



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!

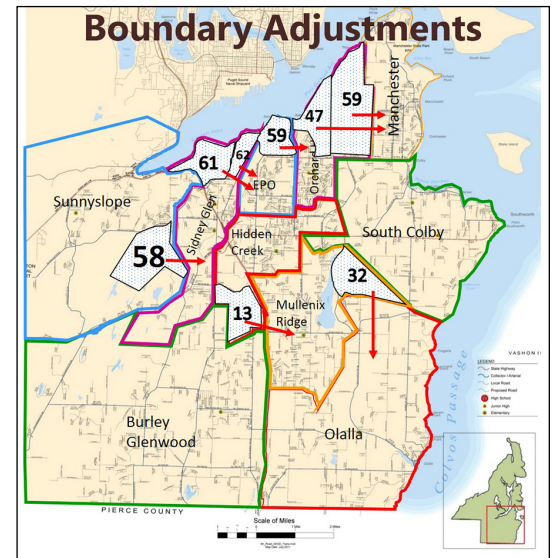
We remain unwaveringly committed to nurturing growth, inspiring achievement, and building community. We remain steadfastly committed to holding high expectations and providing a high level of support to all children.

Elementary Boundary Shift Recommendation

The Boundary Review Committee met weekly over three months and presented their recommendation at two public forums on November 29 and 30. The School District also utilized Thought Exchange, an online survey platform, to gather feedback on the proposed elementary boundary shifts. More than 1,300 people participated in the survey sharing 858 thoughts and assigning 18,167 priority stars on the Boundary Review Committee recommendation.

The recommended adjustments will move approximately 400 students from schools west of highway 16 to schools on the eastside (see map and table). A detailed map is available on our SKSD website). Superintendent Brandsma considered the Boundary Review Committee's proposal, Thought Exchange survey results, and the feedback gathered at the community forums when finalizing his recommendation. At the board meeting on

December 20, he moved forward the committee's plan with timeline for implementation in the 2018 – 2019 school year.



Area Impacted	School From	School To	Approx. # Students
McCormick Woods, south of Old Clifton	Sunnyslope	Sidney Glen	58
Tremont/Port Orchard Blvd/Sidney/Bay St	Sidney Glen	East Port Orchard	62
Port Orchard Blvd/SR 16/Tremont/SR 166	Sidney Glen	East Port Orchard	61
Beach Drive/Mile Hill/Olney	East Port Orchard	Orchard Heights	59
Mile Hill/Baby Doll/Woods	Orchard Heights	Manchester	59
Baby Doll/Mile Hill/Beach Dr	Orchard Heights	Manchester	47
Lider/Spencer	Hidden Creek	Mullenix Ridge	13
Long Lake/Ebbert	Mullenix Ridge	Olalla	32

Superintendent Contract Extended



On January 11, 2018, the South Kitsap School District Board of Directors met in executive session to discuss the option of extending the contract for Superintendent Karst Brandsma. The board took official action during the public meeting following the executive session.

"We are thankful that Mr. Brandsma was open to a contract extension. He has shown strong leadership through the final phase of grade reconfiguration this year and we will count on his expertise as we move forward with shifting elementary school boundaries, addressing our growing enrollment, facility needs, and other initiatives," stated board president Rebecca Diehl.



Students Make a Phone Call to Space

NASA and the West Sound STEM Network provide an in-flight education downlink

Recently, South Kitsap students had an out-of-this-world experience. On Tuesday, December 12, 120 South Kitsap students joined 1000 other students from West Sound STEM Network schools and participated in a 20-minute live, Earth-to-Space call with NASA astronauts living, working and doing research aboard the International Space Station.



Astronaut Mark Vande Hei speaks live to West Sound STEM students from the International Space Station.

A select group of students asked NASA astronauts questions, including Mark Vande Hei, who is currently aboard the International Space Station on Expedition 53. The discussion included topics about living aboard the space station, NASA's deep space exploration plans, and science in space. The downlink is an invaluable instructional tool and will be available for classroom use across the nation.

"Experiences like the NASA Downlink inspire young and old to think of what is possible for future career pathways," stated South Kitsap School District Superintendent Karst Brandsma. "We have the challenge of preparing students for jobs that may not currently exist."

West Sound STEM Network was selected through a competitive process to host a downlink with the station. Across the nine participating districts, students prepared for the event by studying the space station, astronaut biographies, and the current research and activities happening aboard.

"West Sound STEM Network students, teachers, and administrators are very excited about the opportunity to directly engage with our national space agency," said Dr. Aaron Leavell, Superintendent of the Bremerton School District. "As we continue targeted strategies to improve student access to STEM and increased student performance, real-world opportunities like the NASA downlink are critical to 21st century skills."

Linking students directly to astronauts aboard the space station provides unique, authentic experiences designed to enhance student learning, performance and interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and access to career-connected learning. The in-flight education downlink is an integral component of NASA's Year of Education on Station, which provides extensive space station-related resources and opportunities to students and educators.

"We know that engaging our students in innovative STEM experiences will pay dividends in the future for college and career readiness. At West Sound STEM Network, we are committed to strengthening the pipeline at all levels," said Dr. Kareen Borders, South Kitsap School District Director of STEM Programs and Outreach. "The Career-Connected Learning that occurs in preparation for the downlink with NASA is a phenomenal opportunity."

Galaxy Theaters Luxury+ Gig Harbor hosted the downlink for the second time after facilitating the first downlink in 2009 with students from Key Peninsula Middle School. This year's live discussion took place in their recently opened IMAX auditorium. Students asked their questions while viewing the astronauts on IMAX's state-of-the-art digital cinema projectors and 71 foot, floor-to-ceiling screen. The Galaxy Theater's ten other auditoriums broadcast the downlink live for students not participating in the live discussion.



John Sedgwick student Riley Ruiz asks Astronaut Vande Hei a question about what he sees from space.

Proud to be South Kitsap

New Safety, Security, & Emergency Preparedness Assistant Director



Darryl Johnson is the newest member of the Facilities & Operations department. As the Assistant Director of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness, Mr. Johnson will work with local, regional, state, and federal authorities to ensure appropriate and adequate response to possible South Kitsap School District (SKDS) emergency management, environmental health & safety and security issues.

"We're extremely grateful to have such a highly qualified

person on our team", stated Facilities and Operations Director Tom Adams. "Mr. Johnson has the extensive experience for which we were looking".

After graduating from the Job Corps and working some years in the construction trades, he started his career, caring for the well-being of students, as a counselor for Milhous Children's Services of Nevada City, California.

Later in his career, Darryl moved to Washington State and worked for the Seattle Downtown Association and the police department as a counselor with emphasis on caring for the homeless. He then worked for Shoreline School District as a security officer, then North Seattle Community College as the Director of Safety & Security.

Meet Liz Sebren New School Board Member



Liz Sebren - School Board Member

During the November 7, 2017 General Election, three South Kitsap School District Board positions were up for election. Chris Lemke and Liz Sebren ran for Director of District 3 and Ms. Sebren won the election. Seward Stevens, who holds the position for District 1 and Rebecca Diehl who holds the position for District 4, both ran unopposed and were re-elected. All three board members took the oath of office at the December 6 board meeting.

Ms. Sebren was a teacher at South Kitsap School District for 27 years, served on the South Kitsap Education Association Executive Board, and was the Math Department Chair at Marcus Whitman Middle School.

Ms. Sebren holds a Master of Science from Walden University, a Mathematics Endorsement from Seattle Pacific University, a Washington State Teachers Certification from the University of Puget Sound, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Puget Sound.

"Public schools are the foundation of a vital and prosperous community," said Ms. Sebren. "They require strong experienced leaders to attract and retain quality staff, address the changing needs of a diverse student body, and successfully implement new legislative changes to school funding and graduation requirements."

Kurt Wagner Education Fund Supports South Kitsap Teachers & Programs



Laurie Wagner of the Kurt Wagner Education Fund

Thirteen South Kitsap teachers received surprise visits from the Kurt Wagner Education Foundation crew. The winning teacher grants were selected from a well-qualified field of twenty-five applications.

The Kurt Wagner Education Fund not only provides teacher grants, it provides South Kitsap High School and Discovery Alternative High School student scholarships, elementary arts/music program support, and high school athletic support. The Foundation has awarded nearly \$37,000 over the last five years.

The following is a list of recipients for this year:

- **Peter Darragh & Brad Lantz** - John Sedgwick Middle School
- **Heather Gleason Wilson & Sara Young** - Olalla Elementary
- **Aurelia Uhrich & Suze Marcinko** - Discovery Altn. High School
- **Molly Pickard** - Madrona Heights Developmental Preschool
- **Cassie Horne** - East Port Orchard Elementary
- **Deana Bush** - Marcus Whitman Middle School
- **Mary Coen** - Manchester Elementary Early Childhood Autism Program
- **Jeanette Sandoval** - Orchard Heights Elementary
- **Amanda Waybright** - Sunnyslope Elementary
- **Alicia Bennett-Veitch** Speech-Language Pathologist at Orchard Heights Elementary

Proud to Be South Kitsap

Your Tax Dollars at Work



Six new modular classroom were installed at South Kitsap High School.



A large section of broken sidewalk was repaired and an ADA compliant ramp installed at Cedar Heights.



Eight large and four special needs buses were purchased.



Initial emergency repairs were made to the aging SK Community pool. Long-term renovations will require larger funding options.

Seniors Earn Tax Break Through Volunteer Service



South Kitsap School District's Senior Tax Exchange Program offers qualifying residents an opportunity to receive a tax break on their local school tax (levy and bond) in exchange for their time and skills working within the South Kitsap School District.

The program was created in response to concerns of local citizens who are living on fixed incomes and are experiencing rising property taxes. It also offers more opportunities to increase the contributions of senior citizens in public schools.

To qualify for the program, residents must meet all the following criteria:

- Be 62 years of age or older
- Own and reside in their own home within the SKSD boundaries
- Receive Social Security or retirement income
- Have a gross household annual income of more than \$40,000 and less than \$65,000.

The next session will begin in January, 2018. Applications are now being accepted.



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Board of Directors:

Rebecca Diehl - President

Keith Garton - Vice President

Liz Sebren, Seward Stevens, Greg Wall

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@skschool.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.

