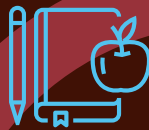




MERCER ISLAND

SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT



@mercerislandschooldistrict



@mercerislandsd



mercer_island_school_district



mercerislandschools.org

SUPERINTENDENT COLOSKY'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Mercer Island School District's Board of Directors, our teachers, staff and students, I am pleased to present the 2018-19 Annual Report to the MI community.

During this year, the Mercer Island School Board completed a process to define the District's Core Values, Vision and Mission (see below). These statements center our work on students as the priority, and supporting the whole child. Thank you to the hundreds of students, staff, families and community members who participated in focus groups to refine this new document.

In supporting the whole child, we need to focus on the long-term development and success of our children. As educators, we must work together in support of our students by creating a positive school climate; emphasizing social-emotional learning and character education; and actively engaging our students in their learning through collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

The Student Focused Fundamentals (pages 4 and 5) remain as an Operational Expectation, continuing the work of the Board of Directors in annually monitoring and measuring these goals. We also balance the complex learning needs of our students to ensure measurable academic achievement as well as help each student build a solid foundation for career and life success. This is hard work -but incredibly important for our Island community.

A special thank-you to our departing board directors Tracy Drinkwater and Ralph Jorgenson for their years of dedicated service to our community.

Our school calendar is full of music and drama performances, athletic contests and a multitude of other events. Please keep in touch with us on the Web at mercerislandschools.org, like us on Facebook @mercerislandschooldistrict, and follow us on Twitter @mercerislandsd and on Instagram @mercer_island_school_district.

Sincerely, Donna Colosky, Superintendent

STUDENTS ARE THE PRIORITY

VALUES

WE BELIEVE IN:

- Supporting the whole child.
- Creating inclusive and equitable learning settings.
- Ensuring our school communities are safe and supportive.
- Providing rigorous and challenging learning.

VISION

Inspiring our students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures.

MISSION

The District will foster learning by engaging students in thinking critically, solving problems creatively, and working collaboratively.



The Mercer Island School District Board of Directors are elected to four-year terms. Responsibilities include goal-setting; employing the superintendent; setting district policy; adopting an operating budget; placing levies and bonds before voters; approving the instructional program; and ratifying contracts.

Learn more at: www.mercerislandschools.org/board

POINTS OF PRIDE



The student broadcasters of KMIH-88.9 *The Bridge* earned accolades for excellence in broadcasting at the 79th Annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting Conference and Golden Microphone Awards in New York City. Twenty Islanders were honored with eight top awards and 12 finalist Golden Microphones.

MIHS student **Katie Parkinson** earned first place in the Seattle Shakespeare Competition held at the Frye Art Museum. Katie has performed in many MIHS and Youth Theater NW productions.

Mercer Island's boys and girls lacrosse teams both won their respective state 3A championships this spring -the first-ever state title for the girls.

Freshman **Ethan Evans** won the state 3A boys golf individual championship in Lacey. His teammates tied for third overall in the state as a team.

Chris Twombly, adviser for *The Islander*, the MIHS student newspaper, was named Washington's 2019 Journalism Adviser of the Year. Twombly also received the Fern Valentine Freedom of Expression Award, which goes to a teacher who has supported student First Amendment rights.

Alex Hill, a 2019 senior at MIHS, earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36.

Only around two-tenths of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn that top score.

MIHS student broadcaster **Lila Shroff** of 88.9 *The Bridge* and *RadioActive*, won *The New York Times'* Second Annual Student Podcast Contest out of nearly 900 submissions! Lila won for her piece, "How My 90-year-old Neighbor, a Holocaust Survivor, Sees America Today."

The **MIHS orchestras** won multiple awards at the Heritage Festival in Fullerton, CA, including three top placings for the **Chamber Orchestra**.

The **Mercer Island Destination Imagination** teams were among the best in the Global Finals in Kansas City, with three teams ranked in the top four overall.

The 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the Best High Schools in America listed **Mercer Island High School** 6th in the rankings among high schools in Washington, and 230th in the United States out of 17,245 public high schools, moving up a remarkable 241 places from a year ago. That puts MIHS among the top 1.3 percent of all high schools in America.

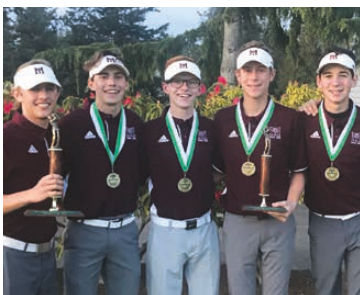
The **MIHS Biotechnology Research and Ethics class** taught by Jamie Cooke competed in the annual BioExpo hosted by Shoreline Community College, with 10 students recognized with awards.

MIHS student **Zitong Wang** received a National Gold Medal and the Herblock Award for Editorial Cartooning, earning a \$1,000 scholarship as part of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition initiative for creative teens.

The **MIHS trumpet ensemble** participated in the National Trumpet Competition in Kentucky. Only 13 high school ensembles from around the country were selected to perform.

IMS students traveled to Vancouver, WA to compete in the regional Science Olympiad tournament at Clark College. They placed seventh overall in their first year in competition. Nine team members were awarded a total of 17 medals for finishing in the top four of their events.

The **MIHS boys swim and dive team** earned a second-place finish in the state 3A championships. Senior **James Richardson** was named Swimmer of the Meet with two state championships and meet records, with automatic All-America times in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke.



FUNDAMENTALS

The School Board annually monitors these seven student-focused fundamentals (goals) for progress. As part of this monitoring, the School Board reviews qualitative and quantitative indicators gathered by our instructional and learning services teams. These indicators range from descriptions of classroom projects and student activities such as those below, to scores such as testing and survey results.

Margins is a new social justice program at the high school, which includes a one-week immersion trip to Los Angeles, to work with some of the most marginalized populations in the United States. The areas of study for 2018-19 were incarceration, immigration and homelessness. The program begins with teaching students about how race, ethnicity, socioeconomic, the cycle of socialization and other concepts intersect in society. Students met once per week for the length of the program and created a social justice action plan as a way to bring their learning back to their own community.

The MIHS Marching Band performed in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena on New Year's Day, and supported its partner band from Puerto Rico, Banda Escolar de Guayanilla (BEG) in its effort to perform in the parade in the wake of Hurricane Maria. The Mercer Island community raised more than \$55,000 to help BEG, and students and band directors have each visited the other's communities during the past year to continue the relationship.

Island Park and West Mercer were honored for high achievement under the state's School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) measures. The schools were recognized for being among the highest-achieving schools on English Language Arts (ELA) and math proficiency. Over the past year, the state created a new system of recognizing and celebrating schools' achievement on the Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF) measures.

MIHS was presented with a "No Place for Hate" school designation by the ADL Pacific Northwest in recognition of its work this year to promote respect and inclusion. No Place for Hate is a self-directed program helping all stakeholders take the lead on improving and maintaining a school climate where all students can thrive. To be designated No Place for Hate, a school must complete an assessment, form a committee, sign a Resolution of Respect, and design and implement school-wide bullying prevention activities.

MIHS's award-winning radio station KMIH FM 88.9 The Bridge transformed itself into "Log Boom Radio," celebrating Seafair with customized programming and live student broadcasts, including the annual Fleet Week arrival, hydroplane races and the Blue Angels aerial show.

Five Mercer Island schools have been recognized as Sustaining Green Schools by the King County Green Schools Program: Island Park Elementary, Lakeridge Elementary, Mercer Island High School, Northwood Elementary and West Mercer Elementary. This program helps schools engage students and staff in learning about and practicing resource conservation.



1

Create a personalized learning environment where differentiated instruction, student-centered education, and varied learning opportunities are responsive to students' strengths, needs, interests, and passions.

2

Maintain the highest learning standards in the areas of fine arts; health and physical education; English language arts; mathematics; financial education; science; environment and sustainability; social studies; world languages; computer science and educational technology.

3

Develop self-awareness, empathy, emotional/social intelligence, responsible decision-making and citizenship.

4

Encourage and enable students to be academic entrepreneurs and risk-takers who can choose to pursue academic passions and interests beyond traditional curriculum and beyond the traditional classroom environment.

6

Cultivate global awareness and understanding of real-world problems, issues, concerns, commonalities, differences and interdependence.

7

Foster and embrace diversity, inclusiveness, and equity with a focus on respect and acceptance of every student.

5

Cultivate and foster thinking and process skills such as analytical and critical thinking, cross-discipline thinking, creativity, innovation, leadership, collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and information and technology literacy in curriculum design.



The Mercer Island Destination Imagination team **Scientific'n't** received the Renaissance Award at the Global Finals in Kansas City for its presentation based on pollution and climate change. The team ended its dynamic performance with a passionate speech about how "Together, we can change that!" and brought a few tears of pride to both team members and audience.

The students, staff and families of Lakeridge donated **\$9,557 of supplies for Paradise, CA schools** devastated by last year's wildfires. Lakeridge Kiwanis K-Kids Club is sponsored by Mercer Island Kiwanis and Lakeridge PTA. Families purchased items from Paradise classroom online wish lists.

The first "Empty Bowls" event led by MIHS Art Club members and ceramics teacher Chantel Torrey raised more than \$2,000 for the Bread of Life Mission. For \$30 per person, each participant received a ceramic bowl made by Art Club students, soup to fill the bowl, bread, and an evening mingling with other art enthusiasts.

Islander Middle School students created an extraordinary group project of Lego superhero posters called "What Do Superheroes Look Like?" They were on display at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center. Students created their own cultural/heritage superheroes, then Lego master/artist, Alice Finch and teacher Julie Biggs had the students create posters that combined their individual works into one final design made out of Legos. Finch generously provided IMS with the use of her Legos and other hardware to create this project.

MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHO WE ARE

Mercer Island School District is composed of six schools located on Mercer Island, a community of 25,000 residents along I-90 in Lake Washington, between the cities of Seattle and Bellevue.



STUDENT ETHNICITY

American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.1%
Asian	22.2%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Black/African American	0.9%
Hispanic/Latino	4.8%
Two or more races	10.5%
White	61.4%

ENROLLMENT

Districtwide	4,522
Island Park	399
Lakeridge	463
Northwood	490
West Mercer	481
Islander Middle School	1,136
Mercer Island High School & Crest Learning Center	1,553



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Free/reduced-price meals.....3.5%
 Students with Disabilities....11.0%
 English Language Learners...3.9%

STAFF ETHNICITY

American Indian/ Alaska Native	0%
Asian	10%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%
Black/African American	3%
Hispanic/Latino	3%
Two or more races	2%
White	83%



CLASS OF 2019

Attending in-state colleges **47%**
 Attending out-of-state colleges **53%**
 At two-year colleges **6.8%**
 At other programs **5.2%**



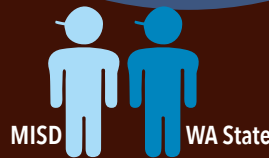
95.8%
four-year graduation rate

88%
at four-year colleges

Students from the Class of 2019 are attending **124** colleges and universities

For additional information, visit: washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us

STANDARDIZED TESTING DATA



Subject	Grade	MISD	WA State
English Language Arts	Grade 3	55.4%	83.3%
	Grade 4	56.9%	82.9%
	Grade 5	60.4%	89.2%
	Grade 6	56.9%	82.8%
	Grade 7	60.6%	85.9%
	Grade 8	58%	80.8%
Math	Grade 10	69.7%	91.9%
	Grade 3	58%	85.5%
	Grade 4	54%	80.7%
	Grade 5	48.3%	78.8%
	Grade 6	46.8%	79.2%
	Grade 7	48.7%	81.4%
Science	Grade 8	45.8%	80.8%
	Grade 10	40.2%	83.6%
	Grade 11	34.5%	62.6%

CLASS OF 2019

Tests taken **1,101**
 AP scores 3 and above **636**

AP Scholars **83**
 AP Scholars with Honor **41**

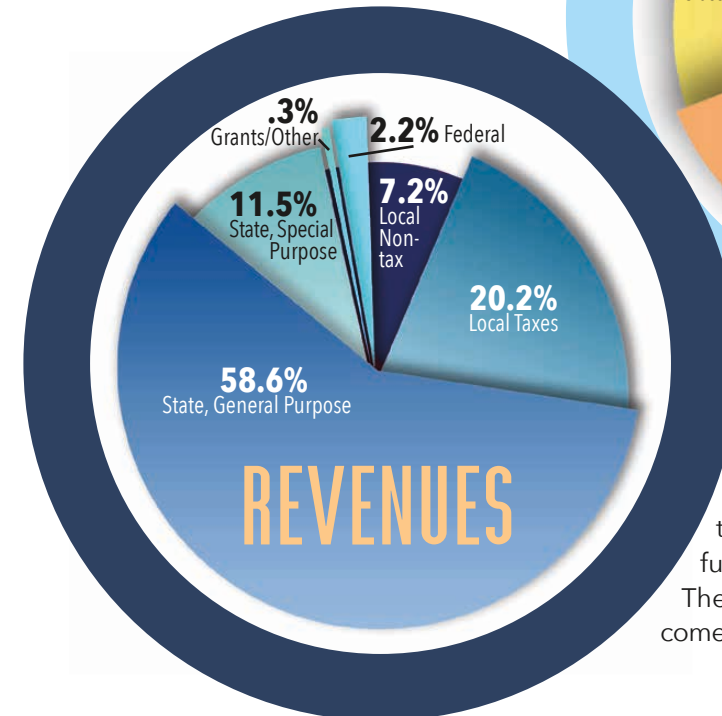
AP Scholars with Distinction **108**
 AP National Scholars **17**

11 Semifinalists
32 Commended Scholars

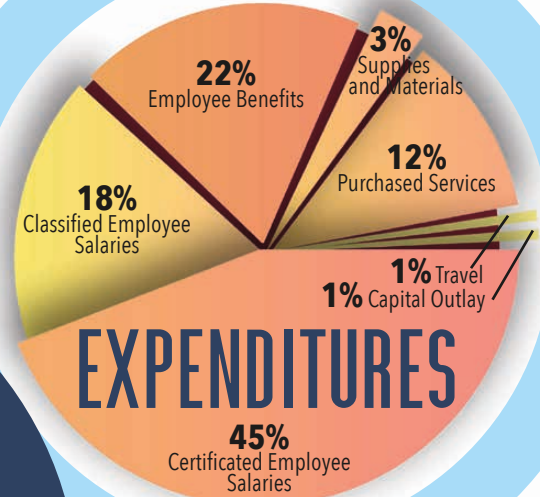
NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Expenditures rounded up to the nearest percent.



EXPENDITURES



The Mercer Island School District uses the funds entrusted to it by the community and the state to fulfill its values, vision, and mission. These charts show how much revenue comes from each source and how it is spent.

Mercer Island students benefit from nearly \$2 million in annual donations to the PTA/PTSAs and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation. For more information on the Mercer Island School District finances, visit www.mercerislandschools.org.



Mercer Island School District No. 400 2018-2019 Annual Report

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PATHFINDER AWARDS

The Mercer Island School District presented its fourth annual Pathfinder Awards to four graduates of Mercer Island High School whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship inspire and challenge today's youth to make significant contributions to humankind.



Caroline Fraser, CLASS OF 1979

Caroline Fraser was awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for "Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder," as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography, and the 2018 Heartland Prize for non-fiction, and was named of the 10 best books of 2018 by *The New York Times*. She was formerly on the editorial staff of *The New Yorker*, and has written for *The New York Review of Books*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Outside* magazine, and *The London Review of Books*, among other publications. She earned a doctorate from Harvard University in English and American literature and currently lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband, Hal Espen.

Nominations for the 2020 Pathfinder Awards close January 10, 2020. To nominate a distinguished MIHS graduate, visit mercerislandschools.org/alumni.

Blake Nordstrom, CLASS OF 1978 Pete Nordstrom, CLASS OF 1980 Erik Nordstrom, CLASS OF 1981



Blake Nordstrom served as co-president of Nordstrom, Inc. and a member of the company's Board of Directors until his passing in January 2019. He worked closely with co-presidents and brothers, Pete Nordstrom and Erik Nordstrom. Under their combined leadership, Nordstrom expanded its reach into new markets, always building on the legacy of customer service for which Nordstrom is famous. All three have been active in the greater Seattle community: Blake and his wife Molly as leaders in United Way of King County, Pete and his wife Brandy leading a major fundraiser for uncompensated care at Seattle Children's Hospital, and Erik and his wife Julie with support for UW Medicine.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director 206-230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director 206-230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Nova Williams, Assistant Director 206-236-4510
nova.williams@mercerislandschools.org

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director 206-230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

The Mercer Island 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, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, 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.