



COMMUNITY SUPPORT: A KEY TO UPSD EXCELLENCE

A Message from School Board President Mary Lu Dickinson



An earnest thank you to the University Place voters for approving two essential levy proposals that will continue to fund wonderful staff, amazing programs, and important safety and technology upgrades, as well as keep our buildings well-maintained and protect the public's investment in these assets. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership as we move forward with a clear focus to prepare competent, contributing citizens. High academic expectations have led to continuous improvement as UPSD students continue to perform significantly above their state and national

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UPSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board welcomes community input. Members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings—see the calendar on the back cover for dates and locations—or contact them via e-mail at the addresses listed below.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin



UP citizens recently approved renewal of our Safety, Technology, and Capital

Improvements Levy and our Educational Programs and Operations Levy with more than 62 percent of voters in support. Turnout in our district was among the highest in Pierce County. On behalf of our students, parents, and staff, I want to thank our citizens for this wise investment in the future of our exceptional children and our fine community. These are just a few of the things that local levy funds will provide for kids over the next four years:

Safety

Both levies will ensure that already safe schools are even safer. Together, the levies will fund key safety staff like crossing guards, recess, and lunchtime supervisors, a School Resource Officer (SRO) and others. In addition, funds will allow us to continue improving district safety technology and make safety improvements to facilities. For example, local funding allows us to add access control technology to exterior doors at all schools (see story on page eight of this issue of the *Dialog*).

Technology

Our students and staff rely on technology systems now more than ever. Local levy funds will give greater access to students, support quality tech infrastructure, and allow for the right levels of computer maintenance and support so we can care for our assets and maximize the use of our equipment.

Excellent Teachers

The Educational Programs levy funding provides competitive compensation packages for our teachers. This will help ensure that we attract and retain the very best for UP kids. Local funds also ensure that our teachers have the curriculum materials they need and access to high quality professional development.

“On behalf of our students, parents, and staff, I want to thank our citizens for this wise investment in the future of our exceptional children and our fine community.”

— Jeff Chamberlin

Excellent Management and Leadership

Levy funds will help to attract and retain the smartest, most competent, and hardest working leaders for schools and departments. State funding alone is not adequate to support quality leadership in our system.

Excellent Facilities

Capital funds are used to maintain our buildings. New HVAC systems at multiple schools will ensure that kids experience good air quality while at school. Roof repairs and other projects will help to protect the community's assets.

Excellent Sports, Music, and Extracurriculars

University Place students have been among the best in the state in athletics and music for many years. Local funds make this all possible. Passage of our programs levy will allow these traditions to continue. Many additional opportunities like summer school, after-school learning, and others are funded by local dollars. Thanks to voters, these will continue.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns about our schools: 253-566-5600 or jchamberlin@upsd83.org.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

peers at every grade level. Our students are acquiring the knowledge and skills essential for success in post-secondary education, the world of work, and as contributing citizens. In addition, UP students continue to demonstrate their many skills in the areas of music, drama, sports, academic competition, community service, and many other extracurricular activities that enhance our community and provide additional opportunities for learning.

These accomplishments would not be possible with-

out the generous, steadfast financial support of our local citizens in the form of local levy funds. While the new state school funding system changes the way levies work, they are still needed to maintain the programs and services our kids need and our citizens expect. UP voters recognize this ongoing need and, once again, stepped up in support of students and teachers.

We hope you will find time to learn more about the many great things that taxpayer dollars make possible in University Place School

District by connecting with us on social media or visiting our website. We also welcome you to upcoming events at our schools (the spring calendar is located on the back cover of this issue of the *Dialog*)!

“These accomplishments would not be possible without the generous, steadfast financial support of our local citizens in the form of local levy funds.”



DRUM WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Earlier this year, the National Title I Distinguished Schools Program recognized Drum as one of only 61 schools in the country to win their prestigious award for exceptional student achievement. The National Title I Association highlights selected schools across the country that have used their Title I federal funds to improve the education for economically disadvantaged students for two or more consecutive years. Congratulations, Drum!



WELCOME CLASS OF 2031!



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NOW ONLINE!

Kindergarten registration is now even easier through our new online portal. If your child will turn five on or before August 31, 2018, you can register them at any time. Early registration is encouraged. Visit www.upsd.wednet.edu; pre-registration can be found under "Quick Links" on the left side of the page. 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 easy access to a computer, call the district office at 253-566-5600.

WHAT'S NEW IN TECHNOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT?



Each spring, required state testing serves as an important reminder of the progress we've made in our technology systems. This time of year also reminds us of the value of quality assessment and data in University Place School District. The growing connection between technology and testing benefits both students and teachers. Consistent technology upgrades, largely financed by taxpayer supported local levies, allow for a reduction in time spent testing and more efficient access to student data. These improvements help teachers to increase student growth and achievement.

What's new this year in ASSESSMENT?

State testing for English Language Arts and mathematics is relatively unchanged with students in third through eighth grade taking online Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). Tenth graders and eleventh graders who have yet to pass these exams will also take the SBA. In science, the state is replacing the existing tests (End of Course Biology and Measurement of Student Progress exams) with the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) in grades 5, 8, and 11.

At the district level, test-

ing historically designed to monitor progress and provide teachers with information to improve instruction are increasingly being taken online. These tests help teachers to provide support and intervention for struggling students. Testing online and getting results quickly shortens the time it takes to provide intervention, decreasing the time it takes for struggling students to catch up. At the primary grades, new online assessment options will

improve how teachers monitor the progress of student groups and work to support them. Helping students learn to read more quickly benefits them for a lifetime.

64	65	66	67	68	69	70
seventy-four	seventy-five	seventy-six	seventy-seven	seventy-eight	seventy-nine	eighty
74	75	76	77	78	79	80
eighty-four	eighty-five	eighty-six	eighty-seven	eighty-eight	eighty-nine	ninety
84	85	86	87	88	89	90
ninety-four	ninety-five	ninety-six	ninety-seven	ninety-eight	ninety-nine	one hundred
94	95	96	97	98	99	100
one hundred and four	one hundred and five	one hundred and six	one hundred and seven	one hundred and eight	one hundred and nine	one hundred



What's new this year in TECHNOLOGY?

Thanks to the community's support, the district has been steadily increasing the number of computers available to students. In years past, spring testing would have required us to shuffle computers between schools to facilitate testing. Due to the increased number of computers at each building, most schools will not need to

share computers with other sites, further reducing the disruption of instructional time caused by state assessments.

In addition, students will soon join their teachers in working in a Google climate when using computers to do school work. This transition will provide teachers more tools for communicating and

more flexibility in the use of technology in the classroom. Students will have their own log-in and storage system, increasing their access to curriculum and other resources significantly. These changes mirror the modern work environment and will help students learn important technology skills for their future.

Putting it all TOGETHER

Using technology does not guarantee that students will learn more or at a faster rate. However, upcoming improvements will allow students' to access content more efficiently and will also help connect them to curriculum resources using computers. In most cases, new textbook adoptions, supplemental resources,

online tools, as well as the new testing options described earlier will all be linked in one place for students and teachers. Students will become more fluent in the use of technology and will also have more time to devote to learning because of this technology.

Teachers have already been trained on the basics of

the new, integrated system components and training will continue in the coming years as we steadily implement new technologies in a way that benefits students. Teacher teams and administrators will continue to work together to find the best balance of technology and content in order to maximize learning.



VIKINGS SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Curtis High School students and volunteers Veronica Ramirez (right) and Chandler Walls (above) gather pruned branches at Curran Apple Orchard. The park, owned by the city of University Place, is one of many sites where CHS students volunteer their time and energy for the betterment of their school and community. This act of service is part of the Board of Directors' policy called E-3 Contributing Citizens, in which students must demonstrate the knowledge and skills essential to a democracy, working to help society and their fellow citizens. Through the school district, students can choose from a list of recurring or one-time tasks. Pictured here is one such task, a "work party" to do a spring pruning of the apple trees.

Curran Apple Orchard celebrates its 25th anniversary this year operating as a community park. Originally a working orchard and home to Charles and Mary Curran in the 1950's, a community group obtained Pierce County Conservation Futures Funds to save the property, later turning it over to the city. It continues to operate using volunteer staff, providing an "urban, edible, outdoor classroom," as they put it, offering opportunities for children and adults to learn about apple trees and partnering with the school district for instructional programs.

UP for Arts is currently raising money for an anniversary sculpture honoring the legacy of Charles Curran, a former school board member himself. For more information about the sculpture or to donate, please visit www.upforarts.org.



A NEW HOME FOR CURTIS LIFE SKILLS STUDENTS

The locally funded Life Skills rooms renovation (top photos) at Curtis High was completed in March. Special Education Teacher Kimberly Thompson and the staff can now use the complete kitchen shown bottom right to teach students with a wide range of needs how to become more self-reliant. In addition to cooking, the re-designed space has a full shower and ADA compliant restroom, multiple spaces for specific sensory needs of students, and improved access to transportation.



SCIENCE FAIRS

Intermediate students explain their science project to a visitor. Science fairs, according to Drum Principal Maile Carr, give students a chance to explore scientific questions and work through the scientific method in a hands-on way. Curtis students volunteer as judges at Drum, working towards fulfilling their community service graduation requirements, while judges at NVI are retired science teachers. Fairs are held every spring at both intermediate schools, while the primary schools have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) night.

SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS



SCHOOL ACCESS CONTROLS

“The safety of our students is paramount,” said Director of Safety and Operations Susie Whitlock. As part of ongoing district-wide efforts to improve building security, every school will soon have remote entry systems like those pictured here. These “access control” systems require visitors to interact with staff before they enter a school building. New video cameras and intercoms will allow staff to see who is requesting entry and talk with them about their reason for visiting before they are allowed to enter a school. The new system will replace traditional keys with cards that staff can use to activate locks and open doors. All staff members will be issued a card, and a limited number of cards will be used by students if they need to move through buildings when doors are locked. Lost cards can be immediately deactivated so they are no longer usable. At right, a student uses her temporary “hall pass” to reenter. These access control systems will be the latest addition to campus-wide security infrastructure. This technology is made possible by local funding collected in UPSD levies. Other safety and security infrastructure includes:

- perimeter control infrastructure such as fencing and signs that restrict access or direct visitors to a single access point at each site;
- point of entry infrastructure such as additional doors, locks etc. to limit access to classrooms and common areas;
- interior and exterior video cameras; and
- radio and intercom communications technology.

The district is committed to making our safe schools even safer by using funds provided by our local citizens to improve security systems and facilities to protect our students.



STAYING PROACTIVE

The district's Student Resource Officer (SRO), Aaron Wright, serves many functions. A first-responder, liaison with the police department, and trained police officer, he also helps run drills throughout the year and advises teachers and students on what they should do in case of an emergency. For example, here he answers questions at Chambers about how teachers should react to an active-shooter on campus. Any teacher can activate a lockdown from their classroom using their phone's intercom.



CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICERS

The junior and senior high both have a School Security Officer (SSO) to help in the building while school is in session. LeMar Michel, right, is the SSO at Curtis Junior High. A football coach and 2012 graduate of Curtis High, Michel knows virtually every student by name and they know him. His presence helps maintain order during the school day, ensures students' safety when moving between buildings, helps monitor security cameras, and provides on-campus threat awareness. Royal Peterson fills the same role at Curtis High.





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Dialog

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

SPRING CALENDAR

- May 5** Celebrate Community Event,
Curtis Junior High School, 5:30-7:30 pm
- May 12** Large Group Orchestra Festival,
Curtis Junior and Senior High Schools
- May 18-19** Curtis High School One Acts
- May 21** Curtis High School Honor Graduate
and Scholarship Night, 6:00 pm
- May 30** Curtis High School Band Finale, 7:00 pm
- May 31** Curtis High School Orchestra Finale, 7:00 pm
- June 4** Curtis High School Jazz Band Finale, 7:00 pm
- June 7** Curtis High School Choir Finale, 7:00 pm
- June 8** Community Transition Program Graduation
- June 13** Regular School Day – No Early Release
- June 15** Curtis High School Graduation,
Tacoma Dome, 7:00 pm
- June 20** Last Day of School

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- May 9** Curtis High School, Curtis Senior Linkage, 10:30 a.m.
- May 23** Educational Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
- June 13** Educational Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
- June 27** Educational Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
- July 11** Educational Service Center, 6:30 p.m.

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