

# JOEL E. FERRIS HIGH SCHOOL

## 2017-18 School Profile – How Ferris Stacks Up



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## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Named in 1961 for Joel E. Ferris, one of Spokane's leading citizens, Joel E. Ferris High School opened on September 3, 1963. Ferris High School serves approximately 1800 students in grades 9-12 in the Spokane School District. Ferris offers over 40 enriching activities covering athletics, visual and performing arts, science, business and marketing, critical communication skills and a number of service-oriented organizations.

Spokane Public Schools (SPS) is the largest school district in eastern Washington and the second largest in the state. SPS has a diverse population (29,275 students) with 1314 ELL students speaking 56 different languages, 24% children of color, and 57% students qualify for federal free/reduced meals. SPS covers several communities and includes five comprehensive high schools.

Ferris is committed to a rigorous, personalized education for all and encourages students to stretch themselves in the selection of academic classes as well as choosing to become involved in a variety of athletics and school supported clubs and activities. From our championship sports programs to our nationally renowned music programs, there is something for everyone.

### Ferris High School

Male: 53.2% Female: 46.8%

White: 73.8%

Two or more races: 9.8

Hispanic/Latino: 8.5

Asian: 4.3

Black/African American 2.5

Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0.8

American Indian/Alaskan 0.3

Free/Reduced meals: 43.35%

Transitional Bilingual: 4.8%

Total number of core academic classes: 664

## MISSION STATEMENT/EDUCATIONAL BELIEFS

Ferris Mission Statement:

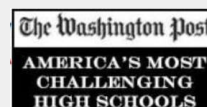
*Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day.*

A great school system builds on the strengths and gifts of each child. More choices mean we are better able to match learning styles, and are better preparing students to successfully complete some form of higher education: technical, 2-year or 4-year. This is our T-2-4 goal.

## STAFF

In the 2017-18 school year, Ferris staff includes 95 certificated teachers (with over fifteen years of experience), five administrators, seven counselors and one athletic director and school psychologist. 78.9% of staff members have earned a Master's degree and one has earned a Doctorate degree. Twenty-four teachers are National Board Certified and a Ferris teacher won the 2018 Washington State Teacher of the Year.

## FERRIS QUICK STATISTICS



- Ferris is recognized as one of America's Most Challenging High Schools by the Washington Post. High schools are ranked through an index formula that is a simple ratio: the number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given at a school each year divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year.
- 25 Advanced Placement course offerings
- The AP participation rate is 44% (taking tests is voluntary - no one is told they must take or should not take the test.)
- 33% of freshmen are enrolled in advance level math and science classes including many honors classes.
- Two 4-year Project Lead the Way programs: Biomedical and Engineering
- 91% 4-year Cohort Graduation rate
- WIAA Academic State Championships through June 2017 (Based on highest overall team GPA) – Since the 1988 inception of the program, at the AAAA (large school) level, Ferris has received 64 State Academic Championships. The GSL League (10 high schools) has received 193 Academic Championships.
- Named one of the top high schools by US News and World Report. Ferris ranked #17 within Washington and ranked #1542 in the National Rankings and earned a silver medal. Schools are ranked based on their performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ferris High School operates on a Carnegie Credit/Unit system with two semesters lasting 18 weeks and earning one-half credit for each semester-length course passed or one credit for each full-year subject passed. Students must earn 22.0 Carnegie credits to graduate; most graduate with more than 22. The graduating class of 2021 must earn 24 credits.

English:	4.0 credits
Social Science:	3.0 credits
Mathematics:	3.0 credits (most enroll in 4 years)
Science:	3.0 credits (most enroll in 4 years)
Fine/Applied Arts:	1.0 credit
Health:	0.5 credit
Physical Education:	1.5 credits
Career/Tech Education:	1.0 credit
Electives:	5.0 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.0 credits</b>

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

In spring 2017, 405 Ferris students took one or more AP tests. Of the 718 tests taken, 446 (62%) scored at a level 3 or higher which earns that student college credit and advanced placement college courses.

- 55 AP Scholars (scores of 3 or better on 3 or more AP exams)
- 20 AP Scholars w/ Honors (scores of 3 or better on 4 or more AP exams/average 3.25)
- 25 AP Scholars w/ Distinction (scores of 3 or better on 5 or more AP exams/average 3.5)
- 3 National AP Scholars (students who received an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken **and** scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams)

## CLASS RANK

For years, Spokane Public Schools has recognized valedictorians – which almost every year were students with a 4.0 GPA. The problem with this policy is that it recognizes grade point averages only, which actually discourages students from taking more challenging courses and may also discourage students from taking a balanced course load that includes things like music and arts, athletics or other electives.

SPS high schools will continue to have valedictorians through the class of 2019. At this time, valedictorian status is determined using non-weighted grades. Weighted grades are calculated by providing higher points for grades earned in Honors courses and still higher points for grades earned in AP courses.

Marking System	Point Value	Honors Rank	AP Rank
A	4.0	4.5	5
A-	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	3.0	3.5	4
B-	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	2.0	2.5	3
C-	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	1.0	1.5	2
F	0	0	0

Latin Honors System: this system will recognize the top students using weighted grade point averages. Students will have the ability to get three levels of recognition: Summa Cum Laude (4.3 GPA), Magna Cum Laude (4.1 GPA) and Cum Laude (3.8 GPA); using the same designations that colleges across the nation use to recognize top students. The top tier of the Latin

Honors system (Summa Cum Laude) will recognize the top 3% of the senior class, instead of those who took the most AP and honors classes. The goal is to reward students who work hard, take rigorous courses, and have a well-rounded schedule.

Class of 2018 Total Students = 467 Average GPA 2.928		
GPA	# of students	% of class
3.5 – 4.0	138	29.5
3.0 – 3.49	101	21.6
2.5 – 2.99	93	19.9
2.0 – 2.49	67	14.3
Less than 2.0	68	14.5

Using a decile system will provide equity. Instead of sorting students, the new class ranking system will give all students in the top 10% of the class the same rank. Students are not to be penalized for deciding to take more classes.

## GRADUATES

Over 70% of Ferris graduates go on to higher education. For many years, each graduating class has amassed over \$2 million in scholarships and grants (not financial aid/loans). The class of 2017 received over \$3.3 million. Consistently, students attend:

- Prestigious *Ivy League* schools, e.g. Harvard, Yale, Brown, Georgetown as well as Stanford, Cal Poly, Whitman, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Puget Sound, Seattle University, etc.
- Military academies: USAF, West Point, Annapolis, Coast Guard
- High level of acceptance to major land grant universities/colleges e.g. University of Washington, Washington State University, University of Idaho, University of Nebraska, etc.
- Beyond the institutions identified above, Ferris students pursue a variety of post high school institutions, e.g., Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, community colleges and professional-technical schools.

## HONORS/AP OFFERINGS 2017-18

Honors English 9 and 10	Honors Algebra II
Honors Pre-Calculus	Honors World Languages
AP Biology	AP Calculus AB and Calculus BC
AP Capstone-Research/AP Seminar	AP Chemistry
AP Comparative Government	AP Computer Science
AP English Lang & Comp	AP English Lit & Comp
AP Environmental Science	AP European History
AP Fabric & Fashion	AP Physics
AP French, German, Japanese, Spanish	AP Psychology
AP Statistics	AP Studio Art: Drawing
AP Studio Art: Digital Photography	AP US Government
AP US History	AP World History

## SAT AVERAGES (Reasoning Tests): 2017-18

	Ferris	District	State (each out of a possible 800)
Reading/Writing	532	505	539
Math	528	503	533
Total	1060	1008	1072

\*All juniors take the SAT.

\*All freshmen, sophomores and juniors take the PSAT.

## ACT AVERAGES: 2017-18

	Ferris	State		Ferris	State
English	23.2	20.9	Math	23.4	21.9
Reading	24.4	22.1	Science	23.4	22.0
			Total:	23.8	21.9