



Live Stream

BLUE DEVIL NORTHWEST

When district officials learned earlier this year attendance at school sporting events would be limited due to COVID safety protocols, staff and students came together to form a new live streaming network. Blue Devil Northwest (BDNW) emerged as the vehicle to live stream Walla Walla High School varsity sports on YouTube. BDNW is managed by the 21st Century Afterschool Program and utilizes students to operate cameras, control board operations, develop graphics and serve as broadcasters.

"This program creates opportunities to showcase our student-athletes and provide job experience for students," said Andrew Sayers, program advisor. "This is a great opportunity for fans to live stream Wa-Hi Sports on their phone, computer, or television via YouTube."

Visit the Walla Walla High School Athletics webpage for links to live stream broadcasts.

BDNW BROADCAST TEAM:

- Erick Rebeyorlang
- Emiliano Avalos
- Rebelukag Richards
- Gerardo Soto
- Annmarie Hallan
- Sasha Soto
- Sebastian Cruz
- Braden Holgate
- Tierra Golden
- Jefte Vargas
- Alana Betts
- Xavier Cruise
- Paola Vera
- Annaka Moreland
- Vanessa Vera
- Ezra Calvert
- Coleen Krause
- Jasiah Ponti
- Luke Sachs

Walla Walla Public Schools



COMMUNITY LEADERS STEP-UP TO HELP KIDS

Longtime district 21st Century Afterschool Program Director Brent Cummings has been named to steward federally funded programs targeting the pandemic's impact on student learning. His first major project is developing Summer Sol, Walla Walla Public Schools' FREE summer program open to all WWPS students, grades K-12. The program provides access to additional learning opportunities, fun and engaging hands-on projects and activities, and free access to select community partner programs. Transportation and meals are provided.

FREE. SUMMER. PROGRAM.

SUMMER SOL PASS DAILY SCHEDULE MONDAY - FRIDAY | JUNE 21 - AUGUST 13

8:30-10:30 A.M. ACCELERATED LEARNING

- Teacher Supported
- Individually Tailored
- Reading/Math Focused
- Earn HS Credits
- Growth Oriented

10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. HANDS-ON PROGRAMS

- Robotics
- Sports
- Cooking
- Gaming/Coding
- Film/Art
- Theater
- Music
- 3D Printing
- Gardening
- & more!

12:30-5 P.M. PARTNER ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

- YMCA Camps and Activities
- City Parks and Recreation Programs
- Veterans Memorial Pool Pass

REGISTER AT: SUMMERSOL.ORG | 509-526-6787

Melito Ramirez

AMERICA'S BEST!

Walla Walla High School Intervention Specialist Melito Ramirez was named the nation's first Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) awardee. Over his 40-year career, Ramirez has worked as a migrant home visitor, summer school coordinator, special education secretary, and bus driver. During his time at Wa-Hi, Ramirez conducted home visits, bridged the gap between home and school for Spanish speaking families, and worked to secure mental health and technological resources for students. Congratulations on being named America's best!

THANK YOU LEONARD ADAMS!

For the past 25 years children in Walla Walla have been in the good care of Leonard Adams while riding school buses to and from school. This spring he clocked out for the final time, wrapping up his employment with the school district. He said his heart is filled with precious memories and his love for the children of Walla Walla will always be with him.



Board of Directors:

Ruth Ladderud
Eric Rindal
Derek Sarley
Terri Trick
Sam Wells



Walla Walla Public Schools

364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
website: www.wwps.org

COMPREHENSIVE NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Walla Walla Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination.

- Title IX Coordinator & Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator
LIZ CAMPEAU, Director of Human Resources

364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
lcampeau@wwps.org

- Section 504/ADA Coordinator
LIBBY THOMPSON, Director of Special Education

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

Where are they Now?

Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

Walla Walla High School Class of 1972 graduate Karen Hedine has spent the past three years leading the Walla Walla YMCA as its Chief Executive Officer. She attended Garrison Junior High and Prospect Point Elementary while growing up in Walla Walla.

Most of her professional career, 35 plus years, was spent as an executive in the global life sciences industry, most recently in infectious disease test development. Hedine lead entrepreneurial biotech companies from scientific concept to commercial release. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and Master's degree in Personnel Management from Indiana University. She is currently active in building collaborations responsive to community needs while serving as a member of the Board for the Association of WA Businesses Institute. She is also active in the Non Profit Confluence of regional non profits, serves as advisor on the BMCF COVID-19 Response Fund and is a member American Association of University Women.

Karen is passionate about statewide childcare program development and advocacy issues. She says her Wa-Hi World Language teacher David Berg is her most inspirational staff member for his ability to share his gift of language. She said his talents helped many students pursue new cultures and languages in higher education. Karen enjoys exploring local restaurants, spending time outdoors, training her dogs and following her dream of continuing to help facilitate high-quality childcare for all.



KAREN HEDINE

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Walla Walla Public Schools Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Spring 2021 | Volume 23 | Issue 3



Grad Rates Exceed Targets

Nearly 92% of WWPS students graduating on time

When Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and the School Board led an inclusive and comprehensive strategic planning process in 2017, they challenged students and educators to improve academic performance. This spring board members reviewed target goals as part of its accountability promised to the community.

Since the plan's inception nearly five years ago, graduation rates have soared to all-time highs, from 79.4% to 91.7%. Additionally, the district has virtually eliminated the graduation gap between student populations through an unwavering commitment toward equity and access. The Hispanic/Latino graduation rate

"Our graduation success rests soundly on the shoulders of the incredible hard work from our staff and students. These efforts, coupled with the focus, attention and targeted investments embodied in our district's strategic plan, no doubt have been instrumental in producing results that have far surpassed the lofty goals we set for our district."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

Grad Rates continued inside ■ ■ ■

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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

“ 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 to "Develop Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent
(509) 526-6715
wsmith@wwps.org
Twitter: @WallaWallaSup

Spring Focus | 2021



TEAMWORK Theme of 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 school year will forever be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm so proud of our staff, students, parents and community partners for their unwavering support and resilience during these unprecedented times.

This year we honored our parents and guardians during April's Volunteer Appreciation month. Typically the school district honors individual volunteers who have made significant contributions and service to the staff and students of Walla Walla Public Schools through the Art Regier Volunteer of the Year Award. In the spirit of "Grandpa Art" Regier, a retiree who devoted years of service to elementary schools in Walla Walla and epitomized the spirit of volunteerism in education, it was our honor to recognize parents, guardians and families for their tireless dedication and support of their children during the pandemic. Their care, compassion and empathy have helped Walla Walla Public Schools students to continue receiving a quality education during these challenging times.

In May, the district honored its Partners of the Year. These amazing partners served a large number of students when the district was required to move to distance and hybrid learning. Childcare staff helped students log into their classes; assisting with synchronous and asynchronous learning during the school day. Our local health experts assisted with testing, safety planning, vaccinations and communication.



- Blue Mountain Community Church
- Camp Fire of Walla Walla
- Care-A-Lot Daycare and Preschool Center
- Little Angel's Bio-Dome Daycare & Preschool
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center
- Teacher Katie's Preschool
- Walla Walla County Dept of Community Health
- YMCA of Walla Walla

We know we cannot do this work alone. It is through our parents/guardians and community partnerships where we broaden our reach and have a greater ability to improve student achievement. Their involvement is critical in supporting our vision of "Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates." Thank you again for your support.

Stay
Connected!
» Web: wwpsbond.org
» Twitter: @bondwwps

Bond Report

| PROMISES MADE | PROMISES KEPT | | |
|--|---|-------------|-------------------|
| | Delivered | In Progress | Planned for 21-22 |
| Tax rates would not go up from the 2018 rate of \$1.23/\$1,000 | ✓ (Actual = \$1.16/\$1,000) | | |
| Maximize Opportunity for Local Contractor/Vendor Involvement | ✓ (Over 40 local vendors already engaged) | | |
| Independent Community Bond Oversight Committee Formed | ✓ | | |
| Tax Money Being Spent Only on Voter Approved Projects | ✓ | | |
| DISTRICT-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS | | | |
| Safety & Security Improvements | ✓ | | |
| Replace 43-yr-old Berney Elementary Roof & HVAC System | ✓ | | |
| Replace 39-yr-old Blue Ridge Roof | ✓ | | |
| Prospect Point Safety Improvements | | ✓ | |
| Replace 26-yr-old Green Park Roof | | ✓ | |
| Additional Roofing, Backup Power & Safety Upgrades | | ✓ | |
| PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL | | | |
| Safety/Security Improvements/Access | | ✓ | |
| Renovate 1950's Classrooms | | ✓ | |
| Renovate 1950's Gym & Locker Rooms | | ✓ | |
| Commons/Cafeteria/Kitchen Expansion | | ✓ | |
| Additional PE/Activity Area | | ✓ | |
| Fine Arts/CTE Improvements | | | ✓ |
| Classroom Additions | | | ✓ |
| Improved Parking & Traffic Flow | | | ✓ |
| Remove 8 Portable Classrooms | | | ✓ |
| LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL | | | |
| Renovate Original 1927 Classrooms/Infrastructure | | | ✓ |
| Minor Renovation to 1964 Wing | | | ✓ |
| ADA/Accessibility Improvements | | | ✓ |
| Drama/Fine Arts Expansion | | | ✓ |
| Remove 4 Portable Classrooms | | | ✓ |
| Preserve Historic Architecture Appeal and Facade | | | ✓ |
| WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL | | | |
| Construct New Science Wing | ✓ | | |
| Site Utilities & Infrastructure Upgrades to Meet Code | | | ✓ |
| Safety & Security Improvements Campus-wide | | | ✓ |
| Improve 37-yr-old Vocational Building & Greenhouse | | | ✓ |
| Improve and Expand 58-yr-old Performing Arts Classrooms | | | ✓ |
| Renovate 58-yr-old Classrooms Campus-wide | | | ✓ |
| New Fitness Addition | | | ✓ |
| ADA Improvements Campus-wide | | | ✓ |
| HVAC & Energy Efficiency Improvements | | | ✓ |
| Renovate 58-yr-old Commons/Kitchen & Student Hub Addition | | | ✓ |
| Minor Improvements to 31-yr-old Media Center | | | ✓ |
| Culinary Arts & CTE Expansion | | | ✓ |
| Improve Parking, Access & Traffic Flow | | | ✓ |
| Renovate 58-yr-old Locker Rooms | | | ✓ |
| Remove 16 Portable Classrooms | | | ✓ |

BOND REPORT

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

Project Overview - A Closer Look at Our Progress!

Wa-Hi is well underway!

Commons & Culinary Arts addition taking shape.



view from south-end of library.



1963 Academic Building prepped for renovation.



Walla Walla High School



1950s gym remodel.

Pioneer Middle School



Entry addition.



Cafeteria addition & 1950s wing remodel.

Thank You voters!

Pioneer is making good progress!



Lawson Knight Receives Leadership Award

Local financial advisor Lawson Knight was selected to receive the 2021 Southeast Washington Association of School Administrators Community Leadership award. Knight has been an active volunteer with WWPS for years serving on the Bond Oversight Committee, as a Finance Department Retreat facilitator, Lincoln High School Facilities Planning Task Force member, High School Facilities Task Force member, Green Park PTA member and Strategic Planning Committee participant.

He also served as the Replacement Levy chair for Walla Walla Citizens for Schools during the successful 2018 levy.

Thank you for your service!

Grad Rates » Cont. from page 1.

has increased nearly 20% under the school board's oversight to nearly 90%, 10% above the state average.

"Built on a foundation of stakeholder voice and inclusion, the plan incorporated a "We All Belong Here" vision that prioritized quality instruction, aligned systems, student supports and community partnerships," said Superintendent Smith. "We are seeing more kids graduate and more kids prepared when they get to college based on data linked to students taking remedial courses. Our kids are persisting and outpacing state averages for keeping enrolled in college compared to their counterparts across the state."

Approximately 60 percent of district graduates pursue higher education, which includes two- and four-year colleges and vocational schools.