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# News Release

From West Seattle High School

For Immediate Release: Monday, February 1, 2010

Contact: Bruce Bivins, Principal (206) 252-8800

## West Seattle High School Invites Students & Their Families to Open House on February 11<sup>th</sup>

*“Why Westside?”*

*Complete & Comprehensive, College-Ready, Community-Centered*

West Seattle High School Principal Bruce Bivins is extending an invitation to all interested students and their families, and to learn the answer to the question *“Why Westside?”* by attending an **Open House at West Seattle High School** on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:30 PM.

The Open House will feature school tours; a departmental & resource fair; panel discussions about the 9<sup>th</sup> grade program, college readiness, and student life; a video titled, “Why Westside?”; student performances; and even free tickets to the West Seattle/Rainier Beach boys’ basketball game at the school that evening.

“Many families ask me why they should choose Westside,” Bivins said. “So we designed our Open House this year to answer that question. We think the answer is clear: West Seattle High School it offers a complete and comprehensive education, it prepares students to be college-ready, and is community-centered.”

Bivins pointed out that West Seattle is a **comprehensive high school** that can offer students a complete range of academics, athletics, arts, and activities. The high school offers AP and honors courses across all core subjects, more than 40 active clubs, division-winning sports teams, and band, choir, and an annual spring musical. Westside will also be starting a spring orchestra in fall 2010.

The full range of classes, as well as support from staff, prepare Westside students to be **college-ready**. Bivins noted that in the Class of 2008, 88% of all graduating seniors received acceptances to the colleges of their choice; and in 2009, 91% of the seniors were accepted to the colleges of their choice. Students in both of these classes received over a \$1 million in scholarship awards.

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Bivins also noted that West Seattle is a **community-centered high school** that has been part of the community for 100 years. “We have strong and rich traditions at Westside,” Bivins said, “and we offer students a small town feel in a large, comprehensive high school.” Bivins noted that the high school’s community-centered approach has been enhanced by outreach to Madison Middle school to help students make a successful transition into 9<sup>th</sup> grade and do well in high school.

The schedule for the West Seattle High School Open House on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> is:

- 6:00-6:30      Departmental Fair in the Commons**  
Hors d'oeuvres prepared and served by our culinary arts students  
Student-performed music  
Meet with faculty and learn about course offerings and expectations in each department
- 6:30-7:00      Presentation**  
Welcome & Introduction from Principal Bruce Bivins  
Student video: “Why Westside?”  
Scene from student-directed play, “Jumpin’ Jupiter”
- 7:00-8:00      Panel Discussions (choice of two)**  
1. *Student Panel*: Students discuss life at Westside  
2. *College-Prep Panel*: Faculty discuss advanced learning opportunities and program expectations within the departments  
3. *9th Grade Panel*: Faculty and students discuss school requirements, resources and supports, and summer-bridge expectations
- 7:00-8:30      Explore Westside**  
School facility and lab tours throughout the evening
- 8:30-10:00     Basketball Game**  
Prospective students and their families will receive free admission to the boys’ varsity basketball game with special appearances by our Pep Band, Cheerleaders, and Spirit Mob

For more information please visit the West Seattle High School web site at:

[www.seattleschools.org/schools/wshs/](http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/wshs/)