

Project Lead the Way: STEAM Curriculum Engages Students

STEAM: Science Technology Arts Engineering Math

Malena Mendez is a freshman in a new pre-engineering class at the high school. "It's very different from any other class you can take," says Malena. "We learn how things are made—things we use every day. I think that's fascinating to see how they work."

The new curriculum is called *Project Lead the Way*. Engineers, scientists, and biologists create the curriculum in collaboration with college professors, high school and middle school teachers.

"It's a hands-on curriculum with a lot of discovery and project-based learning," says **Dennis Conger**, Director of Career and Technical Education, who helped bring the program to Wenatchee.

"It's a creative, group oriented, collaborative environment for kids," adds **Ron Brown**, Director of Instructional Technology. "They're helping each other solve problems and build projects. Kids really love it."

Doug Merrill teaches two *Project Lead the Way* classes at the high school, called *Introduction to Engineering*, and plans to add more courses each year until students could take up to four years.

"[The curriculum] identifies the science and the math curriculum that has always been in engineering classes," says Merrill. "What they've done better is pulling out those parts. It adds more math and more rigor."

The new curriculum is also at all three middle schools, in a class called *Gateway to Technology*. It has an engineering focus that includes units on Design & Modeling (CAD and 3D drawings) and Automation & Robotics.

"They get really excited for

WENATCHEE LEARNS

Wenatchee Learns Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future
Key Objective: STEAM/Project based learning



Diego Tornabene looks on as **Doug Merrill** demonstrates proportion principles with **Lily Gilbert** in *Introduction to Engineering* class. Lily says the class gives her a chance to be creative. "I like to build things. We've made catapults, and right now I'm working on a paper car that we're going to race."

what's next," says Pioneer Middle School teacher **Brock Hurt**. "Like when we're doing the robotics—part of it is learning about gears and mechanisms. That's real hands-on, building with nuts and bolts, using wrenches. Building things that have to work. It's practical. Kids are making connections to the real world."

"We built a simple gear train," says Pioneer seventh grader **Jackson Haag** about a recent project in Hurt's class.

"We started by finding the gears and shafts," adds Pioneer eighth grader **Josh Mulhall**, "and then we slid the shafts through the holes and tightened them on with collars."

"It's definitely my favorite class," says Haag.

"It's engaging," says Hurt, who explains that the engineering-focused curriculum begins with simple concepts and activities that become increasingly complex as each activity builds on previous knowledge.

"Before we actually got to the CAD drawing, we did orthographic sketching," says Foothills Middle School teacher **Rick Williams**.

The sketches represent a three-dimensional object in two dimensions. The students sketch with pencil and paper first, then get on the laptops to create CAD drawings.

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Superintendent's Message



Superintendent Brian Flones

Our February newsletter provides us with the opportunity to share with you some mid-year reflections on the accomplishments and areas of improvement within our school district and schools. We have a lot to be proud of with respect to the academic and extra-curricular accomplishments and achievements of our students and staff. In this edition of *Inside Wenatchee Public Schools* you will find some inspiring examples of how students are combining learning, innovation and creativity to real world challenges and situations.

We also need to ensure that we are providing a more positive and safe learning environment. To that end, we have strengthened our approach to risk management, moved forward with full transition to our Positive Behavior Intervention

Support system for the start of the 2015-16 school year, and we will be starting our capital construction projects at Abraham Lincoln and Washington elementary schools, and Pioneer gym this Spring.

We have also been busy through *Wenatchee Learns Connect* in developing partnerships with our community that are creating a more personalized approach to learning, and providing our students with opportunities to explore career pathways, and get involved with hands on learning experiences. Our purpose is to prepare students with the knowledge and skills that they will need for life in the 21st century. In this newsletter we have provided some examples on how we are strengthening our curriculum and aligning it to the new common core standards, continuing to build out our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) opportunities, and encourage our students to pursue rigorous coursework.

Through *Wenatchee Learns*, the community has provided us with a clear message on what our education system must look like in the future. **To continue to design the personalized learning system of the future we invite you to keep talking with us in a new conversation called thoughtexchange (see page 8).** Our long-range vision is beginning to reflect and represent our community's vision, and we need to continue the communication. Thank you for your involvement in *Wenatchee Learns* and your voice in creating a clear and compelling vision for our future.

Brian Flones

Q&A: Adam Bergstrom

Director of Risk Management and Safety

Tell us about your new position.

The Director of Risk Management and Safety position includes many of the duties I had as Director of Safety and Security. I will still be in charge of the two security officers and truancy officer but in addition now I will be facilitating our new school resource officer's daily activities.

That police officer assigned to the district will be working with my office to provide a safe and secure environment for the schools. The officer will work with school personnel in providing alcohol and other drug education, maintaining a safe campus environment, serving as a law enforcement problem-solving resource person, and providing the appropriate response regarding on-campus or school related criminal activity.

What skills and background do you bring to the position?

The last seven years before I came here to Wenatchee I worked for the Department of Defense (DOD) Education Activity. I was the anti-terrorism program manager, senior security specialist, and the deputy director of safety and security. At the Department of Defense we had schools in three different areas of the world—The Pacific, Europe and America. ***I was in charge of making sure that everybody from headquarters down through the three area offices, the district offices, and all 193 schools were safe and secure.***

What is Risk Management?

Simply put, risk management

is identifying risks, prioritizing the identified risks and applying procedures or resources to minimize or control the identified risks. Everything I've done in the military involved risk management, especially security risk management. That seven years working for the education system in the Department of Defense is exactly what I'm doing right now—identifying hazards that could happen, then identifying procedural or resource-based requirements to either mitigate or lessen the effect of that hazard or threat.

What were your duties in the military?

I joined the army infantry back in 1983. As the years progressed I started choosing the path of specialized training. I ended up in the 101st Airborne and tried out for Special Forces. They go through a very rigorous selection process and I was fortunate enough to be selected. ***For the last 16 years of my military career I was in the Army Green Berets, culminating in leading a Special Forces A Team for 4 years.***

The last three years of my military career I worked at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. My team conducted vulnerability assessments of military installations, government facilities, campuses, DOD schools and school systems. I was a terrorist operation specialist. I taught risk management which included threat assessments, criticality assessments, vulnerability assessments and risk assessments. So that whole process of developing a risk management program I taught for three years

worldwide throughout the DOD and the federal government.

I retired from the military and worked at the Missile Defense Agency providing program protection and security for missile defense systems around the world and then was hired by the DOD Educational Activity.

What are your goals in this new position?

I want to develop an environment in the district where risk management is ingrained in our daily business practice. Whether that's at the school level, on the playground, or driving to and from work—make it second nature. I want to develop a program that enables the district to identify unsafe or threatening situations before they happen and develop procedures or suggest resource-based activities that would lessen or minimize those risks.

I want to be able to get to the point where we are proactive, where we're ahead of those things that cause injuries or accidents and we have developed procedures that are in place to address risks while ensuring accountability and quality assurance protecting our kids, staff, faculty, visitors, and everybody in the district.

A lot of times people may look at someone being hired to a position like mine and think, 'Oh, they developed this risk management position and look, the district is just throwing more money at people and salaries; they're not really fixing the problem.' That's not how I operate, and that's not how I expect



anybody that works for me to operate. It's not business as usual. ***We will be identifying and anticipating risks or situations, identifying the issues and circumstances and fixing them!***

We can sit here and identify all kinds of situations that may involve risk that may have hazards, but it's going that extra mile then and making sure we have procedures and resources and checks and balances in place that address those risks, and that people are held accountable. That's really what this is going to be all about. Given some time I know everyone will see a difference. I hope it's sooner than later. There's always going to be something that happens, but I'm going to try my very best to eliminate known risks while minimizing the effect or severity of unexpected risks.

WL WENATCHEE LEARNS
 Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future. Key Objective: More positive and safe learning environment

Wenatchee Teachers Earn National Board Certification

Eight teachers earned their National Board Certification in 2014, bringing the total number of Wenatchee School District National Board Certified teachers to eighty-five in the district.

"We are honored to extend our congratulations to our newest class of National Board Certified teachers," says Wenatchee School

Superintendent Brian Flones. "It takes a great deal of time and dedicated effort to meet the standards for certification. Earning this distinction is truly a testament to their personal standards for this profession as well as the high expectations they have for their students academic performance. We have exceptional staff in our

school district and we are proud of our most recent National Certified Board teachers."

The gold standard in teacher certification, National certification advances the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. Research

shows that the students of Board-certified teachers learn more than students in other classrooms.

WL WENATCHEE LEARNS
 Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all Key Objective: Highly trained and engaged staff



Marea Blankenship
 1st grade, Lincoln Elementary
 Certificate Area: Literacy-Reading Language Arts / Early and Middle Childhood



Amy Calkins
 PE, Orchard Middle School
 Certificate Area: English Language Arts



Megan Collins
 1st and 2nd grade Reading Intervention, Lincoln Elementary
 Certificate Area: Early and Middle Childhood Literacy.



Aaron Hansen
 7th grade core, Foothills Middle School
 Certificate Area: English Language Arts / Early Adolescence



Brock Hurt
 Technology & AVID, Pioneer Middle School
 Certificate Area: Career and Technical Education / Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood



Sally Knipfer
 6th grade Earth Science, 7th grade Life Science, Pioneer Middle School
 Certificate Area: Science / Early Adolescent



Sherri Littrell
 8th grade Language Arts, Orchard Middle School
 Certificate Area: English Language Arts, Early Adolescence



Desilee Valeri
 5th grade, Mission View Elementary
 Certificate Area: Mathematics/ Early Adolescence

Project Lead the Way

Continued from page 1

Challenging yet approachable

Project Lead the Way material is rigorous. "We're doing standard deviation," says Merrill, "which typically would be done in a junior or senior level statistics class, but the concepts are introduced in

real-world ways. They use digital tools, like micrometers, to measure wooden blocks. They're working in thousandths of an inch, so it's really detailed. They take the data and determine the standard deviation of blocks. They have to do some pretty serious math to figure out some of those things."



Jackson Haag and **Josh Mulhall** work on building a gear train from a drawing in Brock Hurt's *Gateway to Technology* class at Pioneer. "This is my favorite class," says Josh. "I like technology and building things."

"You have the kids actually measure things, draw and sketch dimensions out," Hurt explains about middle school activities. "There's a little bit of drafting, like what you would do at the high school, but on a basic level."

"Kids are accessing the curriculum even if they're not

great readers or writers," says Ron Brown. "It's difficult and challenging, but they're still very excited to access it. It's a pretty powerful thing to see."

Promoting Gender Equity in Engineering

"One of the aims of the program is to get more females involved," says Rick Williams of Foothills, who has almost a 50/50 boy/girl population in two of his Gateway classes. "The girls hold their own quite well."

"I'm excited that they're offering *Project Lead the Way* at the middle schools," adds Merrill. "We're going to have 300 ninth graders coming in that will have already gotten their feet wet in *Project Lead the Way* curriculum. It's a good STEM class that they can continue."



"We learn how things are made, things we use every day," says engineering student **Malena Mendez**. "I think that's fascinating to see how they work."

The Mayor's *Maker* Forum: the Perfect *Maker* Storm

Sam Monson, an eighth grader who takes classes at Valley Academy of Learning (a parent-partner program of the Wenatchee School District), discovered *Make* magazine—a catalyst of a tech-influenced do-it-yourself movement known as *Makers*. Makers are people who make things: hobbyists, enthusiasts or students and amateurs who are innovative and creative. Sam decided to organize a *Maker Movement* in Wenatchee, and approached Wenatchee City government with his idea. “We

WENATCHEE LEARNS

Strategy Two: Tap into the power of our whole community. **Strategy One:** Design the personalized learning system of the future. **Key Objective:** Flexible personalized learning system

went to the city and they just loved the idea,” Sam said.

Meanwhile, WHS junior **Ethan Toth** and senior **Graham Morgan** were busy making quadcopters, multi-rotor helicopters. They equipped their copters with GPS and cameras, and used a 3D printer to create the legs. The remote control guides the copters up to 400 meters—then the GPS takes over to guide the aircraft back home.

Ethan knew he wanted more opportunities to make high tech projects, so he began to work on creating a *Makers Faire* to get people together. He, too, approached Wenatchee City **Mayor Frank Kuntz** and the City Council, as well as GWATA

NCW Technology Alliance and Wenatchee Learns Connect.

Meanwhile, **President Barack Obama** held the first-ever *Maker Faire* in The White House, and invited mayors from across the nation to join in the movement.

This perfect storm of Makers resulted in the *Mayor's Maker Forum*, held at Wenatchee Valley College on November 21, an event that brought together Mayor Frank Kuntz and city council members, educators, local industry leaders, and students to talk about what a *Maker Space* would look like, and why it was important to pursue.

The importance of the Makers Movement involves fostering creativity while, in the words of

Wenatchee City Councilwoman **Karen Rutherford**, “finding tangible ways for kids to explore their interests and passions, and to figure our career connections.”

The energy at the Mayors Maker Forum ran high, and if enthusiasm is any indication of the future, Wenatchee will be seeing a new space created where the young will work alongside older mentors doing what they all love to do: making things.

“I guess that anyone can do anything,” said Sam Monson, envisioning a *Maker Space*. “You don’t have to have an idea when you walk in. You could walk in and look around and come up with a great idea.”

The *Makers*: Creativity and Passion Fostered by Opportunities

Sam Monson, Ethan Toth and **Graham Morgan** are three young people who are bright and enthusiastic. Their skill and passion will likely benefit not only themselves, but the broader community as well. All three of



Sam Monson

these young people are involved in “outside the box” programs in the district.

Sam Monson is home schooled and also attends the *Valley Academy of Learning*, where students are given support, guidance and enrichment opportunities. It’s a tuition-free, family-friendly school that offers a variety of classes K-10. Their goal is to inspire students with an enthusiasm for learning.

One of Monson’s current projects is a pet-tracking device. “I was thinking, how am I going to get more motivated to take my dog for a walk,” says Monson. “I thought, what if I had some sort of game to play when I do that. So I came up with this device that is on the cat or dog’s collar and it tracks its location. It could work on your phone, GPS, Bluetooth, maybe even WiFi to auto-connect to your home.”

Ethan Toth, a WHS Junior, has been in Highly Capable (formerly called Enrichment) classes since elementary school, and built the quadcopter in a Directed Study he’s taking with teacher Doug Merrill. Toth was looking for a teacher to help create an Invent Team—an MIT sponsored program to inspire students to create an invention that would solve a world problem. “I asked all the teachers around here if they would be willing to support me in that,” says Toth, “and I was hitting walls until I ran into Mr. Merrill, who said he applied for the same grant about two years earlier. I knew he was the perfect person because he was doing all the same stuff I was interested in.”

“Ethan is a prime candidate for Directed Study because he has initiative and self discipline, and he has his own ideas,” says Highly Capable Program Coordinator Kari DeMarco. “That’s what Directed Study is for—for a kid who is so above and beyond what we have to offer, yet they have this passion to pursue it.”

Toth has taken a number of Advanced Placement classes as well, rigorous academic courses that prepare students for college and provide college credit. “I really found my environment in AP classes,” says Toth. “It just clicks with me.”

Graham Morgan also participated in Highly Capable opportunities and takes Advanced Placement classes. “There are AP classes on subjects I enjoy,” says Morgan, who is currently taking AP Physics & Mechanics, and AP Statistics.

“They’ll help me pursue my career in mechanical engineering and aerospace engineering.”

Instead of taking a Directed Study class to pursue his interest in remote control aircraft, Morgan decided to build the quadcopter on his own time. “I wanted it to be my personal quadcopter,” says Morgan. “I love building stuff and I thought that would be a fun challenge.”

Morgan is in a pre-engineering class with Doug Merrill and works with Ethan on projects.

“It’s cool that the technology has advanced so far that we can have our own personal drones that we can use for a myriad of different implications, like photography and mapping,” says Morgan. “It’s a great opportunity for kids like us to really show what we can do.”



Ethan Toth and **Graham Morgan** display a Quadcopter at the Mayor’s Maker Forum. Both Toth and Morgan built their own quadcopter, equipped with cameras and GPS. When the copters get out of range they are programmed to fly home.

NEWS BRIEFS

Apple Leaf Top Newspaper

The Apple Leaf of Wenatchee High School was named one of the top student newspapers in the country for the second year in a row at the Journalism Education Association / National Scholastic Press Association Fall National High School Journalism Convention in Washington, D.C. The Apple Leaf was one of eight winners named in the Tabloid Division. The Pacemaker is high school journalism's highest honor. Student newspapers are judged by professionals on several criteria, including quality of writing and editing, layout and design, photography and editorial leadership. The editor in chief of the 2014 Apple Leaf staff was Bridget Dowd, who is currently a freshman at Arizona State University majoring in journalism.

Foothills Math is Cool Team takes First at State

The Foothills 8th grade Math is Cool team took first place in Washington State (Masters) Math



Quinn Rounds, Cole Hansen, Alex Albert and Mason Brown with Michelle Jobe

is Cool competition, Division One. Team members **Quinn Rounds, Alex Albert, Cole Hansen** and **Mason Brown** were the top four scorers from the regional competition and became Foothill's first team to compete at State.

"Math is Cool is a one-day competition consisting of a two-part individual test, a team test, a pressure round, mental math, and head-to-head College Bowl rounds," said **Michelle Jobe**, who coaches the team along with **Michele Sandberg, Michele Rhyner** and **Mary Hyde** (7th & 8th grade coaches) and **Billie Ritzke** (6th grade coach).

"It is very difficult to place at the state competition and so it was quite an accomplishment for the boys," said Jobe. "All four of them have competed in *Math is Cool* since

elementary school, but this is the first time any of them have earned a team award at Masters."

Golden Apple Band Takes Sweepstakes

The WHS Golden Apple Band took the Sweepstakes Award at the final competition of the year in Auburn. "The Auburn Veterans Day Marching Band Championships is like the championships of the marching band season," explains **Jim Kovach**, GA Band Director. Kovach said the band had taken second place in several competitions this year and by placing first at the end of the season showed that they never let down. "They were always pushing themselves. I think those second places made them work a little bit harder—their work ethic might be a little bit stronger."

Drum majors are **Rey Rosser**, senior and **Kevin Wilson**, junior.

Next up for the GA Band is a series of workshops and performances at Disneyland this spring. Kovach takes the band on an out-of-state trip every four years. "It's a bigger venue," says Kovach. "A national venue rather than a local venue. It gets the kids to maybe

work a little bit harder. And it's fun."

The band will perform in the Disneyland parade and take a workshop in Disney film studios, where they will actually play the soundtrack for a movie under direction of a professional conductor. Then it's on to Cal State Long Beach. "The kids do a workshop with the faculty from that prestigious school," says Kovach.

The band is raising funds for the trip by collecting clothing and other textiles for recycling, along with other fundraisers. Anyone interested in finding out more, contact **Laura Cornwall** 663-8117, ext 735. Email: cornwall.l@wenatcheeschools.org



Golden Apple Band photo by Susan Johnson

James Elwyn State Coach of the Year

Panthers head swim/dive team coach **James Elwyn**



was named Washington State Coach of the Year at the State Championships in Federal Way, November 15. Elwyn has been Big 9 League Coach of the Year several times for both boys and girls. This is his first State honor.

Elwyn credits assistant coaches Mike Hartley, Brian Lee, Marc Norsen and Dive Team coach Mitch Thompson. "I really think one of the reasons we do well is not me, it's the fact that I have these quality assistants," says Elwyn. "All of them could be head coaches if they wanted. All of them have good background and experience."

This year's girls team was one of the most successful teams at Wenatchee High. They won all of the Big 9 League meets, won a district title, and finished 4th at State. "I've been in a great situation with kids that work hard and want to get better, and families that place a priority on commitment and follow through."

WHS Interact Club Wins Social Justice Award

The Wenatchee High School Interact Club was awarded the Civil Rights and Social Justice Award at the 11th annual Multicultural Festival-Martin Luther King Jr. Day festivities at the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center on Saturday January 17. Mayor Frank Kuntz presented the award to club advisor **Jon Magnus** and members of the club. Interact Vice President **Keaton 'Asa' Smith** thanked the mayor and the Diversity Council on behalf of the club.

The Interact Club is a dynamic group of young people who strive to live their motto Service Above Self, said Melissa Hernández, who nominated the group. Since 2006 the club has logged an impressive record of accomplishments and fund raising efforts for worthy causes.

Gemeinhart's Debut Novel gets Rave Reviews

Dan Gemeinhart's debut novel, *The Honest Truth*, was released on January 24th to rave reviews

from the top reviewers in the nation. Gemeinhart is a teacher/librarian at Mission View Elementary. The Barnes & Noble review said, "The debut of a phenomenal new middle-grade talent."



Students Connect to their Futures at College and Career Expo

Written by **Diana Haglund**,
Wenatchee Learns Connect
Coordinator

More than 1,500 high school students flooded the Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) campus on November 5th for the Wenatchee School District's College & Career Expo.

The Expo created a mega-sized opportunity for students to explore careers and post secondary training and education opportunities in one place. The Expo is part of the District's Wenatchee Learns initiative to personalize learning. Through college and career readiness activities students develop a greater understanding of necessary skills, training requirements, and educational pathways.

The theme of the Expo was connecting the dots to your future. Over 80 exhibitors -- colleges, military recruiters, training organization and employers filled WVC's Smith Gymnasium and Van Tassell Hall. Throughout the six-hour event, freshman through senior level students from Wenatchee High School, WestSide High School and SkillSource visited with exhibitors and collected information. Some of the most popular stops for students included, Pacific Engineering and Design's "Engineers in the Making" Photo booth, the Academy of Hair Design's 1930's Permanent wave machine, and the Be Your Own Boss booth sponsored by

the Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance.

Access was an important element in planning the Expo. "We changed things up this year by building the event into the school day instead of in the evening. Additionally, we partnered with Wenatchee Valley College as the host site. It was important to us that every student had the opportunity to come and explore what's next

attend evening events and the Expo was one not to be missed.

"A student may have identified several different areas of interest for life after high school, but the reality is that it's not easy to arrange an opportunity to talk with multiple people about exploring these options," said Stacy Luckensmeyer, business specialist for the Wenatchee Valley College Center for Entrepreneurship and

and career expo, professionals and colleges have been brought to the students, and they are excited to talk to them about why they chose the careers that they have, how they've arrived at their position today, and the education required to get there. All within an hour of the students' time."

Holding the Expo at WVC helped demystify college by providing high school students an opportunity to participate in a college visit and connect with student leaders at the college. WVC transformed the Van Tassell Lounge into an inviting, engaging, interactive space where students could learn about the college's academic programs and student life.

Providing students the necessary tools to succeed in life after high school is the overarching objective of educators, employers and civic leaders. Each of us has one thing in common -- we all travel our own, unique path to find our own future. The Expo connects students with information and opportunities to explore careers consistent with their own unique interests.

Thank you to the all of the College and Career Expo sponsors and partners : Print Guys, Wenatchee World, Caffè Mela, SkillSource, Wenatchee Valley College, CWU GEAR UP Mosaic, Wenatchee School District Career & Technical Education, and Wenatchee Learns Connect.



Rachel Drollinger, Maria Jackson, and Taylor Moen stepped into Pacific Engineering & Design's "Engineers in the Making" photo booth where they were able to ask questions of professionals and picture themselves as engineers by sporting tools of the trade—hard hats, safety glasses and tape measures.

for them. We know transportation issues, extracurricular commitments and work schedules can make it difficult for student to

expo planning committee member. "It can be intimidating, and everyone (especially our kids) has busy schedules. With the college



WENATCHEE LEARNS
Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future
Key Objective: Students exploring career paths

PASSport to Success and Strengthening Families for Parents & Youth

by **Melissa Hernández**, Volunteer & Parent Involvement Coordinator

Two parent programs offered this year provided education and skills for strong family connections.

PASSport to Success (PASS—Parents Assuring Student Success) is a user-friendly parent education program whose main purpose is to train parents to work with their children in the home to instill concrete skills that are linked to success in school. The Family Advocate Team has been offering District wide PASSport sessions in Spanish & English to our Wenatchee School District families for ten years now.

PASSport empowers parents and shows them that they are a vital component to their children's success. Hands-on activities include modules on Parent Attitude, The Home Environment, Study Skills, Homework & Learning Expeditors, Note-Taking skills, Helping Children Prepare for Tests, Memory & Thinking Skills, and Teaching Reading Skills.

Participants receive parent workbooks and a certificate of participation. In addition, parents benefit from Teening Up—interactive sessions that get parents

talking about youth development.

Strengthening Families for Parents & Youth is a program offered at Wenatchee High School for families with freshman students. It's a parent, youth, and family skills-building curriculum that focuses on strengthening parenting skills, building family strengths, and preventing teen substance abuse and other behavioral problems. The program strives to improve parental nurturing and limit-setting skills, improve communication skills for both parents and youth,

and encourage youth pro-social skills development.

The program is offered in both Spanish and English, and is offered as a partnership between the school Family Advocate team, WSU Cooperative Extension and a CWU GEAR UP Mosaic grant.

For more information on parent programs, or to register for upcoming classes (Love & Logic is offered next), contact Melissa Hernández, (509) 888.2828, hernandez.m@wenatcheeschools.org

Construction Update

Work is progressing on the capital improvements approved by voters in February 2014. Here's an update on what's happened so far, and timelines for current projects. Thank you again for voting to keep Wenatchee Schools safe and up-to-date.

Projects Timeline

Spring 2015

↓

Summer 2015

↓

2015/2016 School Year

↓

Summer 2016

↓

September 2016 Projects Complete

WENATCHEE LEARNS

Strategy Three: Use the best tools and resources to advance Learning

Key Objective: Facilities that support optimal learning

Mission View Parking Lot Safety

The Mission View Elementary School project was completed before the start of school 2014. It created safer student pick up and drop off area for buses and parents, and added additional parking. It was a collaborative project between the Chelan County Publics Works and Wenatchee School District to improve safety for students walking to school and other pedestrians.

Lincoln Elementary

The Lincoln modernization, additions and site improvements will add a wing, windows, lighting, bathrooms, floors, heating and air conditioning, a gym and library. The new wing will replace the ten portable classrooms.

MARCH 2015 – AUGUST 2015: New bus ramp off of Cascade Street and start construction of new wing. The new wing will be ready to occupy September 2015.

JUNE 2015- AUGUST 2015: remodel Special

Education area. A new, larger, safer parking lot will be constructed. Scheduled to be complete by September 2015.

JUNE 2015 - DECEMBER 2015: Students will be moved into the new wing during modernization of the 200 wing (built in early 1950's).

SUMMER 2016: Project complete for school start. Forte Architects & Lydig Construction

Washington Elementary

SUMMER 2015: The new Washington Elementary School construction will begin with the installation of underground utilities.

2015-2016: The new school will be built throughout the school year. Washington students will stay in the current building during construction, with modified playground and staff parking. Safe, temporary parent drop off and pick up will be created on Elliot. Safe pedestrian access will be on the north side of Washington Street, while the south side that runs along the playground

will be closed. The construction area will be fenced off for safety.

SUMMER OF 2016: The old Washington will be demolished and a new parking lot and playground areas will be built, and the west half of the early childhood building will be finished. The new school and parking lots will be ready by the beginning of school 2016.

TCF Architecture and Walker Construction, Leone & Keeble Construction, called *WLK Joint Venture*

Special Education and Early Childhood Learning

SUMMER 2015: Modernization begins in this building adjacent to Washington Elementary. The east side of the building which includes Special Education offices, will be rebuilt, and the entire roof will be replaced. A new HVAC heating system, electrical system and upgraded technology will be installed, along with safety and security technology—electronic access control, new fire and burglar alarm. East

side completion date is **September 2015.**

SUMMER 2016: West side of building, which includes classrooms, will be modernized, and entire project completed.

TCF Architecture and Walker Construction, Leone & Keeble Construction, called *WLK Joint Venture*

Pioneer Gymnasium and adjacent areas

JANUARY - AUGUST 2015: Going out to bid for a contractor, with an anticipated start date of March 2015. Pioneer gymnasium hallways locker rooms, Apple Bowl grandstands and stadium lighting will be under construction through August, 2015. The Apple Bowl will be under construction during graduation, so WHS graduation will be moved to the Town Toyota Center.

SEPTEMBER 2015: The Apple Bowl will be ready for first football game. Forte Architects, contractor to be determined by bid.



Construction on the new Washington Elementary begins Summer 2015. The new building is situated on the northwest portion of the existing playground along Washington Street, allowing students to continue attending school in the existing building, unaltered by construction. The old building will be demolished in the summer of 2016. The new building will be ready for occupancy for the 2016/2017 school year. Image courtesy of TCF Architecture.

EVENTS

February

February 13 No School for Students/Non-Contracted for Teachers

February 16 Presidents' Day

March

March 4 Spring Conference Day

March 9 - 13 Classified Employees Recognition Week

March 30 - April 3 Spring Break

April

April 20-24 Kindergarten Registration

May

May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 25 Memorial Day

June

June 6 WHS Graduation

June 11 WSHS Graduation

June 11 Last Day of School

We want to hear from you!

You are invited to join an online conversation to help us improve our education system so we can better serve the needs of students. We are building upon the conversations started through *Wenatchee Learns*. **This time around the conversation will be online.** You'll be able to share your ideas and experiences, and see what others in the community think. While we need an email address and school or district affiliation in order to communicate, **all conversations are anonymous.**

Your voice in this conversation is critical.

Please go to our website, wenatecheschools.org and click on the **thoughtexchange**

link or visit <http://wsd.thoughtexchange.com/invitation> to start. Or call 509-663-8161.

Your voice in this conversation is critical. We encourage you to take part in order to help us prepare students with the knowledge and skills for life in the 21st Century. Thank you for taking the time to respond.



WENATCHEE LEARNS
Strategy Two: Tap into the power of our whole community



WHS Robotics Club Headed to State

The WHS Robotics Club received the Tournament Finalist award at their first State VEX Robotics competition at Central Washington University December 8, qualifying them for State competition.

"We compete within the organization called VEX Robotics," explains Career and Technical Education teacher Matt Kline, who advises the club along with Andy Parks, a PUD electrical engineer.

At the VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, teams of students design and build a robot to play against other teams from around the state in a game-based

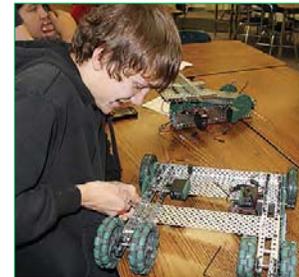
engineering challenge.

"We have kits and parts to create a robotic that is designed to complete a task," says Kline. "There's a lot of physics involved, a lot of math."

Tournaments are held year-round at the regional, state, and national levels and local champions go on to compete against the best in the world at the VEX Robotics World Championship each April.

State competition will be hosted by Eastern Washington University and will take place March 8th in Sunnyside.

The WHS Robotics club is supported through the CWU MOSAIC GEAR UP Grant—a



WHS Robotics Club's **Hayden McKenna** builds a robot.

program that provide services in middle and high school building for seven years to build a sustainable culture of college-awareness and preparation.



WHS Assistant Principal Dave Perkins got the chance to achieve a longtime goal by becoming a contestant on the TV game show Jeopardy. "I'm a big fan of the show and I've watched it for most of my life," says Perkins. Watch Dave Perkins on Jeopardy **March 4**. SEATTLE KOMO-TV 7:30 P.M. SPOKANE KHQ-TV 7:00 P.M.



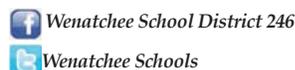
Andy Parks, Chelan Co. PUD Electrical Engineer, and **Matt Kline**, CTE instructor, are club advisors. Parks, a 2008 WHS graduate, volunteers his time to work with the students. "I think it's important to get kids involved in math and science," says Parks. "Also, when I was in high school, an engineer at the PUD helped me with a project and really got my interest in giving back."

WENATCHEE LEARNS

Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future Key Objective: STEAM/Project based learning / Strategy Two: Tap into the power of our whole community Key Objective: Citizen-student mentoring



Sign up for our eNewsletter at our newly designed website: wenatecheschools.org



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