



ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

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2012 Assistant Principal of the Year Chanda Oatis

Chanda Oatis is a vibrant, caring leader whose passion for connecting students to the love of the written word does not stop at the classroom walls.

Chanda Oatis is the 2012 Washington State Assistant Principal of the Year. Oatis was the assistant principal at Denny International Middle School in Seattle when she won the award. Starting this school year, she has been the interim principal at Alki Elementary School in West Seattle.

Nominating duties for the Assistant Principal of the Year Award alternate between AWSP's middle and high school component boards; this year the middle school board, the Association of Washington Middle Level Principals, named the recipient.

Oatis earned the award for her work on the school's literacy program. She was instrumental in adding a seven-period schedule to the master calendar at Denny, which allows for a full period of reading and writing instruction. "We unblocked the humanities to give literacy the focus that it deserves," she said.

In addition, she helped boost the content and stature of classroom libraries to make sure they contained properly leveled, high interest and culturally relevant materials. Under her tenure, assessment scores ticked up, and literacy department staff worked more collaboratively together. She facilitated the use of data walls to get buy-in from students and families. She worked to see that adults were reading young adult literature and that adults were writing with their students during each genre taught.

Oatis's passion for connecting students to the love of the written word does not stop at the classroom walls. In early 2011, she was a leader in producing a now-viral YouTube video called "[Teach Me How to Study.](#)" The video, which features the students and staff of Denny in a gentle parody of the song "Teach Me How to Dougie," had gotten more than 52,000 hits as of press-time. Oatis has a cameo singing the chorus throughout the video.

In March, Oatis represented Washington at the State Assistant Principals of the Year Forum and Awards Gala in Washington, D.C., which annually honors the National Middle School Principal of the Year.

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About the Association of Washington School Principals

The Association of Washington School Principals is a professional association serving principals, assistant principals and principals in training. Formed in 1972, the association now includes more than 3,400 members from public and private elementary, middle and high schools statewide. It is governed by a board of practicing principals drawn from three grade-specific boards representing the elementary, middle and high school levels. For more information, visit www.awsp.org.