

Our Schools

ARLINGTON
Public Schools

A publication for the Arlington community.

WINTER 2016

Plan to attend the State of the District Address on Jan. 26

Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Chrys Sweeting, invites you to attend the ninth annual State of the District Address. The presentation will be held Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. at Haller Middle School, 600 East 1st Street in Arlington.

Dr. Sweeting will provide a report on the state of the district focusing on efforts to increase student learning and achievement, the district's budget, facilities, the continuous improvement process and progress towards goals outlined in the Superintendent Entry Plan.

The meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to bring your questions and feedback.

Join us for pie! Golden Eagles Pie Social, March 17

Arlington Public Schools holds an annual Golden Eagles Club Pie Social each spring for our senior citizens. This year, it will be held Friday, March 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. at Pioneer Elementary School, 8213 Eaglefield Drive in Arlington. Superintendent Chrys Sweeting will provide an update on the district and answer questions from participants over pie and coffee.

Please RSVP to Gary Sabol, Public Information Officer, at 360-618-6217.

Manufacturing training center at Weston High School helps students reach their career goals

The Advanced Manufacturing Training and Education Center (AMTEC) at Weston High School opened its doors this year and students are already benefitting from the program. The AMTEC site at Weston is a partnership between Everett Community College, the city of Arlington and Arlington Public Schools. The program provides a pathway to jobs in the manufacturing industry.

Adam Gott, a recent high school graduate, is now an assistant instructor at AMTEC. He shows students how to safely operate a lathe, drill press and a Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machine. Once students complete the program, they can earn an Associate in Technical Arts degree.

"Once they learn the skills and earn the degree, it's much easier to become a

machine operator and potentially work in the aerospace industry," said Gott. "This is where the jobs are at."

While in high school, Gott toured different places like the Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center in Everett to see what career he wanted to pursue. Will Nelson, Weston High School Principal, said it's great having AMTEC housed at Weston because it shows students some different career options. He also said it's important for students to have a goal. Every two weeks, a guest speaker visits the school to talk about different career paths.

"Ninety percent of our students say they don't know what their plans are when they start at Weston," said Nelson. "I meet with every student, and my staff and I help them decide what path they'd like to take."



Adam Gott, a recent high school graduate and an assistant instructor at the AMTEC manufacturing center, teaches a student how to use a press. The AMTEC site at Weston is a partnership between Everett Community College, the city of Arlington and Arlington Public Schools.

Educating all students, preparing & inspiring them to achieve their full potential.

Public Notices

Arlington Public Schools is required by federal and state laws to annually notify citizens of the following notices:

Child Find Program

Arlington Public Schools is seeking people from birth to age 21 who are enrolled in school, or not, and may need special education services. Special needs are defined as concerns with hearing, vision, speech, language, health, learning, developmental delay, behavior management, mental retardation, birth defects, orthopedic or spinal problems, autism or other disabilities. Parents or guardians of children who may have any of these conditions and live within the Arlington Public Schools boundaries are encouraged to contact the District at 315 N. French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223 or phone (360) 618-6215.

McKinney-Vento Services

Arlington Public Schools is informing the community of the purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act. McKinney-Vento provides educational services to homeless students which are equal to all other enrolled students, and ensures that homeless children and youth have equal opportunities to enroll in, attend, and be successful in school. Your child may qualify as homeless if you are:

- Sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- Living in a motel, hotel, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate living accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Are abandoned in hospitals;
- Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard

- housing, transportation stations or similar settings; or
- Migratory children living in conditions described above.

According to the child's best interest, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Arlington Public Schools liaison for homeless students is Christy Byle at 360-618-6235.

Highly Capable

Arlington Public Schools is now accepting Highly Capable Program nominations for the 2016-17 school year. Students currently enrolled in kindergarten through eleventh grade are eligible to be nominated. Nomination forms can be found under the "For Parents/District Forms" menu on the district website: www.asd.wednet.edu For assistance, please contact Terri Bookey, Director of Early Learning and Categorical Programs, at 360-618-6210.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are

- The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request,

the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20202-5901.

Integrated Pest Management and Asbestos Management Plan

The health and safety of students and staff are paramount. The district manages vegetation and pests using a minimum of pesticides. The district uses physical, mechanical, cultural, biological and educational tactics as primary controls. Chemical controls are a last resort and the least toxic alternative is used. When pesticides are used, notification signs are posted at buildings 48 hours prior to pesticide use and for 24 hours after. Individuals wishing advance notification of pesticide use at any site may contact the Support Services Department. The asbestos notification requirement is in response to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The district has developed and maintains an asbestos management plan, including records of surveillance training and abatement activities. Detailed reports of both pesticide use and asbestos records are available at the Support Services Department, 135 S. French Ave., or by calling (360) 618-6430. Arlington Public Schools has copies of the AHERA reports in all school offices in buildings that were built before 1988. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director of Operations at (360) 618-6238.

Emergency Management and Response Team helps keep students and staff safe

Did you know that our school district has an Emergency Management and Response Team (EMART) that meets throughout the year to update procedures and debrief after drills? The EMART team consists of district administrators, school principals, the district nurse and the public information officer. Meeting regularly allows the team to continually improve the safety of our schools. The team has invited police and fire representatives to provide information on current practices in emergency situations. The procedures and materials created by the EMART team are living, up-to-date documents used for drills so if an emergency occurs, staff and students will be well prepared.

Facilities Advisory Committee: Helping Plan for the Future

Arlington Public Schools' Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) is a standing committee of the superintendent. The FAC helps the district by reviewing the status of the community's school buildings and their ability to support educational services provided for our students. In 2014, the FAC, with architectural consultants McGranahan and Hutteball & Oremus, produced the Facilities and Properties Master Plan that identified major maintenance projects including replacing Arlington High School's stadium field with low maintenance turf, re-roofing Haller Middle School and Eagle Creek Elementary, and replacing the gym floors at Haller Middle School. Projects recommended by the report were all completed by August 2016. The 2014 master plan also recommends replacing Post Middle School.

The FAC's current task is identifying an architectural firm to assist the district with a process known as a Study and Survey. The Study and Survey is the first step in determining our school district's eligibility for state matching funds for school building construction. The Study and Survey includes an estimate of future enrollment and an inventory of school buildings' current conditions. School districts complete this process at least every seven years. Firms competing for the work will be interviewed by both the FAC and the School Board to determine which firm is the best fit for the Arlington community. Arlington Public Schools applied for and was awarded a grant from the state of Washington to partially pay the cost of the Study and Survey process.

Future work for the committee includes reviewing the results of the Study and Survey process when it's completed in February 2017, assessing the need for future school buildings and locations and analyzing financial aspects of recommended building modifications or construction. Both the 2009 Study and Survey and the 2014 Facilities and Properties Master Plan are available on Arlington Public Schools' website under the Administration/Facilities menu. Any questions or comments regarding the facilities planning process can be directed to Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operations, at 360-618-6238 or blewis@asd.wednet.edu.



Community members, parents and others visited several school during the "Know Our Schools" tour in November.



Presidents Elementary first-graders dressed up and enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast before the holiday.



Arlington High School DECA student Angel Cisnado shows some of the donations that he and other DECA students collected for families in need over the holidays.



Pioneer Elementary fourth-graders conducted a "Caring for Critters" pet food drive for the Northwest Organization for Animal Help (NOAH).

Postal Customer ECRWSS

Thank you board members!

January is School Board Recognition Month. Thank you to our dedicated board members for their service to students and the community!



(Left to right) The Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors are: Jim Weiss, Vice President; Dr. Jeff Huleatt, President; Mary Catherine Meno, Student Advisor to the Board; Kay Duskin, Legislative Representative; Edward Radion, Student Advisor to the Board; Ursula Ghirardo, Director District 3; and Bob McClure, Director District 5.

Reaffirming the direction of the district

When I was hired last summer as superintendent of Arlington Public Schools (APS), the board of directors identified leadership challenges and opportunities. Two of these opportunities focus on revisiting the strategic plan that was last revised in 2010.

- Maintain and enhance the innovative student-learning focused programs and priorities set out by the strategic plan and managed by the district improvement planning process; and
- Refine the strategic plan to refocus priorities and goals for the next five to seven years.

The strategic plan provides a “roadmap” for the district. It includes the district mission (Arlington Public Schools educates all students, preparing and inspiring them to achieve their full potential) as well as the vision, collective commitments and long-range targets. The vision focuses on four key areas:

- 1) Student Achievement
- 2) Safe and Caring Environment
- 3) Stewardship
- 4) Continuous Improvement

Throughout the 2016-17 school year, committee members from the Arlington Public Schools Advisory Council for Education (ACE), representatives from higher education or vocational education, business and community partners and district staff will review the current strategic plan. They will confirm, make revisions and update the plan if needed. The plan provides direction for the board, district leadership, teachers, parents and students and will include actionable strategies that drive improved achievement and student success looking at current and future needs.

You will be receiving a survey in early February asking how we’re doing as a district and what we should focus on in the next five to seven years. Your input is vital as we plan for the future.

Thank you for your continued support as we help every student achieve his/her full potential.

Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent



Dr. Chrys Sweeting,
Superintendent

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, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, 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. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR
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