

Curriculum Investment

Grades 6-12 new English/ Language Arts Curriculum next year

The 2018-19 school year will start with a significant advancement in rigorous and standards aligned materials for 6th-12th grade English Language Arts. This adoption is part of the annual \$500,000 investment toward new curriculum materials adopted by the School Board.

"We are extremely fortunate to have a School Board supporting high quality instruction. This comprehensive 6th-12th grade adoption of the Springboard materials puts all of our 6th graders on track to access Advanced Placement classes by 10th grade," said Christy Krutulis, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning.

Additionally, School Board supported technology enhancements will ensure there are Chromebooks in all 6-12 ELA classrooms across the district to provide students multiple ways to engage in learning.

100% busing efficiency

Walla Walla Public Schools' Transportation Department received a 100 percent Washington State Efficiency Rating for the third consecutive year. The rating tracks the number of students riding buses.

The goal is to increase student counts on each bus to reduce the amount of buses needed. The data is collected using the Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) to provide a relative efficiency rating of school district transportation operations.

"It is an important recognition as it shows we are running at top efficiency and maximizing state supported funds," said Transportation Director John Griffith.

Walla Walla Public Schools

Middle School STEM program expands Students earn high school credits in middle school

Walla Walla Public Schools will be expanding Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) electives at the middle schools next fall. Additional CTE enhancements will allow Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools to expand elective offerings which may include coding, robotics, engineering, medical detectives, science of technology and green architecture.

Middle school students may also earn high school credits in algebra, geometry and Spanish to allow more flexibility in pursuing advanced and honors classes at the high school level. Middle school participation fees for afterschool activities, including all sports, have been eliminated to reduce barriers.

Competitive boys and girls soccer was added at both middle schools last year and Spanish is now offered in grades 6-8. Walla Walla Public Schools is a Google school district and middle school classrooms feature Google services and Chromebook electronic devices to support today's learning. Band, orchestra, choir and highly capable programs are available at both middle schools, as well as dual language bilingual programs, college prep and 21st Century Afterschool programs.

Boeing Aerospace Assemblers



Students Carlos Luis, Touchet (11), Neil Peters, Touchet (11), Hunter Dickson, College Place (11), Kannon Gustin-Rowe, Touchet (11), Lane Floch, College Place (12), Julian Esparza Wa-Hi (Opportunity) (11) and Justin Goss, Wa-Hi (11) from SEATech's Advanced Manufacturing and Welding Technology class participated in the SkillsUSA Aerospace Assembler competition held at Boeing's Everett plant. Students had to complete a hands-on skill project in addition to an interview and resume.

This was the first time SEATech competed in this event and the students had an impressive showing. Students were also able to tour the Divers Institute of Technology to learn more about the industry.



Lunch with a Cop

Police officers build positive relationships with students through new youth outreach program

The Walla Walla Police Department teamed up with Walla Walla Public Schools this spring to launch a new program in schools to get kids more familiar with police officers. It is called "Lunch with a Cop."

"The idea behind "Lunch with a Cop" came about when two Walla Walla Police Officers, Spencer Kely and Paul Green began visiting local schools for lunch," said Vicki Ruley, Crime Prevention Coordinator and Advisor to Walla Walla Area Crime Watch. "This worked so well that Sgt Eric Knudson began encouraging his shift to drop in to schools and join the kids for lunch.

Reducing barriers and strengthening bonds between police officers and kids!

Walla Walla Area Crime Watch is sponsoring the lunches for the officers at each of the schools.

This simple concept of joining kids for lunch encourages kids to feel comfortable approaching a police officer just to chit chat and asking the officers questions," said Ruley. "It goes a long way to reduce anxiety that goes along with having police around and is an exceptional crime prevention opportunity."

PHOTO: Officer Paul Green takes time out of his busy day to have lunch with Berney Elementary students.

Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Derek Sarley
Sam Wells
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BOARD



Focus on Education

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Walla Walla Public Schools

A Look Back in District History

Proudly Serving Students and Families Since 1857



Paine Elementary students perform in the Symphonette Band in 1949. Helen Fritsche was the school's principal. Walla Walla Public Schools has a long tradition of providing students vast opportunities to support their musical interests and talents.

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Replacement Bond School board approves 'No Tax Rate Increase' bond proposal

"Don't raise our bond tax rates" was a consistent message heard by the Community Facilities Task Force during last winter's community engagement phase of its nearly two-year study. This input prompted Walla Walla Public Schools' Board of Directors to unanimously approve a proposal which keeps bond tax rates the same as current rates.

Voters will be asked to decide on a \$65.6M replacement bond proposal November 6, 2018 to renovate Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School. The bond would also fund other district-wide health, safety, educational and infrastructure improvements.

Walla Walla Public Schools pays off all existing bond debt in December and this proposal replaces the current tax rate, maintaining one of the lowest school bond tax rates in the county at \$1.23/\$1,000.

“The community spoke loud and clear. They're ready to address these critical facility needs if the district gives them a solid package that keeps a lid on taxes. That's what we've done.”

-Derek Sarley
School Board President

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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 for a world-class education for all students as We Develop Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates.”

Wade Smith
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Walla Walla Public Schools...

Thank You... Community Facilities Task Force!

The 18-member Community Facilities Task Force convened 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. In April, they completed their work. I want to thank this amazing group of community leaders for their commitment, guidance and leadership.

Task Force Members...

- » Paul Schneidmiller (Chair) - Business

» Jim Dumont - City WW

» Darcey Fugman-Small - Business

» Randy Glaeser - County WW

» John Keifel - Classified Rep

» Dick Moeller - Local Contractor

» Jim Peterson - Higher Education

» Phil Shivel - Local Contractor

» Keith Swanson - Certificated Rep

» Casey Waddell - Finance
- » Tony Cabasco - Higher Education

» Roger Esparza - Realtor

» Chris Garratt - Health Services

» Don Holbrook - Corrections

» Dean Lodmell - Local Engineer

» Linda Newcomb - Local Architect

» Kara Schulke - Parent

» Craig Sievertsen - Finance

» Peter Swant - Port Commissioner

» Jerry Zahl - Agriculture

Pioneer MS custodian honored for excellence

Superintendent Wade Smith presents Pioneer MS custodian Brent Bieloh the ESD 123 Classified Employee of the Year award. Bieloh has worked in the district for 26 years.

In addition to his regular duties maintaining a safe and functional school environment, Bieloh leads a program for at-risk students to help reduce absenteeism and improve academic performance.



Bond Summary

On November 6, 2018, Walla Walla Public Schools will ask voters to decide on a \$65.6M replacement bond measure to renovate Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School, and Lincoln High School and fund specific district-wide health, safety, educational and infrastructure improvements. The school renovation projects are eligible for an estimated \$52.6M in State Match funds. All State Match funds will be applied only to the voter-approved projects. Any excess dollars remaining following the completion of these projects will be used to pay down debt to reduce the rate for taxpayers.

PROJECTS SUMMARY

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Complete specific district-wide school projects prioritized by the Facilities Task Force consisting primarily of roofing, heating/cooling/efficiency upgrades, and safety and security enhancements.

RENOVATE PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

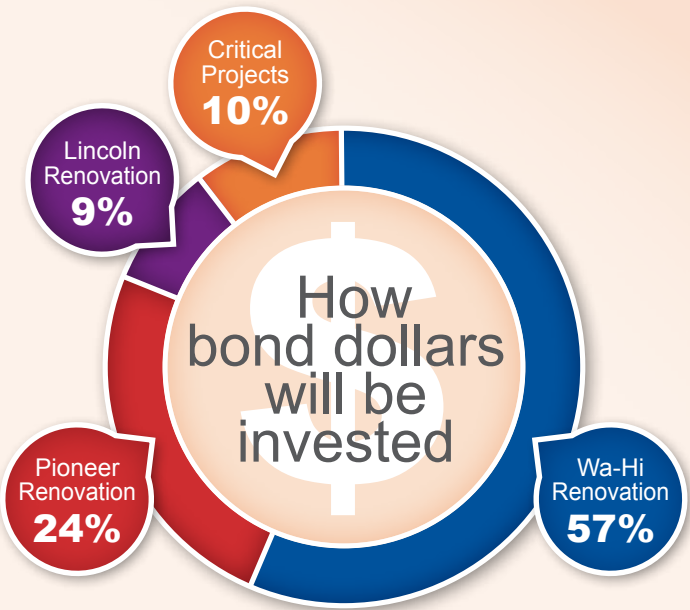
- Renovate classrooms and remove portables
- Improved entrance to enhance safety
- Enlarge fine arts classrooms
- Facility improvements to meet student population
- Improve traffic flow for safety

RENOVATE LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

- Renovate classrooms and remove portables
- Air conditioning / heating systems
- Drama/fine arts improvements
- ADA entrance and ADA access to upper floors

RENOVATE WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL

- Renovate classrooms and remove portables
- Air conditioning / heating systems
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Safety and security upgrades
- Fine arts, science and CTE improvements



PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT:	BOND \$:	MATCH \$:	TOTAL \$:
INFRASTRUCTURE	\$6.68M	Not Eligible	= \$6.68M
PIONEER MS	\$16.05M	+ \$7.30M	= \$23.35M
LINCOLN HS	\$5.71M	+ \$5.26M	= \$10.97M
WA-HI	\$37.18M	+ \$40.07M	= \$77.25M
TOTAL COST:	\$65.62M	+ \$52.63M	= \$118.25M

Through maximization of state match resources and applying those resources directly to the identified projects, the district is able to renovate three schools without increasing the tax rate for stakeholders.

TAX RATE

No Tax Rate Increase...

This is a replacement bond. All existing bond debt is paid in full in December 2018. The proposed \$1.23 per \$1,000 assessed valuation replaces the existing rate taxpayers are currently paying. There is a no tax rate increase as a result of this proposal. Taxpayers with a home valued at \$250,000 would continue to pay approximately \$26 per month or \$308 per year. The term of the bond is not to exceed 20 years.

Sharpstein Stomper for Life!

Dean Lodmell returns to his roots to modernize historic facility for generations to come

Dean Lodmell vividly recalls sitting on the steps of Sharpstein Elementary in the 1940s visiting with classmates about sports and their dreams for the future. Lodmell says he had a storybook life growing up in the lush green valley of Walla Walla. His father was a dentist and his mother worked hard to support the busy family with a house full of active children.

Little did Dean know, 60 years later he would be serving as the district’s construction manager at his beloved school as the historic icon was being renovated following the successful 1999 bond election. Modernizing a 100-year-old community treasure was no easy task and Dean’s insight and expertise were critical to ensuring a quality project for the staff, students and community. The building remains one of the most popular architectural attractions in Walla Walla.

Lodmell grew up in Walla Walla and graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1952. He attended Whitman College in Walla Walla before moving on to Columbia University to continue his education in civil and structural engineering. As a young man and recent college graduate, he was hired to help manage construction of Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. He worked on several dam projects in the 1960s and eventually landed in Pakistan to construct highways and bridges. He also worked for seven years building tunnels in New York City during the 1970. Dean’s influence on local construction is also vast, including the Walla Walla Regional Airport Terminal, Key Technology, Whitman College’s Penrose Library and the Walla Walla College Administration Building.

In recent years, Dean has served on the Community Facilities Task Force as part of the district bond preparation process. He also assisted with the development of a new all-weather track for Walla Walla High School. Dean has been married to Betty since 1986. Betty owns and operates Betty’s Preschool. She has been in business in Walla Walla since 1962 and has helped more than 3200 students get ready for kindergarten.

Walla Walla High School graduate Dean Lodmell continues to be a role model for today’s students and one who continues to give back to others for the betterment of his community.



Dean Lodmell (back row, far left) in 7th grade while at Sharpstein in 1946.



Lodmell’s Local Legacy

Construction Manager on these local projects:

- » Sharpstein Renovation
- » WW Regional Airport Terminal
- » Key Technology
- » Penrose Library at Whitman
- » WW University Admin Bldg
- » WW Country Club (clubhouse)
- » Villages at Garrison Creek
- » Pepper Bridge Winery

Lodmell’s Education

- » Walla Walla High School (1952)
- » Whitman (AB Math/Physics)
- » Columbia University (BS & MS in Civil Engineering)

Athletic Career

Lodmell was an all-around outstanding athlete, excelling in ski racing and football. He was a member of the 1951 Wa-Hi State Championship Football Team. He also was the Northwest high school ski racing champion in downhill and slalom, and a two-time Northwest Collegiate Div. I slalom champion while at Whitman College. He ranked in the Top 10 in the country and was invited to the Olympic tryouts in 1955.



United Way’s Adopt-a-Blue Devil

Walla Walla Public Schools continues efforts to break down barriers to participating in school programs and activities through a partnership with the United Way of Walla Walla. This year’s new Adopt-a-Blue Devil program is now part of the United Way’s Annual Fundraising Campaign. Donations help support students in financial need afford costs associated with academic, co-curricular/club activities, or athletics. Requests to access the resources may be submitted by teachers, coaches, club advisors, and students.



Senior Salute

When Wa-Hi senior Ritu Patel was a 7th grader at Pioneer Middle School, her mother encouraged her to volunteer with local senior citizens. She was reluctant at first, but decided to give it a try. She played games, went on walks and talked over meals. Ritu discovered she loved the interactions with senior citizens and decided to continue volunteering throughout her high school years. “I have learned so much from these amazing people. They teach me manners, how to set a dinner table, history and so much more.”said Ritu. She plans to attend the University of Washington in the fall studying Public Health, with intentions to go to medical school to become a doctor.