



## UP Is an 'Education First' Community

A Message from School Board President Michael Ehart




Education is changing constantly. In the swirl of new and old ideas, it is easy to lose track of why we are here and what our goals are. I was born in 1955, the same year that *Why Johnny Can't Read* was published. That book kicked up a firestorm in education, led to congressional hearings, and had a major impact on the public's involvement in determining how their children were taught. It seems that every few years since then, there has been a new attempt to redefine how our children are educated. In University Place

School District, we have consistently resisted the pressure to "change for change's sake." *Continued on page 2*

Welcome to the new look of the University Place School District's *Dialog*. By changing to a more efficient magazine-style format, the school district is saving money and becoming more environmentally sound—the paper is sourced from sustainably grown trees that are both SFI and FSC certified—while presenting a more colorful glimpse of all the wonderful things going on within our schools and around our University Place community. In these pages we will continue to keep you, the public, informed about our efforts to maintain our school district's standing as one of the preeminent districts in the state. Our schools are a vital part of our community, and we know the public is invested in their future as much as we are.

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A wide-angle photograph of a large group of students gathered on a football field during an evacuation drill. The students are spread across the green field, some standing in lines and others in small groups. In the background, there is a red running track, a large stadium with blue bleachers, and several school buildings under a clear blue sky. A tall stadium light pole is visible on the left side of the field.

**Below, students meet at the Curtis High School stadium as part of an evacuation drill. UPSD students practice their emergency preparedness on a regular basis.**

# STUDENT SAFETY COMES FIRST

## A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin



Recent incidents all around the world remind us that keeping one another safe is a full-time job and a team effort. While educating students is our primary objective in UPSD, keeping students safe is our first and greatest responsibility. Student safety and emergency preparedness have long been a priority for us and I want to share some of the most important strategies we use to keep kids safe:

### **Emergency Preparedness**

The school district has a clear set of emergency procedures for a wide range of possible threats including fire, earthquake, intruders, active shooters, and other hazards. We review these procedures with staff and students annually and we conduct regular drills to practice our response. For example, we recently participated in the Great Washington Shakeout—a statewide

earthquake drill—as a way to prepare. Students in our schools are well-versed in taking cover, locking down, and evacuating should they need to do so in an emergency.

### **Clear Rules, Well Taught**

Developing clear rules and procedures and taking time to teach them to students also helps kids stay safe. School staff talk with kids about the behaviors they expect at school throughout the year.

In particular, we make it clear to kids that bullying is not allowed and that weapons and other dangerous items or behaviors have no place in our schools.

### **Supervision at All Times**

Adult supervision is critical to student safety. Our kids are safer—and they feel safer—when adults are present in classrooms, hallways, in the lunchroom, and on the playground. We have systems in place to make sure that kids are supervised at all times when they are at school.

### **Investing in Safety**

Local tax dollars are used to invest in student safety by hiring safety personnel and by purchasing safety equipment. We employ security officers at both CJH and CHS and contract with UP Police for a School Resource Officer who

is available to staff and students at all eight schools. Crossing guards help keep students safe on the way to and from school and hired supervisors look after students at lunch and during recess. We also invest in important safety technology such as video cameras, emergency radios, and other communication tools.

### **Community Partnerships**

Parents help keep schools safe by reporting any concerns they are aware of promptly to administrators. We are grateful for the information we receive from concerned parents and their students. We also meet regularly with first responders about general safety, specific incidents, and our emergency procedures.

We will continue to keep student safety at the forefront of our thinking and effort. We have many goals and objectives as a school district, but nothing is more important than caring for the children of our community. If you have questions about student safety or suggestions on how to make our schools safer, please contact me.

# IX, Washington State Constitution

## BOARD PRESIDENT MICHAEL EHART'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

Instead, we have remained committed to a proven set of objectives and practices that we know work for students.

It is important for us to remember, as Board Directors and as citizens, that our responsibility is first to the education of our children. The citizens of University Place have a long and proud history of putting their local schools first. Even our state constitution says, in Article IX, "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of

race, color, caste, or sex." Paramount!

It has been my distinct pleasure to have served on the University Place School

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*"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex."*

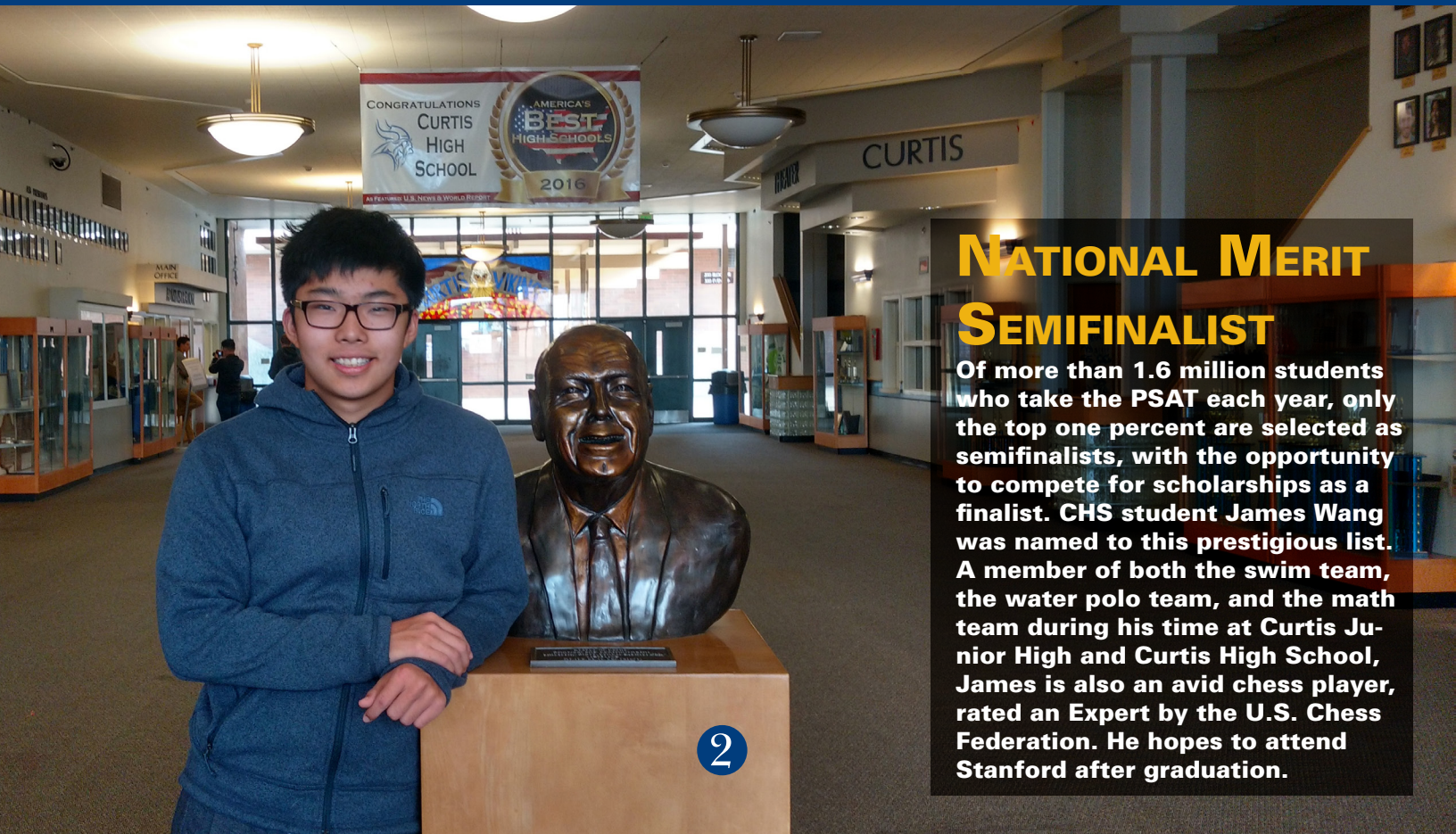
— State Constitution, Article IX

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Board for these eight years. In that time I have seen just how important it is to the staff, the

administration, the Board, and to every citizen that has come before us, stopped me on the street or at the grocery store, called, or e-mailed that we get this one thing right.

I am proud of the job that University Place Schools have done in creating a positive place to learn for our kids, while following through with research-tested methods that have resulted in our district consistently being considered one of the top districts in the state. I am confident that we—with the continued support of our community—will maintain this high standard in the years to come.



## NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

Of more than 1.6 million students who take the PSAT each year, only the top one percent are selected as semifinalists, with the opportunity to compete for scholarships as a finalist. CHS student James Wang was named to this prestigious list. A member of both the swim team, the water polo team, and the math team during his time at Curtis Junior High and Curtis High School, James is also an avid chess player, rated an Expert by the U.S. Chess Federation. He hopes to attend Stanford after graduation.

Below, winners of the Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award pose at Curtis High School. The award is given annually to African-American students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and good citizenship. Row 1, left to right: Charissa Bacon, Corrine Crear, Christian Williams, Terrell Banks, Mugabi Mirimo, Brandon Lee, Maria Smith, Principal Tom Adams. Row 2: Saudia Heard, Philandra Eargle, Isaac Morrow, Marcus Washington, Tykierra Rogers, Eric Jackson, Curtrianna Muhammad. Not Pictured: David Brazier, Tori Brockman, Jason Lee, Jordan Williams.



# CHARISSA BACON GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT ELIZABETH WESLEY AWARDS CEREMONY

Senior Charissa Bacon represented UPSD as the keynote speaker at the annual Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award Ceremony at Clover Park Technical College in September. Selected from a group of more than 250 students to present the keynote address, she was also the recipient of the Key Bank Scholarship at the ceremony. Charissa has attended UP schools since kindergarten and is the daughter of Sunset Reading Specialist Adrina Bacon.

Charissa is a strong student, talented musician, and

school leader. She was selected as Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen as a junior and is currently leading the student-led Cultures United club at Curtis High School. She is tireless in her efforts to promote cultural acceptance and ensure that her high school is a great environment for all students to learn.

Charissa was joined at the awards ceremony by 17 talented classmates (pictured above) with a wide variety of skills and talents. CHS students are well-represented at the Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Awards each

year and have been for over a decade. We are very proud of our student honorees for who they are and what they have accomplished. For more information about the awards, visit [www.ewesleyaward.org](http://www.ewesleyaward.org).



**Charissa Bacon gives the keynote address at the Elizabeth Wesley Awards ceremony.**



# CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Tom Adams

Contact Information: 253-566-5710

Grade Levels Served: 10-12

Mascot: Vikings

Enrollment: 1420

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- The 2016-17 graduation rate was an all-time high of 91.2%.
- Jackie Thomas was named Dean of Students, a new position at CHS.
- The Career and College Readiness Center schedules frequent College Aid and Scholarship workshops and coordinates college visits throughout the year.
- The choir went to Carnegie Hall and the Symphonic Orchestra swept the awards at the inaugural music festival in Washington, D.C.
- Coming this year is a new cafeteria floor and the life skills center renovation.

**Curtis High School Vikings stand at attention and ready for inspection in the NJROTC program. NJROTC serves approximately 100 students at Curtis High School.**

# CURTIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Jayne Hofstrand  
 Contact Information: 253-566-5670  
 Grade Levels Served: 8-9  
 Mascot: Cougars  
 Enrollment: 970

**Important Facts and Highlights:**

- Over half of Cougar students participate in extracurricular school activities.
- Cougar students demonstrate excellence as athletes, performers, and artists.
- Nearly 400 students participate in Curtis Junior High music programs.
- Four sports seasons provide athletic participation opportunities for over 100 eighth-grade students each quarter and many ninth graders participate in Curtis High School athletic programs.

**Students at Curtis Junior High School work together as they learn about science. Students study earth-based science in 8th grade and physical science or chemistry in 9th grade at CJH.**





## **DRUM INTERMEDIATE**

**Principal:** Maile Carr

**Contact Information:** 253-566-5660

**Grade Levels Served:** 5-7

**Mascot:** Wolves

**Enrollment:** 590

### **Important Facts and Highlights:**

- Drum is a 2016 recipient of a Washington State Achievement Award for Closing the Achievement Gap.
- Drum teacher Carolyn Mills was selected as the 2016 Teacher of the Year for UPSD.
- This fall, Drum was named a National Title 1, Part A, Distinguished School Award winner for 2017-18.
- New this year are Multicultural Night and the Science Fair. Check the district calendar for dates.

**7th graders prepare for fall concerts. All UPSD students begin taking music classes when they reach 5th grade. See the back page for a calendar of upcoming events.**

## **NARROWS VIEW INTERMEDIATE**

**Principal:** Jennifer Wong

**Contact Information:** 253-566-5630

**Grade Levels Served:** 5-7

**Mascot:** Nighthawks

**Enrollment:** 690

### **Important Facts and Highlights:**

- Narrows View welcomed a new assistant principal, Frank Reed, this year.
- Narrows Views is a 2016 recipient of a Washington State Achievement Award for Special Recognition Math Growth.
- Positive behavior is celebrated every day at NVI. The Nighthawk Superstars program allows staff to look for opportunities to reward students for following the 3 Be's: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible.
- NVI offers three sessions of enrichment classes throughout the year. The most popular classes include robotics, pottery, chess, and drama.

**NVI students sharpen their chess skills in one of several after-school enrichment programs.**





## CHAMBERS PRIMARY

Principal: Ali Shepard

Contact Information: 253-566-5650

Grade Levels Served: K-4

Mascot: Bulldogs

Enrollment: 500

### Important Facts and Highlights:

- Chambers is a 2016 recipient of a Washington State Achievement Award for Overall Excellence, Special Recognition Math Growth, and Special Recognition ELA Growth.
- Chambers is building empathy and emotional regulation in our students through social emotional curriculum and school-wide common language.
- A new portable was built over the summer to increase available learning spaces for students.
- Chambers will begin a playground renovation project later this year.

**Bulldogs practice independent reading skills while sitting in the tub in the library. Each UPSD school benefits from a full-time librarian to help kids become lifelong readers.**

## EVERGREEN PRIMARY

Principal: Cliff Schlattmann

Contact Information: 253-566-5680

Grade Levels Served: K-4

Mascot: Eagles

Enrollment: 515

### Important Facts and Highlights:

- Evergreen welcomed a new principal, Cliff Schlattmann, and a new assistant principal, Laura Sloan.
- Evergreen is a 2016 recipient of a Washington State Achievement Award for Special Recognition Math Growth.
- Evergreen has after-school math and literacy programs.
- The Eagle Pride program encourages positive choices and behaviors throughout the school.

**Eagle students work together to solve math problems. Students at Evergreen and across the district use the district's own RAMP math curriculum and see great results. Students learn important math concepts, as well as learn how to listen and collaborate.**







## SUNSET PRIMARY

**Principal:** Mary Godwin-Austen  
**Contact Information:** 253-566-5640  
**Grade Levels Served:** K-4  
**Mascot:** Tigers  
**Enrollment:** 520

### Important Facts and Highlights:

- Sunset welcomed a new assistant principal, Kristen Hillman, this fall.
- Sunset is a 2016 recipient of a Washington State Achievement Award for High Progress.
- PE teachers are introducing monthly healthy fitness calendars for all students. These activities are for students and families.
- UPSD's full preschool program is housed at Sunset. There are four new classrooms with AM and PM preschool sessions. Sunset has welcomed 80 new students from 3-5 years old.

**Sunset Tigers learn about spiders in their preschool classes and made spider hats to help learn how to count to eight. Building each student's background knowledge about science and nature is a goal at the primary level.**

## UNIVERSITY PLACE PRIMARY

**Principal:** Willie Keith  
**Contact Information:** 253-566-5620  
**Grade Levels Served:** K-4  
**Mascot:** Mustangs  
**Enrollment:** 520

### Important Facts and Highlights:

- University Place Primary is a 2016 recipient of a Washington State Achievement Award for High Progress.
- Pictured at right, the At Promise program is aimed at providing extra support for male students of color.
- UPP has after-school math and literacy programs.
- The UPP staff spends time collaborating on student intervention strategies and best practices for supporting students.

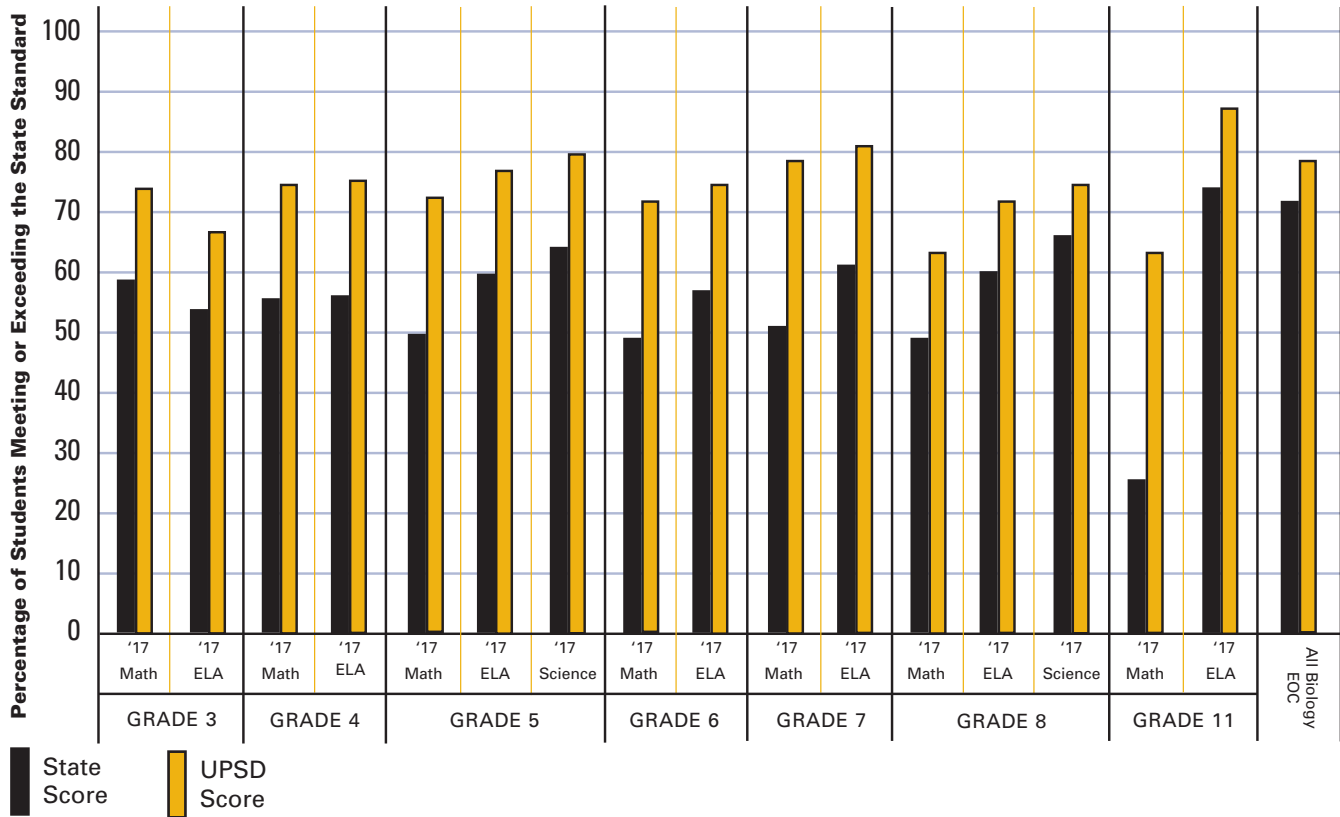
**Betty Gray with students in the At Promise program. This program has provided extra support for male students of color for many years.**



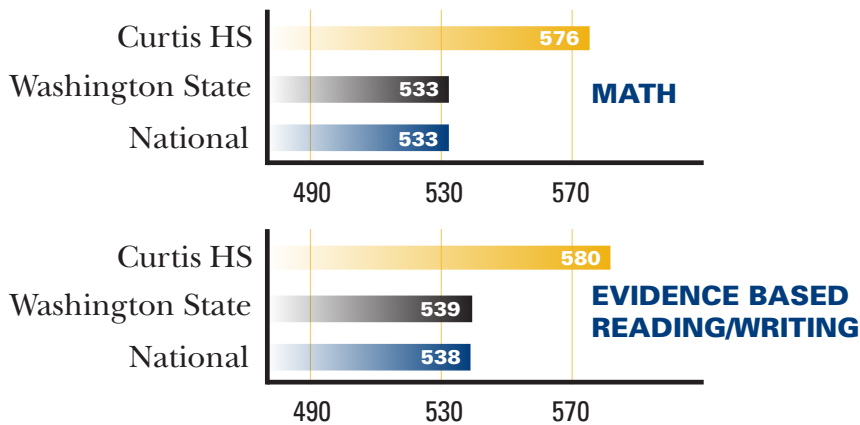
# ACADEMIC DATA

*The mission of the University Place School District, in partnership with our community, is to develop competent, contributing citizens.*

**Smarter Balanced Assessment (Grades 3-8 & 11), Measurements of Student Progress Science (Grades 5 & 8), and Biology End of Course Exam, 2017**



**Mean SAT Scores, 2017**



## Check It Out

University Place schools outperformed the Washington State average at every grade level of the Smarter Balanced Assessment and Measurements of Student Progress, as seen in the graph above. At left, CHS students scored well above both the state and national mean scores on the SAT. Note the SAT has changed this year to combine critical reading and writing into one category.

## LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attendance, test participation rates, performance of students: [www.reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us](http://www.reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us)

Title III (Transitional Bilingual): [www.k12.wa.us/MigrantBilingual/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/MigrantBilingual/default.aspx)

Title I, Part A: [www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/default.aspx)

### Annual Performance Report

Specific information on the performance of schools, the district, and demographic subgroups is available at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. National Assessment of Educational Programs data can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/NAEP/reports.aspx>.

Information regarding student demographics, academic performance of each demographic group, the percentage of students tested by school and demographic group, comparisons with state performance in each area, expenditures per pupil, a concise budget report, and graduation and dropout statistics is available at [www.k12.wa.us/dataAdmin](http://www.k12.wa.us/dataAdmin).

### Parents' Right to Know

**Professional Qualifications:** At any time you may ask whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching; whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived; and what undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration. If you have questions about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher, please contact your child's principal.

**Citizen Complaint Procedures:** A citizen complaint is a written statement that alleges a violation of a federal rule, law, regulation or state regulation that applies to a federal program. To learn more about this process, you can find information on the OSPI website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/CitizenComplaint.aspx>. You can also request information about this process from the UPSD Educational Service Center.

### Communication with Parents/Guardians

State and federal regulations require reporting key information about UPSD schools, federal and state programs, and the performance of our students to parents and community members. UPSD believes a strong partnership between our schools and community is necessary to ensure a quality education for all students. We invite parents/guardians to be active, to be involved, and to provide input. Please contact the principal of your child's school to learn about ways to become involved. If you have questions or comments, please call the Educational Service Center (253-566-5600). 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, Executive Director of Secondary Education, Lainey Mathews, [lmathews@upsd83.org](mailto:lmathews@upsd83.org); or Section 504/FAPE/ADA concerns should be made to Director of Special Services, Maria Hetland, [mhetland@upsd83.org](mailto:mhetland@upsd83.org). Both can be contacted at (253) 566-5600, 3717 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466.

### Safe Schools

Student success in learning requires a safe environment. UPSD is committed to safe schools where students can achieve at their highest potential and teachers can teach in a welcoming environment, free of intimidation and fear. Each of our schools fosters a spirit of acceptance and care for every child, and an educational environment where behavior expectations are clearly communicated, consistently enforced, and fairly applied.

### Federal and State Funding

UPSD uses state and federal dollars to support students who have been identified as needing additional support in specified content areas. Students are identified based on multiple measures. Title I, Part A is used to provide additional English Language Arts support to students in grades K-9 and additional math support to students in grades 2-9. LAP (Learning Assistance Program) funds are used to provide additional English Language Arts support to students in grades K-7 and 11-12, and math support to students in grades 2-4. Title III (federal funds) and TBIP (Transitional Bilingual state funds) are used to provide assistance to English Language Learners who qualify for supplemental language support.



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**Educational Service Center  
3717 Grandview Dr. W.  
University Place, WA 98466**

**ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

# Dialog

The *Dialog* is published periodically by the University Place School District for University Place residents and businesses. UPSD 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, Executive Director of Secondary Education Lainey Mathews, lmathews@upsd83.org or Section 504/FAPE/ADA concerns should be made to Director of Special Services, Maria Hetland, mhetland@upsd83.org. Both can be contacted at (253) 566-5600, 3717 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466.

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

## Let's Keep an Open "Dialog"

I value and appreciate feedback and suggestions from parents and community members. Please feel free to contact me directly at 253-566-5600 or [jchamberlin@upsd83.org](mailto:jchamberlin@upsd83.org) with ideas, questions, or concerns. I also welcome invitations to connect with individuals and community groups to discuss our school district and/or important topics in education. I hope to hear from you.

- Jeff Chamberlin, Superintendent

## District Communications

### Flash Alert

Sign up for notifications from FlashAlert, a tool that allows you to get updated weather and emergency information for University Place School District and local areas. [www.flashalert.net](http://www.flashalert.net)



### E-mail Update

We are slowly transitioning to a new e-mail system this year. Eventually, all district e-mails will consist of the employee's first initial, followed by their last name and end with "@upsd83.org" (i.e., [jchamberlin@upsd83.org](mailto:jchamberlin@upsd83.org).) For now, please continue to use our existing system. You will be notified when staff serving your student switch to the new system. Email messages sent to old email addresses will be automatically forwarded to the new addresses for several months. Please contact us right away if you are not getting a response to email.



### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/UPSD83/](http://www.facebook.com/UPSD83/)



### Twitter

[@upsd83](https://twitter.com/upsd83)



### UPSD Website

[www.upsd.wednet.edu](http://www.upsd.wednet.edu)



## Upcoming Events

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>November 16-18</b>       | <b>Curtis High School's <i>Les Miserables</i></b> |
| <b>November 23-24</b>       | <b>UPSD Closed for Thanksgiving</b>               |
| <b>December 1</b>           | <b>UP Christmas Tree Lighting</b>                 |
| <b>December 4 &amp; 6</b>   | <b>Intermediate Winter Concerts</b>               |
| <b>Dec. 7, 11, &amp; 12</b> | <b>Curtis Jr. High Winter Concerts</b>            |
| <b>December 13-14</b>       | <b>Curtis High School Winter Concerts</b>         |
| <b>Dec. 18 to Jan. 1</b>    | <b>UPSD Closed for Winter Vacation</b>            |
| <b>January 15</b>           | <b>UPSD Closed for MLK Day</b>                    |

For more information on events and the district calendar, please visit our website at [www.upsd.wednet.edu](http://www.upsd.wednet.edu).

## Board Meetings

- December 13** at the Educational Service Center
- January 10** at Evergreen Primary School
- January 24** at ESC Linkage E-2 Academic Competence Part II
- February 14** at Curtis High School

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