



Report

TO OUR COMMUNITY

2016-2017



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Mission Statement:

The mission of the Longview Public Schools is to ensure that every student learns the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors to become a responsible citizen in a rapidly changing society.

Board of Directors:

C.J. Nickerson, Board President
Barb Westrick, Vice President
Jennifer Leach
Richard Lord
J.D. Rossetti

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

I am pleased to present our annual report, which details the school district's finances and state testing results, and offers a glimpse into our district.

Being strong financial stewards is important to our district, because we know much of our support comes from you. Eighteen percent of our total revenue comes from local school levies, which help pay for many district programs and personnel, and help fund important upgrades in both technology and facilities. We are proud of our sound financial position, which recently enabled us to refinance a bond and save our taxpayers more than \$1 million!

Longview's assessment results show that our students are making some gains toward meeting state standards. We are steadfastly focused upon improving the achievement levels of each of the students we serve. Our schools are working hard to increase expectations while supporting each of our students as they strive toward greater levels of achievement.

Guided by Our Design for Excellence—the district's new strategic framework—we are working to give all of our kids the best possible educational experience. Each school is working on its own Improvement Plan and pursuing the same primary goal—to increase student achievement—supported by a secondary goal—to

improve each school's climate and culture.

After recently completing my first year as superintendent of Longview Public Schools, I can tell you that the health of our district is robust. Our schools are led by a dedicated group of administrators, and our students are being mentored by creative and resourceful educators—teachers who truly care.

Thank you for all you do to support Longview Public Schools!

Sincerely,

Dan Zorn, Superintendent



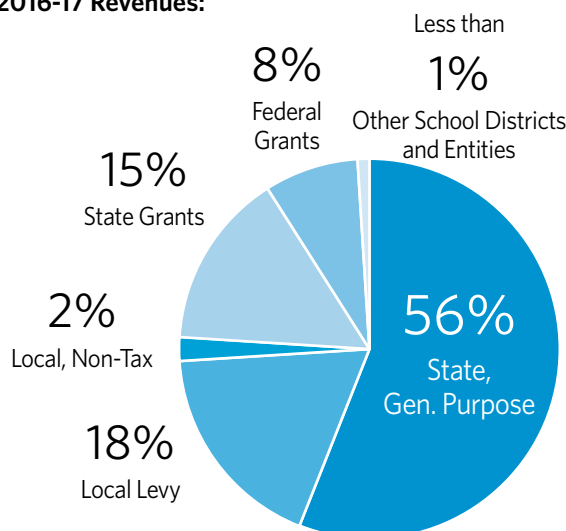
Fiscal Responsibility

2016-17 BUDGETED REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

~ Revenues ~

The Longview School District receives its revenue to operate schools from the following sources:

2016-17 Revenues:



Levy: Collection of maintenance and operations levies approved by the voters, as well as other "in lieu of" tax collections.

2016-17: \$15,135,057 | 2015-16: \$14,985,343

Local Non-Tax (Misc): Locally generated revenues not resulting from tax assessments. An example would be food service sales, e-rate reimbursement for phone bills, other reimbursements, facility rental fees, classroom fees, investment earnings.

2016-17: \$1,399,486 | 2015-16: \$1,408,526

State, General Purpose: Funding allocated by the state based upon enrollment and the work experience of the certified teaching staff.

2016-17: \$45,619,459 | 2015-16: \$43,722,402

State Grants: Special purpose state revenues, such as Special Education, Learning Assistance Program, Highly Capable, Transitional Bilingual, Food Services, Pupil Transportation, etc.

2016-17: \$12,520,223 | 2015-16: \$11,447,346

Federal Grants: Special purpose federal revenues, such as Special Education, Title I, Title II, Food Services, etc.

2016-17: \$6,568,807 | 2015-16: \$6,445,786

Other School Districts: Reimbursements from other districts for use of services such as food service sales and print shop sales.

2016-17: \$72,250 | 2015-16: \$72,250

Other Entities:

2016-17: \$42,250 | 2015-16: \$57,050

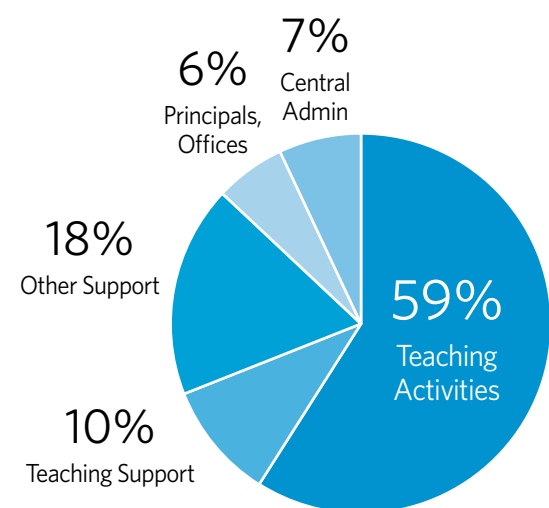
TOTAL REVENUE:

2016-17: \$81,357,532 | 2015-16: \$78,138,703

~ Expenditures ~

The major General Fund Activities are defined below:

2016-17 Expenditures:



Teaching Activities: Classroom, extra-curricular activities and payments to other school districts (for example students attending Special Education programs operated by another district or ESD).

2016-17: \$47,573,163 | 2015-16: \$45,625,958

Teaching Support: Library, Guidance and Counseling, Pupil Management & Safety, Health/Related Services, Instructional Professional Development and Curriculum.

2016-17: \$8,339,232 | 2015-16: \$8,277,064

Other Support Services: Maintenance/Custodial/Grounds, Building Security, Utilities, Insurance, Technology, Print Shop, Warehouse, Food Services, Motor Pool, Pupil Transportation, Public Activities.

2016-17: \$14,301,334 | 2015-16: \$14,899,876

Principals, School Offices: Principals and clerical staff salaries and benefits, in addition to supplies, materials, contractual and equipment.

2016-17: \$4,938,971 | 2015-16: \$4,783,466

Central Administration: Central Administration Offices and Supervision of Instruction, Food Services, Maintenance & Operations and Transportation.

2016-17: \$5,799,135 | 2015-16: \$4,740,807

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:

2016-17: \$80,951,835 | 2015-16: \$78,327,171

EXPENDITURES PER STUDENT:

2016-17: \$12,296.73 | 2015-16: \$11,727.38

Hometown pride

LONGVIEW STUDENTS RETURN AS LONGVIEW TEACHERS

Longview's classrooms are filled with hometowners—teachers who got their start right here as students. An informal poll found that at least 84 of our 436 teachers once sat in our schools' student desks! Here are a few Longview teachers and their anecdotes of moments that inspired them to join the teaching staff serving our district.

Patty May

Then: Student at Robert Gray Elementary, Cascade Middle and Mark Morris High School

Now: Teacher at Columbia Heights Elementary—fourth/fifth grade split class

From the time Patty May was in second grade, she knew she wanted to teach. It was almost as if she was taking notes.

From Fred Hanson, her teacher in third and fifth grades at Robert Gray Elementary (“He was young and new and had lots of energy,” she recalls.) May adopted a tradition of inviting students to eat lunch with her at her desk, one at a time.

“It’s special for the kids,” she explains.

From her fourth grade teacher, the late Bob Steen, she adopted the tradition of “crazy hat parties.” Now she and her students create crazy hats to wear at Halloween.

“I’m totally sold on this community. Longview and Longview Schools are part of who I am,” she says, and pauses. “Flaws and everything!”

Fred Hanson

Then: Student at Kessler and Olympic elementaries, Monticello Middle and R.A. Long High School

Now: Teacher at St. Helens Elementary—fifth grade

Fred Hanson has been teaching elementary school for 39 years. He no longer hosts personal lunches with students, but he makes a point of walking around the classroom, checking in on students, especially those who seem a bit lonely.

“I still enjoy teaching after all these years,” he reflects. “You can reach out and help kids learn. It’s fun to me.”

At least five of his students, including Patty May, have grown up to be his colleagues, teaching in Longview schools: Phil Hartley at Monticello Middle, Lacey Grady at R.A. Long High, Brittini Reid at St. Helens Elementary and Angela Guinn at Olympic Elementary.

He says he wouldn’t have guessed which ones would return to teach, but he certainly recognizes the key qualities of teachers: “They need to have patience. They have to love children,” he says. “Like everyone says, teachers don’t make a whole lot of money, so you really have to love what you do and keep doing it.”

Janelle Ormond

Then: Student at St. Rose School and Mark Morris High School

Now: Teacher at R.A. Long High School—math and AVID adviser

The teachers that had the greatest influence on Janelle Ormond have something in common: They all taught English.

Gary Udd at St. Rose School, and Phil Suek and Mike Poindexter at Mark Morris High School—“They made it so I could understand the subject and learn it,” says Ormond, who struggled with English.

Now a math teacher, she sees herself following in their footsteps, translating a subject that many students find challenging. “It’s the theme of what I do,” she says.

Another quality she took from Mike Poindexter: “A lot of kids have things going on in their lives that people get shocked by,” she says. “I took from him not to react, because school is their calm place.”

Before teaching in Longview, Ormond worked at the Lummi Nation School in Bellingham.

“I never planned on returning to Longview,” she says, “but it’s very nice being around family when you’re raising your family.”

Jill Isaacson

Then: Student at St. Rose School and Mark Morris High School

Now: Teacher at Mark Morris High School—math

Jill Isaacson planned to use her love of math in business or physical therapy. But when she returned from college for summer break, she encountered friends’ parents who were teachers.

“All of a sudden it sparked,” she says, “and I really got the sense that I needed to be a teacher.”

She called her childhood babysitter, Janelle Ormond, and asked to shadow her at the high schools. What she saw was compelling.

“It was her connection with the kids,” Isaacson recalled. “She had an amazing relationship with all of her students, and it was such a great environment. I could see myself being really excited to be a teacher.”

Like Ormond, she had not planned on returning to Longview. “It was definitely weird at first, because some of the seniors were friends with my sister, but it’s been really great,” she says. “Knowing the principal from the start, and the secretary—and teachers remembered me. Already there was a great sense of comfort and feeling that I belonged.”

Schools recognized for fitness efforts

Longview Public Schools’ efforts to encourage physical fitness and healthy eating among students and staff have resulted in multiple awards this fall.

A 2016 Let’s Move! Active Schools National Award—part of First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move initiative—has been awarded to all of the elementary and middle schools, plus Mark Morris High School. R.A. Long High School received the same recognition in 2015.

Additionally, Mark Morris High School is one of two Washington schools recognized with a 2016 National Healthy Schools Bronze Award by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation.

“Eating healthy foods and exercising are going to make our students feel better and help them go places in life.”

- Lisa Kloke, district physical education coordinator

“It takes a collaboration of the entire staff in a building to make these things possible for our kids,” said Lisa Kloke, district physical education coordinator.

Let’s Move! encourages schools to provide students with at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. The Alliance combats childhood obesity by encouraging a variety of healthy changes.

“Eating healthy foods and exercising are going to make our students feel better and help them go places in life,” Kloke said.



Jill Isaacson



Patty May



Janelle Ormond



Fred Hanson



School of distinction

R.A. LONG EARNS RECOGNITION FOR SECOND YEAR

"We could not be more happy for the R. A. Long family of staff, parents and students in the class of 2016 who helped put us in the position to be recognized for such an honor."

- Rich Reeves, R. A. Long principal

R. A. Long High School is among 23 high schools named Washington Schools of Distinction. This is the second year in a row it has been recognized for its graduation rate improvement.

The award highlights schools in the top 5 percent of the state. R. A. Long's 2016 graduation rate improved 6.4% over the previous year up to 89.2%.

"We could not be more happy for the R. A. Long family of staff, parents and students in the class of 2016 who helped put us in the position to be recognized for such an honor," said Rich Reeves, R. A. Long principal.

The award is conferred by The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) in partnership with the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD), Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) and the Washington State Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD).

"We are pleased to have the school's hard work recognized in this way and remain committed to continuing to increase our student achievement and graduation rate levels in all of our district's schools," said Dan Zorn, superintendent of Longview schools. "Hats off to R. A. Long students, their families and the hard-working staff members who helped make this accomplishment possible."

"Hats off to R. A. Long students, their families and the hard-working staff members who helped make this accomplishment possible."

- Dan Zorn, Superintendent of Longview schools



Longview hosts community conversation

This fall, Longview School District has been using an exciting online process called Thoughtexchange: Join the conversation to collect ideas and opinions, and better understand the needs of our students, families and community.

This input will make a difference as we work toward accomplishing our Design for Excellence (see "Our Strategic Framework," p. 10) and developing a long-range facilities plan for the district

Thoughtexchange involves three steps:

- **Share**—From Oct. 14 to 23, participants answered three open-ended questions about education in our schools.
- **Star**—From Oct. 28 to Nov. 6, participants reviewed ideas from other stakeholders and starred those they liked best.
- **Discover**—From Nov. 14 forward the community can review the findings and learn what values rose to the top through the process. Visit www.longviewschools.com and select "Join the Conversation."

There are more processes to come! Watch for updates on our Facebook page @LongviewSchools, and learn more about Thoughtexchange at our website: www.longviewschools.com.



Testing progress

LONGVIEW STUDENTS MAKE YEAR-OVER-YEAR GAINS

Scores from statewide assessments—including the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)—show that Longview students are making year-over-year gains in many areas.

“We’ve established a solid baseline,” said Bill Ofstun, director of Assessment and Technology Integration for Longview Public Schools. “Now we’re looking for growth.”

With two years of SBA data now available, the district is able to compare how the same group of students tested in spring 2016 versus spring 2015. In many cases, our elementary and middle school students are showing greater progress than students statewide (see charts).

Longview’s 2016 results also show that our high school students are starting to close the achievement gap with their counterparts statewide. Although wider gaps are present in the lower grades, the percent of Longview 10th

graders meeting expectations for English Language Arts is only nine points lower than their counterparts statewide.

The SBA, created by a consortium of states, is used across Washington to evaluate whether students are meeting expectations for English and math learning.

In other good news, biology end-of-course assessments, which are required for graduation beginning this school year, show Longview students to be within two percentage points of high school students statewide.

Our school district is poised to continue to increase its positive results.

“The test is not a mystery to us. The material is not a mystery to us,” Ofstun said. “We know what’s most important now, and that’s the instruction in our classrooms.”

“We’ve established a solid baseline. Now we’re looking for growth.”

- Bill Ofstun, Director of Assessment and Technology Integration

2015-16 Student Achievement Data

The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) are state-mandated tests that measure student skills and abilities in English Language Arts/literacy (ELA), math and science.

District and State Performance on ELA and Math Assessments

The SBA English Language Arts and Math results show the percent of students who met state standards for their grade. They also demonstrate the improvement each grade made in meeting the standards compared with the previous year.

Note: Third grade students have no growth data, because this was their first year to be tested.

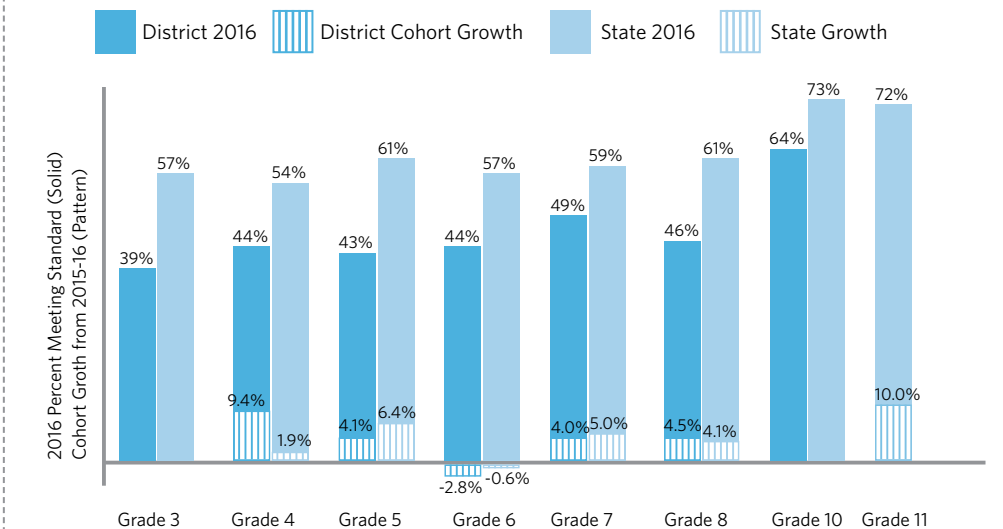
Note on ELA results: Tenth grade results include no growth data, because students are not tested in ninth grade. Eleventh grade data in the ELA results include students who previously attained the state standard.

Note on Mathematics results: No growth data is available for eleventh grade, because tenth grade students could not take the SBA Math assessment in 2015.

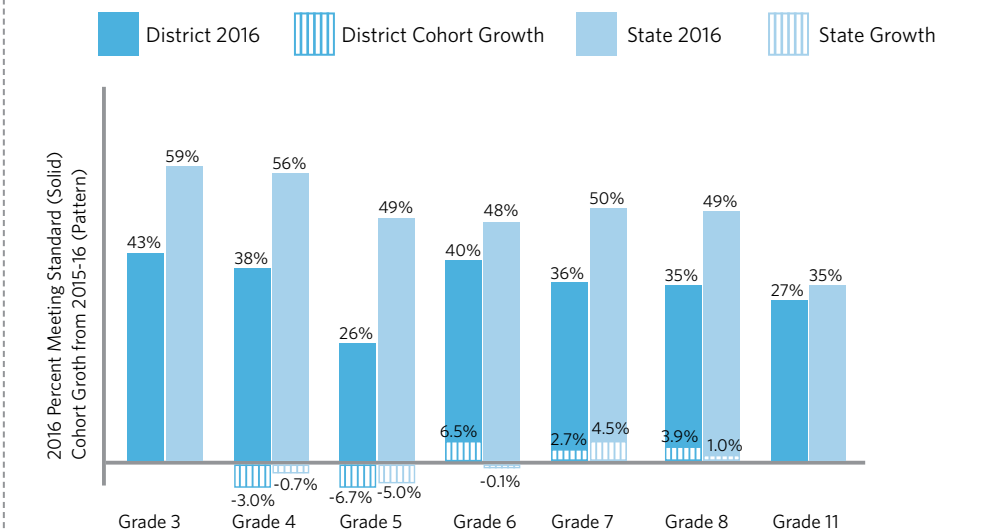
District and State Performance on Science Assessments

High school biology end-of-course exam results show the percent of students who have met the state standards in biology by grade 10.

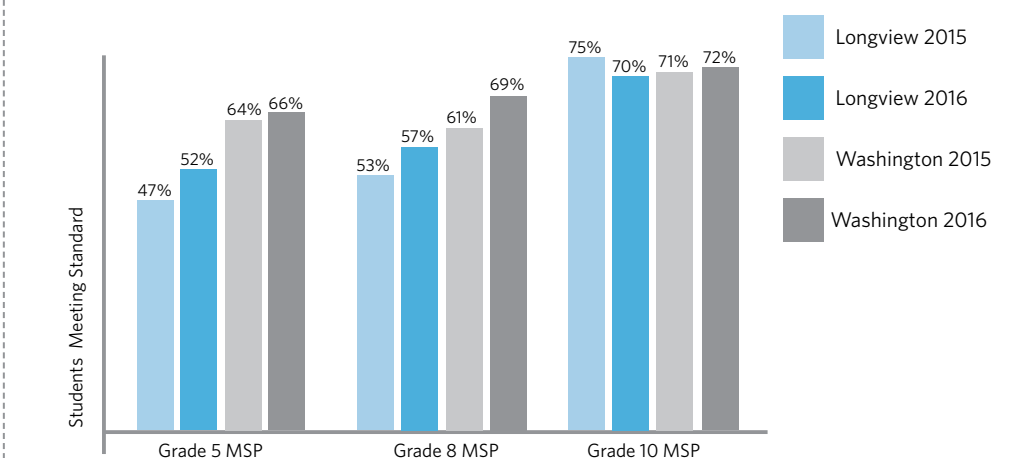
District and state performance in ELA



District and state performance in Math



District and state performance in Science



Our Strategic Framework

DISTRICT & SCHOOLS IMPLEMENT DESIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

Now that “Our Design for Excellence”—Longview Public Schools’ strategic framework—is in place for the district as a whole, individual schools have created their own school improvement plans.

These plans address the district’s primary strategic goal, to increase student achievement, and its secondary goal, to improve the climate and culture of our schools.

“The two goals are intertwined,” said Superintendent Dan Zorn. “When you’ve got a school culture that offers a supportive learning environment, effective leadership and a shared staff focus, you’ve got a place where learning will flourish and students will achieve at



The Longview School District is an Equal Opportunity district in education programs, activities, services, and employment. Longview School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, age, families with children, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. We provide equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. We also comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Older Worker Protection Act, and all other state, federal, and local equal opportunity laws. If you have a physical or mental disability that causes you to need assistance to access school facilities, programs, or services, please notify the school principal. This district endeavors to maintain an atmosphere free from discrimination and harassment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact the school principal or one of the following district designees:

• ADA/Students: Rod McHattie, Director of Special Services, (360) 575-7008
• ADA/Employees: Ron Kramer, Director of Human Resources, (360) 575-7001
• IDEA and 504: Rod McHattie, Director of Special Services, (360) 575-7008

• Affirmative Action: Ron Kramer, Director of Human Resources, (360) 575-7001
• Title VII and Title IX: Ron Kramer, Director of Human Resources, (360) 575-7001
• Athletic Equity: Ron Kramer, Director of Human Resources, (360) 575-7001

2016-17 Quick Facts

- » We have approximately 6,608 students.
- » Our students are served by 15 campuses:
 - » 1 preschool special education program
 - » 8 elementary schools
 - » 3 middle schools
 - » 2 high schools
 - » 1 alternative high school
- » Our total 2016-17 budget: \$80,951,835.
- » Our average student : teacher ratios are:
 - » Kindergarten student/teacher ratio: 21:1
 - » Grades 1-3 student/teacher ratio: 21:1
 - » Grades 4-5 student/teacher ratio: 25:1
 - » Grades 6-8 student/teacher ratio: 25:1
 - » Grades 9-12 student/teacher ratio: 27:1
- » We are among the largest employers in our community:
 - » 436 teachers
 - » 437 support staff
 - » 22 school administrators
 - » 11 district level administrators
- » 53% of Longview's students qualify for free or reduced-priced meals.

2015-16 Student Demographics

ENROLLMENT	ETHNICITY
6,844	American Indian/AK Native 1.2%
	Asian 1.7%
	Black 1.0%
	Hispanic 20.3%
	Pacific Islander/Hawaiian 0.5%
	White 68.2%
	Two or more races 7.1%

GENDER
Male 50.7%
Female 49.3%

On-Time Graduation Rate

CLASS OF 2014	CLASS OF 2015	CLASS OF 2016
72.2%	73.0%	75.47%



Camp turns students into 'Jacks'

Remember those first weeks of your freshman year in high school? For many, it’s time spent getting the lay of the land, forming a circle of friends and adjusting to the expectations of new courses.

R. A. Long students have been getting a jump start on the process the past few years thanks to Jack Camp, a two-day orientation held at the end of August.

“It makes a big difference going from middle school to high school,” said sophomore Eastyn Reeves.

Led primarily by leadership students and staff, Jack Camp includes school tours, spirit assemblies, a scavenger hunt and orientations.

This was the third year for Jack Camp, which has been partially sponsored the past two years by the estate of Dr. Doug O’Connor, the late Longview dentist, who was a Longview School Board member and R.A. Long alumnus.

“What was really important to Doug was that there was something that would reach every student,” said his wife, Jeanne, who taught home economics at R.A. Long.

Sophomore Saige Raymond asked to address the incoming freshmen.

“I wanted to give them some advice and tell them they’re not alone,” he said. “I just wanted to inspire them to do great things at R.A. Long.”

A few weeks into the school year, freshman Simone Poole and her friends Ada Beasley and Maricela Galvan reflected that Jack Camp inspired them to get involved and attend early sports matches.

“I think we were pretty prepared because of Jack Camp,” Simone said. “It really taught us everything we needed to know and helped us feel more assured going into high school.”



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Longview Schools and You

It's easy to stay connected!

We recently redesigned our website with you in mind, whether you're a student, family member, district employee or part of the Longview community.



longviewschools.com

Sign up here to receive our monthly e-newsletter:
longviewschools.com/portfolio-items/district-news



www.facebook.com/LongviewSchools
www.facebook.com/DrDanZorn



twitter.com/LongviewSchools
twitter.com/danzorn22

District Report Card

If you would like more information on our district and our accomplishments, see the OSPI website www.k12.wa.us and click on State Report Card on the right hand side of the page. Then type Longview in the search box. When you arrive at the Longview page, select 2015-16 for the most recent update.