

# the SCHOLAR CHRONICLE

FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUMMER 2025

EACH SCHOLAR: A VOICE. A DREAM. A BRIGHT FUTURE.



A NOTE FROM  
DR. DANI  
PFEIFFER,  
SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Federal Way Public Schools Families and Community,  
We have reached the end of another wonderful school year. Each month has brought learning, activities centered in building a sense of community and belonging, and experiences that provide our scholars with the skills and knowledge that lead to bright futures. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our scholars, staff, families, and community. We are truly better together, and your support makes all the difference in our schools and you have my gratitude.

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We have reached the end of another wonderful school year. Each month has brought learning, activities centered in building a sense of community and belonging, and experiences that provide our scholars with the skills and knowledge



**CTE SHOWCASE:** In May, we hosted the second annual CTE Scholar Showcase, which featured hands-on exhibits from middle and high school scholars in robotics, culinary arts, art, and more. More than 700 scholars, family, and staff participated, a huge increase from last year!



The Class of 2025 included nearly 1,600 graduates, and earned nearly \$11 million in scholarships. Congratulations, we are so proud of you and wish you the best in your next adventure!



**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS:** In May, 23 elementary teams of 3rd–5th graders participated in the 25th anniversary of the Battle of the Books competition.



**NATIVE GRADUATION CELEBRATION:** 18 amazing scholars were honored at the annual Native Graduation Celebration at Olympic View K–8. The scholars, including Class of 2025 graduates, received meaningful handmade gifts including beaded necklaces, stoles, blankets, and smudge kits.



**MILESTONE TRANSITIONS:** In June, scholars across the district marked big moments—from preschool and kindergarten move-ups to fifth, eighth, and senior transitions. High schools hosted senior events like breakfasts, signing days, grad walks, and ceremonies on June 13 and 15!



Read more about these milestone transitions in our blog at [www.fwps.org/milestone-transitions-2025](http://www.fwps.org/milestone-transitions-2025).



**COMMUNITY CONNECT:** FWPS stakeholders came together in April for our annual Community Connect, to engage in conversations about our shared vision, review our new Portrait of a Graduate competencies, and reflect on the work ahead. Thank you to everyone who joined us, we truly are better together!

As we look ahead to the 2025–26 school year, we are excited to launch a new middle school schedule designed to provide consistent, equitable access to academic support and enrichment opportunities. This coming winter, our community will also vote on the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy, which helps fund critical staff and programs across FWPS. And finally, we will begin refreshing our district’s Strategic Plan to ensure it continues to reflect the needs, aspirations, and voices of our scholars, staff, families, and community. As part of our commitment to transparency, we encourage you to scan the QR code to view our most recent budget update and stay informed about how we are planning and prioritizing resources to support student success.



I invite you to explore this edition of the Scholar Chronicle, filled with highlights, accomplishments, and celebrations, and reflect on the incredible moments we’ve shared and the progress we’ve made together this year in FWPS.

I wish you a wonderful summer and am already looking forward to the 2025–26 school year!

In Partnership,



Dr. Dani Pfeiffer



**KINDERS TO COLLEGE:** In partnership with area colleges and universities, 1,500 FWPS kindergarteners had the opportunity to experience a college campus, sit in lecture halls, and participate in fun activities, as part of our commitment to helping scholars explore future pathways.



**STEAM THE DREAM:** In March, we held our largest event yet! At this year’s STEAM Exploration Night, we were excited to officially include art for the first time! More than 4,200 poured into FWHS to explore booths, hands-on experiences, and workshops!



**SEVEN SCHOOLS HONORED FOR GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT:** Camelot, Lake Dolloff, Lake Grove, Panther Lake, and Wildwood elementary schools, along with Federal Way Public Academy and Open Doors at Truman were recognized by the Washington State Board of Education for their exceptional work in the categories of Growth and Achievement.

GET INVOLVED, STAY CONNECTED

FOLLOW FWPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA: [Facebook](#) [X](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)  
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER: Sign up for our weekly district newsletter at [www.fwps.org/subscribe](http://www.fwps.org/subscribe)  
JOIN TEAM FWPS: Find a rewarding career supporting nearly 23,000 diverse scholars: [www.fwps.org/careers](http://www.fwps.org/careers)

**NOW MORE THAN  
EVER SCHOOLS  
CAN'T DO  
IT ALONE**

*Thank  
you*

*to the following community partners for their generous donations that positively impact the lives of scholars attending Federal Way Public Schools:*

**Seattle Mariners**, for supporting our student-athletes! For the second year in a row, FWPS is proud to receive the Mariners Care Equipment Donation Grant—this time awarding \$5,000 to Todd Beamer High School's softball program! This generous grant will fund new gear, uniforms, and safety equipment, helping expand the program and ensure players are equipped to succeed. More than just equipment, this support encourages inclusion, promotes healthy activity, and empowers young athletes.

We're grateful for the Mariners' continued commitment to breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for all students. **Thank you for making a lasting impact!**

*This list reflects donations received as of June 10, 2025*

# BLOG CORNER

Catch up on the latest stories highlighting the exciting learning and opportunities happening in FWPS.



## Students reach reading growth milestones at Star Lake



Most of Star Lake's fifth grade students have already exceeded their projected reading growth targets for the year, evidenced by January iReady assessment data.



## Cultivating Community: Todd Beamer High School's Medicine Wheel Garden blossoms into reality



Todd Beamer High School's Medicine Wheel Garden is becoming a reality! Students, teachers, and community members have been gathering for work parties to create this space for learning, solace, and reflection.



## Reading, Teamwork, and Triumph: Highlights from the 25th Battle of the Books



This year's Battle of the Books was a milestone event—celebrating 25 years of sparking curiosity, building reading confidence, and bringing students together through the joy of books.



## Scholars share their voices through EPIC theatre monologues



Through the unique Ethnic Studies Monologue program, scholars from Decatur, Federal Way, Thomas Jefferson and Todd Beamer high schools engaged in a residency workshop with EPIC Theatre Ensemble to delve into the diverse perspectives of social movements.



## Guest speaker at Kilo MS: Empowering FCP Students for the Future



Once a month, Kilo Middle School hosts Future Friday, where guest speakers inspire Functional Core Program (FCP) scholars with stories about life beyond middle school. Recently, Alex Motteler from Trillium

Employment Services spoke about self-advocacy and his journey as a person with disabilities navigating college and career.

Read more from our blog at <https://www.fwps.org/news>



## JOIN FWPS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS SUMMER!

Federal Way Public Schools is partnering with the City of Federal Way to bring back-to-school resources and family fun directly to the community this summer. We invite you to stop by our booth at a variety of local events to connect with us, get your questions answered, and learn more about the upcoming school year.

These events are **free to attend** and open to all families. Come meet our team, get help enrolling your scholar, explore job opportunities, learn how to get involved, and more!

You can find us at the following events:

- July 19** – Farmers Market at the Commons Mall
- August 6** – Kids Day at Steel Lake Park
- August 9** – Federal Way Community Festival at Town Square Park
- August 16** – Farmers Market at the Commons Mall
- August 23** – Farmers Market at the Commons Mall
- September 6** – Farmers Market at the Commons Mall
- September 27** – Farmers Market at the Commons Mall

Whether you're new to the district or preparing for another great year, we're here to support you. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

## Congratulations to the 2025 Attendance Cup Champions!

We're excited to announce the final overall champions of the 2025 FWPS Attendance Cup Challenge! Over the past eight weeks, our scholars and staff have shown outstanding commitment to being present and engaged each day, and their efforts have truly paid off. Schools competed in seven cluster groups, with two winners from each group.



### OVERALL ATTENDANCE RATE CHAMPIONS

These schools had the highest average attendance in their group:

- Group A: Federal Way High School
- Group B: Sacajawea Middle School
- Group C: Lakeland Elementary
- Group D: Twin Lakes Elementary
- Group E: Woodmont K-8
- Group F: Sunnycrest Elementary
- Group G: Federal Way Public Academy

### MOST IMPROVED ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

These schools made the largest gains in attendance:

- Group A: Federal Way High School
- Group B: Illahee Middle School
- Group C: Panther Lake Elementary
- Group D: Twin Lakes Elementary
- Group E: Nautilus K-8 School
- Group F: Lake Dolloff Elementary
- Group G: Employment Transition Program

Congratulations to all our winners and to every school that participated! Your commitment to attendance excellence supports FWPS Goal 2, focused on the whole child. Check out the full challenge details and weekly results at [www.fwps.org/attendancecup](http://www.fwps.org/attendancecup)



# Now Enrolling for the 2025–26 School Year

Are you seeking a school district that offers more than just the basics? At FWPS, we provide:

- Free meals and school supplies for all students
- Guaranteed college admissions for eligible seniors
- Robust Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs
- Comprehensive support for multilingual learners



Enrollment is now open for all grades. Join a community where every scholar is empowered to thrive. Get started at [www.fwps.org/enrollment/new-students](http://www.fwps.org/enrollment/new-students)

If you have questions about the enrollment or verification process, please contact your neighborhood school directly which can be found using the search tool at [www.fwps.org/SchoolBoundary](http://www.fwps.org/SchoolBoundary). For support outside of school hours, please contact the district's Educational Service Center at 253-945-2000.

## Back-to-School Basics

The first day of school of the 2025–26 school year for grades K–12 is September 2, 2025. Preschool and ECEAP begin on September 10, 2025.

### HERE ARE THE TOP 5 THINGS TO DO BEFORE SEPTEMBER 2:

- Complete enrollment (for new families) and annual verification (for returning families, starting August 1)
- Submit immunization documentation, health and medicine forms, individual health and emergency plans, special diet accommodation requests, etc.
- Review and accept the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
- Watch your email for important updates from your child's school and the district, like back-to-school events to connect with staff and other families or community resources

Find more information about the upcoming school year in our Back-to-School Resource Hub at [www.fwps.org/backtoschool](http://www.fwps.org/backtoschool).

## 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](http://www.fwps.org/becauseofyou).



Chris Andrews



Susan Bergman



Andy Cameron



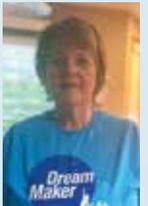
Laurel Cheever



Nicole Coraggio



Beckett Cordes



Michele Cordi



Brandon Draheim



Amy Fenning



Jenny Good



Dana Henry



Kevin Hooper



Ameillya Jean



Mike Minahan



Lina Older



Melissa Pederson



Rene Recato



Juan Rodriguez



Ali Roper

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### ▶ LAST ONE... DONE!

The new **ILLAHEE MIDDLE SCHOOL** is now complete, making it the last of nine projects to be completed under the bond passed in 2017. With the new two-story building, the school has also received an impressive renovation of its gym, a new courtyard, soccer mini-pitch, and an added road to improve traffic and accessibility.

#### Building features include:

- Exterior learning and athletic courtyards
- Full enclosed perimeter, additional security cameras, and a secure welcome entry vestibule
- Design with a connection to nature and preservation of mature trees
- Separate bus and parent traffic loops to reduce congestion and improve safety
- Enhanced pedestrian safety features on 1st Avenue (roundabout, and raised speedhump crosswalks)

The school just received its temporary occupancy certificate this month, and scholars and staff are eager to begin the 2025–26 school year in the brand-new space. Be on the lookout for the ribbon cutting ceremony and community tours, happening this fall.



Aerial view



Courtyard



Main entry



Main building entryway



Common area



Gymnasium



THANK YOU TO VOTERS WHO APPROVED THE 2017 CONSTRUCTION BOND!



TAKE A LOOK AT THE COMPLETED PROJECTS

FWPS scholars are now learning and competing in state-of-the-art facilities, equipped with the latest technology and designed to support the highest level of academic success. We also want to extend a heartfelt thanks to FWPS Capital projects, our construction partners, and the many staff, scholars, and community members who provided feedback to ensure each project met the needs of our community.



MIRROR LAKE ELEMENTARY  
Opened Winter 2020



LAKE GROVE ELEMENTARY  
Opened Fall 2021



WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY  
Opened Winter 2021



EVERGREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Opened Winter 2021



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL  
Opened Fall 2021



STAR LAKE ELEMENTARY  
Opened Fall 2022



OLYMPIC VIEW K-8  
Opened Fall 2023



MEMORIAL FIELD  
Opened Fall 2023

AND ILLAHEE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Opening Fall 2025

### BONUS PROJECT! TJHS FIELDS

Project cost-savings allowed us to upgrade the TJHS athletic fields, which was recently completed this spring.



Baseball fields



Football field, track field

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Mirror Lake Elementary kindergarteners perform a special song for families at their kindergarten graduation.

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](http://www.fwps.org). Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fwps210](https://www.facebook.com/fwps210) X: @fwps210

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**FEDERAL WAY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**NONDISCRIMINATION  
and EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OP-  
PORTUNITY 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](http://www.fwps.org)

ECRWSS

Postal Patron

## INSIDE

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Check out Dr. Pfeiffer's year-end recap and what to watch for in the upcoming year. **P1**

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Get info about enrollment, annual verification, and all things back-to-school. **P3**

### GRADUATION 2025

Read highlights about the Class of 2025. **P4**

## SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### KEEP LEARNING THIS SUMMER!

We're thrilled to offer expanded summer learning experiences for FWPS scholars! This summer, there's something for everyone, including:

- In-person camps for all grade levels
- Online Learning Resources
- Home Learning Packets
- Engaging Video Lessons available on YouTube and FW Local Channel 21
- Summer Reading Challenge
- FRED, the big green bus, available at multiple sites across the district which offers healthy meals, exciting learning activities, crafts, games, and books for kids!

FRED #1	LOCATION
M–Th 10:30 am–11:30 am	View at the Lake Apts
M–Th 12:00 pm–1:00 pm	Appian Way Apts
M–Th 1:30 pm–2:30 pm	Woodmont Library
FRED #2	LOCATION
M–Th 10:30 am–11:30 am	Watermark Apts
M–Th 12:00 pm–1:00 pm	Town Square Park
M–Th 1:30 pm–2:30 pm	Kitts Corner Apts
FRED #3	LOCATION
M–Th 10:30 am–11:30 am	Pavillion Apts
M–Th 12:00 pm–1:00 pm	Uptown Square Apts
M–Th 1:30 pm–2:30 pm	Celebration Park
FRED #4	LOCATION
M–Th 10:30 am–11:30 am	Enchanted Woods Apts
M–Th 12:00 pm–1:00 pm	Park 16 Apts
M–Th 1:30 pm–2:30 pm	Federal Way Library

Discover more summer learning opportunities at [www.fwps.org/Summer Learning](http://www.fwps.org/Summer Learning).  
Get ready to make this summer a season of growth and fun!

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

Nearly 1,600 student-scholars received diplomas during graduation ceremonies held June 13–15. FWPS also celebrated 26 exiting transition scholars in the Employment and Transition Program.

We are #FWPSProud of their accomplishments and their bright futures ahead!












**\$11 million** earned in scholarships

**187** scholars are the first in their families to graduate from high school

**333** graduates are the first in their families to attend college

**169** scholars have earned the Seal of Bilerteracy

**396** earned Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs)

**POST-SECONDARY PLANS**

**67%** attending a 2- or 4-year college

**15%** attending a trade or apprenticeship program

**1%** going to military

**11%** going straight to careers



Read more about graduation, rewatch the ceremonies, view photo galleries, and hear our graduates share how FWPS prepared them for their future at [www.fwps.org/graduation2025](http://www.fwps.org/graduation2025).