

# Dialog

FALL 2019

VOLUME 40.1

A University Place  
School District  
Quarterly Publication

## Celebrating Fall in UP

AND HONORING OUR LOCAL VETERANS

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UNIVERSITY  
PLACE  
School District



# Hustle and Bustle of School Year is Underway



*A Message from School Board President Mary Lu Dickinson*

Students are back and schools are now in their fall routine. Summer was a time for respite for many of us. I am grateful to all those who worked over the summer to prepare for our students' successful return to classrooms, learning and enriching activities. Autumn has settled in and students are off to a great start full of new learning and experiences. Parents have attended Back to School Nights and other events as the hustle and bustle of the school year has gotten underway. As we each have busy lives, let's not forget the positive impact we can have on the children in our community.

## **Viking Stadium Field Named After Community Leader, Teacher & Coach**

Speaking of having a positive impact, last spring the school board received a request from members of the community to name the field at Viking Stadium, Bob Lucey Field. The letter spoke of Bob Lucey's contributions to the community over several decades and his significant impact on the students of the University Place community. It spoke of his significant service and his starting the UP Children's Fund when there was a tremendous need. He has been a leader, teacher and coach of utmost integrity. The board asked for com-

munity input and held two public hearings to gather input regarding this citizen request. Thank you to all who contributed feedback. The board received an overwhelming positive response from hundreds of citizens. Through the process, we learned much about Bob Lucey and his extensive service over many years to our community and students. The next step in the process was a well-attended community event and dedication on October 25 before and at half-time of the Curtis High football game. It was a fitting tribute to a positive role model for us all.

## **School Board Meetings Open to the Public**

Please remember that each of our school board meetings is open to the public. Consider attending one of these meetings to share your ideas and to learn about some of the wonderful and exciting things that are happening in our schools. Even if you do not currently have family members attending our schools, you are a key partner in ensuring that our University Place students become competent, contributing citizens. If you are looking to add to your new fall routine, you may want to look at the school board meeting schedule and choose a few meetings throughout the year to attend. *Thank you for your continued support of University Place schools!*

## 22 Students Receive Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award



Pictured above are the recipients of the Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award. The award is given annually to African American students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and good citizenship. This year's recipients are: *Maya Bramble, Evan Cooper, Shawnacee Davis, Takara English, Karena Gillis, Brooklyn Hose, Nia Jiles, Benita Kisembo, Adrianna McCray, Curtriana Muhammad, Karrington Smith, Jala Ward, Lalik Buggs, Asya Doty, Monique Evans, Madison Jefferson, D'Andre Jones, Nia McCoy, Terry Smith, Laylah Thomas, Alicia Whitten.* Not pictured: *Diavian Salter.* *Principal Tom Adams, Assistant Principal Jackie Thomas. Board Director T'wina Nobles.*

# Strong Achievement Driven by Strong, Community- Supported Programs

*A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin*



Thank you for reading the *Dialog* and taking time to learn more about your local school district. Students in University Place schools are thriving and we're excited to share our work and accomplishments with you. In this issue, you'll find information about a variety of topics including award-winning students, talented staff members, strong student achievement results and important school programs.

## **Curtis Seniors Had Highest Graduation Rate Ever**

First, I hope you will take time to review our progress on state literacy and math exams on page seven. UP kids continue to learn at extremely high levels and outperform their peers across the state in every grade. In addition to strong test scores, Curtis High School seniors achieved a graduation rate of 94% last spring – the highest ever. This combination of high scores and a high graduation rate means our seniors leave CHS well prepared and ready to succeed as contributing citizens.

## **Strong “Core” Instructional Program**

In order to achieve the results we do, two critical elements are needed. The first is a strong “core” instructional program for all students. This core program consists of a common, high-quality curriculum at every grade level delivered to students by a team of exceptional teachers. For many students, a strong core program is enough. Other students need more.

## **“Intervention” Programs for Students Who Need Extra Support**

Targeted, effective “intervention” programs for students who need extra support is the second key to our success. Summer Achievement Academy (featured on pages 9-10) is one of several programs in UP designed to help students who need “more than the core.” Other programs include intervention classes during the school day and extended learning sessions. All eight schools offer additional support for our kids who need it.

## **All Citizens Play an Important Role in Educating Students**

Our strong core and intervention programs would not exist as they are today without the generous support of UP citizens. Local funding from our enrichment levy allows us to provide students with more teachers, better curriculum and more time to learn. We recognize and appreciate this community support and are proud of the results this support makes possible. We hope all UP citizens share in this pride and know the importance of the role they play in educating our students.

*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](mailto:jchamberlin@upsd83.org).*



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



@UPSD83

# UP Spotlights

## *Faculty Spotlight: Julie Dansby & Cameo Lovell*

In celebrating Veterans Day this month, we're spotlighting two teachers who teach math and work together at Curtis Jr. High (CJH), and who both served as linguists in the military. Although she was a Korean Linguist in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years, Cameo Lovell, MBA, is now a CJH geometry and math intervention teacher. Julie Dansby was a Russian Linguist in the army and now works with Lovell and teaches algebra at CJH.

Lovell learned Korean at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. She was deployed to Okinawa, Japan, with the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Unit where they held training exercises in Guam and aboard the USS Belleau Wood, a Navy aircraft carrier, on float to Korea and Hong Kong. Lovell went back to work after being home with her four children for fifteen years. "Interacting with these awesome teenagers" is what she likes most about her job as a math teacher in the UPSD.

Dansby has her master's in teaching and is a U.S. Army and National Guard veteran. She served as a Military Intelligence Signals Analyst; Russian Linguist (1988-1992) for the U.S. Army. She later joined the National Guard to serve another year locally in a similar unit and position. When asked about her CJH job, she said, "I love working with a group of dedicated people who pull together to help others (young people in this case) realize more of their potential."



Cameo Lovell, Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps



Julie Dansby,  
Veteran, U.S. Army & National Guard

## *Alumni Spotlight: Jeff Haugh, Veteran, U.S. Airforce*



Jeff Haugh & Family

Jeff Haugh, B.S., M.A., owns two small businesses – an engineering firm, Falcon Solutions, LLC, in Annapolis, Maryland, and a management and technology company, Silver Star Consulting, in Falls Church, Virginia. His companies provide services to local, state and federal clients. Haugh was an officer in the U.S. Air Force from 1999-2006 and served as Special Agent in the Office of Special Investigations from 2002-2006.

Haugh served in Iraq in 2004 providing counter-intelligence support to identify and neutralize insurgency threats to U.S. personnel. He is a decorated veteran and certified subject matter expert in counter-terrorism. He has extensive world-wide operational experience and in-depth knowledge of homeland security.

Haugh attended UP schools from K-12 and graduated from Curtis High School in 1994. He earned a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master's degree in general studies from Georgetown University. "UPSD schools prepared me by encouraging me to dream big and take risks," says Haugh. "I learned what success looks like by modeling my teachers and coaches," he adds.



## Student Spotlight: Matthew Yi

Curtis High Senior Matthew Yi plans to go to veterinary school after college. He won't have difficulty getting in since he's a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Semifinalists are students with the highest-scoring PSAT results in each state in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Mathew's PSAT score of 1480 qualifies him to compete for finalist recognition and one of 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring.

Prior to attending Curtis High School, Matthew went to Chambers Primary, Narrows View Intermediate, and Curtis Junior High. At Curtis, he's a member of the Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and Operation Smile that raises money for surgery for kids with cleft lip or cleft palate. Outside of



Matthew Yi

school, Matthew volunteers for four animal organizations.

Matthew attributes part of his success in the National Merit Scholarship Program to his classes at Curtis. Even though his favorite subject is biology, "both English and math helped me here too," he says.

## Community Partner Spotlight: University Place PTAs

UPSD is fortunate to have a great partnership with PTSA groups at all schools. Each primary and intermediate school has an active group of PTSA supporters and the junior and senior high share an 8-12th grade PTSA. PTSA groups provide grants to schools and encourage projects promoting children's health, safety, welfare and/or education. Says UP PTSA Council President Heather Hutchinson: "Every school and community has kids with specific needs. The PTAs can recognize them and help meet those needs."



PTSA Members gather at Heroes Around Us celebration.

## PTSA Donations to UPSD

The district is grateful for all the support—financial and more—the PTSA's give to UPSD schools. During 2018-2019, the seven PTSA's donated more than \$64,000. These funds went towards school libraries, field trips, 6th grade camp, accelerated reader subscriptions, grad games, an author night, book event, and more.

# Viking Stadium Field

October 25th was a special night at Viking Stadium when the hometown Vikings hosted long-time rival Puyallup in their traditional SPSL showdown. A halftime ceremony marked the naming of the field in honor of longtime Curtis High head football coach and University Place community advocate and volunteer Bob Lucey.

## *A Groundswell of Community Support*

After a groundswell of community support for recognizing Coach Lucey's achievements with this honor, the UPSD board voted July 10 to name the field Bob Lucey Field. The stadium will retain its traditional name of Viking Stadium. Attending the pre-game reception and half-time dedication were many of Bob's colleagues, co-workers, assistant coaches, former players, and a host of grateful University Place community members.

## *Over Three Decades of Football Coaching Excellence*

Coach Lucey began his career in education at Curtis Jr. High in 1971, moved to Curtis High School in 1975 and took over as head football coach for the Viks. Lucey spent the next 31 years under the Friday night lights leading a program that became one of the state's finest. His 11 trips to the state playoffs led to four state championships for the Vikings (1989, 1990, 1995 and 1996) in a span of eight years. His state championships and 199 total victories led to his induction into the Washington State Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999. This would be the first of many accolades Coach Lucey would garner over the next 20 years.



## *Contributions Go Far Beyond Coaching Success*

Bob Lucey's contributions to the UPSD and the community at large go far beyond his coaching success. "Clearly, it is his football accomplishments that connect him to the field that will bear his name," says UPSD Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin. "But his legacy is defined by much broader achievements driven by his heart for kids and devotion to the community."



# Named for Bob Lucey



Bob Lucey and his grandsons celebrate the dedication of Bob Lucey Field with the Viking mascot and fans at a halftime ceremony on October 25, 2019.

## *Fearless Advocate for Students Throughout the District*

Throughout his decades of service to the UPSD, Coach Lucey was not only a fearless advocate for students and athletes at Curtis High, but for students throughout the district as well. As an active member and strong leader in Citizens for UP Schools, Lucey has been instrumental in helping pass levies and bond issues since 1976. He is also one of the founders of the vital UP Children's Fund that helps families throughout the community who have children in need. In 1998, Coach Lucey helped initiate the Little Vik's Football Club that teaches safe techniques and positive coaching benefiting young players starting in the 4th grade.

## *A Grateful Community*

Lucey's accomplishments off the field are every bit as impressive as his ones on the field. His legacy is one of service to colleagues, students and parents alike and the field that bears his name is not only emblematic of athletic success, but also the gratitude of the UPSD and entire community for Coach Lucey's never-ending dedication to the students of all of our schools.

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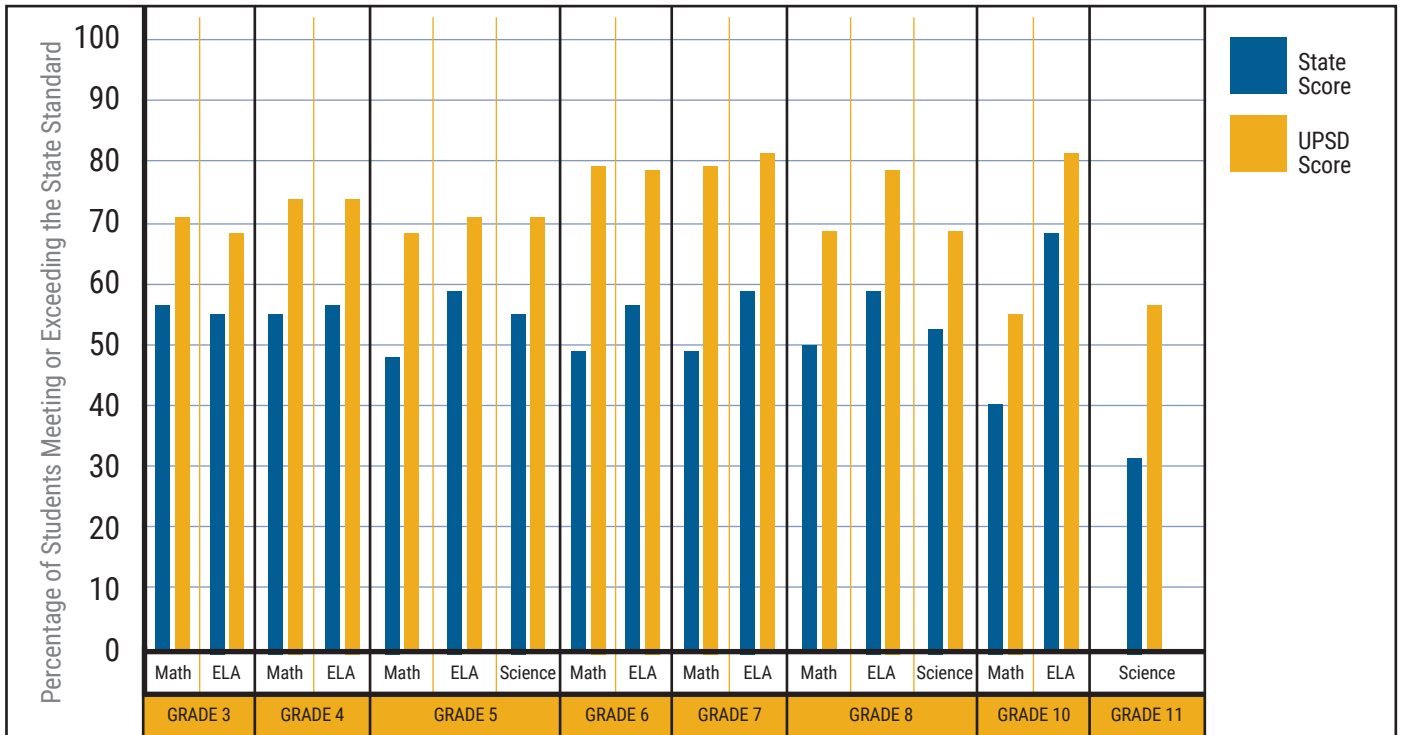
*Thank you Bob Lucey!  
Teacher, coach, student advocate  
and servant leader. Your legacy  
will live well into the future.*



# Academic Data

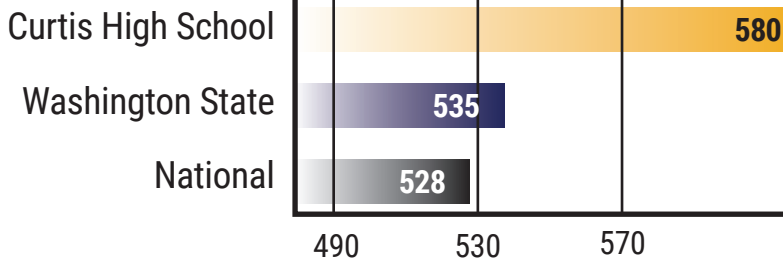
*The mission of the University Place School District, in partnership with our community, is to develop competent, contributing citizens.*

2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment (Grades 3-8 & 10) and Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (Grades 5, 8 & 11)

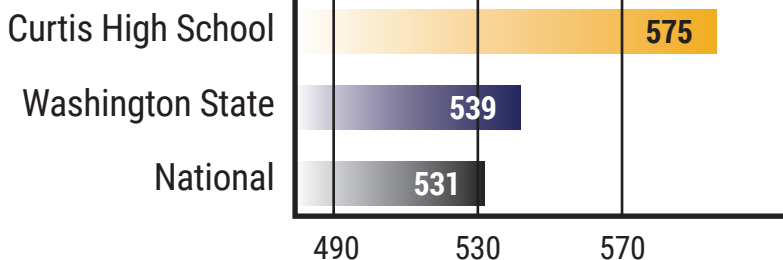


## 2019 Mean SAT Scores

### Math Scores



### Evidence-Based Reading/Writing



# Check This 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.



# Annual Performance Report

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*Federal law requires annual notification to parents and community of the following topics:*

## Annual Performance Report

Information regarding student demographics, academic performance, 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 <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>. State NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) data can be found at <https://www.k12.wa.us/assessment-ospi-0>.

## Parents' Right to Know Professional Qualifications

At any time you may ask whether your child's 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 or 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 <https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/closing-educational-achievement-gaps-title-i-part/citizen-complaints-federal-programs>. You can also request information about this process from the UPSD Educational Services 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 Services 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

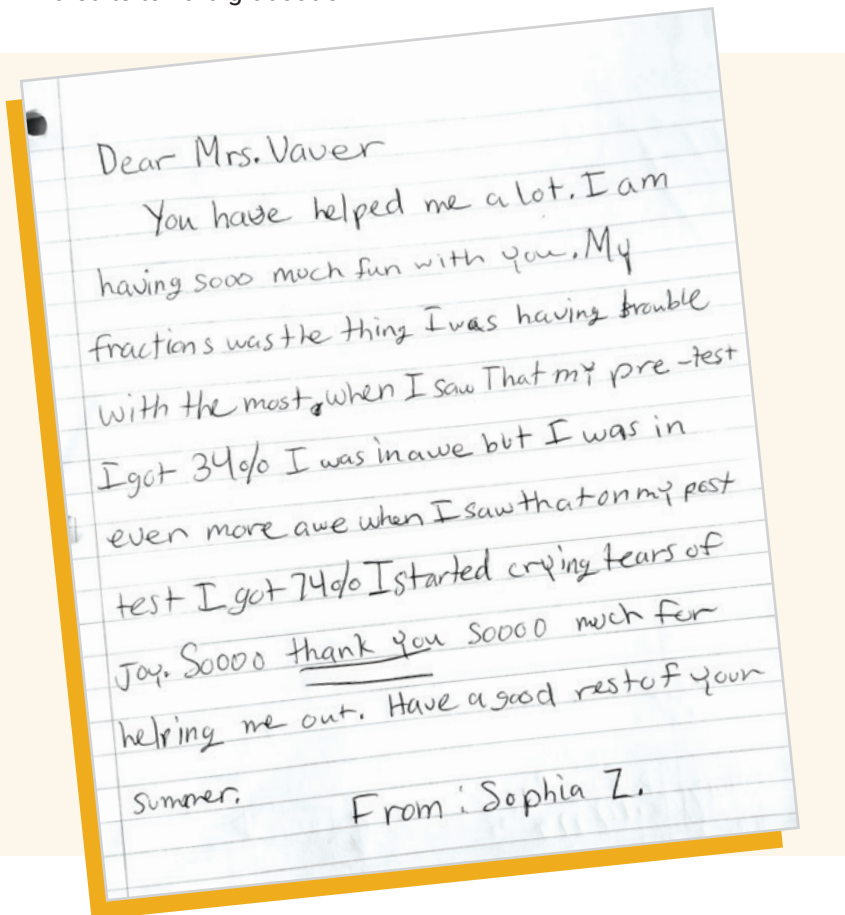
Student success in learning requires a safe environment. UPSD is committed to safe schools where students can achieve at their highest potential and teachers can teach in a welcoming environment, free of intimidation and fear. Each of our schools fosters a spirit of acceptance and care for every child, 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 I, Part A and LAP (Learning Assistance program) funds are used to provide additional English Language Arts support to students in grades K-7 and math support to students in grades 2-7. 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.

# Summer Academy Boosts Students' Learning & Improves Graduation Rates

When in school, did you struggle with one subject? Or a couple subjects you just couldn't understand well? Did any of your children struggle with math, science or English? If so, you may be familiar with summer school and how advantageous it can be to help students understand subjects they struggle with. The UP School District's Summer Achievement Academy helps many students gain a better understanding of subjects and allows older students to earn credits toward graduation.



The kitchen staff went above and beyond to make this past year's Summer Achievement Academy an optimal learning experience for the students. One of the staff would paint small rocks. Then the kids would find them, read them, then hide them for another person to find. It was a simple, but meaningful way to have the primary school students connect and play.

## Building Knowledge for Students Who Need Additional Instruction

Summer Achievement Academy is designed to strengthen the reading, writing and math abilities of students who need added instruction to maintain or achieve grade level progress. It's also an excellent chance for students to regain credit and to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in their classes in the fall. These summer learning days mirror regular school days. Classes are taught by certificated teachers, heavily focused on learning, and aligned with core instruction during the regular school year. Since the state doesn't provide funding for summer school, the district uses local levy dollars to fund this important summer intervention program.

## Three Programs Offered by Grade Level

The program offers classes for all ages of students—from kindergarten through 12th grade. Summer classes are offered 20 days in the summer in 3 grade-band groups (K-4, 5-7 and 8-12) plus an English Language Learner (ELL) program to strengthen language skills for students newly learning English:

**K-4:** Reading, math

**5-7:** English Language Arts (reading and writing), math, social studies

**8-12:** English Language Arts (reading and writing), math, science, social studies, and a variety of credit recovery classes for students who are missing credits or who failed a class



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### Over 500 Students Served – Many Struggling or Experiencing “Summer Slide”

This past summer, the program served 511 students. “They are some of our most struggling students,” says Angie Franklin, the district’s Director of Teaching and Learning. “Many kids experience ‘summer slide’ which is a tendency for students to lose some achievement gains they made during the previous school year,” says Franklin. “For struggling students,” she explains, “our goal is to close the gap, which will help them be more successful in the future.”

### Effective Review and Preview Instruction

The summer learning program keeps students engaged with the previous year’s content, builds upon that content, deepens their understanding, and prepares them for the upcoming year. This focused review and preview instruction is standard in all the summer classes.

“The teachers not only reinforce concepts from the previous year, but teach new concepts to prepare students for the year ahead,” says Franklin. “This benefits students’ learning and really helps kids who are struggling.” Some students need consistency, she adds. “We have very good teachers, and this opportunity provides our students with 20 more days of good, consistent teaching and learning.”

### Helped Nine Seniors Graduate and Others Graduate on Time

The Summer Achievement Academy helps students graduate. Nine seniors who wouldn’t have graduated did graduate because they earned credits through the Summer Achievement Academy or the Apex credit recovery program from the school year and/or during the summer. Many other students graduated on time in part because of earlier experiences in summer school that either prepared them well for high school courses or allowed them to retrieve credits during their freshman, sophomore or junior years.

### UPSD Student Academic Performance is High

Franklin credits the instruction during the school year and in the Summer Achievement Academy as contributing factors toward the district’s students’ consistent high academic achievement on state-administered standardized tests in English Language Arts, math and science. “Our kids do well because our system is strong,” she says. “Our students do well across the board, in all ages and grade levels. They consistently perform above the state averages.”

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# Honoring UPSD Employees Who are Veterans

Through a variety of activities, staff and students throughout the district honored the service and sacrifice of men and women in the armed forces on this year’s Veterans Day, November 11. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 660,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.5 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 19.2 million veterans still living today. It’s our privilege to say “thank you” to all of America’s veterans, to let them know that we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices. We are especially grateful to all the UPSD veterans who are working or teaching in the district.

## Current Staff Members Who Are Military Veterans



- Cathy Alfiche
- Patricia Anderson
- Wendy Bemis
- Dennis Caillier
- George Close
- Julie Dansby
- Torey Heidelberg
- Stewart Linde
- Cameo Lovell
- Michael Kindred
- Andrew Kormos
- Jim McDougal
- Gary McHaney
- Mark Miller
- Tim Phillips
- Therese Pierce
- Michael Przekwas
- Javier Rico
- Jerry Richards
- Craig Rine
- Erica Rollososon
- Bill Smith
- Brian Strong
- David Swathwood
- Dawnett Wright



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# UpDialog

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## Board of Directors



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Vice President  
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**Annette Fitzsimmons**  
(253) 460-2988



**T'wina Nobles**  
(253) 882-7810



**Marisa Peloquin**  
(253) 381-6006

## Fall Calendar

<b>November 11</b>	Veterans Day
<b>November 21-23</b>	CHS Musical <i>Newsies</i> , 7:00pm
<b>November 28</b>	Thanksgiving
<b>December 6</b>	U.P. Tree Lighting Ceremony
<b>December 9, 11 &amp; 16</b>	Intermediate Winter Concerts
<b>December 10</b>	Curtis Jr. High School Winter Orchestra Concert
<b>December 11 &amp; 12</b>	Curtis High School Winter Concerts
<b>December 17 &amp; 19</b>	Curtis Jr. High School Winter Concerts
<b>December 20</b>	Half-day, Winter Vacation Begins
<b>January 6</b>	Winter Vacation Ends
<b>January 15</b>	Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

For more information on events and the district calendar, please visit our website at [www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org)

## Upcoming Board Meetings

<b>November 13</b>	Education Service Center (ESC)
<b>December 11</b>	Education Service Center (ESC)
<b>January 8</b>	Education Service Center (ESC)

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



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