

## “TEDster on Tester”

In February brought stories of courage, desperation and hope from Rwanda, Iraq and Cambodia to Monroe last month.

The student-organized TED-style talks are a service project of seniors at Monroe High School located on Tester Road. The series is modeled after the popular video series known as TED talks. TED is a non-profit devoted to

providing a platform for “ideas worth spreading”. After starting in 1984 as a convergence of technology, entertainment and design (aka TED), TED today shares ideas from a broad spectrum from science to business to global issues in more than 100 languages according to the group’s website.

The February 26<sup>th</sup> event at MHS was the second in the TEDster on Tester series. “We’re trying to do one every month,” said senior Marika Dunham, who has led the efforts to establish the local series.

The initial TEDster on Tester in January featured three student speakers. One spoke about adding perspective to your life; another talked about dealing with anxiety and mental illness. The third talked about the fruit of life and sharing the fruit of your life stories with other people. Giles Stanton, MHS English teacher, spoke about boredom as a necessity for creativity.

Monroe High students Breen Kuchan and Emily Maraam talked in February about their families’ experiences as Kurds living in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in the 1990s and 2000s when Saddam Hussein was the leader of Iraq. In 1991, many Kurds fled to the mountains as a result of Hussein’s actions.

Their families returned home in 1996, but were forced to seek refuge in the United States. “Basically, our fathers were working with the UN

medical team,” says Kuchan. “Since Saddam was chasing the people working with them, a man came to my parents with the choice to come to America.”

“It was tough for our parents to make that decision, with what we left behind,” Kuchan continued. “My grandfather was a big businessman and had left the company to my father. We came here with only one suitcase. We went from top to bottom. Kuchan and Maraam were



Noted author and volunteer Carl Wilkens shared his experiences during the Rwandan genocide.

joined by Carl Wilkens, an aid volunteer who lived in Rwanda in 1994. He shared his personal experiences of the horrific genocide which killed 800,000 people in 100 days and his decision to stay on after the Americans were evacuated.

When the war broke out, Wilkens put his wife and children on a convoy out of the country, but he stayed on in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, for the duration of the war. He was concerned about the two Tutsis who lived in his house, his housekeeper and security guard, who were the ethnic

# TEDster on Tester

## MHS students share their knowledge in short talks on wide array of subjects



Monroe High School students Breen Kuchan and Emily Maraam stood in front of a map of the Middle East to help their audience visualize where their families experienced living in the Kurdistan region of Iraq before seeking refuge in the United States. Their talk was part of the student-led “TEDster on Tester” talks modeled after the popular video series known as TED talks. TED is a non-profit devoted to “ideas worth spreading” that started in 1984. After starting with a convergence of technology, entertainment and design, TED today shares ideas from a broad spectrum from science to business to global issues in more than 100 languages according to the group’s website. (Photos courtesy of Catherine Standlee-Martin)

minority group being targeted for the genocide. He knew if he left, they would likely be killed. He ended up saving not only the people in his house, but an entire orphanage of children.

Bringing Carl Wilkens to the TEDster stage came about through a series of connections. History teacher Scott Darrow teaches a War and Conflict class at Monroe High, where he has been teaching Carl Wilkens’ story as a part of his curriculum for years. A former student attended one of Wilkens’ lectures in California and got his contact information for Darrow. When Wilkens’ touring schedule put him in the Seattle area, he arranged to come and speak at the school.

Darrow wasn’t disappointed after finally hearing his story in person. “My students were floored,” said Darrow. “When you hear his story, he didn’t know if he was going to survive it or not. My kids knew his story, and seeing him speak after they knew his story was amazing.”

Darrow pointed out that it has been so many years since the genocide that Wilkens’ message has had time to change. “His message was more about how Rwanda has healed – they’re one of the most prosperous nations now in Africa, and their progress has been more about healing than about punishment,” said Darrow.

“Wilkins spoke about the power of forgiveness and getting past seeing a different group as “us vs. them” – a lot of messages that resonated with our kids.” Darrow liked that the speaker gave a lot of positive feedback about how one person can make a difference, and the power of not letting fear dictate your actions.

Kuchan, daughter of Yawar and Samia Kuchan, also spoke about the personal struggles of coming to a new country. “A big adjustment for me was when I was little. I remember mostly speaking Kurdish, but once I went to kindergarten, I learned English while everyone still spoke Kurdish at home. I was so confused because my parents weren’t fluent in English.”

“My parents had just gotten married – they were newlyweds,” says Emily Maraam, daughter of Mardan and Basima Maraam. “They just wanted to begin their lives when this happened to Kurdistan.”

“I don’t speak up much at school,” said Maraam. When she heard about the upcoming TED talk, she knew it was important for her to share her experiences. “I felt that if I talked, it would have an impact on other people,” she said. “I wanted to show that if someone puts their mind to it, they can get over it.”

The girls wanted to talk about their country to help their classmates understand some of their experiences. Maraam was pleased that so many students were interested in what she had to say. “I had a lot of students come up afterwards and ask a lot of questions.”

“You shouldn’t judge people on what they’ve been through but on how they’ve adjusted to the challenges,” said Kuchan. That was one of the themes that Wilkins had expressed, and she felt it applied to her family’s experiences as well.

“People shouldn’t be defined by their past,” agreed Maraam.

Zana Burnett, daughter of Trish and Mark Burnett,



MHS senior Zana Burnett shared her experiences in Cambodia working with victims of human trafficking.

spoke about her recent mission trip to Cambodia to help young women who have been involved in human trafficking.

“It was disheartening seeing what they suffered from, and then coming back and seeing how much I had,” said Burnett. “It opened me up to see that I want to make changes in my life and not take so much for granted.”

Burnett wanted to do her presentation after hearing that Wilkins would be their guest speaker. “I felt that my talk kind of matched it,” she said. “It’s something I’m really passionate about. I feel that people hear about human trafficking, but they don’t realize there’s something they can do to help.”

She said that friends came up afterwards who said they would love to help out. “Hearing it from someone talking personally about it helps them understand more,” Burnett said.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEFaxHJrNic> for a student-produced video about the TEDster@Tester project.

From your superintendent ...

# Monroe has much more in common than not

Shared goals and dreams bring our community together to do our best for youth

In communities we often have more in common with our neighbors than we have differences despite what you might hear on television or social media.

This fall during the School Board Listening Tours I was inspired by how much we all want the very best for our children, our neighbor's children, and children we do not even know.

Monroe Public Schools' theme again this year, "In Common", speaks to this common goal. I heard from community members that more concern was needed for every child to grow up ready to be a good citizen and contribute back to our prosperity. I also heard that you want more than young people memorizing the states and their capitals or calculating algebraic equations. I heard you want young people to leave our schools with skills to succeed but also a passion of learning that extends beyond formal education. Conversations like these are invaluable to me and your school board as our schools continue to improve. No system is perfect, and we more than appreciate your time and attention to help our school system grow.

### New standards, new ways to measure them

One such improvement is this year's new state online assessment system to judge how well we are helping students gain skills according to new higher learning standards. The new standards are in place in many states across the nation and were written by those with experience and expertise educating children. These standards are an effort to provide a clear roadmap of what students, no matter where they live, are expected to know to be ready for college and careers. On average, the new standards are about a grade level higher than previous requirements, meaning what students used to learn in 3rd grade is now the standard for learning in 2nd grade and so on.

Besides being online, the new tests are different in that each student is not only being tested for their grade level standards but are being asked to stretch as far as they can go. Questions will adapt to each student's abilities giving families and teachers greater knowledge about how to challenge children to their potential.

Our community's support in 2014 of a new Technology Levy that takes effect this spring is proving invaluable by giving our students the tools they need to be successful on these assessments and in their classroom learning. Please see page 10 for more information about the importance of our community's decision to support technology.

That technology takes its toll on some of our older facilities that were built expecting to power a few TVs or overhead projectors. Much has changed in 20, 30 or 40 years. I hope you will take a moment to look over pages 6 & 7 where the proposal to continue property owners' current school bond tax rate is explained.

### Many thanks for your support since 2006; new leadership in July

And finally, since 2006 I have had the pleasure of seeing how much my family and I had in common with you and your family. As you may have already read, in June I retire after 27 years in public education. It has been a true honor to serve you and this community. Your kindness and support has forever changed my family and me.

Your school board has selected an outstanding next superintendent in Dr. Fredrika Smith. An educator in the Puyallup School District, Dr. Smith impressed board members with her passion for children and commitment to maintaining the humanity in public education.

She is currently one of three Chief Academic Officers in the Puyallup School District. She oversees about 7,500 students attending one of Puyallup's three high schools, the two junior high schools that send students to that high school, and the five elementary schools that promote children up to those junior highs. Monroe's student enrollment is about 7,000 students.

Dr. Smith started her career as a Special Education teacher in Marysville and has worked as an assistant principal, director and assistant superintendent in Stanwood-Camano, Meridian and Mukilteo school districts. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Washington, master's at Western and doctorate at UW. She also is a lecturer at UW Bothell.

I have no fear she will come to find as much in common with you as I did. Monroe is positioned well to meet these rising expectations. Later in this newsletter is the long list of the students earning the important milestone of a high school diploma as well as a list of the awards - \$4 million worth - earned by the Class of 2014. Also look for a few success stories of our most recent graduates.

Together with continued commitment "in common" from you, your children, your family, your neighbors and this community, our schools will grow to be even better and our students more successful.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share that journey with you.

Dr. Ken Hoover  
Superintendent, Monroe Public Schools



Working Together So ALL Achieve  
Core Skills For REAL Life Success

## New transition program connects "web" of students with middle school in common

Following the great success of Link Crew, the high school transition program that teams up juniors and seniors with incoming freshmen to help them learn the lay of the land, this year the middle schools initiated a program called WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) for incoming 6th graders transitioning from elementary to middle school.

"Seventh graders apply to be WEB leaders in the spring, and are chosen at the beginning of the 8th grade year," explained Michelle Simeoni, counselor at Hidden River Middle School. The new WEB leaders spend several days over the summer in leadership training. Once school begins, the incoming 6th graders are divided into small groups and assigned to two WEB leaders who offer guidance in the first weeks of school. "WEB was developed to help the 6th graders make an easier transition by providing mentors they can turn to," said Simeoni.

The WEB leaders all wear the WEB t-shirt the first two weeks of school so all the 6th graders know they can ask them for help or directions. "The first day of school is a fun and informative day for our 6th graders and their WEB leaders," explained Simeoni. "The 8th graders lead their 6th grade groups in fun activities that help the 6th graders get to know each other and their leaders," said Simeoni. Throughout the year, the leaders get together with their 6th grade teams for fun activities.

Claire Engvall is one of Hidden River's 8th grade WEB leaders. When asked what she thought about the program, she had one thing to say, "I love it!" "Before the WEB program, all the grades would be separate and they'd only be hanging out with their friends in their grade," said Engvall, daughter of Eric Engvall and Michele Engvall. "It breaks it up having 8th graders be friends with 6th graders." She is looking forward to joining Link Crew when she gets to high school.

WEB leader Tyzel Watson wished WEB had been around when he was in 6th grade. "You start out kind of confused and don't know where to go," he said. "WEB really helps them get a kickstart on the year."

Watson, son of Damon and Miriam Hollins, said his favorite thing about the program was being able to help people. He's very happy with the

connections he made with the 6th graders. "I really think these friendships are strong," he said. "I hang out with them."



Claire Engvall

"This is our first year doing it, so we're just getting our feet wet, but the possibilities are endless," said Jennifer Garcia, counselor at Park Place Middle School. "We're looking into how it helps with

discipline issues, reduction of tardies, and higher grades for sixth graders." She noted that it was a great experience not only for the incoming 6th graders, but for the WEB leaders, too. It gives students who may not have taken on a leadership role a chance to blossom, since the WEB students aren't chosen from the usual leadership-oriented students.

"The ASB kids would be great for WEB, but they're already busy, so we



Lucas Bradley

like it to be different kids in WEB," she explained. They want kids who have the time necessary to commit to the program. "We look for a cross section of the school. If 50% of the school is band students, I want 50% of the WEB

leaders to be band students. If 30% of the students have backgrounds from Spanish speaking countries, I want 30% of the WEB leaders to be students who have backgrounds from Spanish speaking countries."

Eighth grader Lucas Bradley also had a lot of fun in Park Place's WEB program. "It was really fun being in at the beginning of this," said Bradley, son of Quetzal and Josie Bradley. He noted that it was also a great opportunity to make good connections with his 8th grade peers.

"It's team-building for the older kids and it's welcoming to the younger students," said Sue Skillen, executive director of Monroe Public Schools Foundation. WEB was supported this year by a generous donation from the Foundation. "We saw the success it had at the high school with Link Crew," said Skillen.

She noted it was also an effective part of the anti-bullying curriculum because it builds the connections between older and younger students. "I think the biggest thing is welcoming those students so they're not anxious," said Skillen. "If they can alleviate that anxiety, they can get down to learning."

## It can't hurt to ASK

Monroe Public Schools helps families with questions about growth and development of infants, toddlers or young children. Helping children early can be the key to their future success in school and as an adult. Screening, evaluation and referrals are part of school services.



Anyone can call with child development questions.

360.804.2606



# Local students tops in nation

## Two MHS 1%-ers continue long streak for Bearcats in National Merit competition

Two Monroe High School students are finalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship process.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT test, in addition to other requirements.

Sam Burke, son of Tim and Emily Burke, is one of the two finalists. He hopes to attend Stanford but is looking at other California schools, too. He wants to be an aerospace engineer.

"I'm really interested in cutting edge technologies. There may be some really cool opportunities coming up in the next few years with space exploration," he said. Burke was thankful to his English teachers, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Stanton, for helping him with the college admissions process.

Elizabeth Taggart, daughter of Crystal and Benjamin Taggart, is hoping to attend Brigham Young University in Provo but is torn between multiple interests in science and the arts.



Sam Burke



Elizabeth Taggart

"I really enjoyed doing the last two musicals, *Oklahoma!* and *Happy Days, the Musical.*" Taggart said. She loved seeing what came out of the work the cast and crew did together. "It turned out really amazing. But biology, chemistry and technology are also all things I'm interested in."

From March to mid-June, 8,000 of the 15,000 finalists will be awarded a Merit Scholarship. In addition, five young people earned "commended scholar" accolades for placing in the top 5 percent of those same 1.4 million students taking the PSAT.

- Bethany Garver - Sky Valley Education Center, daughter of Bruce and Paula Garver
- Cassandra Engvall - Monroe High School, daughter of Michele Engvall and Eric Engvall
- Thomas Gorordo - Monroe High School, son of Linda and Javier Gorordo
- Jessica Matyas - Monroe High School, daughter of Cherie and Michael Matyas
- Amber Van Brunt - Monroe High School, daughter of Terri and A. John Van Brunt



## 2015 Teacher of the Year is Frank Wagner Elementary's Rachel Sullivan

Relentlessly positive is how Rachel Sullivan's teaching at Frank Wagner Elementary School is described by colleagues and the families of her students. She was recently selected as Monroe Public Schools' 2015 Teacher of the Year and will be honored in May by the Masonic Lodge of Monroe and Sultan. Shown above with some of her kindergarten students - Tzel Hernandez, Sedy Luna, Lydia Gomez and David Gonzalez, Rachel has been teaching in Monroe for eight years and is a graduate of Monroe High School. After earning her degree from Western Washington University, she returned home to teach elementary school. She is a national board certified teacher and winner of district honors including the TEAM and Performance Plus awards. She sets very high expectations for her students and works tirelessly so each child meets those expectations. Last year Rachel's kindergarten students started in September with skills much lower than students in the school's magnet Dual Language kindergarten program. Magnet programs draw students from across the district whose families are interested in their child becoming biliterate in Spanish and English by the end of elementary school. By June the skills of Rachel's students matched the same "end of the year" level as Dual Language students. In her nomination, Frank Wagner principal Vikki Berard wrote "in her supportive and inspiring classroom, students learn and grow under her perfect blend of kindness and firmness. She has no fear of dreaming big in what her students can achieve!"

## Fryelands teacher is one of 20 to watch for innovative teaching

Third-grade Fryelands Elementary School teacher Randy Brown continues to be recognized for his innovative approach to classroom management by becoming a National School Board Association's '20 to Watch' Education Technology Leaders honoree. Last year he won Washington State's Stanley O. McNaughton Golden Apple for excellence in education.

"This year's '20 to Watch' honorees highlight the kind of exciting innovations that exist throughout America's public schools. These teachers and administrators, with support from their school boards, share a vision for learning that will prepare students for future success," said Thomas J. Gentzel, NSBA Executive Director. "These inspirational pioneers are having a positive impact."

Inspired by the Khan Academy, a collection of free educational videos available online, Randy Brown embarked on his own blended learning journey to create a digital version of himself with more than 500 instructional videos that allow him to provide individualized attention to every child as student groups rotate through stations in his classroom.

This is Brown's third year running a "flipped" classroom and he can't imagine ever going back to the way he used to teach. "The old model I did for 28 years was tough because you have no time to meet with kids one-on-one, or very little," he said. "It's so inefficient. Now, the kids who need help the most, I can help."

Brown noted that the award usually goes to innovative principals and superintendents, rarely teachers, so he was quite surprised to win. "I feel pretty humbled that my district feels highly enough about me for this nomination," he said. "It's quite an honor."

While Brown has been teaching for 31 years, he spent the last 25 of them wishing he had another person to help in the classroom. After watching the Khan Academy videos, he realized that second person could be him! At most times of the day in his classroom half the students are watching videos, while he is able to give one-on-one assistance to the other half. Then a reminder goes off, and the students switch places. "I get to see every kid, every day, 6-10 times at my desk alone. I get to know a lot about their skills

and strengths and weaknesses and what they need help in," Brown said. "Plus, with more time one-on-one, I'm able to hold them up to a much higher standard to turn things in correctly, because I am there to help them all day until they get it right. They don't turn it in until they get it right."

Getting to this point wasn't easy, however. For two years, Brown spent almost every weekend and evening learning about, shooting and editing his videos. "This award is a really a nice stamp of approval for all the energy, time and effort I've put in the last few years," he said.

Brown has become a big advocate for this new approach, now spending those same nights and weekends sharing his instructional model with other teachers.

# MHS inducts four new athletes into Hall of Fame

## Runner, wrestler and more join elite group to highlight Bearcat pride in athletic history

Four very talented former Monroe High School student athletes were inducted into the school's Hall of Fame this year at a special ceremony during halftime at the final home girls' basketball game of the season.



MHS alum from 2008, Lyndy Davis stands with her parents Janice and Edward Davis during the Hall of Fame induction. (Photo courtesy of Catherine Standlee-Martin)

Tyson Springer, Class of 2000, played football and was an All-State wrestler for MHS for four years before wrestling for Dickinson State, where he was All-American three times, NAIA National Finalist twice, three-time regional champion and 2005 NAIA National Champion.

Springer is now the head wrestling coach at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, where he hopes to be for a long time. "I love producing successful young men on the mat and in the classroom," he said. "The main thing I want people to know is anyone can succeed if they want it bad enough."

Desiree Miller, Class of 2005, was a

five-time Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball National Champion at the University of Alabama and All-American as well as an Academic All-American. She now lives in Germany and plays professional wheelchair basketball at BG Baskets Hamburg while she trains for the 2016 Paralympics in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. "It is my dream to win a paralympic medal," she said.

Miller notes that she didn't expect to have a sports career at all. "As a person with a disability, I did not think that sports would be available to me," she said. "I thought they were just for able-bodied people. Wheelchair basketball opened up so many avenues for me and continues to bless my life daily."

Kylin Munoz, Class of 2009, played three years of volleyball at MHS before playing for the University of Washington from 2009-2013 and becoming All PAC-12 Honorable Mention, All Pacific Region Honorable Mention, All PAC12 Academic Honorable Mention, 2013 NCAA Final Four Participant, and Everett Herald Woman of the Year 2013.

Munoz now also lives in Germany,

where she plays pro volleyball. "I love experiencing a new culture and meeting friends from all over the world," she said. She believes that success in sports is a mixture of luck, hard work and one more thing... "A majority of my success is due to the great people I've crossed paths with," she said.

Lyndy Davis, Class of 2008, made All-State twice in varsity track and twice in varsity cross country at MHS. At the University of Portland, she holds the fourth fastest 10K time in school history, in addition to being a 4-year Division I NCAA Regional Qualifier.

"Working full time and trying to run at an elite level is a big scheduling challenge," said Davis. She currently lives in Portland and works as a program manager in environmental marketing at Hewlett Packard and is simultaneously training for the 2016 Olympic trials in the marathon.

"I run on my lunch break every day at work and then do a second run after work," she said. "I run 90 miles a week." Davis still buys orange and black running clothes. "I'm a Bearcat at heart."



# Congratulations to Monroe Public Schools' Class of 2014

Earning a high school diploma is not easy. Students are expected to successfully complete a rigorous course of study to achieve the skills needed to meet the demands of post-high school training and education as well as become productive members of our community. In addition to Monroe's requirement of 22.5 credits, the state requires students to meet standard in reading, writing and math as well as complete the Culminating Challenge which includes a project and presentation before a community panel.

In the Class of 2013, the most recent year data is available, Monroe high students' adjusted on-time graduation rate was 88.3%. The extended graduation rate, for the Class of 2012 - most recent year data is available - the rate rises to more than 92.9%. Earning a high school diploma is not a timed race. What is important is crossing the finish line!

Join us in congratulating the Class of 2014!

## "Perfect" scholars

Topping all of their classmates, these students were named Monroe High Class of 2014 valedictorians after earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average while taking very rigorous course of study, including four years of science, English, advanced math and studying the same foreign language for three years. The salutatorians earned the second highest grade point average taking the same rigorous courses.

### Valedictorians -

- Chase DiMonda
- Eric Grewal
- Elizabeth Laskowski
- Rachel Lee
- Blanca Rodriguez

### • Lucas Waller

### • Andie Walton

### • Evan Wang

### Salutatorians -

### • Rachael Delamare

### • Melissa Ingersoll

Kylie Acree  
Mia Adams  
Jessica Akers  
Daniel Al-Bermany  
Emily Albert  
Kealohamakanamakaee Alexander  
Mary Alexander  
Alexandria Allen  
Joshua Allen  
Thoma Amenn  
Makenna Amsberry  
Payton Anderson  
Corena Anthony  
Madelyne Arends  
Joshua Armitage  
Gamaliel Arredondo-Quintero  
Tellis Aucoin  
Jesse Avelar  
Ryan Baermann  
Annika Baggenstos  
Hannah Bailey  
Breanne Balk  
Candice Bannon  
Jessica Bard  
Megan Barney  
Veronica Barrera  
Ty Bartosek  
Selene Basurto-Noguera  
Kaisha Bauer  
Alayna Baumgartner  
Kimberly Bautista  
Taylor Beals  
Brenden Bear  
Matthew Beaudoin  
Madison Beavers  
Kayla Benneck  
Roudy Bentz  
Jared Bernhardt  
Damiano Besabe  
Bailey Biles  
Kylee Billings  
Madeline Billings  
Hunter Bingham  
Rachael Bishop  
Maxime Blais  
Emily Bland  
Trevor Blankenship  
Tabatha Blevins  
Austin Bolstad  
Sarah Bottem  
Kaleigh Bowers  
Savannah Bowman  
Makia Braa  
Audrey Brackin  
Shaman Bradley  
Katelyn Brower  
Brennan Brown  
Brittney Bruers  
Marina Bruner  
Nicholas Bruton  
Allison Buckland  
Sheanna Burnett  
Katherine Busch  
Samantha Candlen

Michelle Cao  
James Carmel II  
Judah Carroll  
Rebecca Casey  
Edgar Ceballos  
Jackson Chang  
Gabrielle Chase  
Ian Christenson  
Jake Christian  
Nickolas Chu  
Annalisa Ciano  
Hannah Ciocco  
Alex Clark  
Trevor Clark  
Zac Clark  
Bethany Cochran  
Tyler Collins  
Leslie Comejo  
Chloe Cory  
Danielle Craig  
Chandler Crayton  
Martin Creed  
Sebastian Cripe  
Adam Cruver  
Jaime Cruz Pelayo  
Keaton Dahlinger  
Jacob Daniels  
Frances Davies  
Landon Deam  
Alexandra Dean  
Chelcee DeClercq  
Leah DeFreece  
D'Marco DeGross  
Dallas Delahanty  
Rachael Delamare  
Ryan DeYoung  
Shaylah Dickgieser  
Chase DiMonda  
Micheal Dixon  
Carigan Donnelly  
Rachel Donnelly  
Charles Dougherty  
Anthony Douglas  
Kyra Dubuque  
David Dunn  
Megan Eddy  
Dillon Edwards  
Rachel Ely  
Paul Ericksen Jr  
Zoe Ericsson  
Saul Escudero  
Rachel Faidley  
Kaylene Falk  
Dallas Fargo  
Kelsey Faulds  
Tyler Fetty  
Sabrina Fields  
Marlissa Fisher  
Jesse Flett  
Austin Fouse  
Chase Fouse  
Nicholas Fouse  
Hunter Franson  
James Robert Fraser

Taryn Fraser  
Refugio Fregoso  
Kimberly Galicia  
Maria Celia Garcia  
Ana Garcia Mendoza  
Francisco Garcia-Ortiz  
Osmar Gaspar Mendez  
Juan Jose Gaspar-Hernandez  
Rose Geiger  
Jared Gendron  
Brienne Gidewall  
Jade Gifford  
Mckenzie Gillies  
Joseph Goguen  
Joseph Goins  
Eden Gomes  
Citlali Gomez  
Alyson Gonzalez  
Aline Gonzalez Dela Cruz  
Monica Goodwin  
Bailey Gossage  
Ryan Gosselein  
Rowan Grafton  
Eric Grewal  
Emily Griesmer  
Francisco Guillen  
Brandon Gunderson  
Hannah Guy  
Thomas Guzman  
Chandler Haberkack  
Aidan Hacker  
Gemma Hall  
Nicholas Hall  
Hunter Hansen  
Maxfield Hansen  
Luke Hanson  
Collin Hardwick  
Aaron Harmon  
Trisha Harmsen  
Jordan Harris  
Mason Harris  
Kyle Hastings  
Brittany Hawken  
Jamie Hawkins  
Tanner Hegland  
CeAnna Heit  
Brenden Herman  
Michelle Hernandez  
Caleb Hettinga  
Hannah Hilden  
Loren Hjert JR  
Samantha Hoehne  
Danika Hollefreund  
Luke Hollister  
Krystyne Holmes  
Deanna Holzerland  
Emma Hopkins  
Gregory Hopper  
Zachary Hoyrup  
Nathan Hughes  
Britney Hunt  
Darian Huotari  
Cheyenne Hvitved  
Molly Hysmith

Melissa Ingersoll  
Gytautas Jankauskas  
Drew Jelinek  
D'Angelo Jimenez  
Eduardo Jimenez  
Ariah Johnson  
Kayleigh Johnson  
Cassidy Jones  
Megan Jones  
Jana Kaese-Wilken  
Shelby Keeley  
Wyatt Kemery  
Chellise Kemis  
Makail Kendall  
Cody Kennedy  
Tucker Kennison  
Thomas Kerns  
Sydney Kies  
Christa King  
Jamie Kisela  
Sabrina Kravetsky  
Chandler Krisinger  
Nicholas LaFleur  
Taylor LaFond  
Edmund Lai  
Cameron Laird  
Samuel LaPine  
Elizabeth Laskowski  
Abigail Lawrence  
Kian Layson  
Eric Lazaro  
Jonathan Leach  
Alan Lebaron  
Amanda Lechantier  
Kesia Lee  
Rachel Lee  
Emily Lembke  
Haley Lembke  
Madelyn Lewis  
Anyia Liebman  
Brogan Lingle  
Douglas Lippert  
Bryanna Lipsy  
Ben Lo  
Kurtis Lockie  
Kurtis Lockie  
Clover Lochr  
Hannah Longsine  
Haylee Longsine  
Hailey-Marie Lopes  
Nicholas Loukusa  
Sydney Lowery  
Malachi Lucey  
Stephanie Luke  
Mandy Maas  
Kelsey Macauley  
Dwight Mack  
Lillian Maddex  
Sandra Magana-Sanchez  
Erin Maki  
Tanna Mang  
Richard Manning  
Cooper Martin  
Ernesto Martinez Hernandez

Ariel Mathwig  
Caleb McClure  
Jake McCollough  
Alexander McCreary  
Michael McDonald  
Cade McInelly  
Josram Medina  
Melissa Mehlhaff  
Erik Mejia  
Zoie Miller  
Deidra Miller  
Ian Mitchell  
Sierra Modica  
Riley Monpas  
Araceli Montano  
Akela Montgomery  
Malia Montgomery  
Andrew Moore  
Gabriel Moore  
Kyla Morgan  
Jack Mulligan  
Kristopher Murphy  
Joel Murray  
Yuri Nakamatsu  
Olivia Navarro  
Kathleen Nehls  
Amanda Nelson  
Chelsey Nelson  
Jessica Nelson  
Kai Ness  
Clare Newell  
Victoria Ng-Breckwoldt  
Carley Nitschke  
Trevor Nottingham  
Dominique Noyers  
Kyle Ohlsen  
Cody Olson  
Julia Olson  
Kennedy Olszewski  
Jessica Ordaz-Ramirez  
Diana Ortiz-Barcenas  
Monica Ourada  
Juan Pacheco Gaspar  
Kirstin Packard  
Morgan Padilla  
John Pang  
Nolan Parker  
Brianna Parmentier  
Isabel Partida  
Paige Payseno  
Rosario Perez-Valera  
Nikolaus Perry  
Carson Peter-Contesse  
Sara Petersen  
Calli Peterson  
Christopher Peterson  
Nikko Phengsavath  
Isaac Phillips  
Olivia Pidgeon  
Cristina Piland  
Sean Pitts  
Rachel Pomeroy  
Cole Porter  
Dylan Pownall  
Zachary Price  
Jessica Purvis  
Jacob Ragonesi  
Tristan Ramage  
Genesis Ramirez  
Karina Ramirez  
Nash Rarig  
Haylie Rasmussen  
Maranda Reasoner  
Morgun Relei  
McKenna Renando  
Rebecca Richards  
Shane Rismoen  
Samantha Ritzert  
Itzel Robles-Juarez  
Robert Rochlin  
Blanca Rodriguez  
Rachel Romeo  
Kevin Romero  
Quinton Rosencrans  
Aaren Rott  
Carlos Rubio

Continued on page 6

# 2014 graduates heading out to success

## Austin Bolstad Interested In Everything

Austin, son of Kathy and Gordy Bolstad, was a big part of Monroe High School while he was here and involved himself in a wide variety of activities. As a junior he joined Link Crew, a service-oriented organization that helps freshmen acclimate to high school, and during his senior year he became a Link Crew Commissioner. Bolstad was on the cross country team for three years, and took Advanced Placement (AP) classes in Statistics, Western Literature and U.S. History, and also belonged to an interpretive dance club.



**Austin Bolstad**

Bolstad is now attending Western Washington University (WVU) for pre-physical therapy, which he became interested in during a job shadow as a part of his Culminating Challenge at MHS. Culminating Challenge is a graduation requirement that includes a paper, a project and a presentation completed prior to graduation on a topic of their choice that demonstrates the student's readiness to take responsibility for their own learning. "It helps you take a look at your future and prepare for it," said Bolstad. "I thought physical therapy was interesting, a very hands on job. I like that. You do a lot of talking to the patients and you get to know the patients."

"Austin would try anything, writing a novel, performing as Lady Macbeth, whatever," said Giles Stanton, Bolstad's English teacher at MHS. "Couple that with curiosity and you've got quite a young man. Austin would often take ideas from his classes and explore them to a much greater depth outside of class."

One thing Bolstad really enjoyed about attending Monroe High was the amount of school spirit he found there. "We're huge on spirit at MHS," noted Bolstad.

He also enjoyed the way that the different grades were close to each other. Link Crew was a big part of that. "If you're really interested in getting close to classmates, it really brings you into the school and helps you focus more," said Bolstad

Jeanna Stroble, his French teacher, offered insights about Austin as well. "He has that increasingly rare combination of being a funny, outgoing, popular guy and all the while being a diligent and capable student," said Stroble. "He has a keen sense of humor and is willing to take risks, both for a laugh and for learning."

Bolstad was very thankful to his MHS teachers. "Mr. Neary was super into nature and talked to me about being myself," he said. "Ms. Stroble taught me about different cultures and opening up, and Mr. Giles had a bunch of stories about life. Every teacher taught me something different."

## Brad Sadler Philosopher at Heart

Brad Sadler graduated from Leaders in Learning and plans to attend Everett Community College to pursue his dreams of being a mathematician, with a side order of philosophy.

Sadler, son of January King and Mitchell Sadler, had been attending Monroe High School and spending all his free time reading math and philosophy books. He felt the high school wasn't a good fit for his learning style but wasn't sure what to do.

Leaders in Learning is a full-service alternative high school program that self-motivated students apply to through the Leaders' counseling office. Students who attend Leaders have a variety of options to choose from to complete their graduation requirements, including self-paced online courses, classroom-based classes, classes through the Sno-Isle Skills Center and nearby community colleges, in addition to individual studies and job experience.

"Leaders acted as a safety net for me to keep pursuing my diploma," said Sadler. He had lost interest in school and was on the verge of dropping out when he decided to look into Leaders. Sadler had heard about the alternative school from a friend who had attended the previous year.

"I loved it," he said. "I don't learn very well when I have a set standard to learn

from. Leaders is more goal directed, you sit down individually with your teachers and discuss where you're at and how to move forward."

Tonya Colvin was Sadler's math teacher and general advisor at Leaders. "When he sets his mind to a goal, he does his best to complete the job," Colvin said. "He understands that what he produces is a reflection on himself, and wants it to be his best."

"Leaders really gave me the opportunity to pursue my interests, said Sadler. "And to find out what I was interested in without being too authoritative. What I really liked was philosophy and math and it gave me the opportunity to develop those interests."

"We all were impressed with his knowledge, his analytic skills, and his writing skills," said JeNeel Buchanan, his counselor at Leaders. Colvin added, "Brad is very dedicated to completing what he starts; he tries not to ask for help unless he is unable to do it on his own."

Sadler recommended Leaders in Learning as a great program for anyone with a self-directed learning style. "Regular high school is not necessarily for everybody," he advised.

## Christa King Has Gone to the Dogs ... & Horses

Christa King, daughter of Steve and Debbie King, is looking forward to a bright future as a veterinary technician, thanks to the Veterinary Assisting program the Sky Valley Education Center grad took through the Sno-Isle Skills Center.

King was in the program as a part of the range of opportunities available through Sky Valley. Sno-Isle Skills Center is open to students across the county interested in studying technical careers and skills. The school has resident cats, dogs and horses that live on campus year round, along with a full animal hospital where students learn everything required to earn a certificate to go out into the workforce as veterinary assistants.

King received the Student of the Year award in 2013 for her work at the Skills Center. The Student of the Year award is determined by highest GPA, but also hands-on skills.

"It's a very difficult, intense program," explained Nichole Couffer, an experienced licensed veterinary technician specializing in emergency and critical care and large animal medicine at Sno-Isle. She teaches the course, where students learn

everything they'd need to know to be part of a relief team in an animal hospital or to support a veterinarian prepping surgery.

"We have access to nine cats and four dogs and students learn to take care of them as vets assistant," said King.

"There's a lot that we cram in during one year," admitted Couffer. "A lot of hands-on work, plus science, anatomy, and learning medications, injections and restraints."

King's internship at Alpine View Veterinary Hospital her junior year was a highlight, leading to her being hired part-time. "It's very rewarding to see an animal come in that is hurt or needs help and then they come back and they're doing great. It's really worth it."

She also works part-time at Puppy Manors, a dog boarding facility.

King was enthusiastic about the program she took through Sky Valley. "Sky Valley is more flexible in its class schedule, more like college," she noted. "It was nice for me leaving and coming back, the teachers were flexible in helping me make up classes."

King has also been involved in 4-H and Girl Scouts for many years and the amount of community service hours she accumulated led to receiving multiple scholarships, including two from the Masons (Masons of Everett, Masons of Sultan). "They were impressed with the fact that I was working two jobs and managing high school in addition to my volunteering."

"Christa excelled in the program," added Couffer. "She did so well that I invited her to come back as a second year student. I do not invite many students back."

While a passing grade in biology is the only prerequisite to being in the program, interested students have to fill out an entry questionnaire as a part of the application and interview process.

"Some people think we sit and play with puppies and kittens all day," said Couffer. "In this program, you're going to see animals sick, broken and dying and we can't save them all. The interview process is to figure out who is here that wants to help animals versus who just wants to be around animals."

King agreed, finding parts of her internship were difficult. "The most challenging thing is dealing with all the animals that were euthanized. That was hard."

While she graduated from high school in 2014, through the program King is already accredited as a Veterinary Assistant and is planning on continuing to become a Veterinary Technician.

"Christa is an amazing student," said Couffer. "The sky is the limit for her. I can't wait to watch her career."

*Continued on page 12*



**Brad Sadler**



**Christa King**

## Class of 2014 grads ...

*Continued from page 5*

Andres Ruiz	Emma Steinman	Lucas Waller
Kaylee Rule	John Stewart	Andie Walton
Curtis Russell	Jackson Stewart-Debelly	Evan Wang
Nicholas Ryan	Ryan Stilwell	Joseph Ward
Brad Sadler	Aaron Stone	Matthew Ward
Brenda Santana	Suzana Stork	Autumn Wardell
Nicco Savoie-Gavosto	Jeffrey Strand	Sarah Wellan
Jane Scanlan	Samuel Summers	Chantelle Westover
Robbie Schab Jr	Kathleen Sundet	Kevin White
Riley Schelfhout	Samantha Sweeney	Alexandra Wied
Alexander Schiele	Cole Tekel	Kristin Willard
Brittany Schwindt	Tosh Teter	Brittany Williams
Andrew Scott	Alexis Thomas	Austin Wilson
Dyami Seehorn	Rowan Thompson	Tristina Windsor
Wyatt Segle	Marcus Thornton	Elizabeth Winston
Jake Seigler	Darryl Torgerson	Damian Winter
Casey Seitz	Justin Trenk	Antonia Wittbrock
Derek Sepich	Jordyn Turner	Ashley Wong
Talitha Shackelford	Kian Vafaezadeh	Michaela Wood
Tyler Sharp	Karen Vasatka	Remington Workman
Shyanne Shoffner	Kathryn Vaughn	Nicole Wyndham
Patrick Siler	Jose Vielmans	Zachary Young
Kyle Smith	Vividiana Vigil	Caleb Zard
Wyatt Smith	Gabriela Vigil-Ruiz	Andrew Zaring
Sophia Som	Justin Vignos	Otto Zielsdorf
Kelsey Souza	Taylor Virello	Jonathan Zimmerman
Caleb Squires	Seth Wahlman	Samuel Zimmermann
Chloe St.Germain	Ryan Wallace	Octavio Zuniga-Alonso
Josiah Steele	Caleb Waller	

## 7 more teachers earn top certification

For the second year in a row, Washington state leads the nation in having the largest group of new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs), according to numbers recently released by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Seven newly board certified teachers from Monroe's schools helped make that happen.

Tammy Amador, Alia Lavin, and Nick Wolfe of Monroe High School (MHS), Nona Goodwin of Sky Valley Education Center, Scott Holland of Park Place Middle School, Michelle Simeoni of Hidden River Middle School, and Rinku Singh of Frylands Elementary School are all newly certified, giving Monroe a total of 46 NBCT certified teachers.

"The certification requirements force you to really look at your teaching

process. It changed everything I did in the classroom," said Alia Lavin, biology teacher at MHS.

Nick Wolfe, physical science teacher at MHS said it was an intensive effort that "made me be more analytical about all the steps in my teaching process, to make sure that all the parts of my routine are focused on getting my students to understand the concepts I'm trying to put forward."

Board certification requires teachers to submit a four-part portfolio and a six-exercise content and pedagogy assessment, which is assessed by a national panel of peers. A total of 946 Washington teachers achieved their certification this year, which nearly doubles last year's first-place ranking of 516 new NBCTs.

# Voters asked to replace expiring bond rate for schools

*With no new school construction in over a decade, safety & security upgrades proposed at every school and support site*

Not much is the same as it was 20, 30 or 40 years ago - not the prices of every day necessities, the length of skirt hemlines or how we think about public education and our schools.

What was seen as a way then to streamline school construction by utilizing exterior hallways now is viewed by many as a concern for children's safety and security. Opening classroom doors directly into the outdoors has long been thought impractical for Northwest weather but in today's culture having a single, secure entrance of school is greatly desired.

Of course, the important work of public schools is the learning our children achieve inside the classroom but the environment does play a role in that learning. Adequate heat, air ventilation and light greatly impact a child's ability to learn. Even with conscientious maintenance, systems providing these vital elements of the learning environment wear out. Today's students need more access to learning tools that older electrical systems do not always reliably support.

As owners of older homes know, parts and service providers are rare for equipment 20, 30 or 40 years of age. Repairs grow more costly and operating efficiency diminishes over time, costing owners and schools more and more. Also heard in communities from Monroe to Minneapolis is "don't raise taxes". It would seem that these two "wants" are, at best, at an impasse. Until now.

## No Increase to Bond Tax Rate

2015 bond tax rate = \$1.48  
Estimated new bond tax rate = \$1.48

For the same bond tax rate as property owners are currently paying, Monroe Public Schools leaders can significantly improve the safety, security and operations of some of its oldest schools.

In 2016, all of the schools' existing bond debt - think home mortgages - will be paid off. Property owners currently pay \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for these bonds that built projects such as Monroe High School on Tester Road, modernized Maltby Elementary, added Hidden River Middle and constructed Fryelands Elementary. It has been more than a decade since voters have approved bond funding for school facilities.

If approved by voters, a renewal of this tax rate could generate \$110.9 million. This amount would allow Monroe schools to qualify for about \$21.3 million in state construction assistance. Adding in \$640,000 in developer-paid mitigation fees when new homes are built, our local public schools could make more than \$132 million in improvements using the same bond tax rate being paid today.

Our community has told the School Board in a variety of ways and over several months of discussions that improving schools and maintaining the 2015 bond tax rate are vital. Volunteers serving for 13 months on the Capital Facility Steering Committee made that recommendation in June. Those sentiments were echoed in the more than 1,200 responses to this fall's School Board Listening Tour in both online and in-person feedback.

On April 28, the School Board will ask voters to renew the \$1.48 bond tax rate for a total of \$110.9 million in local funds to:

1. Modernize Park Place Middle School
2. Modernize & Expand Salem Woods Elementary School
3. Expand Hidden River Middle School
4. Consolidate & Expand Frank Wagner Elementary School
5. Catch up on smaller facility improvements and major maintenance at all schools
6. Build ball fields at Monroe High School

## Questions?

Following please find more details about each of the proposed projects, some commonly asked questions and visit our website at [www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu) for links to more detailed information. If you can't find what you need, please call 360-804-2503 or email [questions@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:questions@monroe.wednet.edu).

### It's all online ...

Public schools are about learning. Prioritizing dollars to help all children learn has limited the amount of "paper" our schools are able to produce. Information remains available to

families and our community online at [www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu). If you have questions or need assistance please let our Communications office know by calling 360.804.2503. or [oneilr@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:oneilr@monroe.wednet.edu)

## FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

*What is included in the bond proposal?*

### Modernize Park

#### Place Middle School

Built in the mid-1970s, Park Place Middle has been home to thousands of students. It first was the high school, then a junior high and, for the past few years, the campus is the learning center for about 800 students a year in grades 6, 7 and 8. Staff work diligently to keep the open campus secure but the current layout of the campus does not help their efforts. The proposed project will:



- improve safety and security systems;
- renovate gymnasium, the two-story F building, portions of the E building and commons;
- construct new classrooms; and
- add all-weather fields and synthetic track with lighting.

Estimated cost is \$69 million and this project is eligible for about \$16.9 million in state construction assistance. If approved, construction would begin in 2016 after a design process involving students, families, staff and the community.



### Modernize & Expand Salem Woods Elementary

Built in the 1980s, Salem Woods Elementary also models the old-style design of exterior hallways, and many of the school's systems are original. Construction of new homes in that area are putting the squeeze on space for students. This proposed project will:

- improve safety and security systems;
- replace a portion of the school with a 2-story instructional building; and
- also adds room for more students

Estimated cost is \$23.5 million, this project is eligible for about \$4.3 million in state construction assistance. If approved, construction would begin in 2018 after a design process involving students, families, staff and the community.



### Expand Hidden River Middle School (Phase III)

Originally built as a starter school in 1999, Hidden River was designed to be expanded in phases. Currently the school lacks specialized learning spaces for use as science labs, art instruction or a materials lab

- think hi-tech, hands-on learning like robotics or computer aided design.

Middle school is a vital age for growth and development. It is often at this time that students find their passion whether, that is a field of study or an activity like sports or drama. This is better supported at Park Place Middle School as it used to be a high school with a wide variety of specialized learning and activity spaces. Hidden River students deserve a similar experience. Efforts to do that have filled the school's lower parking lot with portables, establishing more undesirable "exterior" hallways. This proposed project will:

- improve safety and security;
- construct specialized science, art and career & technology classrooms;
- expand the kitchen; and
- add grass athletic fields, synthetic track and play areas.

Estimated cost is \$18.2 million. If approved, construction would begin in 2017, after a design process involving students, families, staff and the community.

*Continued on page 8*

## Report to the Community

is a publication of Monroe Public Schools

*Superintendent, Dr. Ken Hoover; Board of Directors - Katy Woods, President; Jim Scott, Vice President; Darcy Chesman, Jason Hutchinson and Nancy Truitt Pierce*

*Editor, Rosemary O'Neil (oneilr@monroe.wednet.edu)*





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### ● Consolidate & Expand Frank Wagner Elementary

Eight classrooms of children are in portables at Frank Wagner Elementary creating more exterior hallways to restrooms and recess. In addition, children must travel in our Northwest weather across the playfield to visit the school library, computer lab and other classes in the Wagner Center. This project would expand space for more students in the growing downtown area.

This proposed project will:

- improve safety and security;
- replace portables with permanent classrooms;
- consolidate instruction by bringing the library and other classes back to the main campus; and
- add classrooms for future growth.

Estimated cost is \$14.9 million. If approved, construction would begin in 2017 after a design process involving students, families, staff and the community.

### Catch up on smaller improvements and major maintenance at all schools

Even with the most conscientious maintenance, over time roofs and building systems like heating, plumbing and electrical wear out. Also, improvements are made in equipment for better efficiency in operations, and, most importantly, provide better environments for children to successfully learn. This proposal for \$4 million does not do everything that is needed but catches up on several of the most needed projects out of the \$18 million proposals on the district's most recent list of small capital and major maintenance needs.

#### ● Chain Lake Elementary School - \$725,000

New entry to parking lot; Roof replacement; Gym drainage; Sump pumps for utility vaults; Replace chalkboards with dry erase boards

#### ● Frylands Elementary School - \$130,000

Noise reduction in hallways; Repair main entry window wall; Inlay gym lines saving 80 hours of custodial time per year

#### ● Maltby Elementary School - \$60,000

Resurface playground asphalt; Inlay game lines saving 80 hours of custodial time per year

#### ● Monroe High School - \$395,000

Upgrade/additional lighting in Performing Arts Center; Track repairs and resurfacing; Improve access to stadium by athletes and for safety of spectators

#### ● Sky Valley Education Center - \$1.01 million

Update electrical; Allowance for replacement of selected flooring; Access for those with disabilities to band room; Upgrade/expand fire alarm system; Upgrade plumbing; Increase off street parking; Replace heat pump compressors & refrigerant

#### ● Leaders in Learning in Wagner Center - \$90,000

Gutters and downspouts; Replace heat pump compressors & refrigerant

- Support Sites - Transportation Department (\$125,000) - Resurface asphalt in bus parking area; Maintenance Department (\$50,000) - Replace roofing; Administration Building (\$345,000) - Upgrade electrical; Replace flooring

#### At a variety of sites -

##### ● Safety/Security - \$350,000

Cameras, visitor system, keyless entry, lighting, and more

##### ● Additional Building Systems in a variety of locations - \$375,000

Roofing, windows, sidewalks, asphalt, flooring, etc.

##### ● Heating and Ventilation - \$170,000

Heating, ventilation and AC systems and controls

##### ● Electrical - \$175,000

High and low voltage systems and capacity

## FAQ: Common questions about school finances

### Why do we need bonds

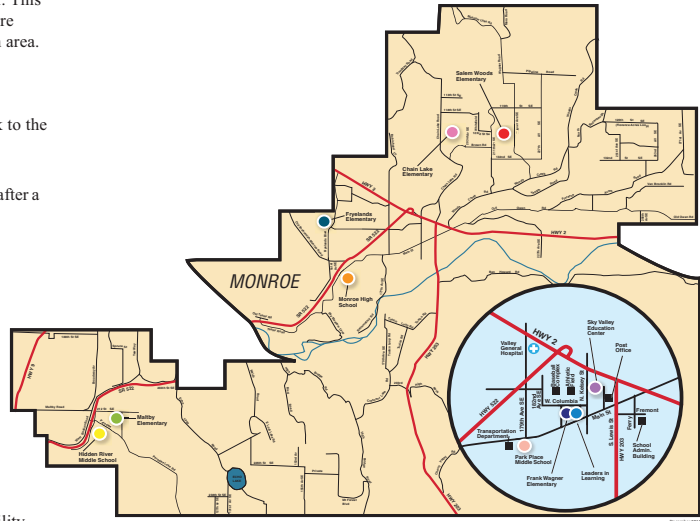
### when the state pays for basic education?

The court has made it very clear that the state does not provide adequate funding for what is considered "basic education". It does not fund the actual costs of many, many programs. It is unknown how the level of funding will grow or if construction will be included by the 2018 court-ordered timeline to fully fund basic education.

The state does provide "matching" dollars for qualified school construction projects. Eligibility is determined by a complex formula that includes enrollment and current facilities, even if those facilities are not in an area where the number of children attending school is growing. These "matching" funds are only provided after the local schools have paid for the work. About \$21.3 million in state funding is estimated if voters approve the proposed bond request.

# Bond vote asks to renew commitment to facilities

Of course, the important work of public schools is the learning our children achieve inside the classroom but the environment does play a role in that learning.



### ● Improve Monroe High Ball Fields

These final plans add a baseball and softball fields to Monroe High for student and community use. Land was cleared for ball fields when Monroe High opened on Tester Road in 1999. Space is available for three fields. Unfortunately, at that time no funding was available. Without drainage and all-weather surfaces, students are not able to use these areas for most of the year. Young athletes travel off campus to fields in our community. Through collaboration with Monroe City Council and the county's Tourism Board, as well as proceeds from timber sales off of district land, work is able to start this spring on the smallest of the three – the fastpitch field – a field that can also be used by community groups as can the proposed fields. This proposed project will:

- improve safety for student athletes;
- install drainage and lighting; and
- add all-weather surfaces for baseball and softball field

Estimated cost is \$3.3 million to complete the two remaining fields. If approved, construction would begin in 2016 or earlier. Design is already complete for this project.



### What happens if the district receives more state dollars/find savings in these projects?

The School Board clearly states in their action to put this bond on the ballot that should additional state assistance be received, the money will be used to purchase land for future school and/or support sites or to add to existing school/support sites. A public process is required to decide how any additional funds should be spent should projects be completed under estimated budgets.

### What is the difference between a bond and a levy?

A simple way to remember the difference between bonds and levies is "B"onds are for "b"uildings and levies typically are for "l"earning expenses like textbooks, teachers or rides to school. Levies are collected over time so dollars flow in twice a year for the duration of the time approved by voters. Bonds are more like a home mortgage where an amount is borrowed and then paid back over time. Typically, construction projects need bond financing as the cost of those projects are more than a levy could collect in a timely manner.

# Monroe graduates earn high honors and more than \$4 million in scholarships offers & awards

Below are the Class of 2014 recipients of high academic honors, more than \$4 million in scholarship offers and awards and who were accepted to prestigious schools in our state and across the nation.

**Abohana, Judi** – High Honor Cord  
**Abohana, Sali** – High Honor Cord  
**Adams, Mia** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship  
**Al-Bermany, Daniel** – High Honor Cord, Montana State University Achievement Award, University of Portland President's Scholarship, Northern Arizona University Grant, Washington State Honors Award  
**Albert, Emily** – Everett Community College High Honors  
**Alexander, Kealoha** – Monroe PSE Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Amenn, Thomas** – Everett Community College High Honors  
**Amsberry, Makenna** – High Honor Cord, Seattle Pacific University Dean's Scholar Award, Whitworth University Academic Achievement Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Anderson, Payton** – University of Georgia Presidential Leadership Scholarship, Fraternal Order of Eagles Sandy Smith Memorial Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge  
**Aucoin, Tellis** – High Honor Cord, University of San Diego USD Trustee Scholar, Chapman University Chancellor Scholar, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Seattle University Champion Scholarship, Monroe PSE Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge  
**Balk, Breanna** – Monroe Lion's Club Student of the Month, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship  
**Basurto Noguera, Selena** – Frank Wagner Elementary PTA Scholarship  
**Bauer, Kaisha** – Honor Cord  
**Baumgartner, Alayna** – High Honor Cord, Western Washington University Academic Achievement Award, Salem Woods Elementary PTA Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge  
**Bautista, Kimberly** – High Honor Cord, Sky Northwest Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**Beavers, Madison** – Ann Jule Memorial Scholarship  
**Bedgissoff, Mathias** – Honor Cord  
**Bernhardt, Jared** – Cascadia Community College AA Degree, Monroe PSE Scholarship, Dr. Bill Prenevost Award, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Burriss Family Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Billings, Madeline** – Honor Cord  
**Bingham, Hunter** – High Honor Cord, Gonzaga University Regents' Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Award, Whitworth University Presidential Scholarship, Donnie Millbach Memorial/Monroe Rod & Gun Club Scholarship, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Ian Gibson Memorial Scholarship, Cliff Gillies Award, Charlie Steward Athlete of the Year, 3 for 3 Athletic Award, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge  
**Blais, Maxime** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award  
**Bland, Emily** – USMC Distinguished Athlete Award  
**Blevins, Tabatha** – Honor Cord, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Rotary Club Student of the Month Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Bolstad, Austin** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship  
**Bottem, Sarah** – Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, National Honor Society  
**Brackin, Audrey** – High Honor Cord, Mississippi State University Entering Freshman Academic Excellence Scholarship, Non-Resident Tuition Scholarship, Kiwanis

of Monroe Scholarship, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Washington State Honors Award, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**Bruner, Marina** – National Honor Society  
**Bruton, Nicholas** – High Honor Cord, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship  
**Busch, Katherine** – Honor Cord  
**Cao, Michelle** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge  
**Cardona, Kayla** – Valedictorian  
**Carroll, Judah** – Everett Community College High Honors, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
**Casey, Rebecca** – High Honor Cord, University of Idaho Discover ID Merit Waiver, University of Idaho Far West Agribusiness Associate Award, Snohomish Country Dairy Women Scholarship, Spring Time Youth Calf Sale Scholarship, Fraternal Order of the Eagles Past President's Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Everett Community College AA Degree, Whitworth University Mind & Heart Scholarship, Whitworth University Support Grant, 4-H Dairy Scholarship, Rotary Club Student of the Month Scholarship  
**Christenson, Ian** – Honor Cord  
**Chu, Nickolas** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**Ciocco, Hannah** – Sno Isle Technical Skills Center Honor Roll  
**Cooper, Martin** – Imagine Scholarship  
**Cornejo, Leslie** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Burriss Family Scholarship  
**Cory, Chloe** – High Honor Cord, Western Washington University WWU Opportunity Pathway Scholarship, Western Washington University Tuition Waiver Grant, Western Washington Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, University of Portland Howard Vollum Scholarship, University of Portland UP Grant, Gonzaga University Dussault Scholarship, Gonzaga University Gonzaga Grant, Coastal Community Bank Scholarship, Everett Community College AA Degree, General Teamsters Union Local No. 38 Monte Ingram Scholarship, Rotary Club Student of the Month Scholarship, National Honor Society  
**Craig, Danielle** – Montana State University MSU Boeing Employee Alumni Scholarship, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship  
**Creed, Dylan** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, Everett Community College AA Degree, Academic Challenge  
**Creed, Martin** – Honor Cord  
**Dahlinger, Keaton** – Monroe Lip Sync Scholarship, Trinity Lutheran College Business Academic Scholarship, Eagle Scout  
**Dean, Alexandra** – Honor Cord, Monroe Lion's Club Student of the Month, Academic Challenge  
**DeClerq, Chelece** – Academic Challenge  
**DeFreece, Leah** – Honor Cord, Academic Challenge  
**Delamare, Rachael** – Salutatorian, High Honor Cord, Pacific University Oregon Presidential Scholarship, Pacific University Washington Student Achievement Award, Pacific University Pacesetter Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**Degross, D'Marco** – USMC Distinguished Athlete Award  
**Dickgeiser, Shaylah** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship  
**DiMonda, Chase** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Boise State University Gem Waiver, Seattle Pacific President's Scholar Award, Elks "Most Valuable Student" Award, University of Montana WUE Scholarship, Montana State University Achievement Award, Washington State University Achievement Award, Washington State University Regents' Scholar, Monroe Police Officers' Association Scholarship, Barbara Gail Hausmann Memorial Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Washington State Council of Fire Fighters' Benevolent Fund, Chain Lake Elementary Scholarship, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge

**Donnelly, Carigan** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award  
**Edwards, Dillon** – Honor Cord, Monroe Firefighters' Local #3315 Scholarship  
**Ely, Rachel** – Honor Cord, George Fox University Scholarship, Redmond Firefighters' Union Local #2829 2014 Family Scholarship, Chartwells Food Service Scholarship  
**Fargo, Dallas** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award  
**Falk, Kaylene** – Everett Community College Academic Excellence Scholarship  
**Franson, Hunter** – Honor Cord  
**Geiger, Rose** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Gidewall, Brienne** – Valley General Hospital Foundation Scholarship  
**Gifford, Jade** – Cascadia Community College AA Degree  
**Gillies, McKenzie** – Honor Cord, Academic Challenge  
**Giuseff, Joseph** – Honor Cord  
**Goguen, Joseph** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award  
**Gonzalez, Alyson** – Honor Cord, Seattle University Bellarmine Scholarship, Seattle University SU Grant, Western Washington University WWU Opportunity Pathway Scholarship, Pat Murphy Memorial Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Gonzales Dela Cruz, Aline** – Jones Family Orthodontics Scholarship  
**Goodwin, Monica** – Everett Community College High Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Gossage, Bailey** – Academic Challenge  
**Gosselin, Ryan** – Honor Cord, Bruton Family Scholarship, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Grewal, Eric** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, USMC Scholastic Excellence Award, Washington State Honors Award, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Academic Challenge  
**Griesmer, Emily** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge  
**Guy, Hannah** – Honor Cord, Grand Canyon University GCU 2014 Provost Scholarship  
**Haberlack, Chandler** – High Honor Cord, Montana State University WUE Award  
**Hager, Rachel** – High Honor Cord  
**Hall, Nicholas** – Seattle Central Community College AA Degree  
**Hanley, Lijah** – High Honor Cord  
**Hansen, Maxfield** – Everett Community College High Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Hanson, Luke** – Furrer Family Scholarship  
**Harmesen, Trisha** – High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge  
**Harris, Mason** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, BYU Award of Excellence, BYU Idaho Scholarship, Academic Challenge  
**Hawken, Brittany** – Honor Cord, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Hawkins, Jamie** – High Honor Cord, Boise State University WUE Award, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, US Army Reserve Scholar Athlete, Boise State Gem Scholarship, National Honor Society  
**Heit, CeAnna** – Everett Elks, Monroe Public Schools Foundation, Nellie Carmen Scholarship, Monroe Education Association Scholarship, Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, Seattle University award, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Summer Internship, Everett Community College President's Distinction High Honors ORCA, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Hernandez, Michelle A** – Academic Challenge  
**Hilden, Hannah** – Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate  
**Hoehne, Samantha** – High Honor Cord  
**Hollefreund, Danika** – Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Hopkins, Emma** – Honor Cord, University of Alabama Foundation in Excellence Scholarship 2014, Academic Challenge  
**Huotari, Darian** – Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Hysmith, Molly** – National Honor Society  
**Hvitved, Cheyenne** – Honor Cord  
**Imper, Aidan** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award

**Ingersoll, Melissa** – Salutatorian, High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**Jankauskas, Gytautas** – Honor Cord  
**Johnson, Kayleigh** – Masons of Everett Scholarship, MaryAnn Schillatay Teacher Scholarship, Tom Biederbost Scholarship, Everett Community College High Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Varsity Letter for Community Service  
**Keeley, Shelby** – Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Kemery, Wyatt** – United States Marine Corps  
**Kemis, Chellise** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Kerns, Thomas** – Honor Cord  
**Kies, Sydney** – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Varsity Letter for Community Service  
**King, Christa** – Comcast Community Scholarship, Masons of Everett Scholarship, Elks of Everett Scholarship, Sno-Isle Technical Skills Center Student of the Year Scholarship, Sno Isle Honor Roll, Masons of Monroe/Sultan Scholarship  
**Kisela, Jamie** – Rotary Club Scholarship, Everett Community College ORCA Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Kobelin, Danielle** – Honor Cord  
**Labrichi, Meriam** – High Honor Cord  
**Lai, Edmund** – High Honor Cord, University of Pittsburg, Chartwells Food Service Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, AP Scholar, Academic Challenge  
**Lawrence, Abigail** – Everett Community College High Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Laskowski, Elizabeth** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Indiana University Dean's Scholarship, Hutton Honors College Scholarship, Ohio State University National Buckeye Scholar Scholarship, Ohio State University Maximus Scholarship, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**Lee, Kesia** – Scholastic Writing Award, Cascadia Community College AA Degree  
**Lee, Rachel** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Emerson College Dean's Scholarship, Goucher College Dean's Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Sarah Lawrence College Presidential Scholarship, Sarah Lawrence College Gift Aid, Occidental College Honors Scholar, Sherrie Sofie Memorial Scholarship, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Washington State Honors Award, AP Honors Scholar, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge  
**LeFleur, Nick** – Sno-Isle Technical Skills Center Honor Roll  
**Lewis, Madelyn** – Everett Community College High Honors  
**Liebman, Anya** – Tri-M Musical Honor Society Award, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Lingle, Brogan** – High Honor Cord  
**Lo, Ben** – Honor Cord  
**Loehr, Clover** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, AP Scholar  
**Longsine, Haylee** – Sky River Soccer Club Scholarship  
**Loomis, Lyndsay** – High Honor Cord  
**Macauley, Kelsey** – Honor Cord  
**Maddex, Lillian** – High Honor Cord  
**Maki, Erin** – Cascadia Community College AA Degree  
**Mathwig, Ariel** – Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Tri-M Musical Honor Society Award  
**Medin, Sierra** – Honor Cord  
**Mehlhoff, Melissa** – Honor Cord  
**Miller, Deidra** – Charlie Stewart Athlete of the Year  
**Miller, Zoie** – Everett Community College High Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree  
**Montgomery, Akela** – High Honor Cord  
**Montgomery, Malia** – Honor Cord  
**Moore, Gabriel** – Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award  
**Morgan, Kyla** – High Honor Cord, Carroll College President's Scholarship, Robin Fitch "No Excuses University" Frank Wagner Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge

Continued on page 10



# MHS alum picked to take engineering degree to next level

*Despite already earning her degree, Sanders took a leap and landed a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to study materials science in France*

With a 2007 diploma from Monroe High School and a degree in mechanical engineering from Washington State University, Samantha Sanders did not expect to be awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to France in Engineering.

The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government designed to increase mutual understanding worldwide. Sanders is one of just 1,800 selected this year. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

After graduating WSU, she went to work for the US Department of Defense, as a civilian for the Navy.

She was quite surprised to be chosen for the scholarship. "Most of the other people I had heard of getting this scholarship received it while still in school," Sanders assumed, being out of school, that she wouldn't be as desirable a candidate.

Sanders spent eight weeks over the summer in an intensive French language course, in addition to a five-day review class for those coming from industry or schools outside of Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) Cachan.

Sanders is attending ENS Cachan in

pursuit of her Master's Degree in Materials Science Engineering and is pleased to be a representative of the American people abroad. "I see this opportunity, this privilege, as not only a chance to further my knowledge in a field I enjoy, but also as an occasion to interact with a new culture and new way of life in hopes of using what I learn to contribute to a larger system."

"Materials science appeals to me because it explains the way the world works; why different things function as they do on a molecular scale," said Sanders. "It is the explanation of how the building blocks of this world—the protons, neutrons, electrons, atoms, molecules—interact to change it."

Sanders credits her parents as the largest influence in her college planning and future career choice but is also grateful to her teachers at MHS. "I would have never gotten to where I am without their help, time and passion."

Allan Shell, calculus teacher at MHS, remembered Sanders fondly. "Sam was a strong mathematics student in my class but her real love and passion were science and engineering. She was driven to do her very best and would put whatever time was needed to master a particular topic in Calculus."

For the current crop of MHS students, Sanders had the following career advice:



Samantha Sanders sits in front of the building that houses the French Senate called the Luxembourg Palace, built in the 1600s. Sanders, a 2007 graduate of Monroe High and a 2011 WSU grad, is earning her Master's Degree as a Fulbright Scholar in France.

"Look to the future and look to the market now. I believe that enjoying what you do is important, but if you're choosing a degree where finding a career is difficult, think: would you still be happy with your diploma even if you could never find work in your field?"

Whether Sanders uses her material

science degrees in her future career or not, Shell has no doubt that she will succeed. "I can easily see that the discipline, persistence, and willingness to go the extra mile, that she demonstrated in high school would take her far in college and beyond," said Shell, "I'm not surprised she is a Fulbright Scholar."

## Honors rolled in for 2014 grads

*Continued from page 9*

**Navarro, Olivia** – Seattle Pacific University Dean's List Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University annual grant, Cascadia Community College AA Degree

**Nehls, Kathleen** – Everett Community College High Honors

**Nelson, Amanda** - Honor Cord

**Newell, Clare** - Washington State Honors Award, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge

**Ng-Breckwoldt, Victoria** – Honor Cord, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Academic Challenge

**Nottingham, Trevor** - Monroe Lion's Club Student of the Month, Rotary Club Student of the Month Scholarship

**Noyers, Dominique** – High Honor Cord, Washington State Honors Award

**Oh, Jared** - Honor Cord

**Ohlsen, Kyle** - Honor Cord

**Olson, Julia** – High Honor Cord, Southern Illinois University SIU University Excellence Scholarship, Southern Illinois University Out of State Scholar, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Washington State Honors Award, Cascadia Community College AA Degree, Academic Challenge

**Ortiz Barcenas, Diana** - Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Everett Community College Change Your Life Scholarship

**Ordaz Ramirez, Jessica** – Maltby Elementary PTO Scholarship, Everett Community College Academic Excellence Award

**Ourada, Monica** - Monroe Lion's Club Student of the Month, Monroe Lions Club Scholarship, Pharm-A-Save Scholarship

**Padilla, Morgan** - Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Myownly Community Scholarship

**Parmentier, Breanna** – Honor Cord, Monroe Lion's Club Student of the Month, Bella Smile Family Dentistry Scholarship, Rotary Club Student of the Month Scholarship

**Partida, Isabel** - Speedway Chevrolet Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Everett Community College Students of Color Scholarship

**Patterson, Zane** - Honor Cord

**Payseno, Paige** - Honor Cord

**Peter-Contesse, Carson** – Sno Isle Technical Skills Center Honor Roll

**Peterson, Calli** - High Honor Cord

**Pidgeon, Olivia** – Cascadia Community College Faculty Honors, National Society of High School Scholars, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Completion of Pre-Professional Ballet Program with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School

**Piland, Cristina** – Mary Ann Schillaty Teacher's Scholarship

**Pomeroy, Rachel** – High Honor Cord, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge

**Rameriz, Genesis** – Speedway Chevrolet Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship

**Rarig, Nash** - Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Academic Challenge

**Richards, Rebecca** - Honor Cord

**Ritzert, Samantha** – Honor Cord, Azusa Pacific University Dean's Scholarship, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Academic Challenge

**Robles Juarez, Itzel** – Honor Cord, Washington State University SEOG Grant, Washington State University State Need Grant

**Rodriguez, Blanca** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Everett Community College AA Degree, Academic Challenge

**Romero, Rachel** – Sno Isle Technical Skills Center Honor Roll

**Rosencrans, Quinton** – Seattle University Merit Scholarship, Monroe Public School Employees Scholarship, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Everett Community College High Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree

**Rott, Aaren** – Academic Challenge

**Rule, Kaylee** - Honor Cord

**Sadler, Brad** - Everett Community College Academic Excellence Scholarship alternate

**Schab Jr., Robbie** – High Honor Cord, Donnie Millbach Memorial/Monroe Rod & Gun Club Scholarship

**Schiele, Alexander** - Shoreline Community College High Honors

**Schwint, Brittany** – Honor Cord, Monroe Lion's Club Student of the Month, Monroe Lions Club Scholarship, Thomas Turner Memorial Scholarship, Washington State University Future Cougars of Color Scholarship, Rotary Club Student of the Month Scholarship, National Honor Society

**Seehorn, Dyami** - High Honor Cord

## Monroe Public Schools' Class of 2014 tops \$4 million in awards and scholarship offers

**Sharp, Tyler** – College of Idaho William Judson Boone Scholarship, College of Idaho C of I Scholarship/Men's Soccer Scholarship, Everett Community College Men's Soccer Scholarship, Academic Challenge

**Shoffner, Shyanne** - Honor Cord

**Smith, Devon** - High Honor Cord

**Smith, Wyatt** - Honor Cord

**Som, Sophia** – Honor Cord, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship

**Spelstra, Hannah** - High Honor Cord

**Steiman, Emma** – Monroe Arts Council Scholarship, Sky Valley Education Center PTA Scholarship

**Stewart-Debelly, Jackson** – High Honor Cord, Western Washington University Wilhite Family Music Scholarship, Western Washington University Ada and Don C. Walters Endowment, Western Washington University Woodwind Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Central Washington University Schaaque Music Talent Scholarship, Central Washington University President's Tuition Award, California State University, Long Beach Cole Conservatory of Music Scholarship, USMC "Semper Fidelis" Award for Musical Excellence, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Washington State Honors Award, AP Scholar with Honor, Fidalgo Youth Symphony Scholarship, Western Washington University Alumni Emerging Leaders' Scholarship

**Strand, Jeffrey** - Everett Community College AA Degree

**Sundet, Kathleen**—Academic Challenge

**Sweeney, Samantha** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge

**Tekel, Cole** - Everett Community College High Honors

**Thomas, Alexis** - Academic Challenge

**Thornton, Marcus** - High Honor Cord, Gonzaga Music Award, Gonzaga Regent Scholarship, Gonzaga Grant Award, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Western Washington University WWU Opportunity Pathway Scholarship, Linfield College Trustee Scholarship, Willamette University Scholarship, Saint Mary's College of California Honors at Entrance Scholarship, University of Puget Sound Merit Washington State Honors Award Scholarship

**Turner, Jordyn** – Cliff Gillies Award

**Vasatka, Karen** - High Honor Cord, Eastern Kentucky University Founders Scholarship, University of Idaho Discover Idaho Merit Tuition Waiver, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Monroe Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge

**Wallace, Ryan** – Hidden River Middle Schools PTO Scholarship, PSE-OP Scholarship, Academic Challenge

**Waller, Lucas** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Gonzaga University Regents Scholarship, Gonzaga University Ignatian Leaders Scholarship, University of Washington Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Award, 2014 Washington Scholar Award Alternate, Snohomish County Football Officials Association Hall of Fame Scholarship, US Army Reserve Scholar Athlete, Washington State Honors Award, Thomas Turner Memorial Scholarship, Washington State Scholar Alternate, Chain Lake Elementary Scholarship, Academic Challenge

**Walton, Andie** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Washington State University Achievement Award, Jayne Scholarship Washington State Honors Award, Academic Challenge

**Wang, Evan** – Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Kivans of Monroe Scholarship, Tri M Musical Honor Society Award, Washington State Honors Award, AP Scholar With Distinction, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge

**Ward, Mathew** - Honor Cord

**Wied, Alexandra** – University of Washington Ocean Scholarship, Youth Maritime Norm Manly Scholarship, Compass Maritime Scholarship USCG/STCW, Everett Community College ORCA Honors, Everett Community College AA Degree

**White, Kevin** - Tri M Musical Honor Society Award

**Wong, Ashley** – Café Cielo at Sky Valley Education Center PTA Scholarship, Everett Community College High Honors

**Zard, Caleb** - Cascadia Community College AA Degree

*Note: Great effort is made to collect and report all scholarship offers and awards, however if you know of an honor that has been missed please call the Monroe Public Schools' Communications Office at 360.804.2503.*

# FINANCES

## Learning comes first in Monroe's public schools schools, budgets

School districts, like your family, must plan for expenses. Just as keeping your checkbook balanced and monitoring spending helps you stay within your budget, public schools' staff also keep a close account of the money schools receive and the money schools spend.

School board members regularly audit the finances and receive quarterly public reports at School Board meetings. The Washington State Auditor's office annually reviews the budget and financial statements.

Planning for the next year's budget begins early. The Budget Review Committee is typically made up of members from the community and representatives of our employee groups. More are always welcome.

This year's Committee will receive online assignments to review information in each of 14 parts of the general fund budget. If you'd like to be part of the Budget Review Committee, send an email to Brenda Hunt, Executive Director, Fiscal Services, at [HuntB@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:HuntB@monroe.wednet.edu)

The Budget Review Committee looks at 100% of the operating expenses of Monroe Public Schools and hears from representatives of the many programs and departments needed to educate this community's children. This group draws up a list of suggestions for efficiencies and enhancements in spending.

At any time during the process community members are invited to participate in the discussions as well as comment on the suggestions proposed and/or offer suggestions of their own. Those suggestions are known as "Blue Card" ideas and may be submitted by email or US Mail to Dr. Ken Hoover, superintendent of Monroe Public Schools, 200 E. Fremont, Monroe WA 98272.

Copies of their work may be found under Finances on the schools' website <[www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu)>. School leaders also receive input from the community at large during public forums.

Monroe puts their money where their mission is - helping all children learn. The state confirmed this fact in the Auditor's 2012 Performance Report "K-12 Education Spending".

This report studied all 295 public school districts in the state clustering the different entities according to enrollment, percent of students eligible for free or reduced price meals, locale and whether or not the district has a high school.

Each cluster was ranked in a variety of areas with Monroe topping the group in percentage of its budget spent on teaching. Monroe was next to last in the percentage of the budget spent on administration.

The study further noted Monroe was last in the amount of money available to spend per student. This amount includes the revenue available from local, state and federal sources as well as grants or other income. More information about the study may be found online at [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov).

Approximately 71% of the public schools' operating budget comes from the state through a process that primarily designates funds according to the number of enrolled students.

State leaders are wrestling with improving school funding as a result of the McClery decision a few years ago that found the state was not meeting its paramount duty to fully fund education. As a result, state dollars are beginning to increase but still leave a lot of the cost of educating a child up to local voters through "learning" levies and through bonds for building improvements.

Below are examples of expenses included in each of the areas shown:

### Schools -

- Child Nutrition
- Class Size Relief
- Custodial Services
- Intervention Services - Excel, English Language Learners, Native American, Health Services, Special Education
- Staff - Teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals

### School Support -

- Assistant Superintendents - Instruction and Operations
- Directors - Child Nutrition, Special Education, & Health Services
- Grounds & Maintenance
- Information Services
- Instructional Services - Assessment, Curriculum, Diversity
- Special Student Services
- Transportation Operations

### District Leadership

- Business Services & Human Resources
- Leadership - Superintendent, Executive Directors of Fiscal and Human Resources
- Communications
- School Board

## Tech upgrades just in time thanks to voters

Thanks to the forward-thinking members of our community who voted for the Educational Technology Levy in 2014, Monroe Public Schools is making long-needed improvements to the schools' infrastructure - just in time for the state's new online testing.

The catch is that the money doesn't come in until April, so the school district is moving mountains to make the new technology available so our students have a fair chance at proving what they know and are able to do on the new assessments in April.

Rachelle Butz, Director of Assessment and Instructional Technology, explained the plan is to "beef up" the schools' infrastructure in phases over the life of the 6-year levy. "However, we needed to move that up," she said to ensure students were not short-changed due to antiquated systems.

The district has worked overtime to get that infrastructure installed in time. "What I'm thrilled about is that it lets us get a better infrastructure for students in their hands," said Butz. "We're talking about wiring, internal and external connections to internet providers, providing reliability." She is very impressed with the way that the new technology has already started to encourage students to be more involved in their education.

"When I see kids that wouldn't typically engage, start taking a deep responsibility for their assignments and their work, it makes me feel so great," said Butz. "It wouldn't be possible to this degree without the community partnership and commitment."

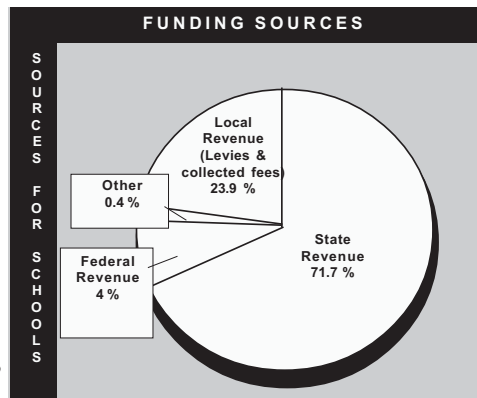
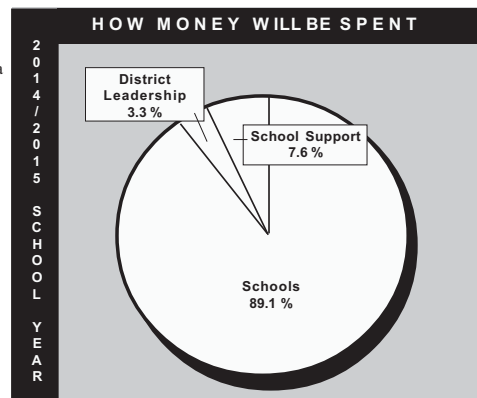
The first phase of the plans included infrastructure in the computer labs and new computers in those labs. The next phase includes integrated infrastructure in all the areas of the schools to support faster Ethernet speeds and a greatly expanded wireless network.

Butz pointed out that technology is imbedded throughout the state's learning standards. With the levy money, the school district was able to upgrade 22 labs across the district and put in lightly used computers, refurbished with the most current technology - Windows 7 and Office 2013.

"We have so many computers that only run XP right now which isn't supported by anyone," said Butz. "A lot of the new curriculum resources are internet based so we needed to be able to provide that stable access so they can get to it any time during the day."

Butz noted that students are already using Office 2013 at home or on personal devices. "Our commitment is for kids to graduate college and career ready, which means teaching them the current version so they can compete after graduation," she said. "We realized we need to start them a lot earlier to be technology literate."

Butz said teachers are developing lesson plans so using technology is seamless. Over the several years of the levy, the district will be able to provide training for teachers to help them engage technology in their lesson plans. "We need our students to be competitive, and this levy will allow us to come closer to that than we've ever been before," she said.



Copies of the 2014-2015 General Fund Budget are available online at [www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu). Paper copies are available at the Administration Building, 200 East Fremont, Monroe.

## Notice of

### Non-Discrimination

The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, 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 in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

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

• **Title IX Coordinator** - Justin Blasko  
200 E Fremont Monroe, WA 98272 - 360.804.2539  
Email: [blaskoj@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:blaskoj@monroe.wednet.edu)

• **Section 504/ADA Coordinator** - Ginnie Ayres  
200 E Fremont Monroe, WA 98272 - 360.804.2558  
Email: [ayresg@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:ayresg@monroe.wednet.edu)

• **Compliance Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW** - Joanne Dickinson  
200 E Fremont Monroe, WA 98272 - 360.804.2532  
Email: [dickinsonj@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:dickinsonj@monroe.wednet.edu)

The Monroe School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities.

For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact Ginnie Ayres. This statement is a reflection of the provisions of the following laws that prohibit discrimination:

- Titles IV, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - race color, national origin
- The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) - sex
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) - disability
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - disability
- Washington State Law prohibiting labor discrimination (RCW 49.60)
- Washington State Law prohibiting sex discrimination in public education (RCW 28A.640)



# Graduates heading out to success

Continued from page 6

## Citlali Gomez Medical School with International Twist

Citlali Gomez, daughter of Reyna and Abel Gomez, is attending medical school in Mexico after graduating from Monroe High School in 2014. She's excited to go to school in the country her parents are from, but also pragmatic.

"The quality of the education there is great," said Gomez. "They have a great program, and it's less of a burden financially than going to medical school in the United States."

Gomez was a big part of MHS's school spirit as a Link Leader for Link Crew, which she joined in her junior year. Link Crew is a service organization designed around helping other students, especially freshmen, find their way in high school. Each leader is assigned 10-15 students to assist in finding clubs, connecting with classes and extracurricular activities that meet their interests, and feeling welcomed to the school.

"You check on them in their classrooms and see if there's anything they need," explained Gomez. As a Link Crew commissioner, she worked with the leaders to help them connect with the students. "It was awesome. I liked being able to help others and be in a leadership role. It was really satisfying."

"She was very responsible," said Tammy Amador, the Link Crew advisor. "I never had to worry whether a task was going to be on time or done well. If she didn't know if she could do it, she would ask questions - she was very honest and wouldn't lead me to believe she could do something she couldn't."

Gomez loved all the opportunities she had at MHS, and joined as many clubs as she could. "The marketing class was great - I joined the club as well, became an officer and competed at a state level," she said.

Gomez is now studying for her medical degree at the University of Montemorelos in Mexico. "After seven years I'll be able to practice as a general doctor and then come back to the U.S. and specialize in anesthesia," she said.

Gomez is still very impressed with MHS, not only the school spirit, but the educational opportunities that she hadn't found in the private school she'd previously attended. "The chances to take AP and honors helped me advance in ways I didn't know I could."

She will be missed at Link Crew. "Citlali was someone I could really trust to be a mentor," noted Amador.

## Kayla Cardona Takes On Publishing/Jewelry Industries

Kayla Cardona, daughter of Efrain and Yvonne Cardona, was valedictorian for her class of Washington Virtual Academy (WAVA), Monroe's online school.

While Cardona had enjoyed being homeschooled, and she enjoyed public



# Learning Expo 2015

Wednesday May 6, 2015

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Monroe High School Commons

- Learn from student project presentations
- Participate in hands-on activities provided by MHS classes
- Interact with local community and business displays



school, she felt each program was missing something. Something she found in WAVA.

"What I really enjoyed about it was being able to work at my own pace. I finished all my math credits by 10<sup>th</sup> grade, English by 11<sup>th</sup> and I got to do a whole year of music appreciation which I enjoyed," said Cardona. "It allowed me to have a flexible schedule. But it also allowed me to improve. If I had a mediocre grade, I could concentrate on that and bring it up to the level of the others."

WAVA offered lots of field trips, which allowed the students to meet with other kids in the system, in addition to meeting in online classrooms. "Sometimes homeschooling kids lack the social experience and I didn't," said Cardona. "I think WAVA contributed to that."

She was happy with her relationships with her teachers at WAVA as well, like Tim Langley, who was her Literature teacher for several classes.

"He was an excellent teacher," she said. "He gave us a chance to be very creative." Cardona has recently finished a science fiction novel and is looking to self-publish within the year.

"Her writing, her essays, her analysis and her essay answers were above and beyond the required amount of work, but her analysis, her thinking was excellent," noted Langley.

"Her writing skills were college level, but the thing that stands out most about Kayla was her ability to communicate. Her tone was always positive."

In WAVA, she had six classes per semester and communicated with the teachers and other students through software called ClassConnect, which is similar to Skype, but with a whiteboard where the teacher can work out problems and leave notes.

"Sometimes people think online schools will be hard because we don't see the teacher, but they had a great talent for talking about the subject without looking at you," she explained.

Cardona appreciated the opportunity that Monroe gave her to participate in WAVA. "Because it's not a contemporary school, it helps you build upon characteristics you wouldn't typically build on, like being self-sufficient," she said and was quick to note that it was more work than regular public school, but worth it for the opportunity to make her own schedule. "I was involved in volunteer work and it was helpful to get my hours in for the volunteer work."

"The curriculum was originally

designed to help students who were college prep, really busy doing other things athletically or were so advanced that they needed to work at their own pace. So that puts it in a different level than some online programs." Langley said. WAVA tracks the success rate of schools around the country, and for online schools that are over 200 students, WAVA is one of the top ten in the nation, he said.

Cardona also has an interest in jewelry design. She is taking jewelry classes through the Gemological Institute of America online and would like to get a graduate gemologists diploma through GIA.

"Whatever she sets her mind to, she will be a success," Langley predicted.

## Keaton Dahlinger LipSync Master is On to Bigger Things

Keaton Dahlinger, son of Rod and Gina Dahlinger, is most known for his success in the Monroe Lip Sync competition, a competition he has entered every year since it began ten years ago. He has placed second, third or fourth place almost every year.

"I put more into it than just lip syncing," explained Dahlinger. "You have to entertain the judges." Having been in musical theater from 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades, he was good at that.

Dahlinger attended Sky Valley Education Center since the first grade. Sky Valley is a school where students can take supplemental classes in addition to their family being their primary teacher.

Although he was tempted to go to public high school for the experience, he eventually chose to stick with Sky Valley until graduation. "What kept me coming back was the diversity of it. We've had an archery class; there's a robotics team as well as a cupcake decorating class," he recalled.

One thing that really impressed him about Sky Valley was the democratic process of choosing curriculum. "If enough students ask for a class, our principal petitions to see if we can get the class and if it's accepted by the school board, we put it on the class poll."

At the end of the year, the families of the Sky Valley students vote for which classes they would like for the following year, and the ideas with the most votes become classes. "For instance, Zombie Literature was probably suggested by a

student and enough people said 'I would take that,' that it was offered. We read *World War Z*, *Warm Bodies* and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*."

Dahlinger appreciated how available Sarah Parry, the school counselor, was to help. "She came and found me and made sure I had the credits and would hound me until I got them," he said. "She knew I had the capabilities and stayed on top of me until I graduated."

Dahlinger is currently attending Everett Community College working toward a degree in business, with plans to transfer to Northwest University for the 2015-2016 school year. He already has his own business, an online storefront where he sells Amway products. He would like to use his business degree to expand that.

"One of the things about Amway is that you are helpful by helping other people be successful," he said. "Helping other people really touches my heart, and since day one, this business has really stood out to me about that. Even though these people are successful, they take time out of their day to help you learn and be successful at it."

Dahlinger has also been involved in Boy Scouts since the first grade, and received his Eagle Scout in January 2013. The oldest of 11 children, he was the first member of his family to achieve an Eagle Scout rank. His project was replacing picnic tables at Lutherwood, a camp in Bellingham that his church attends every year. "They were becoming a safety hazard for the campers," he said. "I ended up replacing 12 picnic tables."

Parry added that Dahlinger raised so much money for the Eagle Scout project that he gave the extra funds to the scholarship program so more kids could attend camp.

She noted that one thing Dahlinger would never say about himself is his honesty. "Once, he saw some other kids shoplift from a store and he actually paid the owner for what the other kids stole," she said.

"Keaton is willing to try new things that will stretch him academically," said Parry, "and if things fall apart he is willing to ask for help, and own responsibility for what he did wrong and what he plans to do to fix it."

Dahlinger wishes more people would try Sky Valley. "It's one of those schools that you don't know what it's like until you experience it." He pointed out that with 500 families involved in Sky Valley, it's the same size as a public school, "and all these families are working together to better education."



Citlali Gomez



Kayla Cardona



Keaton Dahlinger



After a workshop with renowned professional jazz singer Greta Matassa, MHS senior Dakota Neuman was selected to be the **only soloist** to perform at the 2014 Olympic College Jazz Classic's evening concert.

4th Grade increased **7.2%** in math in 2014 when compared at the district level to the previous year. 5th grade also gained **7.7%** in students meeting the state standard in math from 2013.

Monroe's number of students **passing** Geometry (Math End of Course (EOC) test 2) and EOC Biology in the spring is **higher** when **compared to the state**. The number of 10th grade students passing the state's High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) in reading and writing also exceeds the state average in 2014.

Monroe High School's **graduation rate** continues to improve & **beats the state** average in both on-time and extended rates. 88.3% of the MHS Class of 2013\* graduated on time and a whopping 92.9% of the Class of 2012\* graduated with extended time to complete their studies.

\* Latest data available

5th grade science scores on the 2014 Measurement of Student Progress **significantly rose** above the state average - an improvement from the previous year.

Monroe students scored **higher than the state** in **16 out of 21** categories on the state's annual tests in 2014 - an increase over 2013.

The Panamanian **president** visited the opening of the Model United Nations 450-student international conference in Panama City this fall where the 6-student team from Sky Valley Education Center competed. SVEC's Alexandra Ash drew the leader's **praise** for her opening speech for the Security Council committee. Her team member Nora Cyra was honored by conference officials for her active participation & "solid work" as part of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Monroe's **first state championship in swimming** was earned in 2014 by MHS senior Cathryn Armstrong for her outstanding performance in the 100 yard-backstroke. After graduation, Armstrong will head off to Michigan State to swim for the Spartans in the Big 10 conference.

(Source: 2014 scores on state assessments over 2013 results as reported by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.)  
Monroe Public Schools was established in 1909 to provide K-12 education for our community's young people. The school district is located in the southeast corner of Snohomish County. It encompasses 82 square miles serving the City of Monroe and surrounding unincorporated areas including the area south of the Snohomish River known as Maltby.

# 2015 Report to our Community



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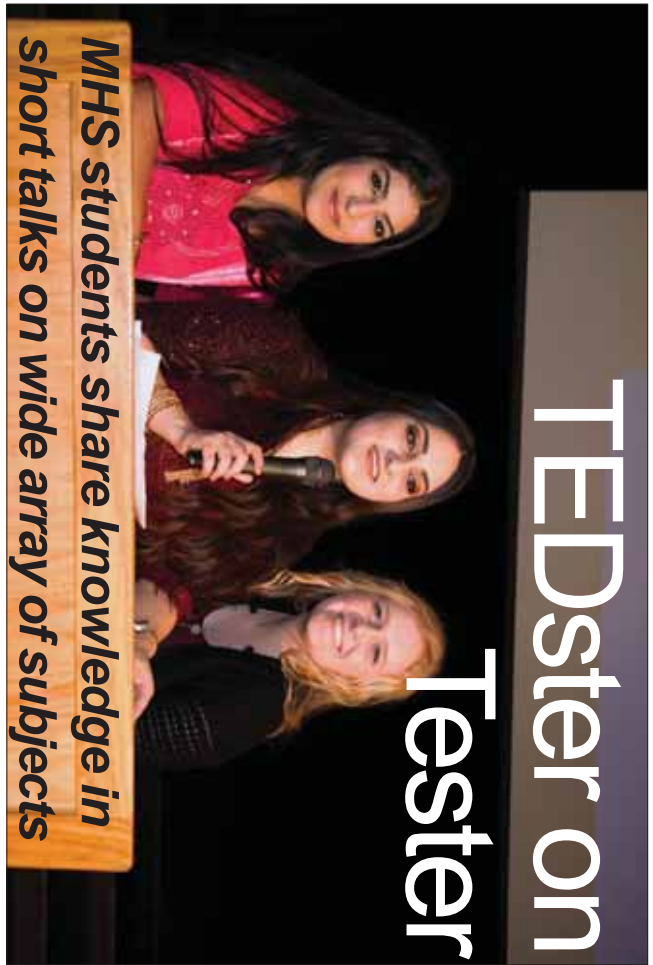
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