

Educator of the Year
Kelsey Dill honored



Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Sports Medicine Teacher and Athletic Trainer Kelsey Dill for receiving the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year award. Dill is in her fifth year.

She is a tireless and devoted employee," said Human Resources Director Liz Campeau. "She is bright, energetic, honest and always doing what is best for students."

Dill brings her curriculum to life by engaging students about the science behind injury prevention, intervention, and recovery. As athletic trainer, she connects the work in the classroom with the work on the fields and in the gym. Dill is credited with starting Wa-Hi's free Physical Round-up to allow students to obtain the necessary medical clearances needed to participate in sports. Kelsey's quick and decisive actions helped save a student's life during a track meet after a cardiac emergency. She used the school's AED to resuscitate him. It worked, and soon local emergency personnel were on the scene to provide additional support and aftercare.

"Kelsey Dill is an outstanding educator and a hero, and Walla Walla Public Schools is proud to call her one of our own," said Campeau.

Dr. Vergara cited as national expert in Dual Language book

Bilingual Education Director Dr. Victor Vergara has a chapter in Dual Language Education for a Transformed World by Wayne P. Thomas and Virginia P. Collier. This book makes the case for dual language education to become the standard for all schools.

Dual education programs in Walla Walla integrate native English speaking students with native Spanish speakers, to achieve bilingual/biliterate outcomes for participating students.

Walla Walla Public Schools

New State Report Card more user-friendly
Recently posted data reveals rising graduation rates and test scores

The recently released Washington State Report Card is an improved online tool for educators and the public to keep pace with district and school improvement. The new site features information about enrollment, assessment, graduation rates, finances and educator statistics. Better graphics, fewer clicks, mobile friendly and the availability of multiple languages make it easier for educators and the public to track improvement and areas for continued growth.

"The data provided on the Washington State Report Card is valuable for districts to monitor growth toward WWPS established success indicators in our five year Strategic Plan," said Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis.

Recently updated district information on the new Report Card from the 2017-2018 school year indicates improvement in graduation rates and dual credit attainment. English Language Learning exit status for second language learners is rising and student growth in math is trending up.

"The new data helps us better analyze program changes over time and where we have had the most impact, such as with our bilingual and special education programs, or after adoption of new rigorous, standards aligned materials," said Krutulis.

The district's website has additional information about the five year Strategic Plan and a link to the new report card.

» WWPS success highlights «

- » Graduation rates are 83%, the highest in the last 5 years and above the state average.
- » Slightly higher math growth than the state.
- » Growth in percentage of students meeting math standards.
- » Increase in percentage of students passing the English Language Proficiency Exam for second language learners.

» Continued areas for growth «

- » 80% of students have fewer than two absences a month. WWPS is striving for 90%.
- » English Language Arts scores have remained stagnant. WWPS has adopted new materials better aligned to State standards.
- » Increases in overall math and ELA proficiency needed to close the gap with the state.

The new state report card allows parents to see how their child's school is keeping pace with local schools and schools throughout the state.



Scholarships help classified staff pursue careers in Bilingual Education

Walla Walla Public Schools' Classified Staff Bilingual Scholarship Committee has awarded \$1,500 scholarships to (L-R) Ana Diaz, Marilyn Melgoza, Araceli Garcia and Jose Maya thanks to a \$34,000 grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. This new district scholarship program helps Walla Walla Public Schools' classified staff pursue careers in Bilingual Education. The district is also using the state grant

to offer five, \$1,500 non-renewable scholarships to current seniors attending Walla Walla Public Schools who plan on becoming teachers. Student recipients will be announced in March.

"The grow your own effort is a positive step forward as we continue to invest in our employees," said Dr. Victor Vergara, Director of Bilingual Education and Latino/a Outreach.

Board of Directors:

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

BOARD



Walla Walla Public Schools

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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
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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



Green Park Elementary students play in the snow during recess in 1959.
Photo courtesy of Joe Drazan, The BYGONE WALLA WALLA Project

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Walla Walla Public Schools
Focus on Education

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Supporting Local
Walla Walla contractor named for Wa-Hi renovation project

Walla Walla High School is set to get \$72.2 million in facility renovations and improvements thanks to 73% of Walla Walla voters saying YES on the November 6 Replacement Bond measure. The project will kick off this fall when ground is broken on a new science addition.

Leading the construction project will be Jackson Contractor Group of Walla Walla which was given the nod following an extensive vetting process. With 45 Jackson family members living in Walla Walla County, including several parents with children in district schools, Jackson Contractor Group says there is a special connection to Wa-Hi.

“Our local knowledge of the labor market, subcontractor availability and conditions will save time and money. Walla Walla is our home. We are Walla Walla!”

-Doug Jackson
President
Jackson Contractor Group

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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
Superintendent
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wsmith@wwps.org
Twitter: @WallaWallaSup

Walla Walla Public Schools...

Survey results show strong support

This fall the district sought feedback from key stakeholder groups through the Educational Effectiveness Survey (EES) as an extension of the Board of Director's strategic planning process. This is the second consecutive year the district has used this anonymous survey tool and is expected to continue using it annually going forward. Parents, students, staff and community members were surveyed to get feedback about the quality of education offered in Walla Walla Public Schools. The district will use the data to track progress towards its goals and initiatives.

This survey has been used with over 750,000 educational stakeholders in the Western U.S. and provides a powerful tool for district staff to benchmark current school perceptions with high-performing schools across the nation.

Data from the 2018-19 survey reveals high levels of trust in our school board and strong confidence in leadership from staff and parents. Look for results this spring.



Superintendent Smith pleads to Senate for McCleary fix

Superintendent Wade Smith traveled to Olympia in January to advocate for essential McCleary School Funding fixes following changes the legislature made recently through HB2242/6362, intended to fully fund basic education. Central to the state's McCleary solution relied on raising the state tax rate 90 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation, while capping local levies at either \$1.50/\$1,000 or \$2,500 per student, whichever is less. While this change results in a substantial tax savings for local Walla Walla residents, the state failed to appropriately backfill the lost local revenue as initially promised.

Superintendent Smith is working with the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors, WWVEA President Keith Swanson, PSE President BJ Colvin, and local elected officials to draft proposed legislative language to address the unintended and disproportionate affects McCleary has had on districts like Walla Walla.

"Clearly, this result was not what the legislators meant to have happen when they passed the two educational funding bills in 2017, but they have created the problem, and now they need to fix it," said Smith.

THE LATEST BOND NEWS



Bond planning ramps up following successful bond election

Walla Walla voters overwhelmingly approved a \$65.6M replacement bond measure Nov. 6 to renovate Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School, and Lincoln High School and fund specific district-wide health, safety, educational and infrastructure improvements. These school renovation projects are also eligible for an estimated \$52.6M in State Match funds.

Bond planning activities are in full swing as more than \$4 million in construction will be accomplished this summer. The district will break ground on the new Wa-Hi science addition next fall. All bond related projects are expected to be completed by 2023.

Above: Maintenance crews install a Thank You sign at Walla Walla High School following the 73 percent YES vote for the Nov. 6 bond. Similar signs are on display at Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School.



Bond Sale Saves Taxpayers Millions

(L-R) Bond Oversight Committee Chair Scott Morasch, Superintendent Wade Smith and Board Vice President Sam Wells were all smiles after the district sold bonds from the successful November 6 General Election in Seattle. The sale resulted in millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers thanks to lower than projected interest rates.

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

BOND REPORT

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

ACCOUNTABILITY

Bond Oversight Committee

This group will carefully monitor delivery of the bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust. This group has met three times thus far and will continue to meet regularly to review finances, contractors, bids, inspections and construction timelines.

Membership

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

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Walla Walla businesses working on bond projects thus far:

- » Jackson Contractor Group, Inc.
- » Anderson Perry & Associates
- » PBS Engineering and Environmental
- » Integrity Design & Copyworks, LLC
- » Perfection Glass of Walla Walla

PROJECT TIMELINES

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY

Berney Roof/HVAC.....Summer 2019
Blue Ridge & Green Park Roofs.....Summer 2019
Safety-SecuritySummer 2019

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Construction planning begins Winter 2019
Bidding & permittingSummer 2020
Groundbreaking.....Fall 2020

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Construction planning beginsSummer 2019
Groundbreaking.....Spring 2021

WA-HI

Construction planning begins ...Winter/Spring 2019
Bidding & permittingFall 2019
Groundbreaking.....Late Fall 2019

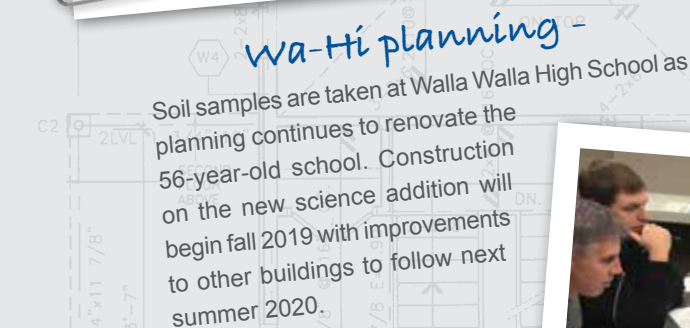
PROJECT OVERVIEW - A CLOSER LOOK



soil sampling



get public input



wa-Hi planning -

Soil samples are taken at Walla Walla High School as planning continues to renovate the 56-year-old school. Construction on the new science addition will begin fall 2019 with improvements to other buildings to follow next summer 2020.



Glass experts tour wa-Hi -

Glass experts from Perfection Glass of Walla Walla, toured Wa-Hi to look at the school's windows. They will be installing window samples this spring to help determine the best solution to improve efficiency and safety. Community members will be asked to weigh in on window options.



Berney roof inspection -

Roof consultants inspect the Berney Elementary roof. The 40-year-old school will get a new roof and HVAC system this summer.



Options discussed with staff -

Architect Kevin Cole meets with Wa-Hi staff members to discuss design options as part of the Education Specifications phase of the project.



Blue Ridge roof exploration -

Targeted excavation allows roofing consultants to learn more about how the roof was installed. The district is preparing to replace this unique dirt and grass covered roof this summer.

roofing inspections

Hall of Fame Inductees

(L-R) Congratulations to John Crudup (Class of 1964), Chris Katon (Class of 1989), Michael Weisner (Class of 2010), and Gary Winston (Class of 2010) for being inducted into the Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame. Crudup was a state champion wrestler and Katon was a standout cross country and track athlete. Weisner and Winston shined in basketball leading the Blue Devils to back-to-back state appearances.

Supporting Local » Cont. from page 1.

"We are avid Blue Devil fans and supporters," said Division Manager Matt Brossman.

"Our strong ties in the local community and familiarity with local subcontractors and market conditions will help make this project a collaborative and successful certainty."

Jackson Contractor Group is located on Isaacs Ave near Walla Walla Community College. They currently are constructing an addition at the YMCA and Walla Walla Clinic and have been involved with 35 schools.

Jackson Contractor Group will utilize the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) model, often referred to as a "collaborative delivery model," which allows them to be involved early on in the design phase, capitalizing on their ability to participate and partner through the pre-construction and design programming.

"We love what we do," said Brossman. "Together we will accomplish the goals established by the school board and meet the expectations of the community."