

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

Director of Communications: Gregg Herrington, (360) 885-5337

PO Box 200 • Battle Ground, WA 98604-0200 • Office Location: 11104 NE 149th Street • Brush Prairie, WA  
District Switchboard: (360) 885-5300

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### River HomeLink moves to Maple Grove

The Battle Ground district's River HomeLink School has a new home: the Maple Grove campus. In a related move, River HomeLink's principal, Mark Clements, will double as principal of Summit View alternative High School in Brush Prairie, replacing Paul Bardzik, who retired after the 2010-11 school year.

River HomeLink, a parent-partnered kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade school, will occupy the multi-classroom modular building on the Maple Grove campus known as the Longhouse. Classes that had been conducted in the Longhouse will be moved to the main Maple Grove Primary building and adjacent portables.

Schedules, personnel, curriculum, parking, etc. at Maple Grove Primary and Middle schools will not be affected by the addition of a third school to the sprawling campus a quarter mile east of state Highway 503 on Southwest Eaton Boulevard (formerly Northeast 199<sup>th</sup> Street).

Clements said, "River HomeLink has always been a Battle Ground School District school, so it's exciting to be located within the district itself so more Battle Ground families can be served through this parent-partnered model. It takes the best of public school and home school, with plenty of parental involvement, in a K-12 setting."

River HomeLink, with enrollment expected to be about 320 in 2011-12, operated for 15 years in leased space in Camas and drew students from the Battle Ground district and beyond. It is a fully accredited school that incorporates elements of public school and home schooling. Students typically attend classes one or two days a week and receive the rest of their instruction at home.

Enrollment in Camas had been more than 400, but issues with the facility forced a move. Another site in the Battle Ground district had been considered, but it had insufficient parking and room for only 200 students.

On the Maple Grove campus, River HomeLink will have its own faculty, school nurse, psychologist, speech therapist and parking.

Thanks to owners of the Gardner (commercial) center just west of the Maple Grove campus, River HomeLink families will park near Battle Ground Cinema and at other designated spots in the center's lot. They will then walk the short, direct route to the Longhouse via a new gate in the fence between the Gardner Center and the Maple Grove campus.

Next summer, a parking lot for River HomeLink will be built on the west edge of the Maple Grove campus near the Longhouse. Access will be off of Southwest Ninth Avenue. School buses do not serve River HomeLink or its sister school, HomeLink Battle Ground, 715 N.W. Onsdorff Blvd.

Barbara Baird continues as principal at Maple Grove Primary and Bill Penrose continues as principal at Maple Grove Middle.

“We are working together to fulfill the opportunities presented by the arrival of River HomeLink on the Maple Grove campus,” the three principals said in a letter from them to families of the three schools.

Clements has been with Battle Ground Public Schools since signing on as a teacher in 1998. Prior to that, he was a principal in Washougal and in Ontario, Ore. He grew up in Prineville, Ore., just two blocks from the home of Northwest tire king Les Schwab. Clements remembers that as a boy he sold fishing flies to Schwab.

“This is going to be a challenging year, moving River HomeLink and serving the students and staff of Summit View,” Clements said. “It is an honor to be able to serve as Summit View principal following Paul.”

School offices will be open Aug. 15 and school begins Sept. 7 at the primary and middle schools. Orientations for RHL students will be Sept. 7 or 8.



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