



# Walla Walla High School

*“Home of the Blue Devils”*

The Blues' News

Making every effort to keep parents informed

800 Abbott Road ~ Walla Walla, Washington 99362 ~ 509.527.3020

January, 2009

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## Senior Party follows Commencement

If you are a senior's parent and would like to help/be involved with planning this event, please contact the school office and watch for more info. in the next edition.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### Welcome to Walla Walla High School!

On behalf of our entire staff, I would like to welcome you to Walla Walla High School and encourage you to join us in our mission of providing a quality education for every student at Wa-Hi. We are clearly in the midst of the most exciting and challenging time in the history of public education. The ability to collectively develop a clear mission and vision for what the educational experience should be for our young people is essential to a vibrant and credible educational community. The planning and implementation of educational initiatives by our staff to support student achievement is impressive.

Students must have adequate literacy and math skills to successfully access and comprehend academic information. Students must be able to read, write and problem solve at a high level of proficiency.

Our task is to ensure students have careful preparation, rigor and relevance as part of their academic experience. We will continue to carefully look at data, review research and assess current academic practices. Our staff is committed to ongoing professional development that will positively impact classroom pedagogy. We

can not and will not become complacent in how we go about this important work. We need to maintain the capacity to respond, learn and evolve as a quality educational institution.

We welcome your participation in this important endeavor.

### What Makes Wa-Hi Special?

We have developed a very clear understanding that to merely prepare students for graduation from high school is cheating them of future opportunities. We feel that we have addressed many of the supporting needs for the students by creating a Personalized Learning Environment and other supports depicted in the Pyramid of Academic Interventions.

Therefore, we have become very intentional about what we are doing and why we are doing it – a pre-WASL and post-WASL focus that is not necessarily the same. A very focused and intentional professional development program has been developed to assist the teachers as they try to infuse the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) into their daily teaching with literacy being the overarching theme. Our instructional focus is to create a

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

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culture of thinking learners through intentional and purposeful instruction.

### Creating Better Learning Environments

For many years, Wa-Hi has been providing an excellent education for students in Walla Walla. We recognize what happens in the classroom on a daily basis has the greatest impact on student achievement. As a system we believe that when each teacher strives to answer the questions on our mission statement every day, the students will achieve. Our agenda is to continue this rich history as outlined below:

Continue to build our collaborative culture through our professional learning communities. We will focus on results as develop data, through common assessments and W.A.S.L., to place students in meaningful academic intervention classes.

The work of our professional learning communities will focus on:

- What is it that we expect our students to learn?
- How will we respond when they don't learn it?
- How will we know when they have learned it?
- How will we respond when they do learn it?

This is the Wa-Hi commitment to our students and their parents.

*"Great Teachers  
Doing Great Teaching"*

**Darcy P. Weisner**  
Principal  
(509) 527-3020

## ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION

*From Brett Cox, Asst. Principal*

I would like to introduce you to a class that is new to Wa-Hi this year. The class is titled Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID. AVID is a program dedicated to helping students achieve their goals of going to college. Students considered for AVID are bright students who might be under-achieving, underserved in the college system, or First Generation College students. The AVID class, held within the regular school day, provides support, academic monitoring, and tutoring. The writing process, Socratic questioning, collaborative learning, and reading are the core strategies of the program.

Each AVID student carries a binder in which he or she is required to keep materials from all academic classes. Students keep track of assignments on assignment sheets and are required to take DAILY notes in all academic classes. The notebooks are graded weekly for content and organization by college tutors. Led by tutors, students participate in tutorial groups in the AVID classroom. In addition, students are taught study skills, test preparation, time management, and the writing process. Teachers fill out periodic progress reports; in addition to the school's routine one, for monitoring by the AVID teacher.

Sherry McConn is currently in her first year as the teacher of the AVID classes. As of this date AVID is offered during two sections of the school day and serves approximately 60 students. The goal of the program is to expand AVID to four sections and serve 124 students over the next two years.

### AVID Mission

The mission of AVID is to ensure that ALL students, and most especially the least served students, who are in the middle:

- \* Will succeed in rigorous curriculum.
- \* Will complete a rigorous college preparatory path.
- \* Will enter mainstream activities of the school.
- \* Will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
- \* Will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

AVID's systemic approach is designed to support students and educators as they increase schoolwide/districtwide learning and performance.

### **YEARBOOK WINTER BLITZ SALE**

January 12-16. This is the last opportunity for students to purchase *and be guaranteed* a Yearbook. Cost: \$55. Purchase in the ASB office at Wa-Hi or online at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com). Due to increasing costs in producing the yearbook, we won't be able to order as many extra copies as we have in the past. Spring Sales will be very limited!

### **ATTN: SENIOR PARENTS**

### **SENIOR RECOGNITION ADS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 13, 2009.**

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize your favorite senior in the 2009 edition of the Royal Blue! Order forms were sent out in early December. If you didn't receive yours, please e-mail us ([Kdebroeck@wwps.org](mailto:Kdebroeck@wwps.org)) and we will get you another.



## SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION DATES

*From Don Wilkins, District Athletic Director*

### **Registration information for students who have participated in a fall or winter sport:**

Spring sports registration for students who played a fall or winter sport this year will be February 10, 11, 12 & 13 by appointment.

Appointments can be made in the Wa-Hi athletic office. Registration can be done only before school, during lunch and after school. Please come to the athletic office to sign up for your appointment the week of February 2nd - 6th. Students may not miss class time to register for sports.

All appointments will be scheduled at five-minute intervals. Times available for registration will be before school, during both first and second lunch and after school appointments.

You will need to complete a **new** medical release card signed by parent or guardian and bring your \$30.00 sports participation fee at your scheduled time to receive clearance for participation. Medical release cards are available in the athletic office.

If you are unable to schedule an appointment or you miss your scheduled appointment, you will need to register during arena registration on February 18th, 2009 at the following time:

**ARENA REGISTRATION: WA-HI MAIN GYM 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

### **Registration information for students who did not turn out for a fall sport and students who did not complete the early registration.**

Registration will be held on February 18th, 2009 during the times listed above. Eligibility packets are available in the athletic department located in the Wa-Hi main office.

Students will need to have all forms in the athletic eligibility packet completed and **signed** by their parents **prior** to registration in order to receive clearance for participation. Students must purchase an ASB card in the business office **prior** to registration. Students will need to bring their ASB card or receipt with them to register. Students are to pay a \$30.00 sports participation fee at registration.

Students who fail to register at the designated times will not be able to register until after the season starts.

If your student has an athletic hold slip, they will need to either return the equipment or pay for it **prior** to registration.

**Academic performance is a very important component of our athletic program. If your student did not pass five classes at the semester, it could jeopardize their eligibility to play a spring sport. Remind your students they must be enrolled in and passing five classes for second semester. Running Start students should check with their Wa-Hi counselor to make sure they have the proper number of classes to meet the academic eligibility standards.**

Practice for spring sports starts on March 3rd. Students will need to turn their yellow eligibility clearance slips into their coach if they register after February 15th.

We are pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in our athletic program. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us at 526-8635.

***Parent meeting for spring sports, March 10th @ 7:00 PM, Wa-Hi main gym.***

## NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM MAKES CULMINATING PROJECT EASIER

Students might be complaining about another modification to the Culminating Project graduation requirement, but the graduation requirement hasn't changed; only the electronic system that we use to store best works has changed. Washington Occupational Information System (WOIS) has **replaced** eFolio. WOIS is full featured, easy to navigate and students can access it after high school.

Students in career and technical education (CTE) classes have the opportunity to use WOIS to assess their interests and abilities via interest survey assessments. From these assessments, students narrow the field from hundreds of potential careers to a few which they research using WOIS. The job outlook in Washington state, the educational pathway and wages, are just the beginning of the information contained within this new tool. From this information, students start to develop plans for after graduation.

WOIS has all this career-related information built-in or linked to the system. It is also very easy to navigate. Uploading best work files is straight-forward without multiple clicks of the mouse. Once a document is uploaded, like the student's resume, it can be accessed, modified, printed and then used, even after high school. WOIS retains these data files, and graduates need only to contact the school for that year's key code to access their files.

Randy Pausch in *The Last Lecture* states "We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand." WOIS is at least a full deck.

## SENIOR PRESENTATION INFORMATION

- o All seniors must sign up for the upcoming Senior Presentations. The sign-up forms are available in Mrs. Gobel's office or can be downloaded from the WWHS website. **Any student who neglects to sign up by January 6 will be assigned their presentation date and time.**
- o Senior Presentation days are; February 10 & 11, March 24 & 25.
- o Parents, who would like to serve on the evaluation panel, please contact Mira Gobel, [mkgobel@wwps.org](mailto:mkgobel@wwps.org).
- o Last Culminating Project Parent meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, January 12 at 6:00 PM in the Wa-Hi Commons.

## SPRING WASL TESTING INFORMATION

- o Testing dates are: March 16 – 19 and April 13, 14, 20, and 21. Please avoid absences and appointments during this time. There is no make up for high school WASL testing.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM PARENT NIGHT

- o The intent of this meeting is to inform parents about the AP program and college entrance. This meeting is open to ALL parents, especially if you have students in honors or AP classes.
- o Meeting date is Monday, March 23 at 7:00 PM in the Wa-Hi Auditorium. Please contact Mira Gobel if you have any questions about this meeting.

# Walla Walla High School

**Our Vision:** To be the best high school in the State of Washington.

**Our Mission:** We are a professional learning community.

We work together to seek out best practices, test them in the classroom, and focus on results to insure all students are college and career ready.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [WWW.WAHIBLUEDEVILS.ORG](http://WWW.WAHIBLUEDEVILS.ORG)

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