

Dialog


UNIVERSITY
PLACE
School District

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The cover photo of this issue was taken by NJROTC students using state-of-the-art drones. Part of the district's College and Technical Education program, the Unmanned Aerial Systems class prepares students for possible career paths. Story on page four.

BECOMING CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS

A Message from School Board President Mary Lu Dickinson



The commitment to develop competent, contributing citizens continues in University Place

School District. Through the caring and diligent efforts of our strong governance team and our exceptional administration and staff, we continue to be one of the top school districts in the state. While we are widely known for strong academic programs and results, academic excellence is only one of three main goals, or “ends,” for UPSD. Develop contributing citizens is another important district goal (see page six for further information on district ends policies).

We desire, as stated in Ends Policy 3, that all of our students will “demonstrate the individual character qualities, emotional strength and social skills” to succeed in school, work, and life. Our policy goes on to emphasize the connection between hard work and future educational and career

opportunities. It also speaks to each student’s responsibility to contribute to their community, school, and family. The importance of developing key citizenship knowledge and skills to support our democracy is also part of our contributing citizen’s policy.

Working with parents to help students develop good character is an important part of the University Place culture. Students are taught to be honest and shown that through their words and deeds they earn trust. They are taught to show respect for themselves, other people, and property. Students learn that they are responsible and accountable for their actions and are encouraged to demonstrate empathy and compassion for others. They are taught self-control and, with time and patience, learn to control their actions. Additionally, students in UPSD learn to put forth their best effort, resolve conflicts, cooperate with others, set a positive example, and demonstrate leadership.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, students are asked to demonstrate inclusiveness, welcome others, and show love and kindness to all.

Our students respond well to these high expectations for their conduct and character. UP schools are respectful, orderly, safe, and inviting places to learn. Outside of school, students continue to serve their community through volunteer work. Over this past year, students spent more than 31,600 hours serving others and supporting civic efforts in our community and region. Students who learn and practice these wonderful qualities in their homes and schools bring what they learn into the wider world and make it a better place. I know that our students—both before and after they graduate—will make a positive difference and light the world. I am proud of our young “contributing citizens” for all of the goodness they contribute to our community. Our students help make this a great place to live.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 5

If your child will turn five on or before August 31, 2019, you can register online anytime after March 5. Early registration is encouraged. Visit www.upsd83.org; registration can be found under the “Family Resources” tab or click the “Student Registration” button in the banner. For best results, use a computer or tablet to register your child. Smartphones are not recommended. You will need to have the following items nearby: birth certificate, Certificate of Immunization Status, proof of residency (utility bill), and ID for the parent/guardian. If you do not have access to a computer, call the district office at 253-566-5600.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES IN CTE

A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin



I recently enjoyed lunch out at a local restaurant you probably haven't heard of. It

was called Ramzey's Diner. I would recommend it but, unfortunately, this restaurant was only in business temporarily in room 306 at Curtis High School. Run by students in Cindy Pratt's Gourmet Foods course, Ramzey's Diner created an opportunity for students to experience running a restaurant—complete with hosts, servers, and chefs. Gourmet Foods is one of many Career and Technical Education (or "CTE") classes offered at Curtis Junior and Senior High Schools and is one of three options in the field of Culinary Arts.

This semester, about 116 students are enrolled in the culinary arts program and many more students acquire career skills in programs ranging from health science to information technology to stagecraft. In total, Curtis offers more than 30 CTE courses and every student, by state law, is required to earn a minimum of one CTE credit (two semester-long courses) to graduate. Many students take additional CTE courses as electives. Students with special interests in CTE can connect with several different regional programs on other campuses, including the Pierce County Skills Center, Bates, and Clover Park Technical College.

Evidence of our programs can be seen all around the school and across the district. Students in stagecraft courses make sets for our fine Theater program and, most recently, supported the production of *Mamma Mia!* in the fall. The

Curtis store is open for business daily and is run by students in the Marketing program. Students in Teaching Academy work in primary classrooms in the district and our NJROTC students are responsible for the wonderful cover photo of this issue of the *Dialog*.

I hope you will read on and learn more about the many CTE options available to students in our district. On pages four and five you will also find information about other programs and people that make UPSD a great place to learn.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. If you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions for UPSD, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at jchamberlin@upsd83.org.



At left, Noah Ellison chops carrots as part of his culminating project for the Gourmet Foods course at CHS. Students experienced running a real restaurant and serving meals during "restaurant wars" (above) at the high school.

SPOTLIGHTS

STUDENT

Born in the Philippines, CHS Senior **Sañata “Sunny” Dawa** immigrated at the age of four to University Place and attended UPSD since first grade. Although she loves her schools and community, she is cognizant of leading by example as a woman of color. “One day I was walking in the mall and happened upon a display of past ASB presidents,” she said. “It struck me that nobody looked like me.” That thought drove her to a successful run to become ASB president herself, as well as seeking other high-profile opportunities, such as securing the lead in the school play. “Giving everyone a voice is so important,” she continued. “I wanted little girls who look like me to know they are boundless.” She is also on the tennis team, is a choreographer for Danceblast, and a choir officer. Sunny hopes to attend UC San Diego.



FACULTY

At the age of 26, **Craig Rine**, then a young and talented musician, auditioned against 75 other aspiring clarinetists to win a coveted spot in the elite U.S. Marine Band. An invaluable experience, he played countless events at the White House and went on three national tours over the course of six years. He brought those experiences, as well as numerous others such as the National Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Seattle Opera, when he came to the district 17 years ago. Today, Rine is band director at Curtis Junior High, an adjunct clarinet professor at PLU, and a professional musician as well. “I’m always learning from my other playing opportunities,” he said. “I love to bring things I learn in my professional life to my students. That’s what it’s all about.” He has guided the band to a “superior” rating 16 out of his 17 years.





ALUMNUS

Pierce County Executive **Bruce Dammeier** has dedicated most of his life to public service. While at Curtis High School, he played football for legendary coach Bob Lucey, whom he credits with instilling in him valuable lessons about leadership, discipline, and life. Dammeier earned an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in 1979, graduating with distinction and subsequently serving eight years as a Civil Engineer Corps Officer, earning his Master's in Engineering from UW along the way. Upon leaving the Navy, he worked in his family printing business for a time, but was drawn back to public service—first on the Puyallup School Board, then on to winning a seat in the Washington State House of Representatives in 2009, and later attaining his current position in 2016. He lives in Puyallup with his wife.

The University Place School District team is made up of over 5,400 exceptional students, more than 600 talented and devoted staff members, thousands of successful graduates, and many wonderful community partners. In this section of the *Dialog* we hope to shine a light on the work and contributions that selected members of this great team are making in the district and all around our region. We would love to hear from you if you have suggestions on who we might want to feature in this section in future issues.



COMMUNITY PARTNER

For more than 15 years, the Families Unlimited Network (FUN) has partnered with the school district and the community to help those in need. In addition to services such as their food bank (pictured at left with Executive Director Doug Stoeckicht), counseling, and financial planning, they operate a low-cost after-school program they call The Spot. In conjunction with district counselors, they provide 3rd through 7th graders with extra academic tutoring, working with the schools to align with current curriculum. Many volunteer tutors are students at Curtis High School as well, helping them fulfill their Community Service graduation requirement. For more information about FUN or to donate food, time, or money to help support them, please visit their website at www.familiesunlimitednetwork.org.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Superintendent Chamberlin outlined on page one the variety and value of the offerings within the district’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Students may choose from some 33 different classes in total, split among 10 different “career

clusters,” detailed in black along the banners at the top and bottom of these pages. Each of these classes can function as a stand-alone introduction to a new area of interest, or serve as a jumping-off point for further pursuit—either in the advanced classes at Curtis

High School, or with one of the district’s higher education partners. The classes featured represent cutting-edge technology, job skill training, and real-world applications encompassed in the district’s CTE classes.



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

Real-world application was the goal of Commander Dave Swathwood, a retired United States Navy pilot, when he came up with the idea to teach his Navy Junior ROTC class about Unmanned Aerial Systems. The aircraft, commonly known as a drone, has a high-resolution camera that feeds a video signal to a handheld tablet. The class has a set of nine professional-grade

models identical to those used by the New York Police Department and in many other professional settings. The machines can fly up to four miles away from the user at speeds up to 40 miles per hour, according to Swathwood, who is a professionally licensed drone pilot himself. Under his supervision, students can practice both flying and navigating in two-person teams,

practicing search and rescue patterns, digital photography, and aerial maneuvers.

“By the end of this class,” said Swathwood, “a student can sit for the FAA certification exam and receive their license.” He also teaches them principles of aerodynamics, flight characteristics, video production, and other skills applicable to this expanding field of study.

PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Principles of Biomedical Sciences (PBS) is a popular CTE class with 180 students enrolled. The course introduces forensics, physiology, and biotechnology. “It’s great preparation for health sciences,” said Gretchen Fisher, one of the PBS teachers. “Not just for those interested in being a doctor or nurse, but there is a huge need for all kinds of biomedical technicians in the workforce right now.”

The district has added two more advanced classes in this field as well—Human Body



Systems and Medical Inter-ventions. In the photo above, students attempt to determine the caloric content of different foods, using calorimeters

and computer software to graph the rise in water temperature as they perform a controlled burn of each food item.

BUSINESS AND MARKETING

CHS offers three different Business and Marketing courses: Intro to Business and Marketing, Advertising and Entrepreneurship, and Retail Operations and Management. In addition to the courses, students can participate in Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). DECA is an organization that stresses entrepreneurship through club activities, student-run businesses, and local and national competitions. The CHS chapter recently excelled at regionals with 18 students



qualifying for the state competition in March.

The Operations and Management course provides students with real-world business and marketing experience as they manage the student store. Students are responsible for all components including marketing, sales, inventory,

and other factors to run a successful store.

The courses and DECA prepare students for the business world. The CTE curriculum articulates with local community colleges; students who complete courses and meet specific requirements can earn up to 20 college credits.

DISTRICT MISSION

The Mission of University Place School District, in partnership with our community, is to ensure that all UPSD students are competent, contributing citizens.

For many years, the School Board has set key goals for the district based on what you, the citizens of University Place, demand of our schools and of our graduates. Your input is appreciated as we strive to meet and exceed these expectations.

ENDS POLICY 2

All UPSD students meet or exceed high academic standards by acquiring the knowledge and skills essential for success in post-secondary education, the world of work, and citizenship.

ENDS POLICY 3

All UPSD students demonstrate the individual character qualities, emotional strength and social skills to succeed. They understand the importance of work and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect their future educational and career opportunities. They contribute to the betterment of school and community, and understand their responsibility to contribute to both family and society. They demonstrate knowledge and skills that reflect responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

As outlined by Board President Mary Lu Dickin-son in her message to the community on the inside cover, UPSD excels in nearly every academic area and across all grade levels, outperforming both the national and state averages on standardized testing. The district's goal, however, is for every student to graduate as a well-rounded, contributing citizen. As stated in the three "Ends" on this page, the community defines its citizens as hard-working, responsible, healthy, fit, and knowledgeable people who will contribute to the betterment of society. The Board welcomes you to attend its meetings and help shape the goals of the future.

ENDS POLICY 4

All UPSD students are healthy and physically fit, and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, habits and attitudes of a healthy and fit lifestyle that will successfully carry them into adult life.



University Place Primary was named a 2018 School of Distinction for the second consecutive year by the Center for Educational Effectiveness. Each year, schools demonstrating improvements in the top five percent of Washington State in reading/English language arts and mathematics are recognized with this prestigious award. At the ceremony are (from left to right) Principal Willie Keith and members of the UPP third-grade team Krissi Logan, Cleo Moore, and Rebecca Glassy.

CHORAL PROGRAM INSPIRING STUDENTS

Curtis High School offers an array of singing opportunities, with three large choirs, numerous small student singing groups, and a musical theater program. According to choir director and music teacher Dave Dickerson, the district-wide emphasis on music at each level of education in UPSD cultivates a pipeline of vocal talent that has his classes and groups overflowing with dedicated singers. Students are first exposed to blocks of vocal teaching in primary school, then at the intermediate level can choose from three musical pathways—vocals, band, and orchestra—each of which puts them in classes focusing on that specialty. Finally the junior and senior high schools each have three full choirs, comprising some 100 students at CHS.

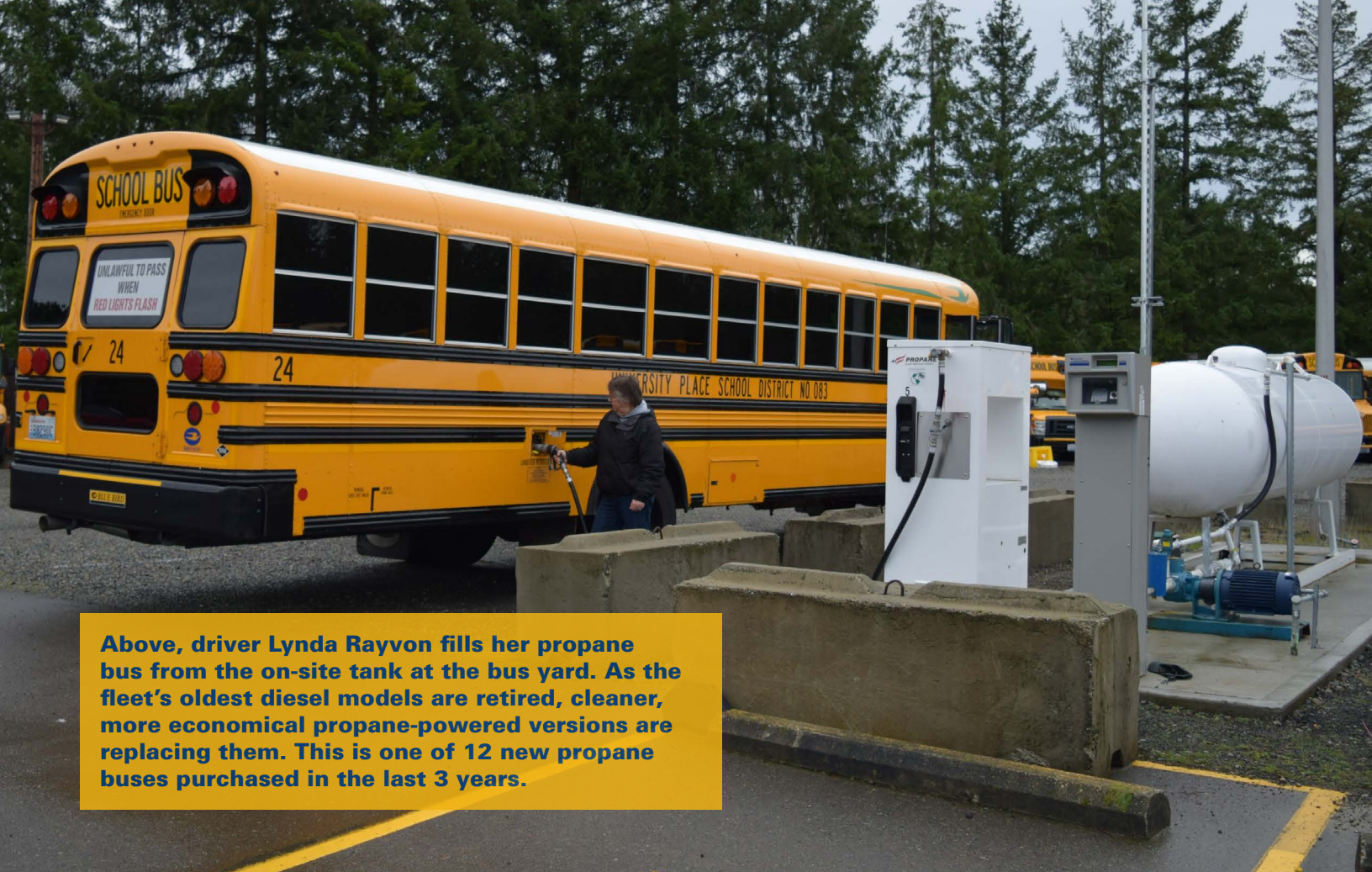
“These students aren’t just learning how to sing,” said Dickerson. “They’re learning about cooperating as a team, about leadership, and even about different cultures as we explore musical pieces from around the globe. Each year we sing in a half-dozen different languages and learn something about the choral traditions of each of them.”

The high school choirs also travel both regionally and nationally to various competitions, festivals, and performance opportunities. In the last few years, Dickerson has brought groups to sing at Pacific Lutheran University, the University of Washington, San Francisco, and even to a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York. These experiences have encouraged many students to continue their music in college and beyond.



Above, the Dorian Singers rehearse songs for a holiday concert. This all-female group is just one of three student choirs at Curtis High. Below, students from Curtis Junior High sing at the UP tree lighting ceremony.





Above, driver Lynda Rayvon fills her propane bus from the on-site tank at the bus yard. As the fleet's oldest diesel models are retired, cleaner, more economical propane-powered versions are replacing them. This is one of 12 new propane buses purchased in the last 3 years.

CLEANER, MORE ECONOMICAL PROPANE BUSES

Beginning three years ago, the district started to replace their oldest diesel buses with new propane-powered models, according to Transportation Manager Dawnett Wright. The life of a school bus is 13 years, per the state's depreciation schedule, so each year between 1 and 3 of their 43 buses are decommissioned and new ones procured. After thorough research, the district chose Blue Bird propane buses instead of new diesel-powered versions. "The drivers love them," said Wright. "They're incredibly quiet, so it's easier for them to monitor student safety and behavior. Plus they're great to drive, providing more power for getting up some of the steep hills on our routes." The new buses provide many advantages to the district:

- **Economy:** The operating costs are only about 50% of the diesel buses, due to cheaper fuel and reduced oil and maintenance.
- **Safety:** These buses have a fuel tank that is 20 times more puncture-resistant than the diesel versions. Additionally, the lighter engines make them easier to drive.
- **Environment:** No danger of fuel spills, it burns cleaner, and has a smaller carbon footprint than gasoline or diesel engines.
- **Performance:** The new buses are much lighter and more powerful, resulting in a smoother, safer vehicle for our drivers.
- **Quiet:** The reduced engine noise is nicer for our community, while making it easier for drivers to monitor student behavior.



PRESCHOOL IS KEY TO EARLY EDUCATION

Why is preschool important?

The year prior to kindergarten is a foundational year for children, often described as the most important year in their development, according to Executive Director of Primary Education Allison Drago. A quality developmental program exposes children to critical pre-academic skills and teaches them how to be learners. "Preschool is their initial exposure to school and sets the tone for their educational career," said Drago. Nationwide, fewer than 30% of kids attend preschool prior to kindergarten because there is a lack of availability of quality programs and many are cost prohibitive. That is why the district felt it was so important to offer an affordable, quality option to parents in University Place.

What do students learn in preschool?

UPSD offers an integrated-community, half-day program for three- and four-year-old children. They have the opportunity to work and play with age-appropriate peers of all developmental abili-

ties. "We strive to prepare them for kindergarten and ensure a smooth transition into our primary schools," said Drago. Important components include pre-literacy and math skills, exposure to school expectations through the teaching of school routines, fostering independence with self-help skills, and encouraging play and positive social interactions with peers.

Where are classes held?

As of last school year, preschool is held in new, dedicated classrooms at Sunset Primary. They are equipped and furnished especially to serve young students. In addition, a preschool-specific playground structure (pictured at bottom) was installed last summer.

What options are available?

Three-year-olds have the option of two or four days per week, while four-year-olds attend all five weekdays. The school year is split into eight sessions.

At right, a preschool student at Sunset Primary School learns a new craft in one of the dedicated, young-student classrooms. Below right, students enjoy the new, preschool-specific playground installed over the summer.



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for next year (2019-20) begins March 26. To locate the necessary application forms, please visit the district's website at www.upsd83.org. Click on the "Family Resources" tab and select "Registration Information." Completed applications should be delivered to the district office.



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Board of Directors
Mary Lu Dickinson, *President*
Ethelda Burke, *Vice President*
Annie Fitzsimmons
T'wina Nobles
Marisa Peloquin
Jeff Chamberlin, *Superintendent*

WINTER CALENDAR

- February 28** **Drum/NVI Science Fairs, 6:00 pm**
- March 5** **Kindergarten Registration Opens for 2019-20**
- March 10** **Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- March 11** **CHS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm**
- March 12** **CJHS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm**
- March 13** **CHS Spring Band Concert, 7:00 pm**
- March 14** **CHS Spring Choir Concert, 7:00 pm**
- March 19** **District Band Festival, 7:00 pm**
- March 22-23** **Curtis Jr. High Musical, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm**
- March 26** **Preschool Registration Opens for 2019-20**
- March 26** **CHS Career and Resource Fair, 5:00 pm**
- April 1-5** **Spring Vacation**
- April 11-13** **CHS Spring Play, *The Miracle Worker*, 7:00 pm**

Next Board Meeting

March 13 **Education Service Center (ESC)
Regular Meeting and
Study Session**

**Members of the public are encouraged to
attend meetings of the Board of Directors.**

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