



CHS Boys Swim/Dive & Boys Basketball Win State Titles

BOTH TEAMS AND
10 INDIVIDUAL
STATE CHAMPIONS
HONORED.

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Successful Levies, Community Connections and Championships

A Message from School Board President Rick Maloney



Like many in our community, the board welcomes signs that we are making progress in our return to normalcy in the schools, including the removal of the statewide emergency mask mandate. Enabling options for students and parents, while retaining sensible precautions in consideration of those who are most vulnerable,

is a fair and sensible way forward. We are hopeful that this progress will continue.

In February, our community's strong tradition of support for schools was validated once more by approval of two school levy proposals with record numbers of "yes" votes -- far above the required majority for passage. We intend to continue earning the trust you have shown by providing careful stewardship of the district budget.

February also marked a continuation of a series of board listening sessions on race and equity. We heard a range of views on this topic and will continue to pay attention to citizen input while reviewing district implementation of policy with the intent to bring about the best possible education for all students in the district -- with support that matches their needs.

In March, we celebrated Curtis High School state championships for the boys' swimming and basketball teams. Congratulations to team members, coaches, staff members, parents and the student body!

We look forward to celebrating another graduation season next month. Graduation festivities will bring back some time-honored traditions that are once again possible, while also retaining more recent innovations such as conducting the ceremony in our own Viking Stadium and the "Senior Car Tour" through the community to honor graduates.

Curtis Senior Clara Blakeslee Crowned Daffodil Festival Queen

Congratulations to Curtis High School Senior Clara Blakeslee for being named the 2022 Daffodil Festival Queen. A panel of judges selected her as queen from 23 daffodil princesses based on her skills, abilities and attitudes. The princesses gave her a second honor by naming her "Miss Congeniality" of the Daffodil Royal Court. Queen Clara will represent the Daffodil Festival in community service projects and events the Royal Court will attend throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Daffodil princesses are selected from Pierce County high schools following interviews of girls with high grade point averages and histories of community service. Curtis Principal Tom Adams says Clara is an exceptional representation of Curtis High School and University Place. "She is so deserving of this recognition," he says. "She radiates positivity and ensures each person with whom she comes in contact is valued. We could not be more proud of her."



Thank You For Supporting Our Schools...Again.



A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the University Place community for the tremendous show of support in our February levy election. High voter turnout and a solid YES! vote for both levies is a powerful example of how this UP community is committed to public education. More than 66.5% of participants voted to approve both levy propositions.

Local funding continues to be a prerequisite for any successful school district in Washington State. It accounts for about 15% of our entire budget. Without this funding, many things would not happen for our students. The ongoing commitment made by University Place citizens to a robust, thriving school system is notable and impactful.

Successful passage of Propositions #1 and #2 will allow us to continue to:

- *Fund a school nurse at every school to support kids with medical needs, provide first aid, administer medication and respond when students are ill*
- *Provide high levels of counselor support at every school to help students stay on track for graduation, support mental health and work with families*
- *Employ more teachers to keep class sizes low and to provide strong support for all students and extra support in literacy and math for students who need it*
- *Operate a high quality music program in all schools*
- *Engage students in outstanding athletic programs like our state championship swimming and basketball teams*
- *Continue investing in technology to promote learning, increase equity and ensure safe and efficient operations*
- *Invest in the maintenance and improvement of school facilities including quality ventilation systems for student health, addition of a synthetic turf field for school and community use and numerous other projects*

Funding for these and other important purposes will continue through 2023. On behalf of everyone in UPSD, I want to thank this amazing community for making students and education a priority. Thank you!

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 or call (253) 566-5600.



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UP Spotlights

Alumni Spotlight: Cindy Brunson, Pac-12 Network Play-By-Play Broadcaster

Cindy Brunson (CHS 1985) made history when she went on air January 26 to do play-by-play announcing for the inaugural game of the Athletes Unlimited women's professional basketball league. Brunson not only became the first woman of color to be the primary voice for a professional sports league, but she also did it with one of her idols, the legendary WNBA star Sheryl Swoopes by her side as the commentator.

Calling professional games with Swoopes is the most recent highlight in an already outstanding career for the Curtis High graduate. After graduating from WSU, Brunson enjoyed a short stint at KATU in Portland covering the U of O, OSU, and the NBA's Portland Trailblazers.

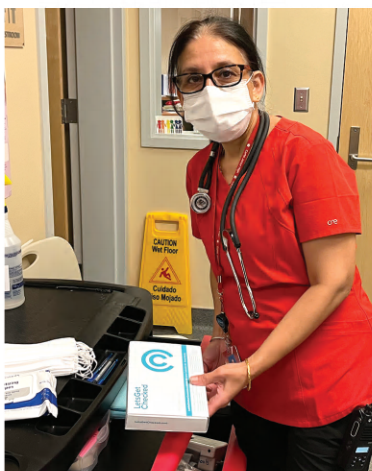
Soon ESPN came calling and for 13 years Brunson enjoyed a variety of positions at the network including anchoring SportsCenter, hosting the popular morning show First Take, and working as an analyst for College Basketball Live. After leaving ESPN, she went to work for the Pac-12 Network as part of their broadcast team. "I owe a great deal to Curtis and especially former Boys Basketball Coach Don Houston and Football Coach Bob Lucey," says Brunson. "Both encouraged and supported me in my bid to become a public address announcer for both sports. Those incredible experiences really whet my appetite to pursue a career in sports broadcasting," she says.



Cindy Brunson
Pac-12 Network Play-by-Play
Broadcaster



NETWORK



Satwant Singh-Kurtz
RN, CJH School Nurse

Faculty Spotlight: Satwant Singh-Kurtz

A school nurse at Curtis Jr. High, Satwant (Sant) Singh-Kurtz, RN, grew up in Manchester, U.K., and moved to the U.S. in 1992. She first joined UPSD as a school nurse at Curtis High School and was there from 2008-2010. She then worked as a Program Director for internationally educated nurses at Tacoma Community College before returning to UPSD as a school nurse at CJH in 2015.

Sant's responsibilities include intake of new students, checking health information, immunizations, medications, and student health education. She writes health care plans and cares for students with chronic conditions. She administers medication daily, provides emergency aid for students and staff, and keeps electronic medical records updated. Sant has played a significant role on the district's COVID-19 Safety Team. Under direction from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, she's been responsible for setting up school day cares, isolation rooms, school COVID-19 plans and student safety.

Her interest after retirement is to volunteer for immunization programs in third world countries to prevent childhood diseases.



Student Spotlight: Jake Lowery & Joey McNelly

“You get what you put in” is a favorite quote of Curtis High School senior Jake Lowery’s. Apparently he and long-time friend and classmate Joey McNelly put in a lot to their senior DECA project that earned the highest level (gold) re-certification of a DECA school-based enterprise (student store) at the state competition. They’ve both been involved for three years in the Curtis DECA club that’s embedded in the high school business and marketing classes. DECA Advisor Darin Ringenbach says the club’s mission is to “prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.”

Done primarily at home in the evenings, their project included research, a written report, and presentation of their findings. They demonstrated how the student store meets DECA’s national curriculum standards and how it adheres to select model business standards. The gold re-certification qualified them to attend

the national DECA conference in Atlanta last month.

Jake Lowery: Perhaps influenced by his DECA involvement and business and marketing classes, Jake opened his own business detailing cars – Lowery Car Detailing. He also plays lacrosse for Curtis, has been the defensive MVP on the team for three years, and coaches youth lacrosse. He’s interested in a career in marketing or finance and plans to attend the University of Washington Tacoma.

Joey McNelly: Joey says that DECA is his favorite class. “DECA is one of the classes that really prepares you for work and life after high school,” he says. Joey also plays on the varsity baseball team and has volunteered for several community organizations. He’s interested in a career in business or finance and hopes to attend the University of Southern California.



**University Place
Historical Society**

Community Partner Spotlight: U.P. Historical Society

In the fall of 1999, a small group of local citizens gathered to discuss collecting information about the history of University Place. The University Place Historical Society (UPHS) incorporated in 2000 and opened a temporary museum in 2013. It provided a place for the society to collect, identify, catalog, preserve, and display historic photographs and artifacts from University Place and the region to share with the community.

Under renovation is a new museum to be located in the Curran House in the Curran Apple Orchard Park on Grandview. Work in the museum should be completed this month, but a driveway and parking won’t likely be finished until the summer of 2023. Frank Bonaro is Co-President with Donna Perry at the UPHS. Frank’s wife, Cindy, started the society in 1999 when she was the head librarian at the UP Library. “People wanted to know where to bring historical artifacts from University Place, so she started collecting items,” says Frank. The two of them have volunteered ever since.

The society has about 25 volunteers and is funded primarily by grants, its annual garden tour, and by renting out the Curran House’s upper floor. Citizens can support the museum by volunteering or with donations. Visit www.uphistoricalsociety.org.



Pictured is George R. Curtis, the first teacher-principal of University Place School, visiting with students. The UPHS has remastered the photograph that will hang in the new museum.

Curtis Aquatic Center Programs Succeed on Many Levels



The WIAA state championship trophy the Curtis High School boys swim and dive team brought home this past winter was certainly cause for celebration. For the first time since 1992, the Vikings captured the state 4A championship and the team's success was celebrated by Viking swimmers going all the way back to that championship squad from 30 years ago.

Staying Invested

Competitive and successful aquatics programs have been the norm at CHS for decades. This past school year, in addition to the boys swim and dive state championship, the girls team finished second and several athletes on both teams earned individual state titles. Whether it's one of the swim or water polo teams, the cornerstone of this success is the community atmosphere that permeates the programs that share the Curtis pool. "Once you become part of the program, you want to stay invested," Head Boys Swim & Dive Coach Dennis Piccolotto (CHS 1998) says with pride.

Huge Teams Create Community Atmosphere

"We have HUGE teams," says Aaron Hughes (CHS '06), Girls Swim & Dive Coach and Aquatic Center Facility and Operations Manager. "The girls swim team is the largest team on campus with about 80 girls on the team. A big advantage of that isn't necessarily about winning— it's the community atmosphere that that creates—with lots of people in the pool—with varying degrees of ability."



Promoting Lifelong Skills

Whether it's the perennial state champion water polo teams (boys: 17 state titles, girls: 6 state titles) or the over 140 athletes yearly in boys and girls swimming, each program promotes lifelong skills. Girls Swim & Dive two-time state champion Gabi Bellin agrees. "The Curtis High School Girls Water Polo team has helped girls through the ability to take the lessons they learn in this program and apply them to life," she says.

"These programs are more than just swimming and polo," says Coach Piccolotto, "they are tools to build character and teach skills such as goal setting, teamwork, and commitment." Senior swimmer Patrick Keough (200 free and 100 fly state champion) explains that being part of the boys team played a major role in his development as a person. "The program has taught me the skills necessary to be a strong and compassionate leader," he says.

Second & Fifth Graders Learn Water Safety

Younger students are introduced to the pool and its community atmosphere early in their education in UPSD schools. All second and fifth graders have swimming instruction as part of their physical education curriculum. "What is most important is that our program gives the students – especially the younger ones -- a place to learn water safety," says Coach Hughes. "The district invests in aquatics for kids at an early age."

Jr High & High School Students Offered Variety of Classes

In the seventh grade, instructors assess both student skill level and experience and place them in the appropriate groups for their nine weeks of eighth grade swimming instruction. The high school students have a variety of elective classes in the pool to choose from. Watersports (competitive swimming, water polo, underwater hockey and diving) and lifeguard certification are available as well as the swim teaching assistant classes where the high school students become invaluable instructors for primary and intermediate students.



Students & Community Members Use Pool Year Round

The spacious pool opened in 2010 after an extensive remodel and is used 15-16 hours a day during the week – from 5:30am to 9:00pm. The swim and water polo teams use it for training and competition and students in grades 2-12 take classes there. When UPSD students are not in the pool, it's widely used by the University Place community. Water aerobics, lap swimming, open swim, and youth swim lessons are popular throughout the year. Two competitive swim clubs (USA swimming and water polo) for athletes 8-18 rent the facility for weekend trainings as do community organizations and groups certifying swimmers for scuba, West Pierce Fire and Rescue, and others.



Grateful for Levy Funding

Local levy funds are essential to the full range of aquatics programs. Funds are used to operate the pool and also to maintain and repair it when needed. "Pools take lots of maintenance," says Coach Hughes. "But in the UP School District, it's a priority to provide a high-quality facility for the kids and the community. The district and the community support of the school levies provide the funding, and we are very grateful for that," he says.



2022 The Year of the Viking

A Night of Champions: Two State Titles and Ten Individual Champions

With the past two years of COVID-19 restrictions and cancellations, participating in the post-season was a long time coming for Curtis High School athletic teams. In spite of the COVID layoffs, the Viking boys basketball and boys swim and dive teams capped outstanding seasons by winning 4A WIAA state championships this winter. They were honored, along with ten outstanding individual state champions, at a Night of Champions celebration this spring.

Boys Swim & Dive



“Yes we can!” became the motto of the boys swim and dive team as they focused on not allowing the negative energy of the past two years to affect their season. The state victory is the second state title in the program’s history and first since 1992, a span of 30 years. Out of the 12 high school swim and dive events, the 2022 team broke seven CHS records. “The boys focused on what they could do instead of what they couldn’t and did a great job of jump-starting our program after the COVID layoff. This season will reinforce an already strong foundation for future years,” said Head Coach Dennis Piccolotto.

In many ways, the two teams’ seasons parallel one another: dominant regular seasons, South Puget Sound League championships, West Central District championships, and unforgettable state titles. Both teams utilized a nice mix of experienced upperclassmen and outstanding young athletes who worked very hard to overcome the both off-season and in-season COVID-19 setbacks.

Boys Basketball



The future looks bright for the boys basketball hoopsters as well with a strong group of young players returning next season. “It was remarkable how our young team adapted to playing in the Tacoma Dome,” said Head Coach Tim Kelly. The Vikings beat defending state champion and #1 ranked Mount Si 52-49 in overtime, denying the Wildcats a perfect season. This championship is the school’s third state title in boys basketball having won titles in 2013 and 1971. “We had an awesome year and all the kids really came through despite all the COVID setbacks we experienced.”

Up *“Yes we did!”*



We are the Champions!

The two championship teams surely led the way, but all the CHS athletic teams have shined throughout the school year. This outstanding year is a direct result of district leadership, coaches and staff working diligently to keep our student-athletes active and safe within the state and local health guidelines. This intentional planning produced some unbelievable results. Out of the 17 teams that competed this school year, all of them made the playoffs. Twelve of the 17 teams made appearances at their respective state tournaments. Results included a 4th place (girls bowling), 3rd place (girls wrestling), two 2nd places (girls swim & dive and volleyball), and the two champions in boys basketball and boys swim and dive.

Individual State Titles

In addition to the two state champion teams, ten student-athletes brought home state championships in their events. Congratulations to all those listed below.

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE: 200 FREE

Gabi Bellin

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE: 200 FREE RELAY

Gabi Bellin, Alexa Proctor, Trinity Link, and Athea Caritativo / *Pictured*

BOYS SWIM & DIVE: 200 FREE AND 100 FLY

Patrick Keough (All American Automatic in Fly)

BOYS SWIM & DIVE: 50 FREE

Tolu Young (All American Automatic)

BOYS SWIM & DIVE: 200 FREE RELAY

Tolu Young, Sam Funches, Eric Kwon, Patrick Keough (All American Automatic and Meet / State Record)

BOYS SWIM & DIVE: 400 FREE RELAY

Tolu Young, Logan Kwon, Eric Kwon, Patrick Keough (All American and Meet Record)

GIRLS WRESTLING

Clarissa Wangen, 145 lbs. (first state individual girls wrestling title) *Pictured*



Girls Swim and Dive pose for a picture after taking 2nd place at the WIAA State Tournament.

Photo by: Maria Dorsten



At the Night of Champions, Clarissa Wangen shares her experience of becoming the first girls wrestling state champion at Curtis High School.

Four-Week Summer School Program Offered to Identified Students in Need

Summer Achievement Academy (UPSD Summer School) is provided annually to students who qualify (or have qualified in the school year) for academic intervention in grades K-7 and for students in need of credit recovery in grades 8-12. The free program is typically four weeks long and is offered to identified students in three grade bands: K-4, 5-7, and 8-12.

Students are provided with more than two hours of daily, onsite, intensive instruction in core academics. Class sizes are kept small to best meet individual needs. Free breakfast and lunch is provided each school day and those who live within the school district boundaries are offered bus transportation. Director of Teaching and Learning Angie Franklin says that students who qualify for summer school will receive an invitation this spring.



Registration Open for 2022-23 School Year

RESIDENT STUDENTS Registration is now open for new in-district students for the 2022-23 school year. Registration is completed by using the online registration portal for students from kindergarten through 12th grades. Early registration is encouraged. The portal is best accessed on a computer, not a mobile device. If you do not have access to a computer or have any questions, call the district office at (253) 566-5600.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS must be accepted by UPSD with a completed non-resident application and a Choice Transfer Release from their resident districts before completing the online pre-registration process. New 2022-23 out-of-district applications for grades 1-12 are being accepted now and new out-of-district applications for kindergarten will be accepted starting August 16, 2022.

Instructions and applications are available at upsd83.org on the K-12 Online Student Registration page under the Family Resources section.

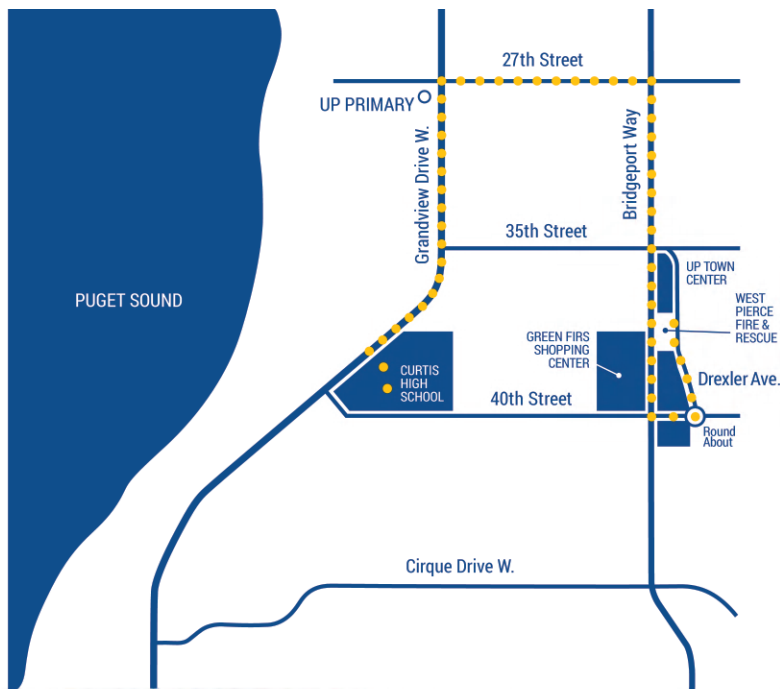


CHS Graduation: June 10 & Senior Car Tour June 11



Curtis High School is excited that this year's Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremonies will be held outdoors at Viking Stadium on Friday, June 10 at 6:00pm. Administrators are planning on one ceremony to enable the class to graduate together. This is a ticketed event with limited seating reserved for families of graduates. Those who cannot attend may watch via livestream. We will continue to update logistical information to seniors and their families as we move through the spring.

To celebrate this year's senior class, we invite students, families, alums and community members to the CHS Senior Tour on Saturday, June 11 from 10:00am to noon. Community members can congratulate and cheer on the seniors as they drive a route through University Place. Tour begins at Curtis High and ends at the Windmill Village lot.



Special Thanks to Our Community Senior Tour Supporters!

- CHS/CJH PTSA
- CHS & CJHS Staff
- UPSD Board of Directors
- University Place Presbyterian Church
- Neighborhood Church
- UP Police
- West Pierce Fire and Rescue
- City of UP & UP City Council
- UP/Fircrest Rotary
- Little Viks Football
- UP Vikings Lacrosse Club
- Little Viks Baseball
- Drum & NVI Staff
- UPSD Primary School Staff
- Sunset Bible Church



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UpDialog

The Dialog is published periodically by the University Place School District for University Place residents and businesses.

The University Place School District complies with all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including language), sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in student education programs, co-curricular activities, and employment practices. The district is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer encouraging application of qualified minorities, women, and disabled persons for employment and other opportunities. University Place School District is committed to providing access to all District programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For elevator access at school sites, contact the principal's office. The University Place School District is a drug-free/smoke-free work place and educational setting. Direct inquiries regarding compliance, grievance, or appeal procedures, or concerns involving students, should be made to the District Affirmative Action Officer/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator/Title IX Officer/HIB Compliance Officer/Gender-Inclusive Schools Coordinator, Executive Director of Secondary Education, **Lainey Mathews**, lmathews@upsd83.org; or Section 504/FAPE/ADA concerns should be made to Executive Director of Special Services, **Kelly McClure**, kmclure@upsd83.org. Both can be contacted at (253) 566-5600, 3717 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466.

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Upcoming Events

- May 27 -30** Memorial Day Weekend, No School
- June 10** Curtis High School Graduation, Viking Stadium, 6 pm
- June 11** Curtis High School Senior Tour, 10am -12pm
- June 17** Last Day of School
- June 20** Juneteenth Observed, District Offices Closed

For more information on events and the district calendar, please visit our website at www.upsd83.org

Upcoming Board Meetings

- June 8** @ Virtually and In-person, Educational Service Center
- July 13** @ Virtually and In-person, Educational Service Center
- August 10** @ Virtually and In-person, Educational Service Center

BOARD MEETINGS PUBLIC & VIRTUAL: All Board Meetings will be held in-person and virtually. The locations of the in-person meetings are posted to www.upsd83.org/school_board/meeting_schedule. The link to access the virtual meetings is posted on the district website.

For additional information and location, please visit: www.upsd83.org/school_board/meeting_schedule



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