

FINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

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*The finish line is in sight!
Check out the latest
news and updates
as we finish up
the year in
Finley schools.*



Finley Middle School PE Teacher Receives Award for Excellence in Education



At the 21st Annual award ceremony on March 7, 2019, Finley School District recognized Mr. Devin Chavez as our 2019 Crystal Apple Award winner.

Mr. Chavez joined top teachers from 6 surrounding districts to celebrate this inspiring event coordinated by the Educational Service District 123.

Originally established in 1999, the Crystal Apple Awards recognizes outstanding local teachers who make an impact in their schools and communities. Local businesses and service groups sponsor the event each year both monetarily and through gifts to the recipients. Mr. Chavez received a beautiful glass "crystal apple," gift certificates to local sporting events and dining, and a \$1,000 check during the ceremony.

"I am honored and humbled to be this year's FSD Crystal Apple award winner. We live in a great community that has always supported our students and teachers. I would like to thank Molly Curtiss and the ESD for doing so much for our area's teachers and putting together such an amazing event. Thank you Finley for being my home, this is truly an amazing place!"

An RVHS alum himself, Mr. Chavez excelled while attending high school in Finley, both in the classroom as well as in athletics. He was drafted by the

Chicago Cubs in the 15th round of the 1991 MLB June Amateur Draft. After playing baseball in the minors, Devin returned to college where once again he excelled as a student and athlete. He received his teaching degree in 1997 from Central Washington University, and returned to Finley in 1999 as a teacher and coach. Mr. Chavez has taught history classes, AVID, and currently is in charge of Finley Middle School's Health and Fitness department. He has been active in coaching across Finley's schools.

A Finley parent and colleague said of Mr. Chavez in her nomination letter:

"Devin pours his heart and soul into teaching and coaching. His passion for my children along with all the children in his class is inspiring to me as a parent. He shows them that he cares about them while holding them accountable."

Finley School District wishes to congratulate and thank Mr. Chavez for his dedication to educating and motivating Finley's youth!

Spring Testing



With the melting of the snow and the warmer weather comes **spring assessment season** in all schools. Students in Washington are tested regularly by the state to assess their progress as they move through school. State tests include the following:

- ▶ Smarter Balanced: English language arts (ELA) and math tests
- ▶ Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS): Science test for grades 5, 8 and 11
- ▶ Washington – Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM): ELA, math, and science alternate assessments for students with significant cognitive challenges documented in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

A great resource for information about required student testing in our state is the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website, along with the ReadyWA website.

Why does the state test matter? Measuring student progress on important skills and knowledge is key for families and teachers to know if students are on track. Along with grades and classroom work, these tests are another measure of how well your child is meeting grade-level expectations. Even if your child gets good grades, pay attention to their state test results. The results can serve as an early warning sign that your child may need more support with specific skills. Testing data is also a tool for schools, districts, and the state to help educators improve instruction for all students.

You can help your child prepare for success on the tests by making sure he/she has:

- ▶ Enough sleep
- ▶ A good breakfast the day of the test
- ▶ Confidence knowing he/she is prepared

According to a recent article by Scholastic, "...students who are physically or mentally unprepared often encounter problems." Encourage good study habits and remain positive and relaxed to help your child feel at ease before heading into exams. For more information and specific testing dates in Finley, contact your child's school office.





Get Access to the Local Basic Food Program

Basic Food is a program that helps supplement Washington residents' diets with healthy, nutritious food. Eligible households receive an Electronic Benefits Card (EBT) to purchase food items at participating businesses each

month. See the income guidelines chart to the right, and dial 2-1-1 to learn more. To learn more about 2-1-1- and the many resources available, visit www.resourcehouse.info/win211/Index

Household Size	Monthly Income
1	\$2,010
2	\$2,707
3	\$3,403
4	\$4,100
5	\$4,797
6	\$5,493
7	\$6,190
8	\$6,887

FOOD PANTRY Serving Finley Community Members on Thursdays

While the original grand opening date was yet another activity that had to be postponed due to winter weather, the new Food Pantry in Finley made its debut on Thursday, February 28th. Many grateful community members were not deterred by the snow-filled streets, and boxes of food to support local families were quickly dispersed during the pantry's first day. The Finley Food Pantry continues to open its doors on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 2:30-4:30 PM at the Finley Community Center.

Thanks to a partnership with 2nd Harvest and a grant from Nutrien, the Food Pantry allows both students and adults to pick up boxes of food (no identification required). In December 2018, Finley School District secured a \$2600 grant from Nutrien, who had approached Finley School Counselor Sonya Bell with the food solutions proposal early in the year. Now, thanks to these funds and many local partnerships, Second Harvest stocks the pantry every other week with non-perishable food and fresh produce.

This incredible community resource is only possible through the added support of Bechtel, the Kennewick Kiwanis (Finley Satellite), Christian Life Fellowship, and the Finley Booster Club. Several incredible Finley staff members have collaborated to bring this project to life, including school counselors Sonya Bell and Rebekah Duty, along with district staff Laurie Tufford and Terri McGaughey. Finley schools are committed to assuring that our students are able to come to school healthy and focused on being their best!



SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS
makes it easy to be active in your child's education!

WHAT IS FAMILY ACCESS?

- ✓ Grades
- ✓ School calendar
- ✓ Upcoming assignments
- ✓ Teacher messaging
- ✓ Class schedules
- ✓ Attendance records
- ✓ Food service balances
- ✓ Long-term graduation planning



***FAMILY ACCESS** connects educators and parents by providing a wealth of information on assignments, test scores, attendance, fees, and more.*



FEWER THAN 25%

OF PARENTS CAN NAME A BASIC MILESTONE THEIR CHILD SHOULD HAVE REACHED IN SCHOOL OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



Tracking parental involvement: Results from a national survey of parents, Public Agenda, 2012

Questions? Talk to the school office for your personal login information and
GET CONNECTED TODAY!



Early Identification and the Child Find Program

The Finley special education preschool program provides services on Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages three to five years old. This program is designed for children who have developmental delays in one or more of five developmental areas: cognitive, motor, communication, social, and self-help skills. Children who have health impairments that affect their ability to learn, students who are visually impaired, students who have hearing impairments and students diagnosed with Autism are also eligible.

Preschool screening is available on Monday mornings. Appointments for screening may be scheduled between 8:30-10:30 AM. It takes approximately one hour to complete a screening. Please contact the elementary school at 586-7577 to set up an appointment. If these times do not work for your child, please contact the school for other possible dates and times.

Homeless Youth Education (McKinney-Vento)

In accordance with the federal McKinney-Vento Act, Finley School District provides immediate identification, enrollment, and access to students experiencing homelessness. Finley School District's homeless liaison is Laurie Tufford (586-3217). Finley Elementary and Middle School's homeless liaison is Sonya Bell (586-7577 or 586-7561). River View High School's Homeless Liaison is Rebekah Duty (582-2158).

To assist our liaisons in ensuring that homeless children and youth are identified and enrolled, the District is asking Finley families to complete the Housing Questionnaire located on the district website at bit.ly/2HdF9Yr. Please return completed questionnaires to the Finley School District Office at 224606 E Game Farm Rd.

Finley's NEW WEBSITE!

WWW.FINLEYSCHOOLDISTRICT.ORG

Finley School District's new website is live! On Thursday, March 28th, launched a redesigned website focused on providing more robust communication between our schools and community. While the driving force behind Finley's switch was to ensure compliance with state and federally-mandated requirements around accessibility and public records, the website overhaul was also an opportunity to do some much needed "spring cleaning" of our former website.

As you navigate our new website and become familiar with the new layout and organization of content, we encourage you to submit any questions or suggestions using the "Contact Us" page linked from the district's home page. Websites are ever-evolving, and we will continue to make adjustments and improvements in the coming months. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition and work to improve our communication efforts in Finley!



Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL

- **Apr. 1-5:** NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
- **Apr. 8:** New school hours begin
- **Apr. 10:** 6th Grade Ancient Egypt Night, 5:30-6:30 PM
- **Apr. 13:** Elementary PTG Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00 PM at Finley Community Center
- **Apr. 16:** 5th Grade Music Program, 1:40 and 6:30 PM
- **Apr. 19-20:** FFA Plant Sale, RVHS Greenhouses (11:30AM-5:00PM on Apr. 19 and 9:00AM-5:00PM on Apr. 20)

MAY

- **May 27:** NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
- **May 28:** 5th Grade Band Program, 1:40 and 6:30 PM

JUNE

- **June 7:** Graduation, River View High School, 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)
- **June 13:** Last Day of School

Read our full calendar online at www.finleysd.org/calendar

Visit the
elementary school
any school day
between 7:30
AM to 3:00 PM,
now thru June
28th to register
your child to start
kindergarten
in the fall.

2019-2020 School Registration

Kindergarten Registration

Registration is now underway for incoming kindergarten students at Finley Elementary School. Each school day between 7:30AM-3:00PM, come by the elementary school and bring the following required documents:

- Proof of Age (birth certificate, religious, hospital, or physician's certificate showing date of birth; an entry in family bible; an adoption record; an affidavit from a parent; previously verified school records). Child must be 5 years old by August 31, 2019.
- Immunization Records (Must be up to date)
- Proof of Residency in Finley (Driver's license with current address and utility bill)
- Any legal documents you feel the school might need to know about (guardianship, parenting plan, restraining orders)

Please call Finley Elementary School for more info at 586-7577.

ECEAP Preschool Registration

Register now for Finley's free ECEAP Preschool, located in the portable buildings outside the elementary school. Spots are limited! Applications are available at the preschool building or District Office. Call 509-544-5704 for more information.



MAKING UP SNOW DAYS IN FINLEY

At their regular meeting on Monday, March 18th, the Finley School Board of Directors approved a proposal to address missed school days and instructional hours due to this year's extreme winter weather. Like many districts across the Mid-Columbia, Finley School District was faced with developing a revised calendar to meet the state-required 1,027 hours of instructional time that all schools must meet. During the month of February and March, there were four (4) two-hour delays and six (6) closures in Finley schools due to weather.

Districts are required to meet an average of 1,027 hours for the school year regardless of wavier or make up days. Those hours cannot be waived.

The changes to Finley's school calendar as a result of the snow make-up days are as follows:

- The 3 snow days originally built into the calendar are now regular school days. These include March 29, May 24, and June 10, which will all be school days.
- In addition, we have added June 11, 12, and 13 as school days.
- The last day of school will now be Thursday, June 13th
- High school graduation will be Friday, June 7th

Because we were still short on required instructional hours due to the number of 2 hour delays, we came to an agreement with the teachers union to add 5 minutes before school and 5 minutes after school beginning the Monday after Spring Break (April 8).

From April 8 until June 13, all Finley schools will begin 5 minutes earlier and release 5 minutes later.

Beginning April 8, school times will be as follows:

- ▶ Elementary: 8:00am - 2:40pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; and 8:00am - 12:50pm on Wednesday.
- ▶ Middle and High School: 7:45am - 2:25pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; and 7:45am - 12:35pm on Wednesday.
- ▶ June 7th will now be a normal full day of school.
- ▶ The last day of school, June 13th, will be an early release day.

For more information, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 509-586-3217.

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FINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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