



Connections



March 18, 2016



Take a virtual tour of our aging schools; community meetings coming soon
LWSD has posted videos of the schools that would be rebuilt and enlarged if the April 2016 bond passes.

- Tour [Juanita High School](#)
- Tour [Kirk Elementary School](#)
- Tour [Mead Elementary School](#)

Four upcoming community meetings are a chance to learn more about the district's April 2016 bond measure and the projects it would fund. The four meetings will take place:

- March 22, Juanita High School cafeteria, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- March 23, Redmond High School cafeteria, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- March 29, Lake Washington High School commons, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- April 13, Eastlake High School commons, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

More information on the bond measure is also available at <http://www.lwsd.org/news/2016-bond>.

Graduation rate rises, among top in Puget Sound area

The Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction recently released the [on-time graduation rates](#) for school districts across the state. Lake Washington's on-time rate for the class of 2015 was 92.3%, up from 90.2% the year before. A recent [Seattle Times article](#) about on-time graduation rates in the state cited seven school districts in the Puget Sound with rates above 92% - including Lake Washington. The other districts are Issaquah, Snoqualmie Valley, Steilacoom, Vashon Island, Bainbridge Island and Mercer Island.

High school parents: New chickenpox (varicella) vaccine regulations

School vaccination regulations in Washington state have changed for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. The [Washington State Department of Health](#) now requires two doses of chickenpox (varicella) vaccine for all students in grades K through 12, previously required for K-8. Students who do not have two doses of vaccine by the start of classes in September could be excluded from school. Learn more on the [Department of Health website](#).

State testing starts soon

All Washington public school students in grades 3-8 are assessed in English Language Arts (ELA) and math using Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). Students in grades 5 and 8 are also assessed in science using the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP). High school students take the SBA for ELA and math. They also take an End of Course (EOC) exam in Biology. Students in LWSD will begin testing at the end of March. Each school has a different testing schedule: your student's school will provide that information. [Learn](#)

School News

[Thirty-eight LWSD students named National Merit Finalists](#)

Thirty-eight Lake Washington School District students have been selected as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. As finalists, these students are now qualified to receive National Merit Scholarships, including \$2500 awards, corporate-sponsored scholarships or college-sponsored scholarships. About 15,000 students nationally have been named finalists in this competition. [Read more.](#)



[Tesla STEM teacher wins \\$25,000 Allen Distinguished Educator award](#)

In the quest to ignite innovation in education, the [Allen Distinguished Educators](#) (ADE) program awarded \$25,000 to a teacher from **Nikola Tesla STEM High School. Alyson Nelson** was recognized as 2016 ADE for her engineering program that demonstrates the best in classroom innovation across the country. Nelson was one of seven awardees selected from the 81 initial applications from 31 states. [Read more.](#)

[more](#) about the state assessments on the district website.

New for 2016:

- **Tenth grade students may now access the Math SBA:**
Tenth grade students may now also take the Smarter Balanced math assessment. Tenth grade students should have passed or be taking Algebra 2 before taking the SBA in math. Students who score a 3 or 4 on the SBA in 10th grade will not need to take that exam during 11th grade. [Read more.](#)
- **New Transcript Notation:** Effective April 2016, the Washington State Official Transcript has been updated to include a notation when students receive a level 3 or 4 on the High School Smarter Balanced Assessments. This new notation will read, "WA STATE HIGHER ED PLACEMENT AGREEMENT," with ELA and/or MATH after it. If a student has not taken the SBA, or if they scored a 1 or 2, there will be no notation. [Read more.](#)



[Redmond High student combines her head and her heart in her academic pursuits](#)

Redmond High School (RHS) junior Marium Raza did something that only 6 in 44,423 (or .00135%) students in Washington did: she achieved a perfect score on her SATs. Clearly, Raza uses her head, but she also shows a lot of heart: volunteering at a local hospital and founding an Amnesty International Club at RHS. [Read more.](#)

Reminder: Ready Start Preschool Program accepting applications

Looking for a preschool option? Lake Washington School District's [Ready Start Preschool Program](#) will begin accepting tuition-based applications for the 2016-17 school year on **March 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration takes place at the LWSO Resource Center.** After March 30, applications will be accepted on any school day from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. [Read more.](#)

Safety Spotlight: What is "Shelter-in-Place"?

Schools practiced a "Shelter-in-Place" drill in February. Shelter-in-Place in the school setting is designed to protect building occupants from a hazardous gas, particulate or other biohazard in the outside air. These events most likely would happen quickly and perhaps without much warning. An example is a truck carrying ammonia that overturns, releasing a poison cloud traveling through the air.

Schools identify locations for gathering students and staff together, such as the cafeteria, commons or gymnasium. The idea is to keep the hazard that exists in the outside air from coming into the building. The best way to do that is to cover and seal the operable windows and doors in the occupied spaces. Consolidating into central locations helps reduce the number of openings that need to be sealed.

The Lake Washington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, gender, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran, military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Title IX: Matt Gillingham, PO Box 97039, Redmond, WA 98073, 425-936-1289, mgillingham@lwsd.org; Section 504: Stacey McCrath, PO Box 97039, Redmond, WA 98073, 425-936-1201, smccrath@lwsd.org; Civil Rights Compliance: Pat Fowler-Fung, PO Box 97039, Redmond, WA 98073, 425-936-1266, pfowler-fung@lwsd.org.

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