

School Board Report – October 2026

WHA Elementary

1. Apples Bring Us Together!

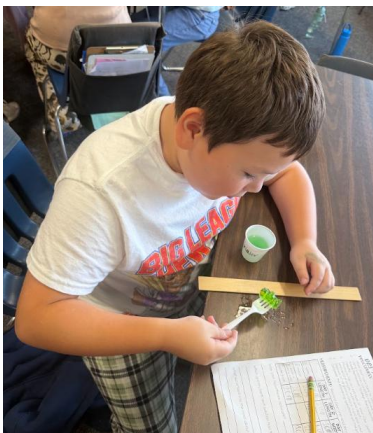
Our kindergarten and high school FACS classes teamed up for apple-inspired learning! Students created recipes, practiced sequencing steps and following directions, and compared and contrasted recipes and ingredients. They used comparison charts and graphs to organize their observations and show what they learned. Along the way, they built relationships across grade levels through teamwork and shared discoveries. This collaboration brought cooking, literacy, science and math together in a meaningful and memorable way!



2. Fifth Grade Puts the Scientific Method to the Test

Fifth graders recently put the scientific method into action with a fun and hands-on Gummy Bear Lab. Students began by making observations and predictions about what they thought would happen when gummy bears were placed in different liquids. They then identified variables, took measurements, collected data, and observed changes over time.

After completing the experiment, students compared their results and used evidence from their data to draw conclusions. This activity gave students a chance to practice the steps scientists use when conducting an investigation, while also building skills in measurement, careful observation, data collection, and evidence-based thinking. It was a memorable way to bring science learning to life in the classroom.



3. Second Graders Explore the Community Garden

On Tuesday, September 22, our second graders walked to the community garden to meet with Mike Rogowski and learn more about gardening and pumpkins. Students began with a scavenger hunt, searching for different fruits and vegetables growing in the garden, including broccoli, tomatillos, grapes, and celery. They then learned what plants need to grow and discovered how this summer's hot and dry

weather affected the garden. Mike planted 100 pumpkin seeds and harvested 64 pumpkins, ranging in all different sizes! Students also learned about the difference between fruits and vegetables. They were surprised to discover that tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers are actually fruits because they contain seeds inside. The hands-on learning continued as some students dug potatoes while others picked carrots. Mike used these vegetables to introduce students to root vegetables and explain how some foods grow underground. Before heading back to school, Mike gave each student a pumpkin to take home, along with some extras for the class. Our second graders are excited to do some experimenting and other fun activities with their pumpkins in the coming weeks!



4. Celebrating Cheri Lemberg's Retirement

WHA is celebrating the retirement of Cheri Lemberg, who officially retired on September 30 after 32 years in education! Cheri was a second-grade teacher at WHA for several years and has been a valued part of our school community. During the month of September, Cheri had the opportunity to work with our preschool students before officially retiring. While we will miss having her on staff, we are excited that she will continue to be part of our district as a substitute. We'll miss having her here every day, but we're happy we'll still get to see her around the building! Congratulations on your retirement, Cheri! Thank you for the many years you have dedicated to students and education.



5. Looking at Our Literacy Data

On October 1, our leadership team met after school with Dr. Mary Jordahl, our COMPASS Regional Literacy Lead, to take a closer look at our literacy data from the 2025–26 school year. We spent time celebrating the areas where our students made progress and talking about what the data can tell us about where we can continue to grow.

Looking at our data is an important part of our continuous improvement process. It helps us recognize what is working well while also helping us identify areas where we can make adjustments and better support student learning.

We are proud of the progress our students and staff made last year and are excited to use what we learned to help guide our work this year.

6. Math Night Brings Families Together

WHA's Math Night on October 6 was a fun evening of learning, playing, and spending time together! We had 138 students and family members join us for an evening filled with math games and activities.

Families had the chance to learn new games they can easily play at home while practicing important math skills. It was great to see families playing together, laughing, and discovering that math can be fun outside of the classroom, too!

While we know there were lots of other activities happening in our community and the beautiful fall weather was hard to pass up, we were very happy with the families who were able to join us. Thank you to everyone who came and made the evening such a fun one!



7. Walker Fire Department Visits for Fire Prevention Week

In honor of Fire Prevention Week, the Walker Fire Department visited our school to share important fire safety tips with our preschool through third grade students. Firefighters taught students what to do in case of a fire, how to stop, drop, and roll, and the importance of having a family escape plan. Students enjoyed seeing the fire truck up close and learning how firefighters keep our community safe. We are grateful to the Walker Fire Department for taking the time to educate our young learners and helping them stay safe!





Student enrollment:

Month	Current School Year (26-27) Student Count, Pk-5	25-26 School Year Student Count, Pk-5
September	Did not calculate due to start of year	
October	3's = 15 4's = 23 K = 31 1 = 34 2 = 48 3 = 37 4 = 40 5 = 46 TOTAL = 274	275