

# PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Compass*

SWIFT WATER ELEMENTARY

School Construction Celebration

Winter 2022



# Making and Keeping Promises to Our Community

## A Message from the Peninsula School District Board of Directors

Thank you to our community for your support of the 2019 capital projects bond, from your Peninsula School District Board of Directors.

The bond promised two new and two replacement elementary schools by fall 2022 to reduce the significant student overcrowding in all eight elementary schools, plus other emergent needs.

We were excited when voters approved the bond at over 66% in February 2019, and were committed to completing each project on time and on budget.

In order to build on the trust our community placed in us with the approval of the bond, the board provided a clear path for district leadership to deliver the four elementary schools. Together, we not only delivered on time, but also ahead of schedule! The first school broke ground in January 2020 and by fall 2021, all four schools were completed and open to our

students, a year ahead of what we had promised.

By completing these schools early, we were able to save money by avoiding construction inflation costs. With these savings, along with other cost-saving steps made by the district, the board approved two additional emergent needs projects - the modernizations of Key Peninsula Middle School (KPMS) and Kopachuck Middle School (KMS).

In summer 2021, we broke ground on modernizing and expanding KPMS and KMS. Without asking for more from our voters, we will be able to address middle school facility issues and provide more classrooms to accommodate the anticipated middle school overcrowding in coming years. Both middle school projects should be completed in 2023.

Using bond funds for these projects has allowed us to maximize funds

allocated for maintenance and repair work in the 2020 Educational Programs and Operations Levy on the remaining schools. Facility projects including roofing, carpet replacement, painting, and other improvements are now taking place across the district.

We are proud to deliver on the promises made in the 2019 bond. Our board is extremely thankful to our voters for partnering with the district and approving the bond. These buildings are a much-needed addition to our beautiful community and will benefit students for many generations to come.

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**Lori Glover**, President  
**Natalie Wimberley**, Vice President  
**Jennifer Butler**, Director  
**David Olson**, Director  
**Chuck West**, Director

## Great Communities Support Great Schools



Pictured on Cover: Swift Water student Benn C. secures his bike before heading to class.



# Community Support is Key to Future Student Success

## A Message from Superintendent Krestin Bahr



**KRESTIN BAHR**  
Superintendent

On Election Day, Tuesday, February 12, 2019, voters in Gig Harbor and on the Key Peninsula showed support for the Peninsula School District by approving a capital projects bond to help solve the problem of overcrowding in our elementary schools and address other emergent needs.

Anyone who votes in Washington State is aware that school districts regularly ask voters to consider funding public schools – either through levies for operational and learning-related expenses or through bonds for building schools. This local funding is necessary because state and federal funding does not cover all costs associated with school operations, nor the renovation or replacement of school facilities.

One of the reasons I was drawn to lead the Peninsula School District is because of the support of its community. Not only did the community approve a bond to build the first new school in the district in over 26 years, it also supported the 2020 Educational Programs and Operations Levy. This support indicates positive health of the community, which I have confirmed as I've met with people from Home to Fox Island as I've toured the district.

*“When the PSD community comes together for students, the possibilities are endless!”*

- Krestin Bahr, Superintendent

This is an amazing community that has demonstrated a deep appreciation for public education. I've observed passionate, engaged stakeholders who want only the best for the children in our community. There's a general understanding that we're preparing students for jobs that don't exist yet,

and that modern tools and spaces are required to help students learn material for a new generation.

Across the district, children are exposed to authentic and relevant content delivery where teachers are committed to providing unique, meaningful, and engaging learning experiences. We know that in this context, students are more likely to flourish, be motivated to attempt challenges, and develop a true love for learning that will serve them throughout their lifetimes.

The approval of the 2019 capital projects bond has made a significant impact on the Peninsula School District - for our staff, students, and school communities. All of our schools need modifications, and because the 2019 bond passed, we've been able to address those in most need.

Our schools belong to you, and I invite you to read through this issue of the Compass to get a deeper look into the new Peninsula School District facilities.

I hope you are proud of your investment, and thank you again for your support.







# Artondale Elementary

*One of the District's  
Oldest Schools Replaced*

Artondale Principal Jessica Rosendahl loves the excitement felt walking into her new school building every morning.

"Every time I pass through the front doors, I feel so honored to be part of a wonderful learning environment for our students in such a spacious, bright, and safe building," Rosendahl said.

One feature of the new Artondale building both staff and students are drawn to is the library.

"I believe the size and layout of this library has been the most impactful," said Cindy Faker, Artondale library technician. "A bright, cheerful space that serves all of our students in so many ways. Our new technology and high interest literature enhances the learning that goes on here. The comfortable furniture, flexible layout, natural light, and open environment provides a space where our kids feel happy, safe, and supported."

Artondale serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade, as well as preschoolers. Having the preschool classrooms close together with a common flex space outside allows students to gather for fun, interactive activities.

"I'm so grateful to our students, staff, and families for creating such a supportive learning culture," Rosendahl said. "The new building will impact our neighborhood kids in great ways for generations to come."

Artondale was the fourth elementary school funded by the 2019 bond to be completed, and opened to students on November 22, 2021.



Check [psd401.net](https://psd401.net) soon for a future video of Artondale's history and featured sections of the new building.



L to R: Sophia S. and Jace S.



L to R: Charlotte O. and Scarlett F.



Rylee T.





Opal W.



# Evergreen Elementary

## Key Peninsula School Doubled in Size

Evergreen Elementary is the newest school on the Key Peninsula. Serving preschool through fifth grade students, the new building features flexible learning spaces, a new play field, a large community room, and the Hugh and Janice McMillan Community Center.

Evergreen is fortunate to have a STEM Integration Specialist on staff to lead students in all grades through science, technology, engineering, and math activities.

Amy Barber, STEM Integration Specialist, said, "The classroom space we have at our school allows for individual and group work. Kids get to do hands-on activities to experience the engineering design process: to design projects, test them, figure out how to improve them, and learn through their experiences and observations."

The library is another location ideal for collaborative and individual learning. Opal, an Evergreen first grader, loves spending time in the new library. "I just like the library because there's so many cool books that I haven't read, and I love books," Opal said. "I like that it's a big space, and that we can sit in the window."

Principal Hugh Maxwell said, "We are so grateful for our new building, and I am thankful every day for our students, staff, and wonderful community that support us daily."

Evergreen was the third elementary school funded by the 2019 bond to be completed, and opened to students on the first day of school for the 2021-2022 school year.



Ky S.



Amy Barber, STEM Integration Specialist



Lucia S.



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to watch a video about Evergreen's history and featured sections of the new building.





# Pioneer Elementary

*First STEAM Magnet School in PSD*

Pioneer Elementary is the district's first STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) magnet school. Enrollment is open to all students in the district between kindergarten and fifth grade, with students chosen to attend by a lottery system.

The school building is designed to offer flexible learning spaces for students. Jackie Hall's combined kindergarten and first grade class recently used the flex space outside their classroom working in teams to construct three-tiered snowmen out of interesting materials.

"The use of flex spaces has transformed how teachers teach and students learn," Hall said. "Our class can spread out, using the extra space for lessons, group work, and fun activities."

A well-loved feature of Pioneer is the MakerSpace, often referred to as "The Exploratorium", where students do art projects and STEAM activities.

"In this space, students get to create, tinker, and explore, and incorporate our school's design process into their learning," said Erin Dumas, Art and Tinkering Teacher. "I love to see students' creativity come out in our lessons."

Pioneer was the first elementary school funded by the 2019 bond to be completed. Minor tenant improvements were made during the summer of 2019 and the facility opened as a district-owned site in August 2019. For the 2019-2020 school year, four 5th grade classrooms from Discovery Elementary and four preschool classrooms were housed in the building.

The school opened for kindergarten through fourth grade students in January 2021, and opened for kindergarten through fifth grade students on the first day of school for the 2021-2022 school year.



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to watch a video about Pioneer's history and featured sections of the new building.



Students in Jackie Hall's K/1 class.



Students in Jackie Hall's K/1 class.



Maddox I.





# Swift Water Elementary

## First Majority Walking & Biking Neighborhood School



Gabriel Q.

Swift Water Elementary, built in the quickly growing Gig Harbor North area, is the district's first majority walking and biking school. While bus and car transportation is a component of school arrival and dismissal, the majority of its students live within walking and biking distance to the school.



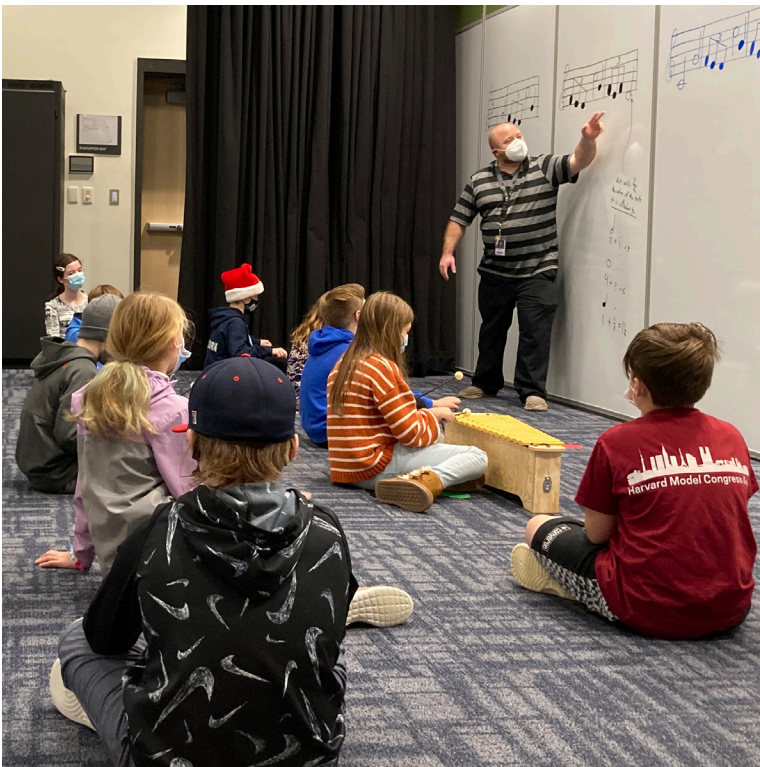
L to R: Stella C. and Grayson S.

"Students and families gather together from different neighborhoods to start and end each school day together," Swift Water Principal David Brooks said. "It's a great way to build our school community and connect with our families."

Inside the new building, bright and flexible learning spaces abound. One such space is the music room, which has a wall that opens into the commons for concerts and other performances.

"The music room has some awesome features for general classes and performances," said Jeremy Wilson, Swift Water's music teacher. "From the LED lighting to the highly advanced sound system, there is a lot of flexibility for educating kids. I have also been able to adapt the room to facilitate safe ways to hum, speak poetry, move, and do artwork to music, as well as play instruments."

Swift Water was the second elementary school funded by the 2019 bond to be completed, and opened to students on the first day of school for the 2021-2022 school year.



Students in Jeremy Wilson's music class.



Zoey S.



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to watch a video about Swift Water's history and featured sections of the new building.





The Educational Programs and Operations Levy approved by voters in 2020 funds staffing and activities such as athletics, school nurses, and music and arts programs in all schools throughout the district.

## Bonds are for Building, Levies are for Learning

### An Overview of Public Funding in Peninsula School District

The 2019 capital projects bond funded construction of two new and two replacement school buildings. After elementary overcrowding and emergent facility needs, addressing middle school overcrowding was identified as the district's next highest priority.

Because of cost-saving steps made by the district, additional state assistance for Swift Water Elementary, and an accelerated construction schedule for the elementary projects, we are able to modernize and add additional classrooms at Key Peninsula Middle School and Kopachuck Middle School using 2019 capital bond funds.

Another ballot measure was approved by voters in February 2020. This was the Educational Programs and Operations Levy that replaced an expiring levy approved by voters in 2016.

This levy provides critical local funding to continue programs, operations, and support within the general fund. Approximately 72 percent of the levy pays for staff (including teachers, paraeducators, nurses, and custodians) and training, while 28 percent pays for music, athletics, special programs (such as highly capable and special education), books, curriculum, technology devices, preventative maintenance (such as painting, HVAC, and routine repairs), and safety and security. The current levy expires in 2023.

*The Compass is produced by the Peninsula School District Communications Department.*

Peninsula School District Board of Directors: Lori Glover, Natalie Wimberley, Jennifer Butler, David Olson, Chuck West | Superintendent: Krestin Bahr

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