

# The Decatur High School SOUNDINGS 06-07



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Thomas Leacy, Principal

Judith Seiwerath, Assistant Principal  
Kevin Ikeda, Assistant Principal

Trude Perez, Dean of Students  
Jim Anderson, Dean of Students

## *From the Principal's Desk. . .*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am extremely proud of our staff and students' hard work to meet our academic achievement goals over the past year. Their efforts, coupled with the District's targeted academic support, again produced substantial gains in Decatur's 10<sup>th</sup> grade WASL scores. Results from the spring 2006 WASL testing indicate that Decatur posted a nearly 6-point jump in 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores from 2005. Added to the 19-point increase from the previous year, this brings our reading scores up to nearly 25 points over the 2004 testing.

Math scores this year were nearly identical to last year's, with around 51.2% of our 10<sup>th</sup> graders meeting standard. This is a 9-point increase in math scores from two years before. In writing, 87.4% of last year's 10<sup>th</sup> graders met the standard, a nearly 14-point increase from 2005.

With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, also known as "No Child Left Behind"), federal law requires that schools meet improvement goals in 37 separate categories. The WASL scores of various specific groups of students are among those categories. Under ESEA, schools that do not make these goals in all categories are placed on a plan for improvement, which consists of a series of steps.

**This year, Decatur made "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) in all categories.** However, because of the way that ESEA's improvement plan is structured, the school will remain at Step 2. If we meet our goals for 2007, the school will no longer be considered to be "in improvement" under ESEA.

Decatur entered Step 1 of School Improvement two years ago, when the results of the 2004 WASL testing showed that the school did not meet its goals for Special Education students in math. Decatur was identified as not making adequate yearly progress (AYP) during the 2003-2004 school year. Last year, Decatur met its goals in the other 36 of 37 ESEA-required categories but again was unable to make AYP in the same category, which required the school be placed in Step 2 for School Improvement, as required by ESEA.

### **What does being in "School Improvement" mean?**

This means that Decatur must take specific steps to raise student achievement and have a school improvement plan that will outline the steps we plan to take. We take our achievement results seriously, and will continue to use all of the local, state and federal resources available to address our school improvement needs, and to help all of our students meet Washington's Essential Academic Learning Requirements and the related adequate yearly progress goals.

Building and maintaining high-quality schools is a job for the entire community, and we appreciate your assistance in reaching our academic achievement goals. We encourage you to become active participants in our school improvement efforts.

For more information, please contact me at 253.945.5201. You can also go to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's website at <<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>> to see WASL scores by school, district and state. You can read more about ESEA and its academic goals and requirements at <<http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/default.aspx>>.

Sincerely,

*Thomas B. Leacy*  
Principal

# “PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT”

## DECATUR STUDENTS DILIGENTLY PRACTICE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

*(Also: where do I pick up my student in case of an emergency?)*

Outside of academic achievement, the safety and security of our students and staff at Decatur are top priority. In the past four months Decatur students have participated in monthly evacuation drills, an earthquake drill and an intruder lockdown drill. We will continue to practice our drills to ensure that our students and staff respond well to any emergency that may occur.

**In the case of an emergency evacuation, I can pick-up my son/daughter at the following location:**



- a) **Fire/earthquake** – Students are evacuated to the turf field. Parent/guardian can drive into the main entrance and pick up their student in the Senior parking lot.
- b) **If students need to be transported off school grounds:** Students will be transported to the parking lot of the Northwest Church on South 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 350<sup>th</sup> Street in Federal Way.
- c) **If the school is blocked off by law enforcement and my student is just arriving to school, where do they go and where can I pick them up?** Students and staff are to report to the Christ Lutheran Church parking lot at 2501 SW 320<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Reminder: Safe Schools Tip-Line 253.945.7233 – report any unsafe activities**

## SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION



Weather surprises like those we’ve experienced this month can cause disruption for schools and a great deal of confusion for parents and students. There are several ways to get information about school closures and changes: listen to the television and radio stations; sign up for e-mail emergency notification from [www.schoolreport.org](http://www.schoolreport.org); and/or sign up for e-mail emergency notification directly from Federal Way Public Schools at [www.fwps.org/info/emergencies/](http://www.fwps.org/info/emergencies/).

If you have computer access, the District strongly recommends that you sign up for one or both e-mail notification services. While the broadcast media are very helpful in getting out school closure information and usually get the information right, they don’t always include all the details that we need parents and students to know. For example, several stations announced that secondary Student Led Conferences were cancelled, but did not include the fact that classes would be held.

High school auto-dialer systems can reach approximately one-third of the school’s homes in an evening, and so are not effective for late notification.

Attention Decatur Students  
Students must carry their student ID cards  
at all times at all school functions

### 2006- 2007 second semester GRADING PERIODS & REPORT CARDS

March 19, 2007.....end 4th six weeks  
*send report cards home with student week of March 26*

May 7, 2007.....end 5th six weeks  
*send report cards home with student week of May 14*

June 22, 2007.....end 6th six weeks  
*report cards mailed home in July*

### Student Grade Level Classifications

All students will be classified as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors by the number of credits earned, rather than by age, number of years in school, etc.

<b>Grade 9 - freshman:</b>	0 to 5.4 credits
<b>Grade 10 - sophomore:</b>	5.5 to 11.4 credits
<b>Grade 11 - junior:</b>	11.5 to 17.4 credits
<b>Grade 12 - senior:</b>	17.5 to 23.5 credits

# 2006 Testing Schedule

**COMPETENCY TESTS** are a graduation requirement for the Class of 2007. Students must pass tests in Math, Writing and English, or have passed the corresponding section of the WASL. Competency Tests for English include Vocabulary, Reading, Spelling, Capitalization & Punctuation, and Usage. Competency Testing begins at 2:15PM in the Decatur library on the following days.

February 13 and 14 .....	Writing and Math
March 6 and 7 .....	English
April 3 and 4 .....	English, Writing and Math
May 8 and 9 .....	English and Math
May 22 and 23 .....	Writing

All students with 10th grade credits must take the **WASL**. All 11th graders in the Class of 2008 that have not yet met standard in Reading, Writing or Math have been pre-registered and are expected to test. Any 9th graders that pre-registered will also test. The WASL will begin promptly at 7:30AM on the following days. There are **NO MAKE-UPS**, so it is imperative that students attend and arrive on time on testing days. There will be study activities for non-testers. Busses will run at the regular time for the testers, and three hours later for the non-testers. **Students not taking the WASL must be on campus by 10:30AM for classes.**

March 13, 14, and 15 .....	WASL - Writing
March 19 and 20 .....	WASL - Reading
April 17 and 18 .....	WASL - Math
April 19 and 20 .....	WASL - Science

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS

AP Spanish .....	Tuesday, May 8, 7:30AM
AP Calculus .....	Wednesday, May 9, 7:30AM
AP English (Jr & Sr) .....	Thursday, May 10, 7:30AM
AP US History .....	Friday, May 11, 7:30AM
AP Biology .....	Monday, May 14, 7:30AM
AP Physics .....	Monday, May 14, 12:00PM
AP Environmental .....	Tuesday, May 15, 7:30AM
AP Chemistry .....	Tuesday, May 15, 7:30AM
AP World History .....	Thursday, May 17, 7:30AM

## Traffic Safety Registration



Spring Session: 3/5/07 - 5/8/07  
Cost: \$350.00

### Classes:

After school, M & W or T & Th  
Decatur, TJHS, FWHS, TBHS or  
6:00 - 8:00 pm, M & W, TJHS

### Register:

Traffic Safety Office, TJHS, M-F,  
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Register by mail, fax, or in person

**Payment:** Cash, check, money order,  
or VISA/Master Card - payment plan  
also available.

Questions? Contact Mike Grady,  
253.945.5731

e-mail: [mike-grady@fwps.org](mailto:mike-grady@fwps.org)



Thank you,  
Silent Heroes!



Decatur High School students host regular blood drives. Our student donors, along with student donors at other local schools, provide over 25% of the blood collected in our community. These donations provide needed blood for transfusions at St. Francis as well as other area hospitals.

These blood products are used for patients who are receiving routine and emergency surgeries, accident victims, babies requiring emergency procedures, patients undergoing cancer treatments, and seriously ill patients who need life-saving transfusions. Since there is no other way to provide the blood needed for these patients, blood donors are truly giving the "Gift of Life". Without the simple gift of blood, the surgeries would not be possible.

Decatur High School has worked in conjunction with Cascade Regional Blood Services for many years to provide this resource to our community.



*We need your blood!!*



We welcome community members and parents to join with us in this very worthy cause!

For more information about upcoming Blood Drives, contact teachers:  
**Suzanne Endroedy, 253.945.5257**  
**Linda Plett, 253.945.5241**



**Federal Way  
Public Schools**  
Every Student, a Reader

# Senior Class events

## MARCH

**15<sup>TH</sup> THRU 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**Diploma Name Check/Corrections:** in the Counseling Center - check clipboard.

**TBA ~ Senior Showcase:** PA. Check the Daily Announcements, Bulletin and the Senior Webpage at [www.fwps.org/decaturn](http://www.fwps.org/decaturn) for information on the auditions and date of event.

## APRIL

**FRIDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**Final Date- Diploma Name Check/Corrections:** in the Counseling Center.

## MAY

**FIRST WEEK**

**Senior Newsletter:** Look for this newsletter to be mailed to all Decatur seniors the first week in May. This will be full of information about the events leading up to graduation, with specifics such as "where do I line up for graduation, what time should we be at the Tacoma Dome, etc." This newsletter will also be posted on Decatur's website on the "Senior" Webpage.

**WEDNESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**Senior Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup>:**

**Senior Awards & Recognition:** 6 pm, PA

**TBA ~ Caps & Gowns handed out:** You should receive a postcard with all info: dates, and times.

## JUNE

**FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**Senior Prom:** Union Station, Seattle, 8-12 pm

**WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**Senior Check-Out:** 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

**THURSDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**Senior Check-Out:** 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

**FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**Senior Breakfast & Rehearsal:** 7 am. This event is for seniors only. Attendance at the rehearsal following the breakfast is required.

**WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Graduation/Commencement:** Tacoma Dome, 7 pm



**Grad Night Event • Sponsored by Decatur PTSA**  
For details contact Teri Johnson @ 253.332.4403

# Other Important Dates

Feb 5-14	Valentine's Day Flower Sale
	<i>February 19 - 21 • MINI Mid-Winter Break</i>
Feb 22 & 23	Make-Up Day • School in session
March 1	Wind Ensemble @ CWU
March 3	Jazz Band @ Auburn Jazz Festival
March 10	Wind Ens/Band @ SPSL Festival, Sumner
March 11-15	St. Pat's Shamrock & Flower Sale
March 13-14-15	WASL Testing - (altered schedule)
March 15	Cabaret Preview Nite - \$5 - 7 pm (no dinner)
March 16	Make-Up Day • School in session
March 16	Cabaret Nite - \$20 - open 5:30 - dinner 6pm
March 17	Jazz Band @ Clackamas, OR
March 19-20	WASL Testing - (altered schedule)
March 19	End 4th Grade Period
	<i>April 9 - 13 • Spring Vacation</i>
April 5	Bands Spring Concert - 7 pm
April 17-20	WASL Testing - (altered schedule)
April 26-27-28	Aida - 7 pm (Musical Drama performance)
April 27-Fri	Spring Plant Sale (noon-5 pm)
April 28-Sat	Spring Plant Sale (9 am-noon)
April 30-May 16	Spring Plant Sale (7 am-noon weekdays)
May 3-4-5	Aida - 7 pm (Musical Drama performance)
May 7	End 5th Grade Period
May 11	NO SCHOOL • Waiver Day
May 17	NO SCHOOL • Student Conferences
May 18	NO SCHOOL • Student Conferences
May 24-25	Memorial Day Flower Sale (7 am-noon)
May 28	HOLIDAY • Memorial Day
May 29	Snow Make-up Day • School in session
June 14	Spring Choir & Orchestra Concert - 7 pm
June 18-22	Graduation Flowers Sale
June 20	Graduation Commencement Tacoma Dome • 7 pm
June 22	End Semester
June 22	Last Student Day



Decatur's  
webpage  
Our gift to you...



[www.fwps.org/decaturn](http://www.fwps.org/decaturn)

### General Info - and much more:

Announcements - Weekly Bulletin  
Athletic Schedule & Info  
Boundary Map • Bus Schedules  
Contact Us - Phone & e-mail  
Course Catalog • Lunch Menus  
PTSA  
Scholarships • School Closure Info • Testing  
Rights & Responsibilities • WASL Info

### Student Info (password required):

Attendance • Fines & Fees  
Online Grades