

Class of 2018 earns \$92,000 in scholarships, awards

The graduating class of 2018 earned numerous awards and scholarships this year. Students received more than \$92,000 in scholarships.*

379 Graduates

- 8** Earned Associate Degrees (Everett College)
- 1** Earned GED (Open Doors Program)
- 1** Board of Directors' Award
- 1** Superintendent's Scholarship
- 41** Community Scholarships
- 7** Arlington Education Association Scholarships
- 8** Arlington Dollars for Scholars
- 8** AHS Booster Club Scholarships
- 11** APS Payroll Deduction Scholarships
- 4** Community Awards
- 3** APS Classified Employees Scholarships
- 2** PTSA Scholarships- Haller Middle School
- 2** PTSA Scholarships- Post Middle School
- 2** Boyer Award and Duskin Scholarship
- 10** Students participating in college athletics
- 50** Scholarships from colleges or other organizations

*Does not include scholarships that students were offered through other sources.

Congratulations Class of 2018!



We are proud to recognize the Class of 2018! This year, 343 seniors graduated from Arlington High School and 36 seniors graduated from Weston High School. We know you have a bright future ahead of you!



First GED earned in Arlington's Open Doors program

The first General Education Development (GED) certificate has been earned in Arlington Public Schools' Open Doors Youth Re-Engagement Program. Allie Green completed all four Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts GED tests between December of 2017 and May of 2018 while working almost full time.

Open Doors, which is housed at Weston High School and opened in the fall, is a statewide program that provides education and services to older youth, ages 16-21, who have dropped out of school or are not expected to graduate from high school by the age of 21. It can be a good fit for students who have dropped out of school or who are considering dropping out due to life changes, work or other circumstances. There are more than 40 students in the Open Doors program.

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First GED

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"I had trouble earning my 11th- and 12-grade credits until I found Open Doors," said Green. "It was the easiest and fastest way for me to earn my GED and a lot of it was done online."

"The opportunity for Allie to achieve this goal was made possible through our partnership with WorkSource Snohomish County, which provided Allie – and all our other GED students – with access to ResCare Academy, an online GED program which provides personalized learning plans based on student strengths and areas of



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- Tonya James

academic need," said Renee McArt, Open Doors Case Manager/Instructor. "The program develops lessons and practice opportunities to strengthen students' knowledge and abilities, offers practice tests, and tells students when they are ready to test. I know that preparation really helped Allie feel confident during each official testing session and made her course of study more productive and efficient, which were very important qualities for this busy, determined young woman."

Green plans to pursue post high school training at a community college or private beauty school as a make-up artist/esthetician.

"There were many phone calls and texts from Renee encouraging Allie to succeed," said Green's mother, Tonya James. "I'm so thankful to Renee for never giving up on her."



Terri Bookey, Ursula Ghirardo and Bob McClure received Sno-Isle Region 109 Washington Association of School Administrators awards May 10 in Everett. (Left to right): Ursula Ghirardo- Former School Board Member, Arlington Public Schools; Bob McClure- Former School Board Member, Arlington Public Schools; Terri Bookey- Director of Early Learning and Categorical Programs, Arlington Public Schools; and Dr. Chrys Sweeting-Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools.

Older students help younger students in BAM Buddies program

A new program at Presidents Elementary School is allowing older elementary students to work with younger students who might need extra help with their school work. The BAM Buddies is an intervention program that was started this spring. There are a total of 22 students in the program.

"What makes this program unique is that instead of having a middle schooler or high schooler help at the school, the older elementary students are the ones mentoring the younger students," said Mark Dolan, Counselor at Presidents. "It's also held right before school starts, sort of like a zero period at the high school."

Before school starts, the students check in with their teachers and then the older students escort the younger students to the stage. Once school starts, the older students walk the younger students back to their class. The students work on things like reading, math and writing.

"It's fun to help them," said fifth-grader Isaac Prouty. "Sometimes they get distracted but it's easy to bring them back."



Fifth-grader Isaac Prouty helps third-grader Walker Coggins with his math work. The students are part of the BAM Buddies program at Presidents Elementary, where older elementary students work with younger students who might need extra help with their school work.

"I enjoy working with my buddy," said third-grader Walker Coggins. "This helps a lot with my division."

Dolan plans to continue the program in the fall. He said one of the best things about the program is the relationship it builds between the students.

"I've seen them say 'hi' to each other in the hallways and at recess. We knew after the first week that this program was something special."

Visitor entry systems provide extra layer of security at many schools in Arlington

Arlington Public Schools recently installed visitor entry systems to increase school safety by securing buildings from unauthorized visitors. To gain access, a visitor pushes a button on a call box in front of the school to request entry into the building. After the school staff have verified the visitor, they can then remotely unlock the front door and allow the visitor to enter the building. The systems were installed at many schools across the district.

"After students enter the building at the beginning of the school day, all exterior doors remain locked until dismissal," said Superintendent Dr. Chrys Sweeting. "This system provides increased security for our students and staff."

"One of the great things about the system is we can help a parent even before they get to the front desk," said Haller Middle School Registrar, Melissa Bowden. "For instance, if a parent needs to talk to a teacher, we can buzz the parent in and contact the teacher before the parent even gets to the office. It allows us to streamline our process to be more responsive to parent needs."

Bowden said she's received very positive feedback from parents and other visitors. They say the entry system is very noticeable, easy to use and doesn't create much of a delay when entering the school.

"I feel this is a step in the right direction to further protect students and staff," said Mary Levesque, a parent who has children at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Arlington. "I'm always reassured that the district has processes and procedures in place to keep my kids safe."



It's construction season at Arlington Public Schools

Enrollment is growing at Arlington Public Schools and the Operations Department is coordinating two projects in response. Kent Prairie and Eagle Creek Elementary Schools will receive improvements that will add capacity to the school or free classroom space in the school. Other projects underway include improvements to site security and community safety.

First up is the addition of two portable classroom buildings at Kent Prairie Elementary School. Kent Prairie is expected to grow to 723 students in the 2018-19 school year from its current 664 students. To accommodate the additional students, we will add two portable buildings with two classrooms each. Site work has begun to prepare the location for installation of the portable buildings. Preparation includes installing storm water management structures (Kent Prairie is a very wet site), leveling the site, adding a crushed rock base on which to place the buildings, and installing electrical service. The project cost estimate is \$493,000, paid from growth mitigation fees maintained in the district's Capital Projects Fund and collected by the district in the early part of this decade. Growth mitigation fees can only be used for projects that respond to increases in student enrollment, so this project fits that requirement.

At Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center, we're adding water and sewer to two existing portable buildings. Adding these services will allow the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) to relocate from its current home

inside Eagle Creek Elementary School. ECEAP students are ages 3-4. The relocation frees up two classrooms inside Eagle Creek for use by students in grades K-5. This project is partially funded by a grant from Snohomish County, with the remainder provided by funds in the district's Capital Projects Fund.

Security improvements in the works include fencing at Arlington High School, Kent Prairie Elementary, and Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center. Safety improvements include the resurfacing of tennis courts at Arlington High School. The courts have their original 2003 surface on them, which is worn and slick, creating hazardous conditions for users. The United States Tennis Association recommends resurfacing courts every five to 15 years depending on the intensity of use. These courts experience high levels of use throughout the year by physical education students, the school's tennis teams, and community members using the courts recreationally.

At the completion of these projects, resources available in the Capital Projects Fund will be depleted to the point that other projects cannot be initiated. We'll continue to maintain our facilities to keep them in safe and operating condition, but further additions or improvements will be delayed until resources become available.

Questions about these projects? Call Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operations at 360-618-6238.

Postal Customer ECRWSS

Focused on achieving goals in the Strategic Plan

The 2017-18 school year was the first year we implemented the goals of our updated Strategic Plan that was adopted last summer. The Strategic Plan focuses on four goal areas: Student Learning and Achievement; Safe and Caring Environment; Resource Stewardship; and Parent and Community Partnerships.

Integrated into each of the Strategic Plan goal areas is our focus on equity. This means working toward providing access, opportunity and supports for learning as well as removing barriers that hinder learning. Current initiatives include enhancing leadership and instructional practices, engaging in professional learning communities (PLCs), providing appropriate interventions for both academic and behavioral needs, incorporating culturally responsive practices, and increasing our understanding of trauma informed practices and the impact of adverse childhood experiences.

Student Learning and Achievement

We are extremely proud of our recent graduates who have met all the requirements for graduation and are ready to pursue their dreams and move on to new opportunities. We are also proud of each student as they transition from grade to grade and are ready for learning at higher levels. We are excited about the implementation of the new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum in all grades K-12 where students are engaged in learning that is rigorous and research-based. As stated in our mission, Arlington Public Schools educates all students, preparing and inspiring them to graduate and seek their full potential as lifelong learners.

Safe and Caring Environment

Keeping our students and staff safe continues to be a concerted effort on the part of the district. This year, we installed visitor entry systems into many of our schools and other safety enhancements at other schools. While we want to make each of our campuses as inviting as possible, we also want to ensure our schools are safe places where students can learn and thrive.

Resource Stewardship

We take pride in our schools and all of our district resources. This year, we purchased 10 buses to replace older buses in our fleet. We recently received a clean audit with no findings from the

Washington State Auditor's Office. Our custodians work hard to make sure our schools are clean and welcoming. Our grounds and maintenance crews continue to take care of our properties and equipment. Aligning our resources to support the goals in the strategic plan is essential.



Parent and Community Partnerships

We would not be able to do what we do without the support of our great parents and community partners. This year, the Arlington Education Foundation distributed more than \$14,000 in classroom mini-grants to teachers. Thirty-six local businesses and organizations engaged in conversations with our secondary students about future careers during the Skilled Trades Day. The Rotary Club of Arlington also recognized outstanding students in our district. The Lions Club provided critical equipment and support for vision screening. We continue to have joint meetings with the City, Hospital District 1 and Hospital District 3. We are better together for our students.

Make it a Home Game

This year, we emphasized "making it a home game" for each student so they feel supported in school. Throughout the year, board members, other district staff and I had lunch with students at each school to hear their thoughts and ideas about what helps and/or hinders their learning. It was a pleasure talking with the students and they gave us great feedback. We will continue these lunches next year.

I hope this summer is filled with great times with family and friends!

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.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR
Mr. Eric DeJong
Executive Director, Human Resources
315 N French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223
360.618.6212
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SECTION 504 COORDINATOR
Mr. Dave McKellar
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