

# TEALS computes with students

*New Computer Science course offers students an introduction to the field, advanced course to start in September 2016*

Monroe High School is now a TEALS (Technology Education And Literacy in Schools) partner school. TEALS is a program helping schools start up a Computer Science (CS) program.

"When the economy turned on us, jobs in computer science and computer programming went away, just like teaching jobs,"

said MHS Principal John Lombardi. "People stopped getting into computer science and teaching programs." People in the technology community put their heads together to create programs to encourage interest in the Computer



**Monroe High student Morrison Young works on a project in the new Computer Science course.**

Science fields. TEALS was one of those programs. "Microsoft and the rest of the technology community have been putting a big effort into getting kids interested in this line of work," said Lombardi.

"Because of the 2014 tech levy we are excited to be able to meet the requirements for the partnership," said Lombardi, "like the infrastructure to be able to handle all of the kids online."

Through TEALS, Microsoft helps schools start up Computer Science courses by helping them find local computer programmers interested in volunteering, and training those volunteers how to teach alongside the high school teachers. As most high school teachers aren't Computer Science majors, the programmers help teach the course while the teacher learns the curriculum. Eventually, the teachers take over on their own.

Monroe is fortunate to have math teacher Jim Bogesvang as its computer science teacher. Bogesvang actually has two CS degrees and 15 years of working in the Computer Science field himself before his passion for teaching drew him to the classroom. "It's a huge opportunity for the students, but it's also something that means a lot to me," he said. "It was a great living, doing exciting work."

One of the requirements of the program is that the class is offered first thing in the morning, so the programmers can travel to work afterwards.

Volunteer Eric Battalio is a programming manager at Microsoft, but his bachelor's degree is in English Literature. He felt inspired to volunteer so he could show students that programming isn't just for people with engineering backgrounds. "I did English as a kid because I thought math

would be too difficult," said Battalio, who kept programming as a hobby, and found that he was able to do it after all. "I was able to get through it, to say 'maybe this is something I can do'."

Battalio hopes that students who are not thinking about an engineering future will enjoy the curriculum enough to consider it. The other three volunteers are Philippe Blais and Don Stanwyck, also from Microsoft and Alex Solo of Rokin Cat.

MHS started with a semester-long course created by the University of California at Berkeley, called 'Intro to CS'. It went so well, they will offer the Advanced Placement (AP) CS course in the fall. That class is based on a course at the University of Washington which is given to CS majors. "With AP, the kids can take the test and earn college credit, but, more importantly, they're doing the same work as a CS major," Lombardi explained.

TEALS works with their partner schools for 3 years to become self sufficient. They help identify, work with, and train upwards of 4 volunteers to help teach the two classes. Over the last 6 years, TEALS volunteers and classroom teachers have taught more than 12,500 high school students computer science, including 4,000 Advanced Placement (AP) CS students who received an A on their AP exams. In this effort, volunteers have contributed close to quarter of a million hours to their partner schools, students, and teachers.

MHS's initial goal to have two Intro to CS courses is accomplished. All seats were filled for the two semester-long courses. Already, more than a class full of students are interested in the AP course for next year.

Ultimately, what Lombardi wants is to meet the needs of the kids in our community. "If we can better prepare our kids to step out into the real world of work, that's my goal," said Lombardi. "If we can give kids the experience and have them say 'I love computer programming,' and that helps them figure out what they want to do as a career, then that's our mission," added Lombardi. "Spark a few passions; that would be nice."



Wednesday April 6, 2016  
5:00 - 7:00pm  
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



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# 2016 Report to our Community



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## First ball field opens

Finally after more than 15 years, MHS softball players have a place to play on their Tester Road campus - page 7



## Class of 2015 profiles

High school graduates off to even greater success - page 6



## Blasts from the Past

10 Former athletic standouts inducted in MHS Hall of Fame - page 3

# Early Learning: *All Day Kindergarten boosts academic gains; Registration now open for September 2016*

## ... 97, 98, 99 ... 100.

Counting to 100 is just one of the milestones reached by kindergarten students in Monroe's public schools. Reading, writing and mathematical equations are also on tap during this first year of public education.

Monroe Public Schools rolled out a fully funded all-day Kindergarten program for all students district-wide at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year before funding was available by state government. In September 2016 the state will step up to provide additional funding to support this important start for many children to organized public education.

In years past, parents had the option to pay tuition for all-day Kindergarten. In 2013 the state began contributing money to fund all-day Kindergarten for schools with high populations of low-income students. Only two of Monroe's five elementary schools have been included. This disparity was felt statewide as more than half of Washington state's public elementary schools found themselves unable to fund full-day school for their youngest students.

With early education playing such an integral role in laying the foundation for students' academic success in later grades, Monroe Public Schools chose to invest in providing equal learning opportunities for all Kindergarten students district-wide.

"Full-day Kindergarten is an important addition to the definition of 'Basic Education' in the State of Washington, meant to address the opportunity gap that exists for many children by providing additional learning time and a supportive transition from early learning experiences to formalized K-12 education. We are committed to developmentally appropriate, rigorous kindergarten programming focused on the whole child, including social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development," stated Darcy Becker, Director of Elementary Education for Monroe Public Schools.

Kindergarten teachers across the district report that the change to all-day Kindergarten has made a huge difference in their students' academic and

social development. While the standards and expectations remain the same, full-day school provides the opportunity for more exposure to concepts and allows teachers to foster a love of learning in their students.

"The gift of time is an amazing commodity. More time equals more academic and social opportunities. We now have time to cover concepts in a deeper way," says Ginger Donohue, Kindergarten teacher at Chain Lake Elementary.

"Our students are much farther ahead in skills this year compared to where our half-day Kindergartners were last year," Donohue also noted. In the past, classes were provided part time due to state support levels.

She reports that her students know all of their letters and sounds, are blending words, recognizing sight words and beginning readers are popping up every day!

In addition to having more time to help kids meet academic standards, teachers now have more time to facilitate regular class meetings, role play and conversations resulting in huge gains in students' social development, they say.

Teachers aren't the only ones noticing the differences. Parents are blown away at what their Kindergartners are coming home knowing. Jessica Alvarado, parent of a Kindergarten student at Frank Wagner Elementary, was shocked when she heard her Kindergarten daughter count to 130 mid-way through the school year. "She is so excited to come home and

share her learning with me and I know she's prepared for first grade," she said.

Rachel Sullivan has taught all configurations of Kindergarten at Frank Wagner Elementary over the years and has been teaching full-day for a few years now. "There are a lot of transitions in half-day kindergarten as you try to cram everything into a two-and-a-half-hour time frame. With such a short amount of time, half-day ends up being more about getting kids to meet standards and less about developing the whole child," she described.

Chain Lake Elementary School



Chain Lake Elementary School teacher Jeanette Avila, dressed in the part of a centenarian, talks with Kindergartner Peyton Sukert as part of the celebration of the 100th day of Kindergarten. This celebration reinforces the students' learning goal of counting to 100 by imagining how big, or in this case how long, 100 really is. Kindergarten curriculum often uses activities and play to further cement the concepts important to building a strong learning foundation during this first year of organized public school.

### On the cover:

Frank Wagner Elementary School Kindergartner Sammy Waugh practices her reading skills during her all-day class session. Frank Wagner students have enjoyed free all-day instruction for the past few years. Now all Monroe schools offer free all-day class sessions. Modified schedules are available to families concerned about an all-day schedule for their child.

Kindergarten parent Jada Creswell agrees. She experienced half day Kindergarten with her older two children and her youngest child is now in all-day Kindergarten. "Half-day for them seemed to be more about learning how school works. I've noticed there are a lot more academics earlier in the year this year," she says as she compares half day to full day.

While district staff and the majority of parents were thrilled with the switch to all-day Kindergarten, some parents felt apprehensive about sending their young students to all-day school. Modified schedules to help students adjust to a full day of school were offered to families with concerns. Kindergarten teachers,

such as Donohue and Sullivan, report that student fatigue has not been a hindrance to learning as they recognize the need for down time in the afternoons.

"My students need about 20 minutes of quiet time in the afternoon in order to be successful learners the rest of the day," said Sullivan, which is something she provides daily for them. She typically has students relax during this time while she reads aloud. She also saves hands-on learning activities, such as science and art, for the afternoons to keep students engaged.

Registration is now open. Signing up in the spring ensures adequate desks and staff in the fall.

## Monroe's Birth to 3 program celebrates 25 years of service

This year is a milestone birthday for one of Monroe Public Schools' hidden gems. Our Birth to Three program turns 25 years old.

If you haven't heard of it, you're not alone. "For the most part, few know about us unless a problem comes up," noted Joyce Wilson, M.Ed., the program coordinator. "If your infant doesn't have a problem, there's no reason to know about us."

In 1990, the Monroe School District was one of the first in Washington state to provide special education services for infants and toddlers. Children from birth to age three are usually referred to the program by a hospital or pediatrician or recommended by a daycare provider. Then Wilson evaluates the child in their home in all five areas of development – speech, motor skills, social/emotional development, cognitive and adaptive.

"We don't think about typically developing kids, all the things they do themselves," Wilson pointed out. "But we can break down a process into smaller steps. For example, with a child with speech issues, we have them make singular sounds, breaking it down into little bits so they can learn to put it all together."

Knox Gagnon was born prematurely, at 31 weeks. His pediatrician was the one who suggested Birth to Three to help him be developmentally on track. At 18 months, his mother Dominique Gagnon has nothing but praises for the program. "They taught him how to crawl, how to walk up stairs, and now they're teaching him to speak," she explained.

Wilson noted that sometimes it had been difficult to get pediatricians on board with the idea of early intervention. "Traditionally they'd said 'just wait and see,'" Wilson said. But with

the increase of public knowledge about autism, that's no longer a problem.

Danielle and Michael Marr learned about the program in 2008 when their pediatrician recommended it for their son Connor, then 2. "There were some milestones he wasn't reaching," explained Danielle. "Like every other parent, we were online, doing our own research, but she (Wilson) was able to help us zero in on the right things for us," said Michael. "There's no replacement for her 30 years of experience."

Children who have a 25% delay qualify for the program. The Birth to Three program sends speech and physical therapists to see children in their home or daycare setting.

"Everything I've had a problem with my son, they've helped or fixed the problem. He's been in speech for about a month and a half, and every day he's saying a new word," Gagnon observed. "The tools they give you – they help. They make a difference."

More than 1,200 families have been helped since federal funds were authorized in 1994 to get the program going. "Parents at the national level were upset that their kids weren't getting help until they turned school age," Wilson explains. "The research was starting to trickle in that the earlier the help, the better for the child. It was parent-led."

During Wilson's visits with Connor, Wilson also noticed that the Marrs' younger daughter Lexi, then 14 months, was in need. "Even though she was there to evaluate Connor, she helped us get Lexi figured out as well," said Michael.

With her early diagnosis, they were able to start Lexi's therapy quickly, with incredible results. Connor and Lexi now attend Salem Woods Elementary, with Lexi completely mainstreamed.

*Continued on page 3*



Fatima Toscana Ornelas practices her skills matching pictures with words at Frank Wagner Elementary School.



From your superintendent ...

## An inspiring community

Authentic connections and partnerships come together to provide strong foundation

As this school year transitions so quickly into spring, I am struck by how the time flies. The more time I have spent in and throughout our schools, and the more community members I have had the opportunity to meet, the more encouraged I become about the potential afforded our community's children.

The citizens of Monroe routinely band together for both celebration and support, demonstrating a unique sense of pride unmatched in most areas. The authentic connections and partnerships throughout town, on diverse topics, are inspiring.

As the landscape of education continues to adjust, I am grateful to be a part of an extended team, comprised of folks within our school system and beyond. Over and over, from the Chamber of Commerce to school booster groups, I am reminded of my reasons I chose Monroe schools.

The energy throughout the collective "We" remains relentlessly focused on the well-being of our children and families. It is reassuring to know that our relationships are reciprocal: educational staff play a prominent role beyond our school environment, and we can rely on the ongoing support from others as we continue to build the best school district in the state. I am honored to serve the citizens of Monroe, and thankful for the foundation our students have to draw from.

A Northwest spring brings with it a renewed sense of color and warmth, a refreshing reminder that we live in a remarkable place. Hope and aspirations are ours should we choose them. Together we can stay focused on what we know to be right: service to our community and support for our youth.

Together we will continue with our focus on student experiences as we celebrate our success and frame our future. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 18, to join other members of this great community in a conversation focused on continued student success.

Thank you for your continued partnerships with our school district, and bringing the color and warmth into the lives of our children every day.

Dr. Fredrika 'Deka' Smith  
Superintendent, Monroe Public Schools

## Silver anniversary of Birth to 3 program brings golden memories

Continued from page 2

and Connor spending 90% of the school day in a regular classroom.

Wilson noted, "About 30% of the kids who are in Birth to Three no longer qualify after age three. With early intervention, they get better."

"I want people to know that if you have an infant with a feeding disability, has autism, or their speech isn't developing, that there are resources available," Wilson said. "Don't be afraid to ask."

One little boy comes to mind when Wilson thinks about the program's successes. He had apraxia, which affects the muscles of the mouth and chest. He was almost 3 and ready to exit the program, but he wasn't talking yet. "I had taught him sign language and he was talking in 4 to 5 word sentences using sign



language," she said.

"It was Christmas Eve and he was sitting alone by the Christmas tree when his mother came over to check on him. And he finally spoke his first words with his voice, not his hands." He whispered, "I love you, Mommy." What a great Christmas present."

Michael and Danielle hope their story will inspire other parents whose infants were struggling developmentally. "Never overlook the suggestion that your child may need help or additional assistance when someone objective offers it," said Michael.

"Don't wait two months, don't wait six months, just take advantage of it. With Lexi she was only a part of the Special Ed program a short time. If we hadn't gotten her help so early, who knows if she would ever have caught up," he said.

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



## New athletes join Bearcat Hall of Fame

10 more join an elite group to highlight Monroe High School pride in athletic history

This year ten former Monroe High School students were inducted into the school's sports Hall of Fame. Colin Resch, Jordan Birch, Justin Springer, Susanna Ohlsen, Anna Kloeck Caruso, Ron Wolfkill, Tony Creswell, Chad Gallatin, Ian Parnley and Mike Fierke were honored at a ceremony which took place January 29.

**Susanna Ohlsen, Class of 2011**, was honored for *Excellence in Basketball*. During her time at MHS she was a 4-year starter for the basketball team. She received All-Area First Team honors her junior and senior year, as well as the 4A All-Area Player of the Year, Team MVP, Monroe High School Player of the Year, and Snohomish County Official's Sportsmanship Player of the Year her senior year, holding five records in points and steals. She received a degree in Biochemistry at Seattle Pacific University (SPU), making the Dean's list four times and was a consistent starter, becoming Academic All-American Player of the Year, and #9 All-Time Scorer. She was accepted into the University of Washington School of Pharmacy in 2014, but has deferred her matriculation at UW for a year into order to play basketball professionally overseas in Korea.

Ohlsen credits Monroe with providing a good foundation for her future. "I was able to take a variety of challenging classes taught by some brilliant teachers during my time at MHS," she observed.

**Colin Resch, Class of 1994** was selected for *Excellence in Basketball and Tennis*. Resch was #2 in Men's Singles Tennis every year at MHS until his older brother graduated – he had been #1. But it's basketball where he really excelled. "We put a really good run together at the end of my senior year, and won our first 2 games at the district tournament," he remembers. After completing college at Pacific University in Oregon, whose basketball team was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation, he went right into the world of television. In 2008, he took home an Emmy award for Best Sports Feature.

Resch still looks back and thinks on his time at MHS. "Coach Dave Brekke instilled so much confidence in me at a young age. He really allowed me to do things that most kids at that age wouldn't be allowed to do. That was really key for someone age 15-16, to have someone in authority put trust in you like that, it really opens your world," he explained.

**Ian Parnley, Class of 2008**, was honored for *Excellence in Baseball*, becoming 2-time All-League Pitcher and 2-time All-League Outfielder. At Bellevue Community College, he was 6-time NWAAC award winner, Co-Captain, and winner of the Silver Bat Award. And at Liberty University in Virginia, he was Big South All-Conference & All-Academic Teams; D1 All-Star, and VaSID All-State. In 2012 he was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 7th round and is playing in Vancouver.

**Jordan Birch, Class of 2008**, was honored for *Excellence in Softball*. She was 2-time All-League, All-Area & All-State, as well as Player of the Year. She continues to hold all of the MHS pitching records. She went on to Illinois State University, where she holds several all-time pitching records - #2 Strikeouts, #3 Career Wins & Shutouts, as well as 2-time MVP, 6-time Pitcher of the Week, and First and Second Team honors.

**Justin Springer, Class of 1996**, was honored for *Excellence in Wrestling*. At MHS he was 3-time WESCO League Champ, 3-time Regional Champ, placed three times at State, and was a State Champ. Springer went on to wrestle for North Idaho College, qualifying for the Nationals twice, becoming All-American, and being a part of the 1998 National Championship Team. He still holds the MHS record for technical falls. He

currently works for the Monroe Police Department as a school resource officer.

**Anna Kloeck Caruso, Class of 1997**, was honored for *Excellence in Basketball*. While at MHS she was a 3-sport athlete for all four years, though she only went on to play basketball in college. At Seattle University – her team was the Pac-West Academic All-Conference Team. She still holds the record for minutes played and free throw percentage.

"I'm proud of the fact that I could still graduate on time, playing for four seasons and maintain good grades in college and double major, earning my bachelor's and playing for my entire career," she said of college experience majoring in Spanish and communications. When she moved back here, she got a job as a teacher at MHS. "It was a big deal to my staff colleagues to have a Bearcat come back," she added and she met her husband Vince – he also teaches at MHS and they operate a produce farm when not teaching.

She remembers emailing one of her former teachers, to tell her they were reading a book in college that Caruso had studied with the teacher in high school. "Maybe someday someone will write back to me and say they remember things they learned in my class," Caruso said.

**Ron Wolfkill, Class of 1957**, was honored for *Excellence in Football, Track and Crew*. At MHS, he became quarterback as a junior, and in 1956 his football team was undefeated in the league. In track he took All-League First Place in 1955, and 1956, and All County in 1956. But tragedy struck the summer before his senior year. While unloading a grain car for his father's company, Wolfkill Feed and Fertilizer, his foot caught in the cable. He lost his leg and any chance of a future in football or track.

After graduation he went to the University of Washington. "I don't know how it happened but I ended up at the crewhouse and became a freshman coxswain for the crew. We set the record." The record they set was for the 2 mile on Lake Washington, and the crew soon went on to place second in the nation. In 1960, his crew participated in the Olympic trials, coming in third.

"When we were racing for the Olympic trials for the Rome Olympics, I got this card from the people of Monroe, when it was small town, 1,400 or 1,500 people total. I still have the card, signed by practically everyone in town, wishing good luck in the Olympic trials," he said.

**Chad Gallatin, Class of 1993**, was honored for *Excellence in Football and Basketball*. He was a three-sport athlete, who went on to play Basketball in college. At MHS, he was 2-time All League, and once All-Area and once All State. At Northwest University, his team was All-American in the 1995-96 NCCAA conference.

**Mike Fierke, Class of 1989**, was honored for *Excellence in Baseball and Football*. At MHS, his football team was All-League and All-Area two times, and his baseball team was All-League and All-Area three times, becoming All-State winner once. He went on to play third base for Green River Community College, becoming All NWAAC.

**Tony Creswell, Class of 1988**, was honored for *Excellence in Soccer and Football*. In football, his team was first in the league and in soccer where he was goalkeeper, he was Player of the Year. He went on to play soccer at Skagit Valley College, where he was First Team All-League – Goal Keeper, but at the University of Washington he refocused on football, where his team was the 1990-91 Rose Bowl Champion. Creswell has trouble remembering some of the details because has been fighting brain cancer for the past two years. He and his wife Jada have found the community incredibly supportive during his illness. "I didn't realize how many people cared for me," he said.

# Students tops in nation

## Three MHS students continue long streak for Bearcats in National Merit competition

Three Monroe High School students have been named Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Dallin James, Samantha Johnson and Bethany Levy placed in the top 3.5% of the nation in their Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) results.

As Commended Scholars, they are among the top approximately 50,000 of the more than 1.5 million students who take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) annually.

Samantha Johnson was surprised to be recognized by the College Board for her performance on the test. She has been staying more focused on keeping a good balance in her school and work life. Between working part time, taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and playing alto saxophone in the school band, she has her hands full. And then there's her passion project.

"I'm one of the founders of a club we just started here at Monroe, the Youth Coalition, trying to promote good mental health in our community, focused on suicide prevention and abuse of drugs and alcohol," she added. The project is personal to Johnson as one of her best friends killed himself during her freshman year.

"My group of friends was really touched by that," she explained. After a year of healing, they decided to take the experience and put it into something positive. "We started this huge campaign called 'You are Not Alone' and we had this video made for us." The Washington State Department of Health is now using the video statewide.

Johnson is also focused on trying to get some smaller programs started to address problems before they lead to suicide, such as a self-esteem workshop focused on middle schoolers and underclassmen. "We realize problems like this start when we're young, middle school even," she explained.

Dallin James said his focus in high school has been trying to challenge himself, instead of focusing on grades. "I don't have as good of grades as other students because I try to do the hardest things I can, to experience as much as I can," he said. He took Calculus his junior year. "It was hard," James noted. "People would actually cry on test day. It was definitely a challenging class," he said.

He is currently taking AP Government, AP Literature and AP Physics, and when he's not busy with his studies he can be found in the choral department. "I'm Varsity Choir and I'm a member of our Jazz Choir too," he said.

James has a strong interest in teaching, and is looking to possibly make it a part of his senior project. "I'm mentally checking off things I enjoy doing but I haven't made any serious decisions about the future yet," he said.

"I definitely would enjoy going into politics, if possible. I like doing stuff that's actually important that I can see, stuff that affects other people and I can immediately see it. I guess a lot of careers do that but I think I'd be good at politics."

Bethany Levy is also taking a heavy load of AP classes. AP English Literature, Drama II, AP Biology, AP Government and

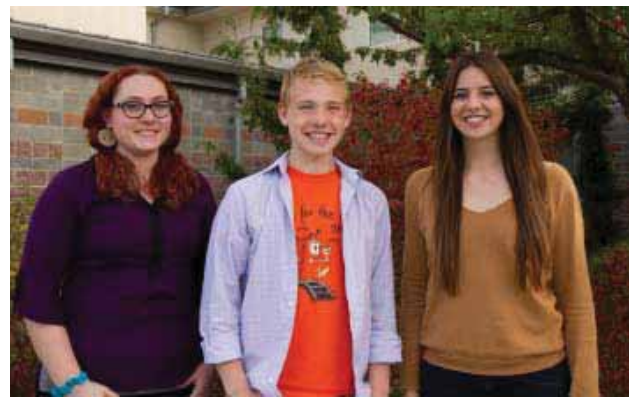


Photo by Catherine Martin

Monroe High School seniors Bethany Levy, Dallin James and Samantha Johnson earned Commended Scholar status with their scores on the PSAT. Commended Scholars are in the top 3% of the more than 1.5 million students across the country taking the PSAT.

Politics, Child Psychology, AP Statistics, and Weightlifting. She is most excited about AP Biology because of her plans to go into medicine.

Levy has worked in the veterinary field as a Kennel Assistant but is interested in going into human medicine with an eye towards research.

"I want a job where I make a positive impact on people's lives." Levy is hoping to do her senior project in the field of Sleep

Research, a subject she's done two science fair projects on already. "There's a lot of research still to be done. It's a newer field with a lot of potential for growth in knowledge."

She would like to spend some time in the Peace Corps, which she learned about from an influential teacher. Levy thinks a medical degree will be helpful with that. "I feel it's a good cause," she said, "and it could make a positive impact on other parts of the world."

## Park Place Middle writers earn honors in essay contest

*Project helps students draw connections between people & events*

Two Park Place Middle School students are the winners in the 15th annual Prodigies for Peace Writing Contest.

The contest ties in with the 15th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. community celebration and Snohomish County NAACP Black History Month celebration which culminated in February.

Emelia Persell and Natasha White, both 8th graders in teacher Meagan Davis' class, entered the contest at a suggestion from their teacher.

The Prodigies for Peace Writing Contest was created to help students draw connections between the people and the events which shaped the civil rights movement and the social issues that influence their lives today. The writing prompt was a quote from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.... I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be..."*

"I basically said I don't need anything from others to be who I need to be because that's my responsibility," said Persell, who

won first place in the Grades 6-8 group.

"I know down in my heart what the right thing to do is. I don't need someone else to be around making the right choices in order for me to make the right choices."



Emelia Persell

The daughter of Kevin and Amy Persell hopes to become a doctor. "I want to help people," she said.

White won third place in the same group with an essay about how she'd make the world a better place.

"I'd do it by helping if someone is being bullied, and helping in the community," the daughter of Jason and Allison White explained. She was grateful that she hasn't seen much bullying at her school.



Natasha White

"People at my school express how they feel more than others do. And if they get bullied they know they have people to turn to," she added.

While White initially wrote the essay for the extra credit, she liked the topic and really got into it.

"I thought the project was pretty fun," she said. "I'd do it again."



## Sky Valley Education Center's Amenn wins art competition

Sky Valley Education Center 12<sup>th</sup> grader Haley Amenn has earned third place in the Sixth Annual Space Foundation International Student Art Contest, winning in the age 17-18 category for her piece titled "Spaceman Tom", which she drew separately by hand and then compiled in Photoshop. The piece is of an astronaut doing a "spacewalk" (shown above).

"His spacesuit is designed after the one that Ed White wore during his spacewalk," she explained. White was the first American to "walk in space" in 1965.

Amenn was one of 25 talented winners from among more than 3,883 global entries representing 40 countries, including 38 U.S. states. The daughter of Robert and Joan Amenn was incredibly surprised with her award. "I feel really, really grateful and happy," she said. "I didn't expect to make it to third place."

Amenn has been a Sky Valley student since she was in sixth grade, and credits her art teacher with being supportive of

her blossoming art career, as well as the influence of her mother. "My mom was really interested in animation when she was going to college," explained Amenn, "so a lot of her drawings inspired me as a kid."

At Sky Valley, the art class she takes is independently driven so Amenn has been able to focus on her interests, with the guidance of her teacher. "I wouldn't be making such finished illustrations if it wasn't for my teacher, Michelle Taylor," she explained.

"I'm going to spend next year at the Gage Academy of Art to get some fundamentals down, then go on to college," she said. Amenn plans to go into a career in film or comics. "I'm really interested in art direction."

Her piece can be seen along with the rest of the winning entries on the Space Foundation's website ([www.Art.SpaceFoundation.org](http://www.Art.SpaceFoundation.org)), at the 32nd Space Symposium in April, or afterwards at the Space Foundation World Headquarters in Colorado Springs, CO.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Washington state law requires all parents of any children older than 8 years of age to enroll that child in public school unless the child is attending private school, receiving home-based instruction or has been excused by the superintendent based on a physical or mental condition. RCW 28A.225.010

## Join our team!

Monroe Public Schools offers a wide variety of working opportunities for community members with a heart to share with children of all ages. Check out the current openings on the Human Resources page at

[www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.monroe.wednet.edu)



# Congratulations to Monroe Public Schools' Class of 2015

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 2014, the most recent year data is available, Monroe high students' adjusted on-time graduation rate was 84.7%. The extended graduation rate, for the Class of 2013 - most recent year data is available - the rate rises to more than 90.8%. 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 2015!

Jeffrey Abbott  
Hawa Abdi  
Larissa Ablutz  
Autumn Adams  
Jacob Adams  
Rene Addington  
Jeffrey Adolfsen  
Guadalupe Aguirre  
Howard Aikins  
Nikhia Albaugh  
Ashley Aldworth  
Alexis Alexander  
Alexandria Alldredge  
Milec Allsop  
Jesse Almquist  
Damian Alonso-Ordaz  
Sarah Amador  
Jattu Amara  
Cameo Ames  
Garrett Amsberry  
Kelsey Anderson  
Tony Argento  
Jennifer Armitage  
Cathryn Armstrong  
Keagan Asbury  
Taylor Ashby-Kalin  
Veronica Attebery  
Christian Avalos  
Elijah Baanrud  
James Bacon  
Megan Baermann  
Kyle Bailey  
Courtney Baker  
Michael Baldwin  
Wade Baldwin  
Alexandra Barber  
Connie Barklow Valentine  
Reagan Barron  
Sage Basher  
Tamsyn Baumgartner  
Kyra Monique Bautista  
Katie Beaman  
Uriel Bender  
Liam Bennett  
Roudy Bentz  
Reilly Bergman  
Joseph Bigham  
Kailee Billerbeck  
Nathan Bjornsen  
Giovanna Black  
Halle Black  
Emily Boober  
Carson Bowles  
McKinley Braa  
Zachary Brader  
Payton Bredstrand  
Kimberly Brevik  
Cory Brown  
Brittney Bruers  
Kieva Brymer  
Jaycee Buchardt  
Tyler Bucke  
Dillon Bull  
Natalie Burbridge-Harney  
Samuel Burke  
Zana Burnett

Enrique Burnham-Montes  
Murphy Bush  
Mitchell Bussard  
Rachel Calder  
Sara Calder  
Sonia Carlson  
Alyssa Carlstrom  
Allyson Carothers  
Natalie Carr  
Josiah Cavanaugh  
Brianna Celix  
Ezekiel Chandler  
Andrew Chartrand  
Seida Chavez  
Morgan Cheesman  
Amy Chen  
Jessica Cichanski  
Madison Ciocco  
Maya Clark  
Caitlin Clark  
Parker Clem  
Massilon Clerveau  
Wyatt Cole  
Tristan Colwell  
Jacob Colyn  
Makenna Connors  
Karina Conti  
Chloe Cook  
Daniela Cook  
Kianna Cooley  
Alysia Cooper  
Kylie Cope  
Tyler Cornell  
Madison Coster  
Jayden Craig  
Jonathan Cronauer  
Alexander Crowell  
Anjelika Cyr  
Brandi Dahlinger  
Jazmine Daily  
Jed Davison  
Carter Day  
Natalie Day  
Sydney Day  
Emily DeFreece  
Emma Deloye  
Ryan Diliiani  
Walter Ducoing  
Marika Dunham  
Samantha Durant  
Elijah Early  
Brandon Edwards  
Dustin Egan  
Dakota Elliott  
Peyton Ellis  
Jasmin Elnasser  
Cassandra Engvall  
Alumine Ericsson  
Morgan Erwin  
Brieanne Fabing  
Kelsey Faulds

Baron Feathersone  
Owen Fenner  
Kyle Ferreira  
Lilia Figueroa  
Chad Fish  
Chloe Fix  
Dennis Fix  
Rachel Foye  
Hannah Freeland  
Allison Frye  
Kelsey Furr  
Danielle Gallagher  
Treanna Ganger  
Nickolas Garbarino  
Javier Garcia-Ochoa  
Ivan Garcia-Santiago  
Bethany Garver  
Maria Gaspar  
Juan Jose Gaspar-Hernandez  
Anna Gast  
Jameson Gerdon  
Janae Gifford  
Laura Gijon  
Tristan Gillis  
Holly Gombossy  
Riley Gosselin  
Hannah Gottschalk  
Jared Grande  
Isabella Griego  
Aleesha Grove  
Raquel Guerra-Lewis  
Mathew Gunnarson  
Juan Gutierrez  
Itzia Guzman  
Kjersten Haarberg  
Chloe Hagans  
Samuel Hageman  
Vitalie Haitu  
Sarah Hajebi  
Amie Haldeman  
Paige Hall  
Omar Hammou  
Allison Hancock  
Cody Hanford  
Amelia Hansen  
Emily Hanson  
Kylee Harbison  
Athena Harper  
Trinity Harris-Fulmer  
Emma Harrison  
Emil Hasanzade  
Mariah Haverly  
Amili Hay  
Deborah Heide  
Sandra Hernandez  
Alejandro Herrera Tellez  
Mitchell Higgins  
Luke Hilt  
Katelyn Hirata  
Patricia Hirschberg

## "Perfect" scholars



Photo by Catherine Martin

Topping all of their classmates, these students were named Monroe High School's Class of 2015 Valedictorians after earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average while taking a 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 are Dillon Bull, Samuel Burke, Amy Chen, Chloe Cook, Emily Laskowski, Matthew Turner, Amber Van Brunt, Kees Westra, Matison Wichser, Cameron Wood, Justin Young, Juliann Yusko, (Salutatorians) Brianna Celix and Kunal Sharma.

Kaylee Hopson-Ewing  
Matthew Horsley  
Dylan Hubach  
Joseph Huebner  
Kaitlyn Hull  
Haylee Humphrey  
Austin Hunt  
Serena Hunt  
Chloie Huskey  
Tavin Jackson  
James Jacobs  
Noah Jacobsen  
Chanathip Jarusuwannaruk  
Emily Jensen  
Kari Jensen  
Stephanie Jensen  
Jacob Job  
Andrew Johansen  
Alexander Johnson  
Bethany Johnson  
Brandon Johnson  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Justin Johnson  
Michaela Johnson  
Sophia Johnson  
Wray Johnston IV  
Garrett Jones  
Haley Jones  
Miles Jones  
Savannah Jones  
Kristen Jost  
Sophia Kaeser  
Raven Kammeyer  
James Kamp  
Christiana Kampmann  
Joshua Kavalski  
Caylee Kearns  
Sarina Keys  
Sean King  
Courtney Kingery  
Wesley Klingele  
Jonathan Klink  
Shelby Knisley  
Andrew Knowles  
Tyler Koontz  
Noel Koski  
Courtney Krueger  
Breen Kuchan  
Kelsey Kunst  
Alyssa La Fleur  
Justin Land  
Jordan Lang  
Jami Langston  
Matthew LaPlante  
Katelyn Larsen  
Jordan Larson  
Peyton Larson  
Emily Laskowski  
Karrin Leazer  
Angelique LeBlanc  
Kimberlin Lefebvre

Alex Lehto  
Tucker Leidholm  
Nicolas Lejeune  
Jeremiah LeVine  
Noah Lewis  
Esperanza Leyva Clark  
Vanessa Leyva Clark  
Sally Liddiatt  
Eric Ligmund  
Raevyn Link  
Kaine Lively  
Krista Lockie  
Charlie Lonac  
Rethlyn Looker  
Emily Lopez  
Sergio Lopez Hernandez  
Emily Lorenz  
Laura Lothrop  
Levi Loukusa  
Teylor Lowe  
Angela Lugo  
Liam Lyle  
Tanner Lyons  
Raymundo Macias-Neri  
Haley MacRae  
Ariel Maki  
Hailey Mallott  
Haley Memales  
Emily Maraan  
Hannah Marie  
Christopher Marshall  
Autumn Martin  
Giovany Martinez  
Reina Martinez Hernandez  
Jessica Matyas  
Bridgette McDonald  
Cody McDonough  
Macey McGovern  
Lauren McGuire  
Madelynn McIntosh  
Gloria Mendez-Alonso  
Alec Mercado  
Teran Merkle  
Antonio Merola  
Nohel Mestas  
Valeria Meza  
Darren Michaelsen  
Audrey Miller  
Kerry Miller  
Lauren Miller  
Noah Miller  
Rebecca Missildine  
Johnathan Mitchell  
Shanden Mixayphone  
Lisa Moan  
Moises Montano  
Derek Moore  
Karl Moore  
Loryn Moore  
Kylee Morris  
Hunter Mudrovich

Jacob Mullin  
Jaden Mulvey  
Emma Munnichs  
Daniel Murphy  
Rita Murphy  
Taylor Myall  
Hannah Nagy  
Sophia Navarro  
Brooke Nelson  
Kila Nelson  
Parker Nelson  
Sarah Nelson  
Leah Nemeth  
Dakota Neuman  
Tristan Newsome  
Ryan Nishikawa  
Ashley Nixon  
Samantha Noa  
Jordan Noto  
Hayley Nye  
Kiley Ochoa  
Aidan O'Connor  
Justin Oestreich  
Natalie Ohlde  
Jason Olson  
Sarah Olson  
Oscar Ortiz-Barcenas  
Zachery Ortiz-Hunter  
Emily Osgood  
Cristobal Pacheco-Lucas  
Kirstin Packard  
John Pang  
Jacob Parkinson  
Lauren Parks  
Isabel Partida  
Chawin Pathompornvivat  
Sarah Pecoraro  
Kaela Pelouquin  
Pablo Perez  
Anthony Phillips  
Isaac Phillips  
Virginia Piluras  
Brittany Plankenhorn  
Mackenzie Platt  
Mackenzie Pleiman  
Ivan Polanco  
Subrina Pollevann  
Torri Pownall  
Estefanie Ramirez  
Karina Ramirez  
Exell Ramirez Flores  
Brandon Ramos  
Hector Ramos  
Micaela Rasciner  
Danielle Reed  
Sydney Reese  
Randy Resch  
Ellen Reyes-Sotelo  
Jared Reynolds  
Justin Reynolds  
Megan Rich  
Emma Rintala  
Corey Rios  
Ricarda Ritter  
Domanique Rizo-Hell  
Michelle Robbins  
Dallas Roberts  
Emily Roberts  
Danielle Robinson  
Benjamin Robins-Tarr  
Maria Rocha Martinez  
Donovan Rodriguez  
Alyssa Rogers  
Austin Rogers  
Caitlyn Rohmer  
Juan Rojas Santos  
Bennett Rolfson  
Kyle Roller  
Kimberly Roop  
Kalika Ross  
Patricia Rubio-Partida  
Amalia Ruiz  
Cecilia Ruiz  
William Rutledge  
Mitchell Ryser  
Nicole Salmi

Continued on page 6

# Class of 2015 off to achieve even greater success

## Larissa Ablutz Flies High

I've always wanted to be in the Air Force," said Larissa Ablutz, whose father was in the Navy. She had first planned on simply signing up after high school, "but my mom and I talked and I realized I was good at school."



Larissa Ablutz

Ablutz wasn't interested in the military academies, so once she found out about the ROTC program, where she could attend school on a scholarship in return for 4 years of service in the Air Force, she was hooked.

The Monroe High School graduate had her choice of several military scholarships, "but with the Air Force I could pick whatever school I wanted. What she wanted was the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

"I fell in love with it," she admitted. "They have one of the nation's best ROTC programs." Another thing she loved was the \$196,000 Air Force scholarship to attend.

The daughter of Kathy and Lane Ablutz wasn't always sure she would join the military. "In my freshman year I was obsessed with the idea I could show cows." She joined the Future Farmers of America (FFA) club where she became president for her junior and senior years.

"It was really fun because it opened my eyes to an industry I'd never have known otherwise," she said. "I mean, I live in a neighborhood where we can't even have chickens."

Ablutz also took challenging classes, played volleyball all four years, including varsity her junior and senior year, and ran track her freshman year. She rounded out her high school career with being a member of Link Crew and National Honor Society.

"Larissa could gracefully move in any circle. There wasn't ever a group of kids she couldn't get along with or inspire and motivate to be successful, and that's just really unusual," noted her animal science teacher, Ann Lowe.

"Her ability to take a project and bring a group to consensus and get the project done was amazing. She was always willing to work to even better her skills at leadership."

Ablutz had special things to say about Lowe as well. "She's practically become my second mother," Ablutz laughed. "She is always looking out for her students. She's good at rewarding us when we do well. I don't think I'd be where I am right now if it wasn't for her."

She also had nice things to say about MHS Principal John Lombardi. "I see him as a principal but also as a good friend, he's also very proud of all of his students."

"All the staff in the Monroe School District are so supportive of their kids," reflected Ablutz. "If you got a bad grade on something, most teachers do everything they can to help you succeed."

Ablutz hopes to major in Computer Science so she can fly drones or work with the computers for the Air Force.

"And when I finish my four years I want to design video games," she admitted. "They are a very big hobby of mine."

"Life will always be an adventure for her," said Lowe. "She will always be finding something positive and setting great goals for herself, whether in a personal or career nature, she will eke every great thing out of life possible."

## Armando Sanchez Joins Up With His Family Legacy – the US Army



Armando Sanchez

Armando Sanchez knew exactly

what to do once he received his diploma.

"I wanted to join the Army because I have a lot of family members in the Army." The son of Juan and Summer Sanchez struggled during his early high school years and it was starting to look like he wouldn't graduate.

"I got distracted by other students," he admitted. "It was easier to talk to people than to study." He decided to transfer to Leaders in Learning (LIL), an alternative high school in Monroe that allows students to complete the requirements using an approach that can be tailored to suit a student's individual needs.

"Honestly, when he came we weren't sure he'd finish," said JeNell Buchanan, a counselor at LIL. "He had missed a lot of school in the past. He had a lot of others around him that didn't end up finishing but he continued to persist. He set his mind that no matter who else decided not to finish, he was going to carry on. It took him an extra year, but he didn't give up."

He credits his mother with making sure he didn't drop out, but without LIL, he isn't sure how he would have made it. "They never gave up on me, they were always really supportive, positive."

Sanchez joined the infantry at the end of August and is currently planning on using his service to pay for college, but might change his mind and stay in the military further down the road. Sanchez's great-grandfather was in World War II. His grandfather and his uncle have also served.

He isn't sure that LIL is for everyone, and thinks people should try the high school first. "My teachers over there were great too, they never gave up on me," he explained.

Teacher Tonya Colvin had Sanchez for math and was his advisor. "He was always happy, even when he had to come to school early," she remembers.

She was also impressed at his perseverance. "He actually came into my financial literacy class three weeks later than anyone else," she explained. "He caught up and finished with everyone else."

Tim Langley taught Sanchez for two English classes, and agreed Sanchez really put a lot into not falling behind. "I remember once he went to Mexico for a week or two and came back exhausted and behind in several assignments, but he made them up."

Colvin was initially surprised he wanted to join the Army. "But the more I talked about it with him and heard his passion for it, I was really impressed that he felt so strongly about what it can do for him," she said.

## Alyssa LaFleur Has a Passion for Life, and for Chemistry

Alyssa LaFleur has passions in many directions, all of which she pursues with equal vigor.

That came through in vivid detail when she chose the activities which qualified her for the Congressional Award.

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' award for Americans age 14 to 23. Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals for setting goals in four areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration.

"I had to do 200 hours of Personal Development," LaFleur explained. "You have to set a goal and reach it."

She chose to participate in November's National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). "You set a word goal and try to write a novel that long in the month." She completed her goal, writing an urban fantasy and science fiction novel that she is still revising.

"Alyssa goes beyond the set standard and takes on additional challenges," said her writing teacher Jeri Lou Timmons-Tharp. "Outside her academics, Alyssa is extremely philanthropic. I am positive this humanitarian will continue to do so in adulthood."

For the Expeditions portion of the Congressional Award, the daughter of Maria and Brad LaFleur, drew again on her creativity. For the silver medal she went to Emerald City ComiCon, a convention for lovers of comic books and pop culture, but for the gold... she went panning for it.

"I actually went panning for gold in the Cascades for three nights and four days," she said. "It was more difficult than I expected. There was a lot of mud." They didn't find much gold. "Gold panning is not a career I'd be interested in," she said with a smile.

She also completed 400 hours of Physical Fitness and Public Service. "One of the activities she did was to coordinate with the City of Monroe to clean up different parks," said her school counselor Sarah Parry.

LaFleur attended Running Start beginning in her junior year, choosing to take a variety of math and science classes instead of focusing on getting an associate degree in one area.

"She did the whole calculus series and the whole chemistry series because she wanted to go into math and science but wasn't sure what," said Parry. "She achieved a perfect 4.0." She also tutored other students in the college's calculus lab.

"I'm glad I took all the different types of science because it helps you see how it's all connected," observed LaFleur, who is considering going into research science after college. "I would like to discover new knowledge."

She appreciated being able to take high school classes earlier at Sky Valley Education Center than she would have elsewhere. LaFleur currently attends Whitworth University where she studies biochemistry. "I really like biology and chemistry," she said. "It's the best of both in one thing."

Continued on page 12

## Class of 2015 grads ...

Continued from page 5

Vanessa Salnave	Victoria Space	Alex Vidican
Armando Sanchez	Alexander Spahman	Erika Villalobos
Chloe SanClemente Thompson	Taylor Stacy	Kyrene Villavicencio
Luis Sandoval	Anthony Staffenhagen	Robert Vinecke
Chelsea Santjer	Kayla Steltz	Bryan Viveros Sanchez
Bailey Sarto	Lauren Stephenson	Jonathan Vorachak
Arianna Sax	Derek Stevens	Cassidy Wahlbom
Isaac Sayers	Tyler Stevenson	Jacob Walker
Nicholas Schmeck	Stephen Stewart	Lacey Wentler
Trenton Schroeder	Andrew Stidham	Taleah Werda
Rebekah Schuh	Amber Stowell	Kees Westra
Zachary Schultz	Mikayla Strand	Ashley Wharry
Edward Scott	Alyssa Strowe	Brandon White
Caleb Sebastian	Jared Suggs	Parker White
Zakaria Seddiki	Jennifer Sundholm	Matison Wichser
Lilly Sedlak	Hannah Swayne	Marlena Wied
Devin Sepich	Shaye Sweet	Conner Wiegele
Edgar Sevilla	Elizabeth Taggart	Isaac Wiken
Kunal Sharma	Colin Tate	Ashton Williams
Zachary Shaw	Samantha Taylor	Dakota Williams
Fatima Sheikh	Amanda Thannisch	Tyler Windsor
Rhen Shore	Mitchell Thatcher	Ariana Winkler
Morgan Shouey	Derek Thomas	Logan Wintermute
Braymer Shuey	Jake Tofilau	Logan Wiseman
Taylor Skadan	Rebecca Torheim	Tristan Witham
Alisha Skoglund	Kimberly Torres	Dustin Wolanski
Morgan Skoog	Ivan Tsaruk	Blake Wolff
Wyatt Skoog	Matthew Turner	Cameron Wood
Emily Slack	Samantha Tymczak	Sara Woodard
Jessi Smith	Sierria Underdown	Riley Woods
Jessica Smith	Amarantha Uribe	Remington Workman
Katie Smith	Jurgen Urrutia	Alec Woyke
Selena Smith	Shian Vafaezadeh	Brianna Wright
Skyler Smith	Allyson Valento	Nungeg Susan Xiong
Spencer Smith	Logan Valenzuela	Lavinia Yap
Devan Snider	Amber Van Brunt	Justin Young
Emily Sohn	Jake Van Winkle	Julian Yusko
Keilah Sommer	Katie Vaughn	Andrew Zimmerman
Kelsey Soules	Anayeli Velasco-Garcia	
Charlie Soulier		

## Report to the Community

is a publication of Monroe Public Schools

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# Within the walls: Tech Levy adding access for students

More and more students are finding easier access to online academic resources thanks to our community's support of the 2014 Technology Levy.

More mobile devices - think chromebooks or laptops - are finding their way into the hands of students.

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. "We are continuing to add more wireless points but even wireless needs a wired backbone," Butz explained.

Approved by voters in 2014, the first collection began in 2015. The levy expires 2020.

In addition to the levy dollars, many school booster groups and the Monroe Public Schools Foundation have stepped up to "match" district purchases creating even greater access. This winter using DonorsChoose.org, MHS teacher Sam Adams received 70 chromebooks. The district contributed about \$5,000 to purchase carts and licenses to support effective management of the devices. The district also purchased new desktop computers for every classroom teacher using non-levy dollars.

Butz is very impressed with the way that the new technology has already started to encourage students to be more involved in their education.

Increased access has resulted in greater student engagement in their learning. "You truly appreciate the power of technology used well in a class setting," said Butz. "It wouldn't be possible to this degree without the community partnership and commitment."

*"We need our students to be competitive, and this levy is allowing us to come closer to that than we've ever been before,"*

**Rachelle Butz,**  
Director of Assessment and  
Instructional Technology

The first phase of the plan included infrastructure of wiring and cabling in the computer labs and new computers in those labs. The second phase includes integrated infrastructure to support a more reliable and robust network. While all schools have had some level of improvement, the buildings targeted for modernization or expansion from the 2015 bond will receive upgrades as part of the construction process.

Butz pointed out that technology is imbedded throughout the state's learning standards.

"A lot of the new curriculum resources are internet based so we need to be able to provide that stable access so students can get to it any time during the day," Butz explained.

Butz noted that students are already using Office 2013 and GoogleDocs at home or on personal devices. "Our commitment is for kids to graduate college and career ready, which means teaching them to use multiple platforms so they can compete after graduation," she said.

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 classes to the teachers to help them engage students in using technology in their everyday assignments and projects. "We need our students to be competitive, and this levy is allowing us to come closer to that than we've ever been before," she said.



Photo by Catherine Martin

## Field of Dreams opens at MHS

Finally, after more than 15 years, Monroe High School students are able to play softball on their campus ball field planned for the Tester Road site when the school opened in 1999. Prior to the Fastpitch Softball team's 2016 season opener against Seattle Prep (Bearcats won 19-0), local leaders gathered to cut the ribbon officially opening the field. (above) back row, l-r Scout Cudaback, City Councilwoman Patsy Cudaback, Eric Gold, architect from D.A. Hogan, School Board Director Jim Scott, City Councilman Kirk Scarborough, City Councilman Ed Davis, School Board Director Jason Hutchinson, City Councilman Jason Gamble, City Councilman Jeff Rasmussen, MHS Athletic Director Mark Henderson, Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, School Board President Katy Woods; front row, l-r, City Councilman Jim Kamp, School Board Director Darcy Cheesman, MHS Bearcats

- Olivia Fenner, Kacey Hvitved, Morgan Allen (w scissors) and Megan Rybar, MHS Principal John Lombardi. Construction of the \$1.39 million field was made possible by harvesting timber off school district-owned land, receiving generous grants from the county Tourism Promotion Area Advisory Board & the City of Monroe then adding in local school reserve dollars. The next phase of the ball field complex begins in May with building an all-weather surface baseball field and a utility field. This phase is funded by the bond recently approved by local voters. (right) Lady Bearcats get ready to play their first game on the Monroe High School Tester Road campus. The field's all-weather surface will provide greater use by teams during our Pacific Northwest weather and be used by our community during non-school hours.



## Technology plan and progress

### Windows XP Migration – \$653,175

- Microsoft no longer supports Windows XP (as of April 8, 2014). The equipment continues to work, but the longer we continue to use it the more problematic and time consuming its use will become. More and more online resources currently will not allow use of Windows XP.
- **District has now updated 1,311 of Windows XP machines!** Must still address about 796 Windows XP workstations used by students. **2<sup>nd</sup> highest current priority.**
- Phase I (Administrator/Secretary/Counselor/Librarian) **COMPLETED**; Phase II (Labs/Libraries) **COMPLETED**; Phase III (Teachers) **COMPLETED**; Phase IV (Students) **anticipated spring of 2016**

### Network Cabling – \$2,049,949

- Will provide a robust "backbone" for both an improved wired network and significantly expanded and more capable wireless network (Wireless is not an answer in and of itself. Wireless Access Points require a wired backbone.)
- Phase I work (labs and libraries) was **COMPLETED** in January 2015. Phase II work (secondary schools) **COMPLETED** in September 2015. **Phase III work (elementary schools) scheduled for spring 2016. This is currently the highest priority.**

### Central Data Center – \$545,289

- Upgrade primary switching devices (for Gigabyte capability). **COMPLETED**
- Upgrade district firewall and content filtering appliances (currently a bottleneck, and also to increase stability and provide redundancy). **COMPLETED**
- Provide cooling for main servers rooms (increases equipment stability and longevity).
- Replace older servers and expand capacity for virtualization of servers and storage of data/files.

### Instructional Tech Package Completion – \$1,205,101

- All 340 instructional spaces across the district need to have the recommended instructional technology package: Teacher computer, teacher tablet, minimum of 2 student computing devices, printer, interactive whiteboard, document camera, multi-media projector, and classroom audio reinforcement system.
- Located within each school we would like a dedicated computer lab, and two or more "mobile labs" (laptop/tablet/Chromebook), plus various devices that operate as student response systems.
- Will be undertaken once network infrastructure is able to accommodate increased usage. **estimated to begin during the fall of 2016**

### End User Device Refresh Cycle – \$2,066,634

- Refresh existing equipment that is no longer able to perform its intended function effectively.
- Computers, laptops, tablets, interactive whiteboards, document cameras, multi-media projectors, printers, audio reinforcement systems, student response systems, etc., to be "refreshed" on an established cycle.
- Will begin when network infrastructure work is complete, designated Tech Package has been installed in all instructional spaces, and additional Tech Levy funds are available.

### Professional Development – \$540,000

- Each teacher in the school district needs to be proficient in the use of instructional technology equipment, and be able to effectively utilize these products in delivery of the curriculum. (Ongoing throughout)

### Engineering Fees, Permits, and Contingency - \$441,259

**GRAND TOTAL (over six years).....\$7,501,407**

*Levies are like paychecks. The money comes in over time from each April/October property tax collection. Bonds are like a mortgage. Funds are provided in full then repaid over time with interest.*

# Voters approve modernizing plan

*Supermajority - 62.74% say YES to bond, will pay same 2015 tax rate: Park Place Middle starts off list of upgrades planned for every school, MHS baseball field work also set to begin this spring*



Integrus Architecture staff created the drawing above of what Park Place Middle School will look like in August 2018 when modernization is complete at the 800-student campus on West Main Street. Voters approved this project in 2015.

**S**hovels will be turning at Park Place Middle School just as soon as the final dismissal bell rings in June.

Combining local dollars, approved by voters in April 2015, with an estimated \$16.9 million in state money, the \$69 million modernized school will rise up to two stories on the same 19.4 acre site on West Main Street near the intersection of 179th Street SE.

Also this spring, ground will be broken on two new ball fields on the Monroe High Campus. The same architect, D.A. Hogan, designed these fields as the recently opened softball field. The \$2.6 million bid was awarded in December to A-1 Landscaping and Construction of Snohomish. Bidders were asked to also provide a bid to undertake construction this winter rather than waiting for the traditional construction spring start. Costs averaged about \$200,000 more for a winter start so the School Board voted to begin work in the spring.

Several community members, teachers, support staff and architects from Seattle's Integrus Architecture spent the 2015 summer months studying the layout of newer middle schools in the area and how best to design Park Place Middle to meet the evolving needs of students in grade 6, 7 and 8. The group centered their work on these guiding principles:

- The Right Thing for Kids
- Educational Adequacy
- Honor Public Input
- Integration of Technology
- Safety & Health of Staff and Students, and
- Wise and Sustainable Investment

The results of their work were shared with students, staff, families and the community in a series of opportunities. Feedback from those efforts created additional revisions to the June 2016 to August 2018 project.

It is expected to require a full year to build the "learning" wing which includes clusters of classrooms around a shared space all connected by interior hallways that provide greater safety and security. The shared space will be used for students working in small groups, guest speakers or student presentations and activities requiring space to spread out.

In addition, the two story wing will include a new lunch room and space for specialized classes such as art and career and technical courses like robotics.

The next phase begins the following year with additional specialized spaces for children with learning challenges, music classrooms and a revamping of the existing gym built in the mid-1970s.

"The gym is a great size - much larger than you would normally find in a middle school so revamping that space makes sense for students and the project's budget," said Heidi Hansen, Monroe schools' Capital Projects director.

Initially, school leaders had hoped to renovate the current library and lunch room. Unfortunately, the structure of those buildings did not lend themselves to easily or cost-effectively connecting to the interior hallways necessary for greater safety and security. The lunch room building will be demolished but the library will be maintained. It has not yet been determined what functions will occupy that space.

Following the completion of the structure, a football/soccer field and softball field will be installed. Both will have all-weather playing surfaces and lights to allow greater use by students and the community.

Cornerstone Construction from Bothell is on board to build the project. Their staff joined the design efforts early on under the state's alternative public works "general contractor/construction manager" (GC/CM) process. Allowed only on very large projects and by special permission, this method creates a more collaborative relationship between school leaders, architects and builders that often saves money and time. Cornerstone was selected after an intensive and publicly advertised "request for proposal" process.

"Cornerstone has a wealth of experience with this GC/CM progress and has made several suggestions that have

saved money and helped us design a better school," said Hansen.

For the same bond tax rate as property owners had been paying in 2015, Monroe Public Schools leaders will significantly improve the safety, security and operations of some of its oldest schools.

Park Place is the first of several school projects approved in the April 2015 bond. Every school will be improved in some way, but the larger projects will be to:

- Modernize & Expand Salem Woods Elementary School
  - Consolidate & Expand Frank Wagner Elementary School
  - Expand Hidden River Middle School
  - Catch up on smaller improvements & maintenance at all schools
  - Build ball fields at Monroe High School
- Many of these projects will also garner additional state matching money. Overall, Monroe schools will

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 are able make more than \$132 million in improvements using the same 2015 bond tax rate of \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

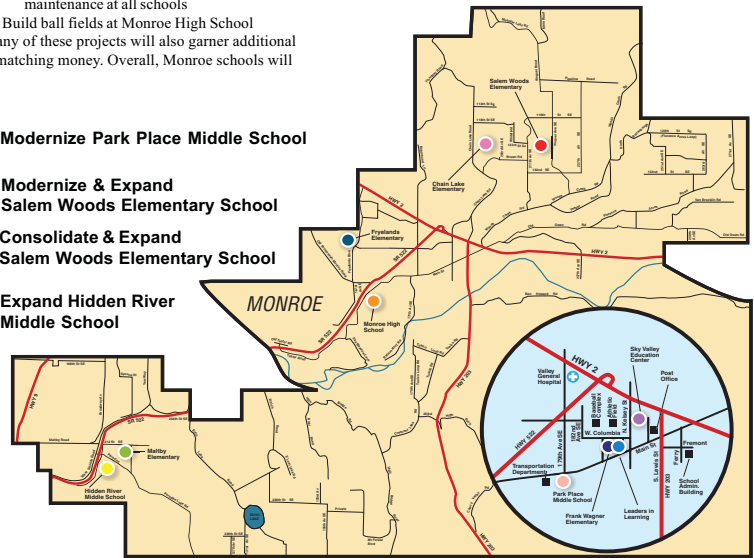
Our community told the School Board in a variety of ways and over several months of discussions that improving schools and maintaining the 2015 bond tax rate were vital. Volunteers serving for 13 months on the Capital Facility Steering Committee made that recommendation in June 2014. Those sentiments were echoed in the more than 1,200 responses to the School Board's 2015 Listening Tour in both online and in-person feedback.

## Modernize Park Place Middle School

## Modernize & Expand Salem Woods Elementary School

## Consolidate & Expand Salem Woods Elementary School

## Expand Hidden River Middle School



## Build ball fields at Monroe High School & upgrade lighting in Performing Arts Center, repair track and resurface, improve access to stadium for athlete and spectator safety

## Chain Lake Elementary School - New entry to parking lot; Roof replacement; Gym drainage; Sump pumps for utility vaults; Replace chalkboards with dry erase boards

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

## Leaders in Learning in Wagner Center - Gutters and downspouts; Replace heat pump compressors & refrigerant

## Maltby Elementary School - Resurface playground asphalt; Inlay game lines saving 80 hours of custodial time per year

## Sky Valley Education Center – 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

- Support Sites - Transportation Department - Resurface asphalt in bus parking area; Maintenance Department - Replace roofing; Administration Building - Upgrade electrical; Replace flooring

At a variety of sites -

- Safety/Security - Cameras, visitor system, keyless entry, lighting, and more
- Additional Building Systems in a variety of locations -Roofing, windows, sidewalks, asphalt, flooring, etc.
- Heating and Ventilation - systems & controls
- Electrical -High and low voltage systems and capacity



# Monroe graduates earn high honors and more than \$11 million in scholarship offers & awards

Below are the Class of 2015 recipients of high academic honors, more than \$11 million in scholarship offers and awards and who were accepted to prestigious schools in our state and across the nation including Michigan State and Xavier University!

**Ablutz, Larissa** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Montana State University Western Undergraduate Exchange Award, Xavier University Presidential Scholarship, University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor's Achievement Scholarship, Army ROTC Scholarship, University of St. Thomas St. Thomas Academic Scholarship, University of St. Thomas Air Force ROTC Scholarship, Miami University Merit Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Award, Gonzaga University Regents Scholarship, Mary Salvadalena Craven Scholarship Award, PSEOP Union Scholarship

**Adams, Autumn** - Honor Society at Everett Community College

**Adams, Jacob** - Sherric Sofie Memorial Scholarship Award

**Adolfson, Jeffrey** - Honor Cord

**Aikins, Howard** - Northwest University Gold Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Albaugh, Nikhia** - Honor Cord

**Alexander, Alexis** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Allsop, Milee** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Alonso-Ordaz, Damian** - Honor Cord

**Amador, Sarah** - Coastal Community Bank Scholarship Award, Sky River Soccer Club Memorial Scholarship

**Ames, Cameo** - High Honors; Running Start

**Amsberry, Garrett** - Honor Cord

**Armstrong, Cathryn** - High Honor Cord, Michigan State University Athletic Scholarship, Michigan State University Red Cedar Scholarship, Michigan State University Scholar, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Swimming & Diving Award, North Dakota State University Swim Award, West Point ROTC Award

**Ashby-Kalin, Taylor** - Seattle Art Institute Portfolio Scholarship Culinary, Chartwells Food Services Scholarship Award; National Technical Honor Society; Honor Roll Sno-Isle Technical Skill Center

**Avalos, Christian** - Academic Challenge Award

**Barron, Reagan** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of Idaho Discover Idaho Platinum Scholarship, Washington State Achievement Award

**Baumgartner, Tamsyn** - Academic Challenge Award, MyOwNly Boarding Kennel Scholarship, Sky NW Scholarship Award

**Bautista, Kyra** - Honor Cord, Frylands Elementary PTA

**Barber, Alexandra**—Bruton Family Scholarship Award

**Bennett, Liam** - Academic Challenge Award

**Bigham, Joseph** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Billerbeck, Kailee** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, California Lutheran University Regents Scholarship, Carroll College Bishop Scholarship, Chapman University Chancellor Scholarship, Seattle University Champion Scholarship, University of Portland Presidential Scholarship, Whitworth University Presidential Scholarship, Hawaii Pacific University Pono Scholarship, Zavier University Presidential Scholarship, Flagler College Presidential Merit Scholarship, Whitworth Enhance Talent Media Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Brader, Zachary** - Honor Cord

**Brady, Brianna** - Honor Cord

**Bredstrand, Payton** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Washington State University Achievement Award, Washington State University College of Liberal Arts Placeholder Award, Washington State Visit WSU Award, Monroe Middle School PTA Award, Monroe Police Association Scholarship

**Bull, Dillon** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Gonzaga University Regent Scholarship, Gonzaga University Grant, University of Portland President's Scholarship, Seattle University Trustee Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Award, Montana State University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award, PSE Union Scholarship

**Burke, Samuel** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Georgia Tech Scholarship, Monroe Lip Sync Scholarship, PSE Union Scholarship

**Burnett, Zana** - Academic Challenge Award

**Bush, Murphy** - High Honors; Running Start

**Bussard, Mitchell**—Speedway Chevrolet Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship

**Calder, Rachel** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Cascadia Community College Foundation Award

**Calder, Sara** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Monroe Kiwanis, Rotary Club of Monroe

**Carlson, Sonia** - Silver Academic Award Northwest University, Northwest University Success Scholarship

**Carlstrom, Alyssa** - Associate of Arts Edmonds Community College; Running Start

**Carothers, Allyson** - Honor Cord, Bearcat Pride Scholarship

**Celix Brianna** - Salutatorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Award, Seattle Pacific University President's Award, Pacific Lutheran University Provost's Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Chartrand, Andrew** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Arizona State University Academic Achievement Award, The University of Arizona Excellence Award, Monroe Police Officers Association Scholarship

**Chavez, Seida** - Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month

**Cheesman, Morgan** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, The University of Arizona Excellence Award, Baylor University Provost's Gold Scholarship, Boise State University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award, Azusa Pacific University Deans' Scholarship, Northwest Nazarene University Wesley Academic Scholarship, Northwest Nazarene University Early Actions Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Chen, Amy** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Cichanski, Jessica** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Pacific Lutheran University President's Scholarship, Salem Woods PTA Scholarship

**Clark, Maya**—Pharm A Save Scholarship Award

**Cole, Wyatt** - Honors

**Connors, Makenna** - High Honor Cord, Charles Wickizer Memorial Scholarship

**Conti, Karina** - 13th Annual Snohomish County Students of Color Career Conference Dare To Dream Scholarship, Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month

**Cook, Chloe** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Willamette University Academic Scholarship, Eckerd College Trustee Scholarship, Ohio Wesleyan University Leland F. and Helen Schubert Scholarship, Wittenberg University Scholar Award, University of Redlands, Achievement Award, University of Redlands Presidential Scholarship, Salve Regina University McAuley Scholarship, Loyola University New Orleans President's Scholarship, The College of Wooster Dean's Award, California Lutheran University Regents Scholarship, Rollins College Dean's Scholarship, Wofford College Merit Scholarship, Rhodes College Ralph C. Hon Scholarship, Wittenberg Special Interest Award and Community Engagement Award, Furman University Bell Tower Scholarship, Furman University Grant, Denison University Founders Scholarship, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21 Scholarship, Clough Family Scholarship Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Cooley, Kianna** - Honor Cord, University of Puget Sound Faculty Scholar, Portland State University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award, Portland State Urban Honor College Laurels Scholarship, Seattle University Bellarmine Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Faculty Scholarship, Monroe Lip Sync Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Cooper, Alysia** - High Honors

**Cope, Kylie** - Arizona Christian University Tennis Award

**Day, Natalie** - Everett Community College Nursing Program, General Hospital Foundation Scholarship Award

**DeFreece, Emily** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, MHS Staff

**Deloye, Emma** - Pacific Lutheran University Music Performance Scholarship

**Dunham, Marika** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Ohio Wesleyan University Branch Rickey Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University President's Scholar, MPSF Scholarship

**Early, Elijah** - Academic Challenge Award

**Ellis, Peyton** - Honor Roll Sno-Isle Technical Skill Center; Honorable Mention for Outstanding Debate-Youth and Government

**Engvall, Cassandra** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Western Washington University Foundation Scholarship, Knox College Lincoln Scholarship, Knox College Service and Leadership Scholarship, Willamette University Scholarship, Whitman College Stephen B. L. Penrose Scholarship, Whitman College Scholarship, Knox College Presidential Finalist Scholarship, Western Washington Michael Haskell Memorial Scholarship, Washington Association of Secondary School Principals Educational Excellence Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Fenner, Owen** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Fix, Chloe** - Honor Cord, Friends of the Monroe Library Scholarship

**Fix, Dennis** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Foye, Rachel** - Academic Challenge Award

**Frye, Allison** - Honor Cord

**Ganger, Treanna** - Academic Challenge Award

**Garbarino, Nickolas** - High Honors

**Garcia, Javier**—Thomas C. Turner Memorial Scholarship

**Garver, Bethany** - Trustees' Scholar Award from Seattle Pacific University, Vera Zandarski Scholarship -Monroe Methodist, ResOverall 4-H East Nationals Arabian Horse Association; National Merit Commended Scholar, Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa, Presidential Honors Award, Faculty Honors Award - Cascadia Community College

**Gaspar, Maria**—Chartwells Food Services Scholarship

**Gerdon, Jameson** - Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Shoreline Community College

**Griego, Isabella** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Grove, Aleesha** - High Honor Cord

**Guerra-Lewis, Raqual** - Academic Challenge Award

**Gunnarson, Mathew** - Academic Challenge Award

**Gutierrez, Juan**—Jones Family Orthodontics

**Haarberg, Kjersten** - High Honors; Associate of Arts Edmonds Community College; Running Start

**Hagans, Chloe** - High Honor Cord, Western Washington University Academic Recognition, Western Washington University WWU Opportunity Pathway Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Lewis & Clark College Dean's Scholarship, Seattle University Champion Scholarship, Seattle University PU Grant

**Hajebi, Sarah**—Running Start

**Hall, Paige** - Academic Challenge Award

**Hammou, Omar** - High Honors; Running Start

**Hancock, Allison** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Whitworth University Presidential Scholarship, University of Oregon Apex Scholarship, Seattle University Champion Scholarship, University of the Pacific President's Scholar

**Hanson, Emily** - Presidential Scholarship from Pacific University, Vocal Music Scholarship from Pacific University, Monroe Lip Sync Scholarship; Varsity letter in Community Service

**Harris, Trinity** - Northwest University Scholarship, Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Shoreline Community College

**Harrison, Emma** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Bearcat Pride

**Haverly, Mariah** - Honor Cord

**Hawa, Abdi** - Honors; Running Start

**Higgins, Mitchell** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of Miami President's Scholarship, University of Washington University Scholarship, Rotary Club of Monroe

**Hirschberg, Patricia** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Horsley, Matthew** - Honor Cord

**Hull, Kaitlyn** - Running Start

**Hunt, Austin** - Academic Challenge Award

**Jackson, Tavin** - Honors; Running Start

**Jensen, Stephanie** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Johansen, Andrew**—Patrick Murphy Memorial Scholarship, Rotary Club of Monroe

**Johnson, Bethany** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of Idaho Platinum Level Scholarship, Boise State University Gem Waiver, Chain Lake PTA, Dr. Max, MEA Teacher's Union Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Johnson, Kari** - Multnomah University: Trustee Scholarship, AWANA Citation, First Generation Scholarship, FAFSA Early File Scholarship, MU Grant, Campus Visit Scholarship, Barry University - University Award, Bellhaven University, Bethel College - Merit Award, Cedarville University - Provost Scholar Award, Central Christian - Academic Award, Emmaus Bible College: Christian Character, AWANA, President's Scholarships, George Fox University, King's College - President's Scholarship, Mt. Vernon Nazarene - Academic Scholarship and Presidential & Honors Scholarship, Yale, Dallas Baptist University - Academic Excellence/AWANA, Tulane University Scholarship, University of Dayton - Dean's Merit Scholarship, University of Texas Dallas - Academic Excellence, William Jessup University - English Department Scholarship

**Johnson, Michaela** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Southern Utah University Presidents Non-Resident Full Tuition Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Western Washington College of Business & Economics Distinguished Scholars, Colorado Mesa University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award, Colorado Mesa University Trustee Scholar Award, Northern Arizona University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award, Northern Arizona University Gold Nonresident Tuition Scholarship, Montana State University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award

**Jost, Kristen** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Gonzaga University Gonzaga Guarantee Award

**Kammeyer, Raven** - Honors

**Kingery, Courtney** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Koontz, Tyler** - High Honor Cord, University of Redlands Achievement Award, University of Redlands Presidential Scholarship, University of Redlands Grant, California Lutheran University Regents Scholarship, Pepperdine University Grant, Biola University Trustee's Scholarship, Chapman University Presidential Scholarship, STEM Scholarship Award

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# Honors rolled in for 2015 grads

Continued from page 9

**LaFleur, Alyssa** - Whitworth University - Heart & Mind Scholarship, Wash Opportunity Scholarship Dist#39, Puget Sound Engineering & Science Scholarship, The Nellie Martin Carman Scholarship, Sky Valley PTA Scholarship, Most Valuable Student Elks National Foundation, Monroe Schools Foundation Scholarships, Masons of Everett Scholarship; Wash Scholar 2015 Recognition WA Student Achievement Council, Washington Scholar Award 39th Legislative District Congressional Award Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal and Certificate, Phi Theta Kappa, Presidential Honors Award, Faculty Honors Award - Cascadia Community College, "Super Kid" Everett Herald, nominated by Monroe School District

**Land, Jordyn** - Honor Cord, Dr. William Prenevost Educational Leadership Award, Frank Wagner Elementary "No Excuses University", Fraternal Order of Eagles/Past Presidents, MHS Staff, Monroe Gun and Rod Club/Donnie Millbach Memorial, Monroe Sky Valley YMCA Scholarship Award

**Larson, Jordan** - Honor Cord

**Laskowski, Emily** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Pennsylvania State University Provost's Award, University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor's Achievement Scholarship

**Leazer, Karrin** - High Honors; Associate of Arts Everett Community College; Running Start; National Oceans Science Bowl Regional Winner Quarter Scholarship, University of Washington City Merit Scholarship

**Lesi, Delton** - Running Start

**Lidditt, Sally** - MPSF Scholarship, Monroe Fire Fighter's Union Scholarship

**Ligmond, Eric** - Thom Biderbost Memorial Scholarship

**Looker, Rethlyn** - Running Start

**Lothrop Laura** - Iowa Central Community College Athletic Scholarship, Iowa Central Community College English Scholarship

**Lugo, Angela** - Honor Cord

**MacRae, Haley** - High Honor Cord, MyOwnly Boarding Kennel Scholarship

**Mallott, Hailey** - Eastern Washington University American Indian Studies Program's Multicultural Achievement Scholarship

**Mamales, Haley** - MPSF Scholarship

**Matyas, Jessica** - High Honor Cord, Brigham Young University Scholarship

**Meek, Caitlin** - Running Start

**Missildine, Rebecca** - Honors; Associate of Arts South Puget Sound Community College

**Moore, Loryn** - High Honor Cord, Arizona State University Dean's Award, The University of Arizona Excellence Award

**McGovern, Macey** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of the Pacific Merit Scholarship, University of the Pacific Dean's Scholarship, University of the Pacific Scholarship, Chain Lake PTA, Monroe Kiwanis, Rotary Club of Monroe

**McIntosh, Madelynn** - Academic Challenge Award

**Miller, Audrey** - Academic Challenge Award

**Mixayphone, Shanden** - Academic Challenge Award

**Moore, Karl** - High Honor Cord

**Moore, Loryn** - Academic Challenge Award

**Mullin, Jacob** - Academic Challenge Award, Dr. Max, Fraternal Order of Eagles/Sandy Smith Memorial Scholarship

**Myall, Taylor** - High Honors; Running Start

**Nagy, Hannah** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of San Francisco President's, University of Portland President's Scholarship Merit Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Confirmation Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Provost Merit Award

**Navarro, Sophia** - Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Everett Community College

**Nemeth, Leah** - Monroe Historical Society Haji Family Scholarship

**Newsome, Tristan** - Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Dean's Scholarship, Frank Wagner PTA

**Nishikawa, Ryan** - Monroe Gun and Rod Club/Donnie Millbach Memorial Scholarship

**Nixon, Ashley** - Western Wash University Scholarship, Fairhaven Walking/Yoga Scholarship, Masons of Everett Scholarship; Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Everett Community College

**Noto, Jordan** - Barbara G Hausmann Memorial Scholarship Award

**O'Connor, Aidan** - Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Everett Community College ORCA Program

**Parkinson, Jake** - Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Cascadia Community College; Programming Foundations Certificate Cascadia Community College

**Paszek, Jamie** - High Honor Cord

**Pathompornvivat, Chawin** - High Honor Cord, MHS Staff, Monroe Sky Valley YMCA Scholarship Award, MPSF Scholarship, Monroe Kiwanis

**Plankenhorn, Brittany** - Honor Cord

**Platt, Mackenzie** - Honors; Associate of Arts South Puget Sound Community College

**Pollevann, Subrina** - Seattle Pacific University Dean's Scholar Award, Seattle Pacific University Visitor Scholarship

**Pownall, Torri** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Washington State University Future Cougars of Color Scholarship, Dr. Max, Rotary Club of Monroe

**Rasciner, Micaela** - Academic Challenge Award

**Reynolds, Jared** - Northwest University Academic Achievement Award, University of Hawaii Western Undergraduate Exchange Award

**Riser, Mitchell** - Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Everett Community College

**Robinson, Danielle** - Associate of Arts Olympic College; Running Start; Biola University - Dean's Academic

**Rocha Martinez, Maria** - Honor Cord, Bernhardt Family Scholarship Award

**Rogers, Austin** - Academic Challenge Award

**Rolfson, Bennett** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Ruiz, Amalia** - Academic Challenge Award, Monroe Lions Club Scholarship

**Rutledge, William** - Running Start

**Salmi, Nicole** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month, Pacific University Oregon Presidential Scholarship, University of Portland President's Scholarship, Eastern Washington University EWU Presidential Scholarship, Western Oregon University Presidential Scholarship, Western Oregon University General Scholarship, Western Oregon University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Award, PSE Union Scholarship, Thomas C. Turner Memorial Scholarship

**Salnave, Vanessa** - Studio West Dance Academy Scholarship

**SanClemente Thompson, Chloe** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Ohio Wesleyan University Leland F. and Heal Schubert Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, Western Washington University Foundation Scholarship, Willamette University Scholarship, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Chancellor's Award, Wittenberg University Scholar Award, Seattle University Trustee Scholarship

**Santjer, Chelsea** - Academic Challenge Award

**Schmeck, Nicholas** - Monroe Sky Valley YMCA Scholarship Award

**Schroeder, Trenton** - Academic Challenge Award, Dr. Max, MPSF Scholarship

**Schultz, Zachary** - PSEOP Union Scholarship

**Seddiki, Zakaria** - Honors; Running Start

**Sepich, Devin** - Academic Challenge Award, Arizona State University Academic Excellence Scholarship

**Sharma, Kunal** - Salutatorian, High Honor Cord Academic Challenge Award,

**Shaw, Zachary** - Honors; Running Start

**Sheikh, Fatima** - Running Start

**Shuey, Braymer** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Vanguard University Presidential Scholarship

**Smith, Katie** - Running Start

**Smith, Selena** - Running Start

**Sommer, Keilah** - Calvary Chapel Bible College Award; AWANA Citation Award

**Soules, Kelsey** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Spahman, Alexander** - Academic Challenge Award, Washington State University Achievement Award, Central Washington University Grant

**Staffenhagen, Anthony** - High Honors

**Steltz, Kayla** - Academic Challenge Award

**Stevenson, Tyler** - Oregon State University OSU Non-Resident Grant, Oregon State University Tuition Grant Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship



Emily Slack, Jessica Cichanski and Jordan Noto were all smiles as they prepared to graduate from Monroe High School. In total, the Class of 2015 including all Monroe Public Schools' programs earned more than \$11 million in scholarships.

**Stewart, Stephen** - Gold Academic Award Northwest University, Talent Scholarship Northwest University, Monroe Lip Sync Scholarship; Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Everett Community College ORCA Program; Eagle Scout

**Strowe, Alyssa** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Seattle Pacific University President's Scholarship Award, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, University of Portland President's Scholarship, Arizona State University President's Award

**Suggs, Jared** - Washington State Bowling Proprietors Association Award

**Swayne, Hannah** - High Honors

**Sweet, Shaye** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Arizona State University

**Taggart, Elizabeth** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Taylor, Allyson** - Tech Prep

**Taylor, Samantha** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, George Fox University Duke Scholarship, Clough Family Scholarship Award

**Thannisch, Amanda** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, MPSF Scholarship

**Thomas, Derek** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Torres, Kimberly** - Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month

**Turner, Matthew** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Underdown, Sierra** - Honor Cord

**Urrutia, Jurgen** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Valento, Allyson** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Van Brunt, Amber** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of Puget Sound Trustee Scholarship, Whitworth University Mind and Heart Scholarship, Montana State University Achievement Award, Pacific Lutheran University Provost's Scholarship, MPSF Scholarship

**Vidican, Alex** - Central Washington University Football Award, Eastern Oregon University Scholarly Remission Award, Eastern Oregon University Residence Life Housing Scholarship

**Villavicencio, Kyrene** - High Honors, University of Alabama -Blazer Gold Scholarship, University of Alabama Collegiate Scholarship, University of Provost, Catholic University of America: Parish Scholarship, Alumni Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Scholarship

**Vorachak, Jonathan** - Academic Challenge Award, MHS Staff, MPSF Scholarship

**Walker, Jacob** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Dr. Kenneth Hoover, Dr. William Prenevost Education Leadership Award, Rotary Club of Monroe

**Walters, Carter** - Tech Prep

**Westra, Kees** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Wied, Marlena** - Associates of Arts and Sciences Degree Everett Community College ORCA Program

**Wiegale, Conner** - Bearcat Pride Scholarship

**Wichser, Matison** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, University of San Diego Alcala Award, University of Hawaii Western Undergraduate Exchange, Willamette University Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University Trustees' Scholar Award, Eckerd College Grant, Eckerd College Trustee Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Award, University of San Diego USD Scholarship, Alpine Accident and Injury Center, PSE Union Scholarship

**Winkler, Ariana** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Western Washington University Western Leadership Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship, University of Portland President's Scholarship, Portland State University Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Scholarship, Pacific University Oregon Presidential Scholarship, Pacific University Oregon Online Scholarship, Pacific University Oregon Washington Student Achievement Award, Willamette University Scholarship, George Mason University Mason Freedom Award, University of New Haven Distinguished Scholar Award, Hamline University Honors Scholarship, Bearcat Pride Scholarship

**Wiseman, Logan** - Academic Challenge Award

**Witham, Tristan** - Furrer Family Scholarship Award

**Wright, Brianna** - High Honor Cord, Washington State University-The College of Agricultural Human, and Natural Resource Sciences and WSU Viticulture and Enology Scholarship Award

**Wolanski, Dustin** - Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award

**Wolff, Blake** - Honor Cord, Saint Martin's SMU Scholarship

**Wood, Cameron** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Monroe Lions Club Student of the Month, Northwest University Gold Scholarship, Azusa Pacific University President's Scholarship, Westmont President's Scholarship, Northwest University President's Scholarship

**Woodard, Sara** - Academic Challenge Award, Bearcat Pride Scholarship

**Woods, Riley** - MPSF Scholarship, Monroe Lip Sync, Monroe Arts Council, Rotary Club of Monroe

**Wright, Brianna** - Academic Challenge Award

**Yap, Lavinya** - High Honor Cord, Academic Challenge Award, Pitzer College Scholarship

**Young, Justin** - Valedictorian, High Honors

**Yusko, Juliann** - Valedictorian, High Honor Cord, Washington State University Regents Scholarship, Washington State Destination Scholarship, Washington State University-The College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences and Department of Apparel, Merchandising, Design and Textiles Scholarship, Hidden River Middle School Scholarship

**Zimmerman, Andrew** - High Honor Cord, Washington State University Visitation Award, Washington State University Achievement Award, Imagine Scholarship Award, Monroe Lions Club Scholarship

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.



## Learning comes first in Monroe's public schools and in 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 <[smithf@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:smithf@monroe.wednet.edu)> or US Mail to Dr. Fredrika Smith, 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 72% 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 McCleary 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 budget areas shown in the pie charts:

### 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

## Save the DATE! June 18, 2016

Monroe Public Schools presents

### "Celebrating Success; Framing the Future"

A community-wide conversation focused on continued student success



Together, we have accomplished much for the children of Monroe. With your support, Monroe Public Schools' students are excelling in many areas from arts to academics to athletics.

While we are justifiably proud of our students, we are also aware of the challenges created by an ever-changing society and globally-connected world. The jobs our current elementary students will secure after high school graduation will look much different than those of today. In response, we must continually monitor and adjust our educational methods to ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to be future-ready.

You are an important voice in our community and, again, we need your involvement and partnership to imagine the future of Monroe's schools. Your input will help us craft a renewed vision for a changing future that will guide all functional aspects of the district's work.

Please join us for a day of celebration, collaboration and imagination on Saturday, June 18 from 8 am to 4 pm. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided so bring your appetite and your big ideas!

#### Details

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016

Time: 8 am to 4 pm

Location: Monroe High School, 17001 Tester Road

Childcare available

## Notice of

### Non-Discrimination

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:

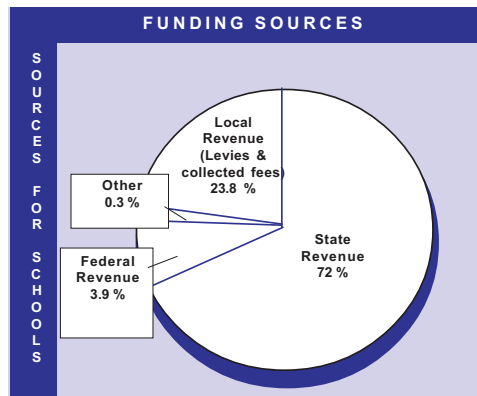
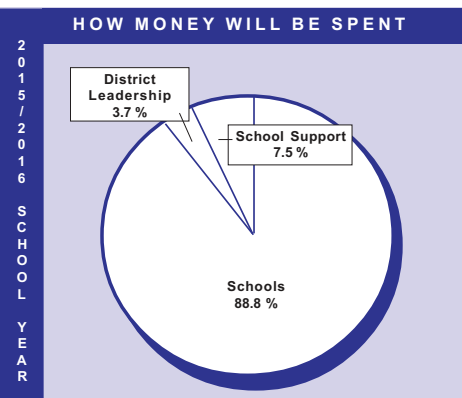


• **Title IX Coordinator** - Justin Blasko  
200 E Fremont, Monroe, WA 98272 - 360.804.2539  
Email: [blaskoj@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:blaskoj@monroe.wednet.edu)

• **Section 504/ADA Coordinator** - David Paratore  
200 E Fremont, Monroe, WA 98272 - 360.804.2603  
Email: [paratored@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:paratored@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)

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



Copies of the 2015-2016 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.

transitional bilingual education programs, contact Ginnie Ayres, 360.804.2558 or by email at [ayresg@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:ayresg@monroe.wednet.edu).

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 head out to achieve even more success

Continued from page 6

**Maria de Los Angeles Rocha Martinez, From Zero to College in Only Four Years**



**Maria de Los Angeles Rocha Martinez**

When Maria de Los Angeles Rocha Martinez arrived in Monroe from Colombia 4 years ago she didn't speak a word of English. And this year she's a student at Western Washington University.

Martinez's mother Braulia Martinez and stepfather Richard Farver married in 2009 and brought her to the United States in 2012.

When Martinez arrived, she couldn't wait to go to school. "I didn't want to miss any days - I didn't want to be left behind," she said.

Judith Rosas, Assistant Principal at MHS, noted that Martinez was very shy when she arrived. "We got her into classes to learn English and she was determined to get things done. She's a real go-getter," Rosas noted.

Rosas added that our American education system is quite different from other countries. "When she learned what she needed to do, she put her nose to the grindstone," she explained.

Martinez studied hard in her classes to learn English. "After that I decided I wanted to go out of the classroom and start building relationships with other students, and developing my language a little bit better," she commented.

"I had to work really hard to build relationships outside of the Spanish speakers," she explained. In 11<sup>th</sup> grade she joined the swim team and the softball team and helped start a cultural club. She also volunteered at the library and the local food bank.

Farver observed that Martinez has a great deal of focus. "Anything that can help her learn, she's open to that," he said.

Martinez credits the support she felt at Monroe for her success. "I feel really lucky and my mom feels that way too, to find this school community," she said.

She was especially grateful to her Advanced Placement English teacher, Giles Stanton. "This year he has been the most helpful teacher," she said. "The way to get into university is different in Colombia. He was a really big help in letting me understand how it works."

"Mr. Horner first introduced me to Maria, mentioning her focus and passion for education," noted Stanton.

"Based on his recommendation, I took her on as an Independent Study student and we focused on her college applications. She also joined the Advanced Placement literature class. In both cases, Maria excelled, often leading the class with her fine and passionate insights," he explained.

Martinez is not sure what area she will focus her college studies on, but is very interested in photojournalism.

"I'm also interested in business, I'm interested in animation and graphic design. I'm

interested in a lot of things but those are the main ones," she said with a smile.

"Three and a half years after speaking zero English, she's accepted to two universities," marveled Rosas.

"In 27 years of being in education, I've never seen a kid do what she did. And that includes kids who are native English speakers!"

## Justin Young First Saw His Teachers at His Graduation Ceremony

Justin Young, valedictorian for his class, met most of his teachers for the very first time at the graduation ceremony.

That's because he was a full time student of the online Washington Virtual Academy (WAVA), as he has been since elementary school. Young is very appreciative of his WAVA classroom experience.

"We communicate with each other through Kmail and Project K-Nect, which is like a real classroom," he explained.

"Using the software, the students interact with each other through microphones and show each other slide shows."

The son of Don and Kitty Young began studying solely online when his mother saw the quality of the curriculum.

"I took calculus, fine arts, health science, physics, trigonometry, Spanish, computer programming and image designing and also creative writing," Young said.

"Justin is a smart, interesting, and polite student. He works hard to accomplish his goals," said his virtual homeroom teacher, Jennifer Overton.

"Academically, he excelled in his class work. He participated in his community with activities as well. He will excel in his life whatever he chooses to pursue."

The creative writing classes were good enough that his novel won a Gold Medal in the National Scholastic Awards. He went to Carnegie Hall to receive his award. He also picked up a Silver Medal for one of his paintings.

Young has been studying Italian art for seven years, and has competed in the national competition for the United States Post Office to have his painting put on a duck stamp. "I never got on a stamp, but I won Best of Show. It's pretty nice."

Young recently moved to the Vancouver area to attend Washington State University and major in Computer Science as well as continuing with his art. "I like that programming is very straightforward. It's useful for many things," he explained.

"My favorite subjects in school are Spanish, physics and health science. With Spanish I get to see more of the world outside of where I live, and I get to see more of the culture around the world, particularly in South America. And for physics I get to learn more about how the things around us work like electricity and magnets," he explained.

Young loved attending WAVA because it allowed him to plan his own schedule, as well as fit with his learning style.

"I like that I can read things online because sometimes I may not remember everything the teacher said, and if I can look at it online, it's easier for me to remember," he observed.

"Reading online helps me learn better."

## Award winning staff

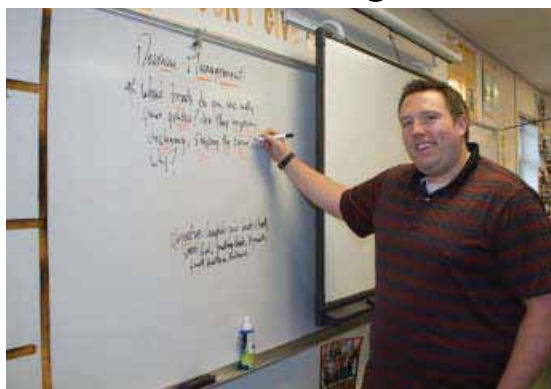


Photo by Catherine Martin

### Top Teacher for 2016

Teacher of the Year for 2016 is Monroe High School's Matt Chalfant. After completing two bachelor's degrees, he joined the faculty in 2008 as a teacher for children with special needs. His leadership in the classroom and among his teaching colleagues has helped substantially increase the number of students on track to graduate. Teacher of the Year is awarded by the Sultan Monroe Masonic Lodge.



**Bonnie McKerney**

### Maltby leader named Principal of the Year

Bonnie McKerney, Maltby Elementary School's principal, was selected as one of the state's top elementary school principals by the Association of Washington School Principals. Bonnie is one of 18 elementary principals to win this regional award and her name goes forward to the next level - statewide Principal of the Year. She was lauded for leading by example using loads of kindness and inspiration.

### Sky Valley chief is best in Western WA

In the annual contest by KING 5 TV's Evening Magazine, Sky Valley Education Center's director Karen Rosencrans was voted the Best Principal in Western Washington. Her staff credits her leadership and integrity for the honor. Rosencrans cites a laser focus on what it takes for every child to discover his/her passion.



**Karen Rosencrans**



**Mary Myers**

### Monroe's top nurse honored by state

Assistant Director for Health Services Mary Myers was honored by the School Nurse Organization of Washington as the School Nurse Administrator of the Year. She was lauded for her leadership in increasing availability for all students to health services and eliminating health-related barriers to learning. Mary joined Monroe Public Schools in 1985 as the school nurse for Maltby Elementary.

### Carson Bowles Has a 3D Plan for the Future

Carson Bowles dreams of designing cars. Between Everett Community College

and MHS he took three years of technical track classes, including 3D CAD classes, which he loved.

"The creativity interests me - I can build what I want. I have an idea, and I can take something from just scraps and make it cool," he reflected. "You can build whatever you want."

Bowles is studying welding and composites at Everett Community College. He'd like to own his own car company some day, but for now he is focused on a career in welding or composites, hopefully at Boeing or at BMW's composites factory in Moses Lake.

During his freshman and sophomore years Bowles participated in football and wrestling, but ceased due to an injury. Outside of school he got his Eagle Scout award and did a lot of outdoor activities like camping and hiking, including climbing Mt. Rainier. For his Eagle Scout project he built a covered rain shelter area for the Wigglely Field dog park.

Bowles appreciated the support of the

technical education teachers Bob Simoni and Rich McCutchan. "They were some of my main influences."

He observed that he's going to really miss the football games. "If you ask any Monroe student, the football games are the best thing." He'd heard from a student who transferred from another district that one of the things that really stands out in Monroe is the sense of unity. "Everyone is a lot closer to each other than other schools. That's something everyone loves at Monroe," he said.

Rich McCutchan spent a year teaching at the high school before transferring to the middle school where he is now. That year he had Bowles in computer drafting design and was impressed with Bowles' diligence.

"He was a super nice kid, quiet, hardworking, really nice to have in the classroom. He designed from scratch a 3D model of a car, kind of a chopped hot rod car, with unbelievable detail."

"He became, through no credit to me, quite adept at the 3D modeling program," noted McCutchan.

"Usually when there was a problem a student had that I couldn't solve, Carson could go in and figure out what was going on and help," McCutchan added.

"I think with his work ethic and his disposition, he has a really good shot of doing whatever he wants," said McCutchan.

"He has the interest level and the perseverance. When he gets new information, he really soaks it in and goes after it."

### Join our team!

Monroe Public Schools offers a wide variety of working opportunities for community members with a heart to share with children of all ages. Check out the Human Resources page at [www.monroe.wednet.edu](http://www.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" documents our schools are able to produce. Information is available 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 by email to [oneilr@monroe.wednet.edu](mailto:oneilr@monroe.wednet.edu).