

presents an invitation to apply for the position of
SUPERINTENDENT
Whitefish School District
Whitefish, Montana



ABOUT THE POSITION

The Whitefish School District is seeking an outstanding educational leader to serve as superintendent effective July 1, 2015.

This position is open until filled; to receive full consideration, apply by **April 27, 2015**.

Dennis Ray
Northwest Leadership Associates

COMPENSATION

The Board of Trustees will negotiate a salary which is commensurate with similar sized school districts in Montana and reflects the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pat Jarvi, Chair

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Whitefish School District community proudly supports over 1,600 students by providing excellent schools and innovative teaching and learning. The district is committed to developing and supporting reflective thinkers who are well equipped for college, career, and citizenship. Whitefish educators, through hard work, intensive and ongoing professional development, and commitment to innovative teaching and learning, bring depth and continuity to the learning experience of all students.

WHITEFISH AND WHITEFISH INDEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOLS

Whitefish High School (grades 9-12) offers rigorous courses in STEM biology and biomedical science, as well as applied and advanced physics, math, and English, and dual credit college programs.



Just completed is a new state-of-the-art facility where teachers will emphasize arts and sciences, innovative learning, and daily use of digital tools.

In recent years, high school students have won numerous state awards:

- Outstanding Thespian Troupe
- Class A titles in soccer, cross country, and track & field
- State DECA awards
- State speech and debate finalists
- Choir, strings, and band awards



The new block scheduling offers four extended academic periods per day providing students with additional time for in-depth focus and exploration of topics. The block schedule allows teachers to give more personal attention to individual students as a result of having fewer students each day. The end result is greater teacher collaboration and stronger interpersonal relationships.

Ruth Harrison, Vice Chair

David Fern

Shawn Watts

Heather Vrentas

Shawn Tucker

Nick Polumbus

Quick Links

For more information, visit:

www.wsd44.org

www.whitefishchamber.org

www.whitefishschools.org

Join Our Mailing List!



Whitefish Independent High School offers students a highly personalized learning environment for some of our students seeking a more non-traditional setting. Many students enrolled in the Whitefish Independent High School prefer to take some of their courses through self-paced and online delivery. A number of Independent High School students seek a class schedule that can be built around their jobs or seek graduation goals that do not fit a traditional time line.

WHITEFISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Whitefish Middle School (grades 5-8) has earned a well-deserved reputation for high expectations, academic excellence, and a positive, safe environment in which students learn and grow. Teachers and staff recognize the diverse characteristics and needs of young people and offer many opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop academic skills, and discover personal strengths. Teachers and staff work hard to partner with families to shape students' learning lives by creating a safe, challenging, and nurturing school!



The Whitefish Middle School building is a beautiful facility, finished in 2006, and is designed around the development needs of middle school students. Fifth and sixth grade students have their own separate learning pods, where attention is focused on a sense of community and offers individualized learning as well as group collaboration. Seventh and eighth grade students make many decisions about their own learning schedules and electives.

MULDOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Muldown Elementary

School (grades K-4) teachers and staff take special interest in each student, creating personalized, safe, and innovative learning experiences. Classroom communities are joyful places where student creativity, risk-taking, sophisticated thinking, and problem-solving are encouraged.



Muldown Elementary Highlights:

- Individual student placement (student placement according to learning style)
- Literacy and thinking (variety of methods offered to help kids love reading and thinking)
- Full day kindergarten (more instructional time and increased learning activities)
- Active community involvement (parents, PTA, resident artists, Masons)
- K-4 ALPS (Accelerated Learning Program for gifted and talented)
- Health education (variety of engaging fitness activities, e.g., bike safety)
- Music (developmental music program with performances through the year)



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Located in the heart of the northern Rocky Mountains, Whitefish is home to the world-class Whitefish Mountain Ski Resort and is a gateway to Glacier National Park - 1,600 square miles of awe-inspiring mountain peaks, waterfalls, rushing streams, and glaciers.



Whitefish Lake and Whitefish City Beach are just blocks from the heart of downtown. In the warmer months, the list of outdoor recreational activities is abundant: hiking, mountain biking, golf, horseback riding, kayaking, rafting, and fishing. Winter sports include skiing,

snowshoeing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, and ice skating. Population is just over 7,000.

For more information, visit: <http://www.whitefishchamber.org/>

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The next superintendent will need to lead the district in addressing the following challenges and opportunities:

- Maintain momentum for continuous improvement in instructional pedagogy to enhance the academic achievement of all students
- Oversee management of fiscal resources to ensure the continued support of the community
- Be visible and meaningfully engaged in the Whitefish community
- Effectively communicate and collaborate with employees and their professional associations on substantive issues of mutual concern
- Continue to develop and support programs (from academics to the arts to athletics) that attract and retain students
- Increase the level of trust and collaboration between the administration, board, staff, and community

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The School Board, staff, and community are seeking candidates with the following skills and qualifications:

- A deep and progressive knowledge of education pedagogy and the skills to embed appropriate instructional strategies throughout the district's classrooms
- Demonstrated track record of effective integration of technology into the curriculum as well as into instructional methodology
- Effective communication skills in order to articulate the district's vision and mission to a wide variety of audiences
- An ability to make difficult decisions and hold himself/herself and others accountable
- A visible, open, and collaborative leadership style that inspires and builds teamwork and trust among all stakeholders
- Honesty, integrity, empathy, and compassion

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND TIMELINE

For full consideration, please submit the following material by **April 27, 2015**. However, the district retains the right to accept applications until the position is filled.

- A formal letter of application
- A completed application form available from Dennis Ray at dennisray@superintendentsearch.com

- A current résumé
- Three to five letters of recommendation

Questions and/or requests for application materials can be made to Dennis Ray via email or by phone at 509-979-5561.

Send all application materials to:

Dr. Dennis Ray
Northwest Leadership Associates
724 N Lancashire Lane
Liberty Lake, WA 99019
dennisray@superintendentsearch.com

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