



Karst Brandsma
Superintendent

South Kitsap School District is committed to the success of each child who joins us along their educational journey. We believe all children are capable of success, without exception!

We remain unwaveringly committed to nurturing growth, inspiring achievement, and building community. We remain steadfastly committed to holding high expectations and providing a high level of support to all children.

Letter from Superintendent

Dear South Kitsap Families:

I am excited to begin my second year in the South Kitsap School District as the Superintendent for the 2017-2018 school year. Under the leadership of your School Board, and with the support of staff, families, and the community, South Kitsap School District will continue to follow the vision of nurturing growth, inspiring achievement, and building community.

We have invested in innovation and strategic initiatives that support the success of each and every one of our students. This includes Kindergarten Readiness, all-day Kindergarten, SOAR Program, Spanish Immersion, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement Classes, College in the High School, STEM focused schools and our new grade configuration of elementary schools for K-5, middle schools for grades 6-8, high school for grades 9-12.

Our South Kitsap School District is financially healthy and stable, innovation is flourishing, and student enrollment is on the

rise. Our students are thriving, thanks to the high quality teaching and learning in our schools. Quality schools attract services, businesses, and families to our area and we are eager to continue to serve our community by educating the next generation of innovative thinkers. As our enrollment continues to grow, with more and more families recognizing everything that South Kitsap has to offer, we are working hard to keep up with those demands. Accommodating enrollment growth in the District, especially in the elementary schools will be our next big challenge.

South Kitsap School District has a proud history! We will honor the past and embrace the future as we continue to meet the needs of our students. There is a lot to be proud of at SKSD and the unique opportunities that are available to our students are part of what makes South Kitsap such a special place.

Best wishes to all of our students for a successful 2017-2018 school year!



Your Tax Dollars at Work



Construction of high school portables



New cinders for Cedar Heights track



Repaving parking lots



Graffiti repair - Discovery Alternative HS



The following is an excerpt from a publication featuring stories from teacher leaders in the Olympic STEM Pathways Partnership. To read the full version, along with other inspirational stories visit our SKSD website, under "News".

A Teacher's Story: Earth/Space Students Doing Science

by NBCT Beverly Painter



Beverly Painter is a science teacher in the South Kitsap School District. She is a National Board Certified Teacher in Biology and currently teaches Astronomy, Oceanography and AP Physics.

For decades our three-year high school offered courses on the basic sciences (mostly Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Students were required to take two years of science to graduate. As a science leader in our district, my personal goal was to have students take science all years of high school by offering challenging and rewarding classes that showed them the multidiscipline nature of science. This especially included courses in the Earth/Space Sciences, which were lacking in our program - in a community that was surrounded by rich real-life Earth/Space Science experiences. It was also my goal to connect these courses to the greater scientific community so that students were doing science not just learning about science.

Finding the right avenue to launch education into a more innovative approach can be daunting. Olympic STEM Pathways Partnership through the Olympic Educational Service District 114 (OSPP) became a launching pad for my journey to create more innovative learning experiences for my students. OSPP is a partnership between OESD 114, the School of Oceanography at the UW, and West Sound STEM. In addition, as an OSPP teacher, we were able to participate in another grant funded by NASA and the Northwest Earth and Space Science Pipeline. This three-year STEM partnership was formed to connect businesses, federal and state agencies, and university and K-12 educators to make STEM practice prevalent in our state to provide teacher training to bring real-life research into the K-12 classroom.

For the past six years, I have created and implemented a college-in-the-high-school Astronomy class affiliated with the University

of Washington. Prior to this class we didn't have college-in-the-high-school science course or a full-year Astronomy class. I felt a need for the Earth Sciences to be brought back to our high school arena. After teaching Earth Science for a year, I noticed that many students really desired more than the trimester of Astronomy and Space Science that was offered through the Earth Science series. For this reason, I created a full year Astronomy course.

What attracted many students to the course is working with actual scientists. They do this in a variety of ways: trips to the University of Washington to meet researchers, visits to the class from NASA and the Johnson Space Center scientists, Skyping with scientists



Students use remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) to learn about marine life.

on the Orion program, and using the University of Washington planetarium. In addition, students became scientists in their own right by developing their own planetarium programs for junior high and elementary STEM nights using a mobile planetarium borrowed from the Navy, hosting their own star and moon nights, and developing and designing trips to Venus and Mars. We also have worked with the Pacific Science Center to bring workshops to the astronomy and physics students to engineer their own rockets and the Mars Rover. The OSPP partnership gave our district and me the resources to develop relationships with scientists from across the country.

(Please visit our SKSD website to read the entire story).

Proud to Be South Kitsap

Student Leaders Provide Guidance to Transitioning 6th and 9th Graders



The 2017 - 2018 school year marks the conclusion of South Kitsap School District's grade transition process with ninth graders from our three middle schools attending South Kitsap High School. The majority of districts uses this grade configuration model across Washington State and South Kitsap schools is proud to join them.

Two student leadership groups, Link Crew and WEB programs, help

ease the transition for students to this new model. The goal of both programs is to provide schools with a structure in which students make real connections with each other thus increasing school safety and reducing incidence of bullying. Students learn that people at school care about them and their success.

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshman and sophomores, making them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed. Link Crew trains members of the junior and senior classes to be Link Leaders.

WEB, which stands for Where Everybody Belongs, is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6th/7th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout their first year of their middle school experience. The program trains mentors from the 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 6th/7th graders. WEB is a yearlong transition program with four components that contribute to student success: Middle School Orientation, Academic Follow Ups, Social Follow Ups, and Leader Initiated Contacts.

SKSD Bridging.....the Gap

The focus for South Kitsap School District this year is to eliminate the achievement gap that exists between different groups of our students. We will work towards this by providing more equitable access and opportunity to all of our students in order to ensure success for all.

South Kitsap School District has many examples of the work we are doing to provide equity of access and opportunities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Free all-day kindergarten
- Free onsite PSAT and SAT testing for all students in grades 8-12
- Reduced fees for athletics and activities
- Transportation for students attending Summer Boost
- Kindergarten Jumpstart at all elementary schools
- Free school supplies at our Back to School Celebration
- Assessment of all second graders for highly capable programs services
- AVID at all secondary schools

We look forward to future updates to the community regarding the district's work to ensure all our students are college and career ready upon graduation from our high schools.

"(We)...declare that all people matter. Poor people matter. People of every race and culture have value. Non-English speakers matter. Disabled people matter. Homeless people matter. All people matter, and quality education is a right, not a privilege."

- Anthony Muhammad -



Proud to Be South Kitsap



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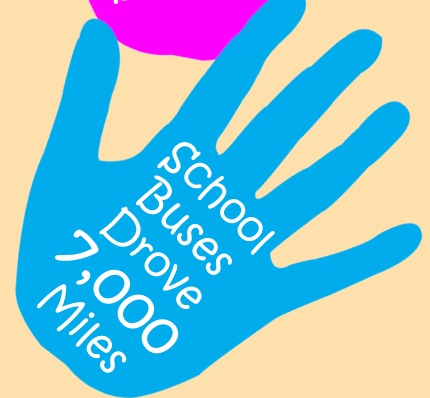
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First Day of School - Fun Facts!



Thank You
to all the
people
who
helped
make this
happen!

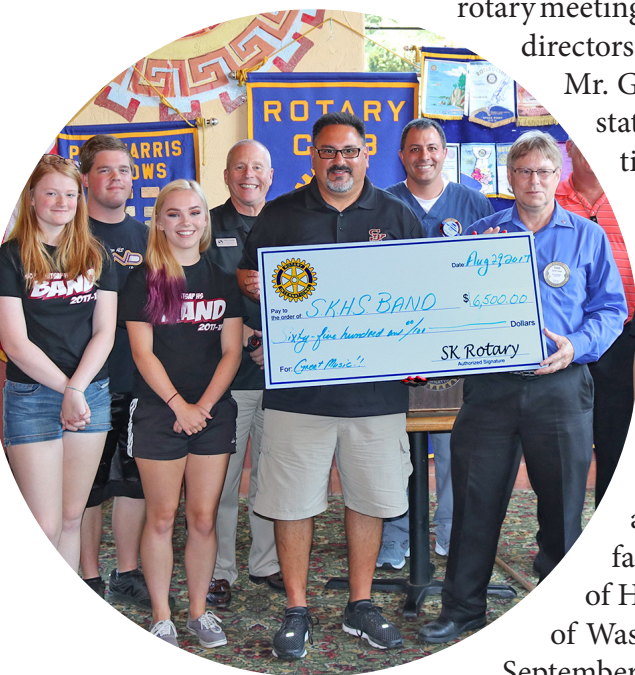


Rotary Donates \$6,200 to Band

The South Kitsap Noon-Time Rotary adopted the South Kitsap High School Marching Band as a focus of their February Fund Raiser. During that event, the Rotary was able to raise \$6,200 for the Band program. At a noon rotary meeting, the three drum majors and band directors were presented with the check.

Mr. Gary Grams, SKHS band director, stated, "This donation is coming at a time of great need. We now have 227 students participating in the marching band program. With all these new participants, there aren't enough band uniforms or instruments. This donation will help ensure all students can fully participate".

The full marching band will be at all the home football games this fall as well as being an integral part of Husky Band Day at the University of Washington home football game on September 16, 2017.



Board of Directors:

Greg Wall, President
Rebecca Diehl, Vice President
Chris Lemke, Keith Garton and Seward Stevens
Karst Brandsma, Superintendent

SKSD Non-Discrimination Statement

South Kitsap School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator
Shelby MacMeekin
2689 Hoover Ave SE
Port Orchard WA 98366
Phone: (360) 443-3625
macmeekin@skschools.org

Compliance Coordinator/ADA
Misty Dieffenbach
2689 Hoover Ave SE
Port Orchard WA 98366
Phone: (360) 874-7080
dieffenbach@skschools.org

Section 504 Coordinator
Robin Christman
2689 Hoover Ave SE
Port Orchard WA 98366
Phone: (360) 443-3633
christmanr@skschools.org

South Kitsap School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services, and activities. For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact the Executive Director of Categorical Programs, Assessment, & Innovation at (360) 874-7060. All Employees are required to furnish proof of identity and employment authorization status. The South Kitsap School District is committed to providing a drug-free, tobacco-free environment for all persons, students, community and staff.



www.skschools.org

360.874.7000

