliminary schematic designs are complete for the new Walla Walla High School science building. Visit the district's bond webpage for more details. Construction begins this fall!

Local Contractor -

Local contractor S&K Mountain Construction prepares for this summer's roofing and energy efficiency HVAC project at Berney Elementary.



1. Pavement Coring -

Anderson Perry & Associates' crew drills pavement core samples at Wa-Hi to assess pavement thickness to comply with local and state codes.



2. Soil Boring -

Soil borings determine soil type but give deeper data used to inform structural, civil, and stormwater design.



3. Test Pits -

Anderson Perry & Associates dig data gathering test pits at Pioneer Middle School to determine soil type as well as water infiltration/percolation rates.

3 Types of Geotechnical Exploration

Local Veteran Honored

Superintendent Wade Smith selected Class of 1964 Wa-Hi graduate and Navy Veteran Gene Gossett to receive the 2019 Southeast Washington Association of School Administrators Community Leadership Award. Gossett served two years in Vietnam following high school. He is currently the JROTC Boosters President, which he founded in 2014.

Gene worked at the Washington State Penitentiary for 20 years and was a school bus driver for eight years.

Graduation >> *Cont. from page 1.*

The district's five-year Strategic Plan, which focuses on high quality instruction, aligned and coherent systems, social and emotional needs and safe and engaging environments, is providing the foundation for higher graduation rates.

"As part of our five year Strategic Plan, we have guaranteed funding to support a six-year adoption cycle for core curriculum materials," said Christy Krutulis, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. "We're also collaborating in teams to determine the essential standards students must know at each grade level. By collectively responding to student data to provide support for students who need more time, and extensions for those who have mastered the standard, we are more effectively meeting individual needs." Professional collaboration offerings for teachers have increased with ongoing support after the adoption of new materials. Teachers are also leading teachers in the implementation of new materials and best instructional practices.

"I'm so proud of our teachers, support staff, students and administrators for their hard work to ensure our students graduate college and career ready," said Krutulis. "Our vision is Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates and our results are demonstrating we are on the right track."