



Deer Park
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONNECT

Deer Park School District Community Newsletter | Fall 2026

Great Schools = Great Communities



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School District website
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Message from the Superintendent

There is something special about the start of a new school year. Our hallways are full, our classrooms are buzzing with learning and we are thrilled to welcome our students, staff, and families to another year in Deer Park School District.

As we begin this year, we are reminded of the promise of hope that lives within our schools. Every day, students walk through our doors with tremendous potential. Our promise is to create the conditions where every child can learn, grow, belong, and discover what is possible for their future.

Our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan reflects that promise and our commitment to our students and community. Together, we are focused on student well-being and belonging, academic engagement and excellence, strong connections with families and our community, and responsible stewardship of the facilities and resources entrusted to us.

We are grateful for the families, staff, businesses, organizations, and community members who support our schools. It takes all of us to deliver on this promise for Deer Park's children.

Our schools. Our community. Our future.

Alexa Allman
Superintendent

Remembering Mayor Tim Verzal

Deer Park School District remembers Mayor Tim Verzal with heartfelt gratitude for his service to our schools and community.

Mayor Verzal cared deeply about Deer Park and its children. He made sure our schools were included in plans for the community's growth and helped secure land east of Deer Park Elementary School for future school needs. He was also a familiar presence in our schools and enjoyed visiting students and staff each year.

We are grateful for his kindness, generosity, and lasting service to Deer Park. Our deepest condolences are with his family and loved ones.



Photo credit: Laura Chamberlain, Northside Community Voice

>> Introducing “Profile of a Graduate”

Last spring, students, staff, families, and community members came together to identify the skills and characteristics we want every Deer Park student to develop as they prepare for life beyond our schools. The result is our Profile of a Graduate. This is a shared vision for the learners, leaders, and community members we hope to develop.

From our youngest learners to our graduating seniors, we are helping students build the skills and confidence to take on what comes next and believe in what is possible.

We Belong. We Learn. We Inspire Excellence.

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

A Deer Park School District committee established a shared community vision for student success, defining the skills, competencies, and attributes needed to thrive in postsecondary education, careers, and life.

**CONFIDENT, INDEPENDENT, AND SELF-RELIANT**

Exhibits strong decision-making skills, takes initiative, and maintains a growth mindset while trusting their own judgment. They possess the skills to be self-sufficient and the confidence to be independent in any given situation, knowing it is their responsibility to do what is needed to succeed.

**CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING**

Critically analyzes information, weigh the pros and cons of decisions, and think for themselves to draw their own conclusions. They are able to break down complex issues, question assumptions, and innovate solutions to current and future problems.

**PERSONALLY AND SOCIALLY ACCOUNTABLE**

Takes full responsibility for their actions and decisions while recognizing and caring about how they affect other people. They demonstrate integrity and ownership of their learning and behavior, ensuring their actions serve both their own growth and the well-being of the community.

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

Clearly and effectively exchanges information and ideas across various settings, adapting their message and tone to different audiences. They are active, empathetic listeners who navigate conflict and collaborate with others to reach a mutual understanding.

**FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE**

Adjusts their plans or actions to succeed through change and new challenges. They stay open-minded, remain engaged even when things are unfamiliar, and can shift their thinking or approach to remain relevant and impactful in an ever-changing world.

**CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY**

Has the ability to think beyond their own self-interest to help others be successful and build a positive community. They are equipped to access the next step in their personal pathway as engaged, responsible citizens.



Strong Students. Bright Futures.

>> Your Local Levy Dollars at Work

Deer Park’s locally approved levy helps bridge the gap between state funding and what it takes to provide students with a strong, well-rounded education. These dollars stay local and support opportunities, resources, and staff that make a difference for students every day.

Your local levy helps fund:

- K–8 school supplies
- Music, art, and theater
- Middle and high school athletics
- Activities including cheer and archery

- Laptops for student use
- A School Resource Deputy dedicated to Deer Park schools
- Staff positions not fully funded by the state, including nurses, secretaries, assistant principals, technology support, custodians, and maintenance and grounds staff

Thank you, Deer Park, for investing in our students and schools.

Strong schools. Strong communities.

**DEER PARK**
— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

LOCAL LEVY DOLLARS
INVESTING IN STUDENT LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITIES

Your local levy dollars make a direct difference for Deer Park students by supporting programs, people, and resources that are not fully funded by the state.

**School supplies K–8**
Materials students need to learn, grow, and succeed.

**Music, Art, Drama/Theater**
Creative opportunities that build confidence, expression, and a sense of belonging.

**Middle school and high school athletics**
Teams, coaches, travel, uniforms, essential equipment, and an athletic director.

**Activities: Cheer, Archery**
Materials, uniforms, equipment, coaches, and travel.

**Laptops for student use**
1:1 technology for students that supports learning, creativity, and future-ready skills.

**School Resource Deputy from the Spokane Sheriff's Department**
A dedicated deputy for Deer Park Schools, helping to keep our schools safe and supportive.

**Personnel not funded by the state**
Nurses, secretaries, assistant principals, technology support, custodians and maintenance/grounds.

This includes materials and supplies, such as uniforms and essential equipment, for student activities as well as staff salaries (teachers, coaches), travel, and the athletic director.

STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

>> DPMS Students Celebrate Our Bus Drivers

Deer Park Middle School students celebrated a Random Acts of Kindness Day by showing some well-deserved appreciation for our bus drivers!

Students greeted drivers with cards, flowers, posters, cheers, and plenty of applause to thank them for all they do. Our bus drivers are often the first friendly faces students see in the morning and the last at the end of the school day.

Thank you to our bus drivers for keeping our students safe, cared for, and connected!



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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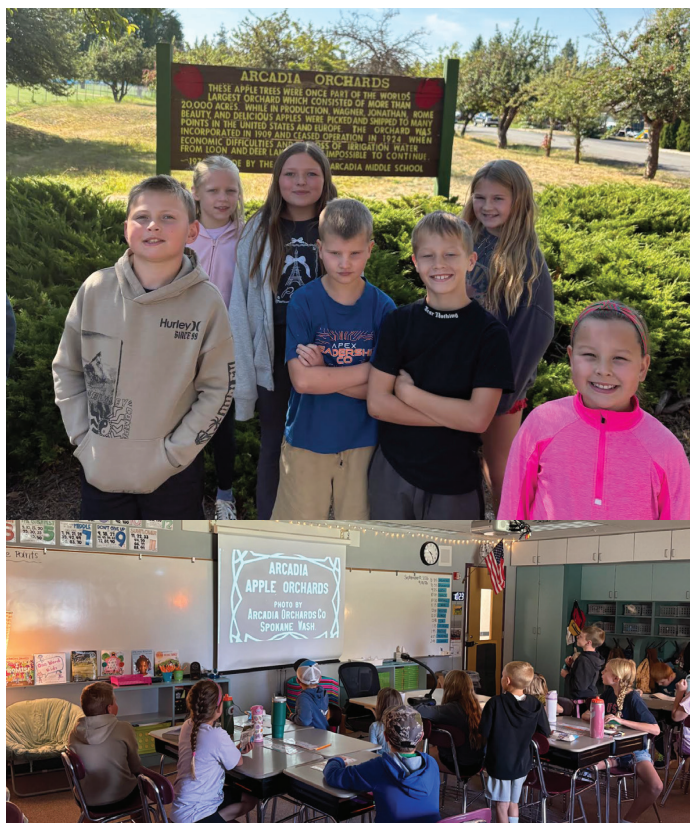
POSTAL PATRON 99006

» Visiting the Largest Orchard with Arcadia Elementary

Arcadia Elementary students took a step back in time this month with a visit to what remains of the historic Arcadia Orchard.

Students learned from the Clayton Deer Park Historical Society how the orchard was established in 1909 and what led to its closure in 1924. One of their favorite discoveries? The remaining apple trees were once part of what was known as the world's largest orchard!

It was a fun opportunity to connect classroom learning with the history right here in our own community.



» A Focus on Fall Sports

Fall sports are in full swing across Deer Park! We're proud to see our student-athletes competing, representing their schools, and building teamwork both on and off the field.

Deer Park athletics are supported by local Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) levy dollars, which help fund coaches and staff, uniforms, equipment, travel, and athletic programs.

Looking for a game? Visit the Greater Spokane League (GSL) website for schedules.



Photo credit: Gabe Carpenter