



WVSD

WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



WWW.WVSD208.ORG/HS

APRIL 2006

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL. . . .

The Rest of the Story on WASL Alternatives to a High School Diploma

Recently, the *Yakima Herald Republic* ran an article indicating the State Legislature had approved various alternatives for students to earn a high school diploma without passing the WASL exam. While the information presented was not incorrect, it was incomplete. During the WASL testing, I made it a point of visiting several of the classrooms where students were preparing to take the Reading and Writing sections. I overheard very interesting comments from the students that indicate they, and most likely their parents, have mis-conceptions about the intent, rigor, and availability of alternative assessments for meeting the WASL standards in math, reading, and writing.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6475 contains options for students who fail to meet the identified State standards in math, reading, and writing. However, there are very specific conditions under which those alternatives may be undertaken. Listed below are two of the conditions specified in the law that may clarify your perception of for whom and how alternatives are available:

Section 1.1 "Before seeking an alternative assessment, the legislature expects students to make a genuine effort to meet state standards, through retaking the Washington Assessment of Student Learning; regular and consistent attendance at school; and participation in extended learning and other assistance programs."

Section 4.12a "The (student learning) plan shall include the courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for graduation."

What does this mean? Section 1.1 Before a student is eligible to apply for an alternative assessment, they must first take the WASL a **minimum of two times**. They are expected to make a **genuine effort** to do well on the assessments. Students who "blow off" the exam as documented by the WASL proctor are **NOT** eligible for the alternative assessment. Students who have **poor attendance** (truant, excused, unexcused) are **NOT** eligible for the alternative assessment. Students who do not take advantage of the **WASL interventions** provided by the school district either during the summer or before or after school are **NOT** eligible for the alternative assessment. The school must approve the student's application for an alternative assessment.

Section 4.12a The **student**, not the school, or teacher, or parent, is required to fulfill the conditions of the Student Learning Plan. When that plan outlines specific courses or other interventions and the student does not follow through with those expectations, the student is **NOT** eligible for an alternative assessment. You can depend on the Student Learning Plan to require additional math instruction for students who do not meet the math standard. Should the student fail those additional courses, he/she is **NOT** eligible for alternative assessments. You can expect regular school attendance and completion of assignments to appear as generic expectations for all students on a Student Learning Plan. Students who do not complete assignments or have excessive absences are **NOT** eligible for alternative assessments.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

- **Registrar:**
Lori Jones 972-5924
- **Attendance:**
Sandie Hennessy 972-5912
- **Counselors:**
Bernie Snow A-Gq 972-5921
Dawn Hester P-Z 972-5919
Jan Chasse Gr-0 972-5920
- **Athletic Director**
Joe Coscarart 972-5942
- **Activities Director**
Craig Lacy 972-5933/972-5969
- **Info Line** 972-5915/ 972-6002
- **Transportation**
966-2403
- **RAP Night School**
Kristin Johnson 972-5941

Please make note of the above phone numbers to help alleviate the congestion coming

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Section 4.12a The **student**, not the school, or teacher, or parent, is required to fulfill the conditions of the Student Learning Plan. When that plan outlines specific courses or other interventions and the student does not follow through with those expectations, the student is **NOT** eligible for an alternative assessment. You can depend on the Student Learning Plan to require additional math instruction for students who do not meet the math standard. Should the student fail those additional courses, he/she is **NOT** eligible for alternative assessments. You can expect regular school attendance and completion of assignments to appear as generic expectations for all students on a Student Learning Plan. Students who do not complete assignments or have excessive absences are **NOT** eligible for alternative assessments.

The *Herald* also made reference to other routes and alternatives to the Certificate of Academic Achievement and high school graduation. The Collection of Evidence option is dependent on the State Board of Directors being able to prove by December 2006 that portfolio submissions meet the same standards of reliability and validity that the WASL has met. The portfolio option must be as rigorous as the test itself. If the State Board of Directors can prove the same standards of reliability and validity, the student must still meet the criteria of Section 1.1 to be eligible.

The WASL Grade Comparison option compares the student's grades with the **grades** of other students in the school who took the same mathematics or English courses as a District identified "cohort" who met or exceeded the WASL standard. If the applicant's grades are equal to or above the mean grades (the grade dead center of the cohort) of the comparison cohort, the applicant will meet the state standard on the alternative assessment. If the mean grade in Math 201/202 for student who passed the math WASL is a B+ and "Charlie" earned a C average in Math 201/202, he is not eligible for this alternative. An applicant may not use this option if there are fewer than six students in the comparison cohort. In other words, if there are not at least six students who met or exceeded the WASL standard in Reading who took the same English classes as "Johnny", Johnny may not use this option as an alternative. In addition, Johnny still has to meet the criteria specified in Section 1.1 (effort, attendance, interventions, and taking the WASL two times). The State Board of Education must develop the procedure for this option by December 2006.

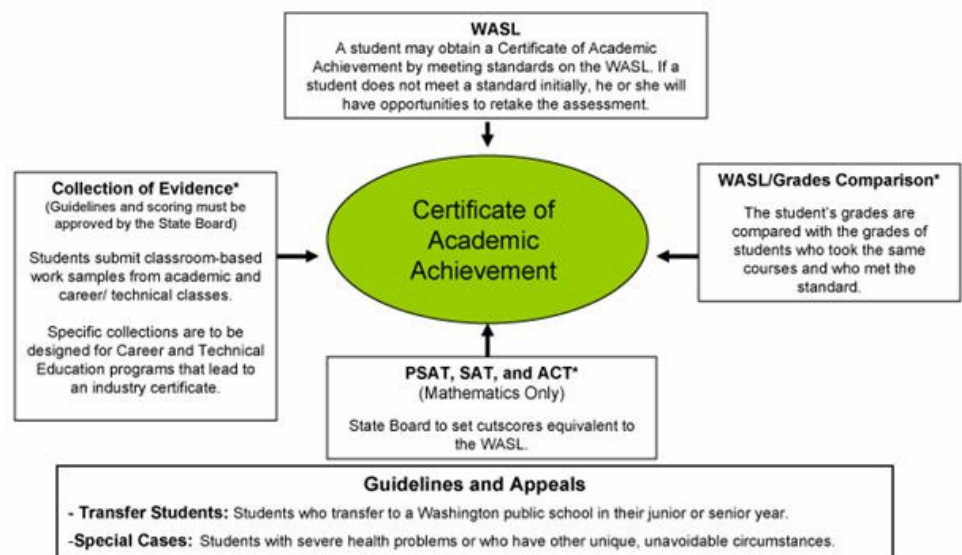
The final option provided by the State is the use of PSAT, SAT, and ACT scores to satisfy the math standard only. The State Board of Directors is charged with setting the cut score on these standardized tests to meet the WASL equivalent. Once the State Board sets the cut score, it may raise it, but never lower it. As with the other two alternatives, this option requires the student meet all the conditions of Section 1.1. For example, "Susie" does not meet the minimum WASL math standard (400) after two attempts. However, she earns a 780 on the math portion of the SAT. Provided she has met all the conditions of Section 1.1, Susie may apply to the State to have her SAT math score satisfy the math WASL requirement for the Certificate of Academic Achievement and high school graduation.

We all have mixed feelings about the WASL and what it means for our children. The requirement of the WASL as a high school graduation requirement was in place before the Class of 2008 entered kindergarten. This is not new information. I encourage you to have honest discussions with your child as to what their performance on the WASL may mean to them in realizing their future goals. I also need you to be aware of the conditions under which a student may seek an alternative route to the Certificate of Academic Achievement and a high school diploma. When I hear students say, "I'll just do the alternative portfolio." I get nervous that they're making life altering decisions without all the information.

We expect to receive the Class of 2008 WASL results by June 9. Student Learning Plans will be developed and mailed home by June 16. WASL interventions are available during summer school for students who did not meet standard in math, reading, or writing. The summer school application is available on the high school web site, www.wvsd208.org/hs, or in the main office. WASL retakes are August 7 - 10.

As Passed 2006 Legislature
Senate Bill 6475

The Multiple Ways to Earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement



- Guidelines and Appeals**
- **Transfer Students:** Students who transfer to a Washington public school in their junior or senior year.
 - **Special Cases:** Students with severe health problems or who have other unique, unavoidable circumstances.

***To be eligible for these options, a student must take the WASL twice and meet attendance and remediation requirements in his/her Student Learning Plan.**

Important Dates to Remember!!!! Please visit our Website for up to date information www.wvsd208.org/hs

- April 3– April 7 Spring Break NO SCHOOL
- April 4 Central Washington Golf Invite
- April 7 Baseball Vs Cheney 3 pm
- April 8 Fastpitch @ Ellensburg 11 am
- April 8 ACT testing YVCC
- April 10 Lift-a-thon 6-8pm
- April 12 Dollars for Scholars Meeting 12:00 pm
- April 14 Tennis Vs Prosser 4 pm
- April 15 Track @ Pasco
- April 18 Graduation/Baccalaureate/Sr.Brunch Speech Try-outs 8:15-10:15 am
- April 18-21 WASL Testing Week 2 7:50 am-10:50 am
Senior Exit Projects
- April 20 Graduation/Baccalaureate/Sr.Brunch Singing Try-outs 8:15-10:15 am
- April 22 WV JrRotc Regionals @ bend, OR
- April 24 WASL Make ups
- April 24 Band Concert and Dessert/Auction 6:30pm in commons
- April 25 06-07 Primary Election Speeches
- April 25 Jostens delivers Graduation Gear if paid in full
- April 28 WMEA State Solo/Ensemble @ CWU

ACT TEST DATE: June 10th...registration deadline May 5
 SAT TEST DATES: May 6th...registration deadline April 3
 June 3...registration deadline April 28th



Red Cross / Honor Society SPRING BLOOD DRIVE

The West Valley High School chapter of the National Honor Society is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 29, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, in the practice gym at West Valley High School. Our goal is to get 105 units of blood! Those wishing to give blood can arrange an appointment by calling or emailing chapter advisor Ron Bergevin and leaving a message containing their name and the time they wish to come in. The phone number is 972-5935. The email address is bergevin@wvsd208.org.

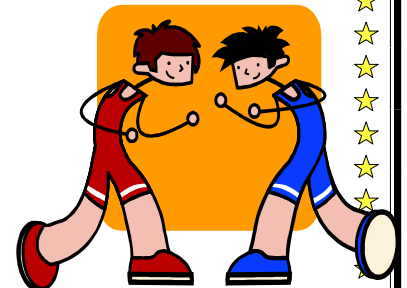


Lunch Accounts Being Rolled Over

Student Lunch Accounts will be rolled over to the 2006-2007 school year. Parents can request a refund by contacting the Child Nutrition Office before Tuesday, June 13th at 972-6040 or 972-6048. A check will be issued to you.

The High School Wrestling Team was honored in February

- ★ with the following accolades: First they were recognized with an "Distinguished Scholastic Team Award" for a combined Varsity GPA of 3.349.
- ★ Secondly we had two Academic State Champions, they were
- ★ Deven Moorman-Stelter 112# Academic State Champ with a 3.31
- ★ Acumulative GPA and
- ★ Mark Lagerquist 152# Academic State Champion with a 3.83 Acumulative GPA.
- ★ In the competition at the AAA State Wrestling Tournament the Rams took three wrestlers to Tacoma and came back with three medal winners. They were: 5th Place at 152# Sr. Mark Lagerquist, 6th Place at 112# Jr. Deven Moorman-Stelter, & 7th Place at 275# Sr. James Gleason.



WVHS March/April 2006 Newsletter Release Document

Attention all incoming 8th – 12th grade football players and parents.

Please plan on attending our spring/summer informational meeting Sunday, March 19th, 2006, @ 3:30 P.M. at West Valley High School, in the Commons area.

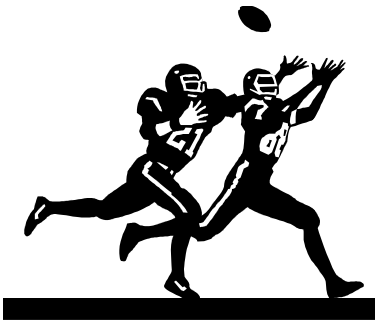
We will be discussing a variety of spring and summer football events planned for the 2006 football year including, but not limited to the following:

- 2006 Football Team Camp @ Eastern Washington University (June 20th-24th)
- 2006 Lift-A-Thon.
- Summer Speed Training.
- Summer Passing Competitions.

Spring/Summer Booster Club Activities.

Have a question? Call the following parent representatives as follows:

- * 8th Grade - Mark & Stephanie Clark - 966-3632
- * 9th Grade – Mike & Bobbi Fuerst, 965-6262
- * 10th Grade – Joe & Julie Wallace, 965-1829
- * 11th Grade – Richard & Samantha Hassett, 966-7518
- * 12th Grade – Gary & JoAnn Jennings, 965-5771



Why are the graduation requirements changing? What is the purpose of the High School and Beyond Plan? What supports are in place to help students in special education?

You will find answers to these questions -- and many more -- on the new graduation requirements Web site launched by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements>.

Written primarily to help families and students understand the new expectations that take effect with the class of 2008, the Web site also includes information and resources for educators.

Key features of the site:

- An explanation of each of the four state-wide graduation requirements.
- Links to the state learning standards for each subject.
- Links to information about the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).
- Information about the academic help being provided to students over the summer and during the school year.
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the requirements.
- Resources for educators, families and students.

This Web site works in tandem with the online WASL resource center – <http://www.wasl2006.org> - launched a couple of weeks ago by OSPI, the Association of Washington School Principals, Partnership for Learning and the Washington State PTA. To promote the site on your organization's Web site, please contact GradReq@ospi.wednet.edu for

* If you know Cindy Peterson, you've been blessed. If you don't know her, ask and you'll hear a story of grace, giving, strength, and inspiration. *

* Cindy has been a West Valley community member for over 25 years. Her children went to Summitview, the Junior High, and graduated from West Valley High School. She has also been a faithful WV employee, working at Wide Hollow, Mountainview, the Kindergarten Center, and most recently as secretary at Cottonwood since it opened in 1993. *

* Cindy recently retired due to health circumstances. The Cottonwood Staff, though West Valley Dollars for Scholars, has initiated a scholarship in her honor. The scholarship would be awarded this spring to a West Valley graduating senior who attended Cottonwood Elementary. With enough donations this scholarship could be awarded every year. *

* If you are interested in contributing to this scholarship fund in Cindy's honor please send your donation to:

Karen Hauser, Treasurer
West Valley Dollars for Scholars
311 North 99th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98908

Make checks payable to: West Valley Dollars for Scholars
Please note your donation is for Cindy Peterson

CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATION INFORMATION

•Tuesday, April 18TH:

Sr. Brunch/Baccalaureate/Graduation SPEAKER Tryouts, 8:15 am- 10:15 am (during WASL week, plan accordingly).

•Thursday, April 20TH:

Sr. Brunch/Baccalaureate/Graduation MUSIC (including for national anthem) Tryouts in the Choir Rm., 8:15 am- 10:15 am (during WASL week, plan accordingly).

•Tuesday, April 25th:

Cap/Gown/Graduation Announcement Distribution Day, 11:45 am, Commons

Senior Week:

•Tuesday June 6TH:

7:50 a.m.-2:25 pm: Periods 1-5 Regular Classes, *FINALS* in 3 & 5

•Wednesday, June 7TH

7:50-9:08 am: 1st Period *Final* & Checkout

9:13-9:46 am: 2nd Period Class & Checkout

9:51-11:09 pm: 3rd Period Class & Checkout

11:14-12:32 pm OR 11:44-1:02 pm: 4th Period *Final* & Checkout

1:02-1:10 pm: 5th Period Checkout (bring slip to gym)

1:10-1:15 pm: Arrive at gym & turn in checkout sheet

1:15-2:15 pm: Graduation marching practice in gym (**REQUIRED**)

•Thursday, June 8TH

7:00 p.m.: Baccalaureate (optional) @ Holy Family Church, 56th and Tieton Dr.

Arrive by 6:45 pm for line-up. Wear gown (DON'T WEAR CAP/TASSEL/STOLE)

•Friday, June 9TH

9 a.m.-11:30: Sr. Awards Brunch @ Yakima Convention Center

(\$12 for students, \$15 for adults, parents welcome!)

(Tickets on sale in May 15-June 2nd ONLY)

2:00-4:00 p.m.: Dress rehearsal (**REQUIRED**) @ SunDome (Fair Ave/Nob Hill)

Class & Individual pictures. Bring caps, gowns, tassels, stoles, honor cords!!!

Bring picture envelope (distributed at practice on June 7th) with \$\$.

7 p.m.: Commencement @ SunDome (Arrive by 6:30 for line-up...plan for traffic tie-ups around Dome)

After Graduation: Senior Party (Sponsored by Senior Parents)

DRESS

The Awards Brunch is a dress-up occasion. Girls are expected to wear dresses/skirts or dress slacks; boys attired in slacks and dress shirts. Commencement is a formal event. Girls wear dresses/skirts or dress slacks and shoes. Boys wear dress shirts with or without ties, slacks, and shoes under their gowns. The cap & gown cannot be decorated tape or other materials. No dark glasses.

BEHAVIOR

Although this is an occasion to celebrate, it is also a dignified event, a time of pride for our families and friends. The behaviors of a few seniors can cause embarrassment for classmates, family members, and the individual involved. To prevent that from happening, be advised that anyone who is presumed to be under the influence of alcohol/other drugs will not be permitted to take part in the ceremonies. Also throwing, spraying, or batting of any objects during the ceremony will not be tolerated. Those engaging in such activities during the ceremony will be escorted off of the main floor. **THE OFFICIALS AT THE SunDome HAVE ASKED US TO REMIND YOU THAT THERE ARE TO BE NO BALLOONS IN THE BUILDING...They will be confiscated at the door.**

SEATING/TICKETS

Admission into this year's commencement exercises in the SunDome will be by ticket only! Tickets will be available in the commons before/after school and during lunches May 15-19 and each senior will receive 6 tickets. Anyone needing more can sign up on the waiting list and the remaining tickets will be divided equally and distributed by Tuesday, MAY 30th before/ afterschool and during lunches. Those who know that they will not need 6 are encouraged to share their tickets with their classmates or only take what's needed. If you have guests who are in wheelchairs, they may ask the ushers to help them with special seating. Please remind your guests ahead of time that they should remain outside of the roped off area and in their seats during the ceremony. **YOU MAY NOT SAVE SEATS OTHER THAN HANDICAPPED SEATING.**

PICTURES

Dorian Photography will be on hand during dress rehearsal to take a group photo of the Class of 2006 and to take individual stills of you receiving your diploma. The individual stills will be taken in the afternoon, **NOT DURING THE CEREMONY**, so be sure to bring your caps and gowns. This will enable us to speed up the commencement ceremony. Information about purchasing pictures will come to your home shortly after graduation. The cost depends on the package you choose.

PARKING

Parking at the SunDome is free to you and your guests. **DO NOT** leave your car at the SunDome while on the Senior Parent sponsored trip. Any vehicles left at the dome will be towed away!

ACADEMIC REMINDERS:

All day traditionally scheduled seniors who expect to participate in commencement must have completed all coursework by the time 5th period is excused on Wednesday, June 7th, or in the case of RAP/Contracted Learners, by the end of the day on Friday, June 2nd. There will be no exceptions to admitting last minute work so that you can graduate!



Board Performance Assessment

We are gathering data to help the West Valley School District Board of Directors assess its performance. To do this, we are seeking objective, descriptive information about people's perspective on the operation of the Board. If you cannot think of a specific example in response to the question, please answer the questions in "the ideal" (i.e. how would you like the Board to).

1. Please designate your relationship to the West Valley School District.

- Staff
- Parent
- Non-parent

2. Please share an example of when you felt the Board provided or created a climate of mutual respect and trust.

Comments:

3. Please provide an example of when you felt the Board effectively handled a wide variety of community attitudes and/or a special interest group that sought to influence the District's programs.

Comments:

4. Please give an example of when you felt the Board sought appropriate input from the administration, staff, students and/or community members prior to making a decision.

Comments:

5. Please provide an instance of when you felt the Board adopted a goal for the District and then monitored and regularly assessed progress made toward the achievement of the goal.

Comments:

6. What are some particular areas where you would like to see improvement in Board performance?

Comments:

7. Please describe the climate between the Board and

The staff?

The community?

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE DROP BOX
IN THE OFFICE