



Business Leader! CHAMBER AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Junior Emerson Schulke for receiving the 2021 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award as part of the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Showcase. Emerson is an amazing young lady who started Sudbury Sunflowers and More as a way of dealing with the isolation of the pandemic. Emerson is an active teenager involved in school government leadership roles, soccer, basketball, softball and the FFA program. In the spring of 2020, she found herself having no in-person school, no sports season and adhering to all the social distancing recommendations. Emerson had more time to spend on their family farm and decided to pursue her dream of owning her own business. She has always loved cutting flowers and being creative with them so she came up with an idea to grow a field of sunflowers and daffodils. She created a detailed business plan, researched different types of sunflowers and found a 1+ acre plot on the farm that would be a successful growing area. She made an Instagram page and Facebook page, created a business card for herself and bought a vase delivery system for the back of her car. Her Sudbury Sunflowers and More business features fresh cut sunflower bouquets and arrangements. She manages all operations including sales, marketing and production.

Walla Walla Public Schools

Senior Lauren Adams embodies the district's Vision Statement

Walla Walla High School senior Lauren Adams has done an excellent job balancing advanced placement courses, extracurricular activities, employment and volunteer work. Lauren is currently ranked number one academically out of 430 seniors.

"School is important to me because I see it as a stepping stone towards my future," she said. "I know in order to get the job I want and to where I want to be in life, I need to work hard now and doing well at Wa-Hi will enable me to do well later."

Lauren has always found a place in her heart to help others. She embraced her role in the school's Link Crew program to mentor and guide incoming freshmen as they adjust to their new school settings. She plans to turn her passion for helping others into a career as a biomedical engineer, developing prosthetic organs to bring a better quality of life to people.

She will start her career journey this fall at Washington University in St. Louis. She is an independent, hard-working individual who has challenged herself with rigorous courses.

She plays on the varsity tennis team and is captain of the swim team. She is President of the National Honor Society, Treasurer for Green Club, member of the Social Justice Club and a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Lauren is bilingual in English and Spanish and enjoys helping Spanish-speaking families in her volunteer work.

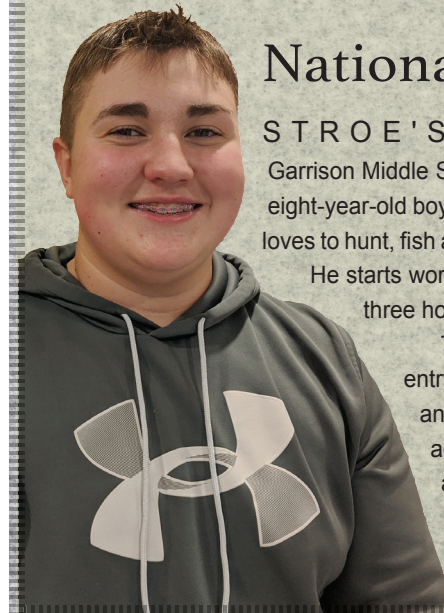
Lauren says her strong Spanish skills will enable her to work with more people and learn from them. She says every teacher she has ever had helped propel her towards her goals in a variety of ways. She is especially thankful to Wa-Hi Library-Media Specialist Kim Cassetto for being a constant source of guidance and help throughout her four years at Wa-Hi.

From everyone at Walla Walla Public Schools, thank you to Lauren Adams for being a shining example of our Vision -- *Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates*.



#1 of 430 Seniors

Lauren Adams is currently ranked number one academically out of 430 seniors



National Make It With Wool State Winner!

STROE'S SEWING SKILLS IMPRESS STATE JUDGES

Garrison Middle School 7th grader Mihai Stroe was watching his mother repair his dad's pants when he was an eight-year-old boy and asked her to teach him how to sew. Sewing became an instant passion for Stroe who also loves to hunt, fish and play sports. For years he has been entering his sewing projects in the county and state fairs.

He starts working on his projects once school is out and finishes them by late July. He usually works two to three hours a day during this period to get them ready for show.

This year he decided to enter two of his outfits in the National Make It With Wool competition. One entry was a complex hunting outfit and the other was a turquoise peacoat and a pair of trousers with an adjustable waistband. The judges were impressed and honored Stroe with the state title for his age group. This earned him a spot in the national competition in San Diego where he competed against the top contestants from across the U.S. He was among the youngest competitors at nationals. Although he didn't place, Stroe said the experience helped reinforce his plans for the future to pursue a career in the industry.

Board of Directors:

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BOARD



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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:

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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

Kim McDaniels graduated from Walla Walla High School in 2007. She loved growing up in Walla Walla and is thankful for living in a community which supports children. Kim was active in sports throughout her childhood and was a strong student. Kim was passionate about volleyball. She says coach Amy Hisaw had a tremendous influence on her life. Amy showed her how doors open and opportunities come when committing to hard work and being a team player. Kim developed a tremendous work ethic and soon doors and possibilities opened. She went on to major in Business/Economics from Washington State University. She is a die-hard Cougs fan to this day. Kim is a partner in Krivoshein McDaniels Financial, where she offers investment and financial planning services. She says the bond and trust she builds with her clients fuels her ability to serve them at the highest level. Kim was formerly Wa-Hi's head volleyball coach, served as board member/secretary and president-elect for the Exchange Club and is the Estate Planning Council's former President.

She is married to Wa-Hi graduate Josh McDaniels and they have two young children. Outside of work and family time, Kim is an avid marathon runner. She qualified to run Boston in 2020. Kim plans to continue to grow her community-oriented business and raise her children in the same community that treated her so well growing up.



KIM MCDANIELS

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2022 | Volume 24 | Issue 2



Pioneer Middle School teachers instruct students on new facilities.

Delivering on Our Promise

Several bond projects checked off list

As Phase One bond projects wrap up, new learning spaces open

When voters overwhelmingly approved the historic bond measure in November 2018, it set the stage to bring Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School up to the facility standards needed for today's learning. There is plenty of progress to report thanks to Walla Walla's support.

In January, Pioneer Middle School staff welcomed students into the recently completed Phase One bond projects. Staff took students on a tour of the renovated

Bond Projects continued inside ■ ■ ■

"I don't even have words to describe how my heart feels to see all of the kids enjoying these amazing new facilities. The promises kept on the bond are so exciting for our community and children."

Mrs. Ruth Ladderud
School Board President

Inside This Issue:

- Superintendent's Message ■
- New Strategic Plan ■
- National Make It With Wool ■
- Bond Updates ■
- Adams - Most-Sought After Grad ■
- Youth Entrepreneur of the Year ■
- In-person Kindergarten Fair ■
- Where are They Now? ■

CONTENTS

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."

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Winter Focus | 2022

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BOND REPORT

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

STRATEGIC PLAN

Input needed for New Strategic Plan

Soon after being named superintendent for Walla Walla Public Schools in 2016, the school board and I set out on a year-long stakeholder engagement and evaluation process that culminated in the development of our school district's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. We framed our collective approach by reflecting on the following three questions; where are we now, where do we want to go, and how are we going to get there? In addition to over one dozen survey and community engagement sessions to inform our work, we also reviewed 35 different district performance indicators. Ranging from kindergarten readiness to college and trade school attainment, we stumbled onto a humbling reality – WWPS' performance in 2016 revealed flat or regressive trends in 32 of the 35 measured criteria.

We realized that we can and must do better. Our board established bold performance targets, researched best practices, and invested in staff and strategies to achieve the desired outcomes they and our stakeholders expected. They focused on creating aligned and coherent systems, making significant improvements to programs like dual language, highly capable and career and technical pathways. The school board invested in social and emotional supports, increasing counseling and intervention supports for students. They ensured a safe and engaging environment for all, investing in facility safety improvements and were one of the first districts in the state to eliminate financial barriers to maximize student and family participation. And finally, the school board invested in staff, supporting their professional development needs and maximizing classroom resources and curriculum enhancements.

Now that we are fast approaching the sunset of the district's current five-year strategic plan, the school board is beginning to re-engage staff, students and stakeholders to inform their next effort. And while the pandemic has distracted some of our strategies and trajectory as we wrap up our current plan, our district finds itself in a far different place than we were back in 2016. Where we were only revealing improvement in 3 of 35 indicators at the time, WWPS now finds itself boasting increases in 22 performance areas. Middle school reading and math scores are up. Student participation in extra and co-curricular activities are on the rise. The number of students taking and passing AP exams is higher than ever. Kindergarten readiness scores are up. Graduation rates are at an all-time high and dropout rates are at an all-time low.

As the board sets out to re-engage our community in the strategic planning process, be on the lookout for opportunities to get involved and provide input. Stakeholder feedback is essential if we are to deliver on our shared vision of Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates.

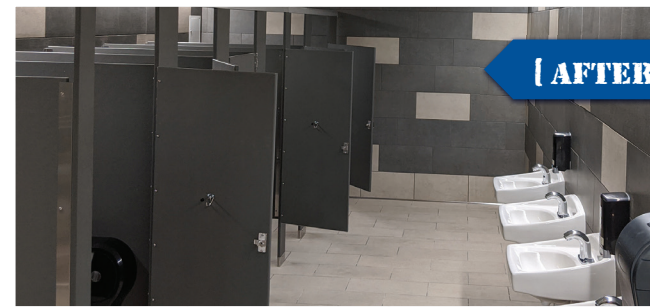
PIONEER IMPROVEMENTS - BEFORE & AFTER

[PIONEER REPORT]

[BEFORE]



[AFTER]



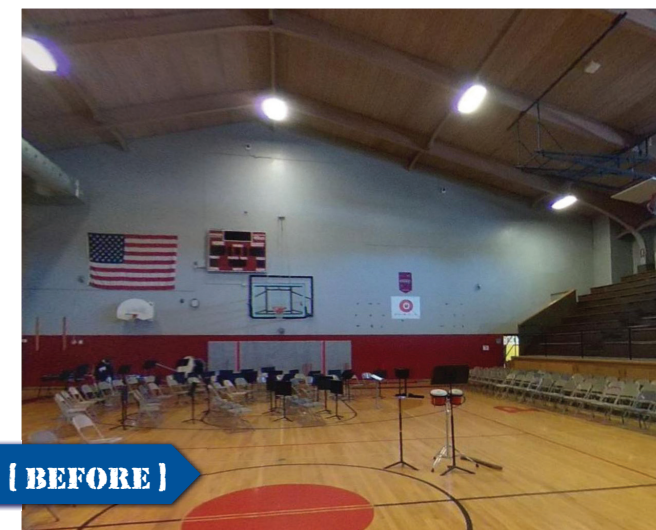
[BEFORE]



[AFTER]



[BEFORE]



[AFTER]



Top to bottom:
Renovated bathrooms, new auxiliary gym, renovated 1950's gym

WA-HI IMPROVEMENTS - BEFORE & AFTER

[WA-HI REPORT]

[BEFORE]



[AFTER]



[BEFORE]



[AFTER]



Top: 1960's commons and cafeteria renovation and expansion
Bottom: Original 1960's classrooms, renovated classrooms

Kindergarten

Kindergarten & Early Learning Roundup Returns In Person

Join us, in person, to learn about the exciting learning opportunities available for our kindergarten and preschool students. Meet staff, learn how to register, take home materials and network with community early learning leaders.

» WHEN: April 12 from 4 to 7 p.m.
» WHERE: Walla Walla County Fairgrounds

Bond Projects» Cont. from page 1.

1950's gym, new locker rooms and new auxiliary gym/fitness center. They also visited the new entry addition, new cafeteria, renovated 1950's wing, classroom addition and new performing arts expansion.

Phase Two projects at Pioneer, which include additions to the main building for science and art classrooms, are underway and will be completed by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

At Walla Walla High School, the renovated and expanded original Commons opened last month for students to gather and eat. A renovated kitchen supports a variety of meal options and new serving windows improve efficiencies. The Commons has new heating and cooling systems, modern energy efficient windows in the iconic north-facing glass wall and new student store.

Progress continues on the Wa-Hi student outdoor plaza just outside the Commons where students will be able to socialize, eat meals on nice days and catch up on homework. The main academic building is halfway through its complete renovation and will be finished in August.

Contractors continue working on the historic Lincoln High School remodel and expansion to be completed this fall.