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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Central Kitsap Jr. High Home to 2003 Middle Level Principal of the Year

Barbara Gilchrist takes "Cub Pride" in learning, school climate

OLYMPIA – Central Kitsap Junior High Principal Barbara Gilchrist has been selected as the state's Middle Level Principal of the Year for 2003. The Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) announced the award this week in Olympia.

"Barbara has made an incredible impact on the learning community at Central Kitsap Junior High," said Michele Hendrickson, AWSP director of middle level programs. "Everyone in her building, and everyone associated with her building, understands there is a shared vision for all students. She has established high standards, but has also created the support networks within her school to ensure each child reaches his or her potential. This is not the work of one person, but rather the result of a coordinated effort around what's best for the kids.

"That's the kind of leader Barbara is, and we're pleased she will represent Washington state at the national level."

A panel of her peers representing middle level principals from across the state selected Gilchrist, a 10-year veteran of the principalship. Each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) recognizes outstanding secondary school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. The program honors principals who have demonstrated excellence in the areas addressed by the selection criteria, including:

- Educational leadership – Implementation of strategies for improving teaching and learning by putting programs and improvement efforts into action;
- Problem-solving skills – Demonstration of time management skills, resolution of short- and long-term objectives and awareness of current education issues;
- Staff and self-development – Commitment to continued professional growth, teaching of others and fostering creativity; and
- Community service – Involvement in the community in the life of the school and use of community resources for students.

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Middle Level Principal of the Year/add 1-1-1

"We were very impressed with Barbara's commitment to the entire learning community at Central Kitsap Junior High," said Colleen Nelson, president of the Association of Washington Middle Level Principals and principal at Kent Junior High School in Kent. "Barbara is an effective school leader in her building, but she's also committed to helping the principalship as a profession. I've seen this personally though her involvement in the Association, her service as the chair of the AWSP Professional Development Committee and as a regional director for the Middle Level Principals' board," she continued. "Barbara is committed to kids, but she's also dedicated to her staff. As a principal, she understands that supporting teachers makes a huge difference in the classroom for kids."

Gilchrist will be officially honored at the Association's 2003 K-12 Fall Conference this October in Spokane.

As the state winner, Gilchrist will go on to represent Washington at the national conference, sponsored by NASSP and MetLife insurance. The national winner will be announced by NASSP in October; state winners will be recognized at the NASSP national convention next March in Florida.

For more information on the National MetLife/NASSP Principal of the Year program, visit www.principals.org.

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About the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)

The Association of Washington School Principals is a professional association serving principals and assistant principals. Formed in 1972, the Association now includes more than 3,300 members from public and private elementary, middle and high schools statewide. The mission of AWSP is to support principals and assistant principals and the principalship in the education of all students. For more information on the Association, visit the AWSP Web site at www.awsp.org.