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## District Stories

### State test scores released: Walla Walla Public Schools science test scores above state average

*Walla Walla High school writing scores top 90 percent*

Results of the Spring 2012 state testing were released by Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) Wednesday, August 29. Walla Walla Public Schools showed positive trends in elementary reading, math and science and results for high school assessments were above the state average in all but one subject.

WWPS 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores were above the State average for the second year in a row, with both Blue Ridge and Prospect Point Elementary results at or above 87 percent. Especially notable is Blue Ridge's improvement from only 11% in 2010. Prospect Point Elementary posted scores near or above the state average in all tested areas and grade levels.

"Third and fifth grade reading scores were also above the state average in several elementary schools in the district, and improved over last year's performance in most, reflecting the District's emphasis on early, intensive intervention.," said Maria Garcia, District Assessment and Response to Intervention coordinator.

Math in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades also showed improvement over last year's performance across much of the district, with Blue Ridge again highlighted. Blue Ridge has posted significant improvement over the past two years at all three tested grade levels. The greatest improvement has been seen in 4<sup>th</sup> grade math at Blue Ridge, with a 2010 pass rate of 8% compared to 63% for this year. Prospect Point 5<sup>th</sup> grade math has also made dramatic improvement, from 38% two years ago to over 73% this year.

"We've had a significant investment in math curriculum and instruction over the past several years and this focus is paying off," Garcia said. "Also, we are now better equipped to identify struggling students in math early, so we can provide needed interventions and prevent them from falling further behind."

At the high school level, WWPS continues to post results in most tested areas above the state average, with Walla Walla High School students passing the Reading and Writing HSPE at 85.7% and 90.2% respectively. Algebra students across the district passed the End of Course exam at 77%, with Geometry only slightly lower at 74.8%.

"Of particular note is the performance of Wa-Hi students on the new Biology End of Course exam which was given for the first time last spring, but is not a graduation requirement until 2015," Garcia said. Seventy-three percent of 10<sup>th</sup> graders passed the test, which is higher than the state average of 64.1%, and out performs a number of large high schools across the state."

Wa-Hi continues to vastly outperform the state graduation rate with an impressive 92% on-time rate. The state graduation rate is 76.6 percent.

"Lincoln High School also continues to make great strides with an extended graduation rate of 69.7% for the Class of 2010 – up from 13.4% just four years ago," Garcia said. "This is a significant accomplishment for Lincoln High School students as many of them are overcoming adverse life experiences."

For a complete listing of Walla Walla Public Schools test scores, visit the district web site ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)) and click on test results.

Each year, Washington state students in grades 3-8 are assessed in the Spring using the Measures of Student Progress (MSP) in reading and math, with writing assessed only in grades 4 and 7, and science in grades 5 and 8.

Students enrolled in Algebra or Geometry courses take End of Course exams (debuted in the 2010-11 school year), and students in grade 10 take the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) in reading and writing. Last Spring for the first time, 10<sup>th</sup> graders took a Biology End of Course exam. Passing the HSPE and the math End of Course exams is required for graduation, and passing the Biology End of Course exam is scheduled to become a graduation requirement for students in the Class of 2015.

In his press conference announcing the results, State Superintendent Randy Dorn said students across the state continue to show improvement. Walla Walla Public Schools' results indicate the District has made improvement in some subject areas and grade levels, and has room to grow in others.

### **First Day of School Tuesday, Sept. 4**

- Visit district web site for more information
- Visit schools or school web sites for back-to-school supplies lists

### **Extra police patrols in school zones**

Look for additional law enforcement officers in area school zones next week as school begins in Walla Walla. Please obey the posted speed limit and yield to pedestrians. Police will be looking for drivers talking and texting on their cell phones too. Thanks to area police officers for helping keeping our schools safe.

### **District on display at Walla Walla Fair!**

School displays, student work, animals, information and more!

- Be sure to stop by the Education Building Labor Day Weekend

### **School board meeting and public work session Tuesday, Sept. 4**

- 5 p.m.: Public Work Session (School board to discuss authorizing a school-based health center at Blue Ridge)
- 6:30 p.m.: Regular school board meeting
- District Board Room (364 S. Park St.)
- Both meetings open to the public

### **New Pulse video: Superintendent Miller travels to Wa-Hi for his back to school message**

Superintendent Mick Miller welcomes everyone back to school for a new year via his “The Pulse” monthly video series. Miller traveled to Wa-Hi to kick off the school year. School board President Max Carrera, Wa-Hi Principal Pete Peterson and Wa-Hi ASB President Michaela Stalder are featured on the video series. Each month Superintendent Miller will produce “The Pulse” to help inform parents, students, staff and community members on district issues. Visit the district website ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)) or the district’s YouTube page to watch “The Pulse.”

### **Walla Walla Public Schools expands options for reporting bullying**

*SafeSchools Alert provides easy access to report an incident*

Walla Walla Public Schools is now using *SafeSchools Alert* to report safety concerns. *SafeSchools Alert* is a tip reporting service which allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to district administration in four different ways:

1. Phone: 1-855-4ALERT1, ext. 1057
2. Text: Text #1057 @tip + your tip to ALERT1 (253781)
3. Email: [1057@alert1.us](mailto:1057@alert1.us)
4. Web: <http://1057.alert1.us>

Easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drug use, vandalism or any safety issue concern through SafeSchools Alert. When submitting a tip, be sure to use our district’s identification code, 1057, in the communication.

Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about Walla Walla Public Schools is immediately logged in the system and the administration is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. Tips may also be submitted anonymously. Additional information and Walla Walla Public School bullying reporting forms are available on the district web site at: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

### **School Stories**

#### **Listen to Blue Devil football on KTEL 1490 AM radio all season**

The Walla Walla High School Blue Devil football team kicks off the 2012 season tonight with a home match-up against the Moses Lake Chiefs. Kick off is at 7 p.m. at Borleske Stadium. All Blue Devil home and away games will also air on KTEL 1490 AM this season.

### **Homelink plans family meetings next week**

Homelink starts next week with two meetings: one for our returning families on Tues., Sept. 4, and one for our new families on Wed., Sept. 5. Both will be held from 1-3 p.m. in the Walla Walla School District Board Room, 364 S. Park St. Students will attend a YMCA Orientation at the same time.

All families are asked to come to the district office board room first. In order for Homelink to count students, they must attend next week's orientation with parents. If parents are unable to attend one of these two sessions, students must attend an orientation at Berney on either Thurs., Sept. 6 or Fri., Sept. 7 from 9-10 a.m. at Berney. For additional information, call the Homelink Office at 527-3010.

### **Donations and volunteers needed for annual Big Blue Weekend event**

Walla Walla High School staff and student leaders are gearing up for Big Blue Weekend on October 12-14. More than 450 Wa-Hi students and staff will travel to Antelope, Ore to build connections, listen to inspirational speakers and have fun. This program is specifically targeted to encourage freshman and students who need extra support to attend. There are several ways for staff, parents and community members to help us make this a great experience for Wa-Hi students.

Donated items needed:

- a coat or thick sweatshirt
- a small suitcase or zippered bag

If you would like to donate items, please contact Melito Ramirez at 509-526-8638 or [mramirez@wwps.org](mailto:mramirez@wwps.org).

Work crew members and chaperones are also needed. Work crew members work behind the scenes to prepare and serve meals. It's hard but rewarding work. Chaperones sleep in cabins with 10-14 students and are members (not leaders) of small student groups that meet approximately four times throughout the weekend. Contact Carina Stillman at [cstillman@wwps.org](mailto:cstillman@wwps.org) or 527-3020 ext. 4693.

If you can't participate, but would like to donate to Big Blue Weekend or sponsor a \$60 Student Scholarship, please send your check to the ASB Office and mark it BBW or BBW Scholarship. Last year 75 scholarships were provided thanks to the generosity of district staff and community members.

## **Community Stories**

### **Catholic Schools and Mom's Network team to offer film promoting healthy living**

Walla Walla Catholic Schools is teaming with The Mom's Network in a film series for the community. The first film will be the documentary "Super Size Me". It will be shown 7 p.m., Sept 12 in the DeSales High School gymnasium. Although you may have seen this film, it may be a good time to view it with your children. This 2004 documentary film explores the fast food industry's corporate influence and how it encourages poor nutrition for its own profit.

The goal of the series is to help parents and children make better and healthier choices in their daily lives. Films will be presented at no cost to viewers and will include a panel of local experts to lead and direct after-viewing discussions:

- David Woolson, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, will discuss the Plow 2 Plate initiative.
- Jay Entrikin, faculty member of the WWCC Culinary Program, to discuss the program's sustainability goals.
- Melissa Davis, local chef, to discuss her cooking class "10 ingredients, 5 meals".
- Claire Valenti, member of the Farmer's Co-op, on using local produce and products while raising two small children.
- Casi Christensen, Gleaner Coordinator, how this program hopes to get fresh produce to families in need.

Also, organizers will provide resource lists and guides so that the audience can walk away with practical alternatives and changes they can begin to enact immediately. For information on future films in the series, visit [www.thewwccs.com](http://www.thewwccs.com) or [www.themomnetworkww.com](http://www.themomnetworkww.com)

## **Public invited to workshops on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival application process**

### *Catholic Charities Workshop*

- Tuesday, Sept. 18
- 7 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church
- Greg Cunningham

### *One America Workshop*

- Sunday, August 26
- 1 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church
- Jazmin Santacruz

### *District supports school documentation process for newly authorized immigration rule change*

Per the recent immigration rule change on childhood arrivals authorized by President Obama, Walla Walla Public Schools will provide school record documentation for those who meet the qualifications. See qualifications below.

Those who qualify and are Walla Walla High School graduates or attendees are asked to visit Walla Walla High School (800 Abbott Road) to obtain the necessary documentation regarding their school enrollment. All other individuals needing support documentation are asked to visit the district office (364 S. Park St.) and ask for Veronica Esparza.

## **Salsa, Sabor y Salud: YMCA offers healthy lifestyle program for Latino families**

Join other families for this bilingual, healthy lifestyle program for Latino families. This eight-week program uses creative, comprehensive and culturally relevant tools specifically designed to encourage healthy lifestyles. It was designed by Latinos for Latinos. It incorporates many aspects of the Latino culture, including music and family gatherings.

*Salsa, Sabor y Salud* meets on Monday evenings, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 595 Abbott Road, Walla Walla. The first session begins September 10 and continues through October 29. It is intended for families with children 12 and under. There is no charge for this program but you must sign up at the YMCA by September 7. You may register over the phone by calling 525-8863. Contact Susan Anfinson, 525-8863, if you have any questions.