

# Dialog

UNIVERSITY  
PLACE  
*School District*

Fall 2018

Volume 39  
Number 1



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# CITIZENS SHOWING SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS

## A Message from School Board President Mary Lu Dickinson



Our students cannot achieve success without the help of others. It is with gratitude that I contem-

plate this statement.

The University Place community was out in force over the last several weeks for the various back-to-school nights, PTSA meetings, and Homecoming events. These events were made possible by the superb planning and arrangements made by hundreds of dedicated staff members and by our students' families and friends. In each case, parents and citizens were willing to show up and demonstrate their support and involvement in our schools. We will con-

tinue to improve our school district and community by working together in pursuit of common goals for kids in University Place.

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*"I am grateful to live in a community that is known for its support of education. Working together we can help our children achieve their dreams. Please join us."*

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Parents and community members are encouraged to take part in PTSA activities and school events throughout the year. For those of you that don't have students in our schools, there are many opportunities available to serve. Schools benefit greatly

from the support provided by volunteers, and students may view their first experience with community service through your example.

It is always our desire that you feel welcome in University Place schools. Though several new safety and security protocols have recently been put in place, it is our hope that these systems will not deter you from being a part of the work we do in service to our students.

Thanks to all those who are already actively involved in UP schools on a regular basis. I am grateful to live in a community that is known for its support of education. Working together we can help our children achieve their dreams. Please join us.



**This year 20 CHS students won the Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award, given annually to African-American students who demonstrate high academic achievement as well as good citizenship. In the first row, they are: Curtrianna Muhammad, Eric Jackson II, Diavian Salter, Kiara Maxwell, Adrianna McCray. Second row: Maliq Washington, Shawna-see Davis, Tabbe Cisse-Smith, Brooklyn Hose, Tori Brockman, DrewMcKay Tripp, Nia Jiles, Maya Bramble, Jala Ward, Karrinton Smith. Third Row: Zion Williams, Evan Cooper, Brandon Lee. Not Pictured: Maria Smith, Drew McKay.**

# PRIORITIZING SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

## A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin



Student safety continues to be a primary focus of our attention, energy, and resources

in UPSD. Our schools are already very safe places, but we are always seeking ways to improve. We also want to work with parents, staff, and community partners to make sure that our safety practices adapt to a changing world. As we begin the 2018/19 school year, I want to provide citizens and parents with an update on our safety efforts in the district:

### **Safety Personnel**

Thanks in great part to local support we receive from our citizens, UPSD employs a variety of safety positions such as crossing guards, student supervisors, and security officers. We also partner with UP Police to support a School Resource Officer (SRO). Returning to this role in 2018/19 is Deputy Mike Cooney, who is also a parent in UP. Additionally, we recently restructured our leadership team with safety in mind. An existing operations position was eliminated and replaced with a new District Safety and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Torey Heidelberg, our new coordinator, has a background in

law enforcement and will work with staff and first responders to promote safety. The state does not fund SRO or Safety Coordinator positions—both are funded through the local UPSD Programs Levy.

### **Safe Facilities**

Access control technology is now in place at seven schools and will be completed at CJH this winter. Access control is an automated door-locking system that allows us to keep exterior doors locked and secure when students are on campus. The systems require visitors to identify themselves before entering a school. Thank you all for your patience as we use these systems to increase security at schools. Access control technology is also made possible through local funding of capital project levies.

### **Safety Instruction**

New safety lessons will be taught annually to students in eight-grade PE and tenth-grade Health classes in a cooperative effort between UP Police and our schools. Topics covered in the lessons include situational awareness, active shooter response, and, most importantly, how to report safety concerns or possible threats. These new lessons will complement our ongoing safety drills and existing,

safety-related lessons taught on a variety of topics.

Parents and citizens can also play a critical role in helping keep students safe. Please take time to talk with the kids in your life about reporting safety concerns, rumors, and potential threats to a trusted adult at school immediately. We will be using the “see something, say something” concept to urge kids to tell us about any real or potential threat to school safety. Parents and community members are also encouraged to report concerns promptly to school administrators or counselors at any site. In emergencies, or when schools are not open, concerned adults and students can always call 911 to report urgent safety concerns.



*Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. If you have any safety concerns, questions, or suggestions for UPSD, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [jchamberlin@upsd83.org](mailto:jchamberlin@upsd83.org).*



# SPOTLIGHTS

## STUDENT PROFILE

Curtis junior **Daniel Kim** is one of three National Merit Semifinalists this year. Born in Korea, Kim’s family moved to UP when he was four, and he attended school K-12 here. An active member of the student body, he serves as school treasurer and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is also a lifelong violin and tennis player, and puts those talents to use in the school orchestra and as a member of the Curtis High School tennis team. Semifinalists represent the top one percent of scorers on the PSAT, and Curtis High School boasted three this year—Joon Woo Lee and Christian Williams (not pictured) also earned the accolade. Lee is on a mission trip to Ghana prior to attending NYU, while Williams graduated early and has already matriculated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



## FACULTY PROFILE

School psychologist **Dr. Deanna Sanders** is an invaluable member of the faculty, according to Narrows View Intermediate Principal Jennifer Wong. “She helps so many people—teachers, special ed service providers, parents,” said Wong of Sanders. “What she does is highly technical, using her knowledge and tools to evaluate students’ cognitive abilities, then presenting that information in a way that is relatable, easy to comprehend, then put into practice.” The daughter of two Seattle educators, Dr. Sanders earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Central Washington University, then her doctorate at James Madison University. After working in Las Vegas, Richmond, and Tacoma, she came to UPSD in 2004, and is currently assigned to University Place Primary and Narrows View Intermediate schools.







## ALUMNA PROFILE

**U**niversity of Washington Athletic Director **Jennifer Cohen** was a proud member of the Curtis High School graduating class of 1987. Having worked for UW for 20 years in various capacities, she was named in 2016 as athletic director, the only female in that post at any Pac-12 school. Such things are not her focus, however. “It’s all about caring for the students for me,” said Cohen. “Instilling values in them, and teaching them to appreciate what this education can mean for them.” She credits her time in UPSD with this attitude, and tries to foster at UW the same atmosphere she had in high school at Curtis—a great relationship with the community and a family feeling while still maintaining a high level of competition. “UPSD was a fantastic experience,” she said, “and really prepared me for my next steps.”

**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

**T**he Pierce County Library System partners with UPSD in a number of capacities. Most recently, the “Card in Every Hand” program launched to ensure all students are introduced to the public library system and receive a library card. Each primary school hosts a “book talk” each spring, at which a library representative shares library resources and summer reading opportunities with students. Any student in UPSD who did not have a Pierce County library card was provided one directly at school. Since card distribution in May, UPSD students have checked out more than 3,000 items according to library statistics. At left, Sunset Primary student Eli Stone shows off his card after checking out a pile of books he picked out at the University Place library branch.





# CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Tom Adams

Contact: 253-566-5710 or [chs.upsd83.org](http://chs.upsd83.org)

Grade Levels Served: 10-12

Mascot: Vikings

Enrollment: 1440

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- CHS was named 2018 best comprehensive public high school in Pierce County by *U.S. News and World Report*.
- The 2018 on-time graduation rate for CHS & UPSD reached an all-time high of 93.6%
- CHS outperformed the state and nation on state math, state literacy, AP, SAT, and WA-AIM exams.
- CHS is implementing the Character Strong© program to reinforce positive student character traits.
- CHS offers a wide range of Career and Technical Education programs including NJROTC, Culinary Arts, Teaching Academy, Engineering, Business, Technology, Video Production, and more.
- Over 100 juniors and seniors volunteered as Viking Crew mentors for incoming sophomores.
- CHS welcomes our new Athletic Director, Ms. Suzanne Vick.

**Curtis High School offers a variety of career and technical education classes. At left, students at work in their Biomedical Sciences class.**

# CURTIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Jayne Hofstrand

Contact: 253-566-5670 or [cjh.upsd83.org](http://cjh.upsd83.org)

Grade Levels Served: 8-9

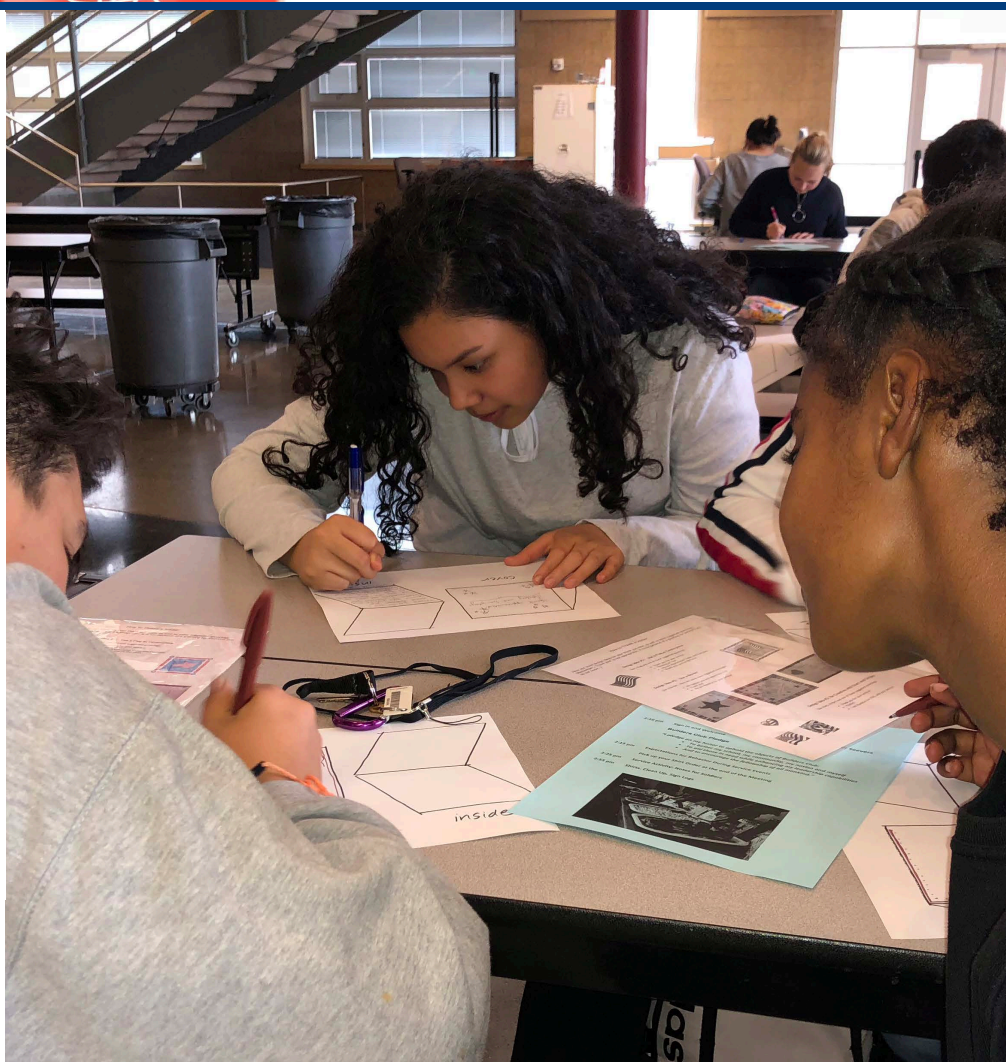
Mascot: Cougars

Enrollment: 985

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- CJH offers challenging Honors classes in Science, English, and Social Studies.
- CJH houses the district's 8-12 English Language Learner (ELL) Program.
- CJH achievement results reached an all-time high in literacy (77%) and in math (69%). These levels exceed the state average by more than 15% in literacy and 20% in math.
- More than half of all CJH students participate in co- or extra-curricular activities such as art, music, theater, clubs, athletics, and community service.
- After-school Study Club operates three days a week and is open to all students.
- More than 100 CJH students provide positive leadership and mentoring for their peers as student ambassadors.

**Students participate in volunteer activities throughout the school year. This fall students in the Builders Club made cards to send to active military soldiers.**







## DRUM INTERMEDIATE

Principal: Maile Lau Carr

Contact: 253-566-5660 or di.upsd83.org

Grade Levels Served: 5-7

Mascot: Wolves

Enrollment: 590

### Important Facts and Highlights:

- Students at Drum were above the state average on science, math, and literacy exams by an average of 24%.
- Drum welcomes a new Assistant Principal, Mrs. Tanisha Jawara.
- Drum has numerous after-school programs including robotics, textile art, pottery, basketball, fly-fishing, dance, and youth fitness. Homework support is offered after school three days a week.
- All Drum students take music courses in 5th, 6th, and 7th grade (choir, band, or orchestra).
- Drum hosts an annual Multicultural Night to celebrate the many different cultures represented in the Drum community.
- Drum is supported by a strong and active PTSA that sponsors multiple activities for kids each month.

**A variety of after-school enrichment classes are offered to students. Pictured here, a 5th grader participates in the Fly Fishing class, in which students learn casting techniques and how to tie their own flies.**

## NARROWS VIEW INTERMEDIATE

Principal: Jennifer Wong

Contact: 253-566-5630 or nvi.upsd83.org

Grade Levels Served: 5-7

Mascot: Nighthawks

Enrollment: 680

### Important Facts and Highlights:

- New this year are monthly grade-level meetings to recognize students who are doing a great job and promote positive school culture/spirit.
- Narrows View students have music class every day—either band, choir, or orchestra.
- NVI offers three sessions of enrichment classes throughout the year, including basketball, yoga, running club, speech & debate, robotics, pottery, and drama.
- 82% of our 7th graders were proficient on the math & ELA state test (SBA) last year.
- Positive behavior is celebrated every day at NVI. The Nighthawk Superstars program allows staff to look for opportunities to reward students for being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible.
- NVI offers before- and after-school help for students: “Morning Math” in the morning, and “Homework Helper” after school.

**All intermediate students in University Place School District are enrolled in a music class.**







# CHAMBERS PRIMARY

Principal: Ali Shepard

Contact: 253-566-5650 or [cp.upsd83.org](http://cp.upsd83.org)

Grade Levels Served: K-4

Mascot: Bulldogs

Enrollment: 510

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- Chambers has a brand-new play structure thanks to a partnership between the district and community.
- Chambers Bulldogs outperform the state on both literacy and math exams in Grade 4.
- Chambers welcomes a new social skills teacher to help students develop strong social/emotional skills.
- Chambers is home to the district's Primary Challenge Program serving highly capable students.
- Voted Best Public Elementary School in *South Sound Magazine* in 2018.
- Chambers develops student leadership skills through character building programs, including Playground Pals, Community Kids, and teaching positive peer relationships.

**Students using a new play structure at recess. The playground features were selected in collaboration with the public. District funds and generous donations of over \$20,000 from the community helped fund replacement of the old installation. The playground is a public resource, open to local families after school hours.**

# EVERGREEN PRIMARY

Principal: Cliff Schlattmann

Contact: 253-566-5680 or [ep.upsd83.org](http://ep.upsd83.org)

Grade Levels Served: K-4

Mascot: Eagles

Enrollment: 520

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- Students at Evergreen outperform the state at every grade level in math and literacy.
- Evergreen is home to the UP Community Garden, a partnership between many University Place organizations and citizens.
- Fourth grade students participate in the Eagle Leader program. Students in this program serve as mentors to younger students in the school.
- Evergreen offers after school reading, math, and enrichment classes throughout the year. Enrichment offered this year includes art, Spanish, and Bricks for Kids.
- Evergreen celebrates good conduct and citizenship through the Eagle Pride Program.
- All students have the opportunity to participate in grade level music performances and the school sing along.

**Evergreen Eagles participate in a friendship group over their lunch time with school counselor Jennifer Stockstad.**







# SUNSET PRIMARY

**Principal:** Steve Hagen

**Contact:** 253-566-5640 or [sp.upsd83.org](mailto:sp.upsd83.org)

**Grade Levels Served:** Preschool-4

**Mascot:** Tigers

**Enrollment:** 600

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- Sunset welcomes a new principal, Mr. Steve Hagen, and a new counselor, Ms. Cheri' Paillet.
- Sunset staff provide Tiger Academy, which offers after-school literacy and math programs.
- Sunset staff collaborate weekly to provide targeted academic support to students who need it.
- Sunset partners with the PTSA on an annual multicultural night to celebrate the rich culture in the UP community.
- Sunset is home to the district's preschool program. More than 82 students attend half-day sessions in one of four classrooms.
- Students at Sunset outperform the state at every grade level in math and literacy.

**Steve Hagen, new principal at Sunset Primary, helps out a kindergarten student. He had previously been assistant principal at Drum Intermediate School since 2015.**

# UNIVERSITY PLACE PRIMARY

**Principal:** Willie Keith

**Contact:** 253-566-5620 or [upp.upsd83.org](mailto:upp.upsd83.org)

**Grade Levels Served:** K-4

**Mascot:** Mustangs

**Enrollment:** 540

## Important Facts and Highlights:

- Students at UPP outperformed the state at every grade level in math and literacy.
- UPP is the recipient of a state Distinguished School Award for the second consecutive year for continued growth and improvement.
- UPP welcomes a new social skills teacher to help students develop strong social/emotional skills.
- UPP offers strong reading and math intervention programs for struggling students.
- UPP celebrates literacy each year with the One School/One Book program in partnership with the PTSA and Narrows Rotary Club.

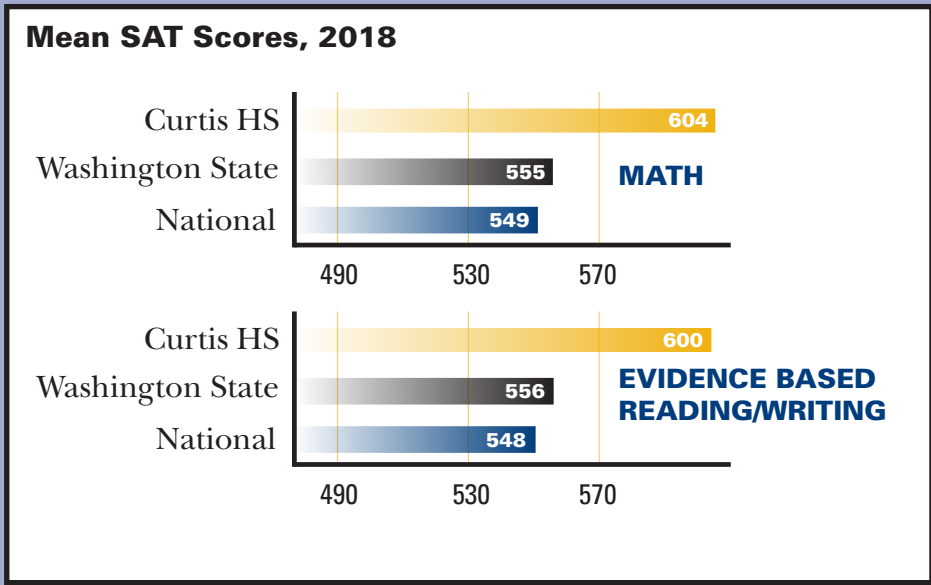
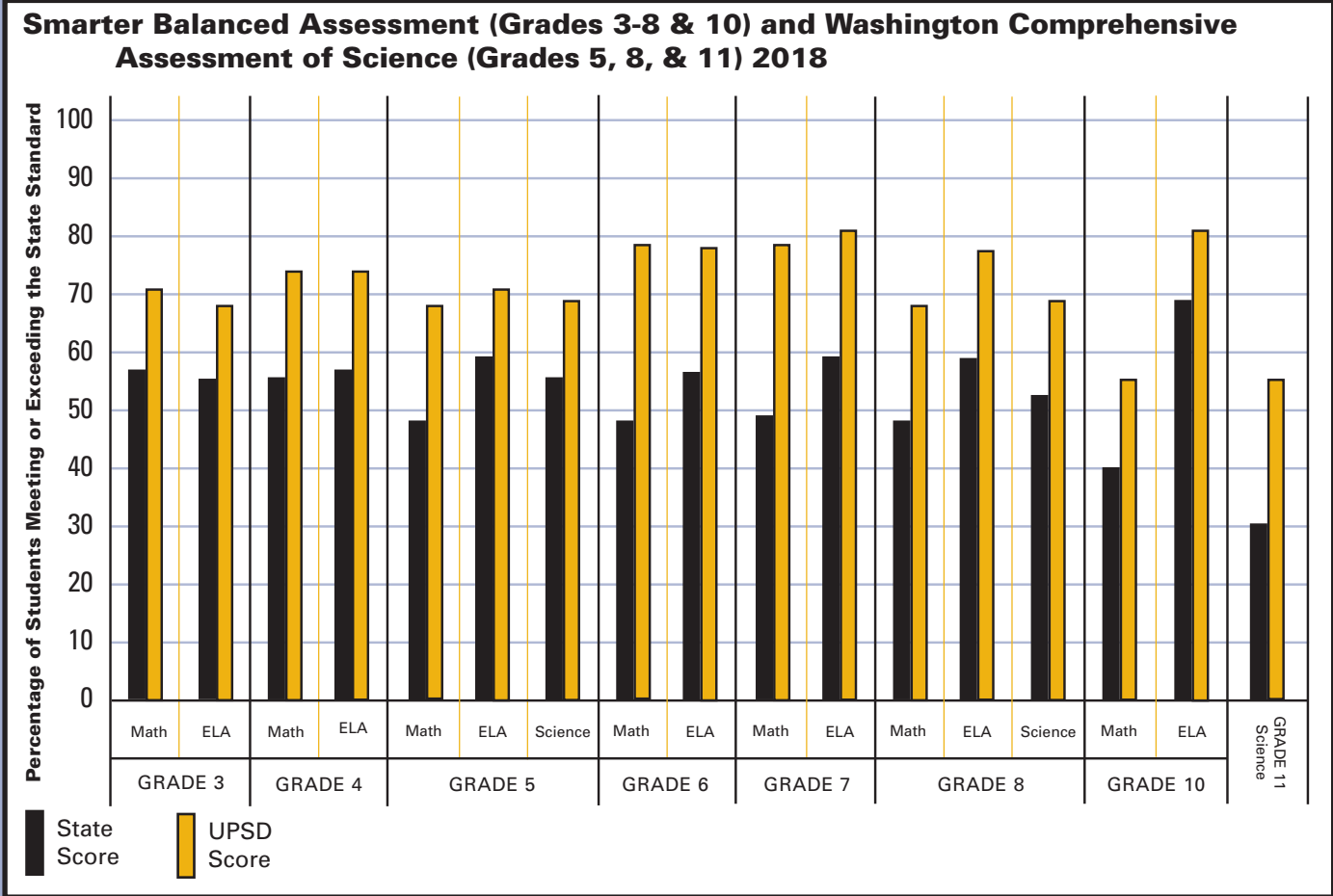
**Reading instructor Heidi Bergmann teaches a group of first-graders during the after-school Mustang Academy. Nearly 80 students participated in the first session of the academy. All UPSD primary schools provide after-school reading instruction.**





# ACADEMIC DATA

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



**Check It Out**

University Place schools outperformed the Washington State average at every grade level of the Smarter Balanced Assessment and Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS), as seen in the graph above. The WCAS was administered for the first time in the spring. At left, CHS students scored well above both the state and national mean scores on the SAT.



## 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) and [www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org).

### 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 is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Washington qualifications or certifications have been 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 Executive Director of Special Services, Kelly McClure, [kmcclure@upsd83.org](mailto:kmcclure@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 1, Part A is used to provide additional English Language Arts and math support to students in grades K-7. LAP (Learning Assistance Program) funds are used to provide additional English Language Arts support to students in grades K-7 and K-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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# 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 Executive Director of Special Services Kelly McClure, kmccclure@upsd83.org. Both can be contacted at (253) 566-5600, 3717 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466.

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

# FALL CALENDAR

- November 15-17**     **Curtis High School Musical, *Mamma Mia!*, 7:00 pm**
- November 22**     **Thanksgiving**
- November 30**     **Curtis Jr. High Choir Festival of Trees**
- December 3**     **Drum Band/Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 10**    **NVI Band/Advanced Groups Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 11**    **Curtis Jr. High Holiday Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 13**    **Curtis Jr. High Holiday Band Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 17**    **NVI Choir/Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 18**    **Curtis Jr. High Holiday Choir Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 19-20** **Curtis High School Holiday Concert, 7:00 pm**
- December 21**    **Half-day, Winter Vacation Begins**

## Board Meetings

- Nov. 28**     **Education Service Center (ESC)  
Linkage E-2 Academic  
Achievement**
- Dec. 12**     **Education Service Center (ESC)  
Regular Meeting**
- January 9**   **Education Service Center (ESC)  
Regular Meeting**

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

## Board of Directors Contact Information

- President Mary Lu Dickinson — mdickinson@upsd83.org**
- Vice President Ethelda Burke — eburke@upsd83.org**
- Annie Fitzsimmons — afitzsimmons@upsd83.org**
- T'Wina Nobles — tnobles@upsd83.org**
- Marisa Peloquin — mpeloquin@upsd83.org**
- Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin — jchamberlin@upsd83.org**