President’s Letter

I am very excited for the future of our students and school district. Why, you ask? Let me count the ways!

205 more preschool students this year. The pandemic led to fewer social interactions, which had a big impact on kindergarten readiness. Our investments in early learning will help new students smoothly join their classrooms. Early learning leaders are also revising educational plans to make sure kids can learn more often through play, and that has me very hopeful for their future.

6 new middle schools (4 already open, 2 coming soon). Thousands of sixth graders will be in middle school instead of elementary school. The 6-8 model is physically and philosophically set up to best welcome sixth graders and ensure that each student feels part of a small cohort within the larger community.

1 Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Adam Swinyard was chosen in Washington out of 295 superintendents. We are very fortunate to have him at the helm, and he would agree that this award reflects the incredible staff we have teaching and supporting our students every day.

Most importantly, more than 100,000 community members directly engaged with our work. Nearly 28,000 students, more than 2,000 teachers, and more than 4,000 staff. For each student, one, two, or more parents and caregivers support each educational journey. It takes all of us to help our kids experience full lives and reach their unique and limitless potentials. It’s an awesome responsibility and exciting future!

Kindergarten Registration
Kindergarten registration is March 1-31! Spokane Public Schools is excited to welcome new kindergarteners for the 2023-24 school year. Learn more at spokaneschools.org/kindergarten.

Questions? spokaneschools.org/letstalk
Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate in the admission, treatment, employment, or access to its programs or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or any other status prescribed by federal or state law. The school district is also an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from diverse candidates. The school district is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The school district complies with all Federal and State laws prohibiting discrimination. For more information, contact the school district’s Title IX/Staff Civil Rights Officer at: 504/ADA Officer: Michael Wiser, 326-1220; Civil Rights Officer: Danielle Van De Wege, 326-1212.

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SPS students engaged in career-connected learning

Spokane Public Schools plays an integral role in preparing students to enter the workforce. Thanks to the SPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings, students can explore career paths before they step into high school.

Examples include elementary students learning computer science and engineering skills using technology to design boats, build circuits and edit videos. In middle school, students can learn video and news production, design and print 3-D models, play the role of medical detective, develop digital applications, learn automation and robotics, and much more. In high school, students can attend NEWTech Prep (formerly the Skills Center), where they can access 17 different career-focused programs and 21st century learning spaces that simulate real-life experiences in dentistry, medical services, pharmacy, culinary arts, welding, construction, automotive, electrical trades, and more.

Students in Spokane’s comprehensive high schools learn business through their DECA classes, biomedical sciences, agriculture, videography and photography, engineering, foods and hospitality, sports medicine, manufacturing and more.

Message from the Superintendent

I am deeply honored to serve as superintendent of one of the state’s largest school districts, and each day I see amazing things happening in our schools. This is made possible by dedicated staff, smart investments, and the ongoing support from the community, for which we are grateful.

Spokane Public Schools has transformed into one of the best school districts in the region. This past spring, we achieved our highest graduation rate of all time – 90.2% – thanks to the incredible work of school staff in partnership with families and community partners. With historically low class sizes, access to technology, and intervention services, we are making incredible progress in serving the individual needs of our students. This includes increasing preschool offerings, allowing us to engage students and increase kindergarten readiness.

Due to our growing community and need for additional classrooms, we’ve opened two brand new middle schools and will open a third this fall. By the start of next school year, we will have re-built three other middle schools, providing an adaptable setting for learning. We are transforming our middle schools to a grades 6-8 configuration, which gives students a true middle school experience and allows elementary schools to efficiently use their buildings.

Spokane Public Schools is committed to serving our community, and we’re thankful for the incredible support. Please share your feedback by accessing our Let’s Talk Platform as we strive to offer every student a dream, access and opportunity: spokaneschools.org/letstalk.

Dr. Adam Swinyard, Superintendent

Stadium Project 50-Year Cost

Projected amounts are in millions, 2023 estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building a stadium at each high school</th>
<th>Rebuilding at the Northside Joe Albi site</th>
<th>Building at Downtown Spokane site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$114,016,400</td>
<td>$67,464,400</td>
<td>$38,700,000</td>
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Downtown stadium saves money

The new downtown stadium continues to move forward on budget, and students are excited to compete on the field this fall. Voters approved the stadium replacement as part of the 2018 bond due to Joe Albi Stadium being past its usable life. While a non-binding advisory vote conducted by the City of Spokane showed an early preference for rebuilding at the old Joe Albi site, the SPS Board of Directors received new information prior to construction showing a downtown placement in partnership with the Spokane Public Facilities District (SPFD) would save the district a minimum of $22 million in maintenance and operational costs. This large savings will be reallocated to increase and maintain programming and activities for students.

*The graphic above shows a comparison of the 50-year cost at each proposed site. When SPS isn’t using the stadium, SPFD will schedule professional sports, concerts, and other events, providing entertainment and a positive economic boost for our community. Learn more and see an FAQ at spokaneschools.org/stadium.

New middle schools address growing community

Flett and Yasuhara middle schools opened in September 2022 to great fanfare, as students walked in on the first day of school in a festive atmosphere. The state-of-the-art schools match Glover and Shaw middle schools, which opened in the fall of 2021, with a ‘neighborhood’ model that allows student cohorts to learn in multiple classrooms together. This fall, the re-built Sacajawea Middle School will open, along with the brand new Peperzak Middle School on Spokane’s south hill.

Thanks to Spokane voters approving the 2018 bond, three aging middle schools were re-built, and three new middle schools will open, allowing students and their communities a vibrant learning environment. On time and on budget, the new schools will allow SPS to fully move to a 6th-8th grade model in its middle schools, which gives students a true middle school experience and allows elementary schools to use space effectively.

Thank you, Spokane voters, for giving students the opportunity to learn in new, safe schools.

Talk directly with Spokane Public Schools Board Directors & members of the leadership team at the next Coffee with SPS! We’ll rotate among SPS high schools every month all school year. See a schedule at spokaneschools.org/coffee.