

Your Arlington Public Schools Report



Dear Arlington Community,

As we close out another school year, I reflect on the progress we've made and the opportunities that lie ahead. There is much to celebrate and the future is bright.

I will cherish the eight years I've had the privilege to serve as your superintendent! This is an amazing community – caring, hard working, and passionate about being the best that it can be.

Our team at Arlington Public Schools is outstanding! There is so much to celebrate about the progress we've made – expanding opportunities and choices for our students; increased graduation rates; financial stability; high performing teams throughout the organization; and a true commitment to continuous improvement to name a few! I am so proud of their work.

Thank you, community, for your kindness, commitment and support. I know you will never lose that pride, deep ethic of care and incredible resiliency.

Wishing you all the best!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine".

Dr. Kristine McDuffy
Superintendent

Data Dashboard

District Unveils New Data Dashboard

Arlington Public Schools has identified four key foundational principles in its Strategic Plan:

- Student Achievement
- Safe and Caring Environment
- Stewardship
- Continuous Improvement

The district recently went live with a data dashboard that was created as a way to transparently present data about these four areas to our parents and community.

There are a variety of categories you can look through including financial information, enrollment, graduation rates, and absences. In addition to these areas, our district's assessment data is available for the 2014-15 school year. You can see our results—by district and individual school—on the Smarter Balanced Math and ELA tests, End of Course Biology, and the Measurement of Student Progress for Science.

Whenever possible, our results over time are given, but, as in the case of the Smarter Balanced tests, 2015 was the first year we had results reported. If you would like to see the dashboard for yourself, please visit:

http://www.asd.wednet.edu/community/district_data_dashboard/

This is a new project for our district and a work in progress, so if you have any questions or recommendations, please contact Eric DeJong, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, at 360-618-6220, or by email at edejong@asd.wednet.edu.

We hope you enjoy the dashboard!

Arlington High School Celebrations

Our high school students, staff, and families have so much to celebrate again this year. The caliber of recognitions and awards for AHS students has been exceptional.

AFJROTC: Major Mike Blue and Alvin Moore watched their AFJROTC teams take home trophies, medals, ribbons and certificates from their February 27 competition in Marysville. The Color Guard received first place; the Dual Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team took home second place; and the Individual Armed Exhibition Drill was awarded third place. In their first year competing, the Cyber Patriot Team placed third in State for the Gold Tier!

Sports Medicine: The AHS Sports Med Team had three students who individually placed in the top for the Washington Career and Tech Sports Med Association State Competition against 45 schools and 830 students:

- Will Eckley won seventh place in Anatomy and Physiology
- Molly Rasmussen was in the top 20 in Speed Taping
- Molly Rasumussen, Jamie Farrar, Brantly Stupey and Tommy Murphy placed third in Academics

Drama: On May 17, AHS received the following nominations for outstanding awards by the 5th Avenue Theatre for their spring musical *Pippin*:

- Outstanding Overall Musical
- Outstanding Direction
- Outstanding Choreography
- Outstanding Scene Design
- Outstanding Lighting Design
- Outstanding Costume Design
- Outstanding Stage Crew
- Outstanding Lobby Design (Honorable Mention)
- Outstanding Actor Leading Role - Josh Basher
- Outstanding Supporting Role Actor - Rob Neeleman
- Outstanding Performance By a Chorus
- Outstanding Actress - Andrea Ramirez (Honorable Mention)
- Outstanding Supporting Role Actress - Channing Hudson (Honorable Mention)
- Outstanding Actress Featured Ensemble Role - Emily Hawks (Honorable Mention)



The cast will perform one of the songs from *Pippin* on June 6 at the awards ceremony. We wish them the best!

Schack Art Center Awards: Shailyn Berry and Andrew McCartney earned Honorable Mention from the Schack Art Center Awards. Fine and Performing Arts are alive and well at Arlington High.

Athletics: 2015-2016 has also been a rewarding year for our AHS athletic teams. So many athletes had the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their hard work as League Champions, District Champions and State Champions.

League Champs:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling
- Girls Tennis
- Girls and Boys Golf
- Boys and Girls Track

District Champs:

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls and Boys Golf

Subregional and Regional Champs:

- Wrestling

State Placer:

- Girls Soccer-4th Place
- Boys Cross Country-3rd Place
- Girls Basketball-2nd Place
- Wrestling-State Champions

Individual State Placers:

- Nate Beamer-2nd Place Boys Cross Country
- Ruben Crew-1st Place Wrestling 170 lbs
- AJ Crew-2nd Place Wrestling 160 lbs
- Will Rush-7th Place Wrestling 120 lbs
- Boston Jones-3rd Place Wrestling 126 lbs
- Gavin Rork-2nd Place Wrestling 132 lbs
- Jeremy Nygard-2nd Place Wrestling 138 lbs
- Cooper McAuslan-5th Place Wrestling 145 lbs
- Colton Ferro-5th Place Wrestling 195 lbs
- Robin Hernandez-3rd Place 105 lb

Transition Program News



The Transition Program prepares special education students for making the transition from school to work. This year has been an exciting year for our high school transition students with establishing a new Person-Centered Plan program. This is a set of approaches designed to assist students in planning their life, goals and needed support. As part of developing work skills, students have been working in the new Bargain Annex at the Community Thrift Store. After their training this year, they will be closing the annex and students will be able to work directly in the Community Thrift Store.

Our business partners in Arlington have provided many opportunities for students to learn through on-the-job training. A local veterinary clinic, Bowman Industries, Cascade Valley Hospital, Arlington Health and Rehabilitation Center and Dwayne Lane have provided vocational experiences for our students.

Students feel a strong sense of accomplishment in being able to work in real life situations where they have co-workers and also work with the public. The skills they are developing help them to be great employees in the future.

Middle School Celebrations

Haller Middle School

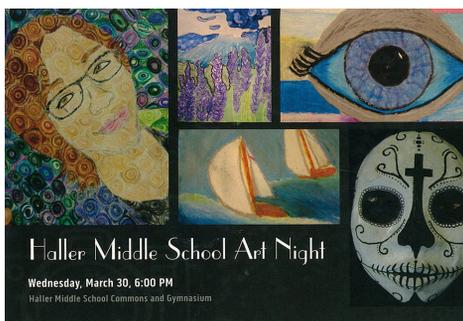
Haller Middle School welcomed a new principal, Mr. Larson, and assistant principal, Ms. Barborinas, to their campus last fall. The year ran smoothly and the teachers didn't miss a beat. Several wonderful programs continued while new ones were added.

Thanks to Verlaine Meyers, the second Annual STEM Fair was held on May 12, and there were over 100 student exhibits where parents were able to see and hear how students:

- conducted research,
- followed the Engineering Design process to design and test a specific solution to a human problem,
- constructed a scientific model of an important process,
- designed and conducted an inquiry experiment around a testable question, and
- researched college and career options all related to their STEM topic choice.

There were also several community partners present to share their connection to STEM in the "real world!"

The Haller science department enjoyed honoring a total of 72 students (24 in each grade) for their work ethic, creativity and perseverance demonstrated in science. Students and parents were invited to an evening ceremony to recognize these students as well as participate in numerous interactive science experiments.



In March, Suzanne Summer kicked off the first Haller Art Night where the artistic accomplishments of students were celebrated. All students who participated in the art class during the school year chose a piece of art to display in this gallery-style art night. There were over 300 works of art showcasing different mediums and techniques.

Haller Middle School is also proud to announce 37 eighth grade students will receive a Presidents Award at Eighth Grade Recognition for maintaining a 3.5 GPA for their entire three years at Haller and for passing all standardized tests in seventh grade. Congratulations to those 37 students for a job well done.

Post Middle School

Post Middle School offered a new STEM program for students. The students who were involved in the classes have been a diverse cross-section of students. These students are now performing at and above grade level, whereas many of them struggled with meeting state assessment standards in the past.

The students are benefitting from real-world examples in math and science, which has increased their understanding the "why" of what they are learning. Motivation has increased and students are enjoying discussing math and science at home. Many of the students who have been involved in the pilot program are returning next year.

Elementary School Celebrations

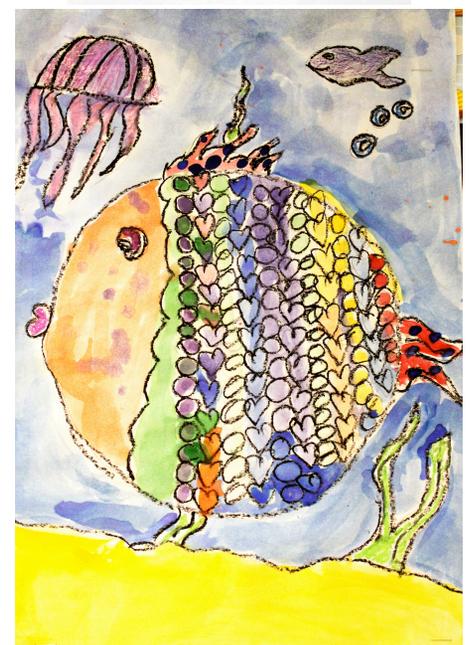
This was the first year the district added art classes to the specialist schedule at elementary schools. Molly Estes, art teacher, has been rotating between all four elementary schools. Each school received one quarter of art classes for kindergarten through fifth grade. During the State of the District Address, Dr. McDuffy asked a panel of elementary school students, "If you could change something in our district to make it better, what would it be?" Everyone of the students said they would like to have an art teacher in their building all year! The district has made a commitment to add another art teacher for the 2016-17 school year so that each elementary will receive a semester of art for their students. Seeing the creativity posted throughout the buildings makes it obvious that students enjoy art and are learning techniques and methods they didn't know before.

Giant Geometric Fish

Created by 2nd and 3rd Grade Artists

Learning Targets:

- I can enlarge a drawing.
- I can add visual texture by drawing patterns and different lines.
- I can use geometric and organic shapes in a drawing.



Reading for Fun

Dr. Seuss Day was a big hit this year and all of our elementary-aged students had fun with reading activities. Older students read aloud to younger students and younger students read aloud to older students. There were groups of students in classrooms, hallways, and the multipurpose room, some of whom wore their pajamas for Dr. Seuss Day. Children ate green eggs and ham while learning that reading is fun, as well as being a life-long activity.

Over the summer, parents can take their children to Books on the Bus. This is a district bookmobile that will travel through the Arlington community. Students will be able to pick out books to read at home and return them the following week. The bus is scheduled to be available every Wednesday between June 29 and August 24 at the following locations:

Twin Ponds Apartment Complex	9:30-10:30 am
Presidents Elementary	10:40-11:40 am
Haller Park	12:30-1:30 pm
High Clover Development (next to the basketball court)	1:45-2:45 pm
67th Street - Mobile Estates	3:00-4:00 pm





The 7 Habits of Leadership are listed on the tree above:
Be proactive • Begin with the end in mind • Put first things first • Think win-win • Seek first to understand-then be understood • Synergize • Sharpen the saw.

Early Learning/Kindergarten

Many of us have heard the expression, “play is a child’s work.” This past year, the phrase came to life in our kindergarten classrooms. Moving to full-day kindergarten for all students was the catalyst for examining our current program, researching developmentally appropriate practices for kindergarten, and ultimately resulted in improving our services to our youngest students.

Every day, all kindergarten students across the district engaged in an hour dedicated to developmental play using a “plan, do, review” model. The playtime allowed our students to make decisions about their learning, practice social skills, and gain independence.

The district supported this model by providing every kindergarten classroom with the materials needed for areas such as dramatic play, blocks, art and writing. Each day, students made a plan for what they were going to do during this time. In the beginning of the year, a plan might have been as simple as

“play with blocks,” but as students matured and gained confidence, the plans become much more elaborate and detailed.

During the playtime, students carried out their plan while the teacher played alongside them, encouraging oral language, social skills, and problem solving skills. In one classroom, students ran a Starbucks store that they created in their dramatic play area. In another classroom, a group of students built a race track using blocks and then worked together to create a ramp and a jump for the cars. Story writing with illustrations was another favorite activity in many of the classrooms.

The review portion of the model was perhaps the most powerful. Students shared their learning experiences with peers, discussed problems they

If you walk through the halls at Presidents Elementary, you will see posters, decorations, and exhibits which point to the program, “The Leader In Me,” instituted this year. Signs and markers of what leadership is can be found by classroom doors, on the hallway walls and in the students. Presidents just completed the first year of recognizing their students as leaders by using the Franklin Covey program.

Leadership can be seen in students when you attend an assembly and realize the children were involved in developing and leading the assembly. As a parent, you see your own student as a leader when they prepare and are actively involved in the teacher/student/parent conferences. Teachers have been involved with the 7 Habits Training for Teachers as well.

Another change at Presidents this year is the specialization model they are using. Teachers are either teaching math and science or English language arts and history. This has allowed them to focus their knowledge and help the students better understand the subject area they teach.



encountered, and made connections with other learning that was occurring in the classroom.

Developmental playtime quickly became a favorite part of the day for students and kindergarten teachers report their students are much more independent, possess higher-level problem solving skills, and their social skills are much stronger as a result. The academic growth is equally as impressive and our kindergarten children are more than ready to tackle first grade.

Arlington public Schools, the Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition, NW ESD 189 and United Way of Snohomish are hosting a special evening of Dinner & Dialogue with preschool and kindergarten teachers from across the community on Thursday, June 9 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center. RSVP to Heather Brown at hbrown@asd.wednet.edu or 360-618-6291.

Washington Achievement Award

We are proud to announce two of our schools received the 2015 Washington Achievement Award. This award is given by the Washington State Board of Education and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction based on data collected over the past three years. The schools and categories for recognition are:

Kent Prairie Elementary for Overall Excellence, High Progress and English/Language Arts Growth

Presidents Elementary for Math Growth

Congratulations to both the staff and students at Kent Prairie and Presidents Elementary Schools!

District to Provide More School Supplies



The school district recognizes that purchasing school supplies has been an increasing demand for our families and a financial hardship for some. Because we ask for community support for our schools through levies and other fundraising activities, school supplies (including supplies to complete class projects at home) will be provided by our schools as follows:

Elementary

- Classroom supplies are provided, including any materials needed to complete class assigned projects at home.
- Students will need to bring their own backpack.

Middle & High School

- Students will need to bring their own binder, dividers and pencils. Backpacks are optional.
- Other classroom supplies will be provided by the the school, including materials needed to complete assigned projects at home.
- Students will need to provide their own PE uniform (athletic shorts and a plain tee-shirt).

Schools will be closing for the summer (check the school websites for the exact date). Senior graduates should arrange to obtain their transcripts prior to the closing of the high school offices. All schools will reopen for registration on August 17.

District Office Summer Office Hours

July 1 - 31: Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Closed on Fridays and July 4

Back2School Rally

The Annual Back2School Rally is being held on Sunday, August 21 at 3:00 p.m. at Presidents Elementary. Backpacks, binders, dividers, pencils and other items will be provided.

To register, go to
<http://www.back2schoolrally.com>

Back packs filled with school supplies will be given away!

back2school Rally

August 21st at 3pm

Location:
Presidents Elementary
505 E 3rd Street
Arlington, WA

Registration:
www.back2schoolrally.com
Registration opens
July 1st

Arlington Public Schools has neither reviewed nor approved the program, personnel, activities, or organizations announced in this flyer. Permission to distribute this flyer should not be considered a recommendation or endorsement by Arlington Public Schools.

News About State Assessments

State Assessments Are Underway 2014-15 School Year Assessment Results

Spring testing season has definitely arrived! All across our school district, students are taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments for federal accountability.

Below are charts to show what tests are given for grades 3-8,10 and 11.

Tests Required for Federal Accountability		
Grades	Subject	Test
3-8	ELA	Smarter Balanced or WA-AIM
	Math	
5 & 8	Science	
10	Science	Biology EOC
11	ELA	Smarter Balanced or WA-AIM
11	Math	
11	Science	WA-AIM

Students in tenth grade take the Smarter Balanced ELA test as a graduation requirement.

We are in a transition phase for graduation requirements in our state, and different classes have different graduation requirements. In addition to the tests required for federal accountability, our high school students are taking tests to meet the graduation requirements for their class. If you would like to see what is required for each class, you can see a chart at the following link:

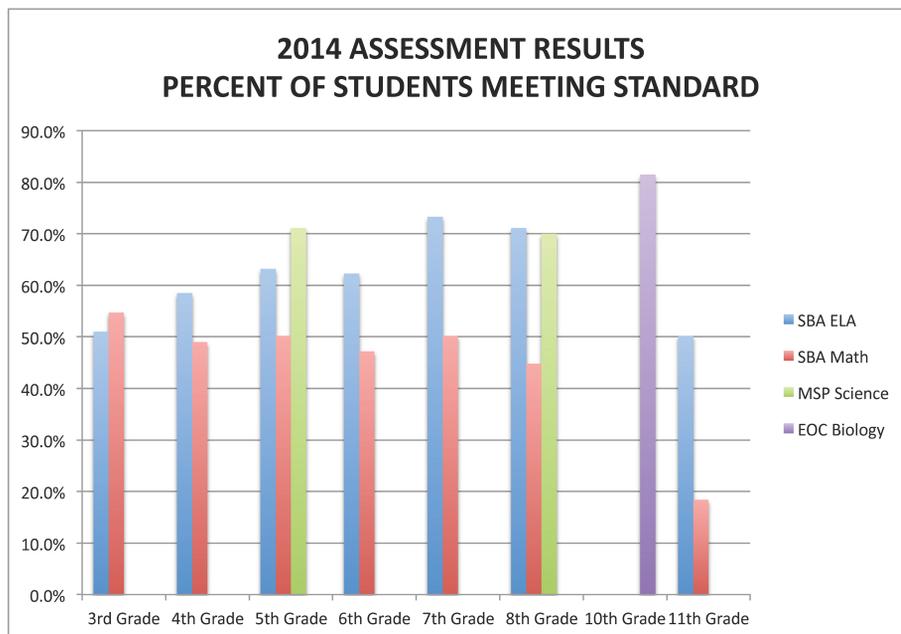
<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/default.aspx>

Last year was a major turning point in our state testing program. The Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) became a thing of the past and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) was only available to students in the class of 2015 and 2016. With the departure of the MSP and HSPE, the state transitioned to the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for English Language Arts (ELA) and math. The SBA's are designed to assess how our students are performing on the Common Core State Standards that have been adopted by the state of Washington. Our new standards are designed to help students be prepared for college and career after high school, and the SBA will provide feedback to the district, and parents, on the progress of our students.

Why do we have new standards? Just as every profession and field of study have regular updates and changes in accepted practice (just think of how fast technology has changed over the last five to ten years), the field of education must adapt its practice to meet new demands that students will encounter as they enter the workforce or go on to further their education. While these changes may seem daunting at first, over time they will become the new normal.

The state predicted that the scores, and passing rates, on the new tests would be much lower than the scores on the previous tests (MSP and HSPE). However, as this is a new test measuring different standards, the scores on the two tests cannot be compared. This is an entirely new test so the results must be considered as an new baseline.

Arlington, and other districts in the state, did experience a drop in the results because of the new tests. If you would like to view details and drill down to grade levels, schools, and demographics for the assessment results, please visit our district website at www.asd.wednet.edu and click on District Data Dashboard in the Quick Links area.



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Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, gender, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

TITLE IX OFFICER COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

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