



# Connections



December 2, 2016

## Special Education is topic of board/parent dialogue

On November 21, over 30 parents met with the district's board of directors and central office administrators in a "linkage" session focusing on the district's special education program. A linkage session is a meeting where the board invites selected groups to provide insights and opinions that will be helpful to the board.

The District recently completed a Special Services Program Review. The final report was informed by multiple data sources. The final report identifies seven priority areas and action items for a five-year action plan.

During the linkage session, the board of directors, superintendent, and key district staff met with parents of students receiving special services for two reasons:

- To hear feedback on the Special Services Program Review Final Report and Action Plan
- To hear specific ideas and for how the district can best address the *Parent and Family Engagement* aspects of the plan including:
  - Ideas for parent engagement at the district level
  - Ideas for communication resources and tools that would be beneficial to families
  - Ideas for opportunities for parent feedback and parent education resources
  - Ideas for community partnerships

District Special Services staff is now in the process of compiling the feedback collected from the linkage session to share back with the entire LWSD community of parents of students receiving special education and 504 services for their comment. The Special Services team will use the feedback to inform and finalize the implementation of the action plan.

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## High School students can earn World Language credit through proficiency test

Students are required to graduate with two credits in a World Language. Students who have achieved some proficiency in a world language at home or in the community may seek to earn up to four World Language credits by taking an assessment that measures their proficiency.

To use this option, students sign up to participate in "Washington World Language Assessment Days." Through this state-sponsored program, students complete an assessment. If they demonstrate at least a Novice Mid proficiency level, they receive a certificate of recognition and a letter indicating proficiency levels and high school credit equivalencies.

LWSD is offering two more testing opportunities for ninth-12th grade students in 2016-17. The cost of a first attempt during a student's high school career is free. Remaining testing opportunities for 2016-

17 include:

- January 11, 2017 at Redmond High School ([Register here](#))
- March 1, 2017 at Juanita High School (Registration available mid-January)

[Learn more.](#)

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### Reminder: We value your feedback

Each year, the district invites parents and community members to provide feedback on general school and district questions. The survey is anonymous. This year's survey is now open: tell us what you think! Please [click on this link](#) to take the survey. The survey will be open through December 16.

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### Reminder: Middle school and high school options booklets available

Parents of students in grades five or eight should have received the [Middle School Options booklet](#) or [High School Options booklet](#). They outline the opportunities in these respective levels, including information about neighborhood schools and choice schools. The booklets are also available on the [district website](#).

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### Is that snow in the forecast for next week?

This week's weather forecasts have hinted that snow might be on the way. It's time to be prepared for inclement weather. LWSD notifies parents of school delays or cancellations using the SchoolMessenger calling system. Calls begin by 6 a.m. to let families know that school will be delayed or cancelled. The early calls ensure that high school students with long bus rides get the message before leaving home. The information is also posted on [FlashAlert.net](#), which lists information for all area school districts and colleges. You can sign up to get emails or text messages with emergency information. It is the first place notices are posted about school closures. It's also where local media gets their information: you could know before the TV stations broadcast it! Messages are also posted on the school and district websites.

Are you someone who checks Facebook or Twitter as soon as they get up? Like the district [Facebook page](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) to get the news your way.

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## School News

### The Reading Rebels

Elementary students in the Juanita Learning Community love their visits from the Reading Rebels – **Juanita High School football players** who show students that reading is fun. The high school students learn what it means to serve in their community and the younger students are motivated to read: last year students logged more than 50,000 minutes of reading. [Watch the video.](#)



### Rivkin Center recognizes Lakeview teacher's courage amid cancer

Since June 2014, fifth-grade teacher Heidi Coebergh has undergone chemotherapy to fight her initial diagnosis of stage 3 ovarian cancer. On Nov. 5, the Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer awarded her its 2016 [Courage for Life Award](#) during its annual Family and Friends Auction. Attendees watched a [video](#) about her teaching and her journey with cancer. [Read more.](#)



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