

Meet Our New Student Representative: Kate Balmelli

W.F. West senior Kate Balmelli has a new job this year. She is the student representative to the School Board, attending regular board meetings and serving as a liaison between the school district and W.F. West's students.

At each meeting, Kate updates Chehalis School Board members on W.F. West activities, bringing a student's perspective to the meeting. Her role is to connect the school board and her W.F. West peers.

"I've shared with the board our leadership focus at W.F. West this year," said Kate, "which includes a focus on commu-

nity service and other improvements to the school. I am enjoying being a part of the board meetings," she said.

Kate said the number of attendees at a board meeting is smaller than she expected but she enjoyed learning about things she might not know about, for example the progress on the new STEM wing and the new schools construction.

"I like learning about things that students might not know about and I took it back to share with my leadership class."



This is Kate's third year being involved with leadership at W.F. West and her second year as part of the Associated Student Body (ASB).

Messages from Superintendent Rothlin

W.F. West High School STEM Wing Grand Opening

JANUARY 29, 2018 • 1:30 P.M.

PLEASE JOIN US!

If you've driven past W.F. West High School lately, then you've seen the brand new STEM wing that has been built thanks to generous donations from the Chehalis Foundation and a 5.5 million-dollar grant from the state. This state-of-the-art space will feature classrooms and lab space to further the amazing STEM education that's been happening at W.F. West. It will open in January 29, 2018. We can't wait for students to start using this wonderful resource.

Speaking of construction, work on the new James W. Lintott Elementary School for grades PK-2 is moving along on schedule. The school is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Construction on the Orin C. Smith Elementary School for grades 3-5 is delayed pending legislative passage of the capital budget. State capital funds already scheduled for school construction projects across the state, including Chehalis School District, are currently on hold. When the Legislature passes a capital budget, we will be able to proceed with construction.

A topic that we can never spend too much time discussing is **students wisely using social media**.

RESOURCES AND TIPS FOR PARENTS

The internet and social media open avenues of communication that help young people learn and grow. If misused, social media can also be a trap that seriously damages young people and their future. Pictures and writings posted online can remain available forever.

The Chehalis School District takes the following actions and provides the following resources to students and parents to help encourage students to use social media wisely and to warn them against misuse.

» The school district is not with students 24 hours a day. We cannot stop a student from misusing social



media, especially during after-school hours. The only certain way to prevent misuse of social media from any device is for the user of that device to use it wisely.

» We will continue to teach and provide information about wise use of the internet and social media and provide updates to the community about our efforts. We welcome new ideas on how to deliver this message effectively.

If you have any questions on this or any other topic, please don't hesitate to contact me.

– Ed Rothlin,
Superintendent

AN UPDATE ON OUR Student Achievement Initiative

IMPROVE • MODERNIZE • PREPARE

- » **Instructional practices in the classroom**
- » **Use of staff development & technology to enhance instructional practices**
- » **Aware, Eligible and Prepared = Ready**



Students engage with teachers to solve Algebra problems.

The Chehalis School District is engaged in a major initiative preparing students to succeed in college and a meaningful career. Today's job market is a world-wide competition. 70% of the family wage jobs that will await the student in Chehalis today will require a college or vocational degree, or a certificate beyond high school. That is why the district's Student Achievement Initiative aims to make every student career and college ready with a key target being 60% of our graduates going on to earn a degree or certificate beyond high school.

The skills our students will need to be successful in their careers are rapidly changing. Chehalis School District is dramatically raising the expectations of future successes for our students by improving & modernizing our instructional practices and creating a school culture that prepares students for careers and post-secondary education after high school. A college or vocational degree does not guarantee job success, but it significantly increases the likelihood.

In November 2013, we started work with a national education firm, the BERG group, aligning instructional practices in classrooms across the district with Powerful Teaching and Learning Strategies. Over four years, the district has moved from 36% of classrooms with lessons aligned with Powerful Teaching and Learning to 81% of classrooms aligned. 80% alignment at any snapshot in time is our goal. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the professional staff of the Chehalis School District, we've exceeded this goal. Today, Powerful Teaching and Learning strategies are the norm in Chehalis School District Classrooms.

In order to access advanced STEM classes at W.F. West High School, students need to take Algebra in 8th grade. In 2012-2013, 24% of 8th grade students were enrolled in Algebra. The district set goals to increase this to 50% of students ready for and enrolled in Algebra by 8th grade. This year (2017-2018) 58% of 8th grade students are enrolled in Algebra at Chehalis Middle School.

In addition, overall 8th grade math test scores have moved from below state average in 2012-2013 to above state average in 2016-2017.



High school students gather valuable college information at the Career Fair in November.

In order to meet our goals of 60% of W.F. West graduates earning a college degree or certificate we need more than 60% of students enrolling in college. College awareness is now a K-12 initiative across the district. Exposure to college level work through college in the high school, AP courses and access to college over the summer are increasing our student's preparedness for college. Approximately 65% of our students are going to college directly from high school (within one year of graduation).

LEARN MORE

- » www.readysetgrad.org
- » collegebound@wsac.wa.gov
- » 1- 888-535-0747



The College Bound Scholarship helps pay college tuition for students from families without adequate financial resources. Only a few years ago, fewer than 1/2 of eligible students applied for college bound. Today, we want all eligible students to apply.

In 2017-2018, the Maximum CBS Award was \$10,802 for students attending the University of Washington and \$4,438 for students attending a local community or technical college.

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AN UPDATE ON OUR Student Achievement Initiative

Students who qualify must register for this scholarship during their 7th or 8th grade year in order to be eligible.

Chehalis teachers, staff, board and administrators are committed to the continued creation of a college ready school district. Instruction in the classrooms K-12 looks different today than it did in 2013. Students enrolled in Chehalis School District are more and more college aware, college ready and college prepared.



A young student uses essential technology in the classroom.

The District continues its commitment to ensuring that teachers have excellent training and resources needed to enhance instructional practices. Teachers are integrating technology into teaching and learning. At the elementary schools, mobile computer labs are used every day. A team of fifth grade teachers has written Social Studies curriculum, aligned with state standards, using an interactive method through Google, which can be updated as needed instead having to wait on the traditional seven-year cycle. The School Board has committed to a structured annual replenishment schedule for technology.

LEARN MORE

This information is also available on the District's website:

www.chehalisschools.org

Or you can join our Key Communicators by emailing us:

keycommunicators@gmail.com

Or follow us on **Twitter @ChehalisSD** or on **Facebook**.

Thank you to our long-time staff

Congratulations to our long-serving employees!



W.F. West teacher **Janelle Williams** celebrates her 50th year of teaching in Chehalis! Janelle Aust (Williams) was hired by Chet Rhodes to teach at W.F. West in the 1968-1969 school year. She was the only teacher hired that year. At that time, there were only 450 students enrolled in the high school.

In addition to teaching and leading the forensics team, Janelle soon added commencement and baccalaureate to her responsibilities.

Janelle still teaches at W.F. West and she continues to dedicate her summers to teaching the young men at Green Hill Academic School as she has for 35 years.

"As Janelle enters not only her 50th year of teaching, but her 50th year of teaching here at W. F. West, we celebrate her longevity, devotedness to kids and her amazing energy," said Principal Bob Walters.

At the annual district meeting, Janelle was presented with this sign to mark her parking space in recognition of her dedication to the students and staff of the Chehalis School District.



Chehalis School District staff with 25 years or more of service were recognized at a staff kickoff event in August. *Pictured: Ed Simmons, Scott O'Hara, Lynn Wakefield-Rickard, and Janelle Williams.*

Postal Patron

SCHOOL NEWS

New K-6 Mathematics Curriculum Engages Learners

During the 2015-16 school year, 12 teachers in grades K-3 participated in a test pilot program of the EngageNY Math curriculum. Following the success of this pilot, all K-6 teachers piloted the curriculum during the 2016-17 school year.

Multiple curriculum studies have shown EngageNY Math to be a top tier math curriculum, one of the few that was written after the Common Core Washington State Standards came out.

According to Mathematics Coach Katelyn Walsh, the majority of teachers provided enthusiastic feedback about the curriculum, saying things like, "My students have never learned these concepts so deeply before now."

On June 20, 2017, the Chehalis School Board unanimously adopted EngageNY Math as the K-6 math curriculum for the district.



R.E. Bennett students got creative with math and science this fall. As part of a STEM activity, students built bridges with toothpicks and gum drops, and then balanced pennies (representing cars) on a paper plate to see how many cars the bridge could hold.

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!

CASCADE ELEMENTARY

- » Courtney Marganelli, Kindergarten

R.E. BENNETT ELEMENTARY

- » Haley Overby, Special Ed.
- » Hannah Wynne, Music

OLYMPIC ELEMENTARY

- » Nancy Blomdahl, grade 4
- » Shannon Hohosh, Special Ed.

CHEHALIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

- » Julie Cleary, Elective
- » Kevin Dickson, Spanish
- » Kaylee Hartman, English
- » Chelsea Pedro, Special Ed.
- » Josie Peterson, Math

W.F. WEST HIGH SCHOOL

- » Christine Enbody, Math
- » Bryce Garbe, English
- » Leslie Grover, Special Ed.
- » Emily Jordan, Physics / Robotics / Science
- » Matthew Klovdahl, Special Ed.
- » Max Mendez-Mendoza, Social Studies
- » Trevor Mora, Social Studies
- » Joseph Steketee, Vocational Ed. / Art
- » Christopher Walker, Physics / Chemistry

DISTRICT

- » Michael Giuliani, Strings / Music at Olympic, Chehalis Middle School, and W.F. West
- » Tom Grunenfelder, TOSA

LEWIS COUNTY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

- » Kristi Margeson, grades 9-12

Chehalis School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Board designated staff member who serves as Title IX / affirmative action compliance office is Jeff Johnson, (360) 807-7235.

El Distrito Escolar de Chehalis no discrimina en ningún programa o actividad por sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, origen nacional, edad, estado veterano o militar, orientación sexual, expresión o identidad de género, discapacidad o el uso de un Guía de perros entrenados o un animal de servicio y proporciona igual acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. Los siguientes empleados han sido designados para manejar las preguntas y quejas de supuestas discriminaciones, Jeff Johnson, (360) 807-7235.

Title I Notification: Parents can request the following information regarding instructional staff who work with their children: • Whether or not the child's teacher has met state certification for the grades and subjects she/he is teaching. • Whether or not the teacher is working with an emergency or conditional certificate where state certification criteria has been waived. • The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held, including field of discipline of the certificate or degree. • If the child receives instructional services from a paraeducator, the paraeducator's qualifications.

CSD ANNUAL
REPORT
ONLINE:

chehalisschools.org