

LEARNERS TODAY. LEADERS TOMORROW.



A MESSAGE FROM Superintendent Rothlin

Dear Chehalis Patrons,

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close, and it is a great time to look back and reflect on all that we have accomplished together. This year in particular, I am proud of the progress we have made as a staff, as a district,

and as a community toward ensuring that our students are prepared for careers and college once they have received their Chehalis School District diploma.

And, speaking of life after high school... the Chehalis School District is embarking on an initiative that we know will greatly benefit our students. This spring, more than 40 Chehalis School District community members, parents and staff participated in a Community Forum to launch the CSD Student Achievement Initiative. I couldn't be more excited about what this long-range plan will mean to our students. The initiative aims to raise the bar for educational standards with the ultimate goal of 60 percent of graduates going on to earn a four-year college degree. Chehalis educators are working every day to create classroom environments that utilize energetic and powerful, teaching and learning methods.

The work began early this school year, thanks to the help of the Chehalis Foundation. The Foundation provided funding for an independent review by the Baker Evaluation Research Consulting (BERC) Group. BERC did a comprehensive assessment of our practices. The assessment determined that our teachers are strong in the areas of:

- Traditional teaching methods with the best interests of students in mind;
- Strong community partnerships and positive relationships with students and families; and
- School environments conducive to improvement.

Recommendations from the review included three areas:

- Increased teacher collaboration and professional development;
- Focus on instruction that promotes critical thinking; and
- Build a district culture that promotes Career and College Readiness.

These three recommendation areas have become the district's instructional strategy goals, which are now being called our Student Achievement Initiative. For detailed information about these goals and the Initiative, go to the Chehalis School District website, www.chehalis.k12.wa.us.

As part of the Student Achievement Initiative, and specific to Goal #3, our Career and College Readiness Committee, in partnership with BERC Consultants, is implementing a multi-year strategic plan that will increase students' awareness, preparation, and eligibility for life after high school. Teachers and administrators across the district are working collaboratively through Learning Walks and Reflection Meetings to advance their teaching techniques to align with the demands of today's classrooms.

Chehalis staff has embraced these suggestions and are working diligently to implement new and innovative practices into our classrooms that will give students the boost they need to successfully transition to careers and college. Thank you for taking this journey with us. Many great things have been accomplished this year – and even greater things are yet to come in the Chehalis School District!

Sincerely,

Ed Rothlin, Superintendent

Chehalis students test new Smarter Balanced Assessments

This spring, Chehalis students were among the first to take new assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The new tests are called the Smarter Balanced assessments and they measure real-world skills in English and Math, such as analytical reading, persuasive writing, and problem solving. This year's testing is only a field test. Next year, the assessments will replace existing state tests in English and Math. For more information, visit www.smarterbalanced.org

Focusing on Math for middle school students

This year the Chehalis School District has placed a focus on Math to ensure that middle school students have a solid foundation in the subject. "We want all students to have strong skills in Math concepts because they are the basis for advanced Math and Science learning," said Superintendent Ed Rothlin. "If we teach the basics well, there is no limit to how far our students can advance in their educational career."

A special focus is taking place at the middle school level, where teachers have increased professional development time, so that they can collaborate and share strategies. Staff has placed an emphasis on increasing the number of eighth graders who take Algebra, and before and after-school tutors are helping students with extra learning time in Math. Math Academy incorporates fun and learning to give students a boost over the summer months.

"Eighth grade Algebra is considered a gateway course for college," said Rothlin. "We are working very hard to prepare our students for career and college when they graduate."



Math tutoring at Chehalis Middle School has helped students get the boost they need to get ahead in Math.

Chehalis Students achieving

Congratulations Lady Bearcats, State 2A Basketball champs!

Congratulations to the Lady Bearcats, State 2A Champions! On Saturday, March 8, the W.F. West High School Girls' Basketball Team won the Washington State 2A State Championship in the Yakima Valley SunDome! Just hours after grieving at her father's service, Julie Spencer scored a game-high 20 points and seven rebounds while earning tournament MVP honors – to help the Bearcats claim their first state title in girls basketball with a 48-37 victory over Mark Morris in a rematch of last year's state final. Nike McClure, who finished with five points, 13 rebounds and two blocked shots, was also named on the all-tournament team, and Tori Weeks, eight points, six rebounds, was on the all-tournament second team.



Middle School students selected for Junior All-State Band

Kate Amrine (oboe), Michael Carter (clarinet), Jacob McCarthy (trombone) and Justin Schwiesow (trumpet) were selected to perform in this year's Junior All-State Band in Yakima.



Knowledge Bowl Team places third in Region

W.F. West's Knowledge Bowl Team took 3rd place in the 2A Division at the Regional Knowledge Bowl Tournament in Tumwater February 6. Sue Ardington is the team's coach. Left to right: W. F. West Principal Bob Walters, Zoe Saylor, Rory Slattery, Molly Russell, Matthew Durham, Jared Chung, Chas McElroy, and Superintendent Ed Rothlin.



Robotics Team goes to World Competition

The W.F. West Robotics Team - SWAG 4060 (Students With A Goal) competed at the World Competition in St. Louis, Missouri on April 22. The team earned the Engineering Inspiration Award from the Regional Championships and had their \$5,000 registration fee for the World Competition paid for by NASA.



Forensics Team competes at State and sends members to Nationals

Nine members of W.F. West's Forensics Team competed in the State Forensics Tournament March 15. Congratulations to Hannah Herzog and Haley Snyder who won the state championship for dual interpretation. Several team members also went on to national competition in Minnesota.



Olympic Elementary students help others

Olympic Elementary students collected \$1,800 to help support the Oso Landslide victims. Olympic Elementary Student Council members are shown here.

amazing things



Students show off culinary skills

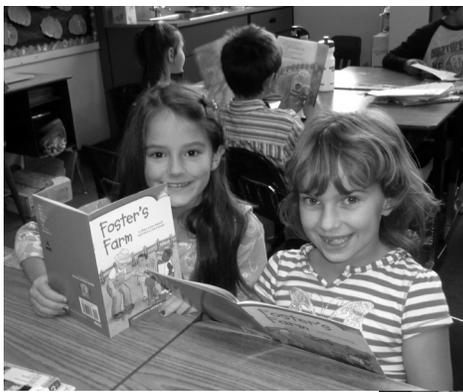
Olympic Elementary students put their cooking skills to the test as part of the "Kids Can Cook Future Chefs Competition." Students developed recipes, prepared dishes, and presented their work to taste testers while answering questions from the audience.

Back row (left to right): Brigette, Ronald, Colton, Brad, and Brandy. Middle Row: Kambriah, Ava, Jared, and Passion. Front Row: Anna, Caine and Reese. Judges' Choice Grand Prize Winner: Ava with Ava's Breakfast Bonanza. Kid Friendly Preparation: Kambriah with Open-Face Cucumber Sandwich. Fun Food: Caine with Pizza Sandwich.



Olympic Elementary Spelling Bee

Winning spellers, from left to right: Heidi, fourth grade, 3rd place; Madelyn, fourth grade, 2nd place; Cody, fifth grade, 5th place; Luke, fifth grade, 1st place; Kaitlynn, fifth grade, 4th place; pictured with Principal Brett Ellingson.



R.E. Bennett's happy readers

R.E. Bennett students enjoy a focus on literacy.



...And computer literacy

R.E. Bennett students also gain valuable computer skills...on an elementary school "COW" (computers on wheels).



A focus on Career and College readiness

The Chehalis School District is working to build a culture that supports career and college readiness for all students.

With this in mind, staff are focusing on providing students with skills in the following areas:

- » Critical thinking and problem solving;
- » Teamwork and communication;
- » Technical skills through hands-on experience;
- » Strong work ethic, modeled by our staff;
- » Resiliency; and
- » Life long learning.

Many of the above skills are enhanced by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) courses. Studies show that students who enroll in STEM courses in high school are better prepared for college. Chehalis School District has become a leader in STEM education and we are proud to offer classes that will help prepare students for careers and college. Data shows that careers in STEM subjects are growing faster than those in other areas.

District goals include increasing the number of eighth graders passing the End of Course exam in Algebra, increasing our district's graduation rate, and increasing the number of students who are eligible to attend college.



W.F. West students and teachers brought STEM Day to Olympic Elementary fifth graders in February. Students had a great time participating in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities.



Cascade Elementary students recognized

Cascade Elementary students get a visit from Ronald McDonald during a spring assembly.



A focus on behavior

Cascade Elementary students listen intently at a social skills assembly.

Postal Patron

the LEARNING NETWORK

W.F. WEST CLASS OF 2014 TOP TEN



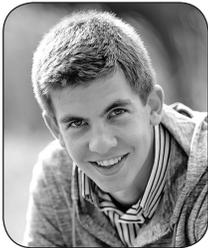
LINDSEY GIFFEY



KEESHA MATZ



ZOE SAYLER



NATHAN SHERFEY



DAKOTA WHITE



ANNA DETRAY



ANTHONY PAINTER



NICOLE BACH



NOELLE BEDFORD



RACHEL TENNANT

Lindsey Giffey - GPA: 4.0
Parents: Mark and Cheryl Giffey
Future plans: Washington State University to study Biochemistry to become a doctor

Keesha Matz - GPA: 4.0
Parents: Dale and Anne Matz
Future plans: Washington State University to study Genetics and Cell Biology to become a medical researcher

Zoe Saylor - GPA: 4.0
Parents: Jennifer and Timothy Saylor
Future plans: Stanford University to study Human Biology to become a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Nathan Sherfey - GPA: 4.0
Parents: Debrah and Justin Sherfey

Future plans: Willamette University to study Finance/Economics and play basketball. He hopes to use his business degree to help other countries recover from disasters

Dakota White - GPA: 4.0
Parents: Brian and Marci White
Future plans: Oregon State University to become a civil engineer

Anna DeTray - GPA: 3.99
Parents: Tom and Jodie DeTray
Future plans: Centralia College and a four-year university to study sports nutrition

Anthony Painter - GPA: 3.989
Parents: Cary and Cathie Painter
Future plans: Washington State University to become a chemical engineer

Nicole Bach - GPA: 3.983
Parents: Dave and Lisa Bach
Future plans: Northwest Nazarene University to become a high school Math teacher

Noelle Bedford - GPA: 3.983
Parents: Clay and Lori Bedford
Future plans: Whitworth University to study accounting

Rachel Tennant - GPA: 3.97
Parents: Scott and Lisa Tennant
Future plans: Western Washington University as a member of the Honors Program to study Communication Science Disorders to become an Audiologist or Speech Pathologist

Remembering
JAN ENDERS
Cascade Elementary
Secretary
2001-2014

Mark your calendar...

- Summer STEM Academy
August 4-8, 2014
stemchehalis.org
- Summer Math Academy
July 7-August 15

Habla Espanol?

El distrito escolar de Chehalis ofrece servicios de traducción al Espanol a nuestros padres y familias. Por favor comuniquese con Emma Reynolds al 360-807-7215, o al correo electrónico a ereynolds@chehalis.k12.wa.us

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