

Local Support

Business helps green light elementary soccer

As the district continues to seek ways to engage students in school as part of its Strategic Plan, another positive step was taken in this direction this spring with the addition of afterschool soccer at all elementary schools. For years there has been talk about adding this program, but when Jaime Tiscareno of Chevrolet of Walla Walla reached out to the school district with a generous offer to purchase all the equipment and uniforms for the teams via a donation from the dealership it put the program in motion. Hundreds of students participated in the co-ed program for 4th and 5th grade students which is managed under the umbrella of the 21st Century Afterschool Program. The district is utilizing local levy dollars to provide transportation for the games.

There is no cost to participate and each school has multiple teams. Jaime says he always wanted a soccer program at his school when he was a child and felt strongly about helping today's students have this opportunity.

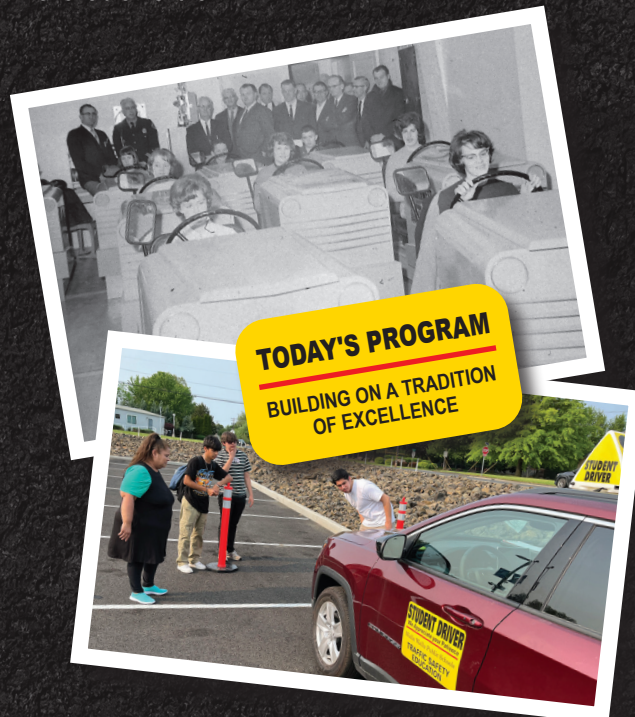


HIGH DEMAND PROMPTS RETURN OF TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM!

District leverages levy funding

Two decades ago the Traffic Safety Education program came to a halt following state funding cuts. Today the district is dedicating local levy dollars to revive this program. Hundreds of students have already signed up!

Thanks to local support of the levy there is no cost to enroll in the program for active students of the district or private/homeschool students residing within school district boundaries. Students receive high quality classroom and in-car driving instruction. The district will offer classes this summer and more seats will be available next fall.



Homelink Returns!

Homeschool families will receive support through classes, curricula, equipment and more.

Walla Walla families homeschooling their children will have more local options this fall with the return of the Homelink Program. Homelink is a K-5 parent partnership program between Walla Walla Public Schools and the parents/families of local homeschool children. The program will be housed at the Carnegie Library Building, located at 109 S Palouse St downtown.

Students have the option to attend Homelink one to three days per week for in-person Arts, hands-on Science, Physical Education and hands-on problem solving (Brain Games). Students access off campus learning at home from their parent with support provided by WWPS teacher consultants.

"Parents remain the primary instructional provider, with HomeLink teachers providing guidance and support," said Homelink Director Tom Porter. "Homelink supports homeschooling families through classes, curricula, equipment and more."

Students have the option to meet with highly qualified teachers at Carnegie up to three days a week, depending on the student's grade level, the student/family schedule and other considerations. Staff and families collaboratively work together to create a personalized Written Student Learning Plan.

"Homelink has a library with a wide variety of books organized and labeled according to the reading level," said Porter. "Families can also access all district adopted curriculum as well as propose alternate curriculum choices that support the Written Student Learning Plan."



Board of Directors:

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BOARD



Walla Walla Public Schools

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

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- Title IX Coordinator & Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator
DR. MINDY MEYER, Dir of Human Resources
364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
mmeyer@wwps.org
- Section 504/ADA Coordinator
BARB CASEY, Director of Special Education
364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
bcasey@wwps.org

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 1998 graduate Julio Tapia serves as a Juvenile Detention Officer for Walla Walla County where he uses his people skills to help get youth back on track. Soccer has always been a big part of Julio's life. He played semi-pro soccer in Mexico in the past and in 2020 opened the Tapia Academy. He uses his many years of soccer experience to focus on the technical aspect of soccer. His program helps kids become better individual players, build confidence and have fun. His long-term goal with the program is to open a facility dedicated to soccer skill development and competition. Julio serves as the technical director of Walla Walla United Soccer. This is a select travel program for area youth to compete against players from across the Northwest. He is also the men's head coach for the new semi-pro team in town, the Walla Walla Stars.

Julio credits Keven Peck, Jim Sporleder and Mike Meyers as his most influential educators during his school years. He says he learned so much from each one of them and appreciates all of the positive advice they shared as he was growing up.

He is married to Brenda Tapia and they have two boys. Andres Tapia is currently playing for the Walla Walla Stars, and his son Cristian is a seventh grader at Garrison Middle School and is currently playing for Walla Walla United. Julio says he loved growing up in Walla Walla as a child and is honored to give back to the community by helping today's youth excel in sports and life.



JULIO TAPIA

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Focus on Education

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Our Mission

In partnership with families and community, Walla Walla Public Schools ensures a culture of equity and belonging, where every student achieves ambitious levels of learning through relevant and rigorous educational experiences.

Our Beliefs

WE BELIEVE:

- » that diversity is our strength
- » in challenging and supporting all students
- » that quality instruction is critical to student success
- » in elevating student voice and agency
- » in investing in staff to ensure excellence
- » in maximizing the impact of our resources
- » in collaborative and transparent operation
- » in the importance of family and community

VISION 2030

Strategic Plan charts promising future for Walla Walla Public Schools

Recently Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors unanimously approved "Vision 2030," the school district's new Strategic Plan. Vision 2030 focuses on ambitious levels of learning, relevant and rigorous experiences, a culture of equity and belonging, and family and community partnerships.

Continued inside ■ ■ ■

“ 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

VISION 2030

"This important milestone marked the final leg of a yearlong engagement process that included substantial community, staff, student and stakeholder input," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "Vision 2030 builds off the success and momentum from the district's current plan that sunsets this year, while taking into account the hopes and dreams that our families, faculty, students and stakeholders share for our bright future."

Since last spring the School Board has led a comprehensive, six-phase process that included multiple communitywide surveys, two dozen focus groups, over 50 key communicator meetings, numerous student listening sessions and a community-wide strategic planning summit.

"These four goals prioritize a clear and focused direction for the future of Walla Walla Public Schools," said Dr. Smith. "Vision 2030 was developed based on an extensive year-long engagement process with stakeholders, and affirms the community's collective expectation for a world-class education for all students." Vision 2030 supports the district's commitment to ensuring students graduate prepared for today's competitive world, whether college, service or career bound.

Next Steps

- » 10 different subcommittees consisting of faculty, parents, students and stakeholders will meet over the summer and early fall to finalize action plans
- » Target outcomes for each goal are being developed to monitor growth and accountability
- » Communication and outreach to parents and community regarding new and innovative ways to engage with our schools



For detailed information about the Strategic Plan please visit our website at: **WWPS.ORG/STRATEGICPLAN**

OUR FUTURE- Proudly serving Walla Walla students and families for the 21st Century

Goal 1

Ambitious Learning for All

OUTCOME STATEMENT:	ACHIEVED THROUGH:
WWPS prioritizes a districtwide culture where staff collaborate with their peers to ensure high quality instruction, analyze and respond to student learning needs, and maintain a collective sense of urgency around high achievement for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Collective Efficacy■ A Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum■ Proficient Elementary Readers

Goal 2

Relevant and Rigorous Experience

OUTCOME STATEMENT:	ACHIEVED THROUGH:
WWPS commits to ensuring all students will receive a relevant and rigorous educational experience, where every senior graduates with 21st century-skills and a post-secondary plan to enroll, enlist or attain gainful employment after high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Post-Secondary Planning■ Access to Rigorous Curriculum and Courses■ Developing 21st Century Skills

Goal 3

Culture of Equity and Belonging

OUTCOME STATEMENT:	ACHIEVED THROUGH:
WWPS ensures an equitable educational experience where all students feel a sense of belonging and voice as they develop connections with peers and adults in a safe, supportive, inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A Culture of Belonging and Equity■ Implementing Inclusionary Practices■ Ensuring a Culture of Support and Collective Accountability

Goal 4

Partnership with Family and Community

OUTCOME STATEMENT:	ACHIEVED THROUGH:
WWPS leverages family, community and business partnerships in order to enhance student learning and their educational experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Maximizing Family Engagement■ Assuring Community Involvement and Volunteerism

Outdoor Athletic and Activity Facility Committee Charge

The committee will convene regularly to complete the work necessary to undergo the technical review and analysis in order to deliver long-term outdoor athletic and activity planning direction for the district.

ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY FACILITIES REVIEW



Community leaders team with district to find solutions to address aged outdoor athletic & activity facilities needs

Some of Walla Walla's most prominent business, community leaders, parent representative and alumni have stepped up to volunteer to serve on the district's Outdoor Athletic and Activity Facility Committee to work with the community to find solutions to improve the district's outdoor athletics and activities facilities. This spring the district is putting the finishing touches on the historic 2018 bond program which focused on indoor facilities needs and now the district is shifting its focus to outdoor spaces. "As promised, our highly successful 2018 bond program focused on taking care of classrooms, science labs, performing arts, fine arts, and other indoor critical facility needs across the district, said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "This is what our voters told us to focus on and that is exactly what we did. However, that does not mean the need to address outdoor amenities went away." A comprehensive analysis of facility comparisons and

research has been performed of all district schools in the Mid-Columbia Conference (MCC). Committee members are reviewing this study, conducting additional research and prioritizing needs. They are also charged with identifying costs to make improvements, researching funding options and providing a recommendation to the school district.

“ We have a lot of work ahead of us. Our focus will be to develop pragmatic improvement solutions that attempt to deliver equitable and comparable outdoor athletic and activity facilities with similar-sized schools to maximize student access, safety, engagement and pride. ”
-Committee Chair Don Davis.



Updates & Further Information:
Visit the Outdoor Athletic and Activity Facility Committee website for updates and more information.

www.wwps.org/oaafc

Committee Membership

- Don Davis (Chair)
- Andy Coleman (Vice-Chair)
- Jimmy Duede
- Doug Hayes
- Scott Shields
- Julio Tapia
- Stephenie Bowen
- Lawson Knight
- Dewight Hall
- Denise Isenhower
- Kelly Belcher
- Robert King
- Mark Thompson
- Mike Monahan
- Phil Shivell
- Scott Krivoshein
- Stacy Bergevin
- Tim Wooster
- Jaime Tiscareno

Support/Advisory Members

- Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent
- Heath Gardner, Consultant
- Chris Ferenz, Athletic Director
- Robert Foster, Facilities Director
- Michael Kay, Former Director/Advisor
- Dean Lodmell, Volunteer Consultant
- Kathy Mulkerin, School Board