



## FEBRUARY 2018 LEVY UPDATE



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# FOCUS ON ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT - FEBRUARY 2018 LEVY UPDATE

Welcome to spring! Here in the ISD, we have been working since the passage of our Two-Year Educational Programs and Operations Renewal Levy of February, 2018 to implement the new programs included in the levy. We sincerely thank our community for their support and would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on our progress. Within this report, you will learn how we are delivering on our levy promises to develop:

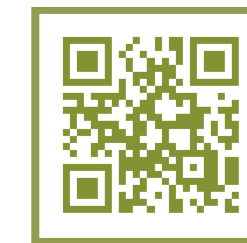
- High School Schedules that create opportunities for acceleration, exploration, and remediation
- An Elementary Dual Language Program
- More Academic Guidance Counseling
- Increased Mental Health Counseling
- Safety Enhancements

maintenance workers, and many more vital members of our staff who make school happen.

For a full list of levy-funded items, please visit the ISD website. Information about all three 2018 Renewal Levies (EP&O, School Bus, and Capital Levy) approved by voters is available on our website at [bit.ly/ISDLevy2018](http://bit.ly/ISDLevy2018) or by scanning the QR code below.

Sincerely,

*Ron Thiele*  
Superintendent



Ron Thiele  
Superintendent

Our levies also support our Classified Staff including paraeducators, custodians,

## ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION — ALL IN FOR KIDS



Happy Spring!

Thankfully spring is in the air after this long and challenging winter! As with the change in seasons, we look forward to continuing to plant new seeds for

student growth and to nurturing our students and their families. We know that student success is personal and every student needs to follow their own path. The Issaquah Schools Foundation recognizes these unique needs and works in close partnership with the Issaquah School District to offer a variety of programs that open the doors to opportunities that inspire students. The Foundation is proud of the programs it has been able to seed and looks forward to diverse and new ideas that come our direction.

We hope that you have been inspired by some of these programs:

- **After School Academic Programs, 7th period and open libraries** offer students the opportunity to get one-on-one help from a teacher in a quiet setting.
- **The Fine Arts Fund** provides support for band, orchestra, choir, theater, and visual arts programs that encourage artistic expression, collaboration, and self-development.
- **Cultural Bridges** helps build relationships between families from diverse cultures through outreach, events, mentoring, and a magazine offered in 6 languages.
- **Teacher Grants** nurture innovation and help staff to think big, encourage divergent thinking, take risks, and develop learning environments that skillfully engage every student.

We are grateful for all our volunteers, donors and community partners. You are key to ensuring student success. This spring, help us prepare our students to be confident, competent and future-ready. Please join

us at our annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon or Breakfast to raise funds that directly benefit Issaquah School District students.

Learn more about Foundation funded programs and how your support is KEY to student success! Visit <http://isfdn.org/nourish-every-mind/> to register and find more information about our events.

- Luncheon, Friday, May 3, 2019 – 12:00 – 1:00 pm at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue
- Breakfast, Tuesday, May 14, 2019 – 7:30 – 8:30 am at Eastridge Church in Issaquah
- Online Auction available April 19-29, 2019 at <http://isfdn.org/auction>

With gratitude and appreciation,

*Cornell Atwater*

Cornell Atwater  
Acting Executive Director

## NEW DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM WILL HELP STUDENTS BECOME BILITERATE, BILINGUAL AND BICULTURAL



Picture this: A classroom of five and six-year-olds. Some speak English at home, and some speak Spanish at home. But in school, they all speak both. A science lesson in English is followed by a social studies lesson in Spanish. Students from different backgrounds talk and play together in each other's language, while making both languages their own.

That scene will become real next school year, as the District's Dual Language Immersion Program launches at Clark Elementary and Issaquah Valley Elementary. Here's how the program will work:

- 24 students at Issaquah Valley Elementary and 24 students at Clark Elementary will start the program together.
- Half of each group will come from families that speak English at home, and half from families that speak Spanish.
- The students will learn the same

curriculum as all other kindergarteners in the District, but they'll spend half the time learning in English and half the day in Spanish.

- Students will continue within the Dual Language Program as they advance through elementary school.

*"The program will build not just language, but empathy and a global world view that is crucial for kids as they're navigating this world."*

Research has consistently shown that learning a second language offers many benefits for young children and that early childhood is the best time to start learning a second language. Learning more than one language provides students:

- An advantage working in a global society.
- Improved cognitive ability and brain development,
- An appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures.



Enrolled students who speak Spanish at home will better be able to maintain their first language as they grow up in an English-speaking culture, said Stefani Terry, a teacher in the program at Clark.

And the program will show students that their native culture and language are also valuable, said Savannah Williams, a teacher in the program at Issaquah Valley Elementary.

"I'm excited," Terry said. "The program will build not just language, but empathy and a global world view that is crucial for kids as they're navigating this world."

To all our new families from around the country and the world:

Welcome to the Issaquah School District! The Issaquah PTSA Council invites you into our community.

### Did you know...?

Public education is not free. We all have to work together to ensure the success of our students.

Federal funds comprise approximately 2% of District revenue. This money funds supplemental special education programs, Head Start, Title I, and free and reduced lunches in the food service program. Federal revenue is solely for specified program purpose.

State funding comprises more than 70% of District revenue. This money primarily funds the salaries of teachers, counselors, librarians, principals, educational assistants, and other support staff. It pays for classroom expenses, teaching supplies, materials, textbooks, staff development, curriculum development, and technology support.

Local bonds and levies, when approved by voters, provide for approximately 15% of the District's budget. Bonds and levies exist because state funding does not cover everything needed for a fast-growing district. Bonds pay for acquisition of property, capital projects, school modernization, and new construction. Levies pay for maintenance, supplemental funding of salaries, textbook/curriculum, and transportation.

In order to fill the remaining gap, several non-profit organizations step in. Donations to the Issaquah Schools Foundation can provide district-wide funding to help ALL students. While state funding provides salaries and other basics for the classroom, tax dollars cannot fund many other programs essential to the District. The Foundation strives to make high-quality education and essential support available to every student in every school.

Organizations associated with each school provide additional funding for enrichment at individual schools. These organizations provide opportunities, unique to each school, when schools cannot use state funding and/or there is not enough funding. The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTA/PTSA) raises funds to provide schools with literacy/art/science

enrichment, staff classroom needs and curriculum support, student recognition, staff appreciation, family and community events, and teacher grants. The Associated Student Body (ASB) raises money for optional, non-credit, extracurricular activities, including those that are cultural, athletic, recreational, or social in nature. Booster Club is high school specific and helps all student co-curricular activities including clubs, activities, and sports.

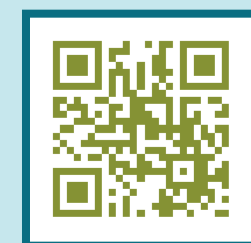
Sincerely,

*Ina Ghangurde*

Ina Ghangurde  
Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6 FACE Chair and Vice President of Elementaries North



Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community 2.6



Dual Language Immersion Program Webpage

For more information on the Dual Language Immersion Program, check out the ISD website or watch the Dual Language program video on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR codes!



Dual Language Immersion Program YouTube Video