

Inside

WENATCHEE SCHOOLS



INSIDE →



Ellen Kjobech and other Tech Ninjas taught coding and robotics at Washington Elementary School. Learn more on page 2.

On April 24, 2018, citizens will be asked to vote on a ballot proposition that would authorize the District to issue \$120 million of bonds to modernize Wenatchee High School, including building a new multi-story wing with 131,000 square feet of instructional space.

(Continued on page 3)



TCF Architecture, architectural rendering: Overall campus looking south

Dentro de Wenatchee Escuelas Públicas está disponible en español.

Inside WENATCHEE SCHOOLS

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14 Wenatchee Teachers Earn National Board Certification

Wenatchee School District has 14 new National Board Certified teachers, bringing the total in the district to 93. Read more on page 2.

Jousting with Tech Ninjas and 3rd Graders

An army of Dash robots face off, sharp lances positioned to engage in a jousting tournament. Each robot holds two lances (very long toothpicks), one sporting a marshmallow. The goal—pierce the marshmallow of the opponent and take it away.

Ninja Dojo Ray Birks shouts, "Let the jousting begin!"

The controllers grip their iPads. Shy at first but soon warming to the passion of competition, they begin to attack their opponents with gusto. Before long, a marshmallow is stabbed. The crowd roars. A Tech Ninja swoops in to reset the lance and marshmallow, and the jousting resumes.

Who are these iPad Knights-in-Training, and why are Tech Ninja's involved in the battle?

The Knights-in-Training are actually

Coders-in-Training, and they're third graders in Heidi Bucholz's class at Washington Elementary. For the last month they've been trained by Tech Ninjas, eighth graders from Orchard Middle School.

"We have been coming every week on Thursdays, showing them some simple coding techniques," says eighth-grade ninja Perla Cacho.

Who are these ninjas? "The ninjas were chosen by recommendations from teachers, and then interviews followed to narrow down the list to our current four ninjas," explains Ninja Dojo and Technology Facilitator Ray Birks.

Of being a Tech Ninja, Joanna Castro says, "I like helping people. I also like the fact that we get iPads. Being able to help the teachers and students with technology brightens up my day."

Birks and fellow Tech Facilitator Mark Woolsey have been bringing ninjas Perla Cacho, Joanna Castro, Ellen Kjobech and Nolan Galvin to Washington each week. "There's two things we've been trying to accomplish," explains Birks. "One is to introduce coding to the third graders, more specifically unplugged coding activities—coding that does not require the use of an iPad or computer or Chromebook. The other purpose is to get the ninjas some time to be out in the classroom, out in the community, and experience what it's like to teach others to code."

The jousting match is the culmination of weeks of learning coding through a number of activities. The third graders experienced binary coding by choosing two colors of beads and stringing a necklace that spelled out

their name in binary code. They learned magic tricks with playing cards to practice pattern identification, all with a focus on sequencing.

"We've been working with Mrs. Bucholz's third grade class doing non-computerized coding activities for the first couple of weeks," explains ninja Ellen Kjobech. "Getting them to think about using a sequence of motions or blocks, or anything else. Now they're putting that into use getting their Dash [robot] to do certain tasks."

And how did the third graders feel about the experience? "I thought coding was really fun," says Marisela. "You can do lots of cool stuff with the robots."

"I loved the jousting and all the coding stuff," says Taydon. "I love coding. I really want to do this every day of my life."

"I just loved the jousting and the coding robots and it was really fun," says Jeremy. "I didn't want to stop at all."

Birks and Woolsey say that along with coding, the third graders are learning how to problem solve and think through situations and issues that come up. They're overcoming obstacles on their own and through collaboration and teamwork.

"It's been really great," says ninja Joanna Castro of working with the third graders. They're amazing kids."

So are those ninjas.

Fourteen Teachers Earn National Board Certification

Wenatchee School District has 14 new National Board Certified teachers, bringing the total in the district to 93. Also, three Wenatchee teachers renewed their certification this year.

"We have exceptional teachers in our school district and we congratulate our newly certified staff for achieving this distinction," says Wenatchee School Superintendent Brian Frones. "The process is rigorous and time intensive, and these teachers have stepped up to the challenge to meet nationally recognized standards for instruction. National Board Certification benefits our students as it helps our teachers have a deeper knowledge of learning and provides them

with the tools they need to ensure success for all students."

Mark Woolsey is a Wenatchee School District teacher and instructional technology facilitator. He is also a facilitator for teachers in the National Board certification process. "National Board certified teachers have proven themselves," says Woolsey. "It's like an accountant being a CPA or an attorney passing the bar exam. There's a set of standards to meet for National Boards that are very rigorous. And, if you've met those standards, you've proven yourself to be an extremely competent and extremely qualified teacher."

Woolsey says that research studies show that board certified teachers have a positive impact on student learning.

The process can take anywhere from one to four years and includes four segments: teacher knowledge assessment; analyzing student work and setting goals based on that analysis; classroom management with filmed scenarios; and collaboration with teachers, parents, community members. The entire process takes about 300 to 400 hours to complete.

"After doing the National Board process you get very good at determining what is an exceptional learning activity versus a satisfactory learning activity," says Woolsey.

Created in 1987, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization devoted to advancing the quality of teaching and learning. Washington State continues to be a leader in increasing its number of National Board Certified teachers. Numbers released on January 8, 2018 by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) show that Washington has the most new National Board Certified teachers of any state with 1,434. The total number of 10,135 NBCTs in Washington is third in the country overall.

Congratulations to the National Board Certified Class of 2017. Our teachers, and the areas in which they earned their certification, are:



Elizabeth Detamore, Counseling, Columbia Elementary
School Counseling/Early Childhood Through Young Adulthood



Abbie Estep, Math, Pioneer Middle School
Mathematics/Early Adolescence



Alicen Gaytley, Instructional Coach K-5
English As A New Language/Early and Middle Childhood



Brandon Harle, Social Studies, Wenatchee High School
Social Studies-History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood



Karissa Harle, 7th Grade Core Reading, Pioneer Middle School
English Language Arts/Early Adolescence



Adam MacDonald, Social Studies, AVID, Wenatchee High School
Social Studies-History/Adolescence And Young Adulthood



Brandy Martinez, 2nd Grade, Mission View Elementary
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early And Middle Childhood



Mallory Neher, Math, Orchard Middle School
Mathematics/Early Adolescence



Jennifer Netz, English/AVID, Wenatchee High School
English Language Arts/Adolescence And Young Adulthood



Katharine Patnode, Special Education, Orchard Middle School
Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood Through Young Adulthood



Jill Reinfeld, 3rd Grade, Washington Elementary
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early And Middle Childhood



Rachael Simmons, French/AVID, Wenatchee High School
World Languages/Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood



Kathryn Spurrell, Special Education, Orchard Middle School
Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood Through Young Adulthood



Scott Tiedeman, Social Studies, Wenatchee High School
Social Studies-History/Adolescence And Young Adulthood

Recertified National Board Teachers:



Amber Birks, Instructional Coach



Allison Hurt, First Grade, Lincoln Elementary



Ameer Peters Sixth Grade Core, Pioneer Middle School



TCF Architecture, architectural rendering: New classrooms looking northeast

BOND Info

A Citizens' Facilities Committee spent eighteen months studying options to address the aging infrastructure and overcrowding issues for the 46-year-old Wenatchee High School. The citizens' committee looked at many options, including building a second comprehensive high school, using Pioneer or Foothills as a secondary campus, building a new junior high for grades 8-9, using the current high school as a grade 10-12 campus, and seeking community options to house a smaller 9-12 campus.



Condemned tennis courts adjacent to trailers used as classrooms behind Wenatchee High School.

The citizens' committee concluded that all those options would have significant, prohibitively expensive costs, and would divert too much of available funds away from the modernization of Wenatchee High School, which would still need to be addressed.

The committee determined that the best solution would be to: add a new 150,365 square foot, three-story addition at the south end of the building; demolish the old classrooms after the new construction was complete and remodel existing areas of the building according to need; construct larger, 900-square-foot classrooms with as many windows as possible; add an additional music room and green room at the north end of the building; build a new kitchen and cafeteria on the east side of the building; modernize the outdoor athletic facilities and add space to the girls locker room.

OVERVIEW

Modernizes Old School

- School is over 45 years old
- Building infrastructure is failing
- Classrooms are inadequate
- School built for 1,600 currently enrolls just over 1,900 students, with population projected to remain about 1,900 for the next decade.
- Kitchen facilities are obsolete
- Athletic facilities adjacent to WHS are aging and insufficient



Process

- A citizens facility committee studied all the options
- The committee considered many scenarios, including building a new high school – all were determined to be too costly
- The committee concluded the modernization and addition to WHS to be the most cost-effective solution



Solutions

- Add a new, three-story addition of 150,365 sq. ft., demolish and replace old classrooms providing an additional 57,763 sq. ft. of instructional space
- Enhance safety and security, including an electrified security door system with automated and scheduled control while still allowing free exiting at all times.
- Remodel existing building areas with varying degrees of modernization
- Include windows for as many classrooms as possible
- Students and staff will remain in existing classrooms throughout construction of new wing
- New kitchen and cafeteria
- Additional music room and performing arts prep space
- Renovate outdoor athletic facilities adjacent to WHS (track, tennis court and bleachers) and add restroom, concessions and girls locker room



Cost

- Total cost \$154 million
- Maximum bond funds \$120 million
- State Matching funds \$31 million
- Carryover from Phase 1 bond \$3 million*

Cost to Taxpayers

Taxpayers will see an increase of \$1.17 per \$1,000 of assessed home value over 2017 tax rates.

The owner of a home valued at \$281,600 (the median price of homes in Wenatchee) will pay \$56 less in 2019 than in 2018 if the bond passes



Impact of the new McCleary State Tax, and the Bond

In 2018 the new "McCleary" state tax will increase state taxes by 81 cents, from \$1.89 to \$2.70 per \$1,000. In 2019 the state "McCleary" tax will remain the same, at \$2.70 per \$1,000, and the local levy will drop from \$2.92 per \$1,000 in 2018 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 in 2019.



TCF Architecture, architectural rendering: a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) classroom with a technology infrastructure and windows

Classrooms are small with minimal technology infrastructure, and most have no windows

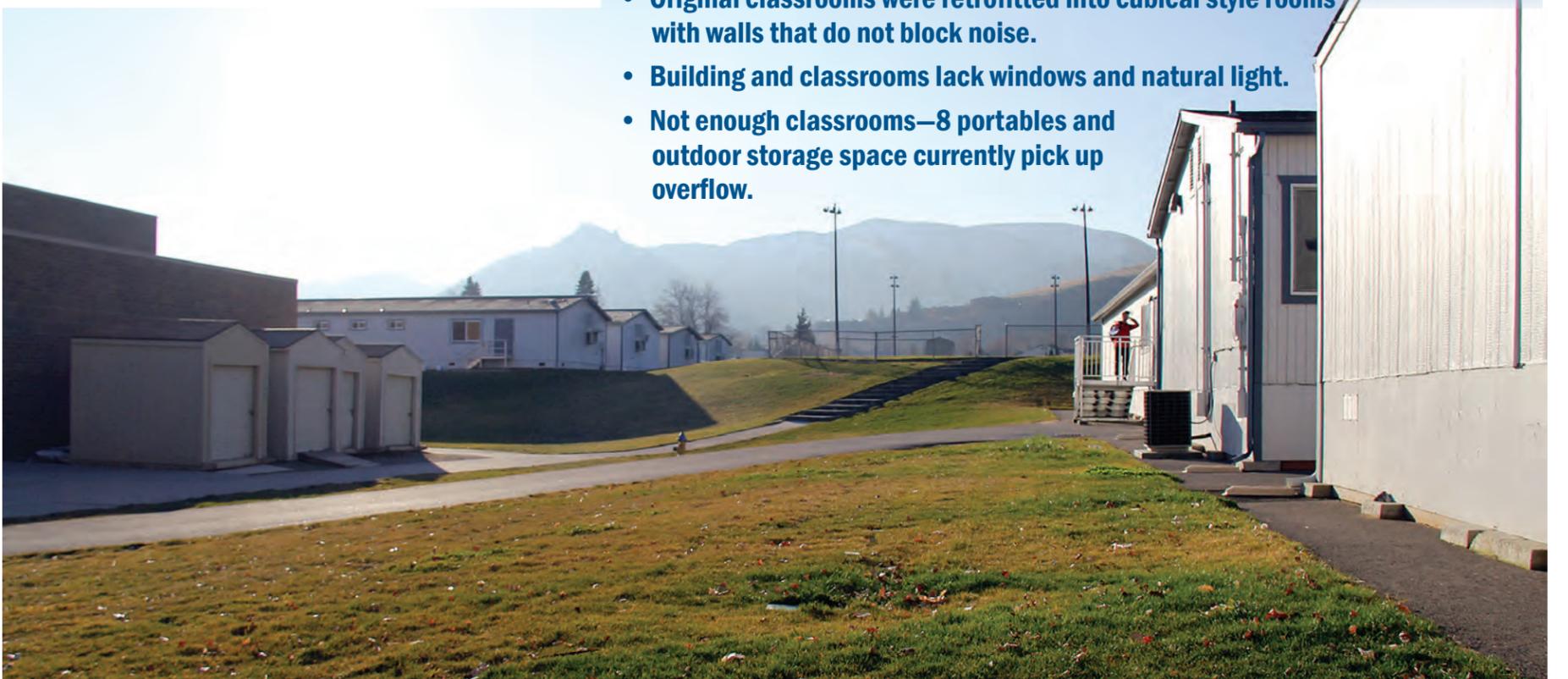


Kitchen facilities have deteriorating equipment and infrastructure



Behind WHS are 8 portables used as classrooms and many small storage buildings because there isn't enough room in the current high school building for the classes or supplies.

- Classrooms are too small at 750 square feet. 21st Century classrooms are recommended at 900 sq. ft. with technology capacity.
- Original classrooms were retrofitted into cubical style rooms with walls that do not block noise.
- Building and classrooms lack windows and natural light.
- Not enough classrooms—8 portables and outdoor storage space currently pick up overflow.



Look for your ballots in the mail!



TCF Architecture, architectural rendering: New library and classrooms looking east



Ballots will arrive in the mail by April 6 and must be postmarked by 8:00 PM on April 24, 2018.

Low-income senior citizens and disabled adults may qualify for tax exemptions. Please contact the Chelan County Assessor's Office at (509) 667-6365 for further information.

- ! The citizens' committee looked at many options, including building a second comprehensive high school.
- ! The new additions to Wenatchee High School will provide increased space equivalent to an entire football field.
- ! More Bond Information on YouTube at bit.ly/WHSBondVideos



SCAN ME

While the modernized Wenatchee High School will be built for a population of 1,900 full time equivalent (FTE) students, the design of the building will allow for up to 200 additional students should population grow. That population calculation was created using a number of tools: live birth rates, cohort survival projections; consultation with the City of Wenatchee officials; and density charts, including number of people living in households. Using these tools, the projection showed that the FTE's may stay around 1,900 FTE's or even decline in the next decade.



Impact of New "McCleary" State Tax on Local Taxpayers

	2017 Actual	2018 Estimated	2019 Estimated
Total Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value	\$6.13	\$6.92	\$6.67
Bond Debt Service Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$2.47**
WA State Schools Tax per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value	\$1.89	\$2.70*	\$2.70*
Local M&O Levy per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value	\$2.94	\$2.92	\$1.50
Annual Tax Dollars Assessed Based on \$281,600 home	\$1,726	\$1,949	\$1,878

Recent county property tax bills include a temporary spike in taxes due to the much-talked-about increase in state school tax referred to as the "McCleary" tax.

The new rates overlap this year with existing school district maintenance and operations levy. Wenatchee's levy rates will expire at the end of 2018, and any future levy rates will be capped at \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of assess value starting in 2019, since the McCleary state tax will take over.

For a home valued at \$281,600 (the median home value in Wenatchee) taxes will go up temporarily in 2018, but drop back down in 2019. **Even if the Wenatchee High School Bond passes, taxpayers will pay \$71 less in 2019.**

Amounts are based on home value of \$281,600, the median home value in Wenatchee.

* Includes additional \$0.81 for new "McCleary" state property tax

**Assumes passage of new \$120 million WHS Bond

Please Vote by April 24, 2018

Gwen McQuaig, a junior at Wenatchee High School, spent the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 2 working as a page for the Washington State Senate at the Capitol in Olympia. She was one of 13 students who served as Senate pages for the fourth week of the 2018 legislative session.

Sen. Brad Hawkins, who serves Washington's 12th Legislative District, was Gwen's sponsor. The 12th District comprises Douglas and Chelan counties and parts of Grant and Okanogan counties.

"I really enjoyed spending time with Gwen this week as she gained first-hand experience learning the legislative process," said Hawkins.

"I met her during my listening tour last fall when she asked for this opportunity. I was very impressed with her maturity and professionalism and enjoyed introducing her to many of my colleagues as she assisted us here at the Capitol."

"I'm a very curious person, and so I wanted to know more about government," said Gwen. "Even if that's not necessarily my path for the future I took it as an opportunity to learn as much as I can, because government is something that's going to apply to everyone's lives."

"Wenatchee High School and our community should be very proud of Gwen. She represented us very well," added Hawkins.

Gwen, 16, enjoys music, skiing, cross-country and participating in the student newspaper and the Knowledge Bowl. She is the daughter of John and Melanie McQuaig of Wenatchee.

Students interested in the Senate Page Program are encouraged to visit <http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Administration/PageProgram/>



WHS student Gwen McQuaig serves as page for Senator Hawkins



Valley Academy teachers Michelle Price, Donna Payne, Memory Visscher, Kelly Smothers, Jim Mugg, and Administrator Greg Lovercamp celebrate being named a School of Distinction for the second year in a row.

Valley Academy Named School of Distinction

Valley Academy of Learning (VAL) has been named a 2017 Washington State School of Distinction for improvement in English/Language Arts and math at the middle school level, sustained over a five-year period. This is the second consecutive year VAL has been awarded the honor.

Greg Lovercamp, Program Administrator for VAL, attributes their success to a staff committed to knowing the state standards and working with students individually to help them achieve. "Our teachers have studied the standards and what our students' strengths and weaknesses are," says Lovercamp. "Teachers maintain a focus on their goals and develop strong relationships with their students and their families."

The School of Distinction award is the only award in the state entirely focused on combined improvement in English language arts and math for Elementary and Middle Schools, and Graduation Rate for High Schools, sustained over a five-year period. Achieving this award

requires continued, intentional effort from leaders and staff members. It is truly an award that recognizes the accomplishments of a dedicated and focused group of adults doing their best work for their students.

The award is sponsored by the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) in partnership with the Superintendents of the Educational Service Districts (AEDS), the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), the Washington State Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development (WSASCD).

"Our staff is committed to working together and excited about seeing what we need to do for kids," said Lovercamp. "We do what we believe is best for our students whether it's recognized or not, but that banner is pretty nice to see hanging in the front office."



Washington Elementary 5th graders Maren Stuber, Nene Van Winkle, Benjamin Madson, Eleanor Birks and Delilah Cabrera with Music Teacher Amy Kerker. The five students were selected for the WMEA All State Junior Youth Choir.

Singers Selected for All State and All Northwest Choir

Singers from Washington Elementary, Pioneer and Orchard Middle Schools, and Wenatchee High School have been selected for all state and all northwest choirs.

Five fifth graders from Washington were selected for the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) All State Junior Youth Choir. Eleanor Birks, Delilah Cabrera, Benjamin Madson, Maren Stuber and Nene Van Winkle will join about 150 fifth and sixth grade students representing schools from around the state.

Eighth grader Nathan Tschritter of Orchard Middle School and seventh grader Violet Madson of Pioneer will be performing with the middle grades choir.

At Wenatchee High School, Trinity Tolliver was selected for the WMEA All State Honor Symphonic Choir and Gwen McQuaig was selected for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) All Northwest Honor Choir.

Choir instructors are Amy Kerker, Washington, Melanie Nees, middle schools, and Dawn McCormack, Wenatchee High School.

"I'm very excited for them because this is a great honor to perform in such a high level choir," says Amy Kerker.

The WMEA singers performed with All State Choirs in Yakima on Saturday, February 17, 2018. ACDA singer Gwen McQuaig performed with the Honor Choir March 7-10, 2018, in Portland, Oregon at the ACDA Northwest Regional Conference.

Welcome New Board Members

Michele Sandberg, MD President, Board Position #04

Q. Why did you decide to devote your time to being a board member?

MS: As a mother of four children who are all current students in the district, I have spent many hours volunteering at several schools in numerous roles. I wanted to be a part of the conversations and decision making that it takes to improve our school district. I truly appreciate our district's diversity and know that we also have many challenges in our future. I feel that I am an educated and passionate board member advocating for district wide transparency, accountability, research based methods, a high level of community involvement and a quality education for every student in our district.

Q. What issues are important to you as you start your time on the board?

MS: Poverty, homelessness, mental health issues, and special education concerns are all important topics that matter greatly to me as a physician, parent and community member. Personally, I hope that as a school board we can start by reviewing our current mission, vision and goals and see where there might be needed modifications. I look forward to engaging with our community members and bringing their voice into those modifications so that we can look at our current challenges for the upcoming years.

Q. What are you most excited about?

MS: I believe that working with our district and the community together is very exciting. Given the recent legislative changes with future local levies, I think that WSD must strengthen its link to the community if we hope to continue to progress when funding is decreased.

Q. What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

MS: I think that making resources for schools more equitable is a challenge due to limited funding for extra staffing. However, I believe that with newer reduced levies in our future, it requires that we must begin to think creatively in making our goals a reality. As I continue to learn more about the district and its policies, I'm sure that my answer might even change.

Q. Any final thoughts?

MS: I want to hear from you! What issues excite you? How would you like to help our teachers and students? What concerns do you have? Do you want Wenatchee to be known as a school district for educational excellence? Please email me at: sandberg.michele@wenatcheeschools.org or email all five board members on the WSD website school board page. We now have a single button to click on to email all board members.

Sarah Knox - Vice President, Board Position #05



Sarah Knox graduated from Wenatchee High School in 2007, earned a business degree from Gonzaga University and Masters from Arizona State University in Elementary Education. She has been a teacher, a teacher trainer, and an instructional coach. She is currently the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Librarian for North Central Regional Library.



Sunny Hemphill - Board Position #03

Sunny Hemphill Sunny studied Journalism at Baylor University and earned an English Literature degree from Arizona State University. She is a retired journalist who worked as a newspaper reporter in Arkansas, Texas, and Arizona where she wrote about school districts, boards, and education and directed Communications for the Arizona School Boards Association. After moving to Wenatchee, Sunny freelanced, writing for a variety of agriculture associations, commission, and publication. Since retiring, she writes fiction, edits books freelance, and creates textile art. She is married and has two grown children, both of whom graduated from Wenatchee High School.

Q. Why did you decide to devote your time to being a board member?

SH: I decided to devote my time to being a board member because I care passionately about education. I have seen, personally, in my life, and in other people's lives, how important it is for schools, public schools, to do what they do best, which is inspire, and educate, and change lives, and I wanted to be a part of that.

Q. What issues are important to you as you start your time on the board?

SH: Student learning is tops. The world is changing, a lot is going to be asked of, and required of, our children. We can't even know what the world will look like when the little ones in first grade are entering the workforce. We have to prepare them to be lifelong learners. We have to prepare them to be curious and adaptable, flexible. We also have to deal with their social emotional needs. A really important issue to me is the needs of children in poverty, and children in transition. Stability is so important, and many of our children don't have the stability that we would hope. Children should not be left to struggle with the issue that are created by poverty alone. We can't leave those children in isolation. We have to hold them, and lift them up, and inspire them, and bring them to a place where they are fully integrated into the world.

Q. What are you most excited about?

SH: I'm most excited about working with the rest of the board, and with the incredible staff to make exciting things happen for our kids. We have five people on this school board who are all amazing, and who have different areas of expertise, thank goodness. None of us can be on top of everything. Our people are our greatest asset, and I'm excited about being able to work with these people—from the bus drivers, and the crossing guards, all the way up to the superintendent. I'm just really excited to be part of a team.

Q. What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

SH: My biggest challenge will be in disciplining myself not trying to do everything. I want to do everything.

Q. Any last thoughts?

SH: We need the public. These are public schools. I believe public schools, and public education is under attack right now. Our public schools are the foundation of the democracy of this country. We ensure that there is a shared understanding and value of democracy. We prepare people to be citizens and voters, and we can't do it in isolation. The issues in our community of poverty, housing, access to services, and equity, these are issues the schools can't address alone. We need the entire community. We need industry. We need local government. We need state government. We need individuals helping us create a more equitable future, and ensure that this community is strong.

Q. Why did you decide to devote your time to being a board member?

SK: It's a combination of growing up here and having the upmost respect for our teachers—incredible teachers that I feel so lucky to have had. And then becoming a teacher myself and that passion you feel for kids. But, [teaching in Arizona] was a really hard experience for me. It was a charter school where all policies and decision were coming from the top down from people who weren't in the classroom. I don't think that model is best when it comes to our school systems. Throughout all of that, it's just my passion for schools. I've just always cared so much about all children having access to the most highest quality education that they could possibly have. Each child should be pushed to their own level of excellence.

Q. What issues are important to you as you start your time on the board?

SK: [Providing] as much support to our educators through counselors, through curriculum, through everything they need in order to give them more skills and resources for behavior management. More educational opportunities that are deeper kinds of hands on learning that increase engagement. But, even more overarching is this idea that our community doesn't necessarily know what's going on. I've realized this disconnect. Our community doesn't feel as involved in our education. When people are involved it builds investment, and investment will increase the engagement. When the community can be more engaged, when parents understand why things are happening and what the goal is and how they are part of that, it allows them to have a more active role. Then our teachers feel more supported because the parents understand why everything is happening and what we're moving toward. I call that transparency.

Q. What are you most excited about?

SK: I have the opportunity to be involved with the schools again. I love our teachers. I love our kids. I think what I'm most excited about is giving a voice to people who maybe aren't comfortable bringing that voice to the school board meetings. What I'm most excited about it helping our community and parents understand our schools better.

Q. What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

SK: I see a problem and I think I know the best way to solve it. So, my biggest struggle is going to be wanting to see absolutely everything change and I'm anticipating everything being perfect by February. So, it's taking a step back and understanding that everything is just so complex and then, letting things develop in the timeline that they need too.

Q. Any final thoughts?

SK: I want the public to know how lucky we are with the teachers we have. The more I talk to our educators, I'm blown away by how passionate they are about the kids. You don't go into teaching if you don't absolutely love what you're doing and love the kids. It fills you with a lot of hope to know that when everyone is so passionate we're going to be constantly working toward providing the best education for our children.



Seventh Grade Teachers Presented at State Education Conference

Three Wenatchee seventh grade English/ Language Arts teachers presented at a state education conference on November 30, 2017. Kelsey Borst of Orchard Middle School, Betsy Streaun of Pioneer Middle School and Heidi Dunn of Foothills Middle School will be presenting at the OSPI WERA Conference (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Educational Research Association). The Wenatchee team was selected from hundreds of applicants to be presenters. They shared a process they created as a team to assess student learning to meet standards set by the state.

“Their presentation is really around their assessments,” says Instructional Coach Amber Birks. “It’s about the common

formative assessments that they’ve written as a team and how they’ve used those over the years to track students progress towards meeting those standards.”

Birks says that Wenatchee’s seventh grade English Language Arts state assessment scores have risen for two years in a row.

“The whole district team has shown growth. From 2015 to 2016 they had 14 percent more students meeting standard. From 2016 to 2017, 10 percent more students met standards. The results are starting to show that [the teachers] have nice alignment and their instruction is effective.”

Betsy Streaun, Amber Birks, Kelsey Borst, Heidi Dunn presented at a conference about a process they created to assess student learning to meet state learning standards.



Special Programs Staff Presenting Workshop at National Conference



Carmela Solorio and Teresa Godina will be presenting a workshop at the National Migrant Education Conference Conference in Portland, Oregon April 29 - May 2, 2018. The title of their workshop is “Passport to Success in the 21st Century.” The workshops will focus on helping parents understand and value the importance of

participating in their children’s education from an early age. Parent participation helps children be more successful in their education and social life.

“Despite the obstacles that arise, success depends on parents’ participation in the education of their children,” says Solorio.

Earn College Credit While Attending High School

Students can save thousands of dollars towards college credit through a number of dual-credit programs available in Wenatchee School District. Dual-credit programs allow students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Students can earn dual credits by completing coursework or by completing standardized exams. Students who earn college credit are more likely to graduate high school, enroll in college, and complete college degrees.

Benefits of College Level Study in High School

Taking college-level classes in high school can introduce you to new academic passions and the excitement of exploring interesting subjects in depth. It can also help you:

- Learn the time-management skills, study skills and discipline you’ll need in college.
- Improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice.
- Improve your chances of qualifying for scholarships.
- Free up enough time in college for you to take part in programs like study abroad or to double major.
- Graduate from college on time or early, which will save you money.

Contact your school counselor or principal to learn more about dual credit programs. And make sure that the colleges you want to attend will accept your credits. Don’t miss out on an opportunity to earn college credits for free, or at a fraction of the cost.

AVAILABLE DUAL-CREDIT PROGRAMS

AT A GLANCE

TYPE OF CREDIT	GRADE LEVEL	LOCATION	AWARD METHOD	GRADE TYPE	COST	APPLY
RUNNING START						
Academic Professional Technical or Restricted Electives	11-12th	Wenatchee Valley College	WVC Course Completion	Letter Grade	College classes are offered tuition-free but students must pay for placement assessment fees, books and transportation costs.	wvc.edu/RunningStart
COLLEGE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL						
Academic	9-12th	High School Classroom	Articulated HS Course Completion	Letter Grade	Student pays fee per credit to college.	See your counselor
ADVANCED PLACEMENT						
Academic	11-12th	High School Classroom	College Board Exam Score	Pass/Fail	Students pay an exam fee to the College Board. Fee waivers available from CB for low income-qualified students.	http://bit.ly/APTesting
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) DUAL-CREDIT						
Professional Technical or Restricted Electives	9-12th	High School Classroom	Articulated HS Course Completion	Letter Grade	Student pays one time \$15 fee for unlimited CTE credits.	wvc.edu/CTEDualCredit
WENATCHEE VALLEY TECHNICAL SKILLS CENTER						
Professional Technical or Restricted Electives	9-12th	Technical Skills Center or designated learning site	Articulated	Letter Grade	Student pays one time \$15 fee for unlimited CTE credits.	wenatcheeschools.org/WVTSC
YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP COMING SOON						

Learn more: wvc.edu/DualCredit

This shout out goes to the **Lewis and Clark kindergarten team!**

The team has taken the challenge to improve our Dual Language program by implementing biliteracy in this grade level. This year the kinder team will be teaching all kindergarteners reading and writing in English and in Spanish. This part is new for our program, but the benefit is great as all students at Lewis and Clark will become bilingual sooner with this new approach. Way to go [Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Yañez and Ms. Limon]! You rock!

Alfonso López,
Principal, Lewis
and Clark



Jarvis



Tanner



Yañez



Limon

I would like to recognize **Andrea Saloka.**

She is the Instructional Coach for the Special Education Department. This is only her 2nd year with the District but she has done an amazing job in such a short time. She makes herself available to any Special Ed teacher and is extremely helpful with materials, training and advice. If it can be done, she does it and always with a smile. Andrea has even given up some of her time on Monday afternoons this year to sub for Preschool teachers so we can meet with the Autism Specialist regarding students in our rooms. This has been helpful for coordination of services and we are very grateful. Thank you, Andrea for all of your support and for being such an awesome resource!

Nora Black, Preschool Special Education Teacher,
Castlerock ECLC

Shout out to **Abby Dalbeck** for generously sharing all of the GLAD® resources she's created to enhance the ELA curriculum! Abby planned a 3rd grade specific Make and Take and created a team drive with Desilee Valeri for all 3rd grade teachers! And a huge shout out to the 3rd grade teachers who were able to attend and share their ELA GLAD® materials! Thank you for your time and effort to make a difference in the education of our students: Rachel Searles, Anyssa Lemus, Teresa Heinz,

Gaby Chavez, Ginger Nuñez, Maria Luisa Black, Laura Rudell and Peggy Martin! A special thank you to Columbia's instruction coach, Andrea O'Donnell, for coming to support your teachers!

Cynthia Valdez, Terri Goveia and Kathryn Anderson, the GLAD® Team



Dalbeck

SHOUT OUTS



Cabrera



Burts

My shout out goes to my staff!! **Elizabeth Cabrera, Holly Burts, Torrie Goss and Shanna Davies...**we have had a LOT of changes in our Food Service Department... These changes have all been good, but a lot of extra work and thinking on the fly has been necessary. Each one comes in with a "How can we make this a good day" attitude every morning.. They work very hard, they accommodate requests, they work around late trucks and adjusted schedules, they watch and come up with valuable ideas of how to improve our program. They go out of their way to make each student feel important. Our kitchen has a warm inviting atmosphere that welcomes all. I think the most important thing about these three ladies is the mutual respect and commitment to helping each other they have. I truly have The Dream Team.

Jan Holmer, Kitchen Manager, Pioneer Middle School

Congratulations to our first quarter GEM Award winners, who are nominated by their peers for Going the Extra Mile

- Kelly Lopez, Director of Human Resources, District Office
- BJ Kuntz, Dean of Students at Wenatchee High School
- Galen Guthrie, Para-educator and reading workshop instructor, WestSide High
- Janet Hill, Information Process Coordinator, District Office

- Sarah Breiler, Registrar, Wenatchee High School
- Yadira Luna, Secretary, Wenatchee High School
- Shelly Jelsing, PE and Health Teacher, Wenatchee High School
- Tammy Giacomazzi, English Teacher, Wenatchee High School
- Jake Carvitto, Science Teacher, Foothills Middle School

- Malory Neher, Math Teacher, Orchard Middle School
- Chester Ferrell, Art Teacher, Columbia Elementary
- Jim Broome, Counselor, John Newbery Elementary
- Bill Plunkett, Carpenter, Maintenance & Operation
- Kendra Macon, Director's Secretary, Nutrition Service

Female Bot Intelligence:

First in state, headed to world competition

by Aaron Hansen, STEM Educator, National Board Certified Teacher, Foothills Robotics Program Coordinator

Five young women from Foothills Middle School emerged as the top robotics team in the state at the Washington VEX IQ Middle School Championship at CWU on Feb. 24th. Although all nine teams from Foothills Middle School qualified for the State Championship, the journey has been especially remarkable for the team known as Female Bot Intelligence (FBI).

“We’ve been through so many challenges—our robot breaking into pieces, a team member leaving our group. It was really hard at first,” said Team Leader Asanatou Ceesay, an eighth-grader at Foothills Middle School.

Despite tough hurdles early on, team F.B.I. learned more than just how to build, drive and program a robot. For example, their STEM Research Project explored the ethical dilemmas of a medical robot. To better understand how the soft robot sleeve is used to revive ailing hearts, they interviewed the Harvard researchers behind the device. To better understand the robot’s role in saving lives, the whole team participated in a heart dissection hosted by Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center.

Their dedication and attention to detail paid off with the Excellence Award at the State Championship. Recognizing the best overall team, the award takes into consideration a team’s robot design, engineering notebook, programming and driving skills, STEM research project, and judges interview.



Lucia Musacchi, Miranda Nayak, Asanatou Ceesay, Annaliese Gordon and Taylor Reyes from team “Female Bot Intelligence” (F.B.I), receive the Excellence Award at Washington State’s VEX IQ State Championship at CWU on Feb. 24th, 2018.

In addition to FBI’s Excellence Award, two other Foothills teams earned design and teamwork awards. In all, four teams from Foothills and one independent team from Wenatchee have been invited to VEX Robotics World Championship in April. With more than 1,400 teams from 32 countries, Guinness World Records recognizes it as the largest robotics competition on Earth. Ten teams from the entire state of Washington get to participate. This year, five of those teams get the honor of representing our community at this international event.

Competing against many teams from the tech hubs of Redmond, Bellevue and Seattle, success at the State level was far from easy. “Our teams were up against some pretty cutthroat, win-at-all-costs competition and that was new to them,” said co-coach Brigitte Wiegand. “All of our teams rose to the challenge and it was one of our best performances of the season.”

Recruited by math, science and technology teachers at Foothills, students started their journey to the State Championship in September with a notebook, a box of parts and little to no experience. It’s not their robotics skills that allowed them to go so far

this year. It’s their ability to solve complex problems, manage their time, organize their ideas, and work collaboratively as a group.

“We are like a puzzle. Each individual piece is unique, but when put together with other pieces, they form a whole, consolidated piece,” team leader Asanatou Ceesay wrote in an essay for the Girl Powered VEX Online Challenge. Girl Powered is an international effort to engage more young women in STEM related careers. In addition to their success at the State Championship, team FBI is one of 12 finalists in the world for the Girl Powered essay contest.

Although the State Championship was the end of the season for some of FMS’s Robotics teams, 20 students are already shifting their focus to the next stage of competition. Over the next two months, four teams will be working hard to prepare for the World Championship. Meanwhile, the program will be fundraising to help cover the costs of travel to Louisville, Kentucky, where the grand tournament will be held.

For more information on how to get support FMS’s Robotics Program, email Program Coordinator Aaron Hansen at hansen.a@wenatcheeschools.org.

Graduate Remembers Wenatchee High School with Bequeathment to Nutrition Services

The late Mark Steven Buscher bequeathed \$12,000 to Wenatchee School District Nutrition Services. The family asks that the funds be used to pay off any student negative balances, and to help students in need throughout the year. Mark Buscher attended Pioneer Junior High and Wenatchee High School, graduating in 1978.

Mark’s father, Dick Buscher, was a supervisor with the Forest Service, and they moved around a lot when Mark was young. “He started school in a very small town Oregon and really got kind of a late start,” said Dick Buscher. “When

he finally got to junior high and then high school at Wenatchee, he really bloomed and he was very appreciative of the wonderful teaching and training that he got there.”

Mark Buscher went on to Washington State University, and then the University of Washington, where he earned his masters degree in Environmental Planning. He was the wastewater manager for King County at the time of his passing. His wife, Lilian, said the gift to the children helped her deal with the grief of losing her husband.

District Awarded After School Program “21st Century” Grant for Newbery

A \$750,000 “21st Century Grant” has been awarded to Wenatchee School District to provide an After School Program at John Newbery Elementary. “It’s a five year grant—\$150,000 a year for five years,” says Carolyn Griffin Bugert, Wenatchee School District Grants Coordinator who wrote the grant application. The grant will serve 120 students at Newbery.

The purpose of the funding is to improve student’s academics. “Our approach in the After School Program is to provide academic support, plus enrichment activities,” says Griffin Bugert. “We really think the enrichment activities expand student’s minds so they have good academic

outcomes when they later do standardized testing in the school environment.”

Data collected over the years of these grants clearly demonstrates that students who attend the After School Program achieve higher growth on standardized tests than comparable students not in an After School Program. The 1,000-plus students served by Wenatchee’s After School Program are all below grade level, 77% are low-income, 70% are Hispanic, 27% are Migrant and 4% are homeless. These are some of the most academically at-risk students in our district.

Undefeated Season for Boys Swim & Dive Team



The Wenatchee High School Boys Swim and Dive team enjoyed an undefeated season. They earned Big 9 regular season champions and District 6 champions. Charlie Cutter was selected the Big 9 Swimmer of the Year, and Eathyn Geren was selected as the Big 9 Diver of the Year. Coach James Elwyn was selected as the Big 9 Swimming Coach of the Year.

Members of the champion Big 9 Swimming team are:

- 200 Yard Freestyle Relay Team - Christian Cutter, Ian Walsh, Andreas Broxson & Braden Dilly
- 400 Yard Freestyle Relay Team - Charlie Cutter, Connor Elwyn, Cameron Wheeler & Braden Dilly
- Danny George - First Team 50 Yard Freestyle & 50 Yard Backstroke
- Connor Hasse - First Team 500 Yard Freestyle
- Connor Elwyn - First Team 200 Yard IM
- Eathyn Geren - First Team 1M Diving

Congratulations to our outstanding athletes and coach.

Boys Swim & Dive Team was undefeated, named Big 9 and District 6 Champions



Chris Danko Named as National Merit Scholar Finalist

Senior Chris Danko has been named a 2018 National Merit Scholarship finalist. Chris was one of only two students in Central Washington to achieve semifinalist designation, and was selected as a finalist on February 13. As a finalist Chris is eligible to compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships. Each finalist chosen across the nation is an academically talented high school senior. Merit Scholars are selected on the basis of

their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Chris's extracurricular activities include Mock Trial, Debate, DECA, Knowledge Bowl, Model UN and Apple Leaf. Scholarship winners will be announced April through July, 2018.



Dale Blair Receives National "Servant's Heart Award"

Dale Blair, Wenatchee High School Sports Medicine Instructor and Athletic Trainer, has been selected to receive the Secondary School Athletic Trainers' Committee (SSATC) 2018 Servant's

Heart Award. The SSATC is part of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA).

"I am really humbled to be selected for this award by my peers in the athletic training profession, especially those who work in the secondary school setting," says Blair.

Blair will be recognized at the National Athletic Trainers Association 2018 conference June 29 in New Orleans.

The award recognizes secondary school athletic trainers for their service to the athletic training profession, their schools and their communities. It reflects a lifetime of dedication to the secondary school setting. "It has been an honor to serve the athletes and teach my sports medicine students at Wenatchee High School for the past 26 years," says Blair.



Jim Beeson Named District 6 Athletic Director of the Year

Jim Beeson, Athletic Director (AD) at Wenatchee High School has been named the District 6 Athletic Director of the Year for 4A schools. Beeson was selected as the Big 9 Athletic Director of the year in December 2017, which put him in the running for the District 6 awards. District 6 athletic directors

voted and selected him as the winner.

"It's a good honor," said Beeson of the award. "The best part is that it's recognition from the peers. That's probably what makes you feel the best is that your peer group recognizes what you're doing."

Beeson attributes his work ethic to advice from his father. "My dad always told me . . . just do your job and a little bit more than what's expected of you. That's what I always tell kids—do as

much as you think your dad would want you to do, and a little bit more."

He will be recognized at the Washington State Athletic Administrators Conference April 22-25 in Spokane.

Beeson has been the athletic director for Wenatchee High School since 2014. "I can't believe I'm getting paid to just be involved with sports all time time," says Beeson. "It's a great job."



Congratulations to the 2018 Apple Blossom Royalty— Princesses Sophie Castillo and Jessica Murray, and Queen Gretta Wiersma. The three are seniors attending Wenatchee High School.

Royalty

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

Help for Students at Wenatchee High School

www.wenatcheeschools.org/whs

Wenatchee High School students and families who have a concern or require some help, including the need for clothing and food, can get the help they need by filling out a short form on the WHS website. On the high school's main web page you'll see a purple block just to the right of the large photo with three links:

- Student Concern Report Form
- Student Need Request Form
- 2017-2018 Daily Class Schedule

A support team of staff members is ready to help students get what they need, whether it's clothes for PE or food for the weekend. The service is confidential.



A few links to our websites that you might find helpful

Communication Hub

www.wenatcheeschools.org/committees

If you're interested in seeing meeting minutes to all the committees that meet in the school district, this is the link for you. The Communication Hub was born out of a mutual desire by staff and administration, through our District Learning Team, to provide greater access to conversations taking place about topics important to students and staff. Due to its success at accomplishing this goal, the Hub is now accessible by parents and community members.

Parent Participation

www.wenatcheeschools.org/committees

While you're at the Communication Hub page, you can sign up to be on a committee. The very last link on the left menu includes a Parent Participation link. The Wenatchee School District believes a quality education system is best accomplished by working in partnership with parents. We are currently seeking parent participation on several district committees. If participation interests you, please provide the information requested, and we will contact you.

Lincoln Elementary School

In partnership with Columbia Valley Community Health, students at Lincoln Elementary School are now able to receive all of the services family doctors provide at school.



To make an appointment call 509-662-6000!



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twitter.com/WenatcheeSD



YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/user/WSDCommunications>

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Wenatchee Schools MOBILE APP

Wenatchee Schools App
<http://apple.co/2e4yYDQ>