

UPSD Welcomes New Principals and Assistants



Eric Brubaker, a familiar figure in University Place as principal of Narrows View Intermediate School for the past six years, takes on a new challenge in the District as principal of Curtis High School. Eric holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Pepperdine University and a Master's in Education from the University of Washington, Tacoma. He recently completed his superintendent certification through Washington State University. Prior to moving into administration, he taught social studies for seven years at Malibu High School in California and Peninsula High School in Gig Harbor.



Jayne Hofstrand assumes the position of principal of Curtis Junior High School this year, where she has served as assistant principal for the last four years. A Puyallup native, she graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. She taught math for 19 years in the Puyallup and Federal Way school systems before receiving her administration certification and joining the University Place family at Curtis Junior High.



Chris Backman, a Tacoma native, returns home to become principal of Evergreen Primary School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University and a Master of Arts from Seattle Pacific University in school counseling. After serving as a counselor in the Tacoma school system and in various roles

facilitating grant programs and overseeing guidance counselors, he returned to Seattle Pacific in a principals program. Before his current appointment, he was an assistant principal in the Tacoma system and principal in the Quincy (Washington) school system.



Jennifer Wong is the new principal at Narrows View Intermediate School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in history at the University of Washington and, following her certification, taught special education in the Highline School District for ten years. Her interest in administrative work led to her enrollment in a Master of Education in administration program at Seattle University. She joined the University Place system as assistant principal at Narrows View Intermediate School, a position she held until her recent appointment as principal.



William Keith has been appointed the new principal of University Place Primary School. He is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound with a major in Latin and political science. Following graduation, he worked in Navy intelligence at Pearl Harbor before returning to Tacoma to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Puget Sound. He taught in the Tacoma school system before receiving his administration certification from the University of Washington – Tacoma.



Maile Carr assumes the position of assistant principal at Curtis Junior High School this fall. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Southern California and earned her Master of Arts degree at the University of Puget Sound. She taught and coached swimming in Federal Way before joining the CJH faculty teaching pre-algebra. After earning her principal's credentials at the University of Washington, Tacoma, she

worked in math and assessment in the UPSD district office and last fall served as acting principal at Sunset Elementary.



Bart Kryger assumes the position of assistant principal at Narrows View Intermediate School. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Washington State University in vocal music education. He has taught choir and drama at Mason and Truman middle schools in the Tacoma system and following that in China. Returning to the area, he taught choir at Drum Intermediate School before assuming his current position this fall.



Russell Rice, appointed assistant principal at Drum Intermediate School, began his career as a software programmer after graduating from Pacific Lutheran University in business. He returned to school, earning a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education at the University of Washington and teaching in the Northshore system. Following a teaching stint in the Philippines, he returned to the United States, teaching first in Tumwater, then Steilacoom before earning his administration certification from the University of Washington – Tacoma, and joining University Place School District.

Three staff members are filling temporary positions this year to help with state-mandated teacher evaluation systems:

Jason Greer is assistant principal at Sunset and University Place Primary Schools this year. He comes to UPSD from the Franklin Pierce School District. He received his B.A. from Western Washington University and his M.A. and administrative certification from the University of Washington – Tacoma.

Kathy Robinson, who has worked as a teacher at Narrows View Intermediate School, is serving as assistant principal at Chambers and Evergreen Primary Schools this year to assist in the teacher evaluation process. She holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Washington, an M.A.T. from the University of Puget Sound, and her administration certification from UW – Tacoma.

Kara Runge is serving as assistant principal at Curtis High School to support the administrative assessment team. She earned her B.A. from Luther College, her M. Ed and administration certification from the University of Washington – Tacoma, and has taught special education at Curtis High School for the past 10 years.

Galen Chen (left) and Ben Meade, both seniors, have been honored by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., receiving word that they are among only 12 local students recently named National Merit Semifinalists. Their selection makes them eligible to continue in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships that will be awarded next spring. Chen is co-captain of the tennis team and a member of the track team, the Math Team, and Science Olympiad. He is also a drum major with the marching band. Meade is Associated Student Body president and a member of the baseball team. Outside of school, he operates a successful video and editing business, and is an avid traveler.



The State of our School District Is Strong

A Message from Superintendent Patti Banks

With the 2013-14 school year now well underway, many of you have already had an opportunity to visit your children's schools; talk with our talented and dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff; and learn more about our excellent academic and extracurricular programs. We are committed to ensuring that our schools continue to reflect the community's values and high standards by directing our resources to the following priorities, all of which are made possible by the strong and steadfast support of our University Place community.

Safe and Supportive School Environment

Nothing is as important to families as the assurance that their children are safe and well cared for at school. Substantial resources are directed to ensuring that all of our school facilities are clean and well-maintained; our security procedures are effective, regularly reviewed, and continuously improved; and that all students and staff feel—and are—safe and welcome at school.

We place a high priority on maintaining smaller class sizes to ensure that teachers are able to provide the district's rigorous academic curriculum while also giving each student personal attention and support. This means that we staff our schools at significantly higher levels than state funding alone would provide.

Academic Excellence

We have a strong record of outstanding academic performance in all University Place Schools; in fact, in 2012 an independent educational research organization identified UPSD as being in the top 5% of school districts in the State of Washington. We continue to leverage all of our resources to ensure that all our students experience the very best academic outcomes. I hope you will take time to review the impressive student achievement data detailed in this issue of the *Dialog*, which demonstrate the achievement of our students and the quality of our school system.

Accelerated and Advanced Programs

At every level, we offer programs to challenge our most academically advanced students. In grades 3-7, we provide self-contained classes for gifted students, with accelerated learning opportunities in all subject areas. At the junior high, students can select from honors-level courses in English, social studies, and pre-advanced placement science.

At the high school, 11 advanced placement classes are available, including courses in English, U.S. and world history, mathematics, and science. Additionally, four courses at Curtis High School are now part of an exciting new program called UW in the High School. This program provides opportunities for students to earn college credit for designated classes they take at CHS. So, students can take college-level courses while still participating fully with their classmates in the many activities available at the high school. We hope to expand the courses available in this excellent program in the years to come.

Performing Arts

UPSD has earned a regional reputation for the quality of its award-winning performing arts programs. More than 2,000 of our students in grades 5-12 par-

ticipate in choral music, band, orchestra, or drama. We fully appreciate the critical role of the arts in a well-rounded educational program, and know what a source of pride these programs have been to generations of UPSD graduates. For these reasons, we maintain significantly higher levels of staffing for music at the primary, intermediate, and secondary levels.

Broad Opportunities

We share our community's interest in ensuring that UPSD students have access to the very best and broadest possible educational experiences. In addition to our core academic and performing arts programs, students can choose to participate in an award-winning NJROTC program; join our 2013 State Champion (!) Math Team; take multiple levels of Japanese, French, Spanish, or American Sign Language; pursue their higher-level tech interests with robotics; or compete in the Science Olympiad. We are exploring new, higher level courses in technology, including courses in writing computer code and tech certifications that lead directly to well-paying jobs.

Comprehensive Support Programs

We are committed to providing all students high levels of care

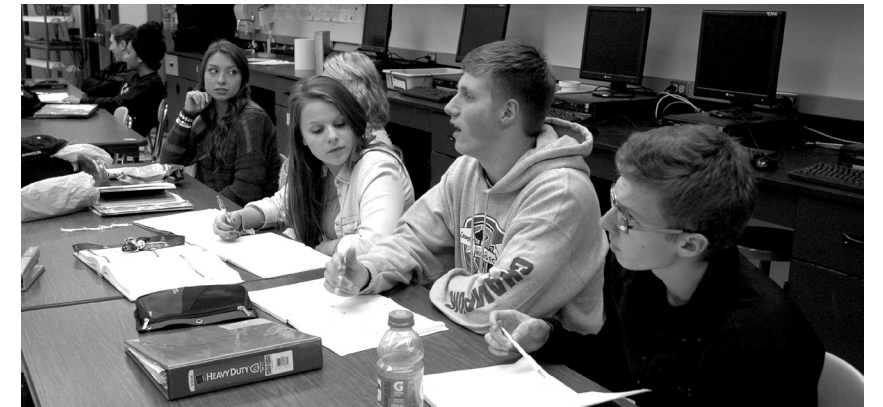
and support in our schools. We staff the health rooms in each of our schools with Licensed Practical Nurses, and have full time counselors available to work one-on-one and in small groups with students and their families as needed.

Additionally, all of our students and staff have the support of full-time, certified librarians. For students who qualify for Special Education services and need a range of specialized learning environments and support, we have highly skilled staff members. Services are also available for those who need additional support to acquire critical literacy and mathematics skills.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Finally, we are proud—as I know so many of you are—of our highly competitive sports teams, and also of the manner in which coaches and student athletes represent UPSD's values and high expectations. The level of positive participation of our students in athletics and a wide range of extracurricular activities is at an all-time high, as is the extraordinary support all our programs receive from you, their families and their community.

We are proud to serve as stewards of your schools. We invite you to get involved if you aren't already and contribute your talent and experience to making our schools even better.



The University Place School District places a high priority on keeping classes small to maximize teaching and learning and encourage independent work. Early on, students learn computer skills to retrieve information as part of their classroom and library science activities. According to their interests and abilities, students are encouraged to participate in accelerated classes and an array of extracurricular offerings, ranging from the strong performing arts program, to sports like the state champion basketball team (above), to the award-winning NJROTC program.

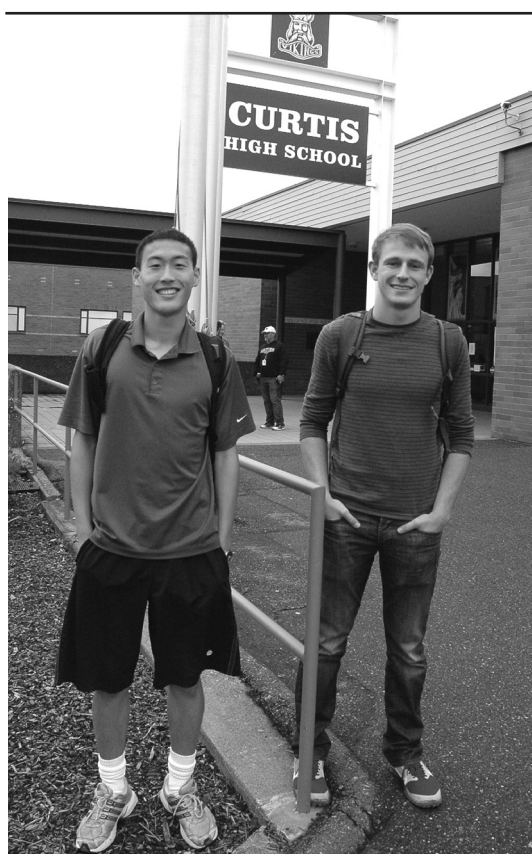
Dialog

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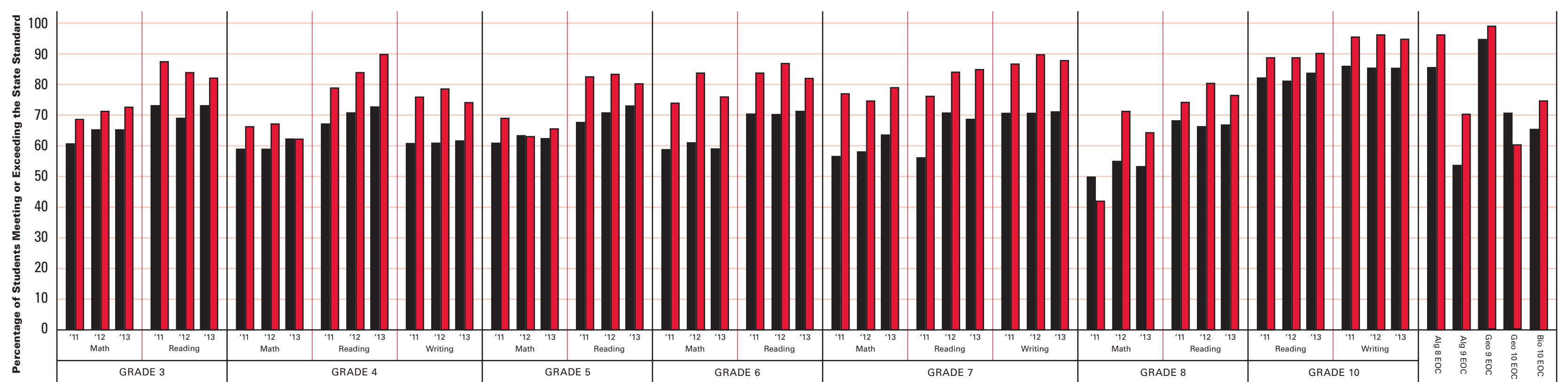
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Measurements of Student Progress (Grades 3-8) and High School Proficiency Exam (Grade 10), 2013



State Score UPSD Score

Meeting a minimum score on the End Of Course (EOC) exams is part of the graduation requirements. It is administered for algebra, geometry, and biology, and the averages are reported for 2012-13 alongside the MSP/HSPE scores at left.