

Dual Language Program Thrives

Edison enrollment up this year



Interest in the Dual Language program at Edison Elementary is at an all-time high for the 2018-2019 school year as nearly 100 kindergarten students are registered. Edison Elementary houses the district's Dual Language program where students receive academic instruction in English and Spanish while achieving bilingual/biliterate proficiency skills.

“Research shows Dual students typically outperform English-only students in the classroom, by the end of their elementary years”

said Dr. Victor Vergara, Director of Bilingual Education for Walla Walla Public Schools. “Students develop proficiency in both languages and have increased cultural awareness and the ability to interpret cross-cultural interactions, crucial in today's world.”

Latino Club Develops Leaders

Conference helps students enhance leadership opportunities

The Bilingual Education Department sponsored 80 middle school students from both Garrison and Pioneer to attend ¡La Chispa! (The Spark) Workshop in Pasco. The content of the workshop was delivered in both English and Spanish. The purpose of this approach is for students to experience a school function which actively practices the values of biculturalism.

“¡La Chispa! helps students build self-confidence, strengthen their cultural identity and increase academic success,” said Marilyn Melgoza, Latino Outreach Coordinator. “Last year we had the opportunity to sponsor 64 students, so we are excited to have more students join this year.”

Walla Walla Public Schools

Strategic Plan >> Goal 4

No fees opens doors to engagement

District leaders understand the importance of getting students involved in afterschool activities and specialized coursework. They have eliminated all sports fees, ASB costs and lab/course fees. This move is linked to Goal Four of the district's Strategic Plan which focuses on Student Engagement and Safe Schools.

“Students who get involved are more vested in their school and learning,” said Superintendent Wade Smith. “We are finding ways to remove barriers and connect students to their schools.”

This investment is already showing promise as more students are participating in sports and clubs. Last year competitive soccer was added at both middle schools and this year Slow Pitch Softball was added at Walla Walla High School.

The anticipated annual savings to parents is \$150,000 by the district eliminating middle school ASB card, class and lab fees. The district reallocated the necessary resources to enhance engagement.

Superintendent Smith says Walla Walla Public Schools is in rare company when it comes to the practice of eliminating fees. The district has also partnered with the United Way of Walla Walla through the Adopt-a-Blue Devil program to help fund equipment and other student needs.

“I'm not aware of any other district in the state doing what we are doing,” Smith said. “We are committed to student engagement.”

Villalobos Brothers Electrify Pioneer



The high octane Mexican fiddling group The Villalobos Brothers traveled to Pioneer Middle School this fall for an entertaining school performance. Students danced with the band, clapped in rhythm and cheered with joy. These world-renowned musicians also performed with the Walla Walla Symphony during their visit.

Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Derek Sarley
Terri Trick
Sam Wells

BOARD



Walla Walla Public Schools

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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

A Look Back in District History

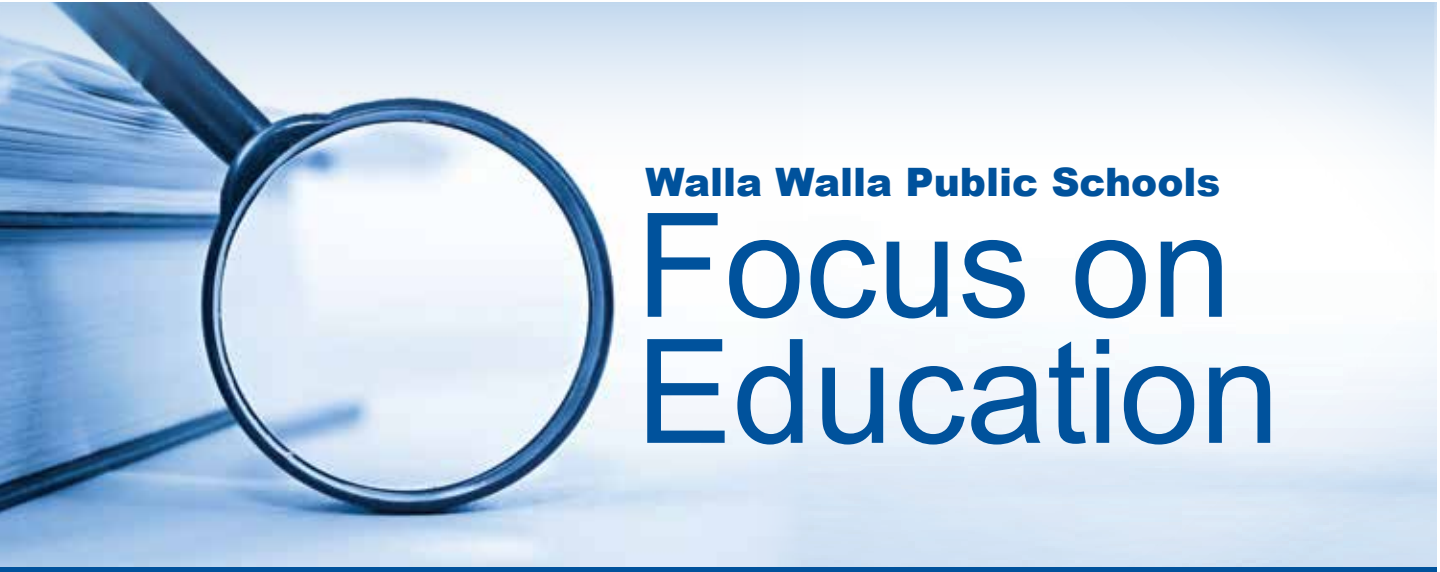
Proudly Serving Students and Families Since 1857



Walla Walla High School basketball players and coaches show off the 4A State Championship trophy to school board members following their 1999 state title.

L to R: Jim McCarthy, Anne Golden, Joe Wilkins, Coach Jim Thacker, Earl Streufert, Jeff Bennett, John Golden, Jeanne Beime, Bryan Erlebach, Jeremy Harper, Pat McConn, Ellen Wolf. Front: Matt Hamlin, Kyle Bankhead, Rich Jacks, Andy Thompson, Jim Baker. Not pictured: Pat Kjack, Thomas Kelati, Shawn Reese, and Jon DeWolfe.

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Thank You Walla Walla!

Voters show strong support for Replacement Bond measure

The November 6 General Election was a historic night for Walla Walla Public Schools as voters approved a \$65.6 million Replacement Bond with a 72% yes vote. Local bond dollars, coupled with the unprecedented \$53 million in state matching funds, will be used to renovate Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School, Lincoln High School, and fund other district-wide safety and infrastructure improvements. Bond tax rates will remain the same since the district's previous bond debt will be paid in full in December.

“This \$118M investment will impact the lives of thousands of students and hundreds of staff for decades to come,” said Superintendent Wade Smith. “We listened to the community by prioritizing educational, safety and facility preservation needs in our bond planning and they responded with overwhelming support.”

“We're so thankful for all the support. This is a giant step forward for our district, community, kids, teachers and staff. When you look at a number this big, it was clear the community was behind this one.”

-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."

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Walla Walla Public Schools...

Thank You Walla Walla!

November 6, 2018 will be remembered as one of the more significant moments in our district's glorious 161-year history. On this historic day voters overwhelmingly supported a \$65.6M bond to renovate Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School, Lincoln High School, and fund other district-wide safety and infrastructure improvements. Eligible for nearly \$53M in state match, this \$118M investment will impact the lives of thousands of students and hundreds of staff for decades to come.

I want to thank our dedicated Board of Directors who developed the inclusive and informed process. They empowered a community-led Facilities Task Force who spent exhaustive time and attention prioritizing facility preservation needs. In the end, our Board unanimously endorsed the conservative plan recommended that balanced building preservation needs, all while maintaining one of the region's lowest school bond rates.

Understanding our work has just begun, and the awesome responsibility and trust voters have provided, an 11-member independent Bond Oversight Committee has been formed. They will add an unprecedented layer of transparency and accountability. We will keep our promise; to deliver on the facility renovation and safety improvements, to invest state match funds only on the voter-approved projects, and to return any excess funds to buy down bond debt upon project completion.

Thank you again for investing in Walla Walla's children as we work collectively to provide the facilities necessary to support our vision of "Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

School board receives prestigious state award

The Washington State School Directors' Association has awarded Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors with the prestigious 'Board of Distinction Award' for showing evidence of applying best practice standards. L-R: Sam Wells, Dr. David Hampson, Derek Sarley, Ruth Ladderud and Terri Trick.



Student Safety Ambassadors School Safety Awareness Campaign

Recent school shootings like the one in Parkland, Florida last year, have communities across the nation worried about the safety of their own children. Here in Walla Walla, the security of our students is our top priority as a school system. "That's job number one, and we don't compromise on it," says Superintendent Wade Smith.

This school year, Garrison Middle School 8th grade student Jack Wanichek and his sister Allison, a senior at Walla Walla High School, have volunteered to be student ambassadors to promote the importance of school safety. The main message they are promoting is the need to report all safety concerns.

When threats of violence are received the district immediately investigates in cooperation with local law enforcement officials. The district has and will continue to respond sincerely to any alleged threat and encourages everyone to report related matters immediately utilizing one of the district's many available resources.

"I welcome your input and ideas as we continue to refine our practices to ensure the safest environment possible for students and staff," said Superintendent Smith. "I am proud to serve as your Superintendent and be part of a community that cares so deeply for its children. Know that the safety of our kids underscores every decision we make. We appreciate the efforts of Jack and Allison as we work collectively to keep everyone safe."

Students Jack and Allison Wanichek are volunteering to promote the importance of school safety. They have recorded radio public service announcements, designed posters and created videos to encourage everyone to report safety concerns.

School Safety Video:
Directed and Produced by Jack Wanichek
>> wwps.org (Click on YouTube logo)

Safety Magnet:
(Below) New safety magnets were created to inform everyone how to use the district's Safe Schools Tipline. These magnets were included in a Back-to-School safety kit which mailed home to all parents to start the school year.



Safe Schools Poster:
(Above) Designed by Allison Wanichek. These posters are on display at all schools in English and Spanish.

Detailed Information:
To learn more about the measures Walla Walla Public Schools utilizes to protect staff and students, please visit:
>> wwps.org

SEATech Enrollment Continues to Grow Advanced training attracts students to high tech programs



Instructor Todd Smith leads the new Criminal Justice program. Students receive training in conflict resolution, fingerprinting, investigative procedures, patrol procedures and criminal traffic laws.

SEATech (Southeast Area Technical Skills Center) is red hot as enrollment is at an all-time high, up 59 students since last year. Currently 211 students from Walla Walla High School and three regional high schools are taking advantage of the advanced-level Career and Technical Education programs. SEATech is geared to prepare students for post-secondary education and successful entry into high-skill, high-demand careers and employment.

SEATech offers Advanced Manufacturing and Welding, Audio and Video Production, Construction Technology, Health Sciences and this year added Criminal Justice.

The Washington State Legislature, following strong recommendations from District 16 legislators, approved \$11.5 million, or 90 percent of the funding, to design, construct and equip SEATech. Walla Walla Community College leases the land to Walla Walla Public Schools for \$1 per year. As a result of the state funding and WWCC partnership, this project did not impact local tax rates. The district broke ground on the project in March 2013 and SEATech opened for the start of the 2014-15 school year.

SEATech has formed a partnership with Boeing through the Manufacturing program to provide skilled workers for the Aerospace giant. Health Sciences students can earn their Nurse Assistant Certification and Audio and Video students learn industry standard software and editing techniques. Construction students work with power tools, read blue prints and learn applied math.

>> [Bond Election cont. from page 1](#)

PROJECT TIMELINES

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Const. planning begins Winter 2019
Bidding & permitting Summer 2020
Groundbreaking Fall 2020

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
Const. planning begins Summer 2019
Groundbreaking Spring 2021

WA-HI
Const. planning begins ... December 2018
Bidding & permitting Fall 2019
Groundbreaking Late Fall 2019



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>> [Industry Job Skills](#)
>> [Industry Certifications](#)
>> [No Cost](#)



SEATech students in Eric Matson's Construction Technology class participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Habitat for Humanity home being built on Carrie Ave. SEATech students will be involved in most all aspects of construction from start to finish.

Bond Oversight Committee

This group will carefully monitor the delivery of the approved bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust.

Membership

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

Follow Bond Progress:

>> Web: www.wwpsbond.org
>> Twitter: @bondwwps



School Psych of the Year!

Sharpstein Elementary and Garrison School Psychologist Rob Graham was named the Washington State School Psychologist of the Year.

"I am extremely humbled by this entire experience and more importantly by my colleagues and administrators' words of admiration," said Graham. "I am proud to bring this accolade back to Walla Walla Public Schools and look forward to continuing to grow professionally while striving to be the best educator, father, son and husband that I can be."



Historic Tree Park

Construction work began this fall to develop a new park on the west-side of the Walla Walla High School campus with the world's largest London Plane tree in existence, commonly referred to as a "Sycamore", as the focal point. Graduate of Distinction and 1969 Wa-Hi alum Michael Murr, in coordination with the Joseph L. Stubblefield Trust, has partnered with Walla Walla Public Schools to design and fund the park. The park will include tree protection measures, walking paths, decorative fencing and benches. The \$250,000 project began in early October and is expected to be completed by spring 2019.