



Volunteer Spotlight

STACI & SHELLEY HUMPHREYS

Shelly Humphreys' love for animals and farming was passed down to her daughters who discovered a passion for the Wa-Hi FFA program.

Now that her children are grown she still finds time to give back to the program which provided so much for her family.

"Our girls benefited greatly from the program and interactions with the advisors," said Shelley Humphreys. "I believe in FFA and want other students to receive the benefits my daughters experienced."

Shelley has teamed with her daughter Staci, a first grade teacher at Sharpstein Elementary, to establish the Walla Walla FFA Alumni and Friends. Shelley is the president of the group and Staci organizes the annual fundraising dinner and auction. All proceeds support the amazing Walla Walla FFA programs.

Shelley also works as a veterinary assistant at Animal Clinic East, and has always helped to troubleshoot health issues with student livestock projects.

Together, Shelley and Staci are part of the machine helping fuel the award winning Wa-Hi FFA program.

Walla Walla Public Schools

Replacement Levy

Walla Walla Public Schools will seek renewal of its Replacement Education Levy on February 11. Levies pay for educational programs and opportunities for students the state does not fund. Levies support school programs like music, art, honors courses and athletics and funds more than 100 staff not paid for by the state's basic education funding model.

This proposed Replacement Education Levy is not a new tax, but a continuation of a local levy requiring voter approval every four years. Rates for property owners are estimated to remain the same throughout its four-year duration.

The following educational programs and services will continue to be funded by this Replacement Education Levy. >>

LEVY EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Total	%
Approximately 40 Teachers (e.g. Music, Art, Drama, PE, AP/Honors)	\$3,534,951	32%
School Health Clinicians	\$453,363	4%
School Safety	\$288,930	3%
Highly Capable Program	\$205,535	2%
Extra-Curricular/Athletics/Clubs	\$1,488,352	14%
School Intervention Specialists	\$800,855	7%
Special Education/Psychology Services	\$560,051	5%
Facility Maintenance/Operations	\$1,108,816	10%
Classroom Technology	\$400,704	4%
Classroom and Kindergarten Assistants	\$366,275	3%
Professional Development for Staff	\$252,128	2%
Curriculum, Supplies, Field Trips	\$490,547	4%
Community and Parent Outreach	\$127,701	1%
Additional Days Beyond State Minimum	\$932,194	8%

>> Total Levy \$11,010,402

NOTE: Total FTE Staff Funded by Levy: 103 Employees

Summary of 2020 Levy Proposal

2021 - \$11.01M (proj. rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)
2022 - \$11.29M (proj. rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)
2023 - \$11.57M (proj. rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)
2024 - \$11.86M (proj. rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)

These rates are based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Levy History

Local voting track record

Walla Walla voters have a long history of approving school levy measures. Below are the approval rates representing 45 years of levy elections.

Levy Date	% Yes	Levy Date	% Yes
2016	67%	1983	78%
2012	64%	1982	77%
2008	55%	1981	77%
2004	67%	1980	74%
2002	70%	1979	75%
2000	67%	1978	77%
1998	66%	1977	77%
1996	65%	1976	69%
1994	75%	1975	76%
1992	74%	1974	72%
1990	73%	1973	77%
1988	72%	1972	63%
1986	75%	1971	68%
1984	83%		

Board of Directors:

Ruth Ladderud
Eric Rindal
Derek Sarley
Terri Trick
Sam Wells



Walla Walla Public Schools

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

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**
LIZ CAMPEAU, Director of Human Resources
364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
lcampeau@wwps.org

■ **Section 504/ADA Coordinator**
LIBBY THOMPSON, Director of Special Education
364 S. Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-3000
lthompson@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

When Reyna Perez was attending Blue Ridge Elementary, Garrison Middle School and Walla Walla High School, she discovered she had a passion for science, math and problem-solving. Upon graduating from Wa-Hi in 2008, she went on to Central Washington University to earn a degree in Construction Management.

Fast forward to today and Perez has returned to her alma mater to serve as Senior Project Engineer for Jackson Contractor Group on the extensive bond project renovation.

"My day-to-day role involves coordinating with subcontractors and the design team to work through any issues, reviewing and submitting material requests, assisting the project superintendent in the planning of work, and ensuring materials and equipment arrive in time to support the schedule," said Perez.

At Wa-Hi, Reyna was involved with ASB, played basketball and volleyball her freshman year and was active in Key Club throughout her high school years.

Perez says Wa-Hi Library Media Specialist Kim Cassetto was her most influential educator. Reyna remained friends with Cassetto after high school, throughout college and now into her professional career. Reyna took Pre-Advanced Placement English from Cassetto during her freshman year and says Kim's genuine interest in her students' success as an educator and friend is what she appreciates and values most.



REYNA PEREZ

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Walla Walla Public Schools Focus on Education

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Inside This Issue:

- School Board of Distinction ■
- Survey Results Positive ■
- Replacement Education Levy ■
- Odd Fellows Glove/Sock Drive ■
- Pioneer MS Bond Designs ■
- Wa-Hi Science Bldg Update ■
- Volunteer Spotlight ■
- Where are They Now? ■

All-Time High Grad Rates

Latino/a graduation rates soar past state average

More Walla Walla Public Schools students are graduating on time than ever before in modern history according to data released from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Class of 2019. Last year's on-time graduation rate jumped to 90.3%, which is 9.4% above the state average.

The district has also closed the gap between student ethnic populations as the Hispanic/Latino graduation rate has grown 16% in recent years, to 89.3%.

"This now mirrors the rate of our non-Hispanic/Latino students," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "This rate

GRAD RATES continued inside ■ ■ ■

"Thanks to the incredible efforts of our staff who keep kids connected and engaged, we are making history in Walla Walla and ensuring a bright future for our youth."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

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 to "Develop Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent
(509) 526-6715
wsmith@wwps.org
Twitter: @WallaWallaSup

Walla Walla Public Schools...

Survey results reveal strong support

Recent results from the district's statistically reliable third party community attitude survey reveals the district is on track in the minds of the public. A total of 300 community members were randomly selected to participate in this annual perception survey. District highlights linked to the positive feedback include passing the largest bond in district history and all-time high graduation rates. Also, the school board's open and transparent operations, in addition to efforts to remove barriers to participation, were recognized. The decision to align school hours, growth in the Dual Language program prompting improved academic achievement for second language learners and the Strategic Plan's focus on improved graduation rates and ACT scores were also linked to the positive results.

» *We appreciate your support and trust as we make our children's public education the community's highest priority.* « -Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent



PHOTO L-R: Sam Wells, Dr. David Hampson, Derek Sarley, Ruth Ladderud and Terri Trick

Walla Walla Public Schools' Board of Directors has received the WSSDA Board of Distinction award for the second consecutive year for their leadership and decision-making tied to positive student outcomes.

THE LATEST BOND NEWS



Pioneer MS plans approved

Following months of design planning and research, site visits to regional schools and stakeholder input meetings, school board members in November approved Pioneer Middle School schematic designs.

"The schematic designs approved by the Board deliver on every one of our pre-bond promises," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "We have expanded access to performing and visual arts, made safety improvements, enlarged physical education and cafeteria spaces to accommodate current student populations, improved science and CTE classrooms and upgraded energy efficiency systems to reduce operating costs."

Superintendent Smith reports construction will begin in September and take approximately two years to complete. The bulk of the project is focused on the 1950's wing of the building not impacted by the 1990 fire, which damaged the north wing of the school. The project modernizes classrooms, relocates the school's entrance closer to Bridge St. for improved line of site to the main doors, adds dozens of parking spaces, creates a parent drop off and pick up lane and replaces operating systems for heating, cooling and electricity. Additional physical education spaces and expanding band, choir and orchestra classrooms are also highlights of the approved design.

Visit the district's website and click on the Bond Update page to see the Pioneer Middle School floor and site plans.



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

BOND REPORT

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Local businesses working on bond projects thus far:

- » Jackson Contractor Group, Inc.
- » Anderson Perry & Associates
- » PBS Engineering and Environmental
- » Integrity Design & Copyworks, LLC
- » Pacific Power
- » Perfection Glass of Walla Walla
- » S&K Mountain Construction
- » Wilson Design Company
- » Nelson Construction Inc.
- » Integrity Metal Fab
- » Walla Walla Electric
- » Cutting Edge Plumbing
- » Elsom Roofing
- » MTI
- » DA Davidson
- » Priority One Fence Company

PROJECT SCHEDULE

WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL

- » **OCTOBER 2019 - AUGUST 2020**
New Science Building
- » **MARCH 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020**
Site Utilities Improvements
- » **SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2021**
Old Science Building Renovation, Music Building Addition, Fitness Addition
- » **MARCH 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2021**
Commons Improvements, Media Center Improvements, CTE Addition
- » **JUNE 2021- AUGUST 2022**
Academic Building Renovation
- » **DECEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022**
CTE Building/Greenhouse Improvements and Site/Parking Closeout

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- » **SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2022**
Renovation Project

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

- » **SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022**
Renovation Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW - A CLOSER LOOK



GLOVE & Sock Drive

Retired school teacher Shirley Ruble has dedicated her life to helping children thrive. Today her passion is helping her fellow Odd Fellows women residents collect gloves, socks and hats for local children in need. Recently Shirley met with district intervention specialists to deliver 131 pairs of gloves, 382 pairs of socks and several hats through the Narcissa Rebekah Glove and Sock Drive.

"We want to ensure students have a positive attitude and desire to finish their classes, confidence and open minds," said Ruble. "We want them to see their potential as we do: Prepared to meet the challenges of the world with work and happy lives right here in the Valley."

Graduation Rates » Cont. from page 1.

is 13.6% above the state Latino graduation rate."

The state's annual data release also had more good news for the district as dropout rates continue to decline, now more than 4% below the state average for an all-time low of 7%.

Students receiving Special Education services are also performing well above the state average.

"A huge shoutout to our Special Education staff, as 88.1% of our Special Education students graduated on time marking a 28% increase over the last six years and more than 25% above the state average," said Smith.

Smith credits the district's strategic plan, dedicated staff and deliberate efforts in keeping students connected and engaged to their school in this historic data release.