

# Back On Campus!

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION - FALL 2021

### *Prioritizing Student Success in All Areas!*

The 2021-2022 school year is under way and we are thrilled to have the majority of our students back on campus.

Students who prefer the remote learning model versus traditional classes are enrolled in Explorer Academy, our online K-12 option. Instructional staff district-wide are focused on meeting students where they are academically and ensuring their success moving forward.

While most students navigated remote learning with ease last year, others faced challenges. In response, the South Kitsap Summer Academy offered learning support and credit recovery for many students. The program was tremendously successful, with more than 800 students and 100 staff involved.

The physical health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We have COVID health protocols in place to keep our school community as safe as possible. Per Governor Inslee's mandate, masks continue to be required for all while indoors and on school buses. COVID vaccinations are required by the State for all public school employees. More details about our response to COVID including cleaning and campus modifications are on the District website.

Emotional health is also a focus area as we serve students this year. South Kitsap staff are utilizing a wellness toolbox to understand how students are coping with life during a pandemic. Every student is facing a different set of challenges and support must include emotional as well as academic resources.

Valuable lessons were learned during remote learning and we will remain nimble as we face the highs and lows during this school year. Our goal is to keep students on campus as much as possible. We are committed to make this year the best it can possibly be for South Kitsap students.

We sincerely appreciate the partnership and support of the South Kitsap community. Thank you!

### *Remember to Vote!*

Registered voters within South Kitsap School District boundaries are eligible to vote for the two School Board positions on the November 2 ballot.

- Brian Pickard and Anna Shroeder are the candidates for Director District 3.
- Jeffrey Wilson and Gregg Anderson are the candidates for Director District 4.



# Removing Barriers to Learning & Engagement!



### FREE Supplies!

South Kitsap School District provided essential school supplies for students in grades K-5!

SKSD is committed to removing barriers to learning and providing equitable access to education for students. Part of that commitment is lessening the financial burden of purchasing school supplies by our families.



### No Athletic Fees!

To encourage student involvement in athletics and lessen the financial burden on families, South Kitsap School District is waiving all athletic participation fees for the 2021-2022 school year.

Social interactions are an important part of the school experience. Students who take part in school athletics make memories, build lasting friendships, and learn valuable skills like teamwork, leadership, and handling adversity.



### FREE Meals!

School meals for the 2021-2022 school year are free of charge for all students!

Free & Reduced Meal Applications still need to be completed each year. These applications are necessary for certain testing and participation fees to be waived or reduced. They also assist SKSD with the collection of needed federal program funding. Learn more on the district website: <https://sksdfoodandnutrition.com>



## In The News!

SKHS senior Kaden Cole competed in the Move United Junior Nationals, an annual multi-sport event for junior athletes between the ages of 6 and 22 who have disabilities, with sports including para-athletics. Kaden earned two silver medals in the 50m freestyle swim and 50m backstroke. His 4x50 free relay team also took first place. The Move United Junior Nationals is a pre-qualifying event for the Paralympic Games!



Photo courtesy: Meegan Reid, Kitsap Sun

East Port Orchard Elementary teacher, Holly Gubser, shared her experience of joining the South Kitsap School District team in a recent Port Orchard Independent article. Ms. Gubser's passion shines through even with the challenges of a pandemic. Welcome to Ms. Gubser and all our new staff members. Thank you for sharing your talents to support our students and schools. We are lucky to have you in South Kitsap!



Photo courtesy: Bob Smith, Port Orchard Independent





# Diversity, Equity, & Inclusionary Practices



*South Kitsap High School Class of 2021 graduates*

South Kitsap School District is committed to increasing awareness, understanding and effective practices related to equity, inclusion, diversity and cultural competency through professional learning for all staff. This system-wide approach is directed by Senate Bill 5044 (ESSB 5044) and also woven throughout the District's Top 5 Priority Plan.

Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, school districts must use one of the professional learning days to train staff in one or more of the following topics: social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, recognition and response to emotional or behavioral distress, consideration of adverse childhood experiences, mental health literacy, anti-bullying strategies, or culturally sustaining practices.

South Kitsap staff started this school year with district wide Equity Training led by Bernardo Ruiz from Racing 2 Equity. Staff engaged in courageous conversations about educational justice and racial equity. They worked to gain a common understanding of how critical this work is to student and staff success. Learn more at <https://www.racingtoequity.org>.

This focus will continue in coming years. In the 2023-2024 school year, districts must provide staff training and professional learning aligned with the Washington Professional Educator standards of practice. This includes cultural competency, equity, diversity, inclusion, multicultural education and principles of English language acquisition.

## Defining Terms

### Diversity -

The presence of similarities and differences within a given setting, collective, or group based on multiple factors including race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, age, educational status, religion, geography, primary language, culture, and other characteristics and experiences.

### Equity -

Developing, strengthening, and supporting procedural and outcome fairness in systems, procedures, and resource distribution mechanisms to create equitable opportunities for all individuals. The term also includes eliminating barriers that prevent the full participation of individuals and groups.

### Inclusion -

Intentional efforts and consistent sets of actions to create and sustain a sense of respect, belonging, safety and attention to individual needs and backgrounds that ensure the full access to engagement and participation in available activities and opportunities.

### Cultural Competency -

Knowledge of student cultural histories and contexts, as well as family norms and values in different cultures; knowledge and skills in accessing community resources and community and parent outreach; and skills in adapting instruction to students' experiences and identifying cultural contexts for individual students.

### What About CRT?

South Kitsap School District does not have Critical Race Theory curriculum. Nothing in our curriculum prescribes or mentions Critical Race Theory. Furthermore, ESSB 5044 does not mention Critical Race Theory nor instruction or curriculum.



## Your Tax Dollars at Work

### South Kitsap High School

- Restrooms remodeled to improve accessibility and update finishes
- Installed six bottle-filling drinking fountains
- Replaced sinks and emergency eyewash stations with ADA compliant fixtures and updated finishes at six lab/shop classrooms
- Installed three wheelchair lifts
- Installed new ADA ramp and seating platform at Kitsap Bank Stadium
- Revamped ADA parking and repaved parking
- Installed new ADA ramp and replaced sidewalks at South exit
- Completed repairs at six portables including siding replacement, paint, roofs, and aluminum ramps and stairs
- Completed fire alarm system upgrade



### Burley Glenwood Elementary

- Portable buildings received siding repairs, paint, new roofs, new aluminum ramps and stairs
- Repaved path to play fields



### Hidden Creek Elementary

- Two portable buildings received new roofs and paint

### Manchester Elementary

- One portable building received siding repairs, roof, paint, new aluminum ramps and stairs

### South Colby Elementary

- Two portable buildings received siding repairs, new roof, and paint



### East Port Orchard Elementary

- Upgraded ADA parking, sidewalk and curb ramp

### Administration Office

- Repaired sidewalk, upgraded ADA parking and entryway



### Cedar Heights Middle School

- Two portables buildings refreshed with siding repairs, new asphalt paths and new aluminum ramps and stairs

### Board of Directors:

Eric Gattenby, Liz Sebrén,  
John Berg, Jeff Daily,  
and Rebecca Diehl  
Tim Winter, *Superintendent*

The South Kitsap School District provides equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation – including gender expression or identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Equal access to activities, facilities and program is provided to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. District procedure complies with all applicable state and federal laws.

The Title IX Officer and Section 504 Coordinator with the responsibility for monitoring, auditing and ensuring compliance with this policy are:

**Compliance/ADA/Title IX Coordinator**  
Dr. Mona Johnson,  
Executive Director of Wellness & Support  
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366  
phone: 360-874-7063 email: johnsonmona@skschools.org

**Section 504 Coordinator**  
Dr. Andrew Cain,  
Principal  
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366  
phone: 360-874-6022 email: cain@skschools.org

*This newsletter was paid for by  
South Kitsap School District*