

WOODBURN Pride

SCHOOL DISTRICT



Spring 2016

Straight from the Superintendent

Grad Rates 11% Higher Than State Average

Dear Neighbor,

The state recently released graduation rates for the Class of 2015. The graduation rate includes students who received a standard high school diploma in four years. At 84.5%, our graduation rate is almost 11% higher than the state average. What's more, 91% of our students complete high school when we look at those who take a fifth year of schooling, or receive an extended high school diploma or GED.

The Woodburn School District also continues to exceed state averages in every student demographic category. Our graduation rates for students from low-income households and English Language Learners are almost 19% and 24% higher than the state average respectively. Students with disabilities are 25% higher.

We are receiving a significant amount of recognition for these results, but it is important to know that it took some time to get here. Our efforts to improve graduation rates started more than 20 years ago when we introduced our dual language program. By valuing language, we also value culture and diversity. This translated to stronger parent, student and community involvement in our schools.

We have worked hard to strengthen significant relationships that young people need to thrive. This is through our dedicated teachers, support staff, and creating a more personal learning experience through small high school academies. We also connect kids to their community by making Service Learning a graduation requirement.

Another strategy is supporting the most basic needs of children while they are with us. We provide students with nutritious meals and make sure our facilities are well-maintained and safe with adequate space. It also means believing that all students can learn, and providing a challenging curriculum and academic support after school, on weekends and during summer months. There are also career and college counselors to help our students prepare for life after high school.

We recognize that there is still more work to do and will continue to innovate and improve with each graduating class. In the meantime, we are grateful for our community and the financial support that makes it possible.

Sincerely,

CHUCK RANSOM, Superintendent



Bond Update



Projects are moving along according to the timeline. Administration and project managers meet regularly to coordinate on construction plans. A lot of planning work is underway for the Success High School site, as well as the Washington Elementary expansion.



Over at the new Welcome Center site, where district offices also will be located, new concrete footings and foundations have been poured. Also support trusses on the second floor have been installed in preparation for a new roof beam. In March, we expect to see a new roof on the building.

Want to receive regular updates about bond projects? Please sign up at www.woodburnsd.org—click on "Bond Updates," and scroll down to "Sign-up for Updates" to enter your email.



Woodburn School District
965 N. Boones Ferry Road
Woodburn, OR 97071

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TWEET! TWEET!

Superintendent Chuck Ransom
[@SuptRansom_Wb](https://twitter.com/SuptRansom_Wb) is tweeting
this school year!

Senator Wyden Visits WHS



Senator Ron Wyden hosted a Town Hall Meeting in the Woodburn High School Lectorium in January. High School students were invited to participate in the Q&A forum and some student leaders had a chance to meet with the Senator before the Town Hall.

Project UNIFY Students Win on the Court

On February 10, two Project UNIFY teams met on the basketball court at Woodburn High School. Woodburn's own team took on La Salle, but that evening everyone in the crowded gym was a winner.



The Project UNIFY teams are part of a basketball league of Oregon schools that compete throughout the year. The goal of the program is to give students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to have the same experiences as other high school athletes do from competing together.

The teams are composed of athletes with and without disabilities who work together. The individual skills of each player are not as important as the experiences of sportsmanship and camaraderie that come from playing on a team.

Project UNIFY is a U.S. national project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Project UNIFY brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through education, sports and related initiatives that provide them with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students. For more information on Project UNIFY, please visit www.projectunifyoregon.com.