

A NOTE FROM DR. DANI PFEIFFER, SUPERINTENDENT



Hello Staff, Families,
and Community,

It's hard to believe
we're so close to
the end of the
2022-23 school
year! We've done
so much together

so far this year, including welcoming back 21,000 students, implementing Multitiered Systems of Support (MTSS) at all elementary schools, engaging in extended learning opportunities at two sessions of Saturday Scholar Community, exploring at the 6th annual STEM Exploration Night, and starting construction on the new Memorial Field. And in roughly two months, we'll be celebrating graduation with the Class of 2023 and sending scholars off to summer break. It's amazing how much we can accomplish together in just one school year.

While it feels like June is right around the corner, we're not there yet, and there's still so much to do before the school year ends. Throughout the month of May, scholars in grades 3-8 and 10th graders across the district will be participating in Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) testing. This test is one way for scholars to show us what they've learned so far and help identify areas where they may need more support. For 10th graders, passing the test is also a graduation requirement, so it is important that students come to school ready to fully participate and showcase their knowledge.

Families, here are a few ways you can help your children feel ready to show what they know on testing day:

- Help them develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude toward learning.
- Ensure your child has good attendance at school.
- Communicate with your child's school to address any questions about their learning and to make sure you know which day your child will be taking the SBA.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before and arrives to school on time on test day.

This spring, we'll also be hosting our annual Community Connect on April 26! All are invited to come, engage with me, the FWPS school board, and other FWPS leaders. Together, we'll talk about what's going well across the district and where we could grow. Learn more and register at www.fwps.org/CommunityConnect.

Community Connect is just one way we collect feedback from families, scholars, and other stakeholders throughout the year, and I want to thank each one of you that have completed surveys, participated on an advisory committee, or shared your input in other ways this school year. Your voice makes all the difference and helps inform our actions as a district.

We can do so much more for each scholar in Federal Way Public Schools when we work together, and I truly appreciate each one of you who has engaged in support of scholar success.

In Partnership,



Dr. Dani Pfeiffer, Superintendent



for everyone

in Federal Way Public Schools

In Federal Way Public Schools, STEM stands for more than just science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Whether your child envisions building the next skyscraper in the Seattle Skyline, or developing the newest virtual reality gaming experience, we offer STEM and STEAM learning experiences to prepare them for these possibilities. From kindergarten through high school graduation, FWPS scholars can explore and prepare for careers in high-demand STEM fields.



- **Lighthouse STEM Project Based Learning Schools:** Woodmont K-8, Nautilus K-8, and TAF@Saghalie
- **Project Lead the Way STEM curriculum** offered at every elementary, middle and high school, including coding, engineering, and biomedical science.
- Annual events, like Hour of Code. This year, **14,454 scholars participated in Hour of Code** activities during Computer Science Education Week!
- **Robotics courses are available in middle and high school, and after school activities are available at all grade levels!** FIRST Lego League Robotics is at 19 elementary and middle schools; FIRST Robotics Competitions at every high school; Sphero and Coding clubs at 17 schools across the district!
- **6th annual STEM Exploration Night!** This annual event offers scholars of all ages the opportunity to explore, prepare, and launch into STEM careers. Scholars engage with industry partners, learn from panel presentations, and engage in hands-on activities centered around STEM learning.



Learn
more at
[www.fwps.org/
STEMExpo](http://www.fwps.org/STEMExpo)

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2023

We're excited to celebrate with the FWPS Class of 2023 in June! Graduation ceremonies will be held from June 9–13, 2023. To learn more about each high school's graduation date, time, venue, ticket information, and more, visit www.fwps.org/Graduation2023.

Graduation will also be live-streamed again this year, so families and friends who aren't able to join in person can watch at www.fwps.org/WatchGraduation2023 on the date and time of their graduate's ceremony.



SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN FWPS

We're excited to offer expanded summer learning opportunities for FWPS scholars! This summer, we'll have something for everyone—including learning resource packets, online videos available for all scholars at home, and a variety of limited in-person opportunities like Camp Exploration, Music Camp, Industry Certifications, and more!



FLASH FORWARD ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI:
MORGAN SAGDAHL
Decatur High School Class of 2011



Key Peninsula Fire Department of Lakebay, WA. Though her varied interests took her on a career journey, Morgan has now settled into her passion within the fire services, an interest which developed when she was only fifteen years old. We were excited to catch up with her to learn more about her career pathway to success.

FWPS: *Hi Morgan! Can you share a bit about your time here in FWPS? Which schools did you attend and what programs and activities did you participate in?*

It started in first grade, in Mrs. Rennick's class at Brigadoon where I was in the GATE (gifted and talented education) program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Then I went to the Federal Way Public Academy, and then Decatur where I did choir and theater, played varsity on the girls fastpitch team, and was also a member of the competitive spoken-word poetry team—we won multiple poetry slams and it's one of my fondest memories! I also went to the Puget Sound Skills Center.

FWPS: *How did you fuel your interest in firefighting?*

I was fifteen years old when I started to consider firefighting as a possible career, but I didn't know if it was actually going to be a feasible career for me because I was such a small girl. I was

also a theater kid, and theater and firefighting are two different worlds. At fifteen, I joined a fire explorer post and got more introduced to the culture of the fire service—what the testing processes and physical agility tests look like—I was exposed to all of that. I also went to a firefighting camp for girls called Camp Blaze, run completely by women firefighters, and that was the first time I saw a career firefighter that was my build and realized I could actually do this. At that point, I wasn't going to let anything stop me.

FWPS: *What led you to your current career as a firefighter?*

Well, the funny thing is, at eighteen, I got offered a position to perform at Disney World—such a detraction, right?! So, I did that, and then moved to Wyoming where I volunteered as a firefighter. Then, I moved back to Washington and began volunteering as a firefighter at Mountain View around the Black Diamond area. I did that for five years. I got an associated degree from Highline in Arabic, and then got my bachelors in Arabic, too. Then, I went to paramedic school through Tacoma Community College and at the same time, worked as a para educator in Kent, then got hired as an ER Technician where I spent seven years. I was consistently going to school and working—I had my hands in a lot of different areas. I actually didn't start at Key Peninsula Fire Department until 2021!

FWPS: *What advice do you have for scholars working to chart their future toward success?*

You can do all of the things that you want to do—you don't have to pick just one path. You can be the theater kid, and also be a firefighter, and also study linguistics—you can do all of those things. If you're uncertain about what you want to do, you can choose all of them!



MARCH, A MONTH OF READING!



In March, FWPS celebrated National Reading Month and PreK–12th-grade scholars across the district engaged in activities to build reading habits and improve reading fluency and comprehension. While many schools led their own reading events including book fairs, read-aloud events, and literacy nights, scholars also participated



in district-led activities promoting the love of reading.

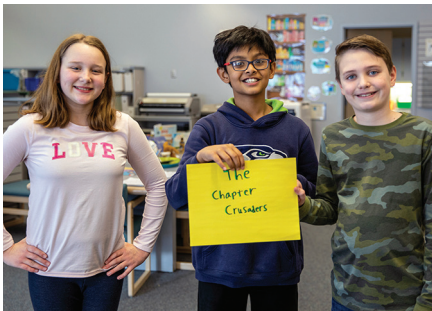
We published our second annual Scholar Recommended Booklist featuring a variety of favorite books from PreK–12th grade scholars across the district! View the list at www.fwps.org/ScholarBooklist.

2023 READING MARATHON CHALLENGE				
<p>Read for seven days in a row during the month of March. Keep track of your reading on this reading log, and have it ready when your teacher's reads off by the end of day on Friday, April 14, 2023. (Complete the challenge and you will be entered into a special prize drawing at your school!)</p> <p>Daily reading length (by grade level):</p>				
Grades K-1	Grades 2-3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-7	Grades 8-12
1000	1500	2000	2500	3000
Date	Read Title	Pages Reading	Read/Number of Pages	
March 1, 2023				
March 2, 2023				
March 3, 2023				
March 4, 2023				
March 5, 2023				
March 6, 2023				
March 7, 2023				

We ran our first Reading Marathon Challenge, challenging scholars to daily reading for seven days in a row to earn a prize!



More information about summer learning opportunities is available at www.fwps.org/SummerLearning



Elementary schools kicked off Battle of the Books, a reading competition for 4th and 5th graders. Hear from some of the scholars at www.fwps.org/BattleofTheBooks



Learn more at www.fwps.org/NationalReadingMonth.

BE PART OF OUR TEAM

FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEARN MORE AND APPLY:

WWW.FWPS.ORG/CAREERS

HR@FWPS.ORG

253-945-2073

WE'RE ACTIVELY HIRING:

BUS DRIVERS

CLERICAL

CUSTODIANS

GUEST EMPLOYEES (SUBSTITUTES)

HEALTH WORKERS

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

PARAEDUCATORS

AND MORE!

COMPETITIVE PAY & BENEFITS, SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY,

ATTEND OUR HIRING EVENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BECAUSE OF YOU

EDUCATORS RECEIVE "BECAUSE OF YOU" AWARD AT BOARD MEETINGS

Educators do extraordinary things for our scholars and schools each day. To recognize these difference-makers, scholars nominate Federal Way Public Schools staff for the "Because of You" award who have had a positive influence and impact on scholars, their school, or their community. Nominations are reviewed and selected by the Superintendent's Scholar Advisory team, and staff members are honored at a board meeting.

Check out the educators who recently received the "Because of You" award! For information about how each of these educators is making a difference, go to www.fwps.org/becauseofyou.



Shelby Acuña



Angelica Afande



Pam Ashe



Chrissie Bianchi



Nadine Daniel-Hurry



Alana Drummond



Maggie Engels



Greta Holtz



Kelly Howard



Lindsey Mann



Rosa G. Peña



Sabine Watson

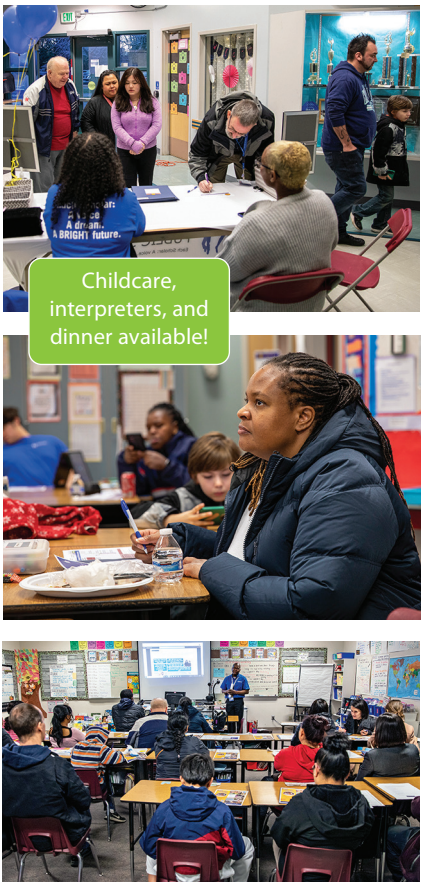


Andrew Young

Family Academy promotes scholar success

Family partnerships are essential to scholar success. In Federal Way Public Schools, we know we are the sum of many parts, and it takes all of us—families, community partners, and staff—to support scholars mentally, socially, emotionally, physically, and digitally.

That's why we've introduced the new Family Academy to work with and share valuable information with families related to curriculum, school year transitions, well-being, and more. PreK–12 families are invited to attend these events in person or through Zoom.



NEXT UP

Summer Connections

» Learn about school-based and school summer resources and programming, and attend a resource fair.

Thursday, April 27, 2023

6–7:30 p.m.

Mirror Lake Elementary or Zoom

Supporting Successful Transitions

» Get empowered with resources to support your child through various milestone school transitions.

Thursday, May 25, 2023

6–7:30 p.m.

Star Lake Elementary or Zoom

Learn more at

www.fwps.org/FamilyAcademy

Thank you

to the following individuals and organizations who contributed to support our scholars and staff!

- Curative Testing whose partnership in providing free mobile COVID-19 testing at school sites is helping support our staff, families, and community during the difficult times of the pandemic.
- Christopher John and Nimrata Nand from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northwest Real Estate whose donation of school supplies and resources to our McKinney-Vento program is working to support our scholars experiencing homelessness.
- Michael Steadman whose donation of \$500 towards school supplies is helping to make a difference in the lives of our scholars in need.

- South King Fire and Rescue whose donation of \$5,000 to the Bridging A Gap (BAG) program at Woodmont K-8, is helping to provide nutritious food, necessities, and support to our scholars in need.
- Senator Claire Wilson whose donation of socks to our McKinney-Vento program is working to support our scholar experiencing homelessness.
- KBTC Public Television whose donation of an Apple iMac computer to our Employment and Transition Program is helping to positively impact the lives of Federal Way Public Schools scholars.
- Federal Way Lions Club whose donation of over 270 English and 120 Spanish dictionaries to four of our FWPS elementary schools is helping to prepare our scholars for success.
- JTM Construction and Garner Construction WBE whose donation of 200 turkeys and meals to our scholars and families ensures our families are fed during the holidays.
- Community partners who helped put on the annual Federal Way Cares for Kids Holiday Giving Event to support our scholars and families.

- Communities In Schools whose donation of 60 headsets is helping our grades three through five scholars at Mark Twain and Wildwood Elementary communicate with their online tutor during math instruction.
- St. Luke's Lutheran Church whose annual donation of handmade quilts over the past 10 years supports our scholars who are experiencing homelessness.
- Charles Hoff whose donation of \$10,000 to Federal Way Public Academy is helping to make a difference in the lives of our scholars.
- Angelica Afande who hosted a Winter Celebration and toy donation giveaway at Rainier View Elementary to support our scholars and families.
- Kiwanis Club of Federal Way whose check donation of \$6,560 to support school activities and another check of \$500 to support girls' athletics programs helps positively impact the lives of Federal Way Public Schools scholars.

This list reflects donations received through March 28, 2023.

IS YOUR CHILD READY TO START SCHOOL IN THE 2023–24 SCHOOL YEAR?

Preschool and Kindergarten registration is open for our youngest learners!

If your child will be 3 years old by August 31, 2023, they may be eligible for preschool in FWPS. Learn more at www.fwps.org/Preschool

If your child will be 5 years old by August 31, 2023, they can enroll in kindergarten. Learn more at www.fwps.org/kindergarten

INSIDE:

- 1 STEM in FWPS
- 2 Alumni Spotlight
- 2 Summer Learning
- 3 Family Academy

What makes you
#FWPSProud?

WWW.FWPS.ORG/FWPSPROUD

SHARE
YOUR
STORIES

FWPSProud



The Scholar Chronicle is published periodically throughout the year by Federal Way Public Schools. Write us at 33330 8th Avenue South, Federal Way WA 98003, or call 253-945-2000. Visit our website at www.fwps.org. Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fwps210 Twitter: @fwps210



FEDERAL WAY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FW School District #210
33330 8th Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003

NONDISCRIMINATION
and EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Federal Way Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin or ethnicity, religion, creed, sex or gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, age, marital or family status, veteran or military status; disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. The District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. For more information: www.fwps.org

ECRWSS

Postal Patron

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SOUND PUBLISHING
98204

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



ON THE ROAD TO COMPLETION

As we finish up the last of the construction projects approved by the 2017 school construction bond, we are incredibly thankful to voters who are transforming the learning experience of scholars by elevating their learning environments with state-of-the-art facilities. Throughout this process, we've seen how scholars and staff alike are utilizing their new spaces to collaborate, innovate, and engage in deep learning. There are just a few more projects left to complete, and we're excited to bring the same sense of pride to more scholars through these new and improved facilities.

Photos and content are current as of March 2023.



CONSTRUCTION

MEMORIAL FIELD

On February 1, FWPS staff, project partners, families and community members came together for a groundbreaking event where remarks about the coming stadium were received and opportunities to view renderings and a fly through video. The event served as a prelude to the project moving into the demolition phase, which was quite a sight to see! The grandstands have since been removed, and construction has begun with new field turf and foundations and floor slabs for the concessions and restrooms! Look at photos of the progress!



Watch the
Memorial Field
fly-through video!



Community
comes
together to
celebrate
ground-
breaking



Construction marks the beginning of a
new Memorial Field



Demolition in progress



New turf installed



A view of the SW
classroom wing



Basketball hoops installed
in gym



Classroom cabinets and
doors in!



Discovery Lab skylight

OLYMPIC VIEW K-8

We're excited about the progress being made at our newest K-8 school. So much has happened since our last update, including the installation of siding, landscaping, stairs, casework and even the basketball hoops in the gym! With the move-in scheduled for the start of school in fall 2023, there's so much to look forward to!

ILLAHEE MIDDLE SCHOOL scholars and staff are preparing for their move to our temporary campus, as construction on their new school will begin this summer. But before vacating the building the Illahee community is excited to usher in the new project phase with a ground-breaking celebration.



SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 15, 2023

Scholars are expected to move into the new building after Winter Break in January



Illahee front entry, parent drop-off



Illahee front entry



Illahee commons



Illahee stakeholder meeting

2025. Look at the updated designs of the new Illahee Middle School and a few photos of the stakeholder meetings which helped inform the building design.