

Inside:

New Tech Rundown

Bond Project Updates

Safety First

Remember to Vote

# SchoolTalk

## School boundary change process begins

Among the projects included in the November 2018 voter-approved \$495.3 million bond are three middle school replacements and three new middle schools. As we redraw school attendance boundaries throughout the district, we will also be shifting to a 6th-8th grade middle school model in the 2022-23 school year.

This fall, SPS will start the selection process for members of the Boundary Adjustment Committee. We'll be looking for parents and community members from the northeast, northwest and south areas of the district. Members will be expected to attend twice-monthly meetings starting in January 2020, and continuing for about a year. That time will be spent reviewing the guidelines developed by the Attendance Boundary Study Committee and approved by the School Board, and analyzing various boundary change scenarios to make a recommendation to the School Board in 2021.

Boundary changes will go into effect on the north side with the opening of the new northside middle schools for the 2022-23 school year, and on the south side with the opening of the new southside middle school for the 2023-24 school year.

Learn more at [spokaneschools.org/boundarychange](http://spokaneschools.org/boundarychange).

 **Want to be on the Boundary Adjustment Committee? We'll be communicating about the application process on our website, social media and other avenues this fall.**

## Attendance matters!

Every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning. Students can still fall behind if they miss even just a day or two every few weeks. By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school. By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores. Students who are present, engaged, and supported achieve higher grades, are more likely to graduate on time, and have more post-high school options available to them.

**You can help support good attendance by:**

- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Making sure students prepare for school the night before, by finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Not letting students stay home unless they are truly sick. Complaints of a stomachache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoiding appointments and extended trips when school is in session.



Spokane Public Schools  
*excellence for everyone*



## New tech rundown

We are excited about several new ways to share stories and information with the community this year.

- **Spokaneschools.org:** Our redesigned website has more information that is easier to find. We made changes based on user data, feedback, and a need to improve how we tell our story. Quick links on district and school homepages make it easy to navigate to areas of greatest interest and stay up-to-date on what is happening in our schools.
- **Mobile app:** A new SPS app helps families access school notifications, grade alerts, daily attendance, staff contact information, and more. It integrates seamlessly with information on our website, social media channels, and resource portals for learning and connectivity. The app is available for free download on Apple or Android devices.
- **Peachjar e-fliers:** SPS is now distributing fliers and newsletters to families electronically. Peachjar distributes fliers into a virtual backpack that is accessible on a smartphone or computer. All of the information is free to access, and helps families to find and reference information more easily.



## Elementary schedule changes this year

Part of the 2019-20 budget approved by the SPS School Board includes early release every Friday at 1:45 p.m. for elementary students to give teachers time to prepare and learn.

Like last year, 12 Fridays will be dedicated to professional learning time for teachers. On those days, students in all grades will be released one hour and 15 minutes early. On the 20 additional early-release Fridays for elementary students, after-school activities (called "the SHOP" – for snack, homework and organized play) will be available to those who would like to stay until 3 p.m. Bus riders on the 20 extra Fridays have the option of catching the bus home at 1:45 p.m. or at 3 p.m.

Find the specifics at [spokaneschools.org](http://spokaneschools.org).

## Superintendent's message

The start of the school year has me out visiting schools, and students are excited to be back with their friends, teachers, and building staff members. Teachers and staff are working hard to ensure that students have a fun and successful school year. Every fall brings the excitement of helping students achieve their dreams!

We are committed to supporting a focus on the whole child to help all students reach their potential as a learner and citizen. Our goal is to thoughtfully consider the wellness of students and their academic needs. Class sizes have been reduced in the K-3 grades, and new social emotional learning and other supports are being introduced this year to better meet individual student needs.

Bond work is also continuing. Projects include the opening of the new Linwood Elementary, new commons at Lewis & Clark High School, additional classrooms for Wilson Elementary, and preparations to begin replacing Glover and Shaw middle schools.

Our goal is to prepare students to take their next steps in learning as they progress through Spokane Public Schools and beyond. That includes resources for teachers who are working with our students and new, improved spaces for students and staff to thrive.

Thank you very much for the support you have shown Spokane Public Schools and, most importantly, our students who will be tomorrow's leaders.

Shelley Redinger, PhD

## Bond project updates

### 2015 bond projects are on time and on budget:

The new **Linwood Elementary School** officially welcomed students on the first day of school. The 75,559-square-foot building, the largest elementary in SPS, features 36 classrooms, six student breakout spaces, a community/art room, library, multipurpose room, gym and stage designed by Integrus Architecture and built by TW Clark Construction.

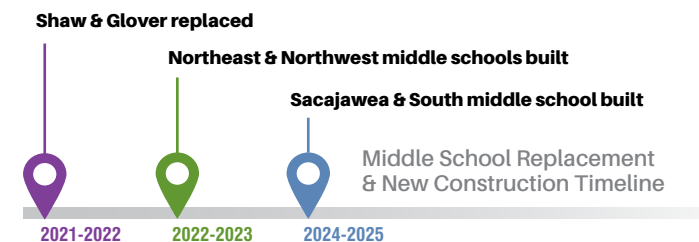
The **Wilson Elementary** project includes a six-classroom addition, music room, art/community room, offices and conference space, a new gym, scratch kitchen, stage and playground upgrade. This project was designed by Integrus Architecture of Spokane and is being built by Garco Construction of Spokane, with completion scheduled for August 2020.

The **Lewis & Clark High School** project, which includes a nine-classroom addition and new cafeteria/commons, is currently under construction. Designed by NAC Architecture of Spokane and built by Garco Construction, this project is scheduled to be completed by August 2020.

The first two projects from the 2018 bond, replacements of **Shaw and Glover middle schools**, are also getting underway. A three-day design summit last year resulted in facility design principles that are guiding the creation of all the new middle schools, and a Design Work Group developed program design principles that will shape the middle school experience for students. Learn more at [spokaneschools.org/msdesign](http://spokaneschools.org/msdesign).



Join us for a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 1 at 9:30 a.m. to celebrate the beginning of the first joint SPS/City of Spokane project of the 2018 bond: A new Shaw Middle School, On Track Academy and Hillyard Library. In addition, we'll have a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Glover Middle School Oct. 10.





Spokane Public Schools  
200 North Bernard Street  
Spokane, WA 99201-0206

NON - PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Spokane, WA  
Permit No. 375

Questions or concerns? 509-354-5900

Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, 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, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, or honorably discharged veteran or military status. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's officers listed on our website at [www.spokaneschools.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.spokaneschools.org/nondiscrimination).

ECRWSS EDDM  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Safety first: All schools to get AEDs

An eight-month security audit conducted last year by Safe Havens International identified many strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. One of the recommendations was to install Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in every school, which is happening right now.

Having AEDs in schools helps provide a safer environment for our students, staff and visitors. Early CPR and defibrillation from an AED are both essential elements to saving someone's life from sudden cardiac arrest. Time is critical -- survival rates decrease by 10 percent with each minute intervention is delayed.

All SPS high schools have had AEDs since 2010, and middle schools received them in 2014. These schools were picked first for implementation because of the larger populations of students, staff, and visitors, and because the risk of sudden cardiac arrest increases with age.

Each AED is housed in an unlocked alarmed cabinet, which is accessible to all staff and/or visitors. As part of the SPS AED program, overseen by Safety Services, a core group of staff members certified in CPR and AED at each facility responds to medical emergencies.

## Remember to vote

The SPS Board of Directors is composed of five citizens publicly elected to represent the community in setting the vision and goals for Spokane Public Schools. Their duties include adopting and revising policies that help the district achieve its goals, adopting and overseeing the annual budget, and playing an important role in the collective bargaining process for SPS employees.



In November's general election, voters will be asked to select three new board members. It's an important decision, so please educate yourself about the candidates and remember to vote!



## President's letter

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. It's great to have students back in classrooms! Quality time in a classroom with an expert teacher is a wonderful place for kids to be.

The School Board is excited that our K-3 class sizes are lower than ever before. Smaller classes at these early grades will give our youngest learners more one-on-one time with teachers to establish a strong foundation in basic skills; helping them to be even more successful in the years to come.

Please join us at a school board meeting or check out our website to stay informed about big projects ahead. The School Board and district leadership will engage our public as we evaluate the recommendations in our recent comprehensive safety audit. We will also be forming a citizens group to help guide our work as we consider possible changes in our attendance boundaries to accommodate a growing student enrollment. Your input is important and valued.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the community for the opportunity to serve you in my position on the board. As I retire from my role this November after 13 years of service, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together. It's been an honor and a privilege for me to represent your interests and priorities in Spokane Public Schools.



Susan Chapin,  
Board President