



EXCHANGE

Sharing staff news & information in Wenatchee School District

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Susan Sears Awarded 2014 Washington State Career and Technical Educator of the Year

Susan Sears is the 2014 Washington State Career and Technical Educator of the Year. Susan is a Business Education teacher at



Wenatchee High School, where she has taught for more than ten years. The award recognizes teachers who exemplify the highest standards in career and technical

education.

“With all the deserving CTE professionals throughout the state of Washington, it is an incredible honor to receive this prestigious award,” Susan said. “I want to thank Wenatchee High School and Wenatchee School District, along with Washington State Business Education Association for their continued support and high esteem in Career and Technical Education.”

“We are very proud of Susan and know that she is a great example of what all of our CTE teachers do on a daily basis,” said Dennis Conger, school

district Director of CTE. “Susan always has a can do attitude and goes the extra mile for her students everyday.”

In addition to her teaching, Susan is a Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) advisor. She has also accepted leadership roles at WHS, including cochairing the Learning Improvement Team, taking a leadership role in the school accreditation process, and leading the AdvancED organization when it was piloted at WHS. She has served as accountant for the Central Regions of Washington FBLA for several years, and accepted a position as board member of the Washington State Business Education Association (WSBEA). She represents WSBEA on the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education Board.

Susan was presented the award at the Washington State Career and Technical Education Summer Conference August 3-6, 2014 in Yakima, Washington. She will represent Washington State as a finalist, along with finalists from each western state at the 2015 ACTE Region Five Conference in April 2015.



WHS Graduation Changed to Town Toyota Center due to Apple Bowl Construction

Wenatchee High School's class of 2015 graduation ceremony will take place in the Town Toyota Center due to construction in the Apple Bowl. The graduation date will be moved to Saturday, June 6, 2015.

Construction to replace the Apple Bowl grandstands and modernize Pioneer locker rooms is scheduled to begin in March or April 2015, and will render the grandstands and surrounding area unusable during the time of graduation. The project is part of the construction bond passed in February of 2014. If the construction date was moved back until after graduation the facility would not be able to host boys football and girls soccer in the fall of 2015.

Welcome

David Perkins, Assistant Principal WHS



A WSU graduate, David Perkins comes to Wenatchee from Phoenix, Arizona, where he taught middle school social studies and served as Dean of Students at a K-8 school. He earned his Masters Degree from Northern Arizona University in Educational Leadership. Perkins also enjoys how the community embraces Wenatchee High School. He's impressed with the large size of WHS because of the many opportunities it offers in academics, athletics and activities "There's something for everybody, and I think that's really important."

"Going to last week's football game was a great experience for me—sort of that Friday Night Lights atmosphere. It's a really fun environment. I'm glad I'm here."

Perkins and his wife have a three-year-old son, Grant.

Jeremy Wheatley, Assistant Principal Orchard



Jeremy Wheatley grew up on a wheat farm in Dayton, Washington, and still enjoys going home every summer to help his dad with wheat harvest.

He earned a BS in Technology Education from Eastern Washington University, and a Masters Degree in Education Administration from University of Washington, his principal credentials from the University of Washington, and recently earned his CTE Director credentials.

He has been the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director for the past eight years at Cashmere Middle School

Married to Tera, a Speech Language Pathologist at Vale Elementary, they have two daughters Ralene 8, and Kylie, 6.

"We raise animals at home—beef and chickens," says Wheatley. "Back to my farming roots, it's been something I enjoy."

Adam Bergstrom, Director of Safety and Security



Adam Bergstrom served as a Special Forces Green Beret in the Army during a twenty-two year military career. After retirement he became a contractor for the Missile Defense Agency before he spotted a job that made him smile—an Anti-Terrorism Program Manager in the Safety & Security Department. "They run the kindergarten through twelfth grade schools around the world on the military bases. I liked the idea of working with the kids to make sure they're safe."

He lived in Washington, DC for the last ten years along with his wife Allison, who was a senior counterintelligence analyst and editing manager for counterintelligence communications.

Also an accomplished artist, his current interest is creating graphite drawings by dusting thin layers of graphite onto paper with a dry brush. Check out his website at www.adambergstromart.com

Changes

Gracie Helm Assistant Principal Mission View and Washington Elementary Schools



Gracie Helm has moved from her role as Assistant Principal at WHS to Assistant Principal at Mission View and Washington Elementary Schools. The position is half time at each school, and is a new position for both schools.

Helm served as assistant principal at Wenatchee High School for the last seventeen years.

Washington principal Keith Collins says, "Her duties include helping to improve teaching and learning . . . providing supervision and leadership for instruction, student behavior, safety, and school activities."

The new teacher evaluation system takes more time than the old system, and the addition of a .5 administrator helps elementary principals with the large caseloads of evaluations.

Instructional Technology Update

By Ray Birks and Ron Brown

Growth in the area of technology in our district has increased substantially this year requiring the hiring of additional instructional technology support. We have added two additional positions to help us on our journey to personalized learning with the use of technology. Ray Birks is our new Instructional Technology Facilitator and will have the primary duty of coaching our personal device teachers, Technology Resource Teachers, and other teachers identified in our district technology plan. Ray's primary focus will start at the middle levels as identified by our district technology action plan. Zakk Rogers is our new Mobile Device Specialist who's role is to manage the 1000's of potential new devices that will be coming into the district over the next few years as we roll out a more personalized approach.

Instructional Technology has purchased seven mobile Chromebook labs for use in the high schools and middle schools. With the need for online testing growing every year, Chromebooks provide a flexible, less expensive way to get technology into the hands of students and teachers to begin meeting the demand for technology in the classroom. The primary purpose of the additional hardware is to decrease the time it will take to give the

all online Smarter Balanced assessments in the spring.

A Chromebook is a laptop running the Chrome OS operating system and is designed to be used primarily with an Internet connection through Google. Students will be able to access their information stored in the cloud with our Google Apps for Education suite. Along with Chromebook labs, we purchased additional mobile iPad and MacBook Air labs to use in our K-8 buildings. As we move more classwork and assessment online the additional hardware will be critical to give our students the tools they need to succeed.

This year the district is piloting devices other than iPads in an effort to study how these devices will work in the classroom setting. Tina Nicpan-Brown's fifth-grade students at Lincoln Elementary are using the brand new Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 tablets. These tablets have a similar look and feel as an iPad and have many of the same functionalities and apps. As with the iPads

being used in the middle and elementary schools, the goal of using the Samsung tablets is to foster engaging and personalized learning to match the district's current initiatives.

Another major change



in the area of technology is the official full-scale use of Illuminate for our data and assessment system. Illuminate replaces DataDirector and offers superior usability and functionality. Some of its major highlights are its ability to deliver online testing, student and parent portals, standards-based report cards, easy scanning with cameras, and strong reporting tools. Illuminate has a robust self-help system

of videos and handouts for anything you will need in the classroom to improve your assessment practices and analysis.

You might have noticed that our websites are changing. We are working

toward a unified and universal web site system that will enable every school to have a mobile application, a consistent interface, and individual teacher and course web pages with dynamic content. As teams and teachers are ready to benefit and school sites are ready we will slowly deploy these resources with an eventual goal of using this system to replace iWeb and other older website software. If you are interested in being a pilot teacher with our new web tools, put in your request with the support ticket system, and choose Blackboard Engage as the topic.



Wenatchee Learns Connects 1000 Partners!

1000 Partners (volunteers) Connected!

Since the start of the school year over 1,000 parents and community members have signed up using the new online partner (volunteer) application portal wenatcheelearns.com. We want to give a huge shout out to the office managers and building principals for helping to make this happen!

About the Online Application

Please encourage your parents, business partners and citizen volunteers to create a partner account at wenatcheelearns.com

- Completed one time online at wenatcheelearns.com

- Partners manage their accounts and contact information

- WSP background checks still required

Wenatchee Learns Connect will run annual checks before the start of every school year for continuing partners

- ID verification is still required (can be done at the school or at Wenatchee Learns Connect)

- Paper forms in English and Spanish are still available

Employees who volunteer their time in their child's classroom

WSD employees who volunteer their

personal time at their child's school should complete the partner (volunteer) application. This will allow us to better track the number of volunteer hours being spent in our schools. No background check is required.

Volunteering – It's Tax Deducible

The IRS allows volunteers with non-profits to deduct certain expenses associated with volunteering:

- Car and transportation expenses
- Travel expenses
- Other out-of-pocket expenses

For more information talk to a tax professional and read IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions

Wenatchee Learns Connect Opens the Doors with a Party

The Wenatchee School District unveiled the new Wenatchee Learns Connect (WLC) Partnership Center with a loud and exuberant celebration in downtown. Mariachi Huenachi and Wenatchee High School drum line added to the excitement as Superintendent Brian Flones and Mayor Frank Kuntz cut the ribbon on the new office located at 2 South Mission Street. Wenatchee Learns Connect is a significant milestone as the District works towards a personalized approach to learning that taps the power of the whole community and leverages technology. WLC is open to serve the public Monday through Friday 8 a.m – 4 p.m.



Superintendent Brian Flones and Mayor Frank Kuntz cut the ribbon for the new Wenatchee Learns Connect Partnership Center located at 2 S. Mission Street.

If you have a news item for future issues email editor Teri Fink fink.t@wenatcheeschools.org