Hello, my name is Voni Walker and I am excited to write this letter to you. Currently I serve as your superintendent here in Manson. I have come a long way to make it where I am today, and I hope my personal story will inspire you to chase your dreams and become the person you want to be.

I did not have a storybook life growing up. My family lived in poverty, and for several years we received government assistance to survive week by week. I am the youngest of three children brought up by a hard-working and caring mother. My mom raised three girls on her own while working and attending night school. It was her determination and grit that helped me believe anything was possible. Life can throw us hardballs, and my mom had her share.

One thing that really clicked for me was school; it was my escape. At school, aside from my hand-me-down clothes and never having the home-made lunches other kids coveted, I fit in. Oh, it was not easy. I constantly worked to cover my personal story, and say and do the right things so others would like me. But I pulled it off. I joined sports teams and worked hard on my school work. I found myself in classes with college-bound students and began to feel a sense of belonging. By the time I was a junior, I knew I was going to college. I just had to make it happen.

I was the first in my family to attend a university, so I placed a lot of pressure on my mom to learn how to navigate the system quickly. I did not have someone like Ms. Grageda chasing me down to complete my FAFSA and turn in my applications; however, I had decided I was going to college and nothing was going to stop me. I did have the support of my family, and that was enough. In 1989, I started school at Central Washington University. I had no idea what I wanted to do, but I knew I was where I should be. I quickly found my passion in education. In high school and college, I was able to change my life for the better and break the cycle of poverty. I wanted to be an inspiring and helpful teacher, just like those who had blessed my life.

After teaching for nine years, I got the “learning bug” again and decided to pursue my master’s degree in educational leadership. With one small child at home and another on the way, I graduated from Seattle Pacific University and started my career in administration. I served as an assistant principal and principal for sixteen years before the bug hit again. My favorite part of being a principal was helping develop the staff in my building. Specifically, I enjoyed helping others refine their craft in the classroom and reach their leadership potential. I once again pursued additional schooling and received my superintendent’s certificate from Washington State University in the spring of 2019. The rest is what you see here today.

My start in Manson has been a rocky one, with COVID and all of the nuances that made life difficult for all of us. My ability to connect with each of you has been much more difficult. I will say that this year has been awesome because the staff and administration have been ready to get back to growing and learning together. I hope you have felt that too. As I reflect on my career thus far, I could not have done any of this alone. I was the driving force in my life, but I had to tell others what I wanted and advocate to get the help I needed. There are people out there for all of us. Be sure to keep yourself open to the possibilities life offers, and be ready to jump when the opportunity arises.
### Scholarship Corner

Check our Manson website to see which scholarships are open and their deadlines! QR code that will take you right to our page:

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### Senior News

**SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS HERE! APPLY NOW!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYTH</th>
<th>TRUTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships are only for athletes, students with good grades and</td>
<td>Millions of scholarship dollars are available for people of all</td>
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<tr>
<td>young people.</td>
<td>backgrounds, abilities and ages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paying for online scholarship searches will help me access billions</td>
<td>Don’t pay for scholarship searches or provide credit card information.</td>
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<td>of unused scholarships.</td>
<td>You shouldn’t have to pay money upfront to receive a scholarship.</td>
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<td>The applicant with the most extracurricular activities wins the</td>
<td>Similar to colleges, scholarship providers are looking for well-</td>
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<td>scholarship.</td>
<td>rounded students. Most scholarships are not based on any single</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans affect my chances for a scholarship.</td>
<td>criterion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>My parents make too much money for me to get financial aid or a</td>
<td>Scholarships are based on many factors, not just financial need. All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scholarship.</td>
<td>eligible students should complete the FAFSA or WASFA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships are only open to students attending two-year community</td>
<td>Lots of funding is open to students pursuing degrees and certificates</td>
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<td>colleges or four-year universities.</td>
<td>from accredited technical and vocational colleges.</td>
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### Senior Spotlights

- **Juan Jose Garcia**  
  College 1st Choice: Vocational/Trade Program  
  Dream job: Electrician

- **Giovanna Arellano**  
  College 1st Choice: Western Washington University  
  Dream job: Teacher

- **Thea Batch**  
  College 1st Choice: University of Washington  
  Dream job: Psychiatrist

- **Alex Solorio**  
  College 1st Choice: Wenatchee Valley College  
  Dream job: Canine Unit with Law Enforcement
What’s Next

Washington State University:
Esmeralda Estrada
Cara Hutton
Joselin Nuñez
Raven Pope
Celestina Pacheco
Natalie Sotelo-Solorio
Emely Valencia

Grand Canyon University:
Katie Gosvener
Raven Pope
Francisco Pacheco
Lauren Soliday
Parker Teague

Corban University:
Katie Gosvener
Lauren Soliday
Josephine Thompson

Edmonds College:
Celestina Pacheco

Spokane Falls Community College:
Esmeralda Angulo
Celestina Pacheco
Maycee Ward

George Fox University:
Natalie Sotelo-Solorio

Point Loma Nazarene University:
Nick Strecker
Max Kruse

Eastern Washington University:
Esmeralda Estrada
Joselin Nuñez
Raven Pope
Celestina Pacheco
Natalie Sotelo-Solorio

Portland State University:
Esmeralda Estrada
Celestina Pacheco

Boise State University:
Lauren Soliday

Azusa Pacific University:
Lauren Soliday

Western Washington University:
Natalie Sotelo-Solorio
Paige Schoenwald

Central Washington University:
Raven Pope
Natalie Sotelo-Solorio
Nick Strecker

Seattle Pacific University:
Natalie Sotelo-Solorio

Brigham Young University–Idaho:
Jamison England

Columbia Basin College:
Josephine Thompson

CONFIRMED...

Spokane Falls Community College:
Maycee Ward (Volleyball Scholarship)

Grand Canyon University:
Francisco Pacheco

Columbia Basin College:
Josephine Thompson (Volleyball Scholarship)

You are in!
Career/College Opportunities for all MHS Students:

*Careers After School Program:*

Learn about Chelan-Douglas County Fire!
Chelan-Douglas County Fire Departments respond to all types of emergencies including structure fires, wildland fires, vehicle fires, hazardous material calls, emergency medical and rescue calls. Their personnel are expected to be physically and mentally prepared to meet the many challenges and demands. Join us at Douglas County Fire District 2, Station #1 to learn about the variety of career opportunities in fire fighting and get some hands on experience to see if it’s the job for you!

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022 5:30PM-7:30PM

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Alcoa is the world’s leading producer and manager of primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum and alumina facilities, and is active in all major aspects of the industry. Alcoa Wenatchee Works also has its very own wastewater treatment plant and drinking water system. Some of the careers involved with water treatment are water operations engineer, system engineer, heavy equipment operators, supervisors and MORE!

Come join us to learn about careers in water treatment, how they process and dispose of waste water and how they create clean and healthy drinking water.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022 5:30PM-7:30PM

*Come to Post-Secondary Office if interested! You will need to register for these opportunities and transportation may be available for Careers After School Programs!*

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**LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?**

Stop by the main office, check out the board outside post-secondary office or just ask about who is hiring in our valley this summer!