



Deer Park  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# CONNECT

Deer Park School District Community Newsletter | May 2023

*Great Schools = Great Communities*



## Superintendent Message

It is with both a heavy heart and immense gratitude that I announce my departure from this remarkable school district. After ten years of serving as superintendent and a total of eighteen working within the district, I will be leaving Deer Park School District in June. Working with the staff, students, parents, and community members has been an absolute pleasure and honor. We have accomplished so much together, and the future is bright in Deer Park!

In our time together, we have increased student achievement, improved graduation rates, deepened social/emotional support, and enhanced the educational experience in many ways. We have also expanded programs to meet the changing needs of our young people while working immensely hard to provide safer and more secure learning environments. None of this would have been possible without the partnership and dedication from our exceptional staff, parents, and community members. I am immensely grateful for your support of Deer Park schools and our youth throughout my tenure. However, our entire team understands that more work is still needed.

With that sense of purpose and urgency, I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Alexa Allman as Deer Park's new superintendent. Dr. Allman has been the district's assistant superintendent for the past two years. I am confident she will lead this district forward with an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for our kids, our employees and our communities. Dr. Allman's familiarity with Deer Park, coupled with decades of experience inside schools and at the district level, means she is uniquely qualified to lead our district to new heights.

Serving this community has been an honor and privilege, and I am confident that the district is in good hands. I look forward to cheering on the Stags in the years to come and witnessing the continued growth and prosperity of the school district and community.

For our Children,

*Travis W. Hanson*

**Travis W. Hanson**



### School News and Events

#### Arcadia Family Events

**June 13:** Picnic on the playground (weather permitting): During student lunch/recess

- 5th Grade-  
11:30-12:10  
(lunch/recess)
- 4th Grade-  
11:55-12:35  
(lunch/recess)
- 3rd Grade-  
12:20-1:00  
(lunch/recess)

#### Deer Park Middle School

**June 15:** 8th Grade Awards Assembly  
Families are invited!

**June 16:** 6th and 7th Awards Assembly  
Families are invited!

#### Deer Park High School

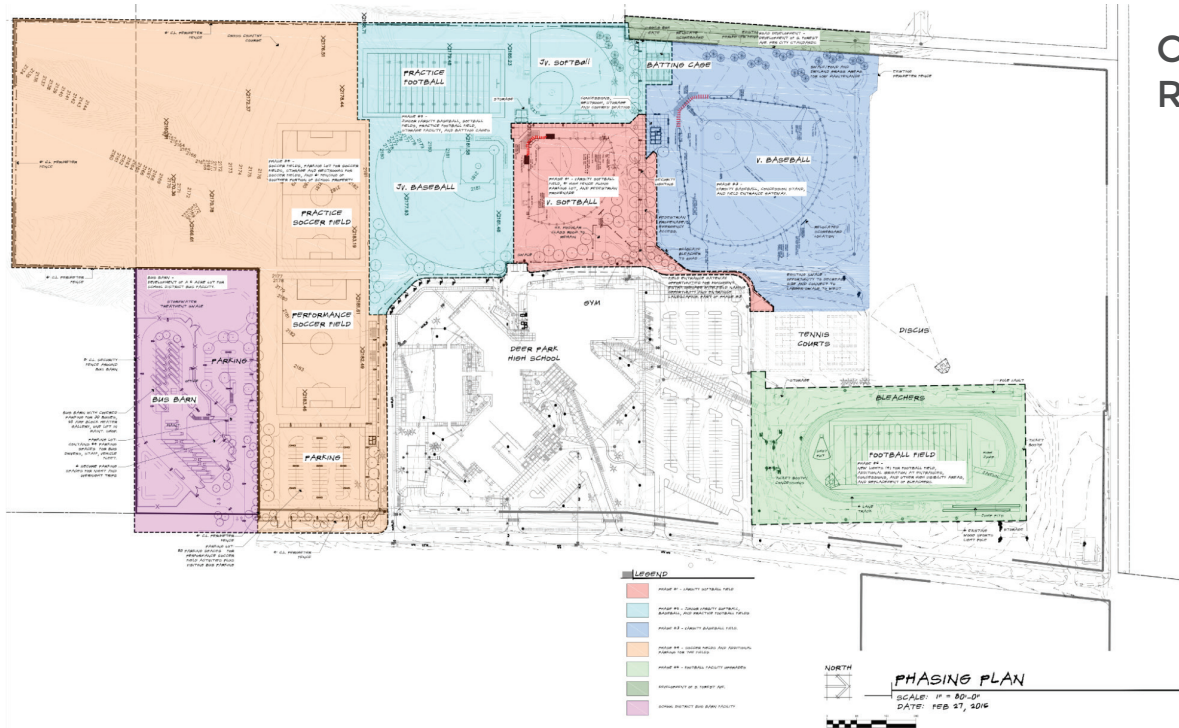
**Graduation:**  
June 10, 2023, at  
Deer Park High School  
at 1:00 PM

Stay up to date and  
informed about  
what is happening  
in our schools!

[www.dpsd.org](http://www.dpsd.org)

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District on Facebook!

## Facilities Advisory Committee



## Conceptual Renderings

### Learn about the District's Master Plan and Share Your Feedback

The Deer Park School District and community face exciting opportunities and challenges related to our unprecedented population growth. With over one thousand new homes slated for construction in the next 10 years, it will be vitally important to plan now for the influx of new families and students. In a recent survey sent to parents and patrons, growth in the community was identified as the number one challenge facing Deer Park School District. Purchasing more temporary ("portable") classrooms is not a viable long-term strategy for responding to growth, which means we must carefully assess options that will help support our growing numbers. Over the past 18 months, the district's Facilities Advisory Committee - a team of over 20 stakeholders - gathered regularly to accomplish the following:

- Develop a short and long-term facility plan that assists DPSD Board of Directors in making determinations about when, where, and how to renovate and/or build schools.
- Promote cost-effective planning, design, and construction of public schools for optimal construction, maintenance, and operation costs.
- Provide citizen oversight on school facilities improvements and funding for school construction projects.

- Meet the needs of a growing community and work to garner support for and confidence in plans for capital improvements.

In January 2023, the Facilities Advisory Committee recommended that the board consider pursuing a capital projects bond in February 2024. Assuming the board moves forward with this plan, voters will be asked to renew the expiring Educational Programs & Operations Levy and approve a Capital Projects Bond to address the district's facilities needs.

Prior to making final decisions, *the board wants your input!* Join us Thursday, May 18 (6:30 PM), to hear from our existing and incoming superintendents. Live and online Q&A options are available. Please add the following to your calendar:

### Save the date!

**BOND PLANNING WEBINAR**  
Information and Feedback  
Thursday, May 25 at 6:30 PM  
<https://dpsd-org.zoom.us/j/81712319204>



### From Dr. Alexa Allman

As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the invaluable experiences and lessons I have gained throughout my two years of service in the Deer Park School District. Being part of such a welcoming and supportive community has been an absolute pleasure. I am truly honored and privileged to have been selected as the Deer Park School District superintendent.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to the growth and well-being of our students and families. Their dedication to ensuring a strong educational foundation for our community is truly inspiring, and I am thrilled to continue working alongside them. As we are experiencing and planning for growth, it is an exciting time to serve!

My top priority as superintendent is to ensure a smooth transition while preserving our community's vision and mission. I am committed to serving our students, educators, staff, and the community. I believe my dedication, beliefs, and contributions match our community and its values.

In the coming months, I will offer opportunities to meet and connect with our community members. You may email me directly or call our District Office at 509-464-5509 to schedule a time.

Warm Regards,  
Alexa Allman  
[alexa.allman@dpsdmail.org](mailto:alexa.allman@dpsdmail.org)



### DECA-dent Leaders!

Our DECA students engage in diverse events covering business management, marketing, hospitality, and entrepreneurship. We are thrilled to announce that some of our Deer Park contestants have made it to the final round of the International Competition, surpassing 22,000+ participants worldwide, and ranking in the top 18 globally!

Their journey began with the Area competition in December. They competed against other area chapters, ranging from Deer Park to Clarkston to Central Valley, out to Cheney, and every Spokane/Mead school in between, totaling 40 participants. The top performers in their respective events advance to the State competition in March, where we sent 26 contestants. To qualify for the International Competition, the students had to place in the top eight, which we accomplished with eight students, and an additional four qualified for the Leadership Academy.

This week, our students participated in the preliminary competition, with all eight making it to the finalist round, securing a place in the top 18 for their respective events. These events can draw up to 300 students/teams from different states and countries! The finalists will compete once more for the top three positions, and we anticipate their final rankings later this week. Congratulations to our DECA champions.



### Congratulations to Deer Park's "Spokane Scholars"

The following seniors were selected as "Spokane Scholars" for their academic success over the past four years. The DPHS staff selected these talented students to be recognized, along with other Spokane County High Schools students, at an awards ceremony on April 10 at the Spokane Convention Center.

The following students were honored:

**Science:** Hannah Krantz  
**Social Studies:** Roberta Simonson  
**World Language:** Aaron Harris  
**English:** Cameron Baker  
**Mathematics:** Avery Hodgson  
**Fine Arts:** Ingrid Watanabe

Congratulations to these brilliant seniors. DPHS is proud of you!



Deer Park School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/ RCW 28A.640 Officer/ADA Coordinator or Sec8on 504 Coordinator. Inquiries may be directed to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of HEW, Washington, D.C.



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### »» District Athletics

At Deer Park, we are thrilled to assist our Special Education students by adding Unified Sports to our High School program. This initiative brings together our Special Education and General Education students to participate in various sports events as a team. We have already witnessed our students' success in Unified Bowling and Unified Soccer matches.

The image displayed above captures the joyful atmosphere as Deer Park staff and students unite on the soccer field, enjoying a delightful afternoon of sportsmanship and friendship.



### »» Math is Cool Winners

Congratulations to all of our "Math is Cool" teams!

#### 4th Grade Champions

Our 4th Grade MIC team had seven students place in the top 15 player scores! This win qualified those players to continue on to the Master's Competition. We will take our Road Trip to Redemption in early May. We wish our 4th Grade team the best of luck!

#### 6th Grade Champions

Our 6th Grade MIC team had 18 members and earned 1st Place at the Regional Competition held at Mt. Spokane High School on February 10. They then took home 1st Place at the State Masters Competition in Moses Lake. Individual placers: Evan Alexander, 4th; James Elser, 6th; and Kason Dean, 7th. Other team members: Suja Cue-Hernandez, Jesse Schurger, and Camden Rich.

#### 8th Grade Champions

Congratulations to the 8th Grade MIC team that took 4th Place at Masters!