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Spring 2021, Vol. 12, No. 3

# Quincy School District Communicator

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## Keeping Quincy's Promise through the pandemic

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Quincy School District staff have shown they are determined in keeping the district's promise that all students graduate from high school and are prepared for the next step in their education, career and life.

Quincy High School Principal Felicie Becker, Quincy Middle School Principal Scott Ramsey, and Ancient Lakes Elementary Principal Colleen Frerks all feel the district kept the promise through actions such as social-emotional check-ins, prioritizing essential academic standards from the state, closing the digital gap with chromebooks and hotspots, continuing to provide food service, and collaborating at all district levels.

In each of these areas, the district came together

to determine the best way to meet the needs of every student in the district. All district staff contributed to the suc-



Colleen Frerks

cess of navigating the pandemic while keeping its promise to the fullest.

Becker explained that it takes the whole K-12 experience to make a graduate, and that the district's ability to collaborate so fluently and quickly in response to the pandemic was vital. "It really is a village," Becker said of the district.

Frerks addressed that teachers had to be

flexible in what they taught as well as how they taught it. With the changes in learning models from full-time



Scott Ramsey

online to hybrid to in-person learning, teachers had to adapt quickly to each teaching model and what core standards the students would need most to be ready for the next step in their life, whether it was the next grade in school or in their personal lives. This included becoming more fluent technologically, reworking lesson plans and keeping constant communication with

students and parents. This was more than just fulfilling their job assignments, it was fulfilling Quincy's promise to



Felicie Becker

students to the best of their ability.

At the middle school, Principal Ramsey said this experience has helped them rework their electives to find better pathways for students, especially in the technology fields. During this new process, students become an assessment partner so they play an active role in their own learning and success. "We've seen

huge results," Ramsey said, emphasizing that reworking of the pathways and narrowing down on state standards is commendable in a normal year, and during a pandemic is amazing.

High School Principal Felicie Becker explained that the high school focused on course load and providing intervention early and often for struggling students to help them stay on track. She added that their progress isn't necessarily measured in credits or grades, but in the new skills they have acquired and their resilience to the numerous changes that have occurred over the last year.

***"We want to hand them a diploma as well as a future when they walk out our doors,"***

*- Principal Felicie Becker*

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# Girl's soccer blazes path to first league title

The Quincy girls soccer team made Quincy history this year. Not only did they earn the program's first league title, but they did so during a shortened season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From the beginning of the season they had their eyes on the league title. They started off strong with three consecutive wins against Warden, Royal and Wahluke. They went on to beat Omak, Cashmere, Chelan and Warden, and Royal a second time. Their only losses in the season were to Ephrata, Eastmont and Cascade with Cascade being their only league loss. They finished with an overall record of 8-3 and 3-1 league record.

Brianna Herrera, QHS sophomore, said that her favorite memory from the season was a practice right after their loss to Ephrata. "It was a tough loss but instead of being negative we reflected, complimented each other and admired our work. We did our best and that's all that mattered to us. I really do feel that practice really lifted us up to keep fighting to the point that it added fuel to our fires that helped us get the league title."

Athletic Director Brett Fancher said the girls soccer team's hard work paid off. Their hard work was not just shown on the field, it was also shown in the classroom because of the



Kurtis J. Wood

The Quincy Girls Soccer team's only lost one league game to Cascade on their way to their first league championship.

See *Champs* on page 3

## Pandemic wins

*In a year of shutdowns and struggles, here are some highlights from the year.*



### Meal distribution begins

The district began distributing grab and go meals for students available for pick up Monday through Friday at district schools. Weekend meals were added later in May.



### Hotspots given to students in need

The district began ordering and distributing WiFi hotspots for students suddenly thrust into remote classrooms.



### QHS hosts drive through graduation

Class of 2020 graduates decorated their vehicles and paraded through Quincy before individually walking across the stage to accept their diplomas. The one-of-a-kind event lasted over four hours.



### K-3 students return

Kindergarten through third grade students returned to schools in a hybrid model, along with life skills students in all grades.



### Secondary students in need return

Secondary students who had trouble connecting to online classes returned to schools in late October. The gymnasium was used to help with social distancing.

March 2020

March 2020

April 2020

June 2020

November 2020

October 2020



*Champs from page 2*

team's overall 3.83 grade point average.

"To this group of girls, we can honestly say your coaches, school district, parents, family and community are very proud of every single one of you. Your town will forever be grateful for this tremendous achievement," said Head Coach Francisco Tafoya.

"It felt like such a relief to earn the league title because it is tangible proof that our hard work is paying off. Many of us have put countless hours into the sport, so it was amazing to celebrate this with the team. It was a very unique experience, receiving the programs first league title and it is a great feeling knowing that our team is leaving a legacy," QHS junior Emily Wurl said.



Rebecca Pettingill/Post-Register

A Wahluk player and Quincy Senior Klaritssa Cruz converge on the ball during a match on March 6. Quincy won the match 8-4.

They not only faced the challenges of the other opponents in the season but challenges that were a result of guideline changes because of COVID-19. A few of those challenges included wearing masks while playing, having limited spectators and halves being shortened to 40 minutes each instead of

45.

"I've learned to play every game like it's your last and to play your hardest in every single one of them, not only for yourself but for your team too," QHS junior Jenesis Nayeli Salazar said.

Many players said that they felt like teamwork was the big-

gest factor in their success this season. They pointed out the difference that a positive attitude and determination made in their ability to become a better player and to work better together as a team.

"I learned that once you can work together everything falls into place and you learn to have fun, make new friends and be yourself when the time is right," QHS sophomore Joceline Schaapman said.

Through their hard work, eight players also made All-League teams and honors at the end of the season; three made first team and five made second team. Wurl was also selected as Player of the Year.

In addition, QHS senior Klaritssa Cruz accepted a scholarship to play for Walla Walla Community College Women's Soccer.



### **Elementary students return to classrooms**

District students who opted to do so in Kindergarten through fifth grade returned to classrooms. Students had their temperatures taken upon arrival and were required to sign a daily attestation.



### **Secondary students return to classrooms**

Following the elementary students, students, who opted in, returned to Quincy middle school and high school. In the high school, 52% of students chose to return to a hybrid schedule while 48% chose to remain remote full time.



### **Fall sports return**

After a long wait and much planning, sports resumed at the high school with traditional fall sports in the winter.



### **QHS Drama shows Anne of Green Gables**

The Quincy High School Drama Club's production of Anne of Green Gables came to life on the auditorium stage in late April. It was the first show with a live audience since the start of the pandemic.



### **QHS Choir showcases talents**

The Quincy High School Choir entertained a small crowd at the Historical Society and Museum grounds on May 13. The show included many different genres and types of instruments.

**June 2021**

# Quincy grad inspiring students to aim higher

Raised by migrant farm workers, Manuel Ramos Jr. didn't have lofty goals of college graduations and master's degrees. Working hard was the way to get to where he wanted, he recalled his father telling him as an adolescent.

Now as the principal at George Elementary School, Ramos Jr. is using his position to influence the next generation of students and inspire them to achieve more.

Growing up, Ramos Jr. and his family moved around more than a few times. From Mexico, his parents first moved to California then eventually to Orondo, WA when Ramos Jr. was about eight years old. From there, to the Palisades area, then onto Quincy, where his family finally settled.

As the oldest of seven siblings, Ramos Jr. was tasked with watching over his younger brothers and sisters. When he became of age, he was expected to start working to help out his family.

"Working every single day; before school, after school was work. And then, summers were for just working in the fields too," Ramos Jr. said. "The biggest thing was making sure I provided for my family."

By the time he finished high school, he realized he didn't want to be a field worker for the rest of his life, and decided to take on a tutoring job in the Gear Up program at Quincy Middle School and enroll at Wenatchee Valley College. He really enjoyed the tutoring job, he said, which inspired him to apply for a para position at Monument Elementary School.

Initially just getting his high school diploma was always the goal for Ramos Jr., as long as he had that, he would be alright, he recalled his father telling him. So when he shared his plans to attend college, his father was supportive of his decision, although he was not a big believer in

school. His mother would ask about college here and there, but neither of his parents knew anything about post-secondary education.

While at Monument in his para role, Principal Don Francis and other teachers would encourage him to continue his education and go for a bachelor's degree.

"I never thought I would even be a para with an AA, that was a huge accomplishment for me," Ramos Jr. said. "Thinking about going back to school at the university level, I had no idea what that even looked like."

Ramos Jr. decided to take the leap and attend Central Washington University, where he would graduate in 2011 with his teaching degree. While attending CWU, he landed a different tutoring job, this time at Quincy High School, and eventually took over as the director of the Gear Up program.

After graduation, he landed right back at Monument Elementary, this time as an ELL teacher. After two years, he transitioned to teaching sixth grade for another two years before moving to the high school to lead the transitional bilingual program. While in this role, Ramos Jr. continued his education at Grand Canyon University, where he earned a master's degree in professional learning communities. He then started his master's degree in educational administration at Whitworth University, which he completed just last year.

After five years as a QHS ELL teacher, former QHS Principal



Miles King/Post-Register

Manuel Ramos Jr. started as the Principal at George Elementary in 2020.

Marcus Pimpleton tapped Ramos Jr. to be the Dean of Students; a role he would only keep for a year before accepting his current position.

As the Dean of Students at QHS, Ramos said he really connected with students there who were struggling and was able to establish great relationships with them.

"My experiences growing up as an English language learner myself, and going to some of those classes where I struggled

myself, they related to me (and) I related to them. That was the beauty of that job, I was able to establish those relationships really quickly with students who were struggling academically or behaviorally."

Now as Principal at George Elementary, Ramos Jr. is in a position to influence a whole generation of young students. He believes his role is to establish new

relationships with his students, support them and guide them to where they are supposed to be.

His father instilled in him the value of hard work and being a role model for his younger siblings. He always told the students he worked with at QHS to go further and aim higher, and the way to accomplish that is through education. With help from George Elementary staff, he feels he can motivate students at a young age to start thinking about their futures and pass along the same lessons he has learned. All they need is a little push and some confidence, Ramos Jr. said.

"He just wants students to succeed, he's going to find a way to make that happen," said George Elementary teacher Mary Horning. Ramos Jr. and Horning have known each other for a while; he taught as a student teacher in Horning's class while finishing up his teaching degree. Horning recalled telling Ramos Jr. that if he became a principal someday, she would go work for him. She's been teaching for about 15 years total, and has been at George for the last three.

"It's fabulous to see his progression and everything he has done," Horning said.

***"In Mr. Ramos' first year as principal, he has done a commendable job connecting with students and their families, and George Elementary staff, while keeping his focus on student learning and effective teaching. Mr. Ramos approaches each day working towards positive student outcomes and authentic relationships,"***

- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nik Bergman