

INSIDE

Wenatchee  
Public  
Schools

June 2015

Congratulations Graduates!



Eduardo Ramos, Emily Cieslak, and Bryce Newberry

This Apple Leaf editorial trio are usually behind the scenes of the printed page, not on the cover. **Eduardo Ramos** is Apple Leaf Editor in Chief, **Emily Cieslak** is Managing Features Editor, and **Bryce Newberry** is Online Editor. We selected seven seniors to feature, including Eduardo, Emily and Bryce, out of the nearly 500 graduates in the class of 2015 to feature in this edition.

Class of 2015

**The 111th Wenatchee High School Commencement** will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015 7:00 PM at the Town Toyota Center, 1300 Walla Walla Avenue. About 430 seniors will be graduating.

Faculty Speaker is **Mr. Jay Young**

Distinguished Alumnus is **Dr. Kory Kalahar**, Principal of WestSide High School

Senior Boy Speaker is **Mr. Eduardo Ramos**

Senior Girl Speaker is **Ms. Francesca Nevill**

**The WestSide High School Commencement** is Thursday June 11, 2015 at the Wenatchee Convention Center, 7:00 PM, reception will follow. About 55 students will be graduating.

Distinguished Guest Speaker is **Diana Haglund**

Distinguished Alumni is **Tricia Sapp**, Class of 2002

Student Boy Speaker is **Mr. Jesus Torres**

Student Girl Speaker is **Ms. Dobby Day**

Special performance by student **Dylan Yant**

Graduate photos by  
Jeremy Williams

EduardoEmilyBryce

**W**hen Eduardo Ramos entered kindergarten at John Newbery Elementary School, English was his second language. Thirteen years later he is Editor-in-Chief of the national award-winning Apple Leaf newspaper.

Eduardo says that in his freshman year, coping with the tragic drowning of his friend, Antonio Reyes, was a turning point.

**E**mily Cieslak is looking to the future. In five years, “I would love to be in New York City working for one of the major publications.”

As Managing Features Editor for the Apple Leaf, she already has three years of journalism experience under her belt. “It’s a real life experience,” says Emily, to create a “product that not just my teacher’s

**B**ryce Newberry knew he wanted to be a television broadcaster since he was a kid. He has been the Online Editor for the Apple Leaf for two years, as well as a broadcaster on KOHO Radio. “I had been acting like I was a reporter since I was seven,” says Bryce. “The first time my story was on the air, it was really exciting.”

Bryce is the winner of the Lu

Apple Leaf Editor profiles are continued on page 2.

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## Kyle Norland

Kyle is attending the University of Arizona next year to study engineering management. "I'm going to be studying engineering management because I like the technological aspect and the math and sciences," says Kyle. "But I also like talking to people too much to fully go into just strictly engineering."

He is looking forward to the Arizona weather, "... and they have opportunities for National Merit Scholars," says Kyle, "which kind of smooths the way."

Kyle is a National Merit Scholarship winner, one of only 2,500 Merit Scholar designees chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding finalists. Kyle is an exceptional student, earning a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and taking seven Advance Placement courses during his high school years.

He also ran cross country, played basketball and tennis, was captain of the

Knowledge Bowl team that went to State this year, and is a member of Honor Society, and is involved in the Maker movement.

"I learned a lot from basketball, even though I was never on Varsity," he says. "I learned a lot of things about just trying hard in the time you're given, and being part of a team."

Teachers who stand out for Kyle are Mary Symonds, Brandon Harley and Doug Merrill. "They've all been good teachers who enjoy the subject and are able to push me in the right direction, and keep challenging me when I'm done with the regular stuff."

Another standout teacher is Knowledge Bowl coach Chris Cloke.

After college Kyle sees himself either starting his own business or working for a company that has goals and a mission that he can devote himself to. He wants to "... keep learning, and keep talking to people, and really make a difference."

Graduates continued from page 1.

## Eduardo Ramos

"I was already going to make high school the best that I could, but that incident was almost a slap on the face," says Ramos. "Like, hey, wake up. This is happening, you need to make the best of it, because maybe tomorrow, it will be you. That's really when I said, I'm getting involved. I don't care if I don't sleep at night. I don't care how hard I have to work."

Eduardo cites his role as Editor-in-Chief of the Apple Leaf as one of the biggest accomplishments in high school, if not the biggest. "This is where I've really learned about interpersonal skills, how to work with people, learning how to hear out ideas and then make a decision."

He was an anchorman for WHSN (school news network), is active in ASB Senate, MEChA, and FBLA (President this year), and is dedicated to community service. When his father became a U.S. citizen during Eduardo's sophomore year, Eduardo saw the excitement at the ceremony and decided to pay it forward by teaching citizenship classes.

Eduardo singles out teachers Susan Sears, Kriss Crilly, and Dave Riggs as being influential in his life, along with his family. "Family support has been the foundation of everything I do. They've always said, 'If you want to do it, you really feel it from the heart, we're never going to say no. We're here to support you.' That's something I'm really grateful for."

Eduardo received eight scholarships totalling over \$36,000 and was a Gates Millennium scholarship finalist. He will attend the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University, where he'll double major in communications with a focus in broadcast media and political science.

## Emily Cieslak

going to read, but the whole high school and the whole community."

Emily is currently broadcasting news on KOHO radio, and will be interning for the Wenatchee World this summer. She is vice-president of National Honor Society, president of Key Club, a member of Spanish Club, Youth United, Youth Leadership Council, and she has been secretary of earth club, treasurer of Youth Leadership Council.

Volunteer work has been an important part of her high school experience. "It's been really great to take a more active role in the community and to give back," she says, whether it was helping with the Special Olympics or raising money to buy a local police dog a bullet proof vest.

Adults who have made a difference in her life include Jeanette Marantos, journalism advisor Emily's sophomore year, who inspired her to join Apple Leaf, and Bev McCreary, Emily's sophomore English teacher. "She really mentored me in writing and academics."

Emily will attend the University of Pennsylvania next year, and is planning to major in journalism and perhaps double major with environmental studies. "I chose that school because they have a good communications program," says Emily, "but also there's a lot of internship opportunities and publications."

She has received a Marsden Scholarship, a Ewing C. Kelly Scholarship, Seattle Foundation and Wenatchee Exchange Club scholarships. She is also a QuestBridge finalist, which connects high achieving students who may be the first in their families to go to college, with college opportunities.

## Bryce Newberry

Flannery Outstanding Journalist Award, which recognizes one Washington state senior who has made significant contributions to his/her journalism program.

He's been involved in the school musical every year, along with drama club plays. He has been the ASB Assemblies Coordinator during his junior and senior year, and was a WHSN (Wenatchee High School Network) news broadcaster.

Bryce was recently named Mr. Panther in an all-male pageant that raises money for worthy causes. This year's pageant raised \$5,000 for a local family in need.

He says his most memorable high school experiences have been fun and inclusive, with a lot of people involved. "Dancing with Stars just happened," says Bryce. "We had all those people performing. We had the judges. Everybody was so into it, and I just love to see that."

He says Apple Leaf advisor Dave Riggs has been influential. "Mr. Riggs has helped me grow and learn so much about what I want to do," says Bryce. "We bicker back and forth a lot, but it's for the good. It's for learning and has helped me get better."

Other adults who have made a difference in his life include assistant principal Donna Moser. "I think she's so strong and truthful. She's made a big difference." Also, ASB advisor Brent Grothe, auditorium manager James Wallace, principal Bob Celebrezze, and language arts teacher Molly Butler.

Bryce will be attending Arizona State in the Walter Cronkite School for Journalism and Mass Communication with a focus on broadcast journalism. He is considering attending law school after earning his undergraduate degree.



## Seleni DeJesus

Seleni will be attending Western Washington University next year to study business. For post-graduate work, she's interested in law, but may get a graduate degree before her law degree.

She job shadowed with Doug Shea, Chelan County prosecutor, who had this to say: "Through my 25-plus years working for the county I have always enjoyed trying to educate students at the high school about criminal justice," said Shea. "Seleni DeJesus shadowed me and our office earlier this year. All of the attorney's who worked with her were impressed with how quickly she caught on and what intelligent questions she asked. She was a good reminder to us that there are a lot of great young adults going through our schools here in the valley. I am confident that she will be a success in whatever field she chooses."

"I want to make sure I do something smart," says Seleni of her career choice. "I don't go out into the world with a degree that I can't get a job for."

In her sophomore and junior year she was a member of the WHS dance team, citing dance coach Marie West as an important influence. She left the team after two years, and says the experience made her realize that you can enjoy things for a time, but it's okay to move on. "I think that was an experience that helped me grow

tremendously," she says.

She was a member of Panthers Unite as a junior, and Ignite, FBLA, and MEChA as a senior.

Teacher Mary Symonds and GEAR UP educator Angela Prater have been adults who are making a difference for her. Teacher Shelley Jelsing was influential during Seleni's freshman year. "She really supported me when my friend passed away in the school drowning," says Seleni.

"I think I'm just that very normal girl that gets looked past, and I don't mind that," says Seleni DeJesus. "Sometimes just being behind the scenes isn't too bad."

Her advice to incoming freshmen is, "Learn to accept yourself, because you are enough. In order to be happy and get the best out of everything you need to do what is honestly best for you."



**CLASS OF 2015**

## Austen Lane

Austen Lane loves sports and competition. "I see my true self in sports," says the cross country, track and soccer athlete. A high point in his sports career is earning a berth in State Cross Country competition all four years of high school. His soccer team also competed at State where Austen was named All Conference - Defensive Team.

Austen has been challenging himself academically as well, taking Advanced Placement physics C mechanics, English literature, and statistics, this year. "I'm ready to see what I can do on the next level," he says.

"Austen has maintained a solid 3.98 GPA, while taking the most rigorous classes WHS has to offer," says WHS counselor Tonya Luinstra. "He is highly involved and is an incredibly humble leader.

Austen is a great role model for other students to follow, and certainly has been a huge asset to his teammates and peers in modeling such a positive attitude."

Adults who have impacted Austen's high school experience include his track coach. "Bob Bullis, never lets me quit," says Austen. He also cites English teacher Mary Symonds. "Mrs. Symonds is a really good teacher. She always sees the positivity in someone. She makes you do more. She just gets the best out of everyone."

Winner of four scholarships, Austen is still looking at colleges to attend, with the University of Washington a forerunner. "My goal is to go into engineering," says Austen. "I'm not really set on what kind of engineering, but I've looked into industrial engineering, and that looked really fun to me."

His advice to incoming freshmen: "Do the most you can. Join more clubs, do more sports, meet new people."





## Dobhran “Dobby” Day



The first day Dobhran “Dobby” Day walked into WestSide High, she knew she had found the right school for her. “I walked in and I felt so comfortable,” says Dobby. “I felt like I could be myself. I was sold.”

Dobby is graduating this year, although she is just a junior. “When you go to WestSide you can work at your own pace,” Dobby explains. “I was able to get 14 credits last year, and finish my credits this year. I’m able to graduate early.”

Memorable teachers include Steve Niccum who passed away this school year.

Dobby says he connected with students at a level that’s hard to describe. “He was always so nice. No matter what mood I was in, he was always in that bright, happy mood.”

One outstanding

high school experience for Dobby was competing in Poetry Out Loud, a poetry interpretation and recitation program. Encouraged by teachers Mike Hartley and Rod Molzahn, she advanced to regionals in Yakima. “It was eye opening that I was able to step out of my shell and do that,” says Dobby. “It was a great experience.”

This spring, a fire consumed her family’s home. “It was really hard. But I didn’t let that stop me.”

WestSide students and staff raised money for Dobby and her family. “It was really, oh my gosh, people actually care about you. It was really inspiring.”

Dobby plans on taking online college classes while she works next year, helping her family recover financially from the fire. Then she plans to attend college, and is interested in art and baking.

“There’s so much that WestSide does for students,” says Dobby. “WestSide is a high school, but we’re also like a big family. I couldn’t ask for anything more.”

## Campbell, Reasor, and Genereux named Chelan County Excellence Award Winners

**Kathy Campbell, Cathy Reasor and Renee Genereux** have been named the Excellence Award winners for 2015. The Awards honor extraordinary educators, and are sponsored each year by North Central ESD and school districts in Chelan, Grant, Douglas and Okanogan Counties.

“It’s really an honor,” says Kathy, who has taught at Washington for 35 years, thirteen years of kindergarten before moving to third grade.

Washington principal Keith Collins nominated her for the award. “Kathy was called to teaching because of her love for children,” Collins wrote. “Kathy is a superior teacher because her students learn at high levels . . . she is the most highly requested teacher in our building.”

“One of the most rewarding parts about teaching is when you’ve taught a concept and all of a sudden a struggling student ‘gets it,’ says Campbell. “What a wonderful feeling, knowing that you have made a difference in a child’s learning.”

Cathy Reasor has been a teacher in the Wenatchee School

District for 46 years. She has taught, been a principal, or been an instructional coach in every

adults,” said Loomis. “She has taken the same passion she has had for teaching students and used

department at Wenatchee High School, and was nominated by Gracie Helm, Assistant Principal.



Excellence winners Kathy Campbell, Cathy Reasor, and Renee Genereux.

elementary school in the district.

“I am very surprised and so appreciate that I’ve been appreciated,” says Reasor.

Newbery Elementary principal Kevin Loomis, who nominated her, says that Cathy has never lost her passion for teaching. “Her drive has always been to ensure that our students have had every opportunity to learn, achieve and grow into well rounded young

the same energy to work with our teachers in supporting them in their own learning on how to best instruct our students,” Loomis wrote in his nomination. “I love the challenge of helping teachers with their practice,” says Cathy. I’ve had wonderful opportunities to work with great people and work for a fantastic school district.”

Renee Genereux is a resource paraeducator in special education

“The word excellence,” says Renee of receiving the award. “How humbling it is to be recognized for doing my job.”

“Renee personally knows and encourages students as individual learners,” wrote Helm in her nomination. “Renee is competent, humble, and a blessing to those with whom she works, students and staff.”

“It’s been really rewarding,” says Genereux. Supporting students to succeed is a reward in itself. I truly love my job.”

The Excellence winners were recognized at a banquet on May 5th at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

Both Kathy Campbell and Cathy Reasor are retiring after this school year.



Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all

Key Objective: Highly trained and engaged staff



# Jesús Hernández Jefferson Award Winner

Wenatchee School Board member Jesús Hernández received the Jefferson Award for Public Service, one of five recipients in the state given by the Seattle City Club. The Jefferson Award is considered the “Nobel Prize” for public service, recognizing the highest ideals and achievement of unique individuals in the United States.

“It’s a huge honor,” says Jesús.

Renee Hunter, Executive Director of Together! for Youth nominated Hernández.

The awards ceremony was held on Thomas Jefferson’s birthday, April 13, at Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) in Seattle.

“This recognition is as much for my wife Melissa as it is mine,” Jesús told the gathering. “She is just better at pushing me up front, but we do everything together so she is my biggest champion. She is my spark and my engine.”

Brian Flones, Wenatchee

School District Superintendent, praised Jesús for his more than twenty-five years of leadership and volunteer service for the benefits of youth and social service. “Jesús is a persistent advocate of parents’

Club. He served nine years on the Higher Education Coordinating Board for the state of Washington, having been appointed by Gov. Gary Locke and later Gov. Christine Gregoire. He is cofounder of the

Youth, and Wenatchee Rotary Club member since 1999, among other civic-minded and volunteer activities. He is CEO of Community Choice Healthcare Network.

Jesús was born in Mexico, where his father led an effort to establish a school in a rural village where they lived. Jesús came to the U.S. in 1979, at the age of 9. He holds a B.A. in Management from Washington State University and a Masters in Public Administration from University of Washington.

This is the second consecutive year a Wenatchee resident has been picked for the prestigious award. Ramon Rivera, a Wenatchee High School music teacher and director of the award-winning Mariachi Huenachi, was a Jefferson Award winner last year.

Jesús and Melissa have two sons, Mikael, 22, physics major at the University of Washington and Julian, nearly 16, a sophomore at Wenatchee High School.



Jesús Hernández (back center) and friends at the Jefferson Award for Public Service ceremony. Of wife Melissa (red jacket, dark hair in front row) Jesús said in his acceptance speech, “She is my spark and my engine.”

important role in their children’s education.”

Jesús is a member of the Wenatchee School Board and President of the Wenatchee Rotary

Lead Emerging Leaders Alliance, a civic and leadership development initiative, director of Northwest Mariachi Festival for the last ten years, board member for Chelan/ Douglas Together! For Drug-Free

## Washington Named Top 5% in State for Reading Growth

Washington Elementary is a recipient of the 2014 Washington Achievement Award for Reading Growth, the second year the school as received the recognition.

“It’s a real Washington community award,” says principal Keith Collins. “It’s a tribute to everybody working in a collaborative environment to make that happen.”

Winners are selected based on statewide assessment data for the three previous years.

“Washington students have been showing tremendous amounts of growth over those three years,” says Collins, “and it places us in the top 5% of the state for schools in reading.”

Collins attributes Washington’s reading growth success to:

**Scores and Intervention:** Paying close attention to student growth percentiles and the achievement index, which identifies students who need help in reading. “We monitor those students along the

way and get them the specific help that they need,” says Collins.

**Reading Plan:** A district-wide reading plan that gives schools good information about how to proceed with students who are struggling.

**Teachers:** “Our teachers have done a fantastic job,” says Collins. “From the classroom teachers to the support staff, like our Learning Assistance Program (LAP) teachers and Imagine Learning. We’ve been able to provide those students with significant strategic help.”

**Parents:** “We’re so blessed to have great supportive parents,” says Collins. “They do the significant work at home to

prepare their students to come to school ready to learn.”

Collins says the award is especially gratifying because of the importance of reading in succeeding in school and life.

“Reading is the foundation,” says Collins. “It is the most important thing we do at elementary school, frankly.”



Literacy Teacher Shayne Rennie working with children at Washington Elementary



WENATCHEE LEARNS

Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future  
Key Objective: Flexible personalized learning system



# New Graduation Requirements Increases Number of Credits

## What's Changing?

The Washington State Legislature, following the recommendation of the State Board of Education, has increased the required credits for graduation from 20 to 24. Additional required credits added include: 1 credit Mathematics, 1 credit Lab Science, 1 credit Art and .5 credit health.

Additionally, students must identify a personal pathway. These are courses that lead to specific post high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student based on their interests and High School and Beyond Plan. Personal pathway courses may include Career and Technical Education, and are intended to provide a focus for the student's learning.

## The two pathways are:

4 Year College or University  
– This pathway is intended for students who plan to attend a four-year college or university

upon graduation from high school. Courses in this pathway meet the admissions requirements for Washington State public universities.

2 Year Technical and Community College, Military and other training

This pathway is intended for students who have identified a personal pathway that does not require a bachelor's degree. This pathway provides students with the ability to attend a two-year college and transfer to a four- year university or enter directly into the workforce.

Who will be affected?

The class of 2021\* will be the first class held accountable to the new

graduation requirements.

\*The district applied for a waiver to delay the implementation of college ready graduation requirement for two years. Without the waiver, the class of 2019 would have been affected.

### Why the change?

The graduation requirements were increased to provide students with a strong academic foundation to prepare them for a chosen career pathway.

What changes need to be made to accommodate the new requirements?

At Wenatchee High School changes to the class schedule will

made to add additional courses and provide opportunities to make up credits.

Starting in the eighth grade, students will develop a High School and Beyond Plan that identifies their personal pathway that will provide them with a focus for scheduling courses. This course plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

### What can parents do?

Parents are encouraged to discuss and review their student's High School and Beyond Plan before registration each year. This allows parents to develop a deeper understanding of their student's career interests and provide support and guidance. Parents can request access to the career exploration system Career Cruising from their student so that they can view their student's 'My Plan'. This plan shows the student's career interests, aptitudes, learning styles, college and career research, applications, resume, and financial plan.

The class of 2021 will be the first class held accountable to the new graduation requirements. The district was granted a waiver to delay the implementation of college ready graduation requirement for two years. Without the waiver, the class of 2019 would have been affected.

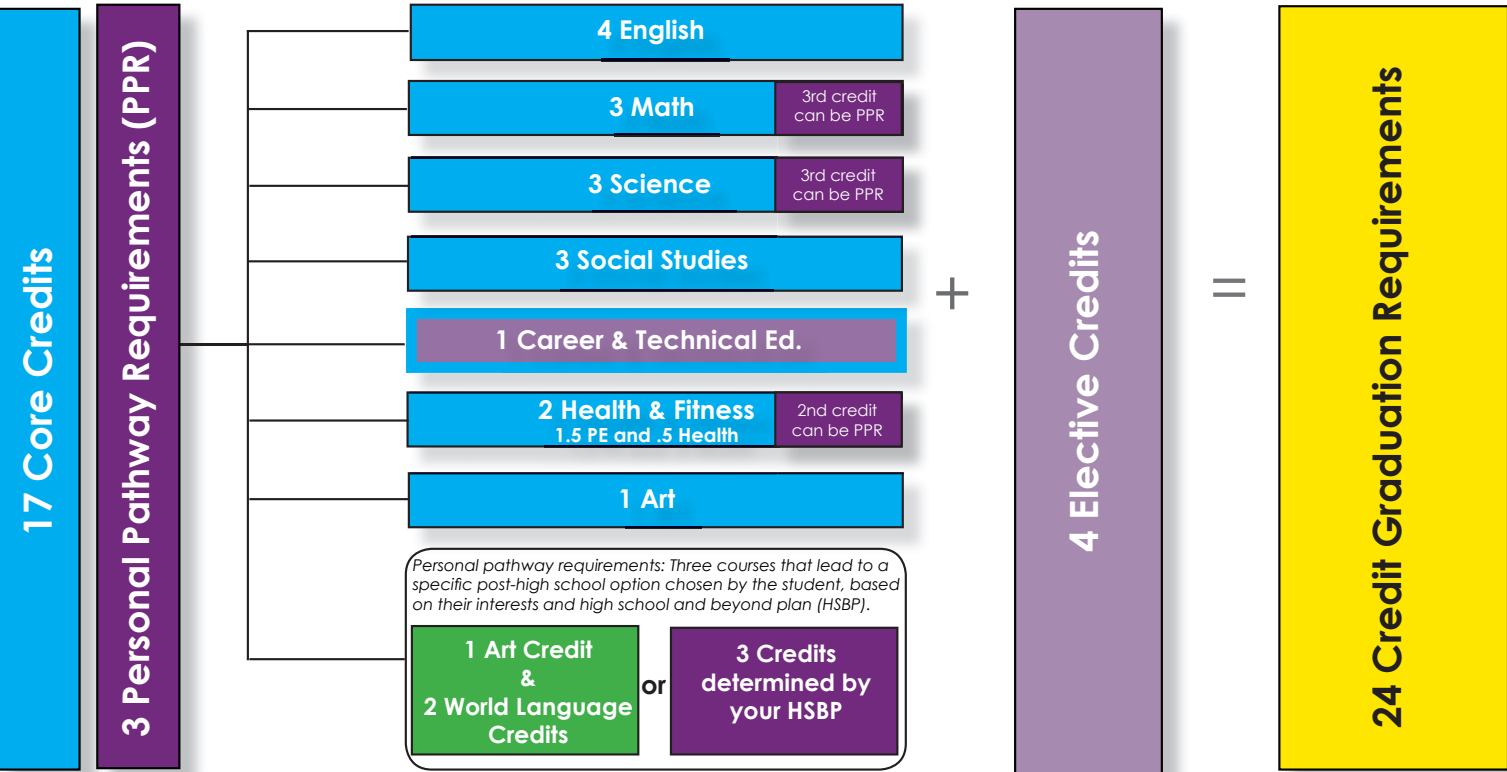
## Wenatchee School District CORE 24 Graduation Requirement Pathways



### High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)

#### Pathways

4 Year WA Public College/University	17	+	3	+	4	=	24
2 Year Technical/Community College Military, Employment or other Training	17	+	3	+	4	=	24



# New Schedule at Orchard Creates Time for Success

Eight times a day the hallways of Orchard Middle School used to teem with students rushing from one class to the next. . “The transitions weren’t smooth,” says Patrice Dahlin, 7th grade language arts teacher. “It was hectic for kids and teachers.”

With seven 45-minute classes each day plus an additional enrichment/intervention period at the end of the day, changing classes was frequent and the sheer number of students each teacher taught each day was large. “I was up to 210 kids per day,” says science teacher Erin Coyle.

Beginning in 2013 Orchard adopted a new block schedule, going to a four period day with 80-minute classes plus a 44-minute

RTI (Response to Intervention) class for enrichment and intervention at the end of the day.

The hallways emptied out, the pace slowed, and there was time during class for deeper learning in a more relaxed environment. The result: growth in math and reading test scores.

“Our kids are getting more instructional time,” says principal Taunya Brown. “They all have electives, and our teachers have prep and team time everyday.”

In the old schedule if students were struggling in a class they might end up with two math or reading classes, eliminating the chance to take music, art, technology and other

electives. “Now everybody has the opportunity to take two full electives during the day,” says Erin Coyle, “and possibly take another elective during RTI time.”

teachers that I teach with. I become a better teacher.”

The teams can pull all the kids together at once if they want, or if one teacher wants to keep the

Since the schedule change the average math and reading scores have just about doubled.

-Principal Taunya Brown

“They all have electives and they have a lot of enrichment opportunities at the end of the day,” says Dahlin. “It’s huge for kids.”

For teachers, the block schedule includes an individual preparation period and thirty minutes daily for grade level teams to collaborate. Teachers of math, language arts, and either social studies or science as well as a building-wide specialists work together, and work with a common cohort of students.

“One of the best parts is we spend 30 minutes as a team,” says Kati Patnode, language arts and math teacher for kids with IEP’s (Individualized Education Plans). “During that time we bring students in and talk about behavior. We plan together. We look at data. That’s incredible that we do it every single day together. It’s a huge benefit of the schedule.”

“It’s helped me grow as a teacher,” says math teacher Neil Spietz. “I really get a chance to learn from the

students a little longer to finish up a science lab or some other project they can notify their team members and flex the time.

One important result of all these changes has shown up in test scores. Principal Taunya Brown says since the schedule change the average math and reading scores have doubled. “We looked at each grade level pre-block schedule and then post-block schedule,” says Brown, “and the average RIT growth just about doubled.”

RIT (Rasch Unit) scores measure student growth in a specific content area in comparison to other same grade peers across the nation. Brown attributes the academic growth to deeper relationships between students and teachers and the collaborative relationships between teachers.

“You actually create a huge lasting bond with your students,” says math teacher Neil Spietz. “I think there’s some really special relationships getting built here at Orchard Middle School. I think that’s a pretty cool thing and the block schedule has a lot to do with it.”



“Students get to know the exact expectations of the teachers,” says math teacher Neil Spietz. “And they get to form the special relationship with that teacher, which makes it easier on them and sets them up for success.”

## 5 Things you should know about the high school and beyond plan graduation requirement

1. The Washington State Board of Education established the High School and Beyond Plan as a graduation requirement. The requirement is effective for students in the graduating class of 2008 and beyond, through WAC 180-51-061, WAC 180-51-066, and WAC 180-51-067.

2. Every student at Wenatchee High School is required to register for the on-line course, College and Career Ready, through the WHS Moodle

account in order to complete the requirements of the HSBP and graduate.

3. Each student is required to complete 4 online lessons in the Moodle course, College and Career Ready, each year of High school.

4. The lessons in the College and Career Ready course take the students to the Career Cruising website where the students can explore over thousands of jobs and career clusters, research

and apply for post-secondary education options, prepare resumes, letters of application, and prepare for an interview. They can also apply for financial aid and scholarships.

5. When they have completed all of the lessons as a Senior they will have met all of the graduation requirements of the High School and Beyond Plan which are; identified their learning style, completed goals for high school and immediately

beyond high school, identified career interests, researched careers and the training required for entry into those careers, researched and planned budget for their post- high school goals, completed an application, written a resume, written a cover letter, and shared their plans with both parents and school counselors.

For more information contact CTE Director Dennis Conger, 509-662-8754



# Cathy Reasor and Jay Young retire with 93 Years of Teaching Between Them

Cathy Reasor and Jay Young have been teaching for a combined total of 93 year— 46 years for Cathy and 47 years for Jay. They are each retiring this year. Cathy Reasor has been a teacher, a principal, and an instructional coach in the Wenatchee School District for 46 years. She has taught or coached in every elementary school in the district. Jay Young has taught Social Studies at Wenatchee High School throughout his entire tenure. We asked them some questions about their long and successful careers.

## What is it about teaching that made you want to continue doing it for 46 and 47 years?

**Cathy:** I love the kids. I love the challenge. I loved working with peers.

**Jay:** The students. Just coming and working with these people was a delight. A pleasure. I never got up in the morning and said, 'I don't want to go.' It was always challenging and interesting. I met some great people, I've made great friendships over the years. I figure I've had about 10,000 students in my classroom.

## What changes have you seen over the years?

**Cathy:** I have seen a lot of changes as far as the requirements for teachers. The third year that I taught we had a list of SLO's— Student Learning Objectives. I believe there were 60-some objectives that we were supposed to check off for our report cards. Kids are still kids. They love to learn. They're excited. Maybe some social issues have popped up that weren't as prevalent a long time ago, but kids still want to

learn and they want to succeed.

**Jay:** When I first started you had to order a video, a film, from the ESD, and you had to hope by God that some guy in Omak wasn't using it the same day. Now I just pop up a five-minute history on YouTube. It helps me in my teaching. I have all these things at my

fingertips that used to take days or weeks to get the same information.

The first year I was here the Apple Leaf was two pages of mimeographed copies. Now it's a first class publication.

I think there's a lot more pressure on the kids now with the testing, and the changing structure of the family, and the size of our building. This building was designed for 1,400, and we've added the ninth grade and we're up to almost 2,300 students. That's a huge change. It changes a lot of the dynamics.

## Any final comments?

**Cathy:** I've wanted to be a teacher since I was six-years old. I was lucky. I love it. There have been ups and downs, but it's been an amazing ride. I wanted to do really meaningful things throughout my career. I wanted to really dig in and see how we can make it better for kids.

**Jay:** These students are incredibly precious. They have so much potential. Just let them work, let them find that potential, and realize we're in pretty good shape.



## SHOUT OUTS

### Trisha Craig

I want to recognize our new (2nd year with us) Director of Special Education, Trisha Craig. Trisha has had some fantastic ideas for improving the Wenatchee School District Special Ed program. She has a real talent for new, innovative ideas and is an excellent problem solver. She has a genuine love and compassion for children, especially those who need extra help. And she is a wonderful, thoughtful boss!

**Clare Oliver-Jones**  
Secretary, Special Education

### Shelly Jelsing

Bless her heart! Shelly Jelsing is a P.E. Teacher at WHS, She has put on a Special Needs Prom for several years now. It started out with 30 kids and this year (March 25th) it was attended by 300 kids from all over Central Washington. She decorates the gym ( quite spectacularly), arranges for a DJ, gets formal dresses and mens' attire donated, has a beauty school come and do both the girls and guys

hair-dos and has make-up done for the girls, she arranges for the lunch for all 300, arranges for chaperones, and even has WHS kids come to the gym to dance with the Special Needs kids! Probably a lot more I don't even realize she is doing!

**Theresa Berger**  
Caterer, Food Service

### Sarah Hanchey

Shout out to Sarah Hanchey for her amazing facilitation in deciding a new Elementary ELA program. Because of her skillful work, the committee came to a 100% agreement.

**Nancy Duffey**  
Director of State and Federal Programs

### Joe Alvarez

Joe Alvarez, bilingual, Imagine Learning para-educator, is new this year at Sunnyslope and has a way of keeping all of us inspired. He brings a peace, great wisdom and a sense of humor to all situations, when appropriate. He relates very well with staff and children. On

the playground, as he speaks, the children listen and respond. We have heard from parents that he is well liked and respected by their children. They know they have a friend, a support and someone they feel safe with because of the trust they have in him. Joe regularly sends encouraging and uplifting emails to all of us at Sunnyslope, usually with a dash of humor. He is genuine and real with his focus being on others. He is a great support in all areas of the school from his bilingual skills to helping clean up messes that seem to happen where there are kids. We are all better people because of Joe and his example. We need to say thank you to Joe for all he has done and will continue to do at SS.

**Joanne Neel, Assistant Secretary**  
Sunnyslope Elementary School

### Jerry Merrill

We appreciate Jerry Merrill for filling the three month long-term substitute position this winter. Jerry was willing to learn and provide resources for our Web Design class.

He was also a positive member of our WHS Business Education team. Thank you Jerry!

**Meg Lovercamp**  
WHS Business Teacher

### Rylie Sweem

Sophomore Rylie Sweem won 3rd Place in the 8th District Congressional Art Show, held in Auburn. Congressman Dave Reichert presented her award.

**Don Collins**  
WHS Art Teacher





# Welcome New Principals

## Robert Cline New Pioneer Middle School Principal

**Robert Cline** has been selected as the new principal at Pioneer Middle School.

Rob Cline will replace Mark Helm, who will be the Executive Director of Student Services at the District office.



Robert Cline

Cline is currently serving as the Director of Teaching and Learning and Special Education at Cashmere School District. Prior to that, he was the Principal of Cashmere Middle School for 4 years and

Cashmere Elementary for 6 years.

“I feel like I am finally coming home,” said Cline. “I look forward to the new challenges.”

He earned his B.A. in Education from Eastern Washington University and his Masters in Educational Administration from California State University, Bakersfield.

Rob and his wife Gretchen live in the Wenatchee area with their two sons, Rhett and Rheid.

## Eric Anderson New Wenatchee High School Principal

**Eric Anderson** has been selected for the Principal position at Wenatchee High School

“I am excited for this opportunity and looking forward to being part of the team,” Anderson said.

Anderson will replace Bob Celebrezze who has accepted the principal position at Clovis Middle School in the Eastmont School District.

Currently, Anderson is principal at Charles Francis Adams High School in Clarkston Washington, a position he has held for the past four years. He was Principal Assistant at Rogers High School in the Spokane School District for two years, athletic director for three years, and business technology teacher at Rogers High.

Anderson earned a BA in Finance and Economics, a BA in Business Education and a Master’s Degree in School Administration at Eastern Washington University.

He and his wife Kate have three daughters, a ninth grader and seventh grade twins.



Eric Anderson

## David Perkins New Sunnyslope Elementary Principal

**David Perkins** has been selected as the new principal for Sunnyslope Elementary School. Perkins

will replace Cori Pflug-Tilton who will move into the role of Assistant Director for PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention & Support), at the District office.

Perkins is currently assistant principal at Wenatchee High School. Prior to that, he was the Dean of Students at Tres Rios Elementary School in Tolleson, Arizona and taught social studies for seven years at Estrella Middle School in Phoenix, Arizona.

Perkins received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Washington State University and his Masters degree in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

He and his wife, Amber have a young son, Grant.



David Perkins

## New District Administrative Roles

### Mark Helm New Executive Director of Student Services

**Mark Helm**, current principal at Pioneer Middle School, has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of Student Services for the district. Mark has served as principal of Pioneer for the past twelve years, and prior to that served one year as assistant principal at Pioneer and taught at Foothills Middle School. Mark has a Masters Degree in Education Administration and earned his superintendent’s credentials from Washington State University.



Mark Helm

### Cori Pflug-Tilton New Assistant Director of Student Behavior Management



Pflug-Tilton

Sunnyslope Elementary Principal **Cori Pflug-Tilton** will be moving into a part time administrative position as Assistant Director for Student Behavior Management and Support. She will coordinate the district-wide implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), as well as work on the behavioral Response To Intervention system supports for high need students.

## Bucholz and Keefer New Assistant Principals



Jake Bucholz

**Jake Bucholz** has being selected as the Assistant Principal for Columbia & Lincoln Elementary schools. Jake is currently a technology teacher at Orchard Middle School.

**Kathi Keefer** is the new Assistant Principal for John Newbery and Lewis & Clark Elementary Schools. Kathi is currently an instructional coach.



Kathi Keefer



Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all  
Key Objective: Highly trained and engaged staff



# Meet Brian Miller, Resource Officer

Wenatchee Police Officer Brian Miller is the new resource officer for Wenatchee School District. He works full-time for the district during school hours. Miller has been with the Wenatchee Police Department for 12 years. Miller, who is bilingual, is a graduate of Wenatchee High School and has two kids in the Wenatchee district.



## Q. Tell us about your career in law enforcement

Miller: I started my career in law enforcement as a probation and parole officer. After graduating from college I got a job with the Department of Corrections here in Wenatchee, where I supervised felons, most coming out of prison. I specialized with the high risk case load, specifically supervising gang members. After five years I really wanted to try to become a police officer, to fulfill that dream. I got hired by the Wenatchee Police and started out on basic patrol, then got the position of gang officer. I have specialized training with use of force.

I'm in charge of training the other police officers at Wenatchee Police Department on use of force.

## Q. Where did you grow up and go to school?

Miller: I grew up in Tacoma. When I was a sophomore in high school my dad got a promotion and moved the family to Wenatchee where he became the postmaster for the Wenatchee Post Office. I was happy that we made the move from Tacoma to Wenatchee. It opened up some different doors for me and allowed me to grow up a little bit, but it was hard. Sports helped. I was able to meet people that way. By my junior and senior years I loved Wenatchee.

## Q. Tell us about your family:

Miller: I'm the oldest of six kids. There's two sets of twins in the family. I'm really tight with my family. I'm married. I love being a dad and husband. We have two kids, ten and eight. We love being outdoors and doing a lot of outdoor activities.

## Q. What made you become a police officer?

Miller: At first I was thinking about being a teacher, then went back to that dream of being an FBI or police officer. I went on a ride along with my cousin who's in Pierce

County, and saw law enforcement and said I definitely want to try that. I got my degree in Spanish with a minor in history from Central Washington University. Central has a sister school in Morelia [the capital of Michoacan], Mexico. I studied twice in Morelia.

## Q. What made you decide to become a school Resource Officer?

Miller: In all cities, including Wenatchee, there's a small amount of people who cause the most problems. I spent years on gang enforcement identifying the worst people causing the most problems. I was able to concentrate on that and help keep the community safer. But most of that was enforcement. There was little bit of meeting the families and doing some intervention, prevention, but there really wasn't time.

I think this [resource officer] position is best opportunity I could have to bring it full circle and start with intervention and prevention — to meet these kids and have positive interactions with the kids, and to be a link between the schools and city resources.

## Q. What are your goals as resource officer?

Miller: Number one—make the schools safer. I think my presence

alone will help that, just being visible within the schools. Number two, be a resource for the staff, the students and the parents. If they have problems that arise, and they have questions, they come to me and I'll link them up with the correct services.

## Q. What do you envision as a typical day as resource officer?

Miller: Typically the majority of my time will be spent at the high school and it's going to filter down from there. The high school has the most kids. I really want to build a trust and a bond with those students, so if they have issues they can come to me or advise me of future problems so we can stop a problem before it happens.

I'm going to get to know those middle school kids because they're going to eventually become high school kids. If they know me and trust me in middle school I think I can help stop a lot of problems before they start.

## Q. Any last thoughts?

Miller: When this position opened up I thought it was a really unique opportunity. I spent so many years on enforcement, which is critical, and now I'm able to take it full circle and work on intervention and prevention. What a better way to do it than in schools.

## Governor Jay Inslee visits WHS, names Doug Merrill Washingtonian of the Day

Washington Governor Jay Inslee visited Wenatchee High School to learn more about Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and ended up "pinning" teacher Doug Merrill.

The governor visited Doug Merrill's drafting and Autocad class to see a hands-on program in action. Merrill's students were in the final stages of a ski-building project. "Our students engineered the skis in 3D designs in Rhino," says Merrill. "They created the model."

Governor Inslee, an avid skier himself, pulled up his sleeves and helped apply layers of fiberglass to skis alongside the students. Then the governor took off his gloves, stepped over to Doug Merrill, and addressed the group of school board members, district administrators, staff and students.

Governor Inslee said that each day he recognizes the most inspirational person he meets.

"I give this pin to the Washingtonian of the day, Doug Merrill," said Inslee. The governor then took off his lapel pin, a classic Washington State pin, including a red delicious apple, and attached the pin onto Merrill's shirt.

Merrill was surprised to receive the honor, and grateful that hundreds of hours of hard work culminated with Inslee's visit.

"When the governor got here it was perfect timing," says Merrill. "He could help out with the kids and see what they were doing."



Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all

Key Objective: Highly trained and engaged staff



# Summer Reading Impacts School Success

**D**id you know that kids who read during the summer have a better chance of becoming strong readers than those who don't? You can give your child a great start to being successful in school by keeping your child engaged in learning all summer long. Here are a few simple ideas:

**Wenatchee Public Library**, located at 310 Douglas Street, is a great place to start.

Library cards are free and kids can check out books of their choice. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.– 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m.– 5 p.m.

- Is your child starting kindergarten this fall? Preschool Story times are offered for free on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Stop by the Children's Center downstairs in the library to pick up the list of "100 books Every Child Should Hear Before Kindergarten." Check out a few books on the list each week and read them to your child.
- Pajama Story time is available on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for all ages.
- Visit the library often to help your child become a strong reader. Encourage your children to check out any books that they like, even if they seem too difficult or easy.

## Encourage your child to read at home

- Set aside a regular time and have your child read everyday.
- Create a quiet space in your home where your child can read. A special chair, beanbag cushion, pillow, or blanket can make the space cozy and encourage your child to get lost in reading.
- Give your child a special box, basket, or bag in which to store favorite or library books. Place the box in your child's quiet reading space so that the books are easy to find.
- If your child wants to watch a movie that goes with a book, have your child read the book first. Watching the movie could be a nice reward for finishing the book.
- If your child finds a book that he/she likes, ask the librarian if the



**Sarah Hanchey**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, puts on her Dr. Seuss hat and reads to first graders in **Kim Cueva's** class at Columbia.

book is part of a series, or if there are other books by the same author.

- For young children, read whenever you can with your child.
- If your child is in the early stages of learning to read, find a buddy to read along. This could be you, an older sibling, or a friend. Take turns reading (you read a page, then have your child read a page, or read aloud together).
- Some young children enjoy reading aloud to a pet or a younger sibling.
- If you have a computer at home, help your child go to [www.Starfall.com](http://www.Starfall.com) for fun reading activities.



**Strategy Four:** Balance change for all with excellence for all  
**Key Objective:** High student achievement

# Construction Update

The old **Washington Elementary** will be demolished and a new parking lot and playground areas will be built. The new school will be built throughout the school year. Washington students will stay in the current building during construction, with modified playground and staff parking. Safe, temporary parent drop off and pick up will be created on

Elliot. Safe pedestrian access will be on the north side of Washington Street, while the south side that runs along the playground will be closed. The construction area will be fenced off for safety.

**The Special Education and Early Childhood Learning** building, which is adjacent to Washington Elementary School, is being modernized this summer. **The Special Education offices will**

**be located at the main District Office at 235 Sunset Avenue from June 12 - August 28th, during renovation of the existing building this summer.**

**Lincoln Elementary** will be under construction all summer, including a new bus ramp will be built off of Cascade Street, and the construction of new wing. The new wing will be ready to occupy September 2015. Classes will be

held in the new wing in September, and the modernization of the 200 wing (built in early 1950's) will continue during the fall.

**Pioneer Middle School** gymnasium hallways locker rooms, Apple Bowl grandstands and stadium lighting will be under construction through August, 2015. The Apple Bowl will be ready for first football game in September 2015.



Architect's image of Lincoln Elementary after construction.





## We Are Touched by Your Generosity

Our community is tremendously supportive of our schools. We are blown away by the amount of time and talent that our community provides to us. We want to thank everyone who has been a part of learning in the Wenatchee School District. We couldn't do it without you!



## JOB SHADOWS

Throughout the school year high school students from Wenatchee High School and Wenatchee Valley Tech took the steps to test drive careers by participating in a job shadow.

Over **160 businesses** from all around the Wenatchee area helped students explore career paths by hosting the for a one day hands on learning experience.

**100 students** at Wenatchee Valley Tech organized their own job shadows as part of a spring job shadow campaign. Some students who participated were even offered jobs by the businesses they were visiting.

"Often we equate academic success as a key measure to future career success and earning power. The job shadow experience has proven that business/industry value employability skills equal or greater than academic attainment", says Jon Torrence, Director of Wenatchee Valley Tech.

Connecting with young people is always energizing. They have so much potential, says Dr. Ryan Busk of Busk Family Dentistry, who hosted four WHS students this year. "The whole world is open to them, so sharing our profession, letting them try it on in a small way, is really fun."

For a complete list of participating businesses or to sign up your business as a job shadow site go to [wenatcheelearns.com](http://wenatcheelearns.com).



Sign up for our eNewsletter at our newly designed website:  
[wenatcheeschools.org](http://wenatcheeschools.org)

**Wenatchee School District 246**

**Wenatchee Schools**

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